CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Katala Foundation, Inc.

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Southern Palawan Anti-Poaching Initiative

Implementation Partners for this Project: Local government units of the Municipality of Rizal and Bgy. Culasian, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Conservation International – Palawan Program

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): April 1, 2005 – June 30, 2007

Date of Report (month/year): August 2007

II. OPENING REMARKS

Southern Palawan is the only part of the Philippines which is located within the range of the 'Manggis' *Koompassia excelsa*, the tallest tree in Southeast Asia. This particular species is one of the most important nest trees for cavity-breeding birds in the region. Most of these, like Philippine cockatoo, Palawan hornbill, or Blue-naped parrot are globally threatened or near-threatened. Many of these species are highly valued as pets, and consequently southern Palawan is one of the most important source areas for animals entering the illegal wildlife trade in the Philippines.

Barangay (village) Culasian in the municipality of Rizal holds one of the best examples of this unique kind of lowland forest in the country and at the same time is a poaching 'hotspot'. Therefore it was selected as project site for the Southern Palawan Anti-Poaching Initiative.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: Local stakeholders capacitated and motivated to sustainably manage and conserve wildlife and their critical habitats in Culasian, Rizal. This includes that priority areas for threatened wildlife are formally protected on local level involving local communities and other key-stakeholders in the decision-making process and management. Decisions should be based on biological data provided by poachers and other local partners with intimate knowledge of wildlife (Participatory Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation of Biodiversity, PAMEB) and personnel of the KF using scientific methods.

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion	
Purpose-level:		

At least 1900 ha forest of priority conservation value for poached wildlife identified, demarcated and formal protection enforced.	A lowland forest area of 1,954 ha (Culasian Managed Resource Protected Area) containing important stands of nest trees for cavity nesters was formally protected through municipal resolution. This legislation has been enforced
At least 50% of the identified poachers actively cooperating in the project.	through collaborative management. Thirteen out of 18 identified poachers in the area are currently working as wildlife wardens in the newly created protected area.
At least 50% of local DENR or PCSDS personnel, local decision makers, police and coast guard knowledgeable about the Wildlife Act and enforcing it.	All PCSDS and DENR personnel working in the area, as well as selected members of law-enforcing bodies have been included in planning and training sessions for the duration of the project. Confiscation of wildlife has been significantly more frequent as prior to project implementation. PCSDS and DENR had been principal complainants of cases filed against illegal wildlife traders where SPAPI initiated confiscation operations.

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

All purpose-level objectives have been reached. Particularly the combination of employing ex-poachers as wildlife wardens and the cooperation with law-enforcing bodies has resulted in significantly reduced poaching of cavity nesting bird species. With the declaration of the protected area it is anticipated that the most valuable stands of lowland forest in the project area of Culasian Rizal can be protected not only from poaching, but also from other forms of human encroachment, beyond the already existing ones. The Local Protected Area Management Committee (LPAMC), which consists of representatives of the local government units, relevant line agencies, civic organizations and Katala Foundation as host NGO, needs to be further capacitated to fulfill its mandate to manage the PA.

Conservation education campaigns conducted in the past twenty seven months proved to be particularly successful, possibly due to the fact that the local population is only rarely exposed to this kind of activities, which, in absence of virtually all kind of mass media, is a highly welcome interruption of daily routines.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

A large wetland was 'discovered' by project staff in the neighboring Barangay of Candawaga. Although outside of the designated project area, the responsible local government signified its interest in protecting the area, after Katala Foundation presented initial results of ornithological surveys. Resolutions for the formal protection of this area are in preparation.

Wardens' security was highly crucial in the fight against illegal activities i.e. mangrove tan barking, illegal cutting and wildlife trade, etc. An armed gang was active in one small portion of the protected area, and is accountable for the poaching of three nests. Some local political personalities and military groups were allegedly connected to some illegal activities observed by wardens. Wardens were advised not to confront the group for safety reasons. Instead, support was requested from the armed forces and the Philippine National Police and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD). Two cases are now filed and pending at the Provincial Prosecutor's Office. Illiteracy among the recruited wardens hampered reporting and capacity building more than anticipated. Considerable time still has to be invested to overcome this hurdle.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs: Enter the project outputs from the Logical Framework for the project

