

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Conservation International – Philippines

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *Building Critical Stakeholder Support for Conservation of the Philippine Eagle (Pithecophaga jefferyi) Population along the Sierra Madre Mountain Range*

Implementation Partners for this Project: Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Local Government Units and Local Communities

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

Date of Report (month/year): October 1, 2007

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The Philippine eagle is a critically endangered forest raptor that is confined to the lowland rainforests of Luzon, Samar, Leyte and Mindanao islands of the Republic of the Philippines (Kennedy et al 2000). With only 5% of original old growth forest cover left in the country, the Philippine eagle has been threatened by human encroachment due to the continuous loss of its habitat. Thus, this charismatic species has become the focus of major conservation efforts in the Philippines aimed to protect the species and its habitat. In order to have an integrated approach to the species conservation, a group of NGOs in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) formed a Philippine Eagle Alliance. The Alliance aims to address information gaps on the species such as lack of biological and ecological information especially for the eagle population in the Island of Luzon. The Alliance also intend to create a comprehensive plan to save this species from extinction as well as capacitate government researchers on raptor research.

To maximize resources in addressing the needs to develop a sustainable management regime for the Eagle, the alliance designated areas for each members to work using the same approach. Conservation International Philippines was designated to work in the Northern portion of the Sierra Madre Biodiversity Corridor for this Philippine eagle project in the Sierra Madre. The project will seek to improve our understanding on the factors that threaten the survival of the species and help us develop conservation awareness strategies to address these threats. Furthermore, the result from this initiative can help wildlife managers to resolve the current wildlife and human conflict in the Sierra Madre Mountains particularly on saving the precious threatened species in the area.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: Critical stakeholders support the protection and conservation of the Philippine eagle and its habitat along the Sierra Madre.

Planned vs. Actual Performance

| Indicator | Actual at Completion |
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| Purpose-level: | |
| <i>Philippine eagle population and apparent nesting areas identified and located by month 12</i> | Conducted surveys of Philippine eagle along the previously reported sightings of the Eagle in the Sierra Madre Mountain range. Results of the surveys confirmed at least six locations where a population of Philippine eagle still exist. Two apparent nesting area were identified and mapped. |
| <i>Study of at least 1 eagle nesting site started by month 12</i> | <p>Intensive field surveys were conducted into the two suspected nesting sites due to signs performed by the eagle during observation, however, we were not able to pin down the nesting tree due to the very thick forest stand in the area. However, the pair of Philippine eagles in Mt. Pangal, Barangay Casala, San Mariano, Isabela, within the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park (NSMNP) which we have been monitoring since 2005, were seen weaning a newly fledged young on March 2006. Initial data on the activity of the Philippine eagle were collected. The behavioral data collected on this pair have also provided information on courtship displays and timing of breeding season of Philippine eagles in Luzon Island.</p> <p>In addition, behavioral data such as wing exercise, food beg vocals and timing of the fledging period of the young eagle were also gathered on the said breeding pair in San Mariano, Isabela Province.</p> |
| <i>Capacity building and IEC campaign conducted on local communities located in the periphery of the apparent nesting area starting 6 months</i> | <p>Trained local awareness campaign groups like teachers and students near the Philippine eagle sighting areas to spearhead the local awareness campaign activities. The awareness campaign team is using the well known "Dalaw-Turo" approach where teachers, students and even local communities were trained to perform environmental skits, songs, lectures and environmental games. The audience which were particularly childrens and students enjoyed the presentations because it reflects realities in the area.</p> <p>In addition, seminars and lectures on the importance, habitat requirement and breeding biology of the species were conducted in the far flung barangays using photos and other brochures to depict the significance of the Philippine eagle. Radio and local TV networks were also utilized to promote the conservation of the Philippine eagle to a wider audience.</p> |
| <i>Philippine eagle identified habitat proclaimed through national and/or local legislation by month 30</i> | <p>One apparent nesting area located in barangay Casala, San Mariano, Isabela have been proclaimed as Philippine Eagle Critical Habitat through a barangay resolution and have been elevated to the municipal level. However, actions are still being deliberated by the municipal council.</p> <p>In addition, the breeding pair of Philippine eagles in</p> |

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| | the municipality of Baggao falls within the Ancestral Domain Claim of the Agtas. Currently, CI is working with the National Commission on Indigenous People, the Baggao Local Government Unit, DENR local NGOs and the local communities in finalizing the Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development Protection Plan that would put the area of the Philippine eagle as a protection zone. |
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Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.

