

Mt. Kanlaon Natural
Park



PHILIPPINES
BIODIVERSITY
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION
INC.

PhilBio

Conserve. Empower. Secure

[f/philippinesbiodiversity](https://www.facebook.com/philippinesbiodiversity)

[@philbio1990](https://www.instagram.com/philbio1990)

philbio.org.ph



From rediscovery to resilience:

Turning Science into Conservation Action

LISA J. PAGUNTALAN - MARTE

Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc.
lisapaguntalan@philbio.org.ph

Imperial Hotel, Tokyo,
Japan
27 August 2026



Rediscovering
a species

is a moment of hope - but keeping it
alive requires an entire society.

Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park and ASEAN Heritage Park

Philippine Information Agency,
2025



Philippine Pygmy Fruit Bat
Haplonectris fischeri



Dagger-tooth Flower Bat
Macroglossus minimus

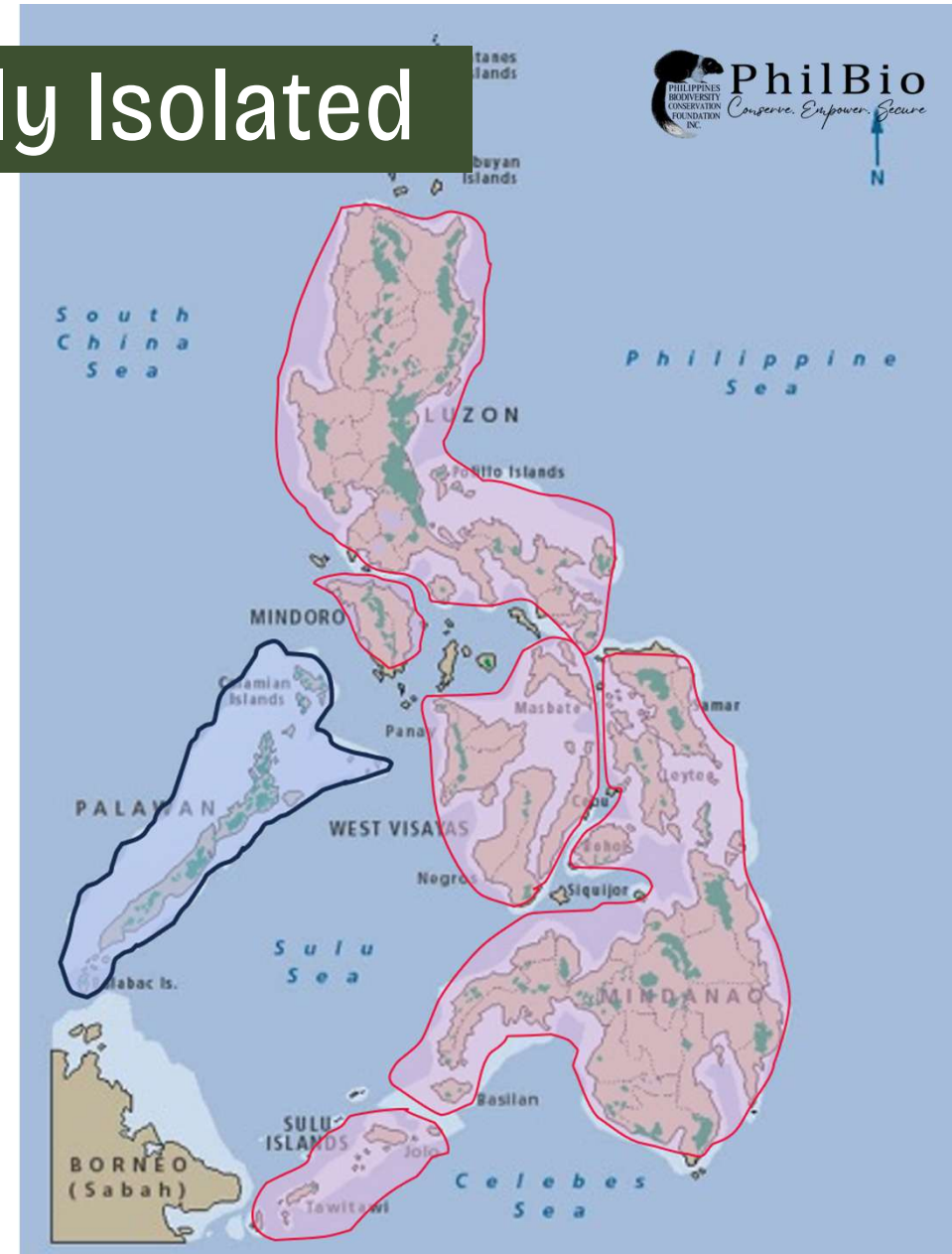
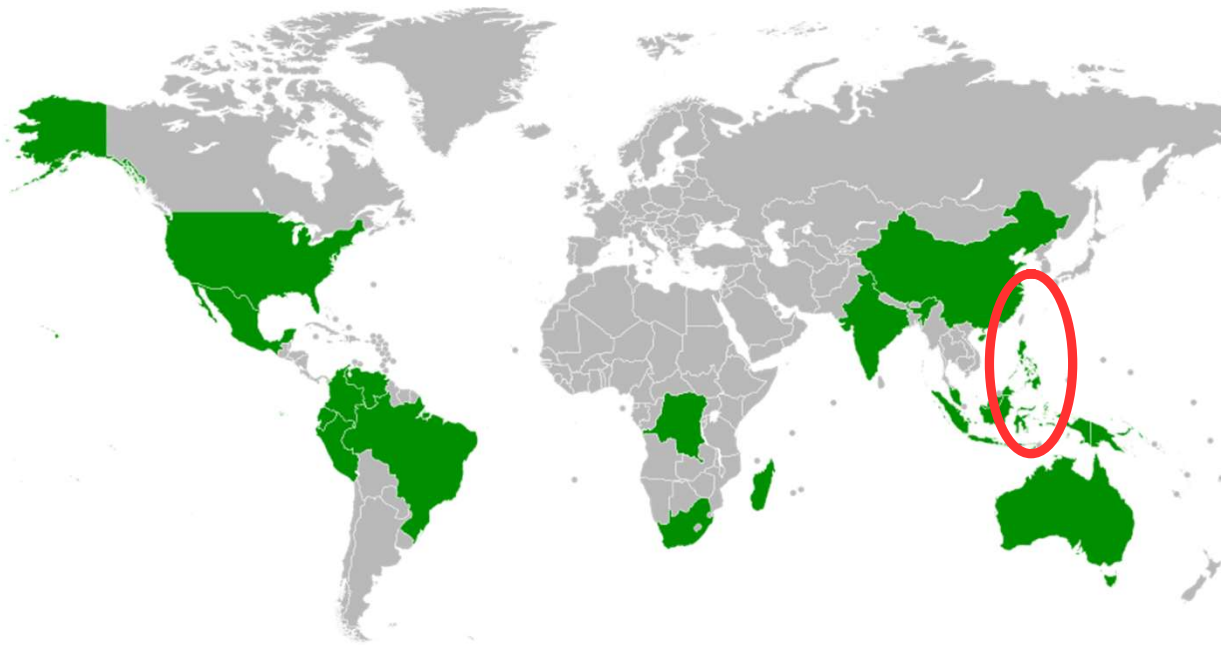


