

FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Name: Conservation International – Philippines

Project Title: Protected Area Design and Management of Core Nuclei within the Sierra Madre Biodiversity Corridor

II. OPENING REMARKS

Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.

We have achieved major outcomes through this project. Two large forest blocks along the Sierra Madre Mountain have been proclaimed as a protected area through presidential proclamations. Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape (PPLS) with a total land area of 118,781.58 hectares of terrestrial and marine ecosystems was established under Presidential Proclamation No. 484 and Quirino Protected Landscape (QPL) with a total area of 206,875.41 hectares as per Presidential Proclamation No. 548. These Protected Areas are located adjacent to existing protected areas (PPLS is adjacent to NSMNP and QPL is adjacent to CPL) thus forming a significantly large blocks of protected forest in the northern and central portions of the Sierra Madre Biodiversity Corridor. The newly proclaimed protected areas include a total of 219,692 hectares of secondary and old growth forest which resulted to a total of 588,599 hectares aggregate area of forest under protection within the new and existing protected areas.

Protected Area establishment alone does not assure the long-term conservation and protection of the area. This is just the initial step that will put the area safe for the issuance of extractive permits like mining, logging, etc. within priority conservation areas. The need to formulate a management plan for these parks is very important that will provide direction and guidance for the park's effective management. As required by the National Integrated Protected Area System Law, a general management plan must be developed indicating the different management zones and the strategies to effectively protect and conserve the natural resources in the park. Thus, CI Philippines in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the government agency mandated to manage the natural resources and the various local stakeholders, has been working closely in developing and updating the protected area management plan of these two newly proclaimed protected areas.

In order to formulate a sound park management plan, we involved the local communities and various stakeholders in the process. The planning process was started through the development of Community Resource Management and Development Plans (CRMDP) of all barangays covered by the protected area. The barangays as mandated by the Local Government Code is required to formulate their development plan as a basis for the release of their annual fund through the Internal Revenue Allocations. Such plan also

serves as a basis in the formulation of the municipal comprehensive land use plan. Using this plan as a springboard in the formulation of PA management plan ensures us that all plans at various levels in the municipality are consistent with that of the protected area. This requires involving the municipal planning and development office and the barangay councils and their constituents in all decision making. Through this approach we have a PA management plan that is agreed upon by the community and the local government units and answers both conservation and development aspects.

The management plan was complemented with the information/data generated through the biological studies conducted by CI Philippines to support the identification of appropriate management zones for the effective park's management. Initial results of the studies showed the lowland forest is the most critical habitat that needs to be protected as most of the threatened and potential new species of fauna were found in the lowland forest.

As required by NIPAS Law, the Protected Area Management Board was created for the PPLS and QPL after the proclamation. The PAMB is the highest governing body in the protected area and functions as the core management group together with the Protected Area Superintendent Office, which implements the day-to-day activities in the park. The PAMB is composed of the different stakeholders including NGOs, government agencies, LGUs and local community. Capacity building for the PAMB towards effective park management was conducted to develop their skills on planning, governance, policy or local ordinance development and project monitoring and evaluation. This includes cross learning visits to different protected areas. The visits aim to deepen the understanding of the PAMB about their roles and functions and the involvement of the local government units.

The success behind the proclamation of these two Protected Areas was the involvement of the local communities and the Local Government Units at the beginning of the process. This ensured that political and social acceptability were in place from the outset that facilitated the preparatory work required for the proclamation. The end result to this success is also the participation of stakeholders coming from the various sectors of society, e.g., DENR, LGUs, non-governmental organizations, peoples' organizations, Indigenous Communities, in developing the PA Management plan. Political acceptance of this plan is equally important where LGUs incorporate the PA management plan in their provincial and municipal plans.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose:

Critical stakeholders endorse and approve the expansion and creation of the Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape and the Quirino Protected Landscape, and work collaboratively to develop and implement appropriate management frameworks.

