

**Negros Bleeding-heart *Gallicolumba keayi* prefers dense understorey
vegetation and dense canopy cover, and species distribution
modelling shows little remaining suitable habitat.**

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1 **Abstract**

2 The Philippines is a global biodiversity hotspot, with a large number of Threatened bird species,
3 one of which is the Critically Endangered Negros Bleeding-heart *Gallicolumba keayi*. The aim of this
4 study was to investigate the habitat preference of the Negros Bleeding-heart and undertake
5 species distribution modelling to locate areas of conservation importance based on identified
6 suitable habitat. A survey of 94 point counts was undertaken and eight camera traps were
7 deployed from May to August 2018 in the Northwest Panay Peninsula Natural Park, Panay,
8 Philippines. Habitat variables (canopy cover, understorey cover, ground cover, altitude, presence of
9 rattan and pandan, tree diameter at breast height and branching architecture) were measured in
10 93 5 m-radius quadrats. To identify areas of potentially suitable habitat for the Negros Bleeding-
11 heart, species distribution modelling was undertaken in MaxEnt using tree cover and altitude data
12 on Panay and Negros. Using a Generalised Linear Model, Negros Bleeding-heart presence was
13 found to be significantly positively associated with high understorey cover and dense canopy cover.
14 Species distribution modelling showed that the Northwest Panay Peninsula Natural Park is
15 currently the most effectively located protected area for Negros Bleeding-heart conservation, while
16 protected areas in Negros require further protection. It is imperative that protection is continued in
17 the Northwest Panay Peninsula Natural Park, and more survey effort is needed to identify other
18 critical Negros Bleeding-heart populations, around which deforestation and hunting ban
19 enforcement is strongly recommended.

20

21 **Keywords:** Avifauna; conservation; Columbidae; Critically Endangered; generalised linear
22 modelling; habitat use; maximum entropy modelling; protected areas.

23

24 **Introduction**

25 The Philippines is one of the top five global biodiversity hotspots, with 46% species endemism (Lee
26 *et al.* 2012). However, forest cover has fallen from 90% to 27% from 1521 to the present, and only
27 11% of what remains is primary forest (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
28 2015). This has been a contributing factor to bird species declines, and the country now has the 5th
29 highest number of Critically Endangered bird species in the world (BirdLife International 2008a). It
30 is therefore a priority area for global conservation (Paz *et al.* 2013).

31 The Negros Bleeding-heart is a Critically Endangered colombid, found only on the islands of Panay
32 and Negros in the Philippines. The most recent population estimate is from 2001, when 70 – 370
33 individuals were thought to remain in the wild (BirdLife International 2017). It is threatened by
34 habitat loss through forest conversion to agriculture or clearance for timber extraction and
35 charcoal production; from the 1500s to 1988, forest cover on Panay and Negros was reduced by
36 92% and 96% respectively, and very little primary forest remains (BirdLife International 2017). It is
37 also threatened by poaching, as it is trapped, and hunted for food and to keep as a pet (Cariño
38 2007; BirdLife International 2017). Very few conservation measures are in place apart from patrols
39 by forest rangers to dismantle traps and stop illegal logging, e.g. in the Northwest Panay Peninsula
40 Natural Park and northern Central Panay Mountain Range (Arkive 2007). Due to its small
41 population and ongoing threats, the Negros Bleeding-heart urgently requires conservation action
42 (Bristol Zoo Gardens 2017; Gaworecki 2018).

43 In terms of its biology and resource requirements, much remains unknown about the Negros
44 Bleeding-heart, as is the case for most species in the *Gallicolumba* family (Walker 2007). It is a
45 ground-dwelling bird that spends most of its time on the forest floor and only uses understorey
46 plants to roost, take cover, or breed (Slade *et al.* 2005). It is cryptic and difficult to observe (Slade *et*
47 *al.* 2005; Cariño 2007). Its diet consists of seeds, berries and invertebrates (Slade *et al.* 2005; Cariño

48 2007), including fruit from *Ficus* and *Pinanga* species (Cariño 2007). It is thought to prefer lowland
49 forest 300-1000 m (BirdLife International 2017) but it has also been reported >1000 m on Negros,
50 albeit where all forest <800 m has been cleared (Curio 2001). It is thought to prefer primary forest,
51 but its ability to utilise secondary forest remains unclear; although reportedly detected in secondary
52 forest on Panay, it has not been recorded in secondary forest on Negros (BirdLife International
53 2017). Understanding more about its resource requirements and habitat preference is important
54 for its conservation (Bibby *et al.* 2000; Begehold *et al.* 2015). It can be used in species distribution
55 modelling, in which species presence and environmental data is used to map where a species is
56 most probably distributed (Morales *et al.* 2017), and this is used to identify priority areas for
57 conservation action, based on an evaluation of what already exists and what is needed (De
58 Carvalho *et al.* 2017).