Although no nest of Philippine eagle was located, a pair of Philippine eagles and newly fledged eagle that was observed at Mt. Pangal, Barangay Casala, San Mariano, Isabela within NSMNP provided us initial information to design a Philippine eagle action plan. The work that we had from the San Mariano eagle site gave us an opportunity to gather some information about the habitat, home range and recorded some significant behavior of the species. The other pair we previously identified in Mt. Twin Peaks in the Municipality of Baggao, Cagayan Province is the subject of our current study through a 1 year fund grant from Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF) which we leveraged from the CEPF project. Other areas where we identified the eagle presence were documented during the project implementation.

It is worth to mention that the project was able to increase the awareness of the local communities and the general public as manifested by the constant report of eagle sightings even other raptor species. Interestingly, the increasing number of reports of Philippine Eagle sightings by the local communities allowed us to focus our resources to verify the reports and conduct targeted field surveys in these areas. In addition, there is a significant increase of raptors being turned over to Conservation International and DENR offices in Region II.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The creation of the local community Information Education Communications (IEC) team through the "Dalaw-Turo" approach has been very effective in conveying the message on the current status of the Philippine eagle to the local people and its biodiversity conservation importance. This has led to the increase in cooperation and participation of the local community on the conservation of the species.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

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

Planned vs. Actual Performance

| Indicator | Actual at Completion |
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| Output 1: Ground validation and verification on the reported Philippine Eagle sightings in Cagayan, Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya and Aurora province completed | |
| <i>Field Surveys on areas with known Philippine eagle population completed by month 12</i> | Conducted field surveys for Philippine eagle within the forest areas (Sierra Madre) of Cagayan, Quirino, and Nueva Vizcaya. During the surveys, there were no confirmed sightings in the province of Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino despite previous reports from the eagle watch team of the DENR. Surveys did not push through in Aurora province due to some hindrances beyond control. Instead the team decided to concentrate more intensive surveys in Cagayan and Isabela due to high potential of finding a nest in Barangay Casala, San |

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| | Mariano, Isabela and Baggao, Cagayan. A total of 7 confirmed sightings of Philippine eagle were documented. This includes the municipalities of Baggao and Peñablanca, Cagayan and in the municipalities of San Pablo and San Mariano, Isabela province. |
| <i>Philippine Eagle population and nest site plotted on topographic map by month 12</i> | An apparent nesting territory of a Philippine eagle was identified and mapped. It is estimated that the nesting territory in Mt. Pangal, Barangay Casala, San Mariano, Isabela to be at least 5,000 hectares of forest. |
| <i>Support for Philippine Eagle Rescue provided every year</i> | Provided logistical and technical support in the retrieval operation of the Philippine eagle captured in Barangay Limbawan, San Pablo, Isabela. Verification of reported Philippine eagle in captivity in the Municipality of Gattaran, Baggao and Quirino were conducted but turned out to be a gray headed fishing eagle, Philippine hawk eagle and a serpent eagle, respectively. |
| Output 2: Research study on the pair of Philippine Eagle sighted in Baggao, Cagayan commenced a. Feeding ecology b. Breeding behavior c. Prey base density | |
| <i>Location of the nesting site of the Philippine eagle identified by month 12</i> | No nests were found during the entire duration of the project. However, we have observed a pair of Philippine eagles and a 4-6 month-old fledgling in Mt. Pangal, Barangay Casala, San Mariano, Isabela. Courtship display such as mutual soaring, dive chase, level chase and talon presentation were observed on the months of August and October 2005. In March 2006, a young or newly fledged eagle was observed in the area. This observation suggest that breeding activities of the pair in Mt. Pangal commenced as early as August 2005. Apparent nesting territory in Mt. Pangal, Barangay Casala, San Mariano, Isabela province was identified and mapped. In addition, a pair of Philippine eagle were also observed in Barangay Sta. Margarita, Baggao, Cagayan |
| <i>Characterization of Philippine Eagle nest and habitat completed by month 24</i> | Initial characterization of the apparent nesting territory were conducted in Mt. Pangal, Barangay Casala, San Mariano, Isabela Province which revealed that dipterocarp tree species dominates the plant assemblage in the area and this group of tree species were abundant from 300 to 600 meters in elevation in the area. Furthermore, habitat characterization suggest that the area is dominated by secondary mature dipterocarp and old forest stands are confined on deep galleys and ravines. Aside from the dipterocarp tree species other known tree species being use as nest trees of Philippine eagles in Mindanao such almaciga (<i>Agathis Philippinensis</i>) and binuang (<i>Octemeles sumatrana</i>) were also found in the area. |
| <i>Observation of breeding, nesting and feeding behavior completed by month 24</i> | No breeding, nesting and feeding behavior was observed. Behavior of a 4-6 month old fledgling was documented such as mock hunting, wing exercise hanging upside down and poking its talon in tree hole which are typical behavior of young eagles usually associated with motor skills development. |
| Output 3: Conservation and awareness campaign on the importance of the Philippine | |

