JANUARY - JUNE 2021 | **ISSUE 01**

TAKING FLIGHT

OFFICIAL BIANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF
TALARAK FOUNDATION INC.

IN THIS ISSUE

LOOKING BACK AT 2020

For many people, the year 2020 had lots of ups and downs, with the global Covid-19 pandemic causing tremendous downs. However, we can look back on this year with some satisfaction and a great sense of pride to have gotten as far as we are now. We have seen a great expansion of our activities, teams, and resources, which have moved us closer than ever before to reaching our goals of conserving native and endemic Philippine wildlife, including the "Negros Big 5", and developing a Negros where our natural ecosystems and the next generation of Filipinos can coexist in harmony. In 2020 we were able to create the Danapa Nature Reserve, focusing initially on renovating the habitats by removing invasive forestry trees and replanting native and endemic trees from our own nursery.

Later we would turn Danapa into a site to revolutionize the endemic Negros wildlife. We saw Danapa as a pocket of protection for native wildlife in the ever-developing landscape of Negros, but also as a place to bring back some of those species lost in recent years. In July of 2020, we started our release programme for captive-bred Visayan Warty Pigs and Visayan Spotted Deer into the 300ha of the Danapa Nature Reserve, bringing in a total of 18 Warty Pigs and 28 Spotted Deer into the fenced reserve. These deer and pigs became the first of their species to be released back into a wild habitat from a captive breeding program, and we were keen to use all our efforts to learn as much as possible about these little-known species, in the forests of Danapa. Using remote camera traps, telemetry collars

and artificial feeding stations, we have seen our population already start to grow with 5 new offspring born from each of these species. We have also witnessed new social, feeding and ecological behaviours, inter-species interactions, and other amazing lifestyle traits of these species as we draw back the curtain on their hidden lives in the forest; giving us a much better idea about their lives and the other native wildlife around them, helping us plan a better future for our endangered wildlife on Negros. Asides from the Spotted Deer and Warty Pig releases, we have brought in groups of Negros Bleeding Heart Doves and Visayan Tarictic Hornbills into the reserve in soft-release aviaries. We plan to release these birds in 2021 with the aid of our international expert partners. All of this was only possible thanks to the collaboration of the Bayawan City Government and their environmentally progressive Hon. Mayor Pryde Henry Teves, and the support from our international partners and funders who saw the potential that the site and our team had in developing a sanctuary for native species and learning opportunities

Last year also saw increases in our captive breeding programs within the Bacolod (Negros Forest Park) and Kabankalan captive centres. Given the lack of guests into the centres and the lower volume of traffic nearby, we were blessed with a tranquility that enabled our captive animals to breed and live in renewed peace. Not only were we able to continue our great record of breeding and caring for the Visayan Spotted Deer and Visayan Warty Pigs, but we saw a boom in breeding our Negros Bleeding Heart Doves and Visayan Tarictic Hornbills, as well as more births in our critically endangered Rufous Headed Hornbills where we were able to repeat our success in breeding another new chick. Outside of the Negros Big 5 species we have also been able to breed more Visayan Leopard Cats, Sailfin Lizards and other endemic bird species.

"The highlights for me last year have been the renewed breeding success of our Rufous Headed Hornbills and the release of our captive bred Visayan Tarictic Hornbills. These are major milestones for our foundation as we look to secure the futures of these two species on Negros. We hope that we can continue to progress this year and for many more to come with these hronbills and the rest of our Big 5, fulfiling the golas of Talark to create brighter futures for our natural treasures".

Fernando "Dino" Gutierrez
Talarak President

NORTH NEGROS & NEGROS FOREST PARK

Conservation, community, and captive breeding.

By Davoy Castor.

Hand-over of the cheque by Governor Lacson

A VISIT FROM THE GOVERNOR

In May 2021 Governor Eugenio Jose V. Lacson, Vice Governor Jeffrey Ferrer, the Provincial Administrator, Provincial Board Members and Mayors from nearby Municipalities visited Negros Forest Park in Bacolod. We were delighted to welcome the Governor and esteemed guests to our center and further delighted to receive repeated funding of more than 3 million peso's from the province. During this visit Governor Lacson with the Provincial Tourism Board also announced that Negros Forest Park would be inducted into the Provinces Culture Hub. This prestigious honor was given to us as we provide education with entertainment for all in Negros and this will help the Talarak Foundation build more awareness and passion for endemic wildlife within the local and international tourism sector.

