

# CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** Livelihood Enhancement in Agro-forestry Foundation, Inc.

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** Empowering the Manobos of Mt. Magdiwata Forest Reserve Area to Effectively Manage their Ancestral Domain Claim

**Implementation Partners for This Project** : OMAUBAO Manobo Tribal Clan Organization

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** February 1, 2005-January 31, 2006

**Date of Report (month/year)** : February 28, 2006

## II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The Mt. Magdiwata Watershed Forest Reserve is an important land mark for the Municipality of San Francisco, Agusan del Sur located in the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor. This is the main source of potable water serving throughout the municipality. Mt. Magdiwata was proclaimed under Presidential Proclamation 282 as Watershed Forest Reserve Area by Pres. Fidel V. Ramos on November 23, 1994. The watershed covers 1, 658 hectares which is the habitat of several kinds of flora and fauna and the dwelling place of a small Manobo Tribe called the "Magahat". A biodiversity inventory was conducted last 2002-2003 and was identified 331 endemic plant species and some faunas.

In spite of its biodiversity importance and the corresponding national and local environmental policies, still there are several destructive activities done in the watershed;

1. Migrants and IPs get into timber poaching, small scale mining and sand and gravel gathering due to lack of stable alternative livelihood and improvements of their existing farming practices.
2. Kaingin is still practiced by the occupants settling within the watershed which predominantly disturbs the habitat of flora and fauna.
3. IPs are dependent on the extraction of forest products to support their daily needs because their farm lands are producing lesser yields.
4. IPs were driven out from their ancestral lands because of palm oil plantation development and logging operations in the area. Recently, IPs are utilizing a portion of land within PICOP Concession in Brgy. Mati, Sitio Manangahon as their tribal settlement of some 50 IP families.

5. The traditional knowledge of the IPs is diminishing which contributes to natural resources conservation and appreciation. The promotion of IPs tradition is remarkably needed in Mt. Magdiwata Watershed as the area is considered sacred place of worship and believed to be their last cultural land mark.
6. Less recognition of the IPs in the local government as one of the managing stakeholders of the watershed.

When RA 8371 known as the Indigenous People's Rights Act (IPRA) was institutionalized, the IPs in Mt. Magdiwata applied for Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim/Title (CADC/CADT) to strengthen their claim and perfect their title. The area is considered sacred as believed that their divine being named "Magbabaja" lived in rivers and ranges of the mountain.

The IPs organized themselves called "Oyay Masanloay Antod Ogow Bando Ugong (OMAUBAO) Tribal Organization. The OMAUBAO envisioned to protect the natural resources of the ancestral domain through empowerment and preservation of culture of the indigenous people in Mt. Magdiwata. Thus, the tenurial right over the ancestral domain promotes conservation of Mt. Magdiwata and improves lifestyle.

The urgency of watershed conservation and protection led to the formulation of the Watershed Management Plan in 2002-2004 which was facilitated by LEAF Foundation, Inc. under the support of United Nations Development Program- Global Environment Facility (UNDP-CEPF). Different sectors were involved in the series of participatory stakeholders forum, where the OMAUBAO was one of the participants that advocated and lobbied the issues and concerns of the IPs.

In 2005, an IP-based project was implemented by LEAF Foundation, Inc. (LFI) entitled "Empowering the Manobos of Mt. Magdiwata Watershed Forest Reserve Area to Effectively Manage their Ancestral Domain Claim" funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). The project aims to strengthen the capacity of the IP organization to sustainably manage their ancestral domain claim and to support their application for Ancestral Domain Title (CADT). The project would also respond to the implementation the Mt. Magdiwata Watershed Management and Development Plan. The project covered the 6 barangays in the Mt. Magdiwata Watershed Forest Reserve. These were the Barangays Alegria, San Isidro, Karaos, Bayugan 2, Ormaca and Mati, all in the municipality of San Francisco, Agusan del Sur.

The project was implemented utilizing the participatory processes in all components and activities. Trainings/workshops on environmental para-legal, basic leadership, organizational management, and natural resource management were conducted. Major outputs were the 2006-2009 Organizational Management Plan, the Policies and Systems on Financial and Operations, the Natural Resource Management Plan and the Documented Traditional Knowledge.

