



OCTOBER 2020 | ISSUE NO. 3

#### IN THIS ISSUE

**Talarak Twins - 2**  
**Enclosure Updates;  
Climate Change - 3**  
**Watershed - 4**  
**In Situ Reports - 5**  
**Animal Updates - 14**  
**Board of Trustees - 20**  
**New Team Member - 22**  
**Partners - 23**

## STRUGGLES AND BREAKTHROUGHS

As the world copes and recovers from the pandemic, we at Talarak Foundation have had our share of ups and downs. When it all began, the struggle to find funding and stay afloat was constantly knocking on our door. But, throughout the year, people came together to help, and we created new partners despite these difficult times.

Our team has been focused on our exciting in-situ projects, our animals have had a baby boom, and lockdown measures in our region have proven beneficial to the environment. And so it looks like we are ending the year on a very positive note.

With grateful hearts, we wish to thank you for your continued support through these extraordinary times, and we pray for your safety and health.

**Antoinette Begre-Lacson**  
International Partnerships Manager/Trustee



”

THESE ARE FIRST TIME PARENTS IN KABANKALAN! THIS MEANS WE NOW HAVE TWO PROVEN PAIRS, WHICH IS FANTASTIC NEWS FOR US!

“

**Dino Gutierrez**  
President, TFI

## TALARAK TWINS

Amidst the pandemic, our captive bred animals have shown tremendous signs of success. But a new pair of babies have given us much to be thankful for.

On May 7, 2020, not one, but two chicks emerged from a Talarak nest box! A little over a year since our historic Valentin, the first successful fledging of the Talarak in nine years, made his debut, we now have two new chicks! The two chicks come from a different set of parents from Valentin, making this even more exciting news. We now have two proven Talarak pairs. Why is this so important? In the wild, these birds pair for life, which makes selecting and pairing parents a monumental challenge in captivity.

The birds were hatched in our Kabankalan breeding centre. The keepers noticed the sealed nest box on January 7, 2020, and hoped for the best. The first chick hatched on February 27, and to our surprise, a second chick hatched on February 29.

These hornbills are functionally extinct on Negros Island. It is our hope that these birds multiply so that they can one day return to their natural habitat.





## Enclosure Upgrades and Repairs

by Dr. Monica Atienza

The pandemic has closed many establishments and businesses across Negros Occidental, and because of it, Negros Forest Park's doors have been shut since March 16, 2020. But for us, it's not all bad news!

We took this opportunity to repair, replace, and build new enclosures. Our Visayan Warty Pig and Visayan Spotted Deer enclosures got upgrades by replacing regular cyclone wire with sturdier welded, mesh wire. Their wading pools were also repaired by improving the drainage and piping systems. And for the Visayan Warty Pig, we installed a whole new drinking system by installing nipple drinkers in every enclosure.

Our gentle Negros Bleeding Hearts were also included in some upgrades! New breeding enclosures were successfully completed last August. Strategically located away from the prying eyes, and noise, of our future visitors. Bleeding Hearts are known to be extremely shy and secretive, and they deserved the best, and most discreet of locations.

We continue to improve our facilities with the help of our partners, for the benefit of the animals under our care.

## Climate Change and Global Warming Mitigation

by Davoy Castor

As part of our commitment to be involved in the mitigation of the effects of Climate Change and Global Warming, we at TFI continuously plant a variety of indigenous trees species. This also supports our initiatives for Biodiversity conservation, Habitat Restoration and Watershed Rehabilitation.