ENTERTAINMENT, EDUCATION, AND ENGAGEMENT

Since the pandemic is ongoing with no end in sight, we only accommodate visitors under 60 and one child per adult from Tuesday to Sunday and closed on Mondays. There were a total of only 1,002 visitors from January to June 2021 that came to the wildlife center, with the absence of big numbers of students from different schools that came from far and wide during the normal years before the pandemic.

One visitor we did receive this year was the Filipino comedian Mikey Bustos. Mr Bustos is not only known for being a comedian and actor but

Comedian Mikey Bustos visiting Negros Forest Park

also for his love of wildlife, even having a YouTube channel dedicated to the life of ants. Mr. Bustos and his friends came to Negros Forest Park this June and were amazed at the amount of animals we had, the beauty of the endemic wildlife of the West Visayas and our conservation efforts. He talked with us about our plans and shared passions before requesting that we continue discussions as he looks to improve his conservation output and potentially his own breeding centre.

RENOVATION FOR INNOVATION

The Negros Forest Park office building was constructed in 1987 with concrete walls and wooden materials on its roof frames, partitions doors, and ceilings. But due to an infestation of termites the wooden material gradually was eaten away. Thanks to funding from the Province of Negros Occidental renovation has now started to revitalise the office and will be complete within 3 months. Hopefully resulting in a fresh new look at the front of our park, inspiring our office staff and visitors alike to work toward the urgent need of wildlife conservation and develop initiatives to save the West Visayan Species.

Renovation of the Negros Forest Park office building

A TRIBUTE TO LUCILLE C. TITULAR

Earlier this year we had a memorial activity of Tree Planting held at NFP to give honor to Lucille C. Titular, one of pioneer staff and former Executive Director of then Negros Forests & Ecological Foundation, Inc. (NFEFI) who died of Covid-19 in the hospital this May. Trees (including Cinnamon sp.) were planted in her memory since she has been well-loved and one of the pillars of the then NFEFI during her time of tenure. Around 25 members of former NFEFI staff, trustees, partners, friends and 3 siblings attended the simple ceremony, where we paid tribute and planted 25 assorted indigenous/endemic trees.

NORTH NEGROS NATURAL PARK

The Talarak Foundation has been active with the North Negros Natural Park Proteced Area Management Board (NNNP PAMB) since the former NFEFI organisation. One of the main issues and concerns this year has been the construction of a road network that may cross through NNNP from Calatrava Municipality in the Northeast side to Patag, Silay City in the Northwest side. Several conservation groups and institutions supported our protest to prevent a large swath of forest inside the protected area of the park being cut through by the proposed highway, spearheaded by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). At the moment the initial construction has stalled given the resistance to the project, and we hope it will be tabled indefinitely. However we are seeing continued push for development of roads, housing and energy plants within the national parks on Negros. At Sitio Campuestohan, in Talisay City, there was a sudden and illegal construction project initiated to create a new road inside the NNNP "multiple use zone". But thanks to the vigilance of some environmental groups and concerned citizens, the Mayor of Talisay City ordered an end to the construction. During the regular meeting of the natural parks management board on June 21, 2021 the construction was officially disapproved and the construction ordered to cease.

The tireless efforts from environmental groups and concerned citizens succeeded in protecting the endangered wildlife and forest in North Negros Natural Park. This, as with many protected areas in the Philippines, are still under threat from development and human encroachment. The advocacy and support from NGOs and the public alike are crucial in conserving our remaining forests.

DANAPA NATURE RESERVE

Reintroductions, research and reforestation.

Danapa Nature Reserve, Bayawan Negros Oriental, Philippines

CREATING A SANCTUARY FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Danapa Nature Reserve is a ~300 hectare patch of forest, grassland and faunal diversity tucked in the lowland unulating valleys of Bayawan City, Negros Oriental. What once was an agroforestry site, the Danapa Nature Reserve was reforested by the Bayawan Local Government more than a decade ago with the intention to provide habitat for native wildlife and create an eco-park. In January last year we moved to develop the reserve with a mission to reintroduce endemic endangered species of the West Visayan region and reforest the areas laid bare by the agroforestry. It is a natural classroom for conservationists of the future to learn about the importance of terrestrial conservation while enjoying the lush scenery. The goal is to eventually create a self-sustainable terrestrial eco-social tourism destination in the country, whilst also establishing new populations of our most endangered endemic species that are captive bred and reintroduced from the Talarak captive centres.

This year the staff have been largely performing around-the-clock monitoring of the 15km fence lines, ensuring the border is undamaged and that no threats have breached or any reintroduced animals escaped the reserve. We have also increased our supplementary feeding stations to 10 mammal feeders and 5 designated bird feeding stations placed around the reserve as we added some new Visayan Warty Pigs at the start of year and we are expecting further growth of the population with new births.


