

FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Name: Conservation International

Project Title: CEPF Conservation Strategy Preparatory Work in the Philippines

Project Dates: April 2002 – February 2003

Date of Report: June 16, 2003

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

This project was the first funded by CEPF in the Philippines. It was also implemented at a time of senior leadership transition for Conservation International – Philippines (CI-P). Both circumstances affected project implementation, although these affects were by no means universally negative. In fact, the changes in leadership within CI-P and a shift in programmatic emphasis from hotspot priority setting toward: (1) establishing the systems and technical capacity needed to measure the status of biodiversity and threats to it across the hotspot in a systematic and quantitative manner, and (2) developing programs and initiatives that provide support to CI and partner conservation activities at the corridor and site level, almost certainly resulted in more effective implementation of this project.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: *CI-P and other potential grantees articulate strategy-based proposals to CEPF and effectively contribute to the coordination, implementation and success of the CEPF portfolio.*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

| Indicator | Actual at Completion |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Purpose-level: | |
| <i>A minimum of five project proposals are submitted in calendar year 2002 by CI-P and its partners to strategically address conservation in at least two of the three focal corridors and/or for Critically Endangered species in the Philippines</i> | Both Palawan and Sierra Madre program received exploratory inquiry/questions/discussions from several partners regarding CEPF (specifically from Palawan Cockatoo Conservation Program, Palawan Conservation Corp, CAVAPPED and Integrated Development and Technical Services). The questions include inquiry on the criteria, processes and procedures on how to apply for/access CEPF funding. |
| <i>A coalition of NGOs leads corridor conservation efforts in the Eastern Mindanao by December 2002</i> | Integrated North and South consultation were held together with the Mindanao Environmental Forum (MEF). This was held the 1st week of December with 31 participant NGOs engaged in participatory corridor strategy development. |

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

The project met its objectives and led to the development of a CEPF Grant Coordination mechanism for the Philippines. CI-P will be serving this function and will ensure that all CEPF-funded projects target priority conservation outcomes identified in corridor strategies and contribute directly to the achievement of corridor- and site-scale milestones. This will be accomplished by building the capacity of partner organizations to design outcome oriented conservation projects and to negotiate the administrative requirements of applying for and managing a CEPF grant.

The project also led to the formation of a critical mass of NGOs in Palawan, SMBC, and Eastern Mindanao who have sufficient knowledge and capacity to design conservation projects for CEPF funding. CEPF, through CI-P, has received exploratory inquiry/questions. Letters of Inquiry and draft logical frameworks from several partners including the Environmental Legal Assistance Center (ELAC), Palawan Cockatoo Conservation Program, Palawan Conservation Corp, Cagayan Valley Partners in People Development (CAVAPPED) and Integrated Development and Technical Services.

The project met greater challenges in developing a coalition of NGOs to lead corridor conservation efforts in the Eastern Mindanao. This was in part due to the lack of one or more technically oriented conservation NGOs who could lead the process. CI-P acted as a technical resource to facilitate strategy development and has provided support to the many NGOs interested in conservation, natural resource management, and sustainable development in the area. The result was consensus on a broad vision for conservation in Eastern Mindanao. It remains to be seen if there is sufficient technical capacity and leadership in the region to coordinate and support implementation of this vision.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

There were no major unanticipated project impacts.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

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

Planned vs. Actual Performance

| Indicator | Actual at Completion |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Output 1: CEPF and key CI-DC staff, along with CI-P staff, introduce CEPF to stakeholders and actors in the Sierra Madre Corridor and Palawan Corridor by July 2002. | |
| <i>1.1 CEPF and key CI-DC staff along with CI-P staff, introduce CEPF to stakeholders and actors in the Sierra Madre Corridor by July 2002</i> | <p>The SMBC Annual Meeting for conservation partners to discuss primarily collaboration for future CEPF projects.</p> <p>As a result of the SMBC staff continuous meeting and consultations with various stakeholders within the corridor the following organizations have submitted their proposal directly to CEPF and some to CI. These organizations are: Cagayan Valley Partners in People Development (CAVAPPD); Process Luzon; Enterprise Works Worldwide; Cagayan</p> |

