



HARIBON[®]
FOUNDATION

HARIBON[®]

Bird Hunting in the Philippines

SEPTEMBER 2025



OUR HISTORY



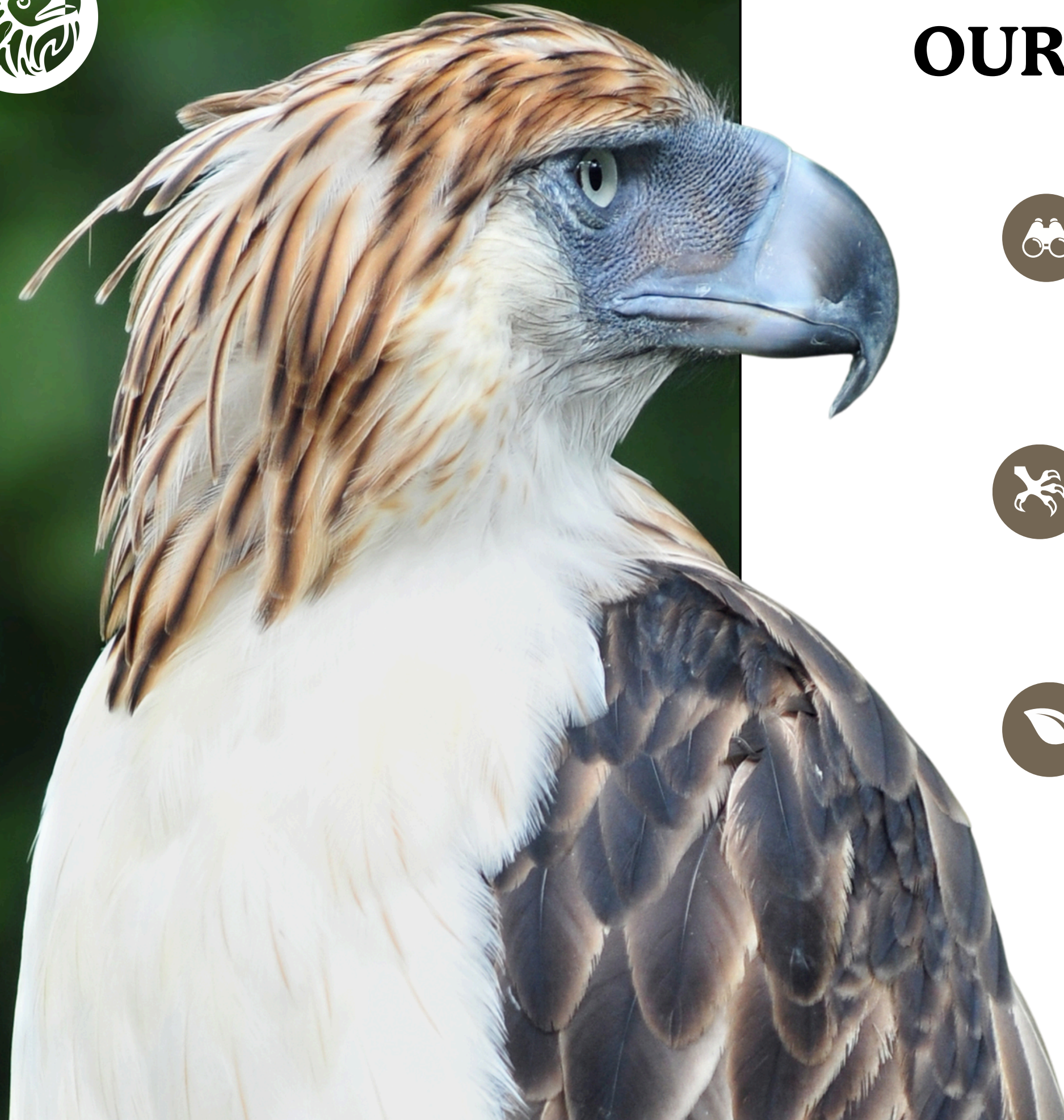
HARIBON began as a birdwatching society in 1972. We became a full-fledged conservation non-profit over 10 years later, in 1984.



Since then, HARIBON has trained, nurtured, and empowered countless biodiversity champions, who continue to spread the advocacy today.