Visayan Leopard Cat


Malayan Civet


Asian Palm Civet


Rough-necked Water Monitor Lizard


Barred Rail

The Danapa Nature Reserve is not just a release site for our captive bred "Big 5" species, our camera traps capture a plethora of native and endemic wildlife.

REPLANTING FOR THE FUTURE

Approximately 220 ha of Danapa comprises secondary growth forest and monocultures of Coconut, Rattan, Mahogany, and Germelina. One of the main goals of this project is to aid the reforestation efforts and remove the invasive tree species formerly planted. The rattan monoculture won't be removed but will be shaped to accommodate more diverse flora. The reforestation of native trees in place of the removed invasive trees is continuing, but a total of 23,858 native tree saplings have currently been planted on site as of June, 2021. Not all invasive trees have been removed yet as some are mixed within the secondary forest patches, but the goal is to eliminate 100% of all invasive trees over the course of the project.

"Our replanting activities couldn't have happened without help from our native nurseries in Danapa, Negros Forest Park and friends at Bayawan City Government."

REINTRODUCTION RESEARCH: WARTS AND ALL

As we reintroduce our captive bred animals we are also monitoring how these animals fare in their new setting. Part of this uses telemetry collars and tags which are designed to track the animals movement within the reserve, with remote camera traps being used to supplement this by observing the animals across the reserves in feeding stations and forest trails. We put GPS collars and VHF (radio) collars from Telenax Telemetry Solutions on our Visayan Warty Pigs and Visayan Spotted Deer, with our released Visayan Hornbills wearing GPS telemetry tags from eObs and Milsar telemetry companies. All of these devices have been instrumental in helping us understand the movement patterns, activity times and grouping of these species within the reserve and we look to continue fitting our reserve individuals with more devices.

Unfortunately, we have also had some issues with these telemetry devices in both the mammal and bird tags. One spotted deer individual's collar got removed from what we assume to be a result of combat with another male deer late last year, and since then 3 further collars from the tracked deer have been broken off by the animals presumably through fighting. For our warty pigs, one individual was able to remove his collar for reasons we are unsure of and 2 others were seen to simply remove the collars through manipulating them against trees and walls to pull them off the neck. Apart from the removal of these collars, collecting the data from these collars has also been challenging. Due to the collar's need to conserve battery for 2 years of data collection, the data can only be collected for ten minutes twice per week. During that time period, the team would have to approach the individual very close to download the data via bluetooth, which has proven to be difficult. Even when we had retrieved the fallen collars we still had difficulty downloading

"In addition to monitoring the released individuals in the Danapa Nature Reserve, telemetry devices enable us to learn currently unknown ecological, behavioral, and habitat use information. This information will go a long way in helping us to better conserve the species across the island of Negros."

the data from the devices and are now required to send some collars back to the manufacturer for the data to be removed. With our released hornbills, we have also found issues with the telemetry tags. The Milsar GPS tags require at least a 3G network to send the data to a central server, which is unfortunately uncommon in the area. We are also noticing that the solar power system on the tag is not sufficient to maintain the tag's function during hard rains resulting in the tags going into "hibernation" and removing the ability for our researchers to locate the birds.

Due to these concerns with the use of our telemetry devices we have been requiring more of our monitoring to come from the supplementary camera traps. This has not only provided us with vital information about the daily lives, social behavior and ecology of our released species, but has the great cross-benefit of observing the other native biodiversity within the reserve. We invested heavily in camera traps and are now using them as tools to map the habitat use and distribution of our released animals within the reserve, but we are also using them to measure the biodiversity changes and any potential threats at the site. These videos have already given us amazing footage of our released animals which we have been able to write up into a few species specific publications, reports/newsletters and three international symposia. We hope to keep this up with future research coming through using our camera trapping, telemetry tracking and other technological devices uncovering information previously unknown about these species all suitable for publication and presentations.

"Camera traps are incredible tools in studying wildlife. Our eyes in the forest have helped us to record never before seen behaviours and shed light on the complex lives of our wildlife here in the Danapa Nature Reserve and other locations around Negros Island."

