



The West Visayas Species Recovery Project

Talarak Foundation Inc.





AGENDA

- History of Talarak Foundation
- Focal Species and Current Projects
- Captive Conservation
- Bayawan Nature Reserve
- Negros Island Assessment
- Conservation Education
- Next Steps

Talarak Foundation Inc.

Established in 2010 by Fernando Gutierrez as a ***conservation breeding and rehabilitation center*** in Kabankalan City, Negros Island, Philippines.

Operates the ***Negros Forest Park biodiversity conservation center*** in Bacolod City, and the ***Bayawan Nature Reserve*** reintroduction site in Bayawan City, Negros Island.

Focus on the ***endemic and endangered fauna of the West Visayas*** (Negros, Panay, Masbate, Guimaras and Cebu).





VISAYAN SPOTTED DEER

Rusa alfredi
Endangered



VISAYAN WARTY PIG

Sus cebifrons

**Critically
Endangered**



VISAYAN
TARICTIC
HORNBILL

*Penelopides
panini*

Endangered



RUFIOUS
HEADED
HORNBILL
*Rhabdotorrhinus
waldeni*
**Critically
Endangered**



NEGROS
BLEEDING
HEART
DOVE

*Gallicolumba
keayi*

**Critically
Endangered**



Current Projects

- Continue the **breeding and captive holding** of populations of the **West Visayan Big 5** and other endemic species.
- Assess the **population status, size, and distribution** of the West Visayan Big 5 on Negros.
- Identify the requirements and opportunities for **conservation translocations or protection** of the big 5 species in assessed forests.
- Conduct **ecological and natural history research** on *in situ* and *ex situ* populations.
- Conduct **conservation education** and **build capacity** for **local conservationists**.

Captive Management

RULES BEFORE YOU ENTER
Do not step on the footpath
Do not feed the animals
Do not touch the wires
Do not touch the animals
Do not throw garbage in garbage bins
Do not make noise
Do not smoke

We are more than just a zoo!



Island Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization devoted to wildlife conservation and managing Mayon Forest Park.



- It was home to some of the Philippines' most endangered species.
- Most of our animals can only be found in the Philippines.
- Our captive breeding program ensures our species survive.
- Support us, and you support our birds and wildlife.

Our Partners



ENTRANCE



This way

We have been breeding the
Visayan Warty Pigs very
successfully in 7 breeding groups.



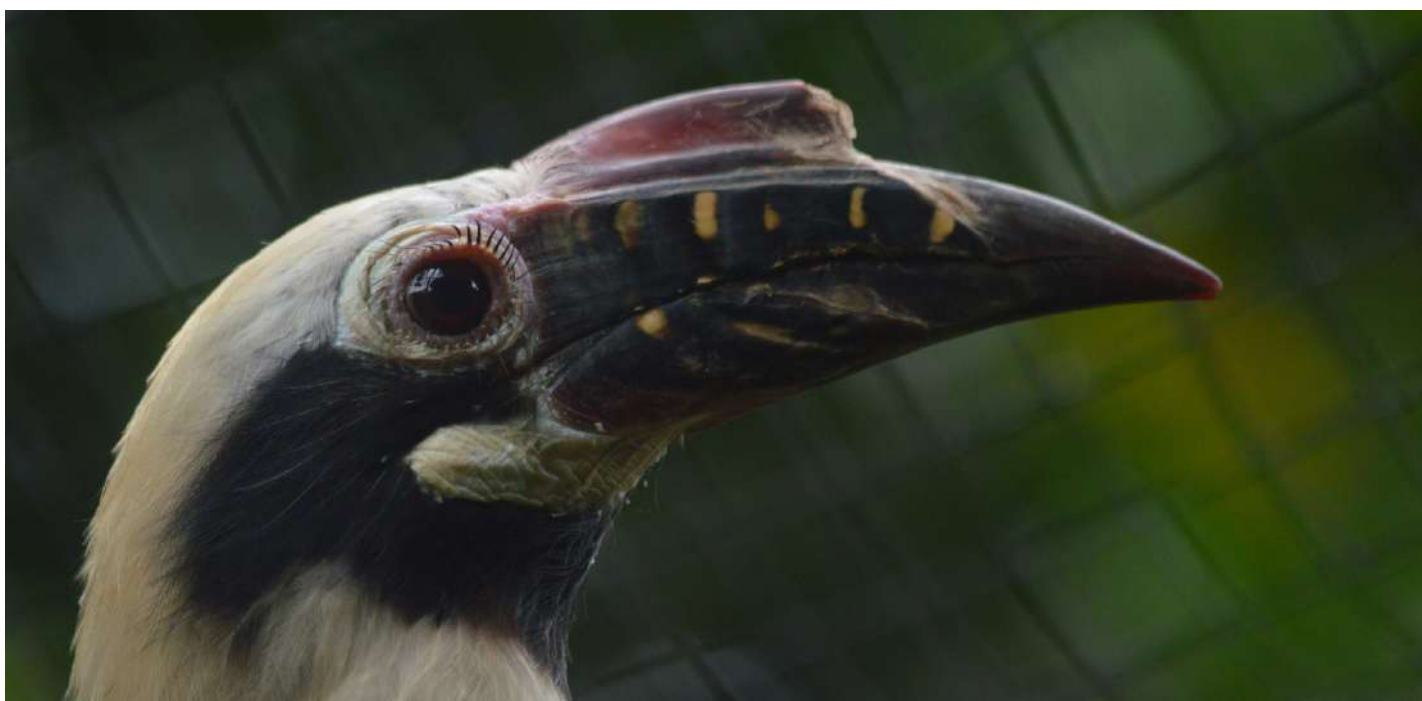
The **Visayan Spotted Deer** are
breeding well in 5 herds.