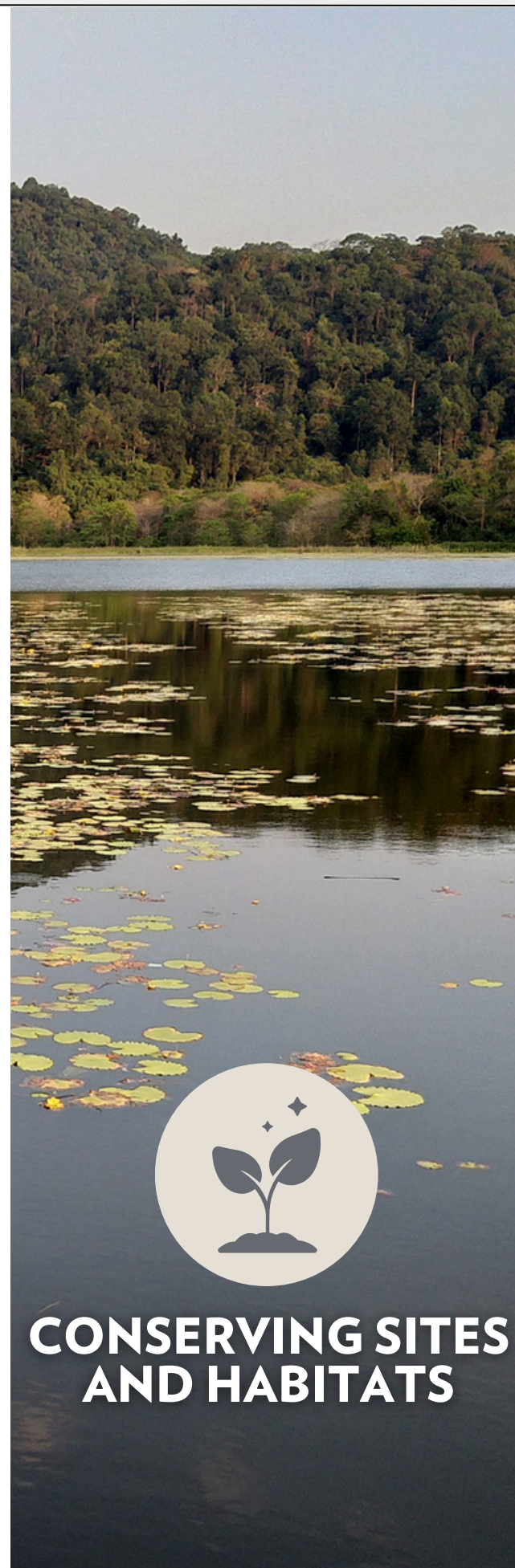
Our approach to conservation entwines both the natural and social sciences, creating lasting change in both people and the environment.



Over 50 years of safeguarding Philippine biodiversity

HARIBON® goes beyond saving the *Haring Ibon* (Philippine Eagle) or any single species. Our approach to conservation is multisectoral; holistically rooted in **both science & community**.

We are the country's pioneer environmental conservation organization.