At Negros Forest Park, we have planted a multitude of indigenous tree species, which are key additions to what has been planted decades ago. Some of the seedlings recently planted are: Dao (*Dracontomelon dao*), Yakal Kaliot (*Hopea malibato*); Yakal Dalingdingan (*Hopea plagata*); Yakal Guisok (*Shorea guisok*); Nato (*Palaquium luzoniense*); Toog (*Combretodendron quadrialatus*); Sambulawan (*Syzygium albayense* Merr.); Malugai (*Pometia pinnata* Forst.); Tangile (*Shorea polysperma*); Almon (*Shorea Almon*); Bago (*Gnetum gnemon*); Balai Lamok (*Crateva religiosa* Forst.); Bagtikan (*Shorea Malaanunan*); White lauan (*Shorea contorta*); Supa (*Sindora supa* Merr.); Kalumpit (*Terminalia microcarpa*); Mankono (*Xanthostemon verdugonianus* Naves); Dungon late (*Heretiera littoralis*); Bani (*Pongamia pinnata*); Mala tambis (*Syzygium*); Lamio (*Dracontomelon edule* Blanco); Lipoting Gubat (*Syzygium* sp.); Bankal (*Nauclea orientalis*).

This effort was led by TFI President, Dino Gutierrez and TFI team members every Sunday in the month of August. The trees planted will be our legacy that will benefit future generations.



***"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now."***

**Chinese Proverb**





## WATERSHED PROJECT

BY DAVOY CASTOR

Talarak Foundation, Inc. is continuously implementing initiatives for habitat restoration and watershed rehabilitation. This 1,000 hectare Bacolod City Watershed site, which spans from Campuestohan in Talisay City to Anangue-Managaksak in the Municipality of Murcia, is part of the Northern Negros Natural Park (NNNP).



Working closely with local community organizations, we provided technical support to introduce alternative livelihood projects, such as growing vegetables, fruit trees and the introduction of agroforestry technology.

Advocating for habitat restoration, with the involvement of local community members, the Bacolod City Water District (BACIWA), Local Government Units, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), has proven beneficial to the success of our projects in this area.

*"Trees do not preach learning and precepts. They preach, undeterred by particulars, the ancient law of life."*

**-Herman Hesse**

# IN-SITU REPORTS

By:

*Matt Ward, Ysabella Montaña-Ward & Justine Magbanua*



## CAMPUESTOHAN

Campuestohan is a 1,000 hectare reforested area situated in the Northern Negros Natural Park. The entire area used to be the denuded remains of the massive logging concessions that occupied Negros Island during the 80's. Besides illegal logging, the area was rife with poachers, hunters, and rebels, since those times were the heydays of insurgency here on the island. Several community members used to be hunters, poachers and loggers back in the day, but over time, and with the help of our now Curator, David Castor who has spent most of his waking hours doing intensive community rehabilitation and capacity building, as well as education programs, in Campuestohan, these former enemies of biodiversity have now become sentinels of conservation.

These reformed poachers now lead the way in biodiversity protection and rehabilitation in Campuestohan, and are an active part in keeping the area in its natural state. This is also the site where Using, the Visayan Spotted Deer was rescued from, and thru that act, built the foundation for the conservation work we are currently all involved here in Talarak. This site boasts prowess as not only the biggest succesful rainforestation project in Negros Island, but also being one of the areas where three of our Big Five are found. These are the Visayan Spotted Deer, Visayan Warty Pig and the Visayan Tarictic Hornbill.

Currently Campuestohan stands as a prime example of how proper education and implementation of conservation can turn the enemies of the environment into its guardians. Through all the efforts put in during the early stages of rehabilitating Campuestohan, the site is now completely forested and has regrown most of its flora, regained its fauna, and is currently a watershed supplying water to various towns and cities adjacent to it.