59 The most recent study of the Negros Bleeding-heart was commissioned by Bristol Zoological
60 Society and undertaken by the Center for Conservation Innovation (CCI), investigating its
61 population size and habitat preference in south Negros (CCI report, personal communication).
62 Based on nine observations in March 2016, occupancy modelling found that the dove prefers sites
63 with dense ground vegetation coverage and high canopy cover (CCI report, personal
64 communication). Furthermore, bird-habitat association modelling suggested an association with
65 ground cover, midstorey cover, fruiting and flowering trees, and large trees of 20-60 cm diameter
66 at breast height (CCI report, personal communication).

67 The aim of the current study was to investigate the habitat preference of the Negros Bleeding-
68 heart in the Northwest Panay Peninsula Natural Park and to model species distribution across its
69 range to identify the best potential areas for conservation action. Objectives therefore were to (1)
70 survey for the Negros Bleeding-heart using point counts, line transects, playback surveys and
71 camera traps and collect habitat variable measurements, and assess the influence of measured
72 habitat variables on this species' presence using Generalised Linear Modelling (GLM); and (2)

73 identify areas of potentially suitable habitat across Panay and Negros using species distribution
74 modelling, and compare Negros Bleeding-heart predicted distribution against current protected
75 areas and Important Bird Areas to identify focus areas for future conservation action.

76 **Methods**

77 **Data Collection**

78 **Study site**

79 The study was undertaken in the forest surrounding Sibaliw field station (latitude 121.9675,
80 longitude 11.8195) in the Northwest Panay Peninsula Natural Park, Panay, Philippines (figure 1). At
81 5,000 ha, at least half of which is old growth, this encompasses the largest remaining low elevation
82 forest across Negros and Panay (BirdLife International 2018a). It is a protected area, where hunting,
83 trapping or disturbing wild plants or animals, cutting timber or gathering forest products and
84 shifting cultivation are prohibited (Zabal 2014). Various Endangered species have been observed
85 there, such as the Visayan warty pig *Sus cebifrons* (CR) (Meijaard *et al.* 2017), Visayan Hornbill
86 *Penelopides panini* (EN), Negros Bleeding-heart *Gallicolumba keayi* (CR) (BirdLife International
87 2018a), White-throated Jungle Flycatcher *Vauriella albigularis* (EN) and Yellow-faced Flameback
88 *Chrysocolaptes xanthocephalus* (EN) (Kennedy *et al.* 2000). Deforestation, mining, hunting and
89 poaching have also been observed inside the protected area (Foundation for the Philippine
90 Environment 2018).

91

92 [Figure 1]

93

94 **Surveying for birds**

95 Two expeditions were undertaken in the same location within the Northwest Panay Peninsula
96 Natural Park to survey for the Negros Bleeding-heart. Due to the extreme rarity of the species, all

97 contacts with it, obtained using different methods, were used in this analysis to obtain information
98 about distribution and habitat association. The first expedition was from 9-22 May 2018 (total 13
99 days observation) by Mark Abrahams, Daphne Kerhoas and Jenny Poole from Bristol Zoological
100 Society with guides Potpot Fernandez and Jun Tacud. 20 line transects of 500 m length were
101 undertaken, with 30 point counts at the start and at the end of each transect. Point counts (where
102 an observer records all birds seen and heard from one location; Lloyd *et al.* 2000) lasted for 15
103 minutes, including a 5 minute settling period. Sightings of Negros Bleeding-heart were also
104 recorded *ad libitum*, and three playback surveys were undertaken. The second survey was from 12
105 July – 6 August 2018 (total 25 days observation) by Holly Mynott and the same two guides, in which
106 64 point counts that were 10 minutes long were undertaken as recommended for cryptic (Bibby *et*
107 *al.* 2000) and terrestrial (Lee and Marsden 2008) bird species. This totals 94 point counts, of which
108 80 were laid out systematically along transect lines formed by <1 m wide trails, and 14 were not
109 located on trails but were chosen systematically along new routes. Given the narrow width and
110 infrequent human use of trails, it is considered that this would not have overly biased results
111 (Cornils *et al.* 2015). The distance between each point count was a minimum of 200 m, to minimise
112 fly-between and double counting (Lloyd *et al.* 2000; Lee and Marsden 2008). Point counts, when
113 possible, were conducted within the first 5 hours after dawn (Reid *et al.* 2012) and 3 hours before
114 dusk (Cornils *et al.* 2015), when birds are most active (Poulsen and Lambert 2000), and were not
115 conducted in rain, fog or high winds, as this reduces bird detectability and activity (Steadman and
116 Freifeld 1998; Paz *et al.* 2013; Española *et al.* 2016).

117 GPS co-ordinates of all Negros Bleeding-heart sightings from both expeditions were mapped using
118 ArcMap v.10.4 (ESRI 2016) along with the co-ordinates of habitat measurement points. The Negros
119 Bleeding-heart was marked as associated to any habitat data-points within 60 m of a sighting's co-
120 ordinates, following protocol for the ground-forager dove *Leptotila wellsi* (Rivera-Milán *et al.* 2015).