CONSERVING SITES
AND HABITATS



SAVING
SPECIES



ENCOURAGING
SUSTAINABILITY



EMPOWERING
PEOPLE

Reasons why people hunt birds in the Philippines



Subsistence and Food

Poverty and Lack of Livelihood

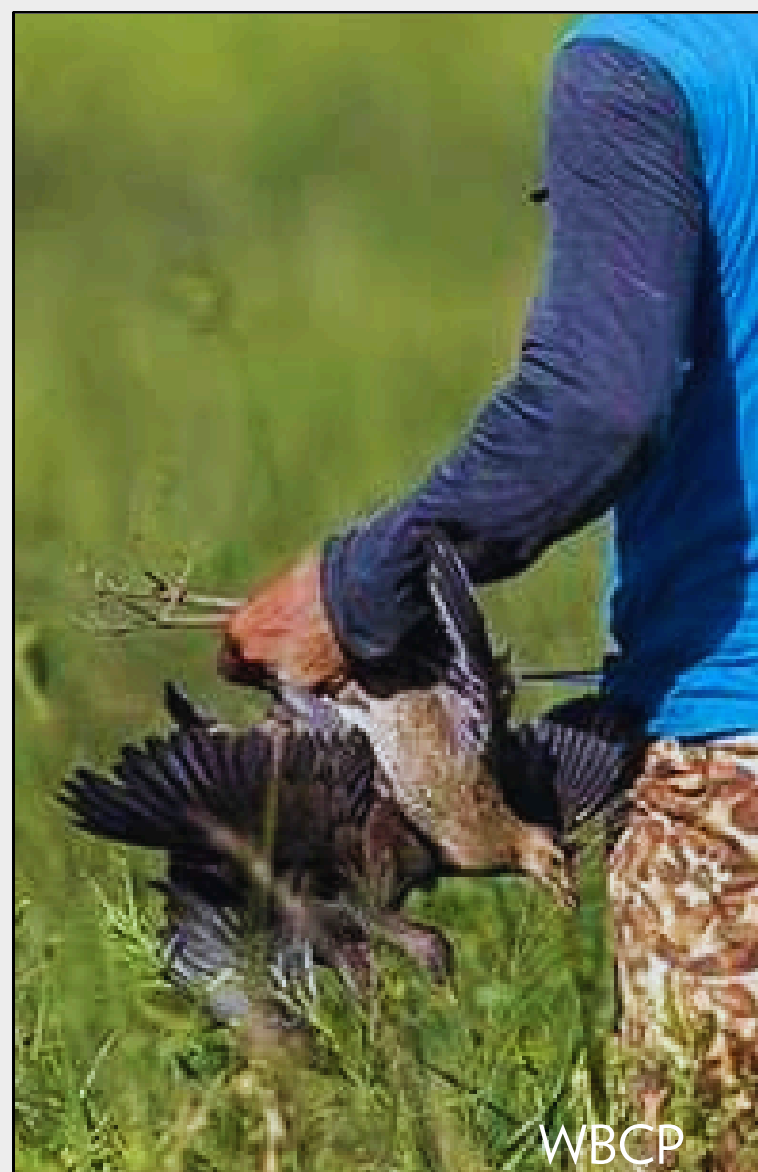
Cultural and Traditional Practices

Sports/ Recreation

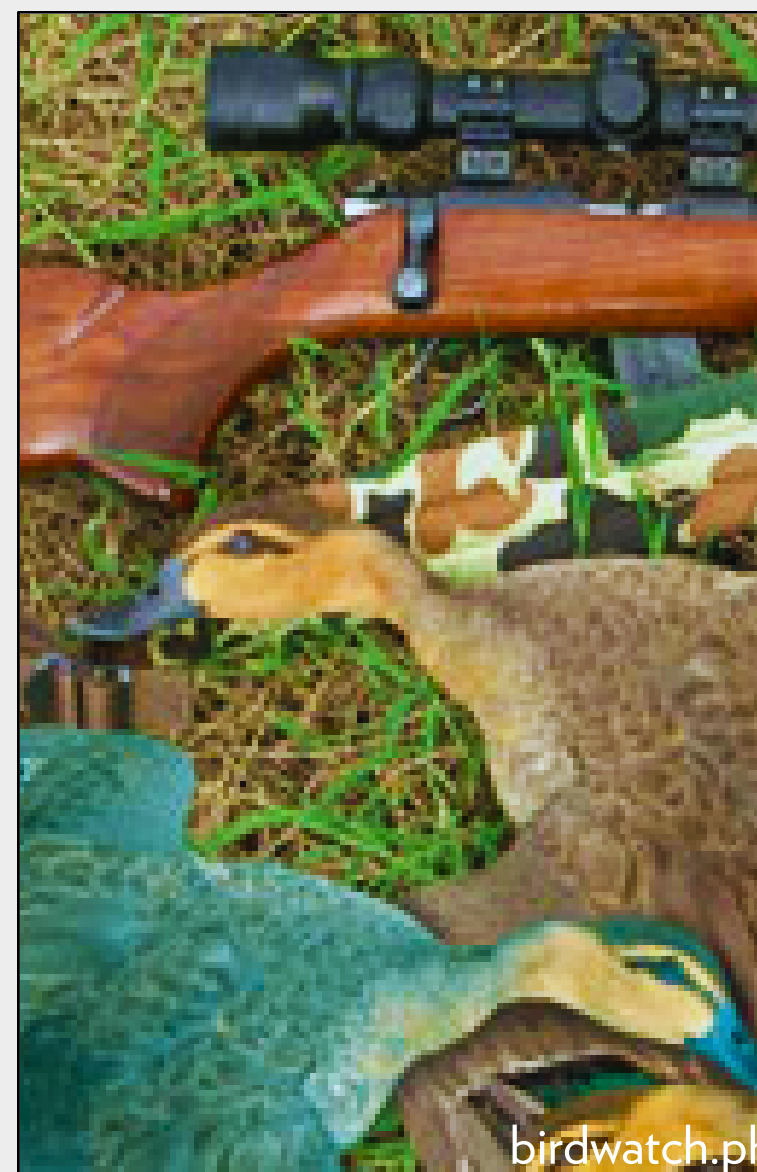
Key Groups of species hunted



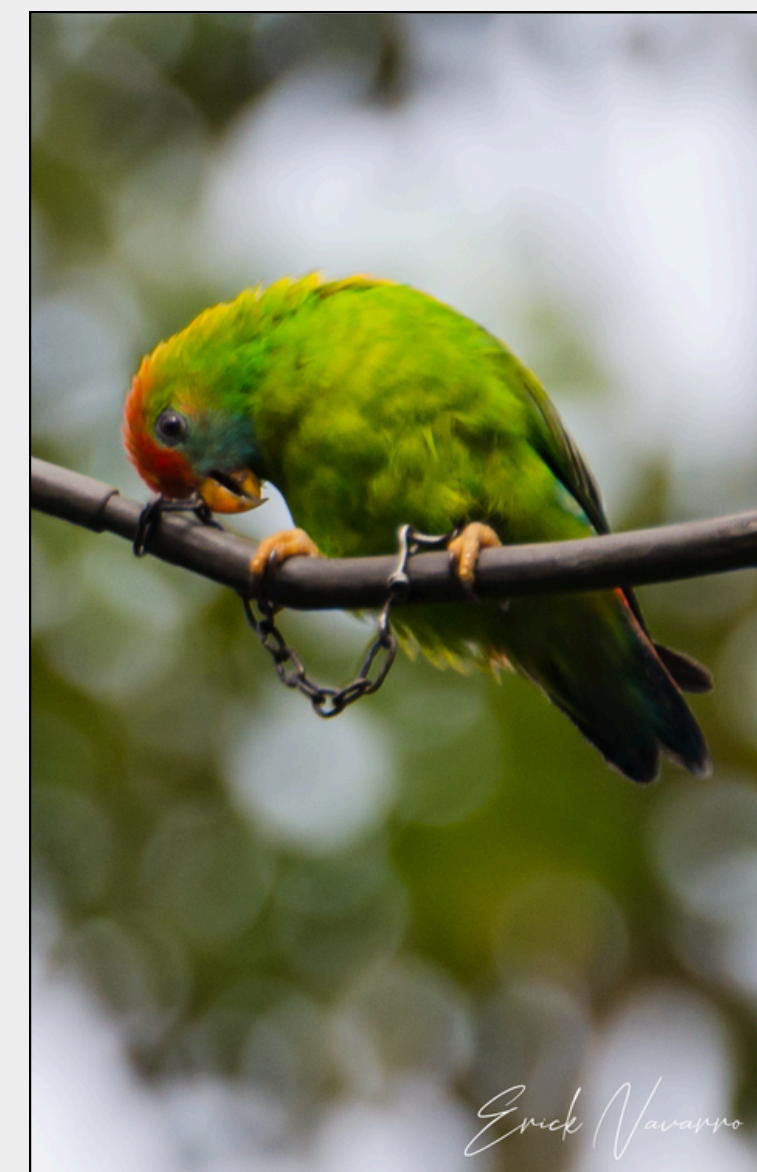
**Pigeons and
Doves**