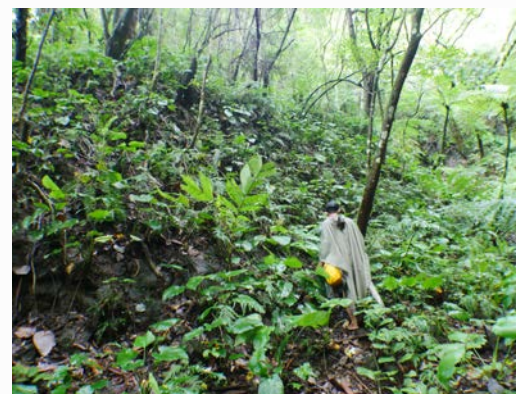
## GAWAHON ECO PARK

For over two years, a camera trapping project, spearheaded by the Bristol Zoological Society, and in partnership with Talarak Foundation Inc., has been launched with the goal to capture video evidence of the elusive Negros Bleeding Heart Dove in Gawahon Eco Park in Victorias City. The Negros Bleeding Heart Dove is a critically endangered species which is only found in the islands of Panay and Negros, with estimates of only 50-250 individuals left in the wild. The project site, located at Sitio Gawahon, Victorias City, is within a 80,454.5 hectare protected area called the Northern Negros Natural Park. Despite being a protected area, only 16,687 hectares is forested, and is a mix of secondary and primary rainforest. Currently, there is an urgent need to identify and protect areas which harbour populations of the Negros Bleeding Heart Dove. Since these animals and their habitat are still being threatened by illegal logging, slash and burn farming, wildlife poaching and agricultural expansion.

Currently, the cryptic nature of this species makes it hard to gather data in the wild. This is the reason why camera trapping was the method of choice for this project, as it makes it possible to gather data on the animals without intensive fieldwork. This also gives a more natural insight to their behaviour as it removes the presence of people, which may alter their behaviour. Since the deployment of the camera traps, we have recorded a variety of animals including Visayan Warty Pigs, Long-tailed Macaques, Viverrids, Varanids and several bird species. Although we have yet to capture the Negros bleeding Heart on tape, we remain hopeful.

***“The Earth is a fine place and worth fighting for.”***  
**-Ernest Hemingway**

We currently have four camera traps set up in the site. Data is collected every month and analysed. After data has been gathered, the camera traps are then relocated in such a way that we gradually move them deeper and deeper into the forest in order to increase the chances of detecting the Bleeding Heart Doves. Identifying and protecting habitats which these birds are present in is a key part in their conservation. This species is only found on two islands in the world, and almost all of its suitable habitat has already been ruined, or is in continual decline.





# DAMUTAN WILDERNESS

One site where the Talarak In Situ Team were looking forward to assessing this year is the Damutan Wilderness in Hinobaan, Negros Occidental. This site is home to an indigenous community who currently care for ~2500 hectares of natural grassland and patchy native forest. Although the indigenous community here are given legal protection for their land, there has been significant destruction and poaching threats to the wildlife in the area over the last decade, leading to this small mosaic of forest remaining. The reason for Talarak involvement comes at the request of this community to assist them in developing improved conservation and protection of their ancestral lands.

There is an added element of urgency with conservation activities at this site as it is rumoured to be the last remaining stronghold of the wild Visayan Spotted Deer. As the wild populations of this deer become less and less visible within the national parks, and the accounts of sightings from rural communities have all but ceased, this population may be the last of its kind on Negros. So far, the indigenous community on site have given us numerous anecdotal accounts of the species being present still, and claim to know where they reside and how to find them. We intend to visit the site and through the use of walked transects, and setting remote camera traps, to get proof of the remaining population of spotted deer. If we can gather enough evidence, we aim to estimate the population size and use this to gauge the activities we should implement to protect and bolster this population.

As with our activities in the Danapa Nature Reserve, the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting lockdowns, including strict movement restrictions between Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental, have greatly slowed any progress in visiting and assessing this site. It is extremely remote, and access to the site is limited. We had managed, however, to acquire the necessary permissions to visit the site earlier in the year, but with the rampant Covid-19 spreading across areas of the Philippines, and occasional outbreaks on Negros Island, it was deemed unsafe for us to visit.

We are still hopeful to establish our surveys and camera traps once the danger of the pandemic has finally settled.