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
1. President proclamations declaring the creation of the Quirino Protected Landscape signed by May 2003 and expansion of the Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape signed by September 2002.	The Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape was proclaimed on October 6, 2003 by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No.484 and the Quirino Protected Landscape was proclaimed February 6, 2004 through Presidential Proclamation No. 458
2. Initial Protected Area Plan, PA map, official public notice (gazette in local and national newspapers) and draft Presidential Proclamation endorsed by DENR for the Quirino Protected Landscape by December 2002.	The PA's initial protected area plan, maps and all other documentary requirements required for PA proclamation were accomplished.
3. DENR calls for expansion of the existing PAMB for the Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape by November 2002 and creation of an interim PAMB for the Quirino Protected Landscape by January 2003.	Interim PAMB for PPLS and QPL were created. A total of 30 members now compose the PAMB for PPLS (representing 18 barangay captains, 2 NGOs, 3 POs, 2 ICCs, 1 Women Sector, DENR Regional Executive Director, 1 LGU from Municipality of Peñablanca, Provincial Planning and Development Office, Department of Tourism Region 02). For Quirino, a total of 79 PAMB members; this includes 52 barangay captains, 7 NGOs, 12 NGAs, 5 municipal Local Government Units and 3 Provincial Local Government Units.
4. PAMB and DENR draft management plans for both PAs 1. Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape by September 2004. 2. Quirino Protected Landscape by May 2005.	PPLS management plan already approved by PAMB and endorsed to DENR for approval. For QPL, formulation of the PA management plan is still in the process. CRMDP formulation for all covered barangays is going on including the updating of CLUP's of the covered municipalities.
5. Quirino and Peñablanca PAMB's each pass at least 2 resolutions that are consistent with or strengthen PA management by September 2003.	PPLS PAMB already passed 6 resolutions relevant to PA management and protections while PAMB of QPL also passed important 4 resolutions

Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.

The project attributed to the establishment of two important biodiversity conservation areas within the Sierra Madre Biodiversity Corridor as protected area. The PPLS and QPL connected to existing PAs (NSMNP and CPL) which now formed the largest area in the country with permanent protected area status. The success behind the proclamation of the Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape and Quirino Protected Landscape was brought about by the support and involvements of various sectors and local stakeholders. Working closely with partners such as DENR, the Local Government Units and the local community facilitated the project process. This ensured that there was consensus among stakeholders on all decisions made.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The proclamations of PPLS and QPL in two years time is unprecedented as compared to those previously proclaimed PAs that it took almost five years. The initiatives (awareness campaign, advocacy, participatory planning, etc.) undertaken under the project to create conservation constituency had a big influence in generating the support of the various stakeholders. The clear establishment of the link between biodiversity conservation and sustainable development generated interest and commitment of the stakeholders from the barangay, municipal and regional government offices in protecting the natural resources. This change in attitude towards biodiversity conservation indicates that people have gained deeper understanding of the interrelationship between biodiversity conservation and development.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs:

- Output 1: Biological assessment for Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape and Quirino Protected Landscape completed by April 2003.
- Output 2: Protected area support campaign successfully implemented by August 2003.
- Output 3: LGU (planning office), PAMB and DENR PA staff capacity building successfully implemented by August 2003.
- Output 4: PA management plan development successfully implemented by August 2003.
- Output 5: Rapid biological surveys in the Mt. Cagua Complex and Mt. Irid / Mt. Angelo Mountains by August 2003.

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1:	
1. Research design completed (September 2002)	Completed the Research design for biological surveys and gratuitous

	permits issued by the DENR for the successful conduct of the biological surveys as planned.
2. Prior informed consent (PIC) documents secured for Peñablanca (September 2002)	Required Prior Informed Consent (PIC) for the biological surveys was secured from appropriate groups/agencies (PAMB, LGU, IPs, etc.) and permit for biological surveys secured as planned.
3. Team members identified and TORs drafted (September 2002)	Biological survey teams formed in accordance with needed expertise and the field surveys conducted as scheduled (a total of 12 persons per study area were hired, each person covering a particular taxa (birds, rodents, bats, frogs, reptiles, amphibians and plants)
4. Interim report on first round of field surveys (December 2002)	Biological surveys interim reports submitted as scheduled. These reports already integrated in the final report (total of 7 sites were surveyed covering the Cagayan, Quirino and Quezon province from lowland to montane forest).
5. Final report produced (April 2003)	The biological final report is completed, however, it is still unpublished. We are now looking a venue for the publication of this report. Species identification for the collected specimen is on going since we have several potential new species of plants and animals. Thus all species list in the final report except for birds are tentative.
Output 2:	
1. Meetings held with PAWB Director and DENR Undersecretary of Operations to advocate for endorsement of Peñablanca PA expansion by the DENR Secretary (August 2002)[Completed with other funding / additional advocacy will be conducted with	All the scheduled meetings with the PAWB Director and DENR Secretaries and advocacy sessions were conducted and the necessary endorsements for the PA proclamations were secured as

