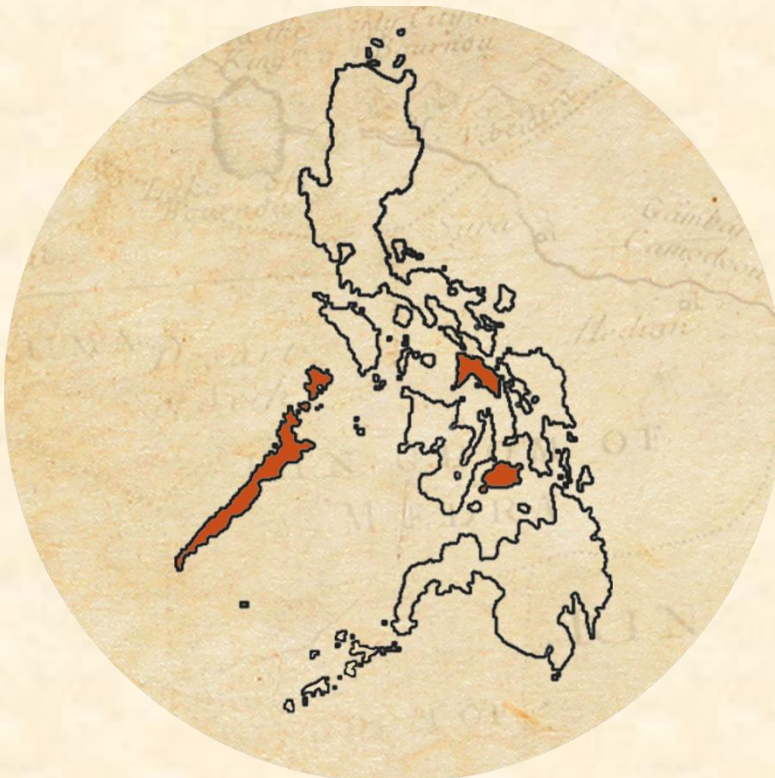


# MEET KATALITA – THE PHILIPPINE COCKATOO

Hello kids, my name is Katalita. I am a Philippine cockatoo. I want to teach you about me and my family.



<b>Name</b>	Philippine cockatoo/ Red-vented cockatoos ( <i>Cacatua haematuropygia</i> )
<b>Habitat</b>	mainly tropical rainforests, but due to habitat loss also mangroves
<b>Diet</b>	nuts, seeds, fruits and berries
<b>Age</b>	in human care up to 35 years
<b>Breeding behaviour</b>	breeding in tree holes, lay 2-4 eggs, chicks hatch after 24-28 days, chicks fledge after 50 days
<b>Threats</b>	habitat loss, poached for pet markets



The Philippines is a group of islands in Southeast Asia.

Today only on the orange marked islands, Palawan, Rasa, Damaran, Sulu and Polilo the Philippine cockatoo can be seen in the wild. In the past they lived on nearly all Philippine islands.



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Besides me and my family, there are 21 other cockatoo species in the world. We live in Australia, New Guinea, Sunda Islands, and the Philippines.

The smallest cockatoo is the cockatiel. I am sure you know him because many people keep him as pet.



Cockatiels live in large flocks in Australia with over 50 birds.

The biggest difference compared to other parrot families is the movable head-crest. Cockatoos use the head-crest to communicate with conspecifics. They usually raise it jerkily when they are alarmed or excited. The head-crest is also raised during take-off and landing.

Besides the head-crest, cockatoos also have other specialised feathers. Powder-down is produced by specialised feathers in the lumbar region and distributed by the preening cockatoo all over the plumage.

Beak

Wing

Claw

Eye

Tail feathers

In the picture you can see two Red-vented Cockatoos feeding. Connect the words with the matching body parts in the picture.

You can't see the head-crest on the picture. Do you have an idea why not?