121 Four camera traps (Bushnell 12 MP Trophy Low Glow Essential HD Trail Camera) were placed at
122 knee height above the ground from 21 June 2018 – 14 July 2018, and four more were added from
123 17 July until 6 June 2018. Camera traps were moved every 7-9 days (Rowcliffe *et al.* 2011) for a
124 total of 161 camera-days. Camera traps were placed using purposive sampling to evenly cover the
125 accessible areas and also focus on places where guides had seen the dove previously (Treves *et al.*
126 2010).

127 **Measuring habitat**

128 Ninety-three quadrats of 5 m radius were surveyed to measure habitat variables, a figure assumed
129 to be representative of surrounding rainforest habitat (Peh *et al.* 2006; Posa and Sodhi 2006; Reid
130 *et al.* 2012; Pangau-Adam *et al.* 2015). 64 of these quadrats were exactly coincident with point
131 count locations and 13 with camera trap locations (figure 1). The remaining 16 did not coincide
132 with another measurement point. All 93 quadrats were associated to any Negros Bleeding-heart
133 sightings recorded within 60 m of them (Rivera-Milán *et al.* 2015), as stated in the bird survey
134 methods. At each quadrat, GPS co-ordinates and an altitude reading were taken using a Garmin
135 GPS unit (Garmin eTrex 30x), because altitude can be a major predictor of occurrence in forest bird
136 species (Bibby 2000; Dallimer and King 2007; Paz *et al.* 2013). Tree Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)
137 was measured in three categories: 0 to ≤ 25 cm (band 1), >25 to ≤ 50 cm (band 2), and >50 cm (band
138 3), following other bird-habitat studies (Paz *et al.* 2013; Zarones *et al.* 2013). Tree height was
139 measured (Field Studies Council 2018) and branching architecture was noted following the
140 guidelines in Bibby *et al.* (2000) to indicate recent forest disturbance levels, following which
141 proportion of trees with a closed and regenerating forest structure was calculated. Canopy cover
142 was estimated using a spherical densiometer (Forest Densimeters, Rapid City, ND) (Peh *et al.*
143 2006; Posa and Sodhi 2006; Reid *et al.* 2012), by calculating the mean canopy percentage cover
144 from the north, east, south and west value. Percentage vegetation cover at ground level (<1 m)
145 (“percentage ground cover”) and understorey cover at 1.5 m above the ground were estimated by
146 eye by the first author (Posa and Sodhi 2006; Pangau-Adam *et al.* 2015). The presence or absence

147 of any species of pandan *Pandanus sp.* and rattan (genus: *Calamus* or *Daemonorops*, Tesoro 2002)
148 was noted (CCI report, personal communication). Distance to Sibaliw station was calculated using
149 ArcMap, because it has been shown that species diversity can be higher closer to field stations
150 (Campbell 2011).

151

152 **Data Analysis**

153 **Habitat preference**

154 Data were analysed with a Generalised Linear Model (Zuur *et al.* 2013) in R v.3.6.1 (R Core Team
155 2019), in which the dependent variable was presence/absence of the Negros Bleeding-heart.
156 Following Zuur *et al.* (2013), no outliers were found in the dataset. Multicollinearity was tested for
157 using variance inflation factor (Zuur *et al.* 2013). Tree height was found to be highly correlated with
158 DBH (R=0.67) using a pair plot (Zuur *et al.* 2013) hence was dropped from the model (O'Brien 2007;
159 Zuur *et al.* 2010). All the explanatory variables were scaled to enable model convergence and effect
160 size comparisons (Zuur *et al.* 2013; Abrahams *et al.* 2017). R package "MuMIn" version 1.43.6 (Bartoń
161 2015) was used for the GLM. A full model was created using the R function *glm*, following which
162 automated model selection was done using the R function *dredge*, after which the most suitable
163 selections were averaged using the R function *model.avg*, as described in Feld *et al.* (2016) and used
164 in other bird-habitat studies (e.g. Xu *et al.* 2017; Lewis *et al.* 2018). The GLM was run using the
165 following covariates: ground cover, understorey cover, canopy cover, altitude, proportion of trees
166 with a closed forest branching structure, proportion of trees with a regenerating forest branching
167 structure, presence of pandan, presence of rattan, distance to Sibaliw research station, and the
168 number of trees in each of DBH band 1, 2 and 3 at each site.