CEPF funds]	planned.
2. Meetings held with DENR Secretary staff to brief and advocate for Peñablanca PA creation (August 2002)[Completed with other funding / additional advocacy will be conducted with CEPF funds]	All planned meetings and advocacy sessions with the DENR Secretary for his endorsement were conducted as planned. PAs map also approved by the Secretary.
3. Meetings held with Governor of Quirino Province and DENR Regional Executive Director to advocate for submission of Quirino PA creation/proclamation documents to DENR (September 2002)	All planned meeting with the provincial LGUs and Regional concerned agencies completed and Presidential proclamations endorsed as planned.
3. Draft PA documents submitted to DENR, including Initial Protected Area Plan, Protected Area map, draft Presidential Proclamation for Quirino (October 2002)	All necessary documents for the establishment of the protected area submitted.
5. Meetings held with PAWB Director and DENR Undersecretary of Operations to advocate for endorsement of Quirino PA proclamation by the DENR Secretary (April 2003)	All planned meeting with the PAWB Director and DENR Undersecretaries and scheduled advocacy sessions were conducted
6. Meetings held with Peñablanca PAMB, DENR-CENRO, and DENR-PENRO, and DENR-RED to advocate for creation of interim and expanded PAMBs (January 2003)	All planned meetings conducted and Interim PAMB of PPLS and QPL were created as scheduled .
7. PA support campaign activities for FY04 identified and incorporated into new proposals (August 2003)	PA management support activities identified were incorporated in the project proposals submitted for funding for these two PAs
Output 3:	
1. Capacity needs assessment for LGU (planning office) PAMB and DENR PA staff completed for Peñablanca (January 2003)	The TNA for PA management capacity building for PPLS completed and modules were developed and being implemented as planned
2. Capacity needs assessment for LGU (planning office) PAMB and DENR PA staff completed for Quirino (March 2003)	The TNA for PA management capacity building for QPL completed and modules were developed and being implemented as planned

3. Facilitate cross learning trips to the NSMNP for at least 50% of the executive committee members of Peñablanca and Quirino PAMBs to attend PAMB meetings and interact with PAMB members in Palanan (August 2003)	A series of cross learning visits to different protected areas were conducted. This was participated by PAMB members from PPLS and QPL
4. Capacity building activities for FY04 identified and incorporated into new proposals (August 2003)	PA capacity building activities identified were incorporated in the project proposals submitted for funding for these two PAs
Output 4:	
1. Re-validation of community resource maps based on biological assessments for Peñablanca (August 2003)	Re-validation of community resource maps completed and biological data generated were incorporated in the PA management plan as planned.
2. Community resource mapping for five barangays in the Quirino PA using data from biological assessments (August 2003)	A total of 12-community resource mapping activities were conducted and results is being incorporated in the management plan of QPL
3. Livelihood / sustainable use options assessment completed for Peñablanca (August 2003)	Assessment of livelihood options completed and information incorporated in the PPLS management plan
4. Initial PA management database design for Peñablanca completed (August 2003)	PA management database design completed and updated when the biological data generated from the survey were available. This database is in a web page format and placed in a CD-ROM.
5. Initial monitoring and evaluation system designed (August 2003)	PPLS database has been completed. The database contains all biological data and maps of the protected area. The database can be viewed using the ArcExplorer. This is free software that can be distributed to partners and protected area staff for their monitoring.
6. PA management support activities for FY04	New activities, proposed and

identified and incorporated into new proposals (August 2003)	continuing activities identified and incorporated to the new proposal
Output 5:	
1. Research design completed (April 2003)	Research design completed and biological surveys conducted as planned.
2. Prior informed consent documents secured (May 2003)	Prior Informed Consent (PIC) was secured from the LGU of Nagtipunan, Quirino and from the Bugkalot CADC holders and LGU Gen. Nakar, Quezon province (Mt. Binuang). The PIC is part of the requirement in the application for the Gratuitous permit.
3. Team members identified and TORs drafted (May 2003)	Team members composed of 12 persons per study area were hired, each person covering a particular taxa (birds, rodents, bats, frogs, reptiles, amphibians and plants)
4. Final report produced (August 2003)	Final report completed only awaiting a venue for publication. However, species identification is on going since we have several potential new species of plants and animals. Thus all species list except for birds are tentative.

Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.