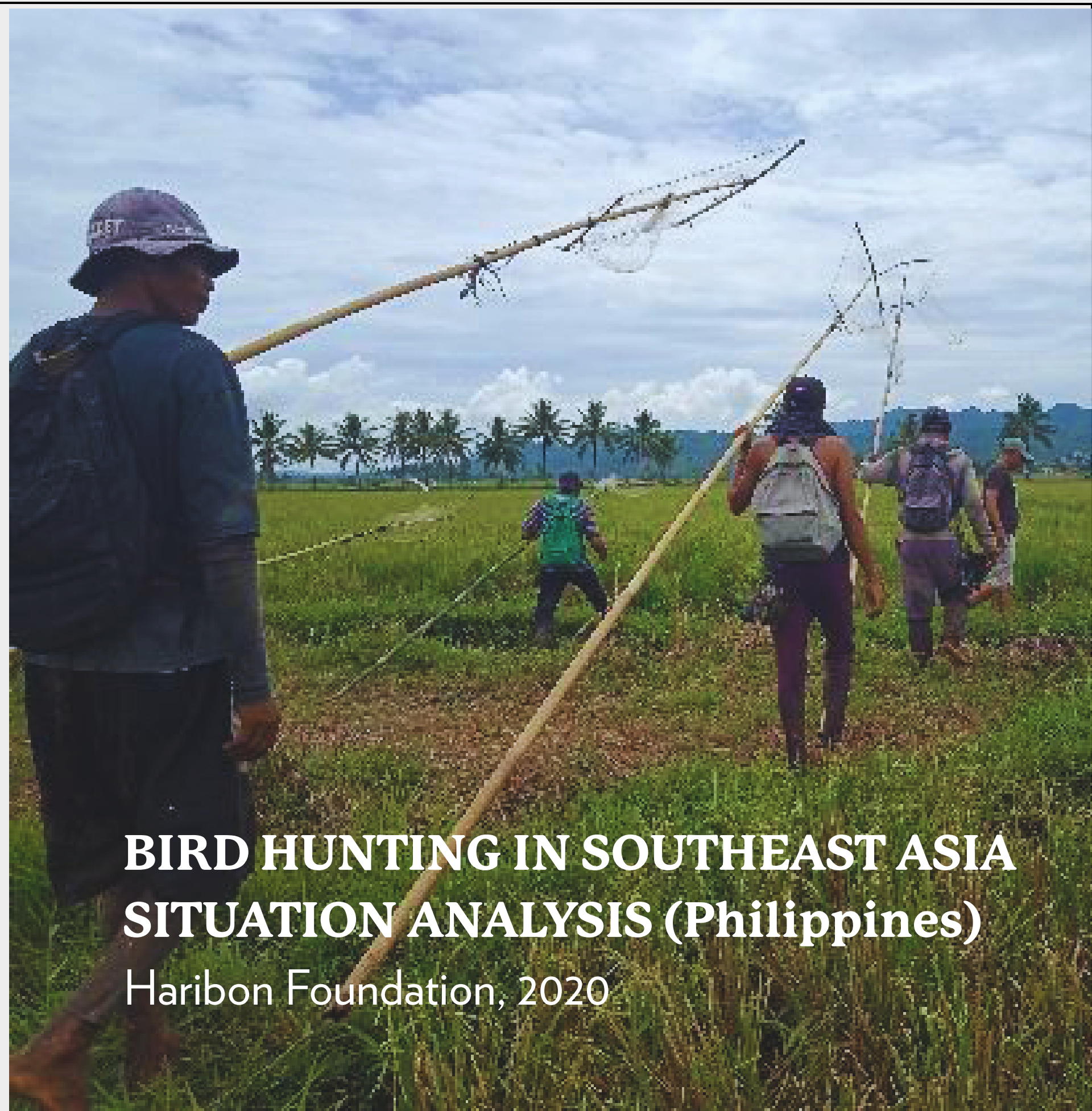
**Rails, crakes,
moorhens**



**Waterfowls
(Ducks, grebes)**



Parrots



BIRD HUNTING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA SITUATION ANALYSIS (Philippines)

