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## PRESS RELEASE For urgent release

### Katala reaches out to PDLs and IPs on World Pangolin Day

February 14, 2020, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. The Katala Foundation (KFI) celebrates two separate activities on Feb. 15, 2020 to reach out to its local conservation partners on the ground. This is KFI's way of commemorating the month of hearts and the World Pangolin Day!.

A medical-dental mission billed as "Katala at Kalusugan para sa Kalikasan" services at least 150 persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) from the Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm (IPPF). More than 10 doctors and dentists altogether volunteered to join this mission as our way of celebrating the month of the hearts. The mission is made possible through the IPPF newly-installed Superintendent CSUPT Levita in cooperation with the Palawan Medical Society, City Health Office, Palawan Dental Association and the Western Command Defender Patriot. IPPF is of outstanding conservation importance where all lowland bird assemblage recorded in Palawan could be found in the area. It holds the third most important population of the Philippine Cockatoo or locally known as Katala, a critically endangered species.

Meanwhile, while the world blames pangolins to carry and transmit Coronavirus to people, we celebrate the "World Pangolin Day" with the indigenous peoples from remote Purok Pag-asa in Napsan, Puerto Princesa City. *These locals expressed their eagerness to learn about pangolins as many have never seen a live one or heard about its existence. We are accepting this challenge despite their remoteness. The place has no electricity and the elementary school offers only up to Grade 6 which makes them literally cut off from environmental awareness program*", says Dr. Sabine Schoppe, KFI's Program Director of the Palawan Pangolin Conservation Program. The fun day in celebration of the World Pangolin Day in Purok Pag-Asa will bring the Palawan Pangolin and its call close to the people; mostly Tagbanua. In store for them are slide shows, interactive lectures, quiz bee, pangolin feeding game, pangolin stop dance, pangolin painting, pangolin modelling and many other environmental games for all ages. Sabine adds, *"We are confident the community of Pag-Asa will live up to its name and will bring hope for the Palawan Pangolin by taking care of pangolins in their area"*.

Palawan is the home of the Philippine endemic Philippine Pangolin *Manis culionensis* which Palaweños proudly and rightfully call the Palawan Pangolin. Katala Foundation Inc. has been

celebrating World Pangolin Day for the past four years. This year is special as we impart to the community how important and relevant to keep wild animals in the wild and that pangolin or any other wildlife species is not causing the death and suffering of people. Indira Widmann, KFI's Chief Operations Officer quips, "We need to share a place to live. If everyone is to put aside greed then each life form is given the right to live. We invite all to be counted and appreciate nature and species in its wild habitat".



For more information, please contact Indira Dayang L. Widmann, Katala Foundation, P.O. Box 390, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan or at [kficacatua2016@gmail.com](mailto:kficacatua2016@gmail.com) and visit our homepage at [www.philippinecockatoo.org](http://www.philippinecockatoo.org).

### ENDS ###

Editor's Note:

- Katala Foundation, Inc. (KFI) uses flagship species to achieve its vision of conserving biodiversity with the active community involvement. Two of these programs are the Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Program and the Palawan Pangolin Conservation Program both employing an ecosystemic and participatory approach to species conservation.
- KFI is indebted to our long-term donors and sponsors and generous individuals and organizations for the said events.
- Pictures attached: CREDITS to KFI.