Our **Negros Bleeding-Hearts**
continue to breed. However **new**
partners promise further success.



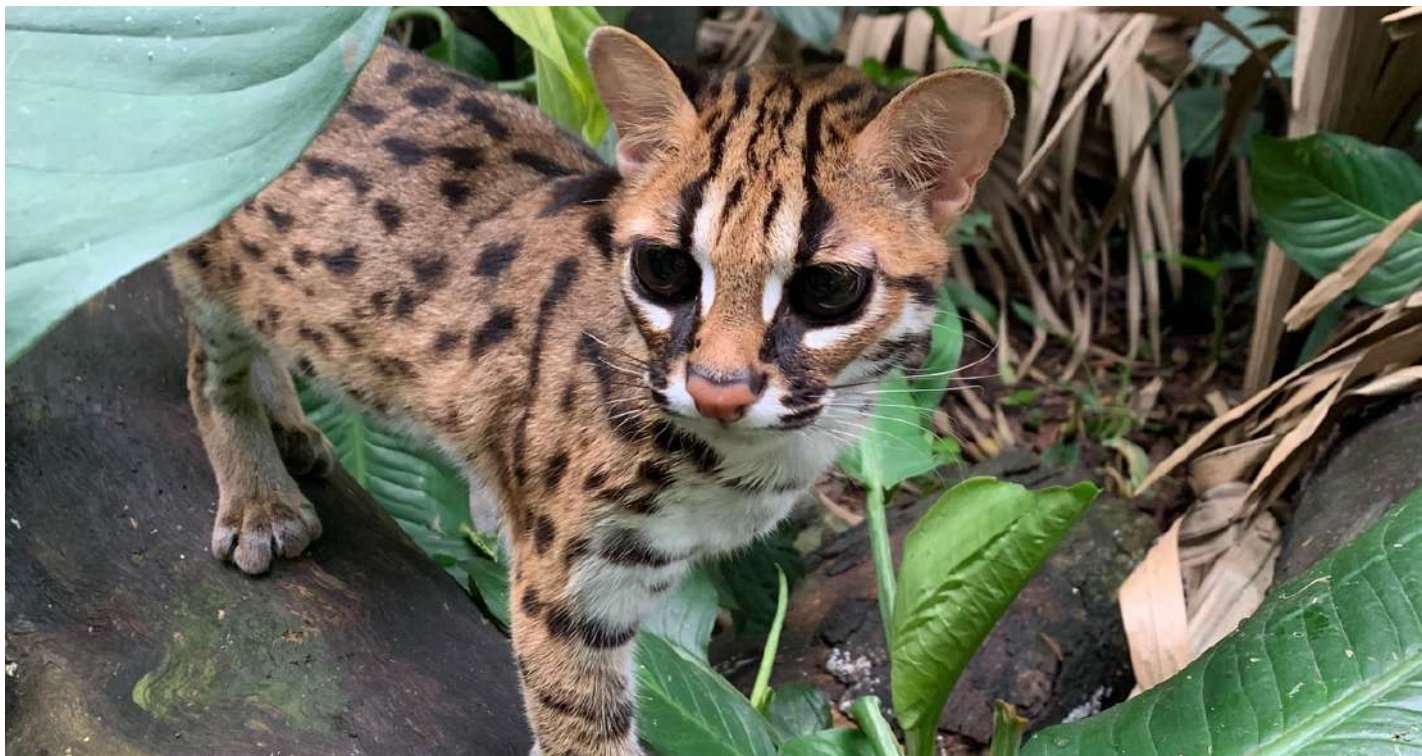
**BREEDING
SUCCESSES**



The **Visayan Tarictic Hornbills** are breeding so well we have initiated a release program.



