



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, 1100
Tel. Nos. (632) 929-66-26 to 29 • (632) 929-62-52
929-66-20 • 929-66-33 to 35
929-70-41 to 43

Nov. 28, 2001

Mr. Gonzalo Castro
Environment Department
The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433
United States

Reference: *Ecosystem Profile of the Philippine Hotspot*
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

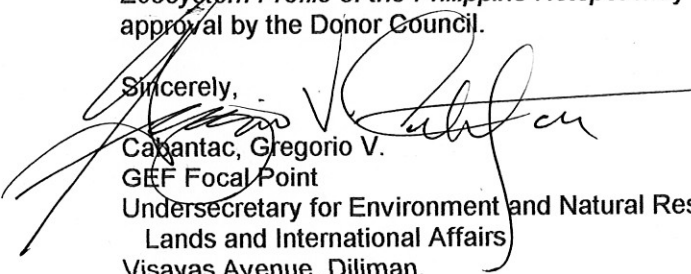
Dear Mr. Castro:

As the GEF Focal Point for the Government of Philippines, I would like to inform you that I endorse the investment strategy outlined in the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) *Ecosystem Profile of the Philippine Hotspot*, and the provision of grants to non-governmental and private sector organizations for projects and activities that fulfill the programmatic objectives outlined therein. We are aware that information relative to all specific projects can be accessed on the CEPF web site www.cepf.net, and we look forward to receiving annual listings of projects and activities conducted within the Philippines.

We understand that each of the donors (the GEF, the MacArthur Foundation, the World Bank and Conservation International) has provided equal funding to the CEPF Initiative.

In providing this endorsement, we confirm that *Ecosystem Profile of the Philippine Hotspot* has been shared with the officials responsible for the Convention on Biological Diversity, and has undergone review in our country. We note that it will be submitted for further review and approval by the CEPF Donor Council, and that provision of funding for activities outlined in the Ecosystem Profile will be contingent upon approval by the CEPF Donor Council. We agree that the *Ecosystem Profile of the Philippine Hotspot* may be made publicly available after review and approval by the Donor Council.

Sincerely,


Cabantac, Gregorio V.
GEF Focal Point
Undersecretary for Environment and Natural Resources, Legal,
Lands and International Affairs
Visayas Avenue, Diliman,
Quezon City, 1100, Philippines
PHONE: (63-2) 926-65-76; FAX : (63-2) 925-2341

cc: Ms. Donnell Ocker
Director, CEPF