*There is an added element of urgency with conservation activities at this site as it is rumoured to be the last remaining stronghold of the wild Visayan Spotted Deer.*





## Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park

In the previous year, our efforts were focused on conducting assessments in Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park (BTLNP) for the presence/absence of the Negros Big 5 species (Visayan Spotted Deer, Visayan Warty Pig, Visayan Tarictic Hornbill, Rufous Headed Hornbill and Negros Bleeding Heart Dove), and habitat suitability assessments using these species' habitat requirements as a guide. During this time, we conducted more than 20 surveys across 12 transects within 1,800 hectares of area. The results of these transects suggested there to be a healthy population of the Visayan Tarictic Hornbill, a possible remaining individual or pair of Negros Bleeding Heart Doves, and an unknown (but presumed low) number of Visayan Warty Pigs, within the quarter of the park surveyed. However, there was no sign (new or old) of the Visayan Spotted Deer, or the Rufous Headed Hornbill, and the habitat suitability assessment seemed to suggest a lack of nesting, and low density of feeding sites for the hornbills and doves.

Disturbingly, there were also numerous observations of poacher traps, human disturbance and illegal cultivations/crops inside the park. At one point, we identified a poached Visayan tarictic hornbill, and evidence of dogs following warty pigs.

The supplemental use of remote camera traps at the beginning of this year confirmed the presence of at least one group of Visayan Warty Pigs in an area where a known pig den had been spotted, and secondary sign regularly seen. This location was the only one where warty pigs were confirmed to still exist, which led to an effort to create a soft-release enclosure for the spotted deer in the same location, which would have gaps large enough for the pigs to enter and provide sanctuary for both species.



At the beginning of this year, our aim within BTLNP was to get permission from the Protected Area Management Board for the construction of a soft-release enclosure, as well as a long term strategy to reintroduce the Visayan Spotted Deer back into the park. The plan entailed putting a small breeding group of spotted deer inside a 3 hectare enclosure near the entrance of the park, under the joint supervision of Talarak and the peoples organisation currently running the park's ecotourism operations. This group would stay within the enclosure with supplementary feeding for 2 years, allowing the group to breed and sire offspring in safety, and those offspring to grow to a dispersal age before the enclosure would be opened to release the animals. Simultaneously, the Talarak research team would continue assessments and make plans to mitigate the lack of necessary habitat elements missing in the park, and the outreach and education team would engage with the local communities to mitigate poaching or habitat destruction threats.



“  
Camera traps confirmed the presence of at least one group of Visayan Warty Pigs in an area where a known pig den had been spotted  
”

Sadly, the BTLNP management board were not satisfied with these plans. They felt that a lack of financial investment in other park matters, or clear benefits to the park, were stumbling blocks for the proposed idea.

Given this setback and the increased activity of Talarak within the Danapa Nature Reserve, the plans for BTLNP have been put on hold and any further developments left for a time when resources and management can be set up for BTLNP alone. Our research team and project managers are still influential within BTLNP, attending monthly meetings with the park management board, and assisting the local enforcement agencies with education and protection strategies.

## ***Danapa Nature Reserve***

The primary activities for the Talarak In Situ Team have revolved around the Danapa Nature Reserve. Working with the City of Bayawan, the Danapa Nature Reserve was officially turned over to Talarak Foundation Inc. this year. Under a Memorandum of Agreement, the Reserve is strictly to be used for biodiversity protection, local employment, and the translocation of captive bred animals. The Reserve covers an area of approximately 250 hectares, with 56 hectares of private land within the boundaries of the reserve.

A perimeter fence was installed along the 15 km border line. We also constructed necessary infrastructure within the reserve, which included soft-release animal enclosures to provide acclimatization, and to be used as a quarantine area for newly introduced captive animals until they adapt to the local environment. Staff housing and amenities were also constructed, along with a plant nursery to help propagate native seedlings for reforestation in the area. A clinic and stables area for the treatment of injured or quarantined animals, and guard houses at entrance gates to monitor the personnel entering or leaving the Reserve. This infrastructure construction was underway early in the year, however due to the unforeseen Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown procedures implemented across the country, construction is still ongoing.

As the primary purpose for the Reserve is the protection of native wildlife, and a new home for our captive bred individuals, we were eager to transport and release several groups of our critically endangered Visayan Warty Pigs and Visayan Spotted Deer. This culminated in the first ever release of these two species into a wild habitat on July 15, 2020.