The **Rufous Headed Hornbill** bred from **2019-2021**.
The recent **typhoon** has caused **significant damage**.



Additional **West Visayan endemic** bird, mammal and reptile species are maintained and breeding well.



**BREEDING
SUCCESSES**



- Restarting our **Jr conservationist program**,
- Hosting **home-school groups**,
- and **Open house and educational events**.

Our **Public Engagement and Education team** are;

- Gathering feedback,
- Providing **guided tours**,
- Hosting **ambassador animal shows**,



Bayawan Nature Reserve



2020-2021

A total of **32 Visayan Spotted Deer** (16:16) ...



... and **22 Visayan Warty Pigs** (11:11) were released into the reserve.



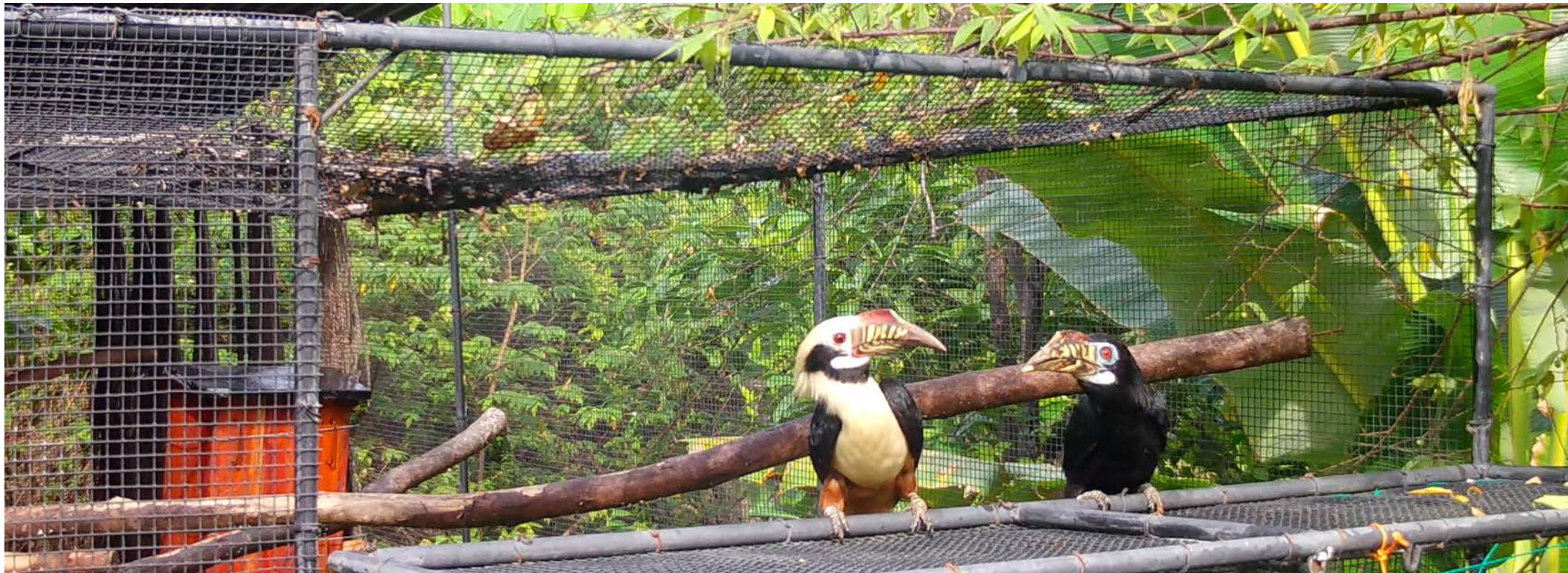
**ANIMAL
RELEASES**

2021

4 Visayan Tarictic Hornbills (3:1)

were released.

All animals being **monitored via camera traps and/or GPS tags.**



**ANIMAL
RELEASES**

2022

Start of **Negros Bleeding-Heart Dove** release program with **Toledo Zoo** and **Bristol Zoo** support.