169

170 **Species distribution modelling**

171 Negros Bleeding-heart distribution was modelled in MaxEnt v.3.4.1 (Phillips *et al.* 2017) for
172 maximum entropy species distribution modelling (Merow *et al.* 2013; Morales *et al.* 2017). Two
173 environmental predictor inputs were used: a map of tree cover at 30 m resolution (Hansen *et al.*
174 2013) and an elevation map at 90 m resolution (PhilGIS 2007), as the Negros Bleeding-heart is
175 thought to be found in lowland forests up to 1000 m (BirdLife International 2017). While all 31
176 Negros Bleeding-heart sightings co-ordinates were inputted, due to the tree cover and elevation
177 map resolutions, a sample size of 22 presence records was used for training. Feature types,
178 selected automatically by MaxEnt, were hinge, linear and quadratic. The regularization parameter
179 on MaxEnt was set to 2, which is a suitable figure to reduce over-fitting compared to the default
180 setting of 1 (Radosavljevic and Anderson 2014); lower settings risk loss of predictive ability with
181 independent test data, and higher settings can falsely mark areas as suitable (Radosavljevic and
182 Anderson 2014). The background was cropped to include only the islands of the species' known
183 range (Merow *et al.* 2013), Panay and Negros. The model was run with 10,000 background points,
184 which has been evaluated as high-performing number (Phillips and Dudik 2008) and used in studies
185 on cryptic insect species (Zhao *et al.* 2019). Finally, the locations of Important Bird Areas (IBAs)
186 (BirdLife International 2008b) were mapped over the species distribution modelling results to
187 enable evaluation of conservation action.

188

189 **Results**

190 The Negros Bleeding-heart was recorded 31 times in total. Camera traps recorded the Negros
191 Bleeding-heart on three separate occasions (21/6/2018, 22/6/2018 and 24/6/2018) at the same
192 location. Hunters were also recorded on two occasions along the same location.

193

194 **Habitat preference**

195 All Negros Bleeding-heart sightings were associated with habitat plots measured (i.e. 31 out of the
196 93 quadrats). The full averaged GLM results (table 1) showed that understorey cover at 1.5 m
197 above the ground was significant at the $P < 0.01$ level ($P = 0.001$), showing a positive association
198 with dense understorey cover. Canopy cover was significant at the $P < 0.05$ level ($P = 0.003$),
199 showing a positive association with dense canopy cover.

200

201 [Table 1]

202

203 Coefficients and 95% confidence intervals of the explanatory variables in the GLM were graphed
204 (figure 2).

205

206 [Figure 2]

207

208 **Species distribution modelling**

209 The species distribution modelling in MaxEnt produced probabilities of presence ranging from 0 to
210 1, with the most suitable habitat on Panay located around the Northwest Panay Peninsula Natural
211 Park and the Central Panay Mountain Range, and the most suitable habitat in Negros found in the
212 North Negros Natural Park, on the slopes of an area just outside the Mt Kanla-on Natural Park, and
213 in an area to the south half-covered by Cuernos de Negros IBA (figure 3). However, very few areas
214 are highly suitable, and those that exist appear fragmented, particularly on Negros. Furthermore,
215 there are large unsuitable patches in high altitude areas due to this species' preference for lower
216 altitude forest at the centres of the North Negros Natural Park, Mount Kanla-on Natural Park,
217 Cuernos de Negros and the Central Panay Mountain Range.

218

219 [Figure 3]

220

221 **Discussion**

222 **Habitat preference**

223 Understorey cover, mostly by herbaceous shrubs and ferns, was significantly associated with
224 Negros Bleeding-heart presence. This association has been found for other bird species, postulated
225 to be because it allows a balance between the ability to escape from predators and availability of
226 attractive food resources (Lima and Dill 1990; Reid *et al.* 2004; Smith *et al.* 2017). The Luzon
227 Bleeding-heart *Gallicolumba luzonica*, a close relative to the Negros Bleeding-heart, is reported to
228 use thick undergrowth to escape predators (Del Hoyo *et al.* 1997), and the Negros Bleeding-heart
229 itself is known to forage on the ground, tossing aside leaf litter in its search for food (Curio 2001).
230 However, undergrowth cover could also relate to forest quality. Dense shrub or herb cover can be
231 characteristic of secondary forests (Cochard *et al.* 2018), therefore suggesting that the Negros
232 Bleeding-heart could be able to inhabit secondary forest, as found in other ground doves which
233 favour primary forest (Blanvillain *et al.* 2002). However, the present study also identified a
234 preference for closed canopy forest, which is characteristic of primary forest (Shoo *et al.* 2016). A
235 preference for primary forest would be supported by numerous other studies showing that
236 terrestrial birds like the Negros Bleeding-heart are often the species most affected by loss of
237 primary forest (Sieving *et al.* 1996; Newmark *et al.* 2010; Powell *et al.* 2013; Bradfer-Lawrence *et al.*
238 2018) and are often unable to inhabit secondary forest (Peh *et al.* 2005; Stratford and Stouffer
239 2013). The ability of the Negros Bleeding-heart to use secondary forest remains unclear (BirdLife
240 International 2017). While recorded in some secondary forest patches in this study, such areas
241 within the Northwest Panay Peninsula Natural Park are small and surrounded by primary forest,
242 and therefore the bird might move between patches to exploit resources but rely mainly on
243 primary forest, as postulated by Peh *et al.* (2005) for bird species in Malaysian forest. Potential

244 inability to use secondary forest could therefore explain why the dove is not found in some areas of
245 secondary forest on Negros (BirdLife International 2017).