Indicator

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Actual at Completion

Illuicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: Status and distribution of wildlife species most relevant in trade and utilization patterns in Culasian (Rizal) are known and regularly monitored; Faunal and floral inventories in PA conducted. 1.1.	Confiscation records were compiled from
Research on wildlife trade with focus on Rizal and sink areas (Puerto Princesa) conducted (including, data of confiscation reports (DENR, PCSD, Crocodile Farming Institute, trade maps) by June 2007 and continues for the whole duration of project implementation.	DENR offices, PCSDS and crocodile farm. Interviews with poachers, middle men and local traders were conducted. Relevant trade maps and graphs were realized, indicating major pathways, exit points for smuggled wildlife in Palawan and amounts of wildlife traded. Please refer to 1.5.
Populations of most important animals in trade (3 parrot species, hornbills, hill mynas) assessed and mapped in forest areas of Culasian, Rizal) by June 2007 and monitored for 2007 breeding season.	One hundred thirty one (131) occupied nests of target species had been identified, mapped and characterized according to occupants (species, breeding success) and their biophysical features. This excludes nest trees which are outside the protected area and are regularly monitored by wardens. Monitoring of 2007 breeding season in Tagbalugo area yielded 71 fledglings of blue-naped parrots from 60 nest trees, 13 fledglings of hill myna out of 7 nest trees and 2 Palawan hornbill nest trees are continuously monitored. While in Balukanad area, 83 hatchlings successfully fledged from 44 nests of blue naped parrots, 17 fledglings from 9 nests of hill myna and 2 fledglings from 1

	Palawan hornbill nest. Outside the CMRPA, 5 nest trees of hill myna yielded 11 fledglings and 48 fledglings from 20 blue naped parrots nests.
1.3. Research on hunting and trapping for food and animal parts in Culasian, Rizal conducted by month 12.	An ethno-zoological survey was conducted to assess utilization patterns and target species in hunting and wildlife trade. A total of 50 households were covered in the project site. A paper with the title 'Trapping and hunting of wildlife in Rizal, Palawan, Philippines' by Deborah D. Villafuerte, Peter Widmann and Rommel Cruz was presented during the WCSP Symposium in April 2006. The article is currently peer-reviewed and will be published in the proceedings of the Wildlife Conservation Society of the Philippines.
1.4. Forest priority maps, including zoning of the forest areas of conservation concern based on results of 2 and 3 prepared by month 12	Maps and IPAP were prepared. Delineation of the proposed PA is based mainly on the distribution of important nest trees and remaining forest cover. This was submitted before.
1.5. Study trade issues conducted and submitted for publication in the Wildlife Conservation Society of the Philippines (WCSP) proceedings.	A paper with the title 'Wildlife Trading in Southern, Palawan, Philippines' by Rommel Cruz, Deborah D. Villafuerte, Indira Dayang L. Widmann, Peter Widmann and Sabine Schoppe was presented during the WCSP Symposium in April 2007. The article is currently peerreviewed and will be published in the proceedings of the Wildlife Conservation Society of the Philippines.
Output 2. Poachers and other key-stakeholders identified and actively involved in conservation project in Culasian (Rizal).	
2.1. Participatory planning workshop in Culasian conducted and people's organization for conservation initiated by month 2.	Participatory planning workshop involving stakeholders of the project was conducted from May 17-19, 2005 in Rizal, Municipality. Wardens were organized to lead the antipoaching activities in the project site in June 2005.
2.2. At least 50% of the identified poachers deputized as wardens by the municipal mayor.	The deputation of the wildlife wardens in 2006 was not achieved due to a moratorium of the process in DENR. All requirements were still submitted to DENR. The option of deputation by the

2.3. Potential wardens underwent basic wildlife management training (ecology, conservation, laws) by month 4.	mayor is currently explored. In 2007 deputation was granted through Executive Order No. 10, series of 2007 approved by the Municipal Mayor. The DENR deputation is pending until the lifting of suspension of deputation issuance. Basic wildlife management training, involving field note taking, basics of conservation biology, tree measurements, species identification with practical
	exercises was conducted from August 12 to 13, 2005. Training is still ongoing while on duty or otherwise called 'on-the job' training.
2.4 Alternative livelihood projects for wardens to be deputized and selected other key players provided by June 2007.	Training in vegetable gardening, agro- forestry and contour farming was provided to beneficiaries (wardens in particular) from October 18 to 19, 2005. Seedlings, vegetable seeds and tools were distributed. Capital funds were provided to start the initial stock for a small grocery store within the area. This is being operated by the wardens and currently on its fourth cycle.
2.5 Wardening scheme continued	Wardens continue patrolling and monitoring in and around CMRPA. Wardens had been instrumental in curbing illegal activities in the site.
2.6 Boundaries of existing PA and proposed Candawaga Wetland Reserve identified and marked in strategic locations.	CMRPA boundaries had been identified and five signages in strategic areas had been installed. Signages are written in positive messages and illustrated for better understanding among locals. Candawaga Wetland Reserve was mapped but not plotted yet because of unavailability of GIS services.
Output 3. Intensive Conservation education for key target-groups pertaining laws, ecology and significance of wildlife conducted.	
3.1 Pre-project and post-project survey on perception of wildlife and wildlife laws conducted by month 3 and June 2007 respectively.	Pre-project survey conducted in 2005, involving 169 respondents from project site and 51 respondents to represent the control group (Quezon, Palawan). The post-project survey was conducted a year after in order to assess changes in perception on wildlife and levels of awareness on wildlife laws and trading.