**ANIMAL
RELEASES**

2020-2022

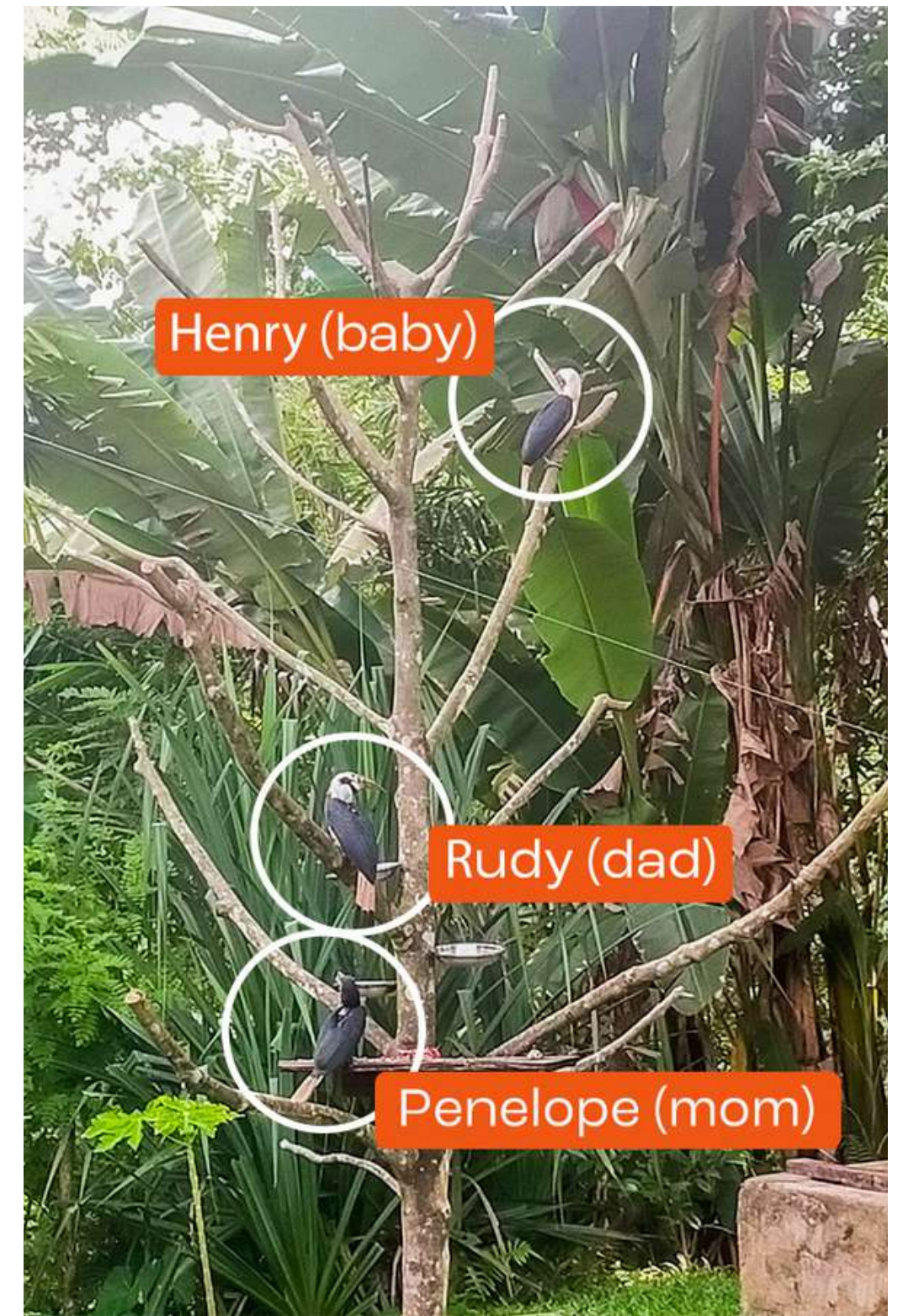
>30 new **Warty Piglets** have been recorded.
Totaling >**50 individuals** in BNR.



2020-2022

>10 new **Spotted Deer fawns** have been recorded.

With total population of ~**40 individuals**.



2022

2 remaining hornbills (Rudy & Penelope) **bonded and nested**. Resulting in the **new fledgling Henry**, the **first wild-born VTH** from **captive-bred released parents**.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Tracking released animals.

- Radio telemetry
- GPS telemetry

Post-release habitat and biodiversity monitoring assessments

Camera trapping for behavior, ecology and space-use

Community engagement and education.