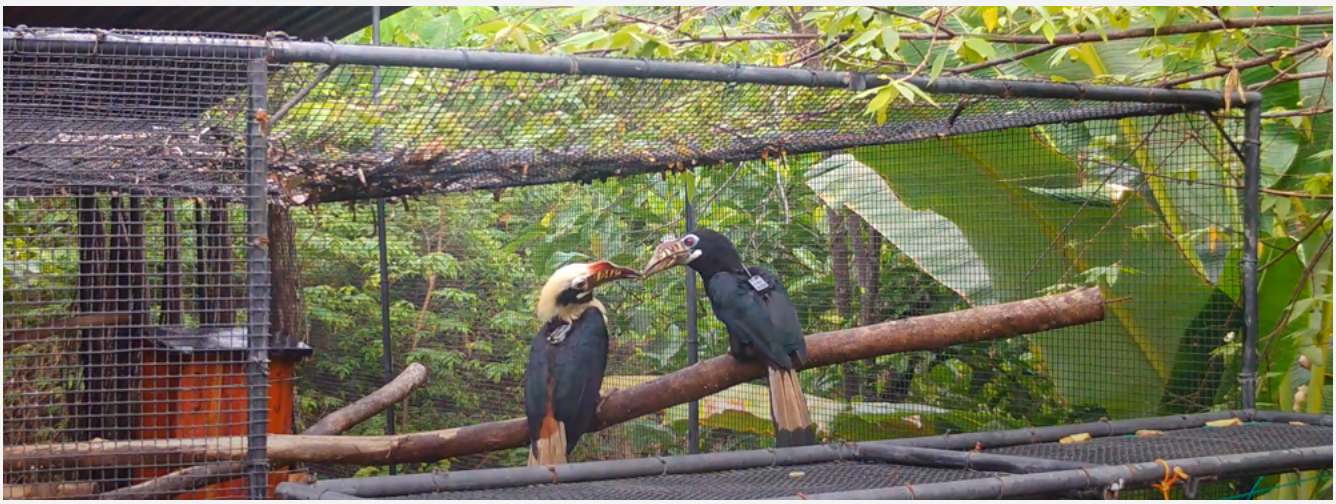
TAKING FLIGHT: THE FIRST RELEASE OF VISAYAN HORNBILLS ON NEGROS

This year we continued our reintroduction of captive bred animals into the reserve, with a group of female Visayan Warty Pigs introduced into the reserve to help with our hopeful breeding in the reserve. Other than these warty pigs we also were able to introduce a new species, the Visayan Tarictic Hornbill, of which we moved a group of 15 individuals (8 males, 7 females) into soft-release enclosures in the reserve. From this group we selected the 4 oldest individuals (3 males, 1 female) who were all above 2 years old and soon to become sexually mature. After fitting these individuals with GPS tags we released them from their aviary on June 8 this year and will use their survival, distribution and behaviour to evaluate the future of further releases of the remaining hornbills in soft-release. The telemetry tags will provide much needed information regarding the hornbills spatial ecology and behavior as

we have no expectations or suspicions on what will happen post-release. This will be the first time that captive bred Visayan Hornbills have been released and the first time ever this species will be released into an area where there are no existing populations. Given the lack of literature or previous research to aid aprediction, we are going into this release as more of an experimental setup with our goal to learn as much as possible about these species and a desire to have the released group

establish inside the reserve. So far however we have had great success with our camera traps and telemetry tags identifying key behaviours in their daily movements, feeding and socialising. We have seen these birds adapt so well that in times of storms or heavy rains (which will be more frequent as the year progresses) the animals take shelter in trees before returning to the aviaries in the mornings to dry off and feed off the provided fruits still available inside. In the 4 weeks we have been recording the movements of these birds two individuals (Marco and Panini) have left the reserve boundaries with the remaining two (Penelope and Rudy) staying inside the reserve and often returning to the aviary together. We have seen courting behaviour and co-feeding which gives us great joy and hope that we can see this couple bond and establish in the reserve. As for our wandering males, Panini was spotted outside the reserve in a nearby town. Highlighting the success of our outreach team, we were called by excited local people when they saw the hornbill who we confirmed to be Panini. They took pictures and asked questions as the local mayor also came to see this wondrous occasion as a Visayan Hornbill flew over their town for the first time in a generation. After a little while Panini flew onward to the next town as he continues his adventure and we continue to try to keep up with him.

"Our hornbills are spreading their wings and making strides into new chapters. Whether they are exploring the wider world around the reserve or building relationships, we want to see it and be there for it all."



UNFORSEEN TRAGEDIES

Unfortunately not all our news this year is positive. When working with wild animals there is a level of risk and uncertainty we must take, as nature gives new life it can also take it away. Sadly this year we experienced a few cases where our animals succumbed to an early end, but in their loss we must learn and make sure that the rest of their brothers and sisters live better.

