

FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Name: Conservation International

Project Title: Finalization of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Wildlife Act (RA 9147): A Crucial Step Toward the Protection of Critical Habitats Identified by the Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Priority-Setting Program

Project Dates: August – October 2002

Date of Report: February 2003

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act (Republic Act 9147), the “Wildlife Act”, passed in August 2001 supersedes a set of antiquated laws that previously governed wildlife conservation in the country. The Act provides a statutory mechanism by which the 108 priority areas, identified thru the recently concluded Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Priority-Setting Program (PBCPP), not currently covered under the National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) Act can be legally recognized as critical habitats and given protection. Given that the provision of the Wildlife Act are very general it was stipulated that within 12 months following the adoption of the law the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) shall be drafted for the effective implementation of the act.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau is responsible for developing and finalizing the IRRs. A requirement process was that a series of regional stakeholder consultations occur to ensure the broadest possible knowledge and support of IRRs. Five consultations were conducted covering the regions of Palawan, Visayas, Mindanao, Southern and Central Luzon and Northern Luzon. One National Level consultation was also conducted to present the consolidated outputs of the five regional consultations to finalize the IRR. The Protected Areas Wildlife Board (PAWB) lacked the sufficient fund to conduct the consultations. Conservation International-Philippines (CIP), together with other Philippine conservation organizations, provided financial and technical support to carry out the consultations and ensure that the IRR is finalized.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: *To ensure the adoption of a statutory framework that will promote more rapid and effective protection of habitats essential for the survival of endangered species and enforcement of wildlife trade laws that are essential for achieving extinctions avoided outcomes in the Philippines. This will be achieved by providing financial support to complete a public consultation process required for approval of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRRs) of the Wildlife Conservation Act and by advancing for an*

IRR framework that will reduce barriers and create opportunities for CI and its partners to achieve conservation outcomes.

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
<p>At least 100 participants attend the final two required IRR consultation meetings – for Northern Luzon and the National Level by September 2002.</p>	<p>100 participants from civil society, local government agencies, non-government organization, private sector business and other government agencies were identified and invited by PAWB-DENR for both Northern Luzon and National Level consultations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 125 participants attended the Northern Luzon consultation held in Baguio City last September 4 and 5, 2002 ➤ 130 participants attended the National Consultation held in Manila last October 23 and 24, 2002. <p>The National consultation was followed immediately by an internal consultation among DENR staff and officials to address all the issues that were raised during the consultations. All major partners were invited and participated in this consultation, including CI, WWF and Harribon. This consultation is sponsored by WWF – Philippines.</p>
<p>Department Administrative Order (DAO) setting forth the implementation of the Implementing Rules and Regulations is signed jointly by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Department of Agriculture Secretaries and the Executive Director of Palawan Council for Sustainable Development by December 2002.</p>	<p>The Department Administrative Order is currently undergoing final review and revisions by DENR – PAWB together with the Department of Agriculture following the results of the National consultation, the letters of recommendation, and suggestions from all concerned individuals, agencies and organization received during the consultations.</p> <p>DENR-PAWB must still resolve issues raised during the course of the consultations before they can finalize the IRR. As a result, the intended December signing date has been delayed.</p>

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

The turn out of the participants for both consultations was well beyond what was expected. Relevant stakeholders, particularly the representatives from various sectors of the civil society participated actively in this national policymaking process. However, based on the issues raised by the participants during the consultations the PAWB will need to resolve the issues first before they can finalize the IRR. The intended December signing has been moved to a latter date.

An additional very welcome output is that in Section 25 of the act (**Establishment of Critical Habitats**), Rule 25.5 stipulates “Initially the 170 terrestrial and 36 marine conservation priority areas identified by the Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Priority-Setting Program shall be considered in the establishment of critical habitats”.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

None to report.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs:

1. *Required stakeholder consultation for Northern Luzon (covering the Cordillera Autonomous Region, Region 1 and 2) and the National Level are conducted.*
2. *CI provides PAWB, DA, and PCSD with draft IRRs and procedural guidelines for the establishment of critical habitats under the Wildlife Act that focus on removing and reducing current obstacles to effective implementation of habitat protection and create, wherever possible, opportunities within the regulatory framework for conservation NGOs to be more effective in securing effective habitat protection for species of concern.*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
<p>Output 1: <i>At least 50% or a minimum of 50 invitees attend and actively participate in the consultation in Northern Luzon to be held in Baguio City on September 2–3, 2002 and the National Consultation to be held in Manila on September 16–17, 2002.</i></p>	<p>There were more attendees in the two consultations than what was originally expected due to the high interest of many individuals and organizations, particularly those that would be affected by the implementation of the rules (such as those engaged in the business of breeding various wildlife and pet traders).</p> <p>Only 100 invitations were sent out and 125 and 130 participants attend the Northern Luzon which was held in Baguio City last September 4 and 5, 2002 and the National Consultation held in Manila last October 23 and 24, 2002 respectively.</p>

Output 2:	
<p><i>A report identifying the strengths and weakness of the IRR is produced and set of draft procedural guidelines for the establishment of critical habitats drafted by an environmental lawyer for the effective implementation of habitat protection.</i></p>	<p>CI-Philippines hired a legal consultant to draft the Draft Procedural Guidelines for Establishment of critical habitats; to identify the strength and weakness of the IRR and to lead the presentation of these guidelines to DENR – PAWB.</p> <p>CI-Legal Consultant presented the draft Guidelines during the Critical Habitats Workshop held September 19 and 20, 2002 at the DENR office.</p> <p>Copies of a matrix detailing the different sections of the Wildlife Act and the provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations and comments, including strengths and weaknesses of the IRR, was submitted to DENR - PAWB last October 16, 2002. (See attachments)</p>

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

Both the Northern Luzon and the National Consultation was well attended by all important and critical sector of the public: the civil society, non-government organizations, local government units; business sectors particularly those individuals and organization engaged in breeding of wildlife and pet traders. CI-Philippines through its Legal Consultant was able to present to the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau and the DENR Regional officers the recommendations for the improvement of the IRR thru the matrix detailing different sections of the wildlife act and the recommendations for establishment of critical habitats were also presented in a separate consultation with PAWB. Both documents are now being used and referred to by DENR - PAWB in the finalization of the IRR.

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

No outputs were unrealized.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

Not Applicable.

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.

This project has a modest scope of work in terms of ambition, resources required and time spent. It did, however, contribute significantly to policy changes that may provide a less administratively burdensome mechanism than the NIPAS process to secure conservation outcomes. Because of its relative simplicity – facilitating the convening of two consultative meetings and engaging a consultant to conduct a focused policy review –no significant were lessons learned.

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

Our initial project design did not include Output 2. Having the legal analysis provided under this output allowed us to increase project impact by providing substantive technical input to the IRRs through the access to and good will we gained with key decision makers through sponsoring the two consultations.

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

Nothing significant to report.

VII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

None.