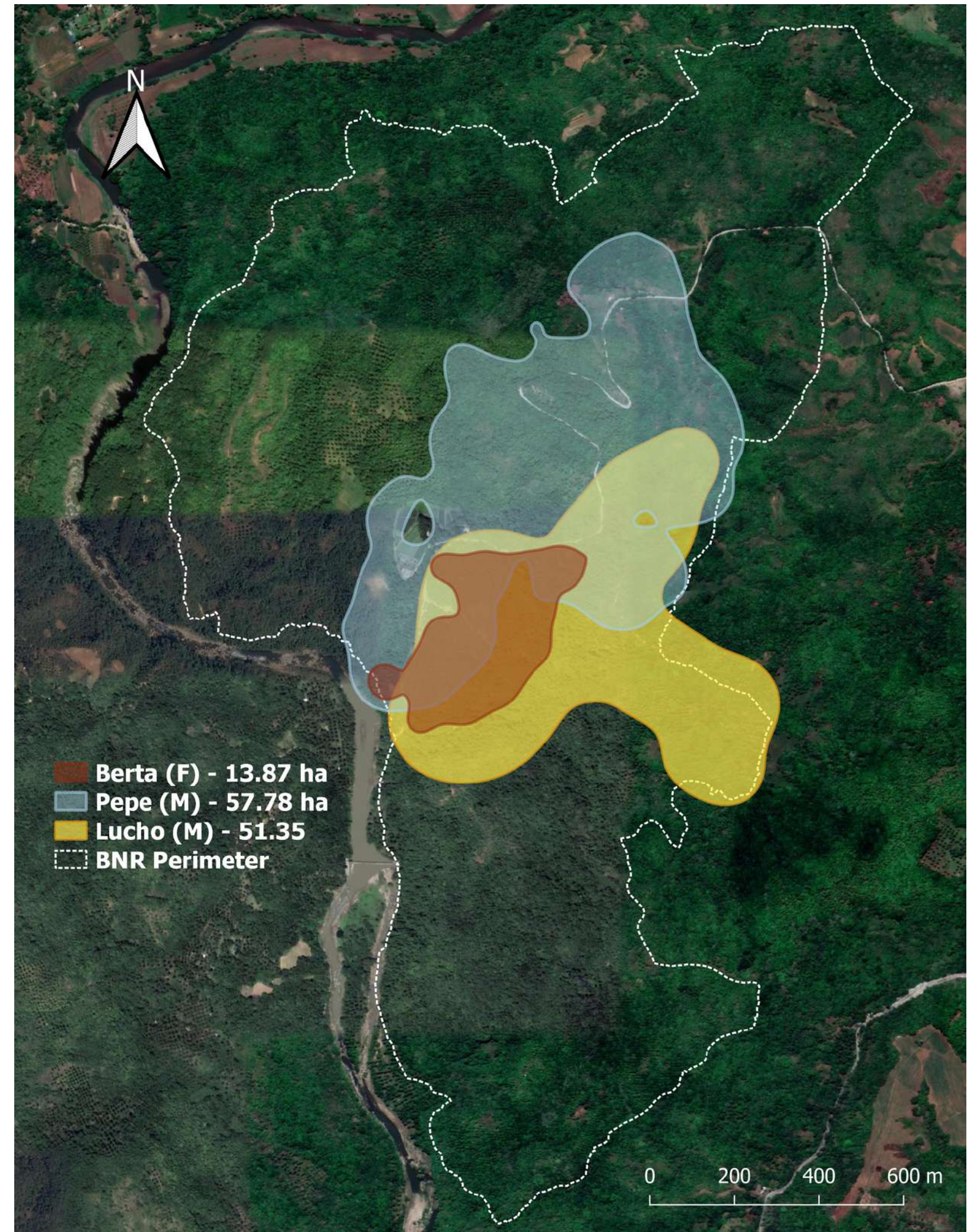
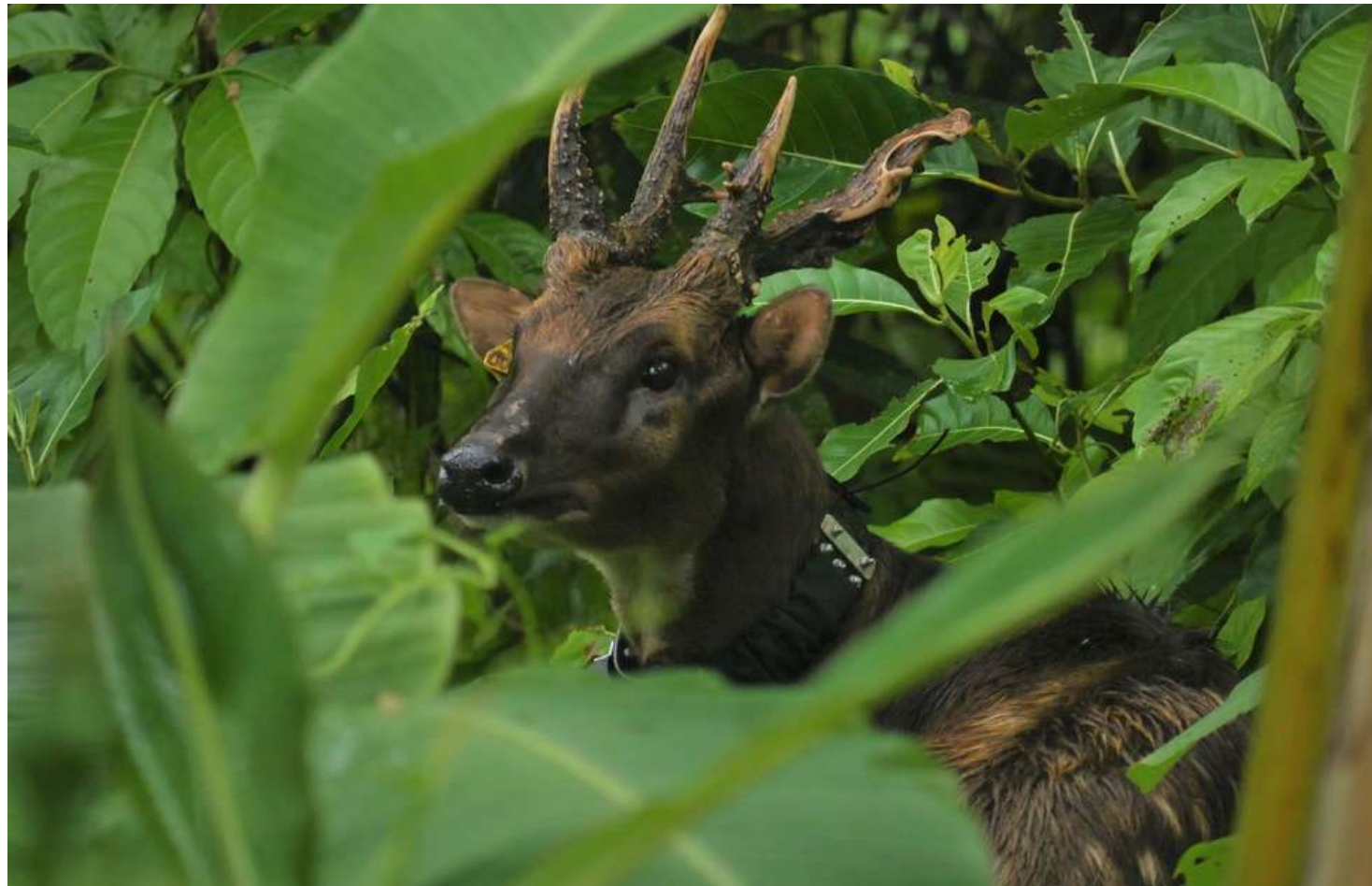
RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Searching for suitable methods to deter wild warty pigs from entering agricultural or pork farms;