During a simple event hosted by both Talarak and the City of Bayawan, we welcomed the city government officials, local village leaders and key personnel to witness the release of these animals into this forested Reserve. Introducing many spectators to these species for the first time, and reminding others of when these species used to roam the forests of Bayawan many years ago.



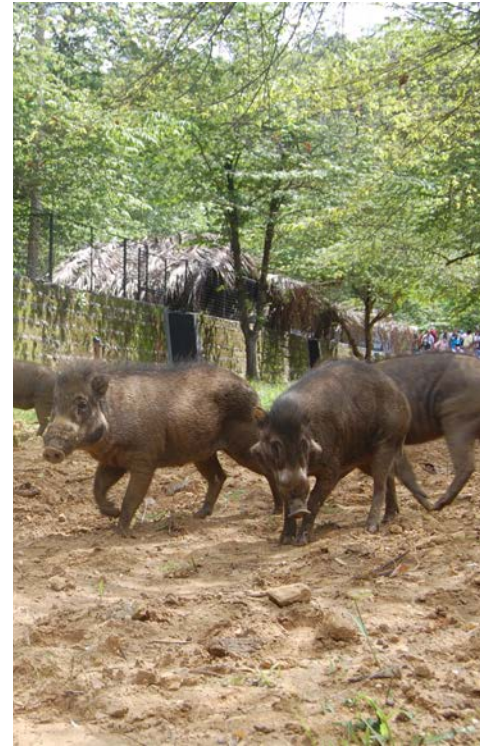


Since this initial release of all male individuals, we have also released a further group of female Visayan Spotted Deer, and currently have a group of female Visayan Warty Pigs in our enclosures waiting for release when old enough. This brings our current population to 25 Visayan Spotted Deer (16 males, 9 females), and 15 Visayan Warty Pigs (11 males, 4 females). To help with the acclimatization of these individuals in their new forest homes, we have constructed and provided 6 artificial feeding stations. These are wooden shelters that are supplemented daily with fresh fruits and vegetables, pellet food and a mineral block. These feeding stations not only allow these individuals to find consistent food during their settling-in period, but with the addition of remote camera traps, we are able to record crucial behaviour and biological data from our animals during every visit. We can identify whether individuals are remaining in groups or living solitarily, monitor the health of the animals by looking for injuries and at their body condition, and which areas/habitats of the reserve certain individuals seem to prefer living.



As part of the monitoring for our animal release we have also taken to using GPS and VHF telemetry collars to track certain individuals of each species. The initial intention was for each species to get 8 telemetry collars each (4 males and 4 females) and a team of trained interns would locate and observe these collared individuals regularly to record their movement patterns, habitat use and ecology. Unfortunately the pandemic, and restricted movement of people, has again intervened and caused us to postpone much of the data collection. We have managed to fit 2 GPS collars to 2 male Visayan spotted deer and 1 GPS collar to 1 of our male Visayan warty pigs, with these particular collars automatically recording locations and behaviour data every 2 hours without the need for human observers.





Conservation initiatives such as the Danapa Nature Reserve may be focused on the preservation and reintroduction of endangered wildlife, however there are other aspects to conservation which need addressing and Danapa is no different. Within the Reserve, we have recently completed reforestation and habitat conversion efforts, the removal of the large areas of invasive agricultural crops (such as coconuts and mahogany) and replacing them with over 20,000 saplings of various native fruiting and hardwood trees. These trees will take many years to develop into suitable food and shade/nest sites for our animals, but starting as early as possible, and with the proper maintenance and care we are giving these trees, we can build the future of the Danapa Nature Reserve.

In addition to the reforestation and habitat improvements going on inside the Reserve, we have been engaging the local communities inside, and outside, the Reserve boundaries. With our newly hired Outreach Officer, Deanne Nuique, we have been immersing ourselves in these communities. Constantly meeting with the key leaders of each area to identify what their communities need, understand how they perceive nature and the new Reserve, engaging store owners, farmers and the residents to hear their voices and feelings towards the project. So far our community engagement has been greeted warmly, with the surrounding communities opening their doors to our staff and freely discussing how they feel about the Reserves, and how we can help their future.

