

CEPF Small Grant Final Project Completion Report

Complete the following report worksheet to provide CEPF with an overall summary of the results of your project. Within the narrative section, responses should be concise, but include sufficient detail to present a clear understanding of the development and progression of this project.

Date of Report (MM/DD/YY)
April 11, 2005

Organization Information
Organization Name
LSM HARAPAN MADINA
Project Name
Strengthening Community Commitment to Protect Batang Gadis National Park
Project Dates (as stated in the contract agreement)
December 10, 2004 – February 10, 2005

Partners

Conservation International Indonesia, Regional Government of Mandailing Natal, NGO GEMPARR

Project Description – Provide a brief description of the project your team implemented.

The main activity was named “*Marluhut Godang Hita Sahuta Mangholongi Harangan Taman Nasional Batang Gadis*” (*Grand Meeting of Villages Member to Conserve the Forest of Batang Gadis National Park*). In this meeting, the Conservation Participatory Planning (January 7th -9th, 2005) was conducted to achieve the purpose in strengthening villagers commitment to conserve Batang Gadis National Park (BGNP).

2 important documents produced during this meeting:

- “*The Declaration to Save Our Nature Forest in Kabupaten Mandailing Natal*”
- *The community input on “Strategy and Action Plan to Conserve BGNP”*

These documents were produced using 6 S Method (*System, Stress, Source, Stakeholder, Strategy, Success*). These documents also reflected the attitude, commitment, and action of the villagers around BGNP in conserving the national park.

In the Action Plan, the community developed several strategies:

STRATEGY 1. Implement campaign and education program to stop illegal logging and illegal wildlife hunting for all community surrounding BGNP, especially youth and children.

STRATEGY 2. Conduct education and extension program, facilitate development of capital and marketing to develop small scale economic initiatives that enable community to reduce their dependency on forest product, such as ecotourism, fresh water fishery, intensification of hard crop plantation (coffee, cocoa, cinnamon, etc)

STRATEGY 3. Carry out routine forest patrol in collaboration with the government and relevant stakeholder to stop illegal hunting, illegal logging, and forest encroachment.

STRATEGY 4. Develop advocacy program with regional and central government to stop open gold mining, illegal logging and illegal wood distribution, as well as forest concessionaires that will lower natural forest quality, water resources.

STRATEGY 5. Enforce law to all parties.

In the document of “*The Declaration to Save Our Nature Forest in Kabupaten Mandailing Natal*”, participants developed common vision and commitment as follows:

1. Declare war against illegal logging activities in BGNP and other remaining natural forest in Madina.
2. Declare war against the opening of natural forest that will threaten people livelihood, such as open mining of PT. Sorikmas Mining, unsustainable harvest of forest product by private company, opening land for agriculture and new settlement near water catchments area and other places vulnerable that will cause landslide, draught and flood.
3. Re-emphasize support on the importance of conservation of Batang Gadis National Park, as long as its management consider the importance of sustainable economic resources and local tradition, as well as participation of community in planning and implementation process through Batang Gadis National Park collaborative forum, including involving community in setting up national park boundary.
4. Declare the need to expand BGNP to include 48,600 remaining natural forest in Lake Tinggal in West Sumatera Province, Mount Kulabu in Kecamatan Muara Sipongi, Tor Sungelamping, Dolok Batumarbolong, Tor Arsip, Dolok Partarakan, Dolok Ulana Ujon, Siampil-ampil in Kecamatan Muara Batang Gadis.

5. Declare the need to develop local institution/forum Batang Gadis National Park forum to act as forum to discuss people's aspiration and interest in saving BGNP and other remaining natural forest in Madina regency.
6. Request other stakeholders, especially government and NGOs to support this collaboration.
7. Require regional government with the help of relevant NGOs to provide local community with hard plant crops in the buffer zone area of BGNP as soon as possible.

Narrative Questions

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

The long term objective is to guarantee conservation activities in BGNP through community awareness toward that enable collaborative management takes place. The detail objectives were:

- a. Sharing experience and discussion about current strategic issues, vision, and ways to achieve the vision in relevant with the conservation of BGNP
- b. Increase community understanding on role and value of BGNP for the people livelihood.
- c. Increase community commitment to work together in conserving BGNP
- d. Motivate the community to be able to; a. define and formulate issues; b. analyse potential causes, c. identify various opportunity as solution, d. choose the best solution; e. develop action plan, and; f. implement solution and evaluate relevant action in accordance with conservation of national park.

The expected output is:

- a. Support for conservation of BGNP from local community, especially 68 villages in the boundary of BGNP that being strengthen.

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

The objective of the project did not change during implementation. All of the expected results were achieved, except the committee, protocol, and organization structure of the local community forum.

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

Social preparation/pre-meetings were crucial factor that determine the success of this activity. Previous to the main activity, social preparation was conducted by 7 working group consist of staffs of Harapan Madina, by visiting the 68 villages and met with several community leaders at kecamatan level in order to select participants that actually represent the village aspiration. The number of delegation increase to 71 people from 68 planned participants. Several villages that were not invited, especially Tabuyung and Pekantan villages questioned why they were not invited in this activity. This social preparation took 3 weeks.

Facilitator role was also another significant factor in the participatory conservation planning process. Political support from the government of Kabupaten Mandailing Natal through the attendance of Bupati Mandailing Natal and official letter in this activity also contribute to the success of this activity.

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 team experienced small disappointment due to some participants requesting per diem more than what agreed before. This may be due to the past experiences when government entities provide per diem lower than what they actually signed for. Organizing committee resolved this issue with open dialog and transparency. One of the workshop objection was not achieved due to time constraints since discussions were very lengthy and interesting. In June 2005, a follow up meeting will be conducted by Forestry office in Madina to complete the remaining project deliverables.

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.

1. Community commitment for conservation of BGNP within the declaration had been able to influence the policy of government of Kabupaten Mandailing Natal. Based on this declaration, government of Kabupaten Mandailing Natal had strengthened their commitment. This was reflected in the 2nd Declaration "Fight against Illegal Logging and Forest Encroachment", addressed to the Minister of Forestry during his visit to Panyabungan in February 24th, 2005. Furthermore, the power of grass root had been successful in influencing regional and central government when Minister of Forestry announced the development of "Collaborative Management Forum of Batang Gadis National Park" in which local community be part of the Forum.
2. We conducted monitoring and evaluation to all workshop participants. Result showed that most of participants increase their understanding, value and commitment to BGNP.
3. Other positive lesson learned, conservation effort, especially BGNP needs multi layer approach and stakeholder involvement based on local needs and value.

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

Community meeting to determine the organizing committee, organization structure, and protocol of the local community forum for BGNP conservation, will be facilitated by regional government – Forestry office of Mandailing Natal. This activity will be integrated with the activity of BITRA consortium that will develop conservation community organization as Kabupaten level.

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

More thorough information can be seen in the Final Report and annexes.