

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Foundation for Integrative and Development Studies, Inc.

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): National Prioritization System for GEF and Other Donor's Biodiversity Conservation Investment in the Philippines

Implementation Partners for This Project: Conservation International-Philippines (CI-P), Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau-Department of Environment and Natural Resources (PAWB-DENR), Foundation for the Philippine Environment (FPE), Haribon Foundation

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): February 15, 2006 - April 15, 2006 (extended to October 31, 2006)

Date of Report (month/year): December 2006

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

A review of environmental actions in the Philippines over the last 15 years concludes that there has been very little lasting impact in arresting natural resource degradation in the country. This can be attributed to the lack of donor coordination and convergence on conservation actions that often leads to duplication of efforts in well-known areas while some critical, less-known areas do not receive proper attention. To address this problem, there is a need to identify a mechanism for coordinating and implementing conservation strategies across the country. Refinement of the conservation priority areas previously identified for the Philippines is also needed and prioritization of these areas is necessary to optimize conservation investments considering that financial resource available for biodiversity conservation in the country has become limited.

A system to prioritize biodiversity conservation efforts in the country was developed by establishing an agreed set of criteria that will be used to assess and prioritize conservation action and investments in Key Biodiversity Areas.

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

The objective of the project was to develop a system of prioritization of future biodiversity conservation efforts thereby focusing and optimizing GEF and other donors' resources.

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

NO

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

A core group was formed composed of representatives of partner organizations to discuss and plan the activities to be initiated to achieve the objectives of the project. Initial discussions including a presentation of the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), priority areas for biodiversity conservation in the Philippines, was done during the Population, Health and Environment (PHE) conference held last March 17, 2006 in Cebu City.

A national prioritization workshop was conducted last April 18-19, 2006 that brought together 60 participants including experts, that had been involved in previous conservation prioritization initiatives to identify priority areas for conservation. The participants were divided into three working groups (Terrestrial, Marine and Socio-Econ). Each working group came up with a set of criteria to prioritize sites as well as activities for biodiversity conservation investments. These discussions are captured in the process documentation which is included as an attachment.

The set of criteria was further refined and consolidated during a meeting held last June 13, 2006 with participants that include the senior staff of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (PAWB-DENR), the Government Bureau responsible for evaluating and endorsing project proposals to the GEF Focal Point, and representatives from other foreign funded projects handled by the DENR. A third consultation was initiated last August 22-24 attended by GEF project proponents and other stakeholders that reviewed the proposals and made the final evaluation and assessment of projects that were eligible and subsequently were endorsed for the GEF 4 for funding.

The final set of criteria was also intended to be used by PAWB-DENR for prioritization of other future donor investments for conservation.

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.

NONE

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.

A core group composed of representatives from partner organizations (CIP, PAWB-DENR, Haribon, FPE and FIDS) was formed to plan the set of activities needed to refine, identify priorities, and finalize the criteria that was adopted by PAWB-DENR. The creation of the core group facilitated the implementation of the necessary activities and also ensured that all activities are well coordinated and participatory.

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

The criteria developed mainly focused on terrestrial sites and activities. A similar initiative will be conducted for prioritization of marine areas.

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

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
UNDP	B	Php 300,000	
FPE	B	Php 150,000	

***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.

V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The current system used in applying the criteria developed in this project to prioritize sites and activities is based on “equal ranking” approach/methodology. This means that all the criteria are all equal and that all the criteria must be satisfied. It is recommended that further study should be done to put weights on the different criteria since it has been raised several times during the consultations that some of the criteria should be given more weight than others.

The organizations involved in this project are also the same organizations that formed the Biodiversity Monitoring Alliance, a partnership among organizations that recognize the need to collaborate and develop a common monitoring framework that will promote a coherent strategy for the sustainable management of natural resources and the protection of biodiversity in the country. All outputs of the project will be used by the Alliance in developing the biodiversity monitoring framework for the Philippines.

VI. INFORMATION SHARING

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, 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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