



IDENTIFYING DIRECT THREATS TO AN INLAND WETLAND AND ITS AVIFAUNA: THE CASE OF CANAREM LAKE, CENTRAL LUZON, PHILIPPINES

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ABSTRACT – Philippine wetlands are important sites for birds as the country lies along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Canarem Lake is an inland wetland located in the agricultural town of Victoria, Tarlac in Central Luzon. Direct pressures can lead to habitat degradation and biodiversity loss in the wetland, thereby making threat identification critical in shaping conservation action. In this research, key informants participated in a survey composed of Likert scale and open-ended questions to determine perceived direct threats to Canarem Lake and its avifauna. Mixed methods involving consensus measure and thematic analysis were used to analyze responses, and a focus group was conducted as an in-method triangulation of results. Quantitative results show that key informants perceive seven specific threats belonging to three anthropogenic threat classes as direct pressures to Canarem Lake avifauna. Recreational activities emerged as the top perceived threat in the ranked list, while fishing and farming were identified in the thematic analysis of responses. Focus group was done to reconcile and validate results, where participants concurred with the threats in the ranked list and revealed additional insights on the threats identified in the thematic analysis. Policy options and management regimes should be studied and explored to protect Canarem Lake and the avifauna therein.

Keywords: avifauna, consensus, inland wetland, threats



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