| eagle and its habitats Initiated | |
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| <i>IEC campaign strategy customized for Philippine Eagle conservation design by month 3</i> | <p>A series of awareness campaign and IEC materials were developed to facilitate the awareness campaign activities for the Philippine eagle. To design the strategy, a the team conducted interviews with the local communities adjacent to the known Philippine eagle area. The interview questionnaire was designed by the Philippine Eagle Alliance spearheaded by the Haribon Foundation.</p> <p>Results of the survey showed low awareness of the community about the Philippine eagle but high degree of awareness in terms of environmental degradation and its effects. This finding was our basis for creating our awareness campaign strategy. In order to facilitate the awareness campaign activities, we adopted the DENR's "Dalaw-turo" approach where teachers, students and local communities were trained in conducting awareness campaign using a non-formal methodology in conveying environmental messages, such as environmental games, songs and play and even lectures about Philippine eagle. The trained teachers, students and local communities conduct series of conservation awareness activities in the different barangays adjacent to Philippine eagle habitat.</p> |
| <i>IEC materials for Philippine eagle conservation produced by month 12</i> | A Philippine eagle mascot produced and was used during the site campaign activities. Likewise, posters and other IEC materials were produced and distributed to the different barangays and schools where the presence of Philippine eagle was confirmed. |
| <i>Meetings/workshops with local communities, barangay councils, municipal and provincial officials conducted by month 6</i> | <p>A series of meetings and consultations were conducted in the Barangays adjacent to known Philippine eagle habitat. This was done prior to conducting the field surveys to inform the community about the Philippine Eagle Alliance and its efforts in the conservation and protection of the Philippine eagle.</p> <p>A workshop on the Philippine Eagle Action Plan was also conducted. The workshop was attended by LGU, DENR, PNP, Philippine Army and local communities from areas where the Philippine eagle was sighted. The action plan was done to address specific threats and concerns within the Cagayan Valley Region. The action plan is the first site specific action plan done for the Philippine eagle in the country.</p> |
| <i>Conservation of the Philippine Eagle aired once a week in one of the partner radio station in SMBC</i> | CI staff were guests on the regular radio program "Sigaw ng Kalikasan" to discuss the Philippine eagle conservation efforts as well as other conservation projects of CI and partner NGOs. This program is in partnership with CI and DWPE radio station. The Philippine eagle conservation project is also featured on the regular local TV program, Conservation On Line. This TV program is aimed at promoting biodiversity conservation in the Sierra Madre and discuss updates on the various conservation efforts of CI and other partners. This |

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| | program is conducted in partnership with RBC Cable Network and is aired once a week, every Tuesday between 6:30 to 7:30 PM. |
| <i>Support for the annual Philippine eagle week celebration provided</i> | Provided logistical and technical support during the Philippine Eagle Week celebration held in the month of June of each year. This includes the conduct of lectures, environmental skits, plays and songs and distribution of posters in schools in areas adjacent to known Philippine eagle habitat. |
| Output 4: Capability building efforts for local stakeholders (Municipal forest guards, MENROs, and CENRO-DENR, DENR Regional Eagle Watch Team and local communities) conducted and partnership building with Philippine Eagle Alliance members and other stakeholders facilitated | |
| <i>Assessment of training needs and preparation of modules completed and implementation commenced by month 6</i> | Together with the Philippine Eagle Alliance, provided support and conducted trainings for Local Government Units (LGU), DENR and local communities. The support was based on the TNA conducted that includes teachers, LGUs and DENR. Modules used in the training are based on the result of the TNA and the training module developed by the Philippine Eagle Foundation. This is part of the Alliance commitment to have a standardized training module all over the country. |
| <i>At least 20 LGU & DENR staff, and potential Local community members fully trained on the identification, monitoring, handling and basic biology of Raptors by end of the project</i> | Supported LGU and DENR during the Philippine Eagle Conservation in Davao City spearheaded by the Philippine Eagle Foundation. The trainings aim to equip the local government unit and the DENR of the knowledge and the various methods used in the conduct of Philippine eagle survey. A series of hands on training were also conducted for the DENR, LGU and local communities during Philippine eagle surveys conducted in the Sierra Madre. |
| <i>Annual Conference on Philippine Eagle Conservation conducted once a year</i> | Though there was no annual conference that was conducted for the Philippine eagle alone, the members of the Alliance were all in the annual Wildlife Conservation Society of the Philippines Annual Symposium where results of the surveys were presented and the members of the Alliance also use the Symposium as a venue for the Alliance to share current conservation efforts in their respective areas. |
| <i>At least 2 Philippine Eagle Alliance Meeting conducted every year</i> | Facilitated 3 of Philippine Eagle Alliance meetings to share updates and discuss actions in the conduct of field surveys and awareness campaigns. |
| <i>Support at least 1 international travel for Philippine Eagle Alliance member to attend conferences and symposiums once a year</i> | No international travel was provided, however, members of the Philippine Eagle Alliance meet regularly for updates on current efforts on the ground in their respective areas. |