The organizational direction for the next three years and the natural resource management framework were thoroughly elucidated in the Organizational and NRM Plans, respectively. Even the organization still on the formative stage, the policies and systems were in place that served as guide in running the operations and financial transactions.

The Natural Resource Management and Development Plan (NRMP) will be lobbied to the Barangay Development Council for adoption and finally to the Municipal Development Council. The process will ensure implementation of IPs traditional way of natural resource management and will hasten the approval of CADT application by NCIP upon knowing the OMAUBAO organizational strengths and direction.

In 12 months time, the CEPF support gave significant milestone achievement in strengthening IPs for the protection and conservation of the ancestral domain resources. Specifically, the project gave impact to the capacity and skills of OMAUBAO to facilitate effective management of the natural resources towards conservation of Mt. Magdiwata, as one of the culturally important ecosystem and heritage.

### III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

**1. What was the initial objective of this project?**

The project aims to strengthen the capacity of the IP organization to sustainably manage their ancestral domain claim area and support their application for the ancestral domain.

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

There were no changes made during the period of project implementation. The specific objectives that the project aims to achieve for the period of February 2005-January 2006 are the same, as follows:

- a. Assist the IP organization in formulating their organization management plan and Natural resource management plan.
- b. Provide at least 5 management and technical trainings and exposures to the IP leaders and members.
- c. Promoting active participation of the IP's in the management of the watershed.
- d. Supporting advocacy and follow-up activities on the application of the OMAUBAO for the CADT of their ancestral domain claim.

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

The enhancing factors that contributed to the successful achievement of the project objectives are the utilization of participatory methodologies and processes; the active support of the project partners; the active participation of the project beneficiaries; the availability of local trainers and experts; and the skills and technologies innovated by LEAF.

a. Methodology and Process

- ✓ The project implemented the participatory processes appropriate to the needs of the assisted organization. It went through the process that the

government agencies required to comply. Courtesy calls and community orientation were undertaken to promote widespread understanding and information of the project. The requirement of NCIP to secure Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as mandated in RA 8371 known as IPRA Law was observed. However, while FPIC went in a lengthy process, the IP leaders initiated the consultation meeting to agree in consensus the entry of LEAF in the area. Thus, the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed by the tribal leaders, barangay council and LEAF approving and supporting the project implementation and sustainability NCIP concurred.

- ✓ The Training Needs Assessment (TNA) was conducted to identify the specific skills and knowledge most needed by the beneficiaries related to organizational development, CADT mandates and processes, and natural resource management. The Trainings/workshops were designed in response to the specific needs identified in the TNA.
- ✓ The actual conduct of the training maximized the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Tools which catered to the IPs limited capacity in writing and reading. The ideas and advocacies were expressed through representation of objects, illustration on the ground and translation of local dialect by other literate IP. Thus, participants were encouraged to participate and share their views.
- ✓ The Organizational Management and the Natural Resource Management Plans were facilitated by series of workshops utilizing PRA tools together with the tribal leaders, IP members and barangay councils. The consultation meetings and validations were conducted to enhance understanding and ensure adoption resulting in the approval by virtue of the resolution formulated by the Board of Directors of OMAUBAO for immediate implementation.

b. Active support of the project partner

- ✓ The National Commission for Indigenous People (NCIP) Provincial Office supported the project through facilitation of the ground validation of the CADT application of the OMAUBAO. The community mapping and validation of the ancestral domain boundaries were then conducted. There were several boundary conflicts encountered which NCIP has managed to resolved.
- ✓ The San Francisco Water District provided the technical support on watershed monitoring activities. The SFWD initiated the filing of cases in the court to the apprehended illegal activities reported by the IPs.
- ✓ The Local Government Unit (municipal) allocated funds to OMAUBAO for CADT application follow-up activities. The Provincial Government provided venue for the conduct of consultation meetings and conflict resolution activities held by OMAUBAO. Assistance to election of tribal

officers in each barangay within Mt. Magdiwata Watershed was also granted.

