

PREVENTING EXTINCTIONS

Cebu Flowerpecker *Dicaeum quadricolor*



**Cebu Biodiversity
Conservation
Foundation, Inc.**



Cebu Flowerpecker (© Tomasz Cofta).

Background

Cebu Flowerpecker is endemic to the island of Cebu in the Philippines. In the late 1800s it was known from just two localities, where it was considered not uncommon. Early in the 20th century, it was feared to have become extinct because all the island's forest was thought to have been cleared. However, it was rediscovered in 1992, and has since been found at four different sites. It is associated only with the tallest remaining forest patches up to 500m, most of which are on karst limestone.

Population declines are now likely to be fairly slow because so little forest remains, and that which does is on areas difficult to cultivate or without water. However, the few remaining tracts of forest are variously threatened by illegal settlement, road construction, shifting cultivation, illicit logging, charcoal making, firewood collection and habitat clearance for mining, and the current population is estimated at c.100 individuals.

Actions being implemented

1. **Research** into the species's ecology is ongoing.
2. Forest encroachment has been effectively controlled as a result of the presence of **Nu-as Forest Wardens** and **Tabunan Forest Stewards** who conduct daily patrols.
3. Forest area has been expanded through **tree planting and natural regeneration**, with further restoration activities planned.
4. Progress has been made through discussion meetings to integrate biodiversity conservation programmes within the agenda of the **local government** units.
5. Efforts have been made to **raise awareness and understanding** of the Cebu Flowerpecker and its habitat. Data on the species has been shared with key stakeholders, the Handbook of Cebu's Biodiversity is being conceptualized for publication and will be distributed to local schools, and an article on the conservation status of the Cebu Flowerpecker will be produced.



Above; Tabunan Forest Stewards (Photo by RS Ybañez)

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