

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. Planned **research** will study the species's ecology.
2. CBCF has provided support to **forest wardens** at Nug-as, the largest forest area in Cebu. The wardens have been effective in protecting the forest from logging and clearance for agriculture.
3. Work with local government and development agencies has strengthened **livelihood activities and reforestation programmes** at Nug-as and Tabunan, a second important site for the species.
4. A **campaign to raise awareness** will be conducted, including the production of a handbook on Cebu's biodiversity to be distributed in local schools, the development of localised biodiversity conservation topics in the teaching strategies of schools, and the hosting of a series of exhibits.

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