- ✓ The Barangay Councils of Bayugan 2 and Mati still gave a seat to the IPs in the Barangay Development Council, as a recognition of the IP Sector representation.

c. Active participation of the project beneficiaries

- ✓ The active participation of IP leaders and members to all project activities such as planning, workshops, meetings and trainings was significantly noted, sacrificing their daily earnings for 2-3 days of about P500.00. In addition, the participants volunteered to bring root crops and other farm products to be shared with their companions.
- ✓ The IP leaders were pro-active in applying the results of the trainings and workshops conducted.
- ✓ The OMAUBAO was the one who made the series of follow-ups in the CADT application to NCIP office and to other concerned agencies. They also lobby to politicians to mobilize resources to support the materials needed to complete the CADT application requirements and to conduct important activities that would help approve the CADT application but not covered by the CEPF project funds.
- ✓ During consultation and general assembly meetings, the expected attendance of the members was met. Participants were observed to be very active and empowered to defend their rights over the ancestral land which ensure tenurial security and environmental protection.

d. Availability of local trainers and experts

- ✓ The project mobilized the local trainers/experts in the municipality as facilitators and resource persons to technical trainings being conducted.
- ✓ The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) thru its Municipal Office was tapped to input in the local governance training sponsored by the project.
- ✓ NGOs like the Paglilingkod Batas Pangkapatiran Foundation, Inc. became the facilitator in the Paralegal Training on Environment while PAFID- Mindanao shared their experiences thru exposure on traditional documentation and preservation of the cultural practices.
- ✓ Other agencies supported in the facilitation of trainings were the LGU-San Francisco and Provincial Government of Agusan del Sur. All mentioned agencies had extended their support not only during the conduct but to the overall implementation of the project.

e. LEAF skills and technology

- ✓ LEAF had the capacity to do community based initiatives in an integrated approach. The skills on the use of different participatory tools aid in culling out the ideas of the IPs even some were less educated and almost did not know how to read and write.
- ✓ The LEAF skills in networking and linkaging contributed much on the achievement of the project milestones. The OMAUBAO was linked with other NGOs to access organizational development and livelihood.

**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 NCIP could not immediately facilitate the urgent activities that the IPs requested due to fund constraints. With this, OMAUBAO lobbied to the Provincial Governor, Hon. Edward Adolf Plaza for possible support in the processing of the CADT. Thus, the Provincial Government supported the NCIP in the mobility and transportation to facilitate series of activities relative to CADT processing.

**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. The IPs are partners and assets in the conservation initiatives. They contributed much in the conservation of Mt. Magdiwata provided that IPs should be properly trained, skilled and educated.
2. The Traditional knowledge is the bible of implementation of watershed management. The documentation of Traditional Knowledge will give avenue for people to be aware how IP's live and manage the resources of Mt. Magdiwata.
3. Culture and natural resource management is inseparable. The lives of the IPs were affected when the culture diminished and the natural resources destroyed.
4. The development plans made by the IPs must be channeled to the Barangay Government and/or even up to the Municipal and Provincial Local Government for a stronger policy and institutional support and fund allocation towards effective natural resources management in their ancestral domain claim.
5. The project team experienced hard time in culling out information of the traditional knowledge. There were no standard tools and approaches yet what was being practiced in getting information for traditional knowledge documentation were thru music, poems, epical stories, religious practices, and livelihood which was facilitated by few NGOs and academes.

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

a. Organizational Development/Institution Building

This is a continuing activity to be undertaken to enhance assisted organization from the formative level to functional level of organizational growth. The component will focus on the implementation of the installed systems and formulated plans which further need assistance.

b. Partnership and Linkage Building

Technical support of LEAF is still requested to represent in the regular meetings of OMAUBAO. Ongoing mentoring/coaching in the operations and financial transactions and resource mobilization will still be extended to the IP organization for the realization of the plan and for its sustainability.