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| | Valley Resources Research and Development; Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park Development Foundation Incorporated and Northern Sierra Madre Wilderness Foundation. All of them are calling CI to follow-up their applications. |
| <i>1.2 CEFP and key CI-DC staff along with CI-P staff, introduce CEFP to stakeholders and actors in the Palawan Corridor by July 2002</i> | The following are the result of the April 2002 CEFP Stakeholder meeting: 1) The Palawan NGO Network (PNNI) formally accepted a proposal to support a strategic planning exercise to develop a corridor-wide conservation strategy for Palawan. CI will lead this process along with other potential stakeholders. 2) Exploratory meetings were held individually with those that participated where each of them raised ideas for potential project proposal to be submitted to CEFP; 3) the Palawan Tropical Forestry Protection Programme expressed in joining a formal consortium for the corridor-wide conservation strategy. |
| <i>1.3 CEFP and key CI-DC staff along with CI-P staff, introduce CEFP to stakeholders and actors in the Eastern Mindanao Corridor by July 2002</i> | Mindanao Environmental Forum (MEF) together with CI-Philippines held an Integration Planning Workshop at Davao City. It was attended by 31 partners/NGOs from north and south Eastern Mindanao, they were selected from September 2002 workshops by peers. Among the criteria for selection was the willingness of the NGO/partners to represent the province where they have program/projects and have the comprehensive understanding of conservation issues in their respective areas. |
| <i>1.4 Trip reports for Output 1 - 3 completed by the end of September 30, 2002</i> | Trip reports completed for Sierra Madre, Palawan and Eastern Mindanao. |
| <i>1.5 CI-P submits at least two grant proposals to CEFP for work in the Sierra Madre and Palawan Corridors by July 2002.</i> | CI-P submitted 3 proposals to CEFP: 1 for Network for Nature; Palawan and Sierra Madre. The program and technical team reviewed all of them. However, only the proposal for Palawan program approved by the CEFP. In mid August, Sierra Madre Program resubmitted a proposal and received approval in September. |
| Output 2: Facilitate an alliance of lead NGOs and other stakeholders to implement a conservation strategy in the Eastern Mindanao | |
| <i>2.1 CI-P hosts a workshop with the Foundation for Philippine Environment and the United Nations Development Program-small grants program to build an alliance among lead NGOs and other stakeholders in Eastern Mindanao in</i> | CI-P, Foundation for Philippine Environment and UNDP together with Mindanao Environment Foundation met and discussed the workshops proceedings, contents, and participations for the Eastern Mindanao |

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| July 2002. <i>The goal of the alliance will be to build a conservation vision and strategy for the area.</i> | consultations. They convened 2 workshops at Davao city and Butuan city in September 2002 that primarily aims to produce a conservation vision map for the whole Eastern Mindanao. |
| 2.2 <i>CI-P provides data and technical expertise to facilitate development of a baseline map with Eastern Mindanao stakeholders in July 2002.</i> | CIP provided information from the PBCPP base data and reviewed the inputs from partner NGOs and participants in the regional workshops, thus combining Indicator 2.2 and 2.3 of Output 2. |
| 2.3 <i>CI-P provides data and technical expertise to facilitate development and fine-tune a 5-year vision map for Eastern Mindanao by relevant stakeholders by September 2002.</i> | CI-Philippines completed the processing of data gathered by the MEF; data from the Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Priority Setting results and Ecosystem Profiling (EP). |
| 2.4 <i>CI-P provides data and technical expertise to facilitate the consolidation of the result of the north and south of eastern Mindanao workshop by December 30, 2002</i> | CI-Philippines provided the draft vision maps for north and south of Eastern Mindanao corridors from the September 2002 integration planning workshop. |
| Output 3: Coordinate and facilitate project design workshop for selected partners from Sierra Madre, Palawan and Eastern Mindanao by January 2003 | |
| 3.1 <i>CI-P identifies selected partners to participate in the CEPF project design development workshop by December 15, 2002</i> | CI-Philippines through corridor programs (Sierra Madre and Palawan) identified 10-15 key partners to participate in the project design development workshop. |
| 3.2 <i>CI-P presents the vision map / strategy for Sierra Madre and Palawan during the CEPF project Design Development workshop by January 2003</i> | CI-Philippines prepared / completed their presentation materials for the project design workshop. |
| 3.3 <i>CI-P facilitates and coordinates with Mindanao Environment Forum to identify selected partners to participate in the CEPF project Design Development Workshop by January 2003</i> | MEF with coordination with CI-Philippines identified participants for the CEPF project design development workshop. The 15 participants identified to participate in the design workshop were selected from the 30 participants in the integration-planning workshop. One of the criteria in selection process is the ability and willingness to articulate their program. |