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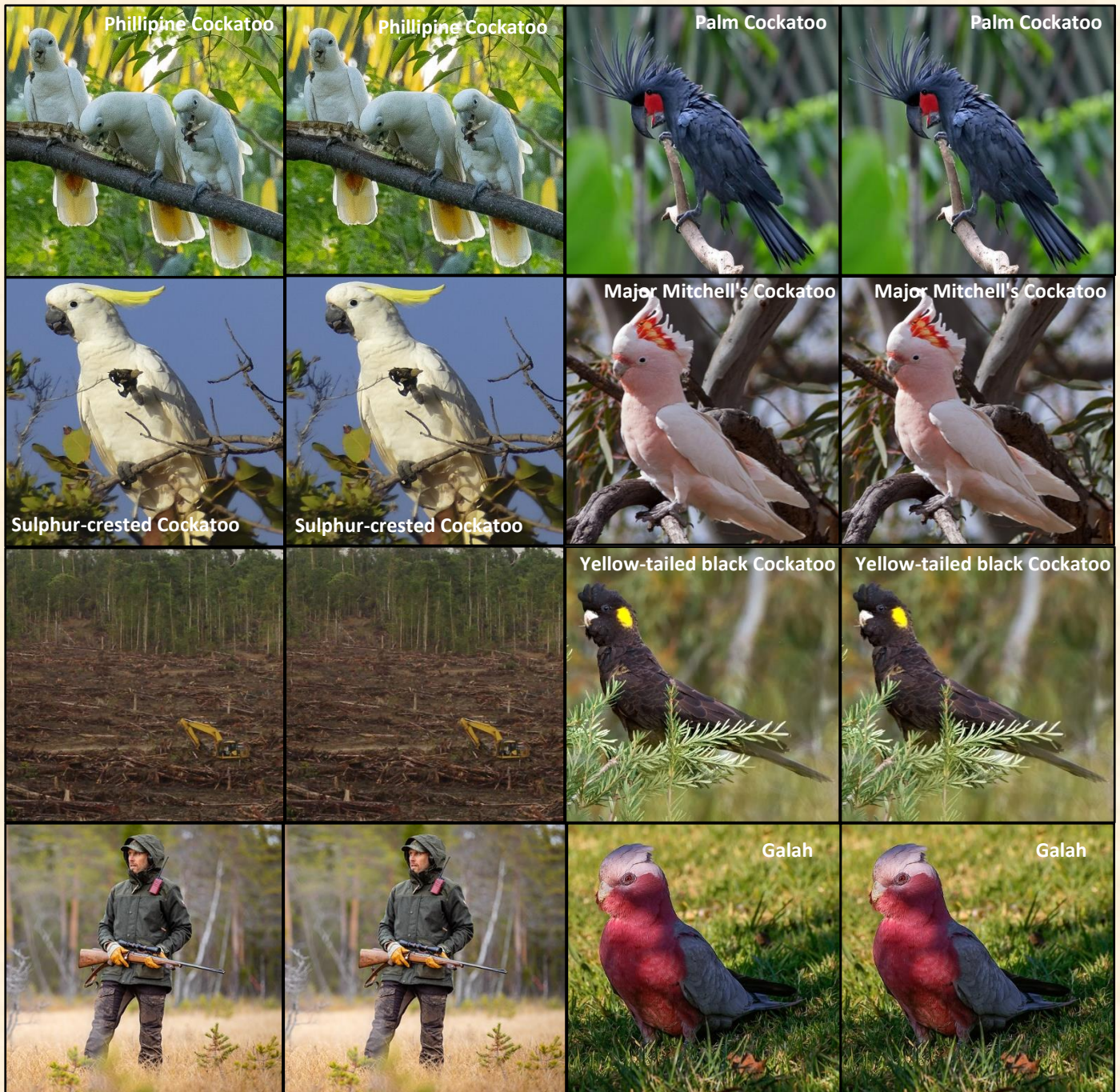
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## Cockatoo Memory

1. Cut out the playing cards. 
2. Put the cards upside down on the table and shuffle them.
3. Whoever has found a pair of cockatoos gets a point. The person who finds the **Philippine cockatoo** gets 3 points.
4. If a poacher is uncovered, you lose one point. Whoever has found the destroyed rainforest loses 3 points.