	Significant changes had been achieved i.e. 50% points increase of those respondents who said that wildlife trading issues is very important and 20% points decrease of those who said they do not know about the issue; 45% points increase of respondents saying they learned that wildlife trading is not good through environmental activities like the CE activities conducted by KFI through SPAPI and 37% points increase of those who have heard about the Wildlife Act
3.2 Conservation education manual produced by June 2007.	after the project implementation. Modules for school visits focusing on the Philippine cockatoo were produced and applied; however manual production is delayed due to availability of artist. This can be covered through the leverage funds accessed by KFI. Five thousand posters depicting the Philippine cockatoo, the most valued poached species, a fact sheet for SPAPI and five thousand copies of the leaflet on poaching and hunting in Palawan were produced and distributed.
3.3 Conservation caravan focus on households conducted by month 9.	Conservation education (CE) activities were conducted during interviews, field visits and related activities. These CE activities are anchored on the premise of the PRIDE campaign conducted by KFI in all project sites.
3.4 21 school visits conducted by end of project.	A total of 23 school visits were conducted reaching ca. 3000 pupils from elementary and high schools in target site and adjacent areas. School visits were done through interactive lectures and games and sometimes with cockatoo mascot if the weather allows. These school visits were well appreciated by teachers as manifested in their active involvement during activities in the festival. Commentary sheets presented positive remarks from teachers.
3.5 Fiesta in Culasian conducted in February 2006 and February 2007.	Through the collaborative efforts of KFI through the SPAPI and Bgy. Culasian, the Kalikasan Festival was realized. It had been conducted for two consecutive years. This has gathered thousands of spectators not only from Culasian but from neighboring areas and towns as

3.6 10 community visits or focus group discussions conducted by June 2007.	well. This festival is conducted in close cooperation with the local barangay of Culasian. In 2007, the festivity enjoined two adjacent barangays of Culasian. In both occasions, Bgy. Culasian contributed monetarily for the celebration. Post festival survey was conducted to assess effectivity of festivals in heightening awareness on wildlife trade. Results suggested positive remarks. The festival is a major highlight several CE activities that instills PRIDE among locals. Several activities are lumped during the festivities and cockatoo mascot appearance helped to gather people. A total of 31community visits and focus group discussions were conducted for the duration of the project. Groups or sectors covered include the farmers, tribal and religious organizations and churches, barangay health workers, community leaders, military and local decision makers. Activities included film shows, interactive lectures and mascot appearances.
Output 4. Technical advice provided and institutionalization of wildlife conservation scheme facilitated for local government units and law enforcing agencies and newly established Local Protected Area Management Committee (LPAMC).	
Workshop on wildlife management, laws and protected areas management for decision makers and law enforcers conducted by month 6.	Workshop on Wildlife and PA management for members of the Local Protected Areas Management Committee was conducted from September 7 to 9 in Narra, Palawan. Exchange of experiences with practitioners of community-based conservation was facilitated by PCCP partners in Narra. A field trip to Rasa Island, a municipal PA since 1999, was conducted. A training on Wildlife Law Enforcement was conducted on Feb. 24, 2007 which covered topics on PD 705, RA 9147, paralegal and metalegal remedies, surveillance tactics, animal handling, restraining and transport. Participants included not only the wardens but also police and interested local partners.