246 The habitat preference findings of this study are preliminary, and could be improved by a greater
247 quadrat size for habitat measurement and more accurate linkage of point count results to habitat
248 plots; while 60 m association distance has been used in other studies on similar species (Rivera-
249 Milán *et al.* 2015), it adds uncertainty to the results. However, as little is known about this highly
250 threatened species, the findings still have potential importance in directing conservation action.

251 Research into Negros Bleeding-heart tolerance of secondary forest is strongly recommended,
252 particularly considering how little primary forest remains across its range (BirdLife International
253 2017).

254 **Species distribution modelling**

255 Species distribution modelling shows that the areas of suitable habitat are those which are forested
256 and at low altitude, as previously reported to be requirements of the Negros Bleeding-heart
257 (BirdLife International 2017). The model also highlights that large proportions of the core areas
258 inside many IBAs and protected areas maybe less suitable than previously thought, particularly
259 within the protected areas of the North Negros Natural Park and Mt Kanla-on Natural Park, and the
260 unprotected IBAs of the Central Panay Mountains and Cuernos de Negros, with some edge areas
261 appearing more suitable than within the core area. This is a particular concern because the edges
262 of reserves are often subject to abiotic edge effects that can reduce habitat quality, particularly for
263 understory birds (Pohlman *et al.* 2007; Neate-Clegg *et al.* 2016), and to greater human pressures,
264 such as encroachment for agriculture, charcoal logging or hunting by those living on the borders
265 (Pedregosa-Hospodarsky *et al.* 2009).

266 The North Negros Natural Park contains one of the only remaining lowland forest sites on Negros,
267 although it is largely secondary forest (BirdLife International 2018c), and species distribution

268 modelling shows a significant amount of potentially suitable habitat near the eastern border of the
269 park. The park reportedly contains the Negros Bleeding-heart (BirdLife International 2018c).
270 However, the species is not mentioned in an Endangered bird biodiversity survey undertaken there
271 in 2002 (Hamann 2002), and nor was it observed during a 20 day study there in May 2009
272 (Pedregosa-Hospodarsky *et al.* 2009), the same month in which the present study recorded 28
273 sightings in the Northwest Panay Peninsula Natural Park. In addition, despite active protection,
274 North Negros Natural Park is under pressure in almost every municipality within it from illegal
275 logging and hunting (including using snares that catch ground-dwelling birds like the Negros
276 Bleeding-heart) (Pedregosa-Hospodarsky *et al.* 2009). Therefore, rapid conservation action is
277 required.

278 Species distribution modelling shows that there is a small area of suitable habitat for the Negros
279 Bleeding-heart along the boundary of Mt Kanla-on Natural Park. One Negros Bleeding-heart was
280 seen on Mt Kanla-on at 900 m in 1992 (Brooks *et al.* 1992), but a 2007 survey there undertaking
281 field surveys and interviews failed to encounter it (Cariño, 2007). Furthermore, the Negros
282 Bleeding-heart is thought to have an altitudinal limit of 1,000 m (BirdLife International 2017), a
283 lower altitude than most forest around Mt Kanla-on (Brooks *et al.* 1992), hence it seems probable
284 that the bird is no longer found within the park. Any populations just outside the boundary would
285 be threatened by the continued deforestation on the lower slopes (BirdLife International 2018d),
286 demonstrating that Mt Kanla-on Natural Park may not be the best placed to protect the dove.

287 Of the non-protected IBA sites on Negros, the largest indicated area of potentially suitable habitat
288 for the Negros Bleeding-heart is around the Cuernos de Negros IBA, half within the reserve and the
289 rest just outside the borders. Cariño (2007) recorded the species several times in Siaton,
290 neighbouring the border, and it was reported inside the IBA eight times aurally and once visually in
291 the CCI report (personal communication) during their 2016 survey. However, the CCI survey
292 duration was 4 days, and another 9-week survey in the same area in 2017, using camera traps, line

293 transects and point counts, failed to encounter the Negros Bleeding-heart (Cantero-Sanchez 2018).
294 Furthermore, Bristol Zoological Society have studied the wider Cuernos de Negros IBA for 4 years
295 from 2014-2017, obtaining a minimum of 347 camera trap nights, and the Negros Bleeding-heart
296 was never sighted (Falcidia 2017). It is therefore possible that the dove may not be in high density
297 or even present in the Cuernos de Negros IBA, given the high altitude of this area. Hence, this may
298 not be a priority site on which to focus Negros Bleeding-heart protection action.