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

The outputs were generally delivered as designed. There were some delays in delivery due to civil unrest in Mindanao. One output was added – *Output 3: Coordinate and facilitate project design workshop for selected partners from Sierra Madre, Palawan and Eastern Mindanao by January 2003* – to respond to partner and CEPF desires to make a larger investment in building the project design capacity of candidate grantees identified in Outputs 1 and 2. These workshops were particularly successful and many participants noted and expressed gratitude to CEPF for its innovative approach to grant making which emphasizes small NGO capacity building in addition

to making larger grants to established organizations. These sentiments were captured in project design training workshop evaluations.

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

No outputs were unrealized. *Output 2: Facilitate an alliance of lead NGOs and other stakeholders to implement a conservation strategy in the Eastern Mindanao*, was the most ambitious in terms of the intended impact and required greater effort than originally planned. CI-Philippines worked with CEPF and the NGO community in Eastern Mindanao to develop a conservation vision for that region. This was accomplished but much remains to be done in terms of building leadership and technical capacity. CI-P has assisted the Mindanao Environment Forum (MEF) in the preparation and submission of the project proposal to continue facilitation of a conservation alliance for Eastern Mindanao. CI-P, through a CEPF grant facilitation mechanism, will ensure that all CEPF-funded projects in Eastern Mindanao target priority conservation outcomes identified in corridor strategies and contribute directly to the achievement of corridor- and site-scale milestones. We will do this by continuing to support capacity building of small local NGOs to design outcome oriented conservation projects and to negotiate the administrative requirements of applying for and managing a CEPF grant.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

No action was required.

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.

A key lesson to be learned from this project is that the CEPF Philippines Ecosystem Profile was not sufficiently detailed to provide a “road map” for grant making. Given this and the absence of corridor wide conservation strategies with identified conservation outcomes in Palawan and Eastern Mindanao, it made the job of managing expectations of potential grantees even harder when it came to the issue of where and when grant applications would be considered. The impact felt by the absence of a “corridor leader” in Eastern Mindanao also taught valuable lessons, most importantly perhaps that in the absence of a recognized lead organization and a scarcity of technically oriented NGOs, the absorptive capacity of such a region is significantly lower than one with an established and high capacity conservation community.

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

The project design was not complex. There were two straightforward outputs originally, with one added through a cost extension contract amendment. The simplicity of the project design is in large part the reason behind the success in implementation. Close communication between CEPF staff and CI-P to adaptively manage the project – for example by working together on developing and implementing the additional output – were also critical to project success.

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

Perhaps the most important aspect of project execution was CEPF's and CI-P's efforts to recognize that as the first CEPF project funded in the Philippines, there was a need to remain

flexible in execution and respond to stakeholder feedback quickly and effectively. Again, the addition of Output 3 of the project to respond to what was a demonstrated need and a stakeholder request – additional capacity building of local NGOs in project design – is an example of how we worked to respond rapidly to meet project needs.

VII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No additional comments or recommendations.

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