Hawk-Owl
Ninox sp.

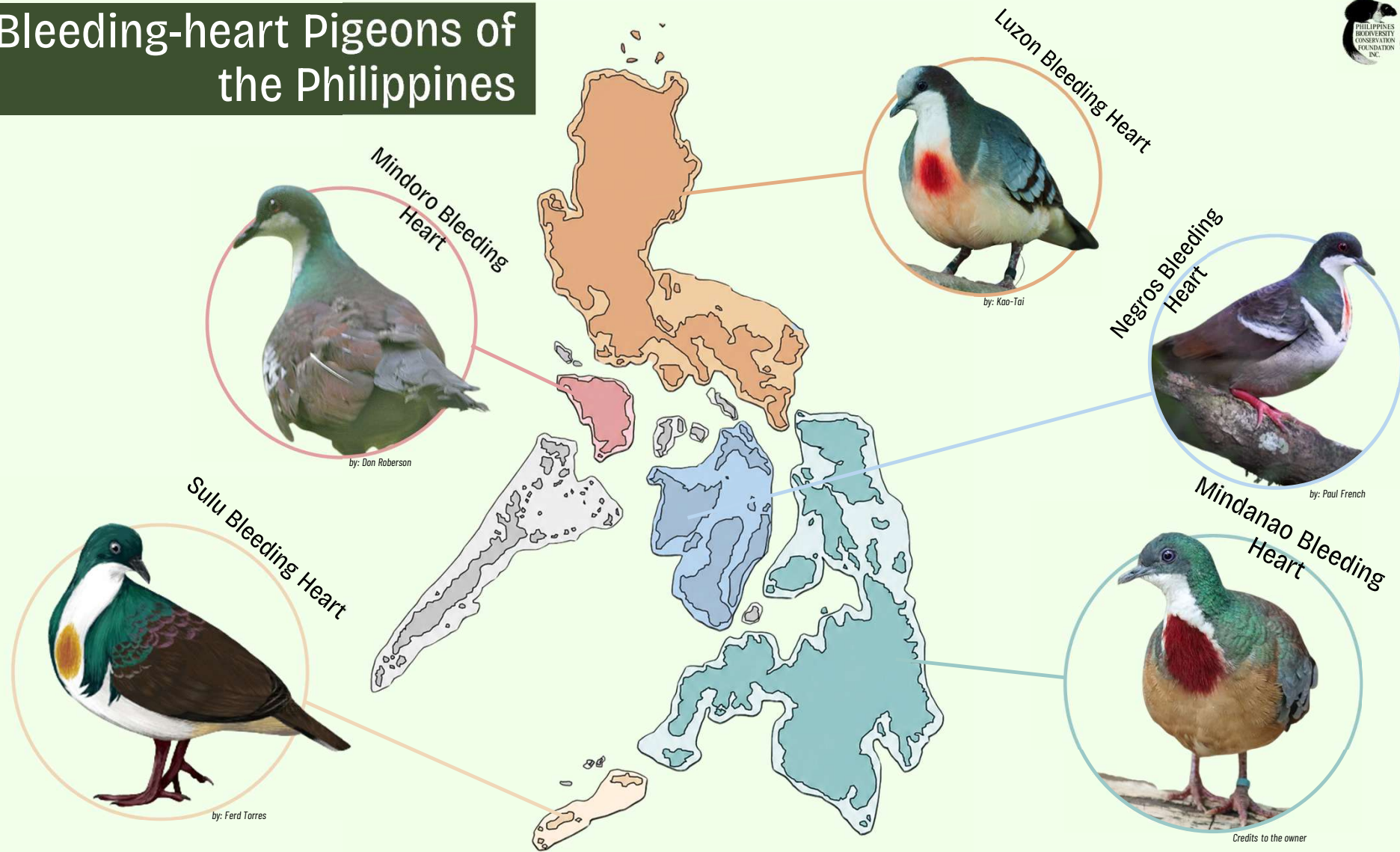


Philippine Tube-nosed Fruit Bat
Nyctimene rabori

Irreplaceable, but Increasingly Isolated



Bleeding-heart Pigeons of the Philippines



The encounters that shaped my conservation journey



Mery Jean & Lisa
Nug-as Forest, Cebu
August 1999

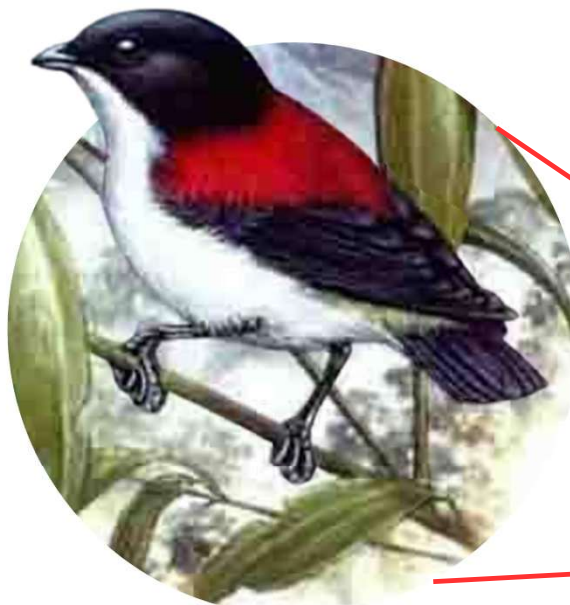


BP Conservation Awarding Night
British Museum, London 2000



Orlyn, Godfrey & Lisa
Cebu Biodiversity Conservation Foundation

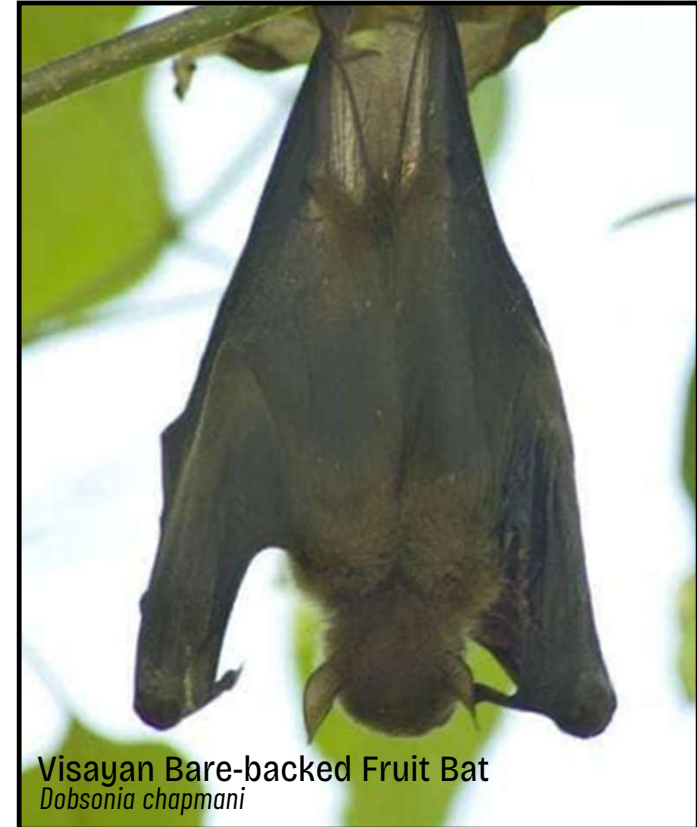
William L.R. Oliver



Cebu Flowerpecker
Dicaeum quadricolor



A species thought lost: Visayan Bare-backed Fruit Bat



Visayan Bare-backed Fruit Bat
Dobsonia chapmani

Rediscovery of a bat thought to be Extinct

Rediscovery is only the beginning

Find

Understand

Protect

Sustain



Black Shama changed my understanding of conservation

Before 2004, only 50 were estimated: our data produced with citizen science, recorded over 15,000 in at least 21 localities.