299 Of the two IBAs in Panay, it is clear that the Negros Bleeding-heart is present in the Northwest
300 Panay Peninsula Natural Park. From the number of sightings obtained in this study compared to
301 other recent studies on Negros, and from the species distribution modelling results, it also appears
302 to be the most effective existing protected area on Panay and Negros for the Negros Bleeding-
303 heart. It is therefore a critical stronghold for the species, requiring continued conservation action,
304 which is ongoing (PhilinCon 2018). Furthermore, there appear to be large areas of potentially
305 suitable habitat for the Negros Bleeding-heart around and within the Central Panay Mountain
306 Range, although this is not yet a formal protected area (Haribon Foundation 2016). While the
307 Negros Bleeding-heart is reported to exist in the Central Panay Mountain Range by several sources
308 (De Soye 1997; Pedregosa-Hospodarsky 2008; Manila Times 2010), to our knowledge, there is no
309 recent scientific survey report. Therefore, this area is a priority for survey effort, particularly
310 considering the likely extreme rarity of the Negros Bleeding-heart on Negros.

311 Finally, species distribution modelling shows that the suitable habitat patches throughout Panay
312 and Negros are not well linked, which is detrimental to maintaining small populations (Kramer *et al.*
313 2009; Spigler *et al.* 2017; Gómez-Sánchez *et al.* 2018). *Ex situ* conservation is a useful support in
314 these situations (Braverman 2014). Captive breeding has begun for the Negros Bleeding-heart at
315 the Centre for Tropical Conservation Studies in Negros, where the captive population now numbers
316 18 birds (EDGE of Existence 2019) and it is recommended that this work continues alongside *in situ*
317 conservation measures.

318 **Conclusion**

319 The Negros Bleeding-heart has a preference for dense understorey vegetation and dense canopy
320 cover, and it currently seems that the largest area of suitable habitat is in the Northwest Panay
321 Peninsula Natural Park on Panay. On Negros, Mt Kanla-on Natural Park may not contain the best
322 habitat for the Negros Bleeding-heart due to its altitude, and further protection of the North
323 Negros Natural Park eastern border is needed. It is essential that laws against deforestation and
324 hunting in all remaining population refuges are strictly enforced in order to halt the decline in
325 numbers. In addition, it is recommended that future research effort focuses on two areas: to
326 establish the degree to which the Negros Bleeding-heart requires primary forest rather than
327 secondary, in order to direct survey and conservation action, and to assess its population status in
328 the Central Panay Mountain Range and the North Negros Natural Park, which have the potential to
329 be suitable sites for Negros Bleeding-heart conservation.

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339

340 **Conflicts of Interest**

341 None

342

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- 553

554 **Tables**

555 **Table 1.** Estimates of fixed effects of habitat variables on Negros Bleeding-heart
 556 presence or absence from Generalised Linear Model.

557

	Coefficient	Standard Error	z-value	p-value
(Intercept)	-0.876	0.266	3.242	0.00119**
Ground cover (%)	-0.050	0.167	0.298	0.76591
Vegetation cover at 1.5 m above ground (%)	0.904	0.297	2.999	0.00271**
Canopy cover (%)	0.778	0.367	2.091	0.03655*
Proportion of trees grown in closed canopy forest	-0.007	0.063	0.111	0.912
Proportion of trees grown in open canopy or regenerating forest	0.012	0.079	0.144	0.88571
Pandan present	-0.005	0.051	0.097	0.92256
Rattan present	0.130	0.244	0.528	0.59721
Altitude (m)	-0.007	0.062	0.115	0.90823
Number of trees with a DBH $0 \leq 25$ cm	0.054	0.170	0.317	0.75156
Number of trees with a DBH $>25 \leq 50$ cm	-0.014	0.092	0.152	0.87929
Number of trees with a DBH >50 cm	0.226	0.274	0.818	0.41323