Haribon Foundation, 2020

Objectives

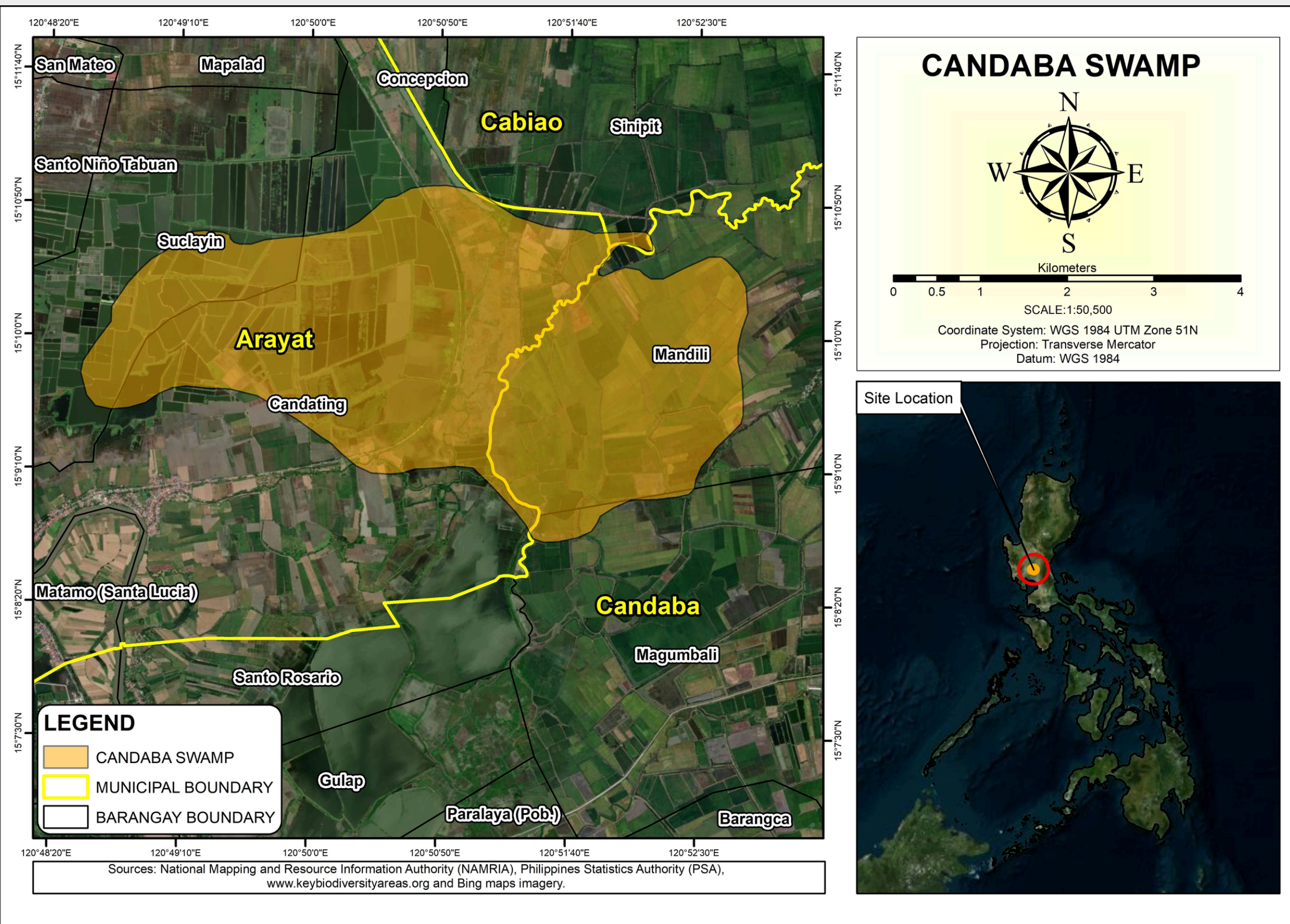
To improve the understanding of wild bird hunting in the Philippines by providing context on the practices and culture surrounding it.

Key Activities

Market and field surveys were carried out in the Candaba Swamp Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) from February 24 to March 14, 2020

Interviews were conducted with 27 locals, including former hunters and farmers, to gather information on consumption and hunting practices.

The project was also a follow-up to a resolution from COP10 to address the illegal killing of birds in the Southeast Asian region.



Candaba Swamp Key Biodiversity Area (KBA PH-31)

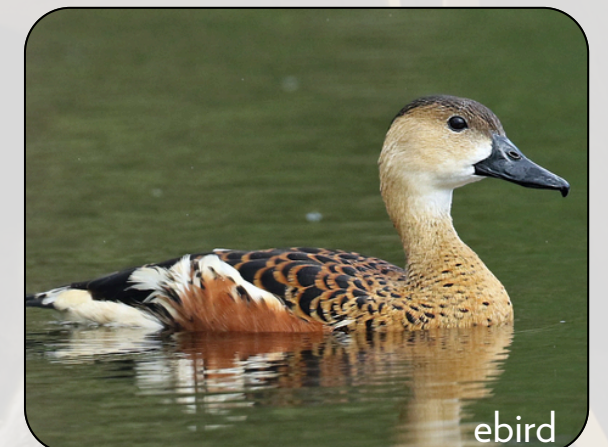
- 1910 hectares
- Made of freshwater ponds, swamps and marshes surrounded by seasonally flooded grasslands.
- Important staging and wintering area for migratory birds, being part of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