Can you find me?



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Along with ravens, parrots are considered the most intelligent birds. Researchers of the Katala Foundation found out recently that we parrots discovered our own natural pharmacy. We eat certain seeds and plant parts because their ingredients protect us from parasites.

Some plant parts have special ingredients, so-called secondary metabolites. These can be very diverse substances. The best known are probably caffeine and nicotine. Essential oils, which are used as herbs and spices in cooking, belong to this group also. The oils of some plants are even used in naturopathy, e.g., caraway, fennel, or ginger. Some of these essential oils can help against parasites. too.

All these plants contain essential oils and are healthy. First, try to name them. Then, colour them in.



The essential oils in camomile and ginger tea are not only healthy for humans. If you keep a budgie or other parrot as a pet, you can also add some camomile tea to its drinking water.



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Did you know that I am a male cockatoo? Female and male, Philippine cockatoos differ only slightly. If the sexes differ in their appearance, it is called sexual dimorphism. But if you look closely, you will see that male cockatoos have a black iris and females have a red iris.



♂



♀

Cockatoos, like most parrots, are cavity breeders. They lay 2-4 eggs in a hollow tree-trunk and incubate them for about 24-30 days until they hatch. After about 50 days, the young birds leave the nest. Until they are sexually mature, all young cockatoos have a black iris, like male birds.

Philippine cockatoos live in small flocks of no more than ten birds. Most of the time, however, the pairs stay among themselves and defend their partner and their nest very intensively. In the past, maybe flocks were much bigger

Since we humans deforested large areas, the cockatoos can no longer find sufficient breeding site. To make it easier for them to find a suitable place, it is possible to hang up nesting boxes.

Our native birds, such as tits and flycatchers, also nest in tree cavities. You can also do something good for them with a nest box. Why don't you try our handicraft instructions? Ask an adult to help you with the sawing.



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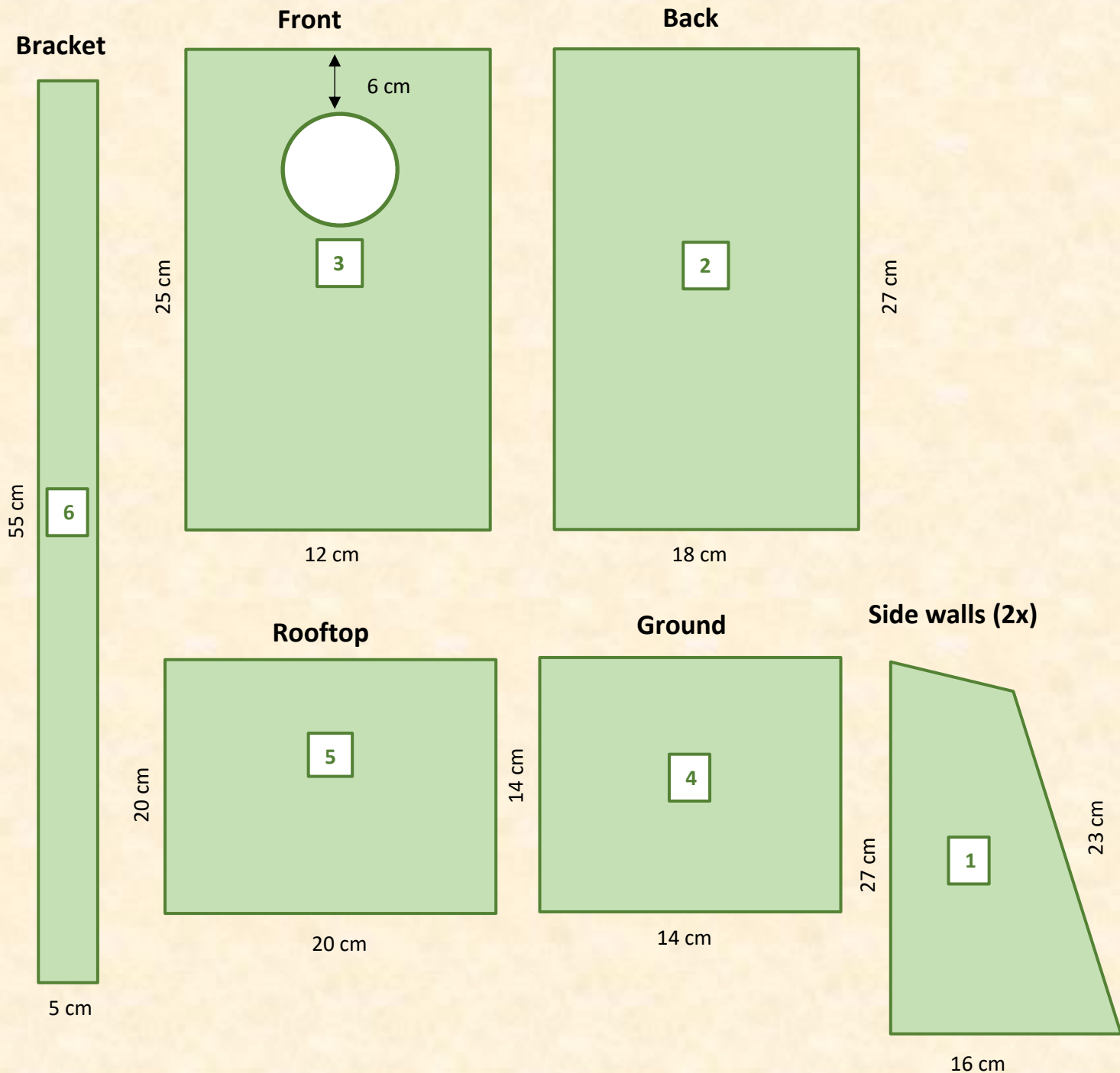
### Materials:

- wooden boards, approx. 2 cm thick
  - screws
  - jigsaw
  - cordless drill
  - hole saw
  - ruler and protractor
  - plant oil, e.g., linseed oil (impregnates the wood and protects against rain)
  - wood file
- 
- The size of the entrance hole determines which bird species will inhabit the box.
  - Ø 26-28 mm for blue tit, fir tit, crested tit, marsh tit, sparrow
  - Ø 32-35 mm for great tit, wryneck, pied flycatcher, collared flycatcher, redstart, nuthatch

### Assembly overview:



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The right location:

- Choose a quiet place that is difficult for cats and other nest predators to access.
- minimum height of 2 m
- Install the nest box in a place protected from wind, rain and sun.
- If possible, locate the opening hole to the north, north-east or east so that the nest box does not become too hot.
  - The flight path should not be blocked by branches or other things.



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Philippine cockatoos are mainly vegetarians. We eat a lot of fruits and berries. In this way we spread their seeds and ensure that the plants continue to spread.

Red-vented cockatoos are an important component in the ecosystem. They are part of the food chain and are prey for different predators, such as birds of prey.



Producer

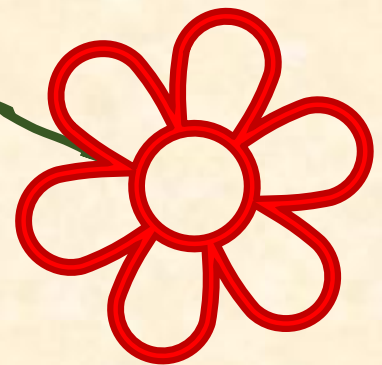
Poacher

Herbivor

Predator

Cut out the leaves below and stick them on the matching leaves of the flower

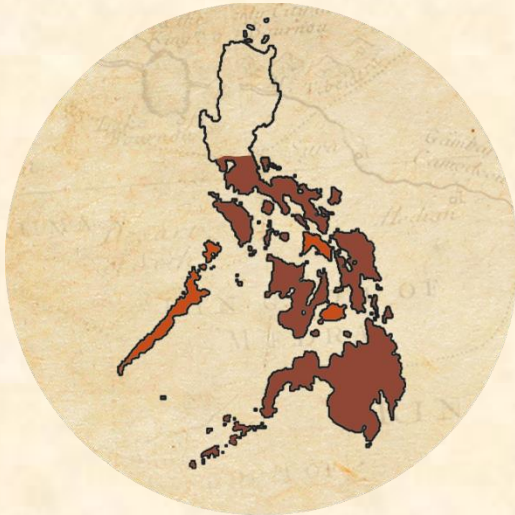
Think about what would happen to the food chain if poachers caught all the cockatoos.