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**P <0.01, *P <0.05

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560 **Figures**

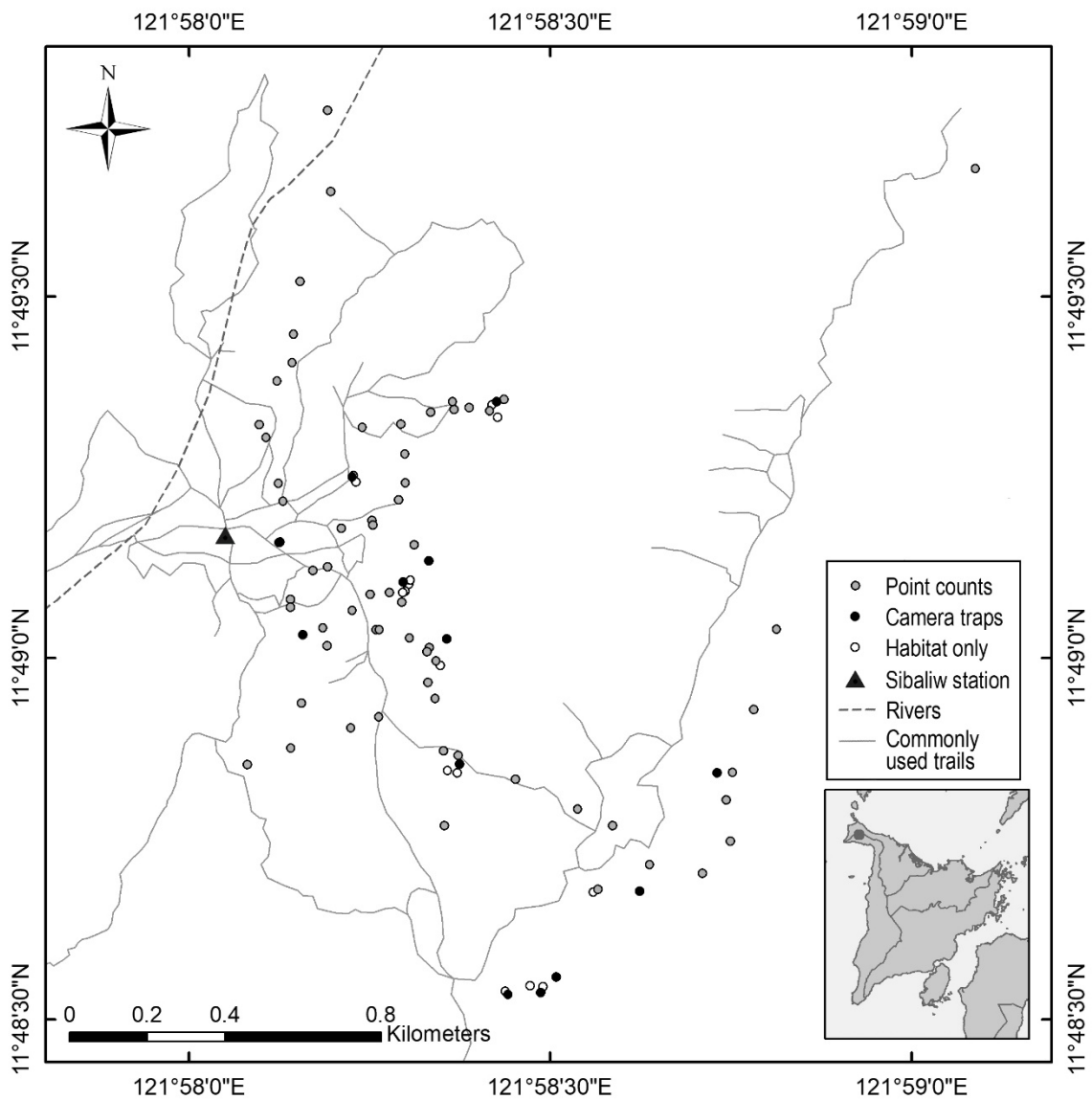
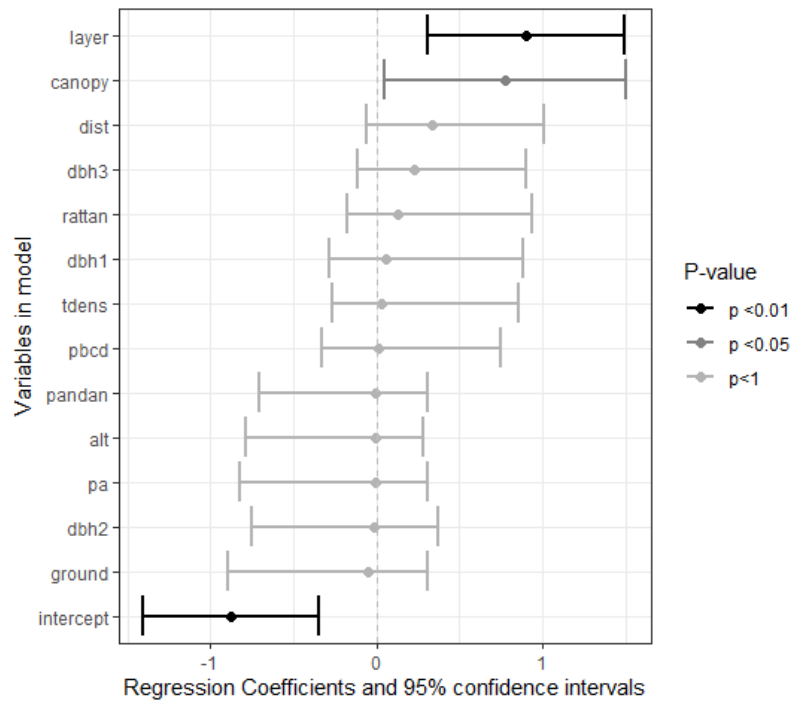


Figure 1. The location of the study site, within the Northwest Panay Peninsula Natural Park, Panay, Philippines. Commonly used trails and points at which data was collected (circles) are mapped. Rivers (OCHA Philippines 2013) are also shown. Map inset shows the location of Sibaliw research station on the island of Panay, Philippines.