Approximate total number of individuals killed/hunted per year

| Species | Scientific Name | Minimum | Maximum |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Philippine Duck | <i>Anas luzonica</i> | 5 | 150 |
| White-breasted Waterhen | <i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i> | 30 | 900 |
| Javan Pond-heron | <i>Ardeola speciosa</i> | 3 | 30 |
| Wandering Whistling Duck | <i>Dendrocygna arcuata</i> | 45 | 720 |
| Lesser Frigatebird | <i>Fregata ariel</i> | 1 | 1 |
| Common Moorhen | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> | 30 | 900 |
| Barred Rail | <i>Hypotaenidia torquata</i> | 45 | 900 |
| Black-crowned Night Heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> | 1 | 8 |
| Purple Swamphen | <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i> | 5 | 360 |
| Red-footed Booby | <i>Sula sula</i> | 0 | 1 |
| Brahminy Kite | <i>Haliastur indus</i> | 0 | 3 |
| Luzon Boobok | <i>Ninox philippensis</i> | 1 | 3 |
| South Philippine Hawk-eagle | <i>Nisaetus pinskeri</i> | 1 | 2 |
| Osprey | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> | 1 | 3 |
| Philippine Serpent-eagle | <i>Spilornis holospilus</i> | 1 | 2 |
| Eastern Grass-owl | <i>Tyto longimembris</i> | 2 | 5 |
| Crested Mynah | <i>Acridotheres cristatellus</i> | 3 | 30 |
| Guiabero | <i>Bolbopsittacus lunulatus</i> | 5 | 30 |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----|-----|
| Northern Rufous Hornbill | <i>Buceros hydrocorax</i> | 1 | 5 |
| Philippine Cockatoo | <i>Cacatua haematuropygia</i> | 3 | 15 |
| Philippine Nightjar | <i>Caprimulgus manillensis</i> | 1 | 2 |
| Grey-capped Emerald Dove | <i>Chalcophaps indica</i> | 5 | 360 |
| Luzon Bleeding-heart | <i>Gallicolumba luzonica</i> | 5 | 15 |
| Common Hill Myna | <i>Gracula religiosa</i> | 5 | 15 |
| Barn Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | 10 | 100 |
| Black-naped Oriole | <i>Oriolus chinensis</i> | 1 | 8 |
| Mindanao Hornbill | <i>Penelopides affinis</i> | 1 | 3 |
| Luzon Hornbill | <i>Penelopides manillae</i> | 1 | 5 |
| White-eared Brown Dove | <i>Phapitreron leucotis</i> | 10 | 270 |
| Eastern Spotted Dove | <i>Spilopelia chinensis</i> | 10 | 270 |
| Black-naped Tern | <i>Sterna sumatrana</i> | 2 | 10 |
| Red Turtle Dove | <i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i> | 10 | 270 |
| Pink-necked Green-pigeon | <i>Treron vernans</i> | 10 | 270 |
| Luzon Buttonquail | <i>Turnix worcesteri</i> | 10 | 270 |
| Red Junglefowl | <i>Gallus gallus</i> | 20 | 50 |
| Yellow-breasted Fruit-dove | <i>Ptilinopus occipitalis</i> | 10 | 270 |
| Flame-breasted Fruit-dove | <i>Ptilinopus marchei</i> | 10 | 270 |
| Philippine Cuckoo-dove | <i>Macropygia tenuirostris</i> | 10 | 270 |