- Cost effective
- User friendly
- High efficiency
- Easy accessible materials



RESEARCH OUTPUTS



RESEARCH OUTPUTS



A photograph of a dense tropical forest. The scene is filled with tall, slender trees and a thick canopy of green leaves. Sunlight filters through the foliage, creating a dappled light effect. In the foreground, there are various types of plants, including ferns and broad-leafed shrubs. A fallen tree trunk lies on the ground in the lower right. The overall atmosphere is lush and vibrant.

Negros Island Assessment



ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

- Identify **forest** patches (>500ha) or remaining **populations**.
- Use transects and camera traps to record **species presence, threats** and **habitat suitability**.
- Engage with the **community** to identify **perception, local knowledge** and **threats**.
- **Prioritize sites** for conservation activities such as reintroductions or site protection.

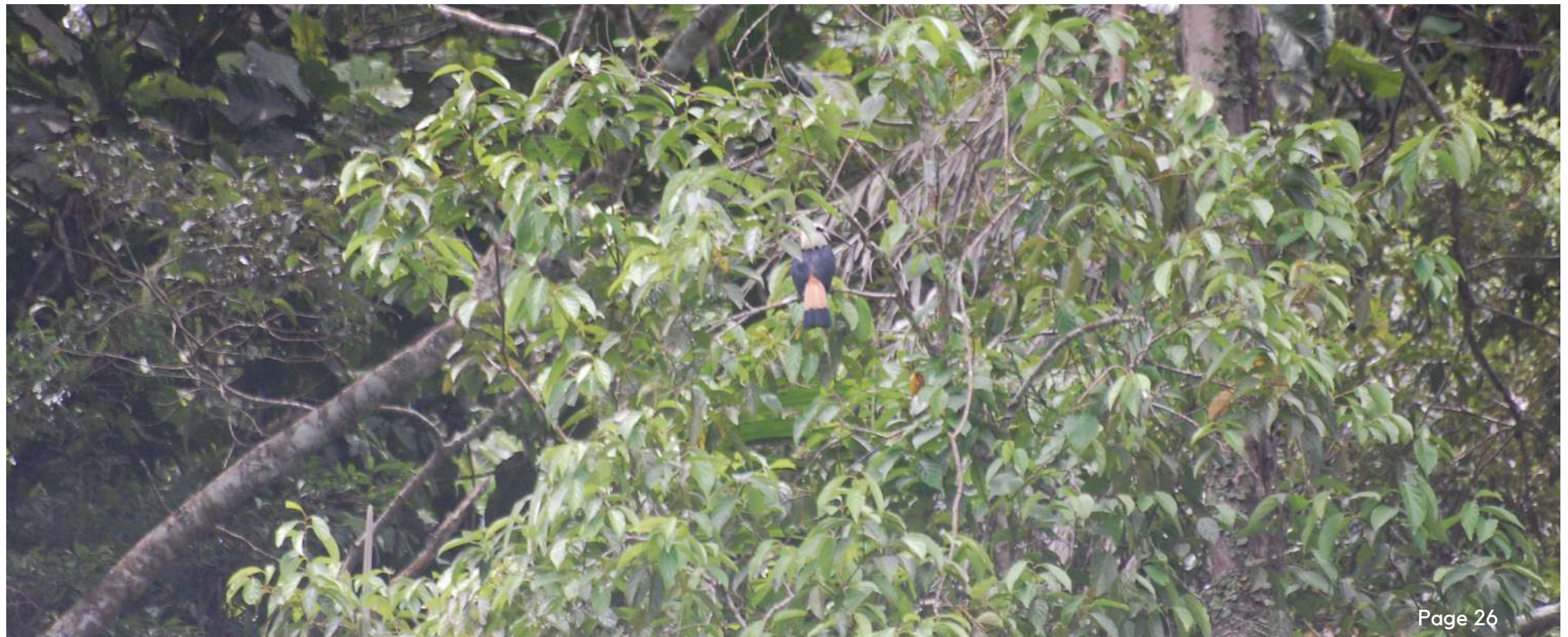
FINDINGS SO FAR...

Visayan Warty Pigs have been recorded in multiple sites.

Visayan Tarictic Hornbills also found/suspected in multiple sites.

Little evidence of **Visayan Spotted Deer, Rufous Headed Hornbill or Negros Bleeding Heart.***

**Possible populations of VSD and NBH found but no photo evidence yet.*





FINDINGS SO FAR...

Good quality or **suitable habitat** is **severely fragmented**.

Protected areas show signs of **degradation and encroachment**.



Primary forest is heavily reduced, **mostly mixed secondary and invasive forests**.