In early February one of our spotted deer "Nestor" was seen to be injured and limping. Our vet conducted a thorough examination and noticed a severe skin infection and sores, with a really poor body condition from malnourishment. We planned a treatment program however he passed on the following day. A necropsy was performed to determine the cause of death which leads us to believe that an infection in Nestor's foot, likely occurring naturally from stepping on sharp rocks or thorns, had spread into the blood and internal organs, exacerbating infections in the skin from external parasites (ticks and mites), overwhelming his immune system causing organ failure. Fortunately we have not seen any other deer with injuries this severe and all our other deer are coping with the terrain well.

To add to our unfortunate February, 6 Visayan Tarictic Hornbills had also passed in their soft-release enclosure. During physical exams and drawing blood for internal health checks before a planned release we lost 6 individuals in one morning.

During the process of capturing and health checks many of the hornbills started to react badly and over the course of morning 6 of the 15 hornbills began to lose body function due to an unknown stress/illness and never recovered. Our vet conducted necropsies on each of the animals but found little to show why this had happened. Even discussions with experts could not help identify a cause. Fortunately the remaining hornbills are all well and have not had any further incidents, even when we came back to handling, health checks and releasing 4 individuals later in the year.

Finally we also had to say goodbye to one of our Visayan Warty Pigs in April this year. In an unexpected turn one of our warty pigs "Alex" found his way into a storage facility for commercial fish meal at the onsite fish farm. Through a combination of gluttony, stress and potentially heat he succumbed that afternoon and we found him the following day. We were very sad to come across our beautiful animal like this and made sure this wouldn't happen again by putting improved doors and storage protocols on the food warehouse.

THE NEGROS ISLAND ASSESSMENT PROJECT

Searching for the "Big 5" and their habitats.

This project aims to find signs or evidence of the Negros Big 5 species in the wild. These species are the: Negros Bleeding Heart Doves (Gallicolumba keayi), Visayan Spotted Deer (Rusa alfredi), Visayan Warty Pigs (Sus cebifrons), Visayan Tarictic Hornbill (Penelopides panini), and Talarak/Rufous-Headed Hornbills (Rhabdotorrhinus waldeni). Since March, plans for the Negros Island Assessment have been in progress with sites being selected by Google Earth, community feedback and literature of previous sites of the Big 5. Camping materials for the fieldwork were purchased and tested and the team assembled and trained with the lead researcher processing the necessary paperwork required to survey various locations around Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental.

The first assessment to be done was in May 2021, where the field team conducted three surveys on Mt. Talinis, Cuernos De Negros, at the Timbao/Bacong side of the mountain. Over the three day assessment the

team was able to identify the presence of the Visayan Warty Pigs and left 2 camera traps out in what are assumed to be part of a pig's den and an area of high activity. Since that assessment the team has also visited the Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park (BTLNP) and started the assessments within this site. This 8000ha park requires many visits to reach all corners and get a full understanding of the sites suitability for the Negros Big 5, with the first assessment covering an area from the East to the South of the park around the titular lakes. Preliminarily we are seeing a healthy population of the Visayan Hornbill within this park, already known to have them in some areas, but also lots of evidence of the warty pigs and many other endemic Negros species including Racket-tailed parrots, Spotted wood kingfishers, Visayan Leopard cats and many others.

Our assessment team and local guide working tirelessly searching for the elusive "Big 5"

ONE NEGROS FOR ALL

Uniting communities with wildlife.

Deanne and Ann Ann conducting community surveys

In order to successfully run a conservation programme we need to mix our biological research and animal studies with community engagement activities. Working alongside the public to build a sense of passion and desire for conservation is essential as the communities around a wildlife conservation area will be the most impacted by changes and have the most impact by their activities and land use. With this knowledge we are always aiming to provide education and raise awareness for conservation activities around the island, especially in sites where we are active.

Our primary education and outreach team are currently based in the Danapa Nature Reserve. As this is an area where we are reintroducing animals and trying to develop a community led conservation site, engaging with the communities and encouraging them to take up conservation activities are of vital importance. This year our outreach team has continued to work alongside the local

"The human impact on conservation is bigger than anything else in nature. We are not just the cause for many threats, but also the greatest hope in protecting and restoring nature."

communities to record feedback on what they know and feel toward our conservation projects. Wwe have found so far that the local communities around our reserve are very open about the former (and present) poaching and natural resource use, but are also ready to switch to conservation-friendly alternatives and cease threat activities in order to preserve the environment. We are also able to see that our engagement in the communities around the Danapa Nature Reserve has been fruitful, with community members asking more questions about the native wildlife they can see in the area, excitedly looking for ways in which they can be part of the project in exchange for livelihood trainings or assistance, and equally excitingly calling our team when they see our released hornbills flying overhead. We are currently working with Chester Zoo's education team and we will use this connection to help analyse our community feedback and design interactive education programs that will build our community conservation initiatives.