Migratory species recorded



Wandering whistling duck



Javan pond-Heron

Estimates by Haribon Foundation, 2020

Hunting methods



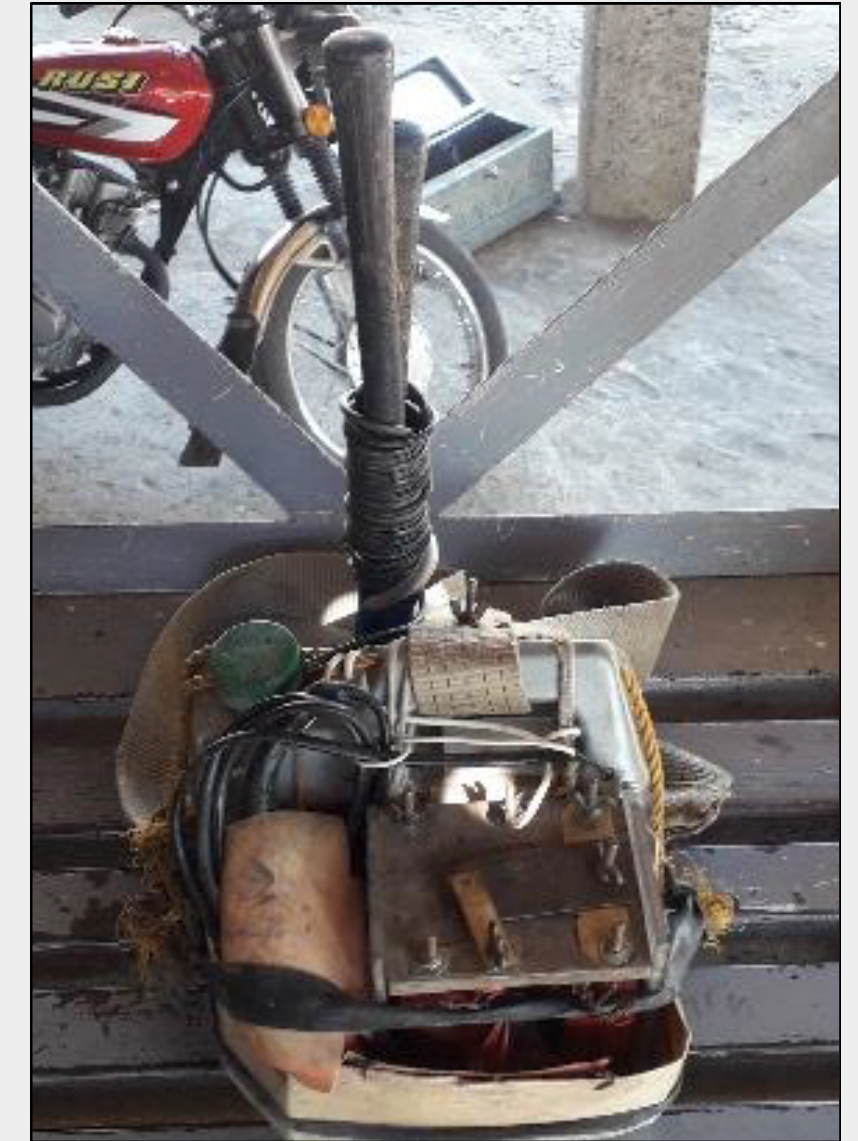
**Shooting (Airgun/
Shotgun)**



Weighed Nets



Poled nets



Electric rods

Key Findings

- Hunting of wild birds for both trade and household consumption is a known activity in the Philippines.
- The most common reason for hunting wild birds among interviewees was household consumption (over 67%), with a preference for wild meat due to its “distinct taste”
- A decline in bird populations was observed by all interviewees, with the top three reasons cited as **land use change**, **climate change**, and **increased hunting** due to a growing population.
- The Philippines is a State signatory to the CMS and EAAF, but illegal killing of birds is still practiced.

Key Findings

- Hunting hotspots include Dalton Pass, Candaba, and the fishponds near Bulacan.
- Species most frequently hunted are **ubiquitous birds**, rather than **migratory species** as a whole.
- Herons, despite being a common sight, have no market price as locals consider them unhygienic (have parasites).
- While there's hunting in the Philippines, it's not as severe as in neighboring Southeast Asian countries where large-scale meat markets for wild birds exist.

Laws in the Philippines concerning hunting

RA 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act)

Conserve and protect the country's wildlife resources and their habitats

Scope: Applies to all wildlife species found in the Philippines, including indigenous and exotic species

Regulation: Mandates the regulation of collection, trade, and possession of wildlife and their by-products through a system of permits.

Prohibited Acts: Illegal activities such as hunting, killing, collection, possession, trade, and transport of wildlife species including nests, its habitat, etc.

Penalties: Prescribes fines and imprisonment, with the severity of the penalty dependent on the conservation status of the species involved.

Laws in the Philippines concerning hunting

RA 9147 allows killing under these conditions:

- Indigenous, religious rituals
- Disease prevention
- Threat to human life
- Authorized Research
- Ending animal's misery

RA 8371 Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997

- Allows for the use of biological and genetic resources, including wildlife, as part of indigenous knowledge and practices.

RA 11038 Expanded NIPAS Act of 2017

- Prohibits unauthorized hunting, collecting, and possessing of any wildlife within protected areas regardless of conservation status

Next steps

- Recommend to increase penalty on wildlife crimes
- Implement stricter enforcement of laws against the illegal killing of birds
- Conserve habitats to enable bird populations to recover
- Use social media platforms, such as Facebook, for a localized public awareness campaign