Local government units supported in the formulation of ordinances for gazettement of PAs and creation of local protected areas management committee by end of project.	Resolution No. 2006-30, approved by Municipal Council on July 05, 2006 provided the protection of an important forest area through the creation of the Culasian Managed Resource Protected Area (CMRPA). Executive Order No. 2, approved on March 14, 2006 created the Local Protected Area Management Committee. Members of the committee represented key stakeholders of the protected area. A local appropriation is now being under negotiation as municipal counterpart to the conservation project.
4.3 Local protected areas management committee assisted and backstopped in the formulation of management plans and refining of IPAP by end of project.	An initial protected area management plan (IPAP) was drafted and distributed to project partners. Leverage fund for SPAPI was sourced out (funding available initially until end of 2006 and mid of 2007 till 2008 from LPF and PCCP key funding partners).
4.4 LPAMC meeting conducted every quarter of the year.	Regular quarterly meetings of LPAMC were conducted. In total 4 meetings were conducted which highlighted significant issues and concerns of the CMRPA i.e. illegal activities in the area, progress reports.
4.5 Conduct of socio-economic profiling by June 2007.	Socio-economic profile was conducted through interview with 30 target residents within the CMRPA. Most were farmers and are practicing destructive lowland farming i.e. kaingin. Cultivated areas are mostly less than a hectare but few others are farming 5 to 10 hectares.
Output 5. Project progress monitored and evaluated during the course of project implementation.	
5.1 Reports compiled on wildlife status, including wildlife surveys, trade map, confiscation reports and forest priority map compiled by end of project.	All field reports, the initial protected area management plan and species lists are available in electronic form. Data were presented during the WCSP in April 2006 and 2007.
5.2 Documentation of meetings with stakeholders, livelihood activities and documents pertaining deputation of wardens compiled by end of project.	Documentations of trainings, LPAMC meetings, grocery accountabilities, monthly wardens' reports and consolidation reports are available in electronic form.
5.3 Documentation on conservation education	Commentary sheets were collected from all school and community visits, pre- and

activities compiled by end of project.	post-survey results and other CE
	activities (festival, school visits, trainings,
	etc) were documented through reports
	and photos. Please see attached photos.
5.4	Documentation of capacity-building
Documentation on capacity-building and	training compiled, including electronic
support activities for decision makers and	copies of presentations, attendance
law-enforcers compiled by end of project.	sheets and photographic documentation.

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

Forest maps were the basis for the identification of priority sites in Culasian, Rizal, to be set aside as protected area. The data for these maps were gathered through field surveys, particularly through mapping of actual and potential nest trees and through assessing forest quality. Tapping the knowledge of the local population through an ethno-zoological survey in general and the knowledge of our wildlife wardens in particular helped considerably to hasten the process of identifying the most suitable area for conservation.

The wardening scheme is possibly the single-most important measure which reduced poaching significantly in the newly created protected area. It not only provides income for ex-poachers (whose main incomes often are derived from forest resource extraction), but also creates awareness regarding wildlife and pertinent wildlife laws.

Conservation education using the PRIDE methodology proved to be effective in raising awareness and in changing self-reported behavior towards wildlife conservation. "Low-tech" approaches like community visits or a nature festival turned out to be more efficient than more sophisticated media (radio spots). Marketing strategies like production of posters and information materials, face to face interaction through focus group discussions, mascot appearances engage target audience to personal involvement and participation.

Capacity building of stakeholders other than the local communities and ex-poachers were more challenging, because of difficulties to agree on joint activities of members of the local government units due to political differences. This resulted in a delay in the creation of the Local Protected Area Management Committee, which was only created towards the end of the 1st project phase.

All outputs of the project have been documented and most are available in electronic form. Most important documents include two papers on hunting and wildlife trade respectively and will be published in a peer-reviewed journal, the initial protected area management plan which included maps and species lists, a data base of wildlife utilization and on nest tree characteristics. Results of the pre- and post-project survey document the effectiveness of the conservation education campaigns. Other productions were poster, fact sheet and a leaflet/brochure.

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

The deputation of the wildlife wardens through DENR was not achieved due to the suspension of its issuance by the DENR. However, deputation was realized through local legislations i.e. municipal resolution and executive order. Thus, wildlife wardens pursued documenting illegal activities in the area; provided relevant information to lawenforcers, patrolled and monitored identified nest trees and surroundings. Wardens were not organized as a people's organization because they still lack the capacity to manage such a body by themselves. This will be realized, when wardens improve considerably their writing and financial skills.

The area originally intended for intensive vegetable gardening was washed away during the rainy season so this was moved to a higher ground.

The production of the conservation education manual was not realized within the project timeframe due to artist inavailability. However this has not affected the overall impact of the project as lesson plans and modules were applied in all school and community visits.

