



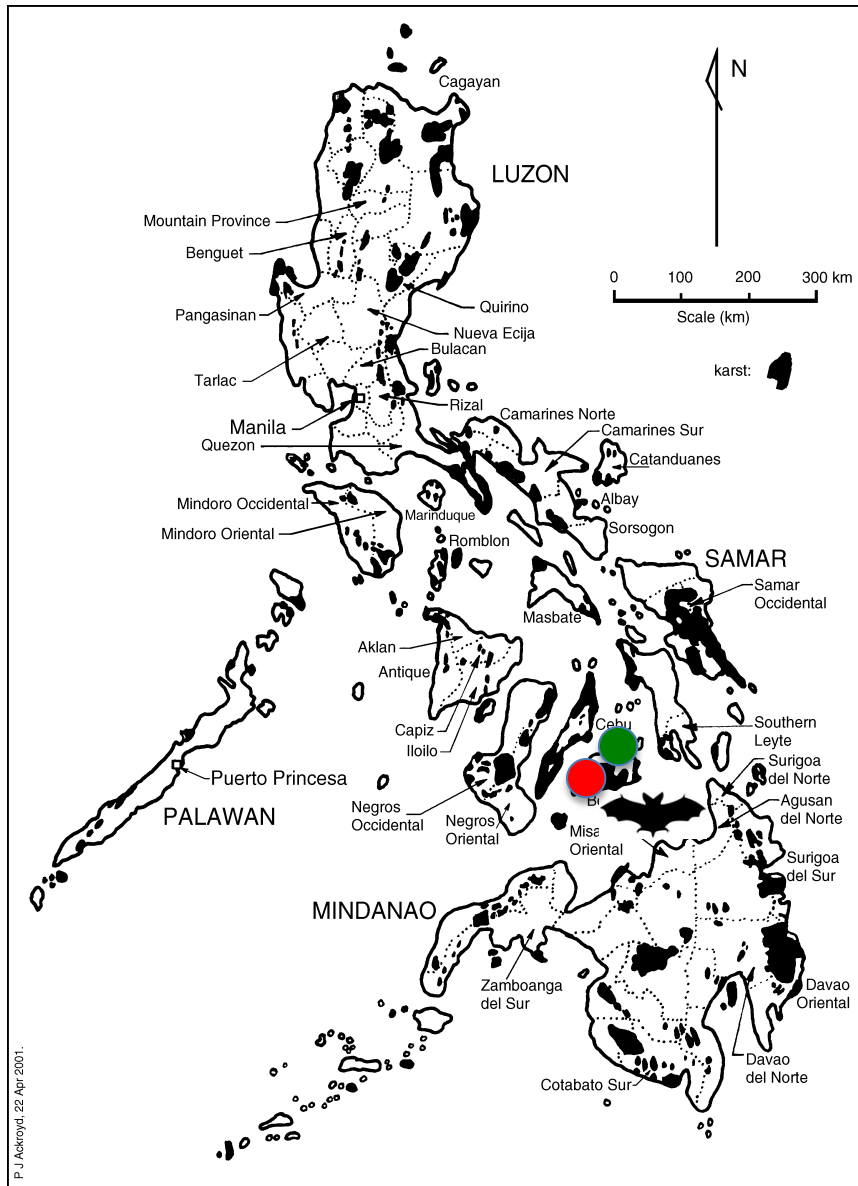
# **Cave-Dwelling Bats in the Philippines: Conservation Status, Threats & Needs**

**Presented by:**

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# 1. National Karst Area: 35,000 km<sup>2</sup>



# Karst and Caves

## 2. Cave Survey Areas:

- Bohol
- Siquijor Island
- Polilio island
- Marinduque Island
- Northern Sierra Madre
- Negros
- Cebu
- Bukidon
- Iligan city
- Davao Oriental
- Valencia City
- Cotabato
- Palawan



## 3. Priority Areas for Future Cave Bat Surveys:

Limestone rich areas throughout the Philippines: Cebu, Bohol, Leyte, Samar, Siquijor, Palawan, Mindanao

P. J. Ackeroyd, 22 Apr 2001

● Caves surveyed

● Bats surveyed

● Priority area for cave bat surveys



# Philippine Cave Bats: What we know

## 1. Major Cave Bat Colonies

- Monfort Cave, IGACOS, Davao (*Rousettus amplexicaudatus*)
- Negros cave (*Dobsonia chapmani*)
- Dakong Buho Cave in Guindulman, Bohol (*Chaerephon plicatus*)
- Pisan caves in North Cotabato