Black Shama
Copsychus cebuensis
Forest Botlal-Jarvis

Black Shama Distribution Records

Scale - 1 : 1,100,000
WGS 84 Pseudomercator
Source: NAMRIA, PhilGIS

Legend:

- Before 2000
- ◉ 2000 - 2016
- 2017 - 2020
- Forest cover
- Protected area
- Town/City boundaries



Paguntalan et al. (2022) Population density and distribution of the Endangered Black Shama *Kittacincla cebuensis*. Bird Conservation International.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S095927092200034x>

Human Dimension: Community-led Biodiversity Monitoring



Dalaguete Local Forest Warden



Black Shama Team

Human Dimension: Community-led Biodiversity Monitoring

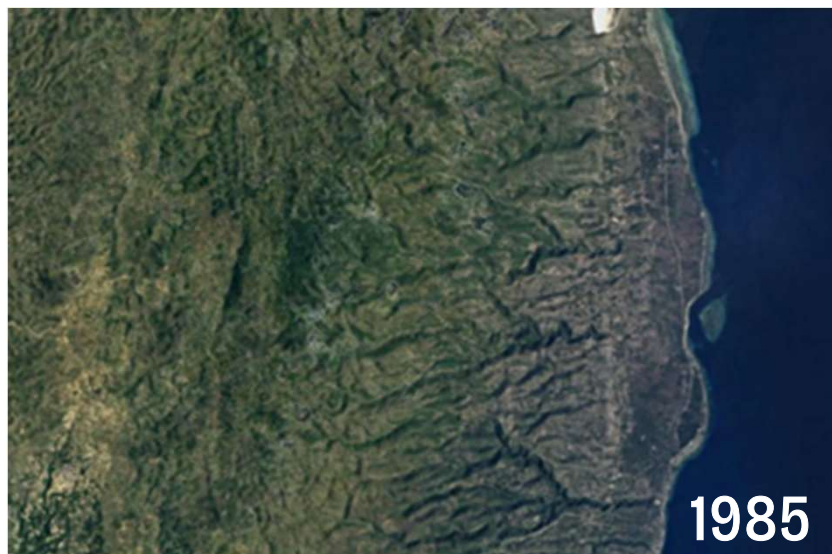


Kapunungan sa mga Mag-uuma sa Yutang Lasangnon sa Bulolacao Nug-as Alcoy (KMYLBNA)

- Members 150 – 200 individuals
- Association of farmers
- 26 Forest wardens
- Supported by DENR, NGOs and private sector