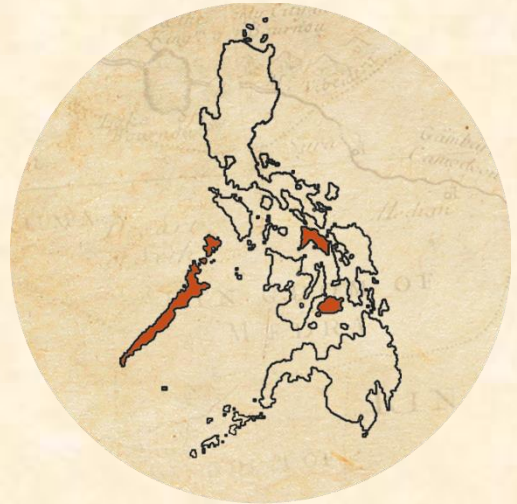
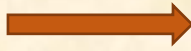


My conspecifics in their natural habitats are critically endangered.

You humans are responsible for this. There was a time when we could be seen all over the Philippines. But in the 1970-1990s, our population declined strongly.

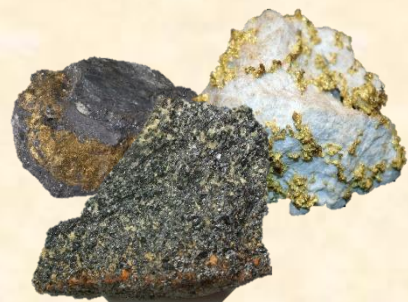


Historical distribution



Current distribution

Little Katalita, I am sorry that some of us humans are hurting you so much. There are a lot of people who pay high prices to keep you as pets, which is why you are poached. Other people destroy your habitat to grow palm oil or to extract raw mineral resources.



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You can help to ensure that Katalita's habitat is not further destroyed. When shopping, try to buy products that do not contain palm oil.

In order to save rare mineral resources, it is best to recycle old technical equipment. Think about whether you really need the latest smartphone model.



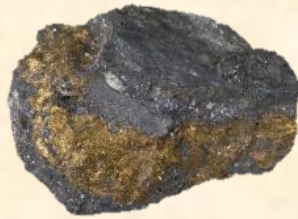
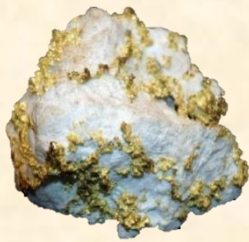
The Philippines has large deposits of copper, gold and chromite. These ores are the basis for technical devices and much more.

Try to complete the chart below and match the ores with their correct names and what they are used for. Think about how these products could be recycled or even avoided with alternative ways. This is your chance, be creative!

Gold

Chromite

Copper



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Used for: \_\_\_\_\_

Power cable

\_\_\_\_\_

Herbicides

Decoration

\_\_\_\_\_

Colours

Semiconductors

\_\_\_\_\_

Stainless steel

Jewellery

Recycling/ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Alternatives: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Chromite is used as a chemical in tanning to produce leather from animal skins. If the chemicals get into the groundwater, they contaminate it. By not using leather from animals, you can protect the animals, my habitat and keep the water clean.



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Because humans destroy our habitat, we look for food in their fields. Of course, they don't like us eating their corn and rice. That is why we are sometimes considered pests and hunted.

Although we have to face all these dangers, there are people who want to help my conspecifics. The Katala Foundation together with the Zoological Society of the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZGAP) with its parrot working group (FbP) and many other supporters are working for our protection.