## 2. Cave Bat Species Richness

- 36 species from Bohol
- 13 species from Sequijor
- 10 species from Polilio Island
- 13 species from Marinduque
- 24 species from Northern Sierra Madre
- 17 species from North Cotabato
- 13 species from Northern Mindanao and Davao Oriental

## 3. Priority Cave Bat Species for Conservation

- *Rousettus amplexicaudatus* and *Eonycteris spelaea* (for fruit bat species)
- *Dobsonia chapmani*
- *Hipposideros* spp. (*Hipposideros pygmaeus*, *Hipposideros coronatus*)
- *Rhinolophus* spp. (*Rhinolophus rufus*, *Rhinolophus philippinensis*)
- *Chaerephon plicatus*
- *Ptenochirus jagori*

# Current Threats to Cave Bats

Type of Threat	Occurrence	Urgency	Importance
Hunting for bush meat and exotic menu	3	3	6
Cave tourism	3	3	6
Mining of cave minerals (limestone/ phosphate)	2	3	5
Guano harvesting	3	1	4
Swiftlet nest extraction	2	1	3
Invasive species	1	1	2
Local myth	1	1	2

**Occurrence:** 1= Localized; 2= Widespread; 3= Nationwide.

**Urgency:** 1= Low; 2= Medium; 3= High.

**Importance:** For conservation attention

# Current or Recent Cave Bat Research

Type of Research	Location	MajorAims	Contact Person/ Institution
Biodiversity Assessment	Bohol	Determine bat species in caves around Bohol island	Jose et al
Biodiversity assessment	Mindanao Island	Terrestrial vertebrate fauna in selected caves in Mindanao	Nuñez et al.
Cave bat assessment	Siquijor island	Cave bat diversity and conservation	Sedlock et al.
Cave bat assessment	Polilio island	Cave bat diversity and conservation	Galvan
Cave bat assessment	Marinduque Island	Cave bat diversity and habitat	Macasaet et al
Cave bat assessment	Northern Sierra Madre	Ecology of cave bats	Vinarao and Cabauatan
Cave bat assessment	North Cotabato	Cave bat assessment and conservation	Tanalgo et. al



# Current or Recent Cave Bat Research

Type of Research	Location	Major Aims	Contact Person/ Institution
Diversity of cave bats	Bohol, Siquijor, Palawan	Identification of bat species roosting in caves	Kendra Phelps, Reizl Jose, Jodi Sedlock, Jake Esslestyn
Cave resource assessment	Bohol	Determine resources other than bats in cave	Reizl Jose, DENR
Cave classification	Region VII	Characterizing caves as potential sites for tourism	DENR - RCC

# Current Cave Bat Conservation Activities

Type of Activity	Location	MajorAims	Contact Person/ Institution
Educational campaign	Pisan, Cotabato	Educate locals near residing bat caves about the importance of bats in the ecosystem	Krizler C. Tanalgo and John Aries G. Tabora/ University of Southern Mindanao
Educational Campaign	Barangay Suaon, Davao del Norte	bat awareness in communities near bat caves	Dspecs Caving, DENR 11, Efren Vergara Tagorda, PENRO, local government units
Educational Campaign	Bohol	bat awareness in communities near bat caves	Reizl Jose, Bohol Island State University
Information and Educational dissemination	Throughout the Philippines	Spread and disseminate information about the importance of cave bats though information technology	Various persons
Mapping of Cave bats	Throughout the Philippines	Map existing cave sites that houses cave bats species throughout the archipelago	Various persons



# Future Needs for Cave Research & Conservation in the Philippines

Action or support needed	Importance	Justification
National campaign	1	To prevent the destruction of caves
National cave bat survey and conservation action plan	2	this will determine the present status of bat caves in the Philippines. Every region should have a representative to conduct a study on his/her region and actions are needed for the conservation of obligate cave dweller bats particularly the threatened ones.
Formulation of bat cave conservation scheme (i.e index of conservation, valuing of bat caves)	3	An index that will determine how important is the cave using bat caves as indicator species. This will also determine which cave will be opened for tourism and other purposes.
Extend awareness campaign on the importance of bats on local areas with bat caves	4	Extensive campaign would greatly influence local people on how important are cave bats
Formulation of regional groups to monitor bat cave sites	5	This group of people from various regions will be the one incharge to monitor identified bat caves.