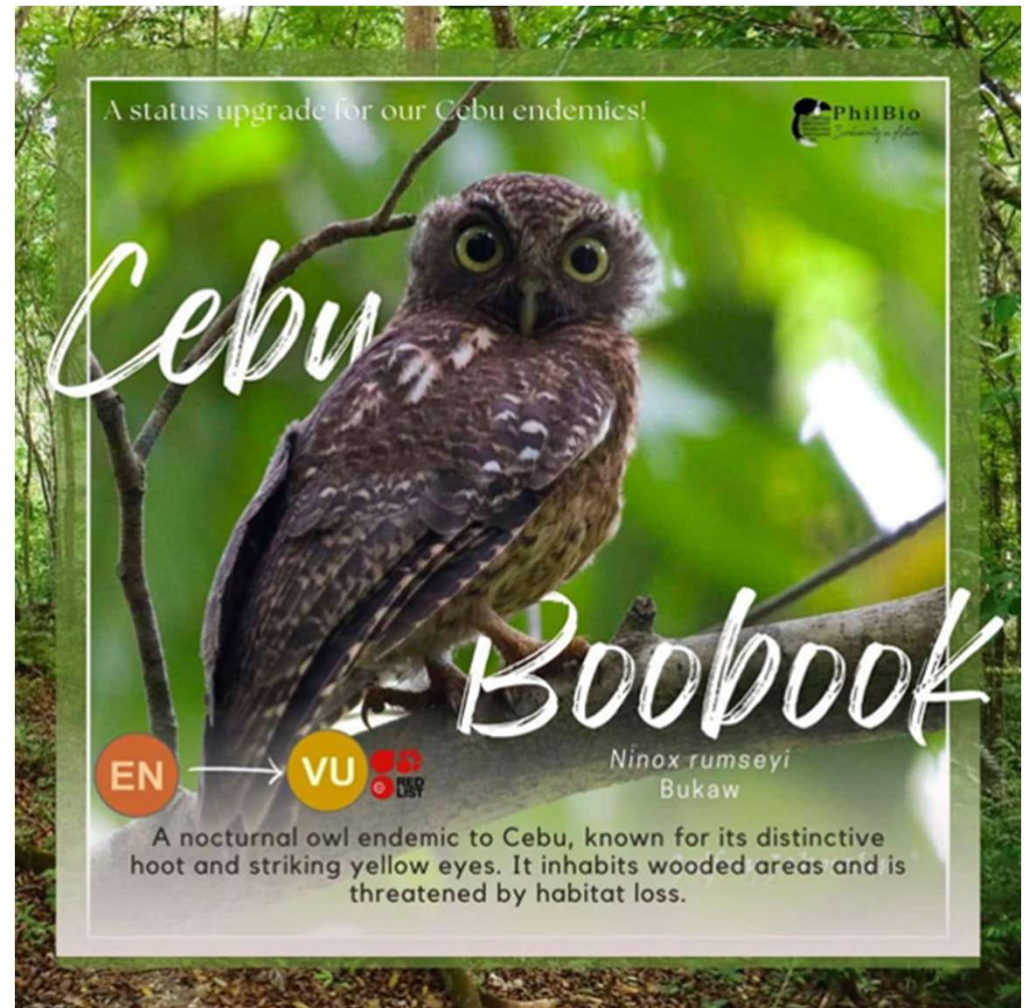
Tenurial Instrument

- Community – based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA) awarded in 1999
- 2,400 ha of forestland



**Satellite images of
Nug-as Forest
(Alcoy, Cebu)
1985-2022**

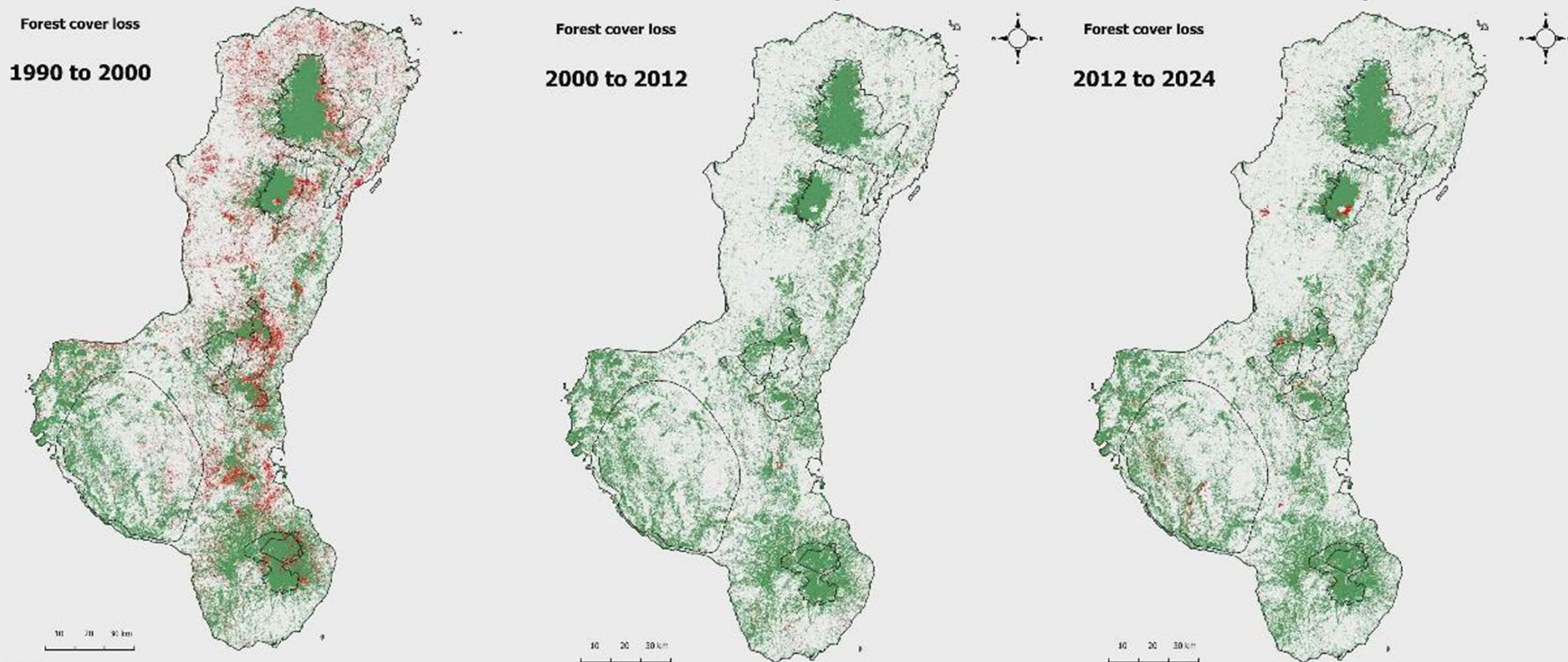
One sign of progress: improved species status