The project contributed largely the mobilization of the various stakeholders in achieving the desired output. The funds provided through this project leverages counterpart funding from various partners like the LGUs , local NGOs and relevant government agencies who contributed largely either in cash, materials or personnel for the delivery of the planned activities that fulfilled the outputs.

For instance, the development of the PA management plan was attributed to the proper coordination and close collaboration by CIP with partners. This facilitated the conduct of the different community resource mapping and the development of Community Resource Management and Development Plan (CRMDP) in each barangays. The CRMDP has fast track the identification of the different management zones within the protected area. This also helps the local community identify their area of responsibility and how they can contribute to the protection and conservation of natural resources in the park. This was complemented with the different capacity building and skills development trainings,

seminars and cross learning visits that provided the PAMB members the necessary background and confidence to implement the management of the protected areas.

Through these various activities and trainings we were able to communicate to the stakeholders the importance biodiversity and interrelationship between conservation and development. We were also able to communicate to partners and local communities that sustainable development can be attained through proper planning.

Bottoms up participatory planning, presence of valid and scientific information, proper coordination, collaboration and resource complementation was found as the element that contributed much to the success of this project.

Were any outputs unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

All the desired output for this project was realized as planned.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

By law, social acceptability is one of the requirements for environmental and social safeguards for any project implemented. By virtue of the overwhelming endorsements of various stakeholders (from the community, municipal, provincial and national level) for the proclamation of these two protected areas, the desired steps (from consultations, planning, public hearings, deliberations, etc.) this was met.

VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.

- 1) ***Social capital is an important resource-*** The headway made by the project in its few months of operation is the result not only of the financial and human resources at its disposal but also of the established presence of the NGOs in the area, especially in environmental management. There was no need for building rapport with the local government unit and the target communities. The seeds for cooperation had been planted and have been nurtured for several years.
- 2) ***Joint action/complementation not competition produces the best results-*** It was recognized that an area can effectively conserve and protect if plans of various players are harmonized; people are one in voicing and addressing issues and problems. Likewise, instead of being territorial, government agencies (and civil

societies) can support these communities by resource sharing instead of bickering over who has jurisdiction or authority over the area and the resources.

- 3) ***Action speaks louder than words***- Terms and conditions embodied in MOUs, MOAs, should be translated into actions. If one or both or all parties violate agreements, sincerity as natural resource managers is open to question.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/failure)

A lesson learned is the importance of communicating to stakeholders the interrelationship between development and conservation. We were able to communicate to stakeholders the degree to which the project would provide direct and/or indirect economic benefits as a result of effective conservation. Quarterly updating of the status of the project to all stakeholders also facilitated the setting of unified priorities and activities among the stakeholders leading to the proclamation of the PAs.

Establishing our field offices in QPL and PPLS provided high visibility and developed our credibility with key partners which, in turn, contributed to mobilizing project acceptance and support of local stakeholders.

Stakeholders' participation at all levels such as the LGU (Barangays, Provincial, Regional and National), Peoples Organization, civil society, IP is very crucial in getting the support for the proclamation of the two PAs (PPLS and QPL). Bottoms up participatory planning process generated acceptance of the project from all sectors as they were part of the decision making process. They participated in the public hearings and generation of data for the preparation of the plan and other documentary requirements.

