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Global Conservation Program (GCP)
Closeout Report EnterpriseWorks/VITA
“*In Situ* Biodiversity at Two Sites in the Philippines - Capacity
Building for Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM)”
Philippines Site



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

LAG-A-00-99-00052-00

December 29, 2009

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

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 (EWW), 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.

From October 1, 2001 to September 30, 2009, EnterpriseWorks/VITA implemented at two sites in the Philippines the “Capacity Building for Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) Project”. The goals of this project are to:

- 1) Bring 300,000 hectares under effective management (up from 225,000) in Region 2 and Palawan already in the Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) Program - a national land tenure program administered by the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The CBFM program allows communities to gain tenure to an area of old growth, secondary, and/or denuded forest. CBFM agreements give communities a mix of opportunities (limited extraction in secondary forests and rehabilitation rights in denuded areas) and responsibilities (protection of old growth areas).
- 2) Build a sustainable mechanism within the CBFM provincial level federations for providing CBFM resource management services that conserve biodiversity while providing for sustainable economic activities. In each province approximately 25 to 35 CBFM agreements have been awarded to communities. These groups are federated in order to more effectively interact with the government and leverage opportunities for effective forest management.
- 3) Link the CBFM groups to government, NGOs, the private sector and other efforts in adjacent non-CBFM forest areas to conserve and protect the overall forest biodiversity at a landscape level regardless of tenure classification.

Key achievements attained with GCP funding

Table 1: Project Highlights – Philippines Site

Goal Progress Toward Effective Management	Progress Achieved Toward Effective Management
Objectives	Major Accomplishments
300,000 hectares (cumulative) within 5 Federations	312,135.97 hectares in 133 community based forest management sites within 5 Federations in Region 2 and Palawan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 108,759.15 hectares covering 25 sites in Cagayan • 48,289.18 hectares covering 18 sites in Isabela • 91,283.26 hectares covering 36 sites in Quirino • 17,465.07 hectares covering 24 sites in Nueva Vizcaya • 46,339.31 hectares covering 30 sites in Palawan
Objective 1 –	Result/Output: Five Sustainable Multi-Stakeholder Institutional Structures to carry on

<p>Improve the Federations' abilities to provide sustainable services to their members in forest resource use planning and management through improved coordination with multi-sectoral task forces</p>	<p>landscape level biodiversity conservation in place (see table below). Handover activities and closeout completed including detailed PowerPoint presentation on each group's achievements and future plans.</p>	
	<p>Province/Federation</p>	<p>Facilitating Federations Partners</p>
	<p>Cagayan – United Cagayanos Movement for Sustainable Environment and Economic Development (UCMSEED)</p>	<p>Provincial Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD)-Cagayan; Cagayan Council for the Sierra Madre Biodiversity Corridor (CCSMBC); Cagayan State University, Conservation International, CAVAPED, PROCESS, Regional Multi-Sectoral Forest Protection Committee (RMFPC), Region 2 DENR, Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation (PTFCF)</p>
	<p>Quirino – Quirino Movement for Sustainable Environment and Economic Development (QSEED)</p>	<p>Inter-Institutional Management Team (IIMT); Quirino Protected Landscape (QPL); Eco Governance Luzon, Department of Education (DECS), Philippine National Police (PNP), business community, Municipal Environment Management Board (MEMB)</p>
	<p>Nueva Vizcaya – Nueva Vizcaya CBFM Advocates</p>	<p>Investment Promotion Advisory Team (IPAT); Multi-Sectoral Forest Protection Committee (MFPC)-Nueva Vizcaya, Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation (PTFCF), Nueva Vizcaya CBFM Technical Working Group (NVCBFMTWG)</p>
	<p>Regional – Region 2 Regional CBFM confederation</p>	<p>Regional Multi-Sectoral Forest Protection Committee (RMFPC); Conservation International; University of the Philippines – Los Baños (UPLB); Non-timber Forest Products Task Force (NTFP-TF); International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR), NGOs</p>
<p>Palawan – Palawan CBFM Federation</p>	<p>Palawan Community Based Forest Management & Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim Technical Working Group (CBFM/CADC TWG); Department of Trade and Industry (DTI); Department of Agriculture (DA), Bagong Pag-asa Foundation Inc.; NATRIPAL; Conservation International, NTFP-Task Force, Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation (PTFCF), Cebu Furniture Industries Foundation</p>	
<p>Result/Output: A model for Community Based Forest Management Program (CBFM) harmonization with landscape level conservation through their integration with the Municipal Land Use Plans (MLUPs) and the provincial Forest Land Use Plans (FLUPs) is established.</p>		
<p>Result/Output: Federations and the Multi-stakeholder groups now have extensive knowledge of the forestry and environmental laws and are able to act on them in tangible ways that address new threats and conflicts.</p>		
<p>Objective 2 - Develop Federations' capacity to administer biological monitoring and meet legal compliance with forestry regulations</p>	<p>Result/Output: The detailed baseline work and assistance provided in formulating and implementing the CBFM People's Organizations (POs) management plans has institutionalized regular review of their plans.</p>	
<p>Result/Output: Model established for integration of Individual Property Rights (IPR) within CBFM agreements.</p>		

<p>Objective 3 – Transfer resource management tools and strategies to Federations - developed under proven conservation programs - for articulating and integrating threat abatement strategies into resource management and economic development activities</p>	<p>Result/output: Adaptive management institutionalized that addresses threats with tangible direct actions, utilizing technology (e.g. fire breaks), enterprise development (e.g. linkages with private sector for sustainable forest products sourcing) and enforