



Global Conservation Program (GCP) Closeout Report EnterpriseWorks/VITA Learning Component



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Global Conservation Program (GCP) Closeout Report EnterpriseWork/VITA - Learning Component

LAG-A-00-99-00052-00

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Assistance Objective Name: Global Conservation Program

Recipient Organization: EnterpriseWorks Worldwide, Inc.

Federal Grant Number: LAG-A-00-99-00052-00

Approval Date: September 29, 1999

Geographic Areas: Nepal, Philippines, and Global Learning Activity

Total Cost of AO of USAID: US\$2,433,000

Counterpart Contributions: US\$532,211

Other Partner Resources: US\$1,754,957

Principal Implementing Partners: EnterpriseWorks Worldwide/Philippines; Community Based Forest Management Federations in the Philippines; Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB); Community Forest User Group Federations in Nepal; and GCP partners – AWF, CI, TNC, WCS, WWF

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GCP program background on Learning Component

The primary goal of the Global Conservation Program (GCP) is to conserve globally significant *in situ* biodiversity. The GCP is managed by the Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade (EGAT) Biodiversity Team of USAID, and implemented in partnership with six conservation partners: African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Conservation International (CI), EnterpriseWorks/VITA (EWV), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The GCP Leader Awards were issued in 1999, and ended in 2009. GCP is designed to be a cutting-edge program to develop and maintain USAID's leadership in biodiversity conservation while serving the needs of missions, regional bureaus, and NGO partners. Under the GCP mechanism over 30 terrestrial and marine sites, mostly at a landscape/seascape level, have been funded in Asia, Latin America, and Africa as well as a learning component.

The learning component is embedded in USAID Biodiversity Team's commitment to encourage and support the development and sharing of better conservation practices, and builds directly on the work of the Biodiversity Support Program. By building the learning component into the GCP Leader Award, USAID and its Partner NGOs build upon and draw key lessons from ongoing site based initiatives (field and central program) within and between GCP partner institutions. The overall GCP learning program includes three strategic foci for learning:

- decision and management tools and methods for biodiversity conservation,
- effective approaches to threats abatement, and
- system specific conservation challenges.

Key achievements attained with GCP funding for EnterpriseWorks/VITA Learning Component

- 1) Convening of GCP “**Mobilizing and measuring socio-economic impacts of conservation interventions learning group**” which allowed EWV, AWF, WCS, CI, and TNC to work together on cross site learning and share lessons with the greater conservation and development community at over a dozen international workshops and trainings during a three year period. This group generated PowerPoint presentations and training materials, papers, and cases that have been shared with sites managing high biodiversity.
- 2) Publication of a 110 page case study booklet “**Lessons on Community Enterprise Interventions for Landscape/Seascape Conservation – Seven Case Studies from the Global Conservation Program**” and a companion PowerPoint presentation for training and workshop purposes. One thousand hard copies distributed and the publication is also available in electronic form.

Location, global importance and key threats to this landscape/seascape

The learning component activities built on the overall GCP II learning activities and enabled EnterpriseWorks/VITA (EWV) to address existing and new cross-institutional learning and collaboration activities amongst GCP Partners – especially in the context of the socio-economic learning group. Learning activities carried out collaboratively by GCP partners and with other institutions produced training materials and cases that are strengthening the practice of conservation. The learning activities were done globally, drawing on lessons from GCP partners’ landscapes and seascapes in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

GCP partner approach to threats based conservation at a landscape scale

Background for Learning Activity

Direct threats to biodiversity, and conversely the opportunities to abate the threats, are generally socio-economic based. It follows that having a better understanding of socio-economic factors should generate better conservation outcomes and in many cases socio-economic benefits as well. Associated with this is gaining a better understanding of how traditional development organizations promote economic development within landscapes and how conservation NGOs can more effectively collaborate with economic development efforts to achieve biodiversity conservation goals.

Implementing conservation at a landscape scale

Too often groups working at landscape level either come at the issues from enterprise and social issues first and foremost or conservation first and foremost. The result is that potential strategies and options for optimizing both goals (socio-economic and conservation) are excluded early on as built in biases of each approach influence planning. By participating in learning events that come at the issues from conservation and development angles, this proposed learning hopes to bring learning perspectives from both sides to the GCP group about how to make decisions on mobilizing socio-economic interventions that positively impact biodiversity conservation.

The integration of socio-economic issues at a landscape level for conservation planning, implementation, and monitoring is at an early stage. The conservation community has developed and continues to refine various versions of threats-based approaches to landscape and seascape conservation. The development community has developed and refined numerous socio-economic tools. Integration of traditional conservation and development tools for field practitioners is very much needed. Stakeholder analysis, attitudinal surveys, tenure assessments, market analysis, and value chain and sub-sector analysis are a few of the tools that have been used extensively in development projects, yet have patchy use in conservation projects, despite their potential utility to conservation practitioners. It is in this context that the **“Mobilizing and measuring socio-economic impacts of conservation interventions learning group”**, also known as the **“Socio-Economic Learning Group”** was convened.

Box 1: Socio-Economic Learning Group

Conservation Challenge

The focus of conservation organizations working in developing countries has evolved from site level activities to landscape level conservation programs. Typically these larger scale programs take place in dynamic, changing landscapes where local livelihood opportunities tend to be natural resource based, and where prospects for sustainable long-term conservation depend on matching local peoples' needs and aspirations with resource carrying capacity. To date, landscape scale conservation planning processes, notably the identification of conservation targets, have been largely science-driven. Socio-economic factors tend to be taken into account, with varying degrees of success, at the stage of developing intervention strategies. Associated socio-economic monitoring and impact assessment methodologies are often underdeveloped. As such, there is a strong need for sharing practical learning between international conservation organizations to assess the effectiveness of current and varied methodologies and approaches for integrating socio-economic factors into successful landscape level conservation.

Goal of Learning Group

Based on this expressed need, the socio-economic group is designed to share best practices and create new knowledge and understanding of how to most effectively integrate critical socio-economic factors into landscape level conservation. The first year focused on learning within an individual landscape, reviewing and comparing existing methodologies and developing standards of practice. In subsequent years the learning activities was conducted across landscapes applying the methodologies and standards developed during the first year, as well as sharing lessons with the larger conservation and development community.

Outputs:

- * Documentation on the most effective field-tested approaches and a set of "standards" for the integration of socio-economic considerations into landscape conservation planning and implementation.
- * Better methodologies adopted by each partner organization, reflecting learning from other organizations' methodologies.
- * Improved partner access to available socio-economic tools and capacity to implement tools.

Protected area management; Conservation in the broader economic landscapes; Policy issues and government partnerships

Given the learning group and case study documentation worked across multiple GCP sites, lessons on protected area management, conservation in the broader economic landscape, and policy and government partnerships were featured throughout the presentation, training, and case study materials developed in this learning activity.

Measures of success

Over the three years, the learning group met in DC and at sites to exchange lessons and consolidate and document best practices in mobilizing and measuring socio-economic impacts of conservation interventions. The following activities were completed which have helped to improve the practice of conservation across multiple sites and stakeholders. Sharing of cross-site learning at the following conferences and workshops was done to share the lessons with the greater conservation and development community:

- EWV in partnership with CI incorporated environment and poverty alleviation learning into the SEEP all day “value chain working group” which met at the SEEP annual meeting in late October 2006. EWV gave a presentation on the learning from the GCP group.
- EWV presented lessons in integrating biodiversity conservation and socio-economic tools, from this learning activity at the FRAME workshop in October 2006.
- EWV and AWF completed joint field work in the Kenya Heartland in 2007. EWV and AWF presented socio-economic monitoring guidance (tested draft document) and collected experiences from a collaborative group of 36 practitioners from over a dozen sites from around the world. These practitioners have been looking at the interface between landscape level conservation and sector level economic development for poverty alleviation as well as exploring/developing methodologies to measure socio-economic impacts of conservation enterprises. For the Wetlands sites in particular (five wetlands sites including Ambolseli) EWV conducted a full review of all the indicators being used to inform the guidance document on socio-economic monitoring and integration with conservation work. WCS’s learning from its case study work in Gabon “Parks and People” was also shared with the Kenya practitioners group and got a good reception, especially on the guidance points for household surveys.
- The WCS "Parks and People" approach was published in the Diversity section of Conservation Biology, which resulted in over 30 requests for copies of the complete methodology and datasheets. Conservation International in Equatorial Guinea is using the methodology to assess the impact of protected areas on local livelihoods. Results from the study will contribute to the Poverty Environment Network project run by CIFOR. David Wilkie of WCS participated in an AWF/FFI sponsored workshop on measuring livelihoods held in Cambridge, UK on the 18-19th of July. All 40+ participants were provided with electronic copies of the methodology. A summary of methods used to assess livelihoods was published as a Living Landscapes Program Technical Manual, and is now available on the WCS website in English, French and Spanish.
- Measuring the impact of livelihoods initiatives in conservation context – facilitated by Fauna and Flora International (FFI), Birdlife, and AWF – This workshop held in July, 2007 for over 40 international participants was attended by representatives from all GCP partners and AWF and EWV gave presentations on the GCP learning as well as gathered learning from the other participants that was incorporated into the final guidance product.
- Poverty and Conservation Learning Group, coordinated by International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), “Integrating Socio-Economic and Conservation in Monitoring and Evaluation” poster and PowerPoint presentation made in November 2007.
- EWV and AWF presented the “Integrating Socio-Economic and Conservation in Monitoring and Evaluation” guidance document to the Wetlands and Poverty Reduction Project, led by Wetlands International with the International Water and Management Institute (IWMI) looking into learning on combining socio-economic and conservation indicators in 2008.
- Through EWV and WCS, the learning on this topic is also being shared with two USAID funded learning mechanisms – FRAME and TRANSLINK in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

EWV, AWF, and WCS PowerPoint and guidance documents have been submitted to USAID and are posted on DEXS and include: WCS “Park and People” methodology” EWV Group Assessment Guide and Forms; “Integrating Socio-Economic and Conservation in Monitoring and Evaluation – Starting Guidance for Field Practitioners; and “Measuring Socio-Economic Impact in a Conservation Setting.” In the 2008-2009 time period the learning group, led by EWV, focused on producing a publication and training PowerPoint that explored three learning themes—threats-based approach, scale, and partnerships— in the context of seven cases involving community enterprise interventions.

1. Threats-Based Approach: How has using a threats-based approach influenced engagement with community enterprise interventions?

2. Scale: How has the shift in scale to landscape/seascape level conservation influenced choices in enterprise development?

3. Partnerships: How has the GCP leveraged partnerships and cross-sectoral relationships to achieve livelihood/economic outcomes that support conservation at a landscape/seascape level?

The seven cases, shown in the map below, cover terrestrial and marine sites in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Each case gives a brief background on the landscape and people, a threats analysis for the site, the project objectives, and the project activities. The cases focus on the community enterprise component in relation to the three learning themes. Seven case studies were completed and included in the “**Lessons on Community Enterprise Interventions for Landscape/Seascape Conservation – Seven Case Studies from the Global Conservation Program**” publication and a companion **PowerPoint Training**.

Figure 1: The Seven Landscape and Seascape Case Studies



Both publications can be found on EnterpriseWorks/VITA’s website www.enterpriseworks.org under publications as well as on the DEXS website of USAID. One thousand copies of the case study booklet

have been printed and have been distributed at workshops, trainings, through the GCP partners, and USAID. Copies were also distributed at the GCP event on September 17, 2009 at the Wilson Center. Other distribution of the case study materials has taken place with non GCP funds and includes:

- The Annual SEEP (Small Enterprise Education Program) Annual Meeting
- Wetlands International Meeting on Lessons in Conservation and Poverty Reduction Incorporating Community Enterprise in Mali in November 2008
- Tanzania Translinks Value Chain in Conservation Settings Training in Arusha, June 2009

Global Conservation Program Symposium and GCP Commemorating 10 Years of International Biodiversity Conservation Wilson Center Event

The final learning activities included EnterpriseWorks/VITA participating in the GCP final events held September 15 – 17, 2009 in Washington DC. In preparation for the workshops, panel presentations, and the video production, EWV staff and partners provided video footage and script suggestions, and reviewed rough cuts of the video. Ann Koontz (EWV headquarters); Bhishma Subedi, Sushil Gywali (from Nepal Landscape) and Susan Naval (from Philippines Landscapes) prepared panel presentations for the workshops as follows:

September 15, 2009

Threats-Based Approach to Conservation Using Adaptive Management Panel:

1. “Participatory Threats-Based Approach in the Philippines, Building Multi-Sectoral Stakeholders for Sustainable Threats Abatement” – Susan Naval
2. “Threat assessment and mitigation planning, a tool for community forest management activities in Nepal” – Bhishma Subedi

State-of-the-Art Presentation for Enterprise Development, Livelihood Activities and Governance Issues for Conservation Projects by Ann Koontz

Panel presentation:

1. “Value Chain and Tenure Incentives for Conservation” – Sushil Gywali

September 16, 2009

Climate Change “Mitigation Lessons from GCP” Panel

1. “REDD Preparedness in Nepal, Payment for Ecosystem Services” – Bhishma Subedi

September 17, 2009

The Global Conservation Program (GCP), Commemorating 10 Years of International Biodiversity Conservation – Woodrow Wilson Center

Panel Two: Key GCP Themes for Effectiveness and Sustainability, Remaining Challenges and the Way Forward

1. “Community Based Conservation Enterprises, From Nepal’s Community Forests – Taking a Subsector and Value Chain Approach” - Bhishma Subedi

Susan Naval had come from the Philippines to the U.S. when she had a family emergency which did not allow her to attend the symposium and Wilson Center event. Ann Koontz gave Susan’s panel presentation on her behalf.

Copies of all the presentations have been provided to the symposium and Wilson Event organizers (WWF, WCS, and USAID) for consolidation into a final product for posting to appropriate websites.

Summary of Performance Indicators Used and Usefulness

Number of people attending workshops and number of people trained were the indicators used for the learning activity along with qualitative surveys to better understand what information was found to be the most useful and identify where implementing staff still found the most challenges. The qualitative information proved the most useful, since there were limited resources to be able to follow-up with workshop attendees to gauge how effectively they had applied the information. When follow-up was possible this was incorporated into the final learning cases and publication.

Value of the GCP program

The GCP learning component provided dedicated resources for the GCP partners to come together at both DC and field site levels to exchange information and work on consolidated learning products that are of value to the larger conservation and development community. The support from GCP allowed partners to compare experiences and pool expertise across conservation and development disciplines to better address complex biodiversity conservation challenges. The GCP learning funding also allowed for documentation of the long-term investment made at multiple sites that was often not possible in shorter project cycles.

The main lesson learned in conducting this learning activity is that it takes dedicated effort to consolidate learning. While all partners valued learning, the day-to-day site based work makes it difficult for most practitioners to stop and reflect on experiences. Lack of information to compare their experiences with means it is hard to tell what socio-economic strategies are going to work, but just need more time, and which are not working and should be redesigned. Integrating longer-term conservation impact, biological based data with socio-economic changes that require short, medium, and long-term timeframes to track will continue to be a conservation challenge. The main advice provided to groups is to start collecting data and integrate data collection into all projects even if time frames are too short to draw lessons. These data should then be included in new projects that should be designed to continue the data collection. Incorporation of data collecting by local stakeholders was also stressed to bring costs down and build ownership and sustainability of data collection and analysis to better inform overall project management.

ANNEX A – Reports, Evaluations, Special Studies and Closeout Reports

Performance Reports, Evaluations, Special Studies and Closeout Reports EnterpriseWorks/VITA Global Conservation Program LAG-A-00-99-0052-00

Performance Reports:

- EWV Semi Annual Technical Report June 2000
- EWV Semi Annual Technical Report January 2001

- EWV Semi Annual Report June 2001
- EWV Semi Annual Report January 2002
- EWV Semi Annual Report January 2002 – Annexes 1 and 2
- EWV Semi Annual Report January 2002 – Annex 3
- EWV Semi Annual Report June 2002
- EWV Semi Annual Report January 2003
- EWV Annual Report 2003 – Nepal
- EWV Annual Report 2002 – Philippines January 2003
- EWV Annual Report September 2003 Philippines
- EWV Annual Report September 2004 Philippines
- EWV Annual Report September 2004 Nepal
- EWV Annual and Final Report September 2005 Nepal
- EWV Annual Report September 2005 Philippines
- EWV GCP Annual Report 2006-2007
- EWV GCP Annual Report 2007-2008 EWV GCP

Evaluations:

- Mid Term Evaluation – Nepal
- EWV GCP Mid Term Evaluation – Nepal, Annexes
- GCP Philippines summary achievements assessment (PowerPoint Form)

Special Studies and Resource Materials (Learning Component):

- EWV Group Assessment Guide and Forms
- “Integrating Socio-Economic and Conservation in Monitoring and Evaluation – Starting Guidance for Field Practitioners”
- “Measuring Socio-Economic Impact in a Conservation Setting”
- “Lessons on Community Enterprise Interventions for Landscape/Seascape Conservation – Seven Case Studies from the Global Conservation Program” publication and a companion PowerPoint Training

Special Studies and Resource Materials (Learning Component):

- “Participatory Threats-Based Approach in the Philippines, Building Multi-Sectoral Stakeholders for Sustainable Threats Abatement” – Susan Naval
- “Threat assessment and mitigation planning, a tool for community forest management activities in Nepal” – Bhishma Subedi
- State-of-the-Art Presentation for Enterprise Development, Livelihood Activities and Governance Issues for Conservation Projects by Ann Koontz
- “Value Chain and Tenure Incentives for Conservation” – Sushil Gywali
- “REDD Preparedness in Nepal, Payment for Ecosystem Services” – Bhishma Subedi
- “Community Based Conservation Enterprises, From Nepal’s Community Forests – Taking a Subsector and Value Chain Approach” - Bhishma Subedi

Closeout Reports:

- EnterpriseWorks/VITA Learning Component
- EnterpriseWorks/VITA “Enterprise-Based Biodiversity Conservation” Nepal Site
- *In Situ* Biodiversity at Two Sites in the Philippines - “Capacity Building for Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM)”

ANNEX B – Indicators and Impacts

Included as separate Word file