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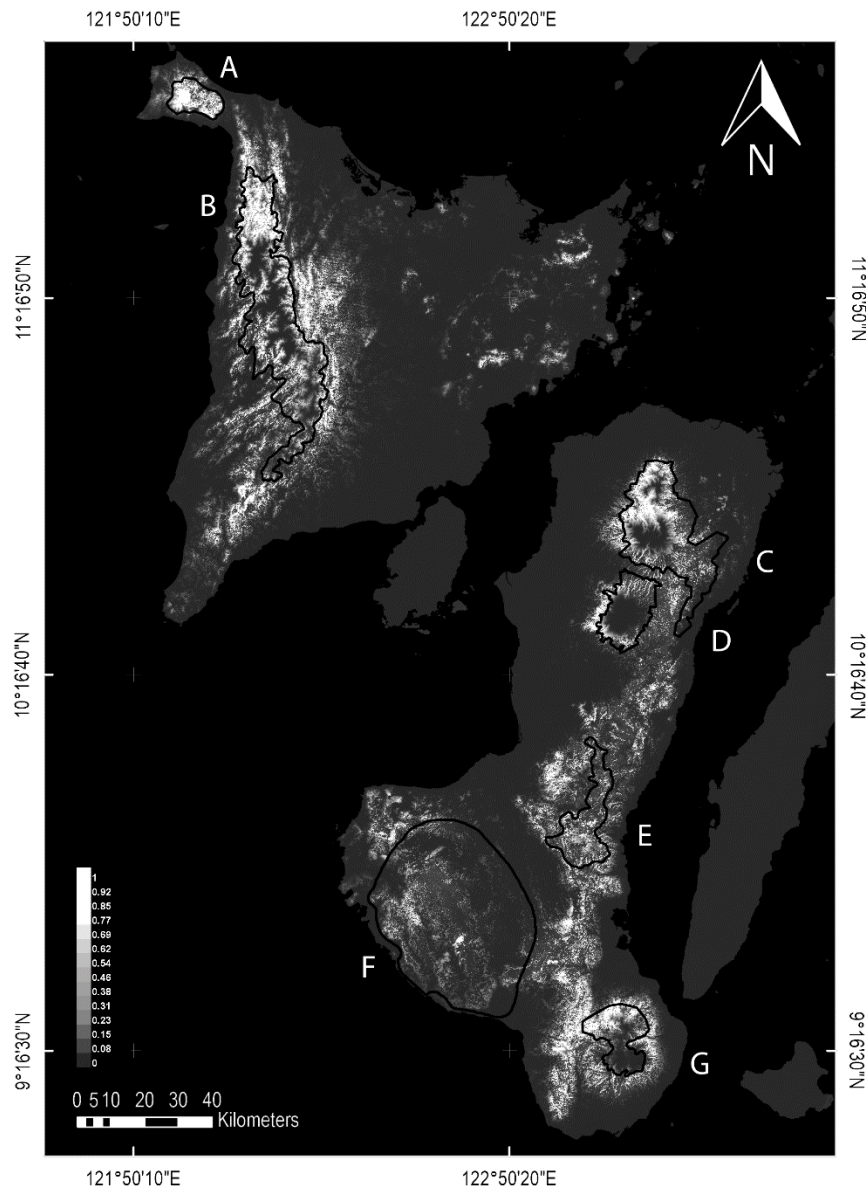
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Figure 2. Coefficients and 95% confidence intervals of explanatory variables from Generalised Linear Model. Variable name abbreviations are as follows: layer = vegetation cover at 1.5 m above ground (%); canopy = canopy cover (%); dist = distance to Sibaliw research station (m); dbh1 = number of trees with a DBH $0 \leq 25$ cm; dbh2 = number of trees with a DBH $>25 \leq 50$ cm; dbh3 = number of trees with a DBH >50 cm; ground = Ground cover (%); pa = proportion of trees grown in closed canopy forest; pbcd = proportion of trees grown in open canopy or regenerating forest; pandan = pandan presence, rattan = rattan presence, alt = altitude (m).



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Figure 3. Species distribution modelling of the Negros Bleeding-heart on Panay and Negros. Scale is from white to dark grey, with probability of presence from 1 to 0 respectively. Locations of Important Bird Areas are shown as black outlines. On Panay: (A) Northwest Panay Peninsula Natural Park (BirdLife International 2018a), (B) Central Panay Mountain Range (BirdLife International 2018b). On Negros: (C) North Negros Natural Park (BirdLife International 2018c), (D) Mount Kanla-on Natural Park (BirdLife International 2018d), (E) Ban-ban (BirdLife International 2018e), (F) Southwestern Negros (BirdLife International 2018f), (G) Cuernos de Negros (BirdLife International 2018g). The white block on Panay shows the study site.