The Candawga Wetland Reserve was not plotted in a map yet but GPS readings were already taken and submitted to CI-Palawan. On-going discussions with barangay officials of Candawaga are pursued for the protection of the area. This was partly delayed due to preparations for the elections in 2007.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

There was no significant health problem for the duration of the project despite malaria being endemic in the area.

As to safety, wardens were advised to avoid confrontations with violators and red hot areas of illegal activities. Wardens provided significant reports and coordinated properly with authorities in order to strengthen legal complaints filed by authorities.

The creation and implementation of the 'Culasian Managed Resource Protected Area' under municipal resolution will contribute to improved forest conditions particularly on area and quality. It is also expected to contribute to the recovery of populations of threatened species, particularly those which regularly enter the illegal pet trade.

The declaration of the protected area did not result in the displacement of human inhabitants of the area. Eventually enforced restrictions of resource use in the area need to be mitigated.

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.

The extension of the project provided more opportunities and time to create a functional protected area. This has also particularly motivated and capacitated local stakeholders to manage the area and species in a sustainable way.

The creation of protected areas using the mandate of local governments is much faster than to undergo the complicated process of the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS). The latter usually takes several years. It is therefore a potentially powerful instrument to set aside areas of urgent conservation priority, as in the case of the 'Culasian Managed Resource Protected Area.' This was then incorporated in a bigger protected area which is initiated by CI-Palawan, the Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape.

The created Local Protected Area Management Committee is likewise relatively fast, but capacitating its members is a process which takes much longer than two years.

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

- Wardening scheme employing ex-poachers. This strategy has repeatedly resulted in immediately reduced poaching in other project sites of Katala Foundation and was also successful in Culasian.
- Creation of protected area under municipal resolution. Fast and less bureaucratic compared to the NIPAS process.
- Conservation education. Pre-and post surveys of target and control groups make outcome of CE activities measurable.
- Alternative livelihood. Indispensable in this area since most poaching and unsustainable forms of land use are conducted by the most marginalized fraction of the population.

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

- Wardening scheme employing ex-poachers. Regular patrolling effectively reduced poaching incidents and alarmed criminals or those conducting illegal activities. Important factor was identifying reliable local partners particularly during the execution of apprehension and confiscation operations. Coordination among authorities is deemed necessary for successful operations. The wardening scheme or nest protection scheme created important income for expoachers.
- Creation of protected area under municipal resolution. Provides an additional legal instrument for the wardening scheme. IPAP set the frame conditions for its management, but LPAMC has so far not assumed an active role in its management.
- Conservation education. Flexibility in implementation (shift from production of radio spots) not only took into considerations results of stakeholder workshop, but very likely also contributed better to increase awareness among target groups.
- Alternative livelihood. Effects of the washed out vegetable garden could be mitigated through timely developed alternative site and through the investment of

the remaining funds in a warden's store. Provision of a small capital to fund a small scale grocery operated by wardens proved to be effective in developing their financial responsibility in order to revolve the capital fund for a continuous supply.

VII. 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	Notes
Loro Parque	В	€6,936. and	June – December 2006
Fundacion and		12000 US\$	and July 2007-December
Funding Partners			2008 respectively`

^{*}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 funded 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 funded project.)
- **D** Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)

Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.

The project will be continued particularly capacitating the LPAMC and the continuation of the wardening scheme. Funding was secured from Loro Parque Fundacion and Funding Partners from 2006 to 2008. On-going discussions with municipality of Rizal for the yearly appropriation for the conservation work in CMRPA are pursued.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Assuring sustainability of the wardening scheme is a major challenge. Virtually all forms of forest resource utilization in Palawan are illegal for commercial purposes. Shifting cultivation as practiced particularly by the more marginalized sectors of the community is becoming increasingly unsustainable.

The success of the SPAPI-initiated operations against illegal wildlife trade and the research conducted on wildlife trade in Southern Palawan were used by PCSDS as

reference in formulating new policies against wildlife trade in Palawan. This is a welcome opportunity to strengthen local capacities in curbing illegal wildlife trade.

With the incorporation of the CMRPA to the CI-initiated Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape, it is hoped that conservation of this important lowland forest be sustained and supported.

Initiatives like 'Verde Venture', 'Seed Initiative', etc. open up opportunities to increase sustainability of livelihoods in remote areas, but usually take some time until profitable. In order to bridge this gap, 'unsustainable funding' e.g. for wardening schemes, remains vital to buy some time until the former schemes are fully effective.

VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.

Yes			
No			

If yes, please also complete the following:

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