LEAF and OMAUBAO will continue its participation in the Traditional Knowledge Networking activity facilitated by the Philippine Association for Intercultural Development (PAFID). The activity advocates the preservation and re-energization of traditional knowledge and conservation of biodiversity conserved areas.

c. Action- Reflection Process

The OMAUBAO will be conducting the Annual Review and Evaluation of the organization's accomplishments. The assistance of LEAF might be requested to facilitate the review process in relation to OMAUBAO vision, mission and its target plans.

d. Watershed Protection and Conservation activities

The Organizational Management Plan, Natural Resource Management Plan and Policy and Systems formulated will be implemented in response to the issues and needs on conservation of Mt. Magdiwata Watershed. The Mobilization of the Bantay Gubat and support to livelihood projects shall continue with the support of other partner donor institutions.

e. Information, Education and Communication

Continuing IEC will be facilitated in relation to RA 8371 known as IPRA Law to help IP's and other sectors understand the mandates and opportunities of IPRA law towards environmental advocacies by the OMAUBAO, NCIP, LGU and NGOs in the Municipality.

f. Local governance participation and advocacy

The OMAUBAO with the other concerned stakeholders continues to advocate and lobby to the local government and other institutions on the conservation efforts in Mt. Magdiwata for possible fund and policy support both local and foreign funding agencies.

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

The project has 7 major components

<b>Component</b>	<b>Project Activities</b>	<b>Date Conducted</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Institution Development	Data gathering through FGD	May 16-17, 20, 2005	Traditional Knowledge documentation	The activity used the different PRA tools such as community mapping, time lines, venn diagram, etc. to facilitate them from bringing out their ideas. The project hired an IP member who could help us in the translation of the answers of the participants from Manobo dialect to cebuano.
	Situational Analysis/ Institution Mapping	May 2005	Problems and Issues Identified and prioritized	Problem Tree tool was used in this process. The priority issues, causes and effects were defined by the participants. Some of these issues were lack of knowledge on how to improve their farm productivity; the IPs are not tenurially secured for they occupy a portion of land from the Palm Oil Company and some are within the Forest Reservation Zone; and timber poaching due to lack of stable alternative livelihood to suffice family need and to sent their children to school.
	Organizational Management Planning	September 19-20, 2005	3- year Organizational Management Plan	The activity used the right-to-left planning process. The participants were officers and members of the organization. The Vision, Mission and Goals as well as Priority Actions to address problems/issues were formulated and adopted by the OMAUBAO for immediate implementation
Capacity Building	Capacity Needs Assessment	April 16, 2005	Identified the training needs of the group, individual and IP community.	The Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA) tool determined the current accomplishments, needs and future plans of the OMAUBAO as to its organization and IP community. With this, trainings/ workshops were formulated and designed

				appropriate to the needs identified in the CNA.
	Basic Leadership Training	August 3-5, 2005	Assessment of the current officers and action plan to re-organization	The activity had defined the different roles and responsibilities of the officers and members. They had also reviewed and improved their organizational structure.
	Environmental legal training	September 28-30, 2005	Re-visit of the Bantay Gubat Plan and restructuring of management framework	Through FGD and workshop process the IPs had identified current issues and problems in the protection of Mt. Magdiwata Watershed. One of the outcomes of the training was the organizing of "Bantay Gubat" in Barangay Mati. Its roles and functions as "Bantay Gubat" were also installed.
	Natural resource and protection management training	October 3-5, 2005	Identification of resource issues in Mt. Magdiwata and other important ecosystems within the Ancestral Domain claim.  Action plan towards addressing the issues	The IP participants had defined the specific natural resource management issues within the ancestral domain. The issues which they brought out is the protection of the sacred places in Mt. Magdiwata which they envisioned as zero occupancy and no kaingin. Instead this will be preserved as sacred worship places.  The next steps towards NRM planning were formulated.
Natural Resource Management Planning	Natural Resource Mapping	October 12-14, 2006	Natural Resource Management Plan for the Ancestral Domain	The OMAUBAO had identified their current resource situation. Natural resources found to be almost endangered and encountered scarcity. With this, the NRM Plan was formulated for effective protection, conservation and sustainable utilization of the resources.
	Natural resource management Framework Development	October 23-24, 2005	A management framework of the natural resources within the Ancestral domain	The Management Framework was designed by the IP leaders in accordance with the IPRA law and the ancestral laws. The ancestral domain was agreed to be overseen by the chieftain, Datu Hag-om in which each barangays had the tribal elders and courts. It was emphasized that Mt. Magdiwata should be free from any activities and its cultural importance