"People will only realize the beauty and importance of something once it has almost gone. Talking with the communities, it is sad to see the amount of people who continue to cut trees and hunt animals without understanding the affect it has on the environment."

Deanne Nuique
Talarak Education Officer

MOVING ONLINE

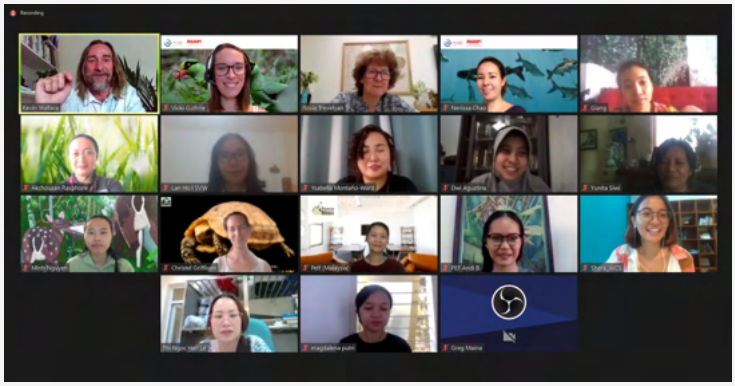
Conservation and conversations via Zoom.

With the pandemic happening, virtual meetings have become a norm. We are in regular contact with our partners, species experts and other research and conservation organisations, but any potential meetings or discussions have now all been moved online with the Covid-19 restrictions.

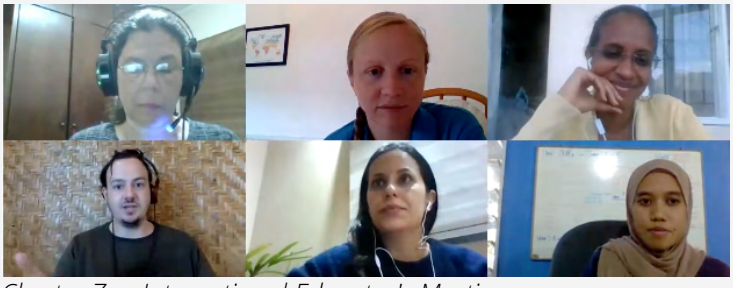
This year our team has been heavily involved in communications with partners and funders about our conservation activities. To improve our communication and designs of our conservation activities we developed a Technical Advisory Panel which includes all of our key partners, species groups/experts and funding agencies, to be involved in group discussions for the continued conservation programmes.

Outside our primary partners we have been in communication with a number of new project partners and potential collaborators this year; including research colleagues in the University of South Wales, National Museum of Paris, Czech University of Life Sciences, Humboldt University of Berlin, University of Visayas Iloilo and more. Even within our existing project partners we are continuing our relationships online and have participated in group events from Chester Zoo, the local Silliman University, Synchronicity Earth and the Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP).

Within our *in situ* personnel we are also continuing the progression and training of the team. Our project manager Ysabella has participated in two trainings this year including a GIS mapping course and the ASAP women conservation leadership programme. Our other project manager Matt was part of the Chester Zoo education training session and Synchronicity Earth's safeguarding training, but also active in an international workshop for the EAZA Pigeon and Dove holders and regular mentorship training of students with the Association of Tropical Biology Conservation.



ASAP Women in Conservation Leadership Programme



Chester Zoo International Educator's Meeting

GROWING OUR TALARAK FAMILY!

One of our former volunteers Guillermo McPherson has now been brought on full time into our in situ team to work in our Danapa Nature Reserve. He was a great asset for our field work and is proving to be a hard worker and invaluable in our efforts for monitoring the released hornbills in the reserve as well as the other tracked deer and warty pigs.

One of our key additions in the Danapa Nature Reserve is also our new education assistant Angeline Estrada (Ann Ann). She was formerly part of our reserves nursery team but after showing her desire, passion and skill with engaging with the community (which she is a part of) we moved her into our education team.

With the development of our Negros Island Assessment project we have also needed to expand our team. We were lucky to have a friend and colleague Emilio Tan available to take the lead in our assessment teams and help us with the coordination, training and execution of these activities. Emilio is also working to help the *in situ* team writing reports and scientific articles as our scientific division continues to collect, analyse and disseminate the new information from our projects.

Along with our new team members, we have been expanding our academic collaborations with international and local students . We had one student successfully graduate as an affiliate of Talarak with an undergraduate degree in Biology from Silliman University. Currently, we have one student from Humboldt University of Berlin who is doing their Masters degree in collaboration with Talarak on our Visayan Warty Pigs. We also have six undergraduate students at the University of St. La Salle, Bacolod and one Masters student at the University of Visayas, Iloilo working alongside our captive and field teams for their theses.