Thanks to the work of the Katala Foundation and the support of its project partners, the Red-vented cockatoo population has grown from 35 birds to about 350. But the danger for the birds is not over yet.

Visit the Katala Foundation website and find out how they are trying to help the cockatoos.  
Write a short report in your own words



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Share my story with  
your friends on social  
media and use  
[#WorldParrotDay](https://www.instagram.com/WorldParrotDay)



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Katalita, did you know that the zoos are also trying to help you? They breed endangered species, like red-vented cockatoo. They make sure that zoos don't have to take cockatoos from the wild. They also breed a reserve population that can be released back into the wild when conditions are right in their natural habitat.

For this, it is important that the reserve population is genetically very diverse and that there is no inbreeding. Therefore, all these species kept in EAZA zoos are managed in a studbook, the so called EEPs (EAZA ex-situ program). The studbook for the Philippine cockatoos is maintained by the Zooparc de Beauval.



### Studbook Philippine cockatoo

- The current population is 39 individuals in 11 EAZA institutions
- There are 24 male cockatoos and 15 female birds
- Red-vented cockatoos can also behave aggressively towards their partner. Especially if the cockatoos cannot choose their own partner, this can happen. That is why the studbook is testing a new mating system at the Paradise Park. There is a large aviary in which the cockatoos can choose their partner on their own, from all genetically possible birds. Due to that the pairs fit together better and reduces the aggression within the pair.
- There are more male than female birds. They can be kept in so called bachelor groups, which serves as a genetic reserve and can be used for zoo education.



ZOO PARC  
de  
BEAUVAL



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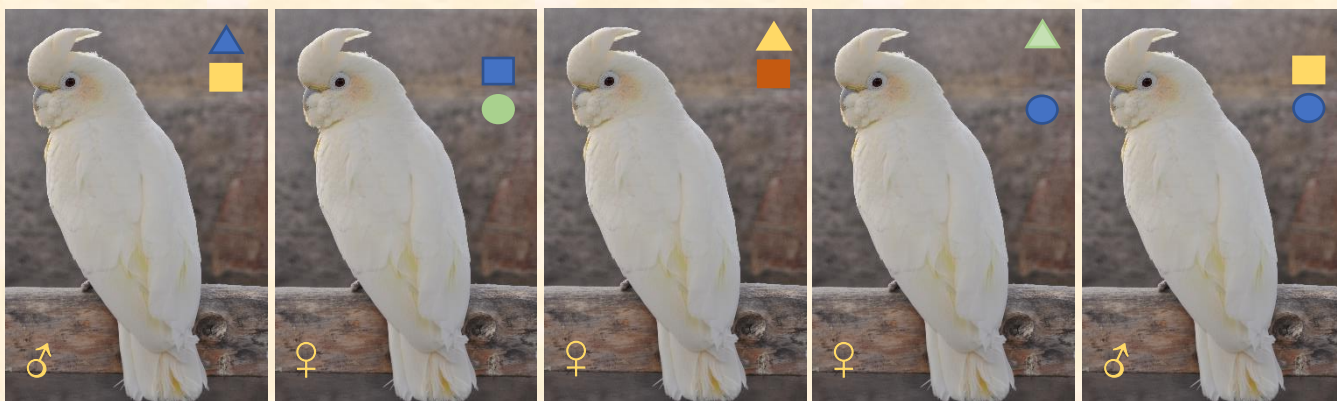


You have gained a little insight into what to look for in conservation breeding.

Now it's your turn. Try your hand at being a studbook keeper and help the Zooparc de Beauval to keep the studbook.

The different shapes and colours symbolise the genetic diversity. If two birds have the same genes, they are related to each other. Try to mate the right cockatoos with the greatest possible genetic diversity.

Connect the birds with a line. Now think about the two genes of the young bird might look like. Remember, the offspring has 50% genes from the father and 50% from the mother (different gene combinations possible).



- Chick of first pair:

- Chick of second pair:

- Chick of third pair:

I was drawn by  
**Alyssa Rice**. You  
can follow my mom  
on [Instagram](#).



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