“Cebu taught me
to save a
species. Negros
taught me how
to sustain a
landscape.”

Forest cover loss in Negros Island (1990 - 2024)



Hornbills taught us to look across landscapes



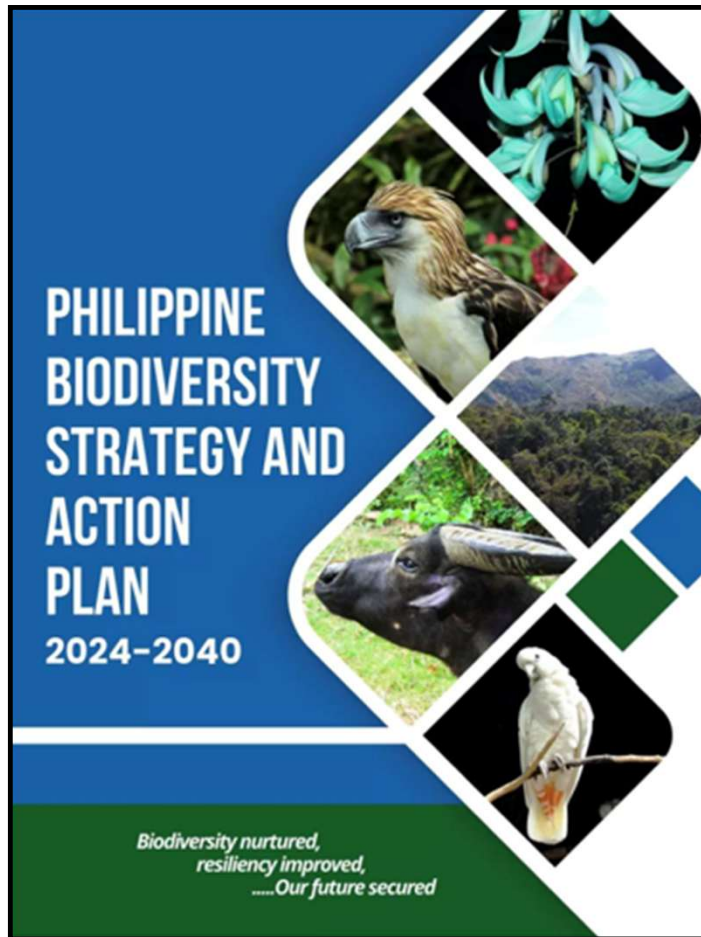
Visayan Hornbill
Penelopides panini
Richard Octavio



Simple standardized
methods produced
landscape-scale data
that informs
conservation planning.

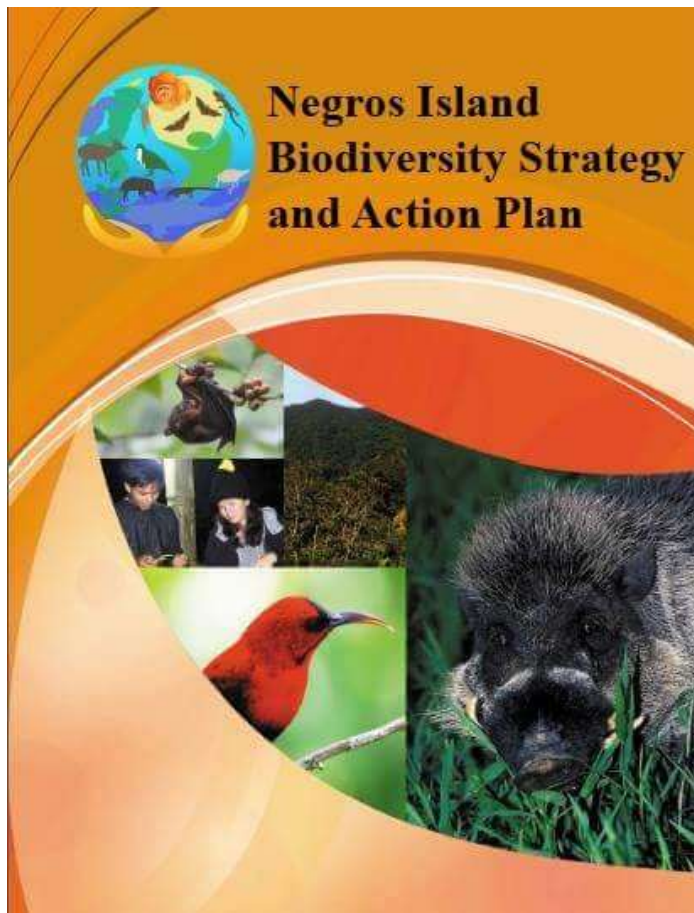
Conservation requires more than protecting species and sites