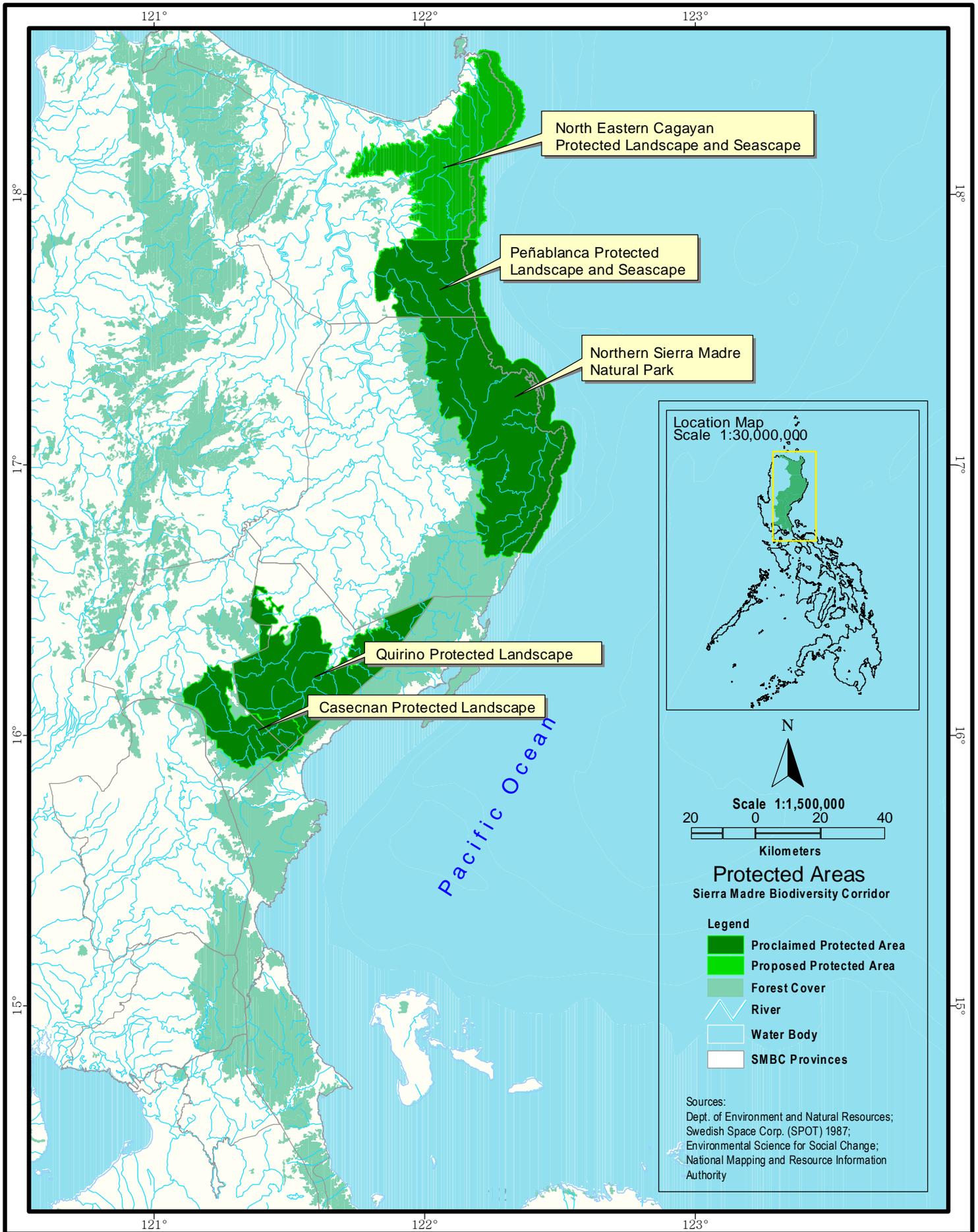
Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)

The quarterly reporting system and the logframe have been very effective in monitoring our progress and project implementation.

We learned that government processes related to PA creation are slow and require numerous, sometimes unanticipated, consultations. Our timeline for progress was optimistic and, although we are making good progress, the numerous approvals and endorsements required for PA creation and expansion demands close attention and patience.

VII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Clearly, we understand that the establishment of a protected area is just the first step towards achieving conservation outcome impacts. Sustainable conservation depends largely on how the various local stakeholders handle the management of the protected area. Reaching the level of capacity of the multi-level stakeholders to pursue sustainable conservation efforts, there's a need to continue the capacity building efforts, there's a need to generate a mechanism to draw the right incentive for local stakeholders, there's a need to strengthen institutional capacity, and the need to draw a sustainable funding mechanisms. Thus, a phase 2 of this project is strongly sought to build the necessary infrastructure.



North Eastern Cagayan
Protected Landscape and Seascape

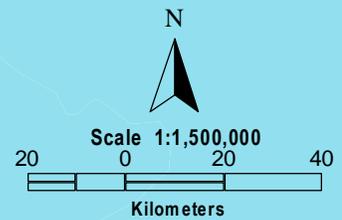
Peñablanca Protected
Landscape and Seascape

Northern Sierra Madre
Natural Park

Quirino Protected Landscape

Casecnan Protected Landscape

Location Map
Scale 1:30,000,000



Protected Areas
Sierra Madre Biodiversity Corridor

- Legend**
- Proclaimed Protected Area
 - Proposed Protected Area
 - Forest Cover
 - River
 - Water Body
 - SMBC Provinces

Sources:
Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources;
Swedish Space Corp. (SPOT) 1987;
Environmental Science for Social Change;
National Mapping and Resource Information
Authority