We hope that in the near future we can collate these thoughts and local needs in an effort to contribute more to the local communities themselves, and build a partnerships where both parties benefit from the work for the conservation of native wildlife.

Even during this time of national confusion, and restrictions revolving around an unforeseen pandemic, we have made significant progress with bringing the Danapa Nature Reserve to life. We will continue learning, improving and educating the Filipino to create a home for many more endangered and endemic West Visayan species, making the Danapa Nature Reserve a sanctuary to build off in our quest for conservation on Negros.





## IN SITU TEAM

The Talarak In Situ Team has been very active this year in many areas of the conservation projects around Negros. From conducting surveys and setting camera traps, to managing the development of the Danapa Nature Reserve, and attending meetings with multiple local government units and government agencies. The team has also expanded this year with the addition of a new community education officer with a background in Social Anthropology, and originating from less than 10km away from the site. This addition helps us to conduct the necessary surveys and studies on the wildlife we are involved with in these conservation areas, along with simultaneous education and outreach activities to target threat mitigation and community needs assessments.

Another major part of the team's activities this year has revolved around increasing the Talarak network of funders and academic partners. Talarak has now officially joined the IUCN SSC Specialist Group for deer and hornbills, with a desire to also join the wild pig and galliforme specialist groups. In conjunction with joining these groups, the in situ team have been working alongside key personnel, and newly connected partners, to start writing scientific articles to publish data on the reintroductions and useful observations, which could help other sister taxa, brand new studies and conceptual projects which would answer long held questions about some of the target species Talarak Foundation focuses on.

The team have also been involved within the academic development of students in wildlife biology from several schools around Negros Island, particularly Silliman University and Negros Oriental State University, both of which are from Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental. Our in situ project managers have been advising students from these schools in designing thesis topics revolving around local wildlife research, acting as supervisor to one student who has already passed her thesis defence, and supervisors to three further students who will be conducting their thesis projects with Talarak later this year. We hope to expand this advisory role of Talarak staff and researchers to other students and schools around Negros (and elsewhere in the country) in order to study the multitude of novel, but crucial topics, around the Negros Big 5 species and their habitats.





# ANIMAL UPDATES

By Doc Monica Atienza and Antoinette Begre-Lacson



## NEGROS BLEEDING HEART PIGEON

These birds enjoyed the quiet that lockdown has brought to the city! We have had a baby boom of pigeons!

In Negros Forest Park, eighteen (18) new progenies have been recorded. And in Kabankalan, we have had thirteen (13) new progenies, with five (5) mortalities. This was due to the chicks falling out of the nests.

We thank our partners for their continued support in constructing new enclosures for our West Visayan Big 5.







## ***TOUCH AND GO FOR OUR BELOVED TALARAK PAIR***

These birds definitely gave us highs and lows this year! Apart from joy we felt from the hatching of two new male chicks, we were devastated by the first successful breeding pair falling ill.

Kalantiw and Ligaya became noticeably lethargic on August 24, 2020. They stopped eating, their feathers ruffled, and wings drooped. Immediately head keeper Jimmy knew something was wrong.

TFI's vet, Dr. Monica, was in Danapa at the time the birds fell ill. The only thing that could be done was coordinate with other off-site vets. Top of the list was WRS's Dr. Luis Neves and Dr. Em Lastica. Dr. Neves suggested a broad-spectrum antibiotic, and an anti-fungal treatment.

It was touch-and-go for twelve days, the prognosis was poor, but Jimmy didn't give up hope just yet. He enlisted the help of Provincial Vet Dr. Yasmin Tan to administer the medicine in Dr. Monica's absence. Jimmy patiently force fed the birds, and gave them fluids.