ANIMAL UPDATES

By Dr. Monica Atienza

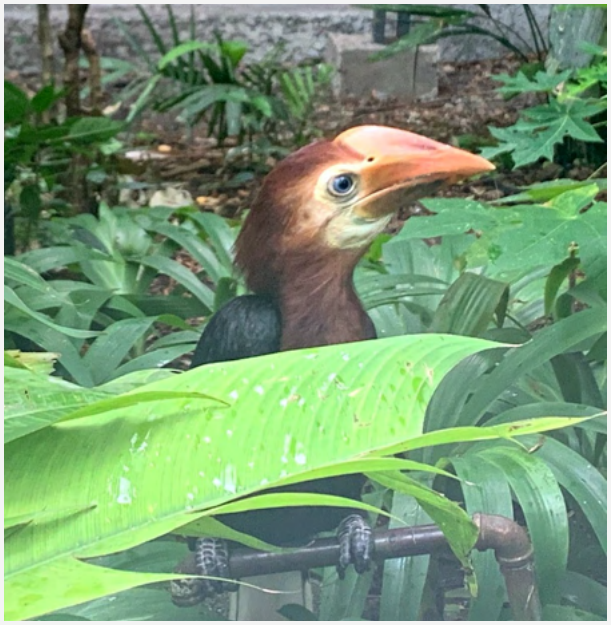
VISAYAN WARTY PIGS

Negros Forest Park (NFP) currently have 5 breeding groups with majority of these are with 1:1 ratio of males and females, two groups have 3 females while the other one have 2 females. And in Kabankalan we have 2 breeding groups, with each male having a single female and 3 females, respectively. Since March all of the females in NFP produced a total of 17 piglets while in Kabankalan one female had 3 piglets. After the successful release of the warty pigs last year, we have reached a phase where we can't release pigs anymore in the reserve. Previously we've decided not to separate the females nearing parturition from the male because historically we have cases where the male eats several piglets in the litter or even the entire litter. Although only two of the males in NFP have this tendency. It has been successful for a while but recently these two males learned to not eat them anymore. They were observed to have bonded with its previous surviving litters and were equally protective of their young like the sows. Due to the limited space for both our breeding centres and for the welfare of our animals we've decided to cull the majority of our juveniles this June after a few discussions among partners.

RUFOUS HEADED HORNBILL

In 2019 and 2020, NFP and Kabankalan breeding centres have produced one juvenile Walden's hornbill, respectively. This year both centres had successfully fledged one each although initially there's two of each. In Kabankalan, the other chick did not survive after a few days of hatch while in NFP the first fledgling showed neurological signs after 2 days being out of its nest. This certain fledgling was thought to have suffered from a head trauma due to the clinical signs (i.e. ataxia and opisthotonos)

since the blood counts turned out to be normal as well. Unfortunately, there were no improvements seen and by the 7th day of treatment it was suffering from seizures. It died in my arms on the same day. Upon necropsy it was suspected to have suffered due to bacterial meningitis. This was not just a learning lesson to improve our breeding management protocols for our cavity nesters but also a realization on how ill-prepared our island is when it comes to veterinary diagnostics more specifically for avians. Many thanks also to Dr. Shangz and Dr. Jess from WRS for their inputs on this particular case.