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

The project has contributed a lot of information on the Philippine eagle population in Luzon Island. We now have more distribution records of Philippine eagle in the Sierra Madre than in the past years and initial information on the biology and ecology aspect of the species particularly on Luzon Island. This allows us to concentrate our efforts and resources in areas where we can

have a greater success of finding a nest and conduct intensive studies on the biology and ecology of the species and awareness campaigns.

In addition, we have also developed an action plan for the Philippine eagle in the Cagayan Valley Region addressing site specific threats and concerns. This action plan can greatly contribute to the formulation of the species action plan facilitated by CEPF together with the members of the Philippine Eagle Alliance and the refinement of the National Philippine Eagle Comprehensive Management and Protection Plan that was developed by the Philippine Eagle Working Group spearheaded by the DENR.

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

Our efforts in searching for the nest in Mt. Pangal, Barangay Casala, San Mariano, Isabela where a pair and a fledgling of Philippine eagle was observed was discontinued due to the increase of insurgents in the area. We are now focusing our nest search efforts and awareness campaign in Barangay Sta. Margarita, Baggao, Cagayan province where a pair of Philippine eagle were sighted through a 1-year funded grant from the KNCF that we were able to obtain by leveraging the funds and outputs from this project. In addition, Output 4.3 and 4.5 were not realized. However, this has not affected the overall impact of the project as the Philippine Eagle Alliance constantly meets and presents updates on the development of the project and impacts on the conservation efforts on the ground. We have also discussed and shared information with the various international organizations working on Philippine eagle conservation such as Birdlife International, National Aviary and Peregrine Fund as well as other institutions and organizations during the Wildlife Conservation Society of the Philippines Annual Symposium.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

The project is focused on providing information on Philippine eagle through conducting of research to refine and update the current existing management and protection plan for the species and does not require any environmental impact assessments.

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.

Involving partners at the local level on the onset of the project and intensifying awareness campaign before field surveys gained more support and cooperation of the community to the conservation efforts on the ground.

Involving the local community to do the actual awareness campaign activities such as lectures, environmental skits, etc. in their respective areas is more effective in conveying the message than being conducted by other people.

But most importantly, we learned that strong partnerships, collaborations and support of local stakeholders such as local government units, NGOs and DENR are important drivers to attain the project goals. It is the primary reason that the project has achieved the majority of its goals. We see this as an opportunity to maintain or sustain the momentum gained in this 3-year project. CEPF will play a significant role to achieve future conservation actions towards the Philippine

eagle. At the same, further support of CEPF will help us to sustain momentum we have gained during the project implementation.

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

The creation of the Philippine Eagle Alliance has facilitated the integration efforts and standardization of research methodologies of the various conservation NGOs working on Philippine eagle. It has also helped in the identification of specific areas and actions to generate the critical information needed in the refinement of the National Philippine Eagle Comprehensive management and protection plan. This prevented the duplication and overlapping of activities within the known distribution of the species in Luzon and Mindanao Island and increase efficiency of generating the needed information for the conservation of the Philippine eagle.

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

The Philippine eagle awareness campaign has contributed in increasing the interest and participation of the local government units and local community to the project.

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 |
|--|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Regional Natural Heritage Program of the Australian Government Phase 1 | C | \$48,427.90 | |
| Regional Natural Heritage Program of the Australian Government Phase 2 | C | \$159,839 | |
| Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund | C | \$20,000 | |
| Population and Environment Project funded by USAID | B | \$83,000 | |
| | | \$ | |
| | | \$ | |
| | | \$ | |

****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.

With the information at hand as a result of this project, we have secured additional funds from KNCF to continue to conduct field surveys and awareness campaign within the municipalities of Baggao and Penablanca, Cagayan. In addition, the development of a site specific action plan is intended to guide the DENR on the various activities needed to be undertaken by the DENR Regional Eagle Watch team in Region 02 through their regular funds. The action plan will also be used to developed proposals to pursue other potential donors.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CEPF will play a significant role to achieve future conservation actions towards the Philippine Eagle. At the same, further support of CEPF will help us to sustain momentum we have gained during the project implementation.

VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. One way we do this is by making programmatic project documents available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these in our newsletter and other communications.

These documents are accessed frequently by other CEPF grantees, potential partners, and the wider conservation community.

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