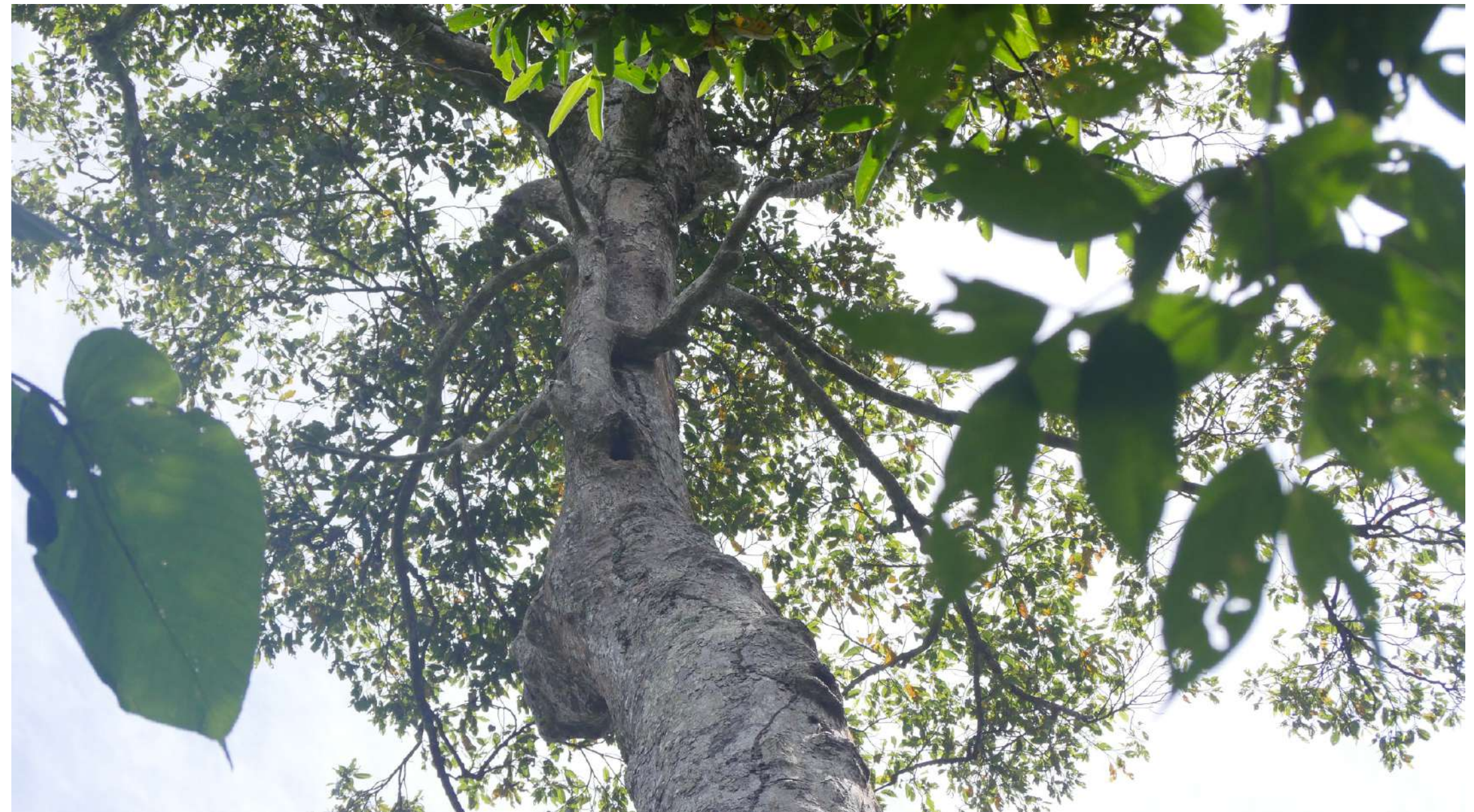
FINDINGS SO FAR...

All sites recorded evidence of **poaching** and/or **traps**.

Traps appear to be **indiscriminate** for birds and mammals.

Community discussions highlight **regular threats** across all sites.

Habitat encroachment and **invasive animals** common.





Conservation Education

ACADEMIC CAPACITY BUILDING

Providing **seminars** and updates to **college/highschool** students about local conservation activities.

Offering **trainings** and **internships** for students wanting to learn more.



Education Within Schools



Highlighting the **importance of biodiversity** and the **conservation needs** of native biodiversity.

Engagement With The Public

Learning from **communities** how they perceive native biodiversity.

Identifying the **threat drivers**.

Building **pride and interest** in conservation within rural and city communities.





WHATS NEXT



WHAT'S NEXT...

Collect data on **wild population space-use** and **anthropogenic conflict**.

To **supplement island assessment** data, **provide baseline** for the reintroduced animal data, and **fill knowledge gaps** in conservation plans.



WHAT'S NEXT...

Establish **monitoring teams/personnel** for known wild populations.

Made up from **community members** who act as **ambassadors to conservation**.

Initiate **livelihood projects** to support local communities around **biodiverse areas** and **focal species**.



WHAT'S NEXT...

Continue monitoring reintroduced group in Bayawan Nature Reserve.

Study their **space-use, habitat preferences, social behavior and ecology**, and possible deterrent methods.

Create corridors between BNR and other sites of remaining populations.



WHAT'S NEXT...

Open the **Bayawan Nature Reserve** for **tourism** and **educational uses** with local institutes.

Increase the **engagement** and impact of **educational outputs** on visitors to **Negros Forest Park**.

Work closer with other **government** and **NGO** groups for **national conservation initiatives**.



Nature Day Learning Program


TALARAK FOUNDATION, INC.

August 20

 **Negros Forest Park**

***Available Time Slots:**

- 10:00 - 11:00
- 12:00 - 13:00
- 14:00 - 15:00

FREE ENTRY to children (ages 5-12), maximum 3 children per adult

*Strictly advanced booking only, please message Talarak Foundation to reserve.

Activities:

- Presentation on the importance of biodiversity and the biodiversity around us in the Philippines
- Ecosystem Game, learning about the importance of biodiversity to balance the ecosystem
- Tour of Negros Forest Park
- Drawing competition





**THANK YOU
PARTNERS**



**Bristol Zoological
Society**
Saving Wildlife Together





**THANK YOU
PARTNERS**



IUCN • SPECIES SURVIVAL COMMISSION
**Pigeon and Dove
Specialist Group**





Thank you for listening!

Please address questions or requests to the following;



Talarak Foundation



www.talarak.org



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