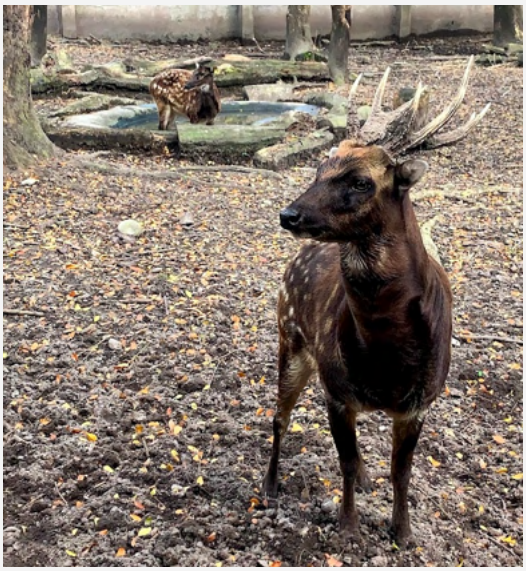


VISAYAN TARICTIC HORNBILL

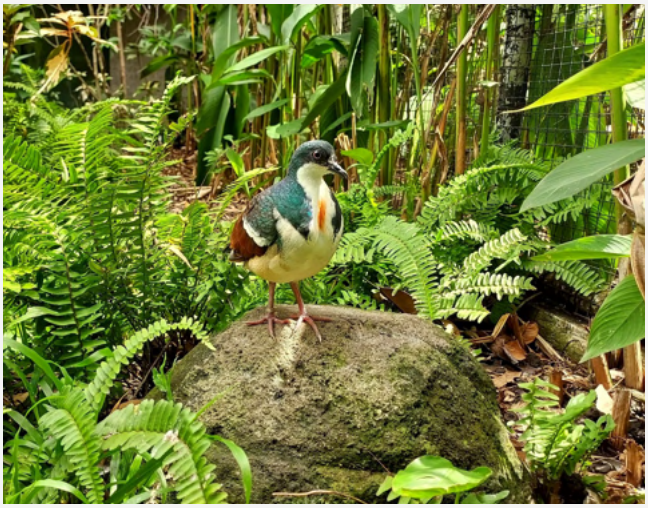
This year the Kabankalan and NFP breeding centres successfully produced 10 and 2 juveniles, respectively. We've also had 4 new potential pairs that sealed this year but haven't successfully produced fertilized eggs yet.The only proven female in NFP sealed December 2020 but wasn't able to produce a viable egg. We've found out that she was not in her best condition. I tentatively diagnosed her with bacterial hepatitis and with proper care and treatment, she recovered, sealed late March and her eggs hatched last May.

VISAYAN SPOTTED DEER

Since the start of the year, there's been only 2 new fawns each for NFP and Kabankalan. We've also sent out 2 more deers in our release site area last February and we'll be sending out 7 more this July which will be the last group to be transported.



NEGROS BLEEEDING HEART



There were a significant number of new chicks at Kabankalan at the start of the year unfortunately, most of them did not survive due to incidents of being attacked by rats and snakes or being spooked by cats or rats. NFP had a similar problem of a particular enclosure where some of the chicks vanished or were eaten. This was a call for the reinforcement and repair of the enclosures as well as managing the population of cats and rats in the area.

VISAYAN LEOPARD CAT

It has been around 6 years since the feline panleukopenia virus outbreak occurred at NFP that devastated almost all the population of the leopard cats. This was due to the growing population of domestic cats in the neighboring areas. Afterwards, the domestic cat population was managed and there were annual booster vaccinations of the leopard cats in order to ensure that this outbreak will not happen again. Although we've had problems with the breeding since the survivors seemed unable to reproduce again. Come 2019, we've had a new rescued female kitten, Mimi. She survived the critical period under our care and has been able to mature healthily. By the end of 2020 we've decided to introduce her to a male leopard cat and they've naturally clicked and bonded. Last April, Mimi gave birth to 2 healthy female kittens.

ANIMAL INVENTORY

KABANKALAN

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STOCKS
Rufous Headed Hornbill	*Rhabdotorrhinus waldeni*	7.7.0
Visayan Tarictic Hornbill	*Penelopides panini*	19.16.0
Southern Rufous Hornbill	*Buceros mindanensis*	3.2.3
Mindanao Writhed Hornbill	*Rhabdotorrhinus leucocephalus*	6.4.1
Negros Bleeding Heart Pigeon	*Gallicolumba keayi*	11.13.12
Blue-naped Parrot	*Tanygnathus lucionensis*	13.14.20
Philippine Blue-backed Parrot	*Tanygnathus everretti*	1.2.0
Visayan Warty Pig	*Sus cebifrons negrinus*	9.5.3
Visayan Spotted Deer	*Rusa alfredi*	10.10.1

NEGROS FOREST PARK

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STOCKS
Rufous Headed Hornbill	*Rhabdotorrhinus waldeni*	3.2.0
Visayan Tarictic Hornbill	*Penelopides panini*	3.3.2
Southern Rufous Hornbill	*Buceros mindanensis*	1.1.0
Mindanao Writhed Hornbill	*Rhabdotorrhinus leucocephalus*	1.2.0
Negros Bleeding Heart Pigeon	*Gallicolumba keayi*	16.15.11
Blue-naped Parrot	*Tanygnathus lucionensis*	2.2.0
Visayan Warty Pig	*Sus cebifrons negrinus*	17.15.6
Visayan Spotted Deer	*Rusa alfredi*	4.7.2
Visayan Leopard Cat	*Prionailurus bengalensis robori*	4.7.0
Philippine Eagle Owl	*Bubo philippensis*	4.7.2
Southern Philippine Hawk Eagle	*Nisaetus pinskeri*	1.2.0

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