With dedication and patience, on the 12th day, they found empty food bins, and the birds were finally eating on their own.

We thank everyone involved for keeping this extremely important breeding pair from harm's way, and for bringing them back to health!







## VISAYAN SPOTTED DEER

The week of January 10, 2020, eight (8) Visayan Spotted Deer were meant to be transferred to a soft release site in Don Salvador Benedicto, Negros Occidental. Sadly, we lost three (3) due to what has been called a “catching mishap”, which was a painful lesson for all of us to learn from.

One death was caused by suspected tetanus, another from a myocardial infraction, and the third due to a uterine rupture, the two latter deaths were caused by stress.

Since then, our team has developed a safer way to catch and transport these critically endangered deer. By creating tunnels and chutes made of black fabric, we not only ensure the safety of the deer, but of the keepers as well. And it has proven to be a time-efficient method.

From January to August, we have had 5 progenies for the deer.

~~To date, we have transported the following animals to these sites:~~

Don Salvador Benedicto Soft Release Site:

- 1 male
- 4 females

Danapa Nature Reserve, Bayawan City:

- 15 males
- 9 females





# Visayan Warty Pig

From January to August, we have had nine (9) progenies from four (4) different mothers in Negros Forest Park.

We have also implemented the same catching technique to the pigs. We successfully transported a total of 19 pigs to their new locations. Sadly, we did lose one female during the long transit to Danapa Nature Reserve, most likely due to stress.



**The pigs have been transported to these sites:**

**Don Salvador Benedicto Soft Release Site:**

- 1 male
- 2 females

**Danapa Nature Reserve, Bayawan City:**

- 10 males
- 4 females





# Visayan Tarictic Hornbill



As of August 2020, our Visayan Tarictic Hornbills have produced 7 new progenies. Six (6) in our Kabankalan centre, where from one breeding pair alone we had 4 successful progenies. In Negros Forest Park, we had one (1) hatchling from our proven pair.

To date, we have accumulated 20 new progenies since 2019, all of which will be candidates for our future release at Danapa Nature Reserve, Bayawan City, later this year.





# Animal Inventory

## Kabankalan

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STOCKS
Rufous Headed Hornbill	<i>Rhabdotorrhinus waldeni</i>	8.6.0
Visayan Tarictic Hornbill	<i>Penelopides paninini</i>	20.19.0
Southern Rufous Hornbill	<i>Buceros mindanensis</i>	3.2.3
Mindanao Writhed Hornbill	<i>Rhabdotorrhinus leucocephalus</i>	5.3.3
Negros Bleeding Heart Pigeon	<i>Gallicolumba keayi</i>	13.13.4
Blue-naped Parrot	<i>Tanygnathus lucionensis</i>	21.18.9
Philippine Blue-backed Parrot	<i>Tanygnathus everretti</i>	1.2.0
Visayan Warty Pig	<i>Sus cebifrons negrinus</i>	6.5.0
Visayan Spotted Deer	<i>Rusa alfredi</i>	5.9.2

## Negros Forest Park

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STOCKS
Rufous Headed Hornbill	<i>Rhabdotorrhinus waldeni</i>	2.2.0
Visayan Tarictic Hornbill	<i>Penelopides paninini</i>	2.3.0
Southern Rufous Hornbill	<i>Buceros mindanensis</i>	1.1.0
Mindanao Writhed Hornbill	<i>Rhabdotorrhinus leucocephalus</i>	1.1.0
Negros Bleeding Heart Pigeon	<i>Gallicolumba keayi</i>	25.20.2
Blue-naped Parrot	<i>Tanygnathus lucionensis</i>	2.2.0
Philippine Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo philippensis</i>	4.7.1
Southern Philippine Hawk Eagle	<i>Nisaetus pinskeri</i>	1.2.0
Visayan Warty Pig	<i>Sus cebifrons negrinus</i>	15.15.0
Visayan Spotted Deer	<i>Rusa alfredi</i>	4.10.0
Visayan Leopard Cat	<i>Prionailurus bengalensis robori</i>	4.5.0



## New Trustee!

We would like to welcome our newest Trustee, Johanna Rode-Margono. Currently the Executive Director at Stiftung Artenschutz, we met Jo while she was Field Programme Director for SEA at Chester Zoo.