				should be promoted.
Local Governance participation and advocacy	Local governance training	November 12-14, 2005	Identification of issues and formed into agenda to be lobbied to the barangay development council	<p>The IPs learned the process of lobbying their issues and concerns to the Barangay government.</p> <p>Specific agenda identified by the IP participants was focused on environment, economic opportunities and cultural respect and preservation.</p> <p>The SWOT analysis was used to formulate basis for the proposed actions in which the strengths would be maximized to grab the opportunities and lessen threats and the weak points should be strengthened. The formulated agenda will be lobbied to the BDP then to MDP for implementation.</p>
	Accreditation to LGU	June 2005	Accreditation certificate from Municipal, Province and Barangay	<p>The OMAUBAO officers had completed all the required documents to be accredited by the NCIP, Barangay and Municipal Government.</p> <p>In the formation of Barangay Development Council in Bayugan 2 three (3) NGO's were selected to represent in the Barangay Development Council of which OMAUBAO was not selected. However, the Barangay Council with great respect to IPs, considered representation to BDC in the IP sector purposely to lobby their agenda.</p>
Support to tenurial security application	Meetings and document preparation	March-October 2005	Application requirements completed	<p>The results of the traditional knowledge documentation helped enhance the application requirements for CADT.</p> <p>The CEPF project had also provided small support such as materials and supplies needed to complete the requirements of CADT application.</p> <p>After they had completed and submitted the requirements, the NCIP was able to conduct ground validation of the data and information given from the documents submitted.</p>

Monitoring and Evaluation	Monthly meetings	Every last Saturday of the month	Minutes	The BOD of OMAUBAO meets every month. They include the discussion of project updates, issues and concerns as well as planned activities. They also tackle the implementation of action plans and outputs of the project activities.
Phase out planning	Phase out planning workshop	December 3, 2005	Proceedings Phase out plan	<p>The phase-out planning was facilitated in preparation of the project turn-over to OMAUBAO.</p> <p>The SWOT analysis was used to determine the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats prior to and after the CEPF project support. Based from the project results, OMAUBAO formulated the action plan to ensure continuity of the project outcomes.</p> <p>OMAUBAO requested the participation of LEAF in one of the meetings and in the 2006 Organizational Review and Planning to provide technical assistance. It was assured that LEAF is committed to continually extend technical support for the empowerment of the organization.</p>

#### 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	Notes
European Commission-United Nations Development Program	Small Grants	2.6 M	It is a complementary funding of EC-UNDP-PTF to support the IP organizational empowerment and livelihood provision to its members. The project will help enhance the skills on watershed management and on community based watershed protection.
World Neighbors	Small Grants	3.0M	The project supported also the women sector of the IP community whereby the project was integrated to other LFI project funded by the World Neighbors. The reproductive health component was integrated to the conservation of natural resources in Mt. Magdiwata. Thus, its outputs were the expansion of livelihood project and promotion of active participation of IP

			women and children engaging into income generating livelihoods; the promotion of balance nutrition; and the use of herbal medicines to accompany commercial medicines to hasten good health.
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**\*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.)*

*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.*

<b>V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
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- A. It is recommended to develop project designs that will further support in the intensive implementation of the Mt. Magdiwata Watershed Management and Development Plan and Natural resource Management Plan for IP's ancestral domain specifically in the biodiversity protection and monitoring.
- B. There should be project design on re-invigorating the traditional knowledge in the conservation and protection of natural resources in Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor.
- C. The institutionalization of an effective management framework for the conservation and protection of Mt. Magdiwata involving IP's invigorating traditional knowledge, local government and private sector.
- D. Preservation of IP traditional practices by information, education and communication
- E. Replication of this project to other IP communities in Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor is recommended, hence it ensures biodiversity conservation.

<b>VI. INFORMATION SHARING</b>
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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](http://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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