

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Belize Association of Private Protected Areas

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Policy Development and Outreach to Support Private Protected Areas in Belize

Implementation Partners for This Project: The Nature Conservancy and Ya'ax Che Conservation Trust (YCT) who came on board in the latter part of the process and also paid the legal review conducted between September and November, 2008). The other partners who have joined the process are the National Protected Areas Commission (NPAC) and the Association of Protected Areas Managers Organization (APAMO).

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): 1 February, 2008 – 31 January 2009

Date of Report (month/year): February 11, 2009

Person responsible for Reporting: Mr. Anselmo Castañeda, Coordinator

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

BAPPA has pioneered the first national initiative de develop draft Private Protected Areas Legislation. With financial assistance from TNC, BAPPA was able to initiate the consultancy by hiring a team of consultants (Wilderness Consulting) as of November 7, 2007. There have been delays in the process to develop the draft legislation due to the fact that other interested parties or direct stakeholders asked for a three months extension for additional consultations and legal review by other lawyers. The Wilderness Team submitted their final draft to BAPPA since September 9, 2008 and it was until November 10, 2008 that all parties (BAPPA, YCT, APAMO, TNC and NPAC) met with the other attorney.

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

To Develop Draft National Legislation for Private Protected Areas and seek its passage into law.

2. Did the objectives of your project change during implementation? If so, please explain why and how.

The BAPPA Board of Directors in 2006 and early 2007 believed that in order to have their properties under conservation status need formal and legal recognition and the fastest way to achieve this is to have a separate Legislation for PPAs rather than amending the existing Conservation Laws of the country. So the Terms of Reference for

this Consultancy was developed in this direction which the BOD saw was the faster and easier route.

The Why

When the BOD gave its final approval in August 2008 for the draft to be widely circulated to all stakeholders, there came the request for further consultations and additional review of the BAPPA draft PPA document by YCT who is also a member of BAPPA. When the Wilderness Consulting delivered their seventh version of the draft PPA Act in early September, there was an additional two months for the legal review of the document by the lawyer hired by YCT.

The How

At the meeting held on November 10 by all major stakeholders, the NPAC stated that the objective of the National Protected Areas Commission (NPAC) is to have one comprehensive National Protected Areas System Act (NPASA), which covers PPAs also, as recommended by the National Protected Areas Policy and System Plan of 2005-06 rather than develop a separate PPA Act. This was corroborated by what exists in other countries such as Australia, Costa Rica and South Africa. The NPAC could not give a timeframe for the development and passage as law of the proposed comprehensive NPASA. In the interim, YCT's hired attorney recommended that the current national Protected Areas System Act be amended to include PPAs with inputs from the draft legislation developed so far by BAPPA; the attorney also sees the need for a parallel Conservation Easement Act to be developed to facilitate the management of PPAs in Belize. With the assistance of TNC, a document or article has been developed which forms a baseline of how Conservation Easement can work in Belize. The Chairman of the BAPPA BOD will consult with the rest of directors on how to proceed with this process until its PPAs are formally and legally recognized.

3. How was your project successful in achieving the expected objectives?

The project was successful on many perspectives:

- a. It opened for the first time to public eyes that the Private Land Owners are serious partners in conserving Belize's natural resources;
- b. It brought to the table a national level discussion on the need for Private Protected Areas legislation;
- c. Belize now has a draft document on PPA Legislation which will be useful in finishing the process that the direct stakeholders are now ready to finalize; and
- d. BAPPA, though a young and small organization, has gained national recognition by the Government of Belize, older NGOs and CBOs, and the national audience of its role on private conservation.

4. Did your team experience any disappointments or failures during implementation? If so, please explain and comment on how the team addressed these disappointments and/or failures.

The BAPPA BOD knew that there were going to be problems in the process but at the same time they were willing to listen to other stakeholders. The initiative was not a failure but the timeframe set in the Terms of Reference for the consultancy was not real

nor practical, as has been seen today at the end of the CEPF funded Project. The consulting team was also considerate in accepting the extensions to their contract.

5. Describe any positive or negative lessons learned from this project that would be useful to share with other organizations interested in implementing a similar project.

Negative lessons:

- a. Timeframe for the initiative was not practical; more time is necessary to complete the process;
- b. The level of planned consultative process was limited; as it is now, more consultations were required; and
- c. Lawyers specialized in natural resources issues are limited in Belize and the few that are available are very expensive.

Positive Lessons:

- a. Drafting legislation requires a well structured and ample consultative process with all direct and indirect stakeholders;
- b. The Government Departments and the managers of public protected areas recognize the importance of PPAs for their role in filling the gaps of the National Protected Areas System and are willing to work with BAPPA and its members; and
- c. The current draft PPA legislation applies only to PPAs in the terrestrial environment and the current or existing PA legislation does not allow for private landowners of islands in the maritime environment to legally establish PPAs. New laws will need to address this issue.

6. Describe any follow-up activities related to this project.

The follow-up activities are:

- a. The BAPPA BOD D met early December 2008 to discuss the way forward;
- b. BAPPA is already working with NPAC, YCT and APAMO to establish coordination activities in order to proceed with the process during the next 12 months;
- c. BAPPA, NPAC, YCT and APAMO will seek additional funding from other international partners, including CEPF and TNC, to continue the immediate work during 2009.

7. Please provide any additional information to assist CEPF in understanding any other aspects of your completed project.

As of January 31, 2009 BAPPA is grateful to the CEPF for its understanding and responsiveness to the needs of project implementation especially for extending it for two additional months. BAPPA requests CEPF to please advise on what to do with the remaining US \$168.65 in the bank account.

IV. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount-USD	Notes
The Nature Conservancy	A	\$3,925.00	To pay first 20% to Wilderness Consulting at Contract Signing
Ya'ax Che Conservation Trust	B	\$13,250	To pay for additional legal review of Draft PPA Legislation

***Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B** *Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)*
- C** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- D** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Please refer to the Section of lessons learned, the positive ones.

VI. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. One way we do this is by making programmatic project documents available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these in our newsletter and other communications.

These documents are accessed frequently by other CEPF grantees, potential partners, and the wider conservation community.

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