- Resilience
- Governance
- Systems management
- Societal infrastructure



Opportunity to contribute to global goals

Landscape-level Integrated Management Approach



Provincial governments localized national biodiversity plan in 2018

- One island goal and targets - different actions, strategies and approaches.
- Provincial Biodiversity Targets identified priority species for conservation.
- Local governments can use public funds to support wildlife and habitat conservation.



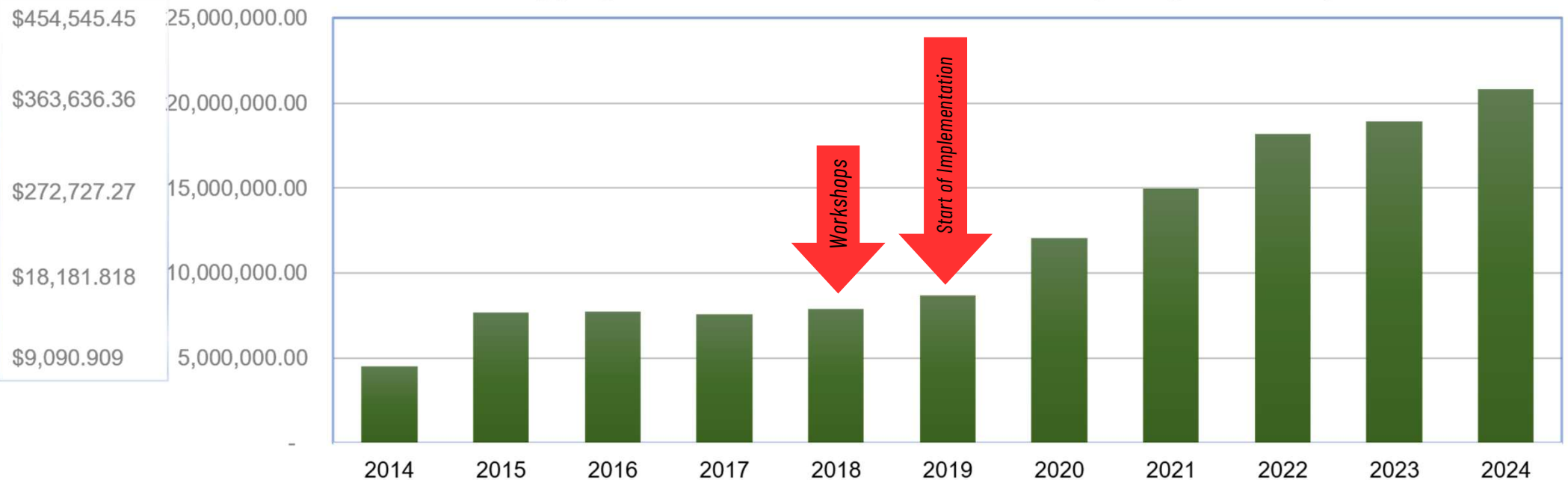
Allocating local funds for biodiversity conservation