Jo has been a key supporter of Talarak Foundation since 2016. She has opened doors for us, and has guided us through many of our projects. It was but natural for us to ask her to play a bigger role.

To us, Jo is the woman who made things happen!

Thank you for accepting the Trustee position, Johanna!

## Working Trustees

Our working Board and Trustees is spearheaded by President Fernando "Dino" Gutierrez, who tirelessly worked on all TFI matters throughout lockdown.

Vice President Paul Lizares continues to liaise with our key Government officials.

Antoinette Begre-Lacson has been working on social media content, media releases, presentations and updates.





# The Team and Board of Trustees

## **Trustees**

Juan Jose Bonin  
Mike Benedicto  
Anthony O. Ramos  
Jose Ricardo J. Garcia  
Julian Edgardo J. Garcia  
Augusto D. Sison  
Juan Andres Corro  
Jennifer Martha L. Garcia  
Micaela Ledesma Trebol

## **Administration**

Stephanie Diaz  
Mary Arl Serdeñola

## **Education and Community**

Davoy Castor  
Deanne Nuique

## **Veterinarian**

Dr. Monica Atienza

## **In Situ**

Matthew Ward  
Ysabella Montaña-Ward  
Justine Magbanua

## **Negros Forest Park**

Davoy Castor  
Jimmy Benzuela  
Romualdo Bañez  
Danilo Pasuit  
Ryan Ibañez  
Mary Janne Esanza  
Gerald Bonghanoy

## **Kabankalan**

Arnold Tomangan  
Jennylyn Tomangan  
Melvin Gegavine  
Jacob Mendoza

## **Danapa**

Zaldy Bismar  
Michael Ape  
Angeline Estrada  
Jonathan Casipong  
Roland Loar  
Reynaldo Damondamon  
Jose Helera  
Jose Lumabang  
Herlito Montargo  
Benjie Perez

*It is our collective and  
individual responsibility  
... to preserve and tend  
to the world in which we  
all live."*

Dalai Lama



## *Sociologist turned Environmental Advocate*

The newest addition to the Talarak team is Deanne Lois Nuique. A fresh graduate of Sociology from the Siliman University in Dumaguete, Deanne was extremely eager to get her boots dirty and get to work!

Though Deanne's experience had never immersed her in nature and wildlife, she's happy to be given the opportunity to engage the community about these topics! What excited her the most about working with TFI? *"what made me more excited is that I not only learn from the community, but I also get a chance to educate them."*

Right now, her biggest challenge is logistics. Since the areas she tries to reach are far and wide, bad weather can hinder her work. That doesn't stop her though. When caught in these moments, she takes the opportunity to engage locals and "sari-sari" store owners (small household shops) and try to understand their point of view on hunting and poaching. She hopes she can be an integral part in educating, even the smallest groups, within the community to appreciate wildlife and nature, and be the first line of defense in protecting it.

Her dream for the West Visayan Big Five? *"For them to have viable population, for them to live freely in their natural habitat; secure and with people appreciating and protecting them."*



Community engagement and education is an integral part of the work we do, and a key team member is Davoy Castor.

Davoy has taken Deanne under his wing, to guide her towards the right path in this difficult, yet fulfilling role she has to play.

An experienced Community Organizer and Agriculturist, who has studied extensively throughout the years, including Watershed Management, Agroforestry, and Endemic Tree Nursery Management to name a few, we know Deanne is in good hands!

Davoy's years of experience in outreach and education plays a huge role in ensuring the success of our projects! And we know our work will go far and wide with Deanne and Davoy's dedication.





# OUR PARTNERS



Wildlife Reserves Singapore Group



**Bristol Zoological Society**  
Saving Wildlife Together



*Vielfalt bewahren. Arten erhalten.*