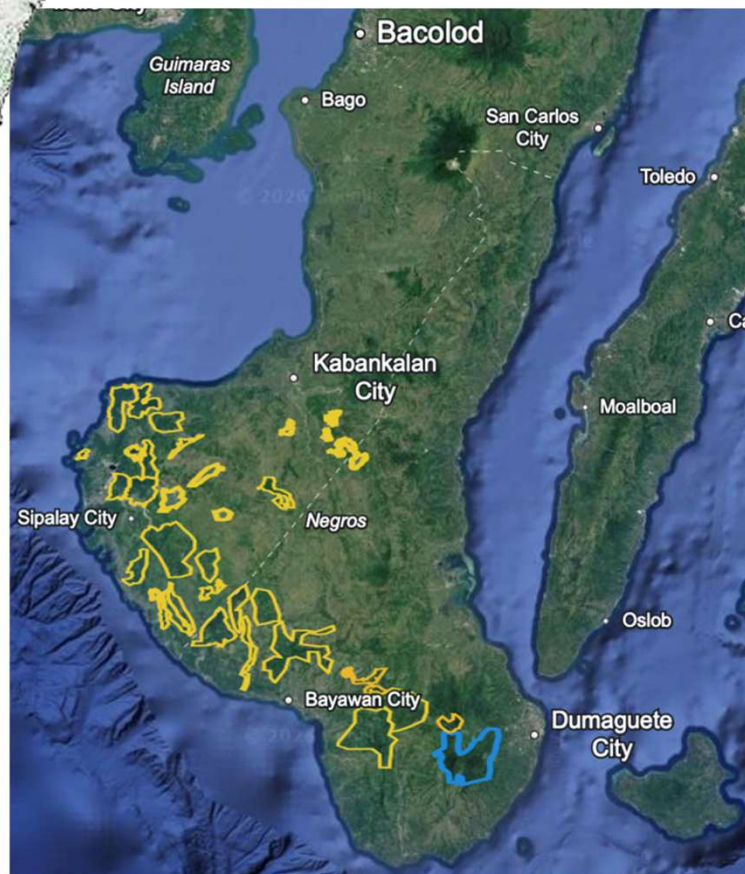
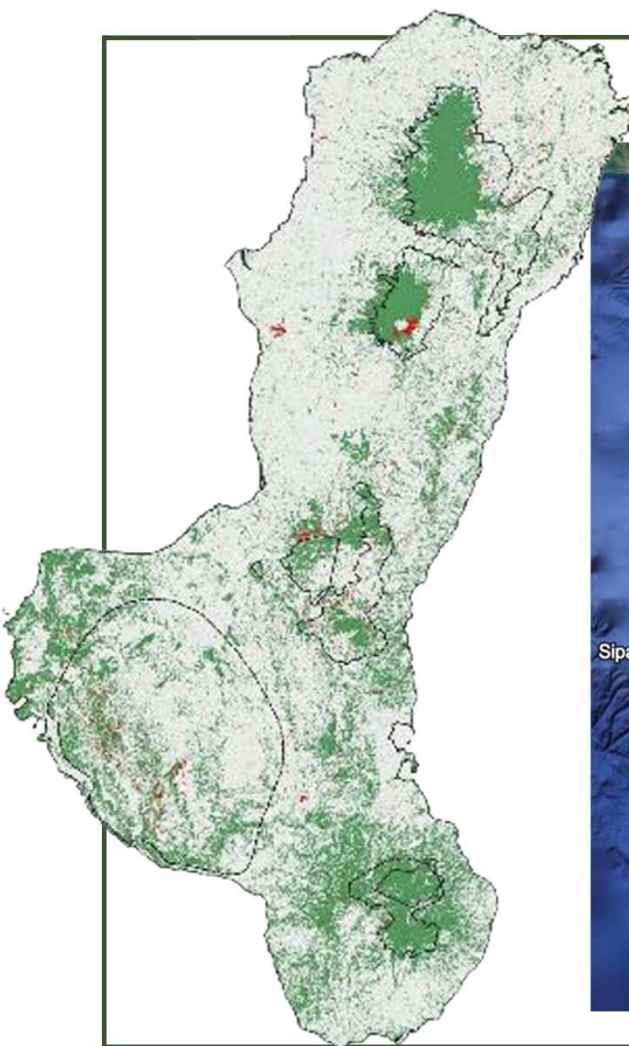
Annual budget investments on environmental programme in the Province of Negros Oriental from 2014-2024

2023: Php 18,904,146.00 (US\$ 343,711.745);
2024: Php 20,823,216.00 (US\$ 378,603.927)



Annual Appropriation for Environment/Biodiversity Program of Negros Oriental





Negros Limestone Frog
Platymantis spelaeus



Visayan Bare-backed Fruit Bat
Dobsonia chapmani

2026 - 2036: Strengthening Foundations. Forging New Alliances. Scaling Impact.

The work continues — completing priority initiatives while expanding through new programs, partnerships, and opportunities for collaboration.

- 
- Legend:
-  New conservation sites
 -  Sites for upscaling

Lessons from 25+ years in Conservation



We cannot save species without protecting the relationships that sustains it.



Evidence becomes powerful when communities and governments can use it.



Conservation succeeds when responsibility continues beyond one person or project



The future we inherit, and the future
we leave, depend on
what we choose to do together now.



Mt. Kanlaon Natural
Park



PHILIPPINES
BIODIVERSITY
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION
INC.

PhilBio

Conserve. Empower. Secure

[f/philippinesbiodiversity](https://www.facebook.com/philippinesbiodiversity)

[@philbio1990](https://www.instagram.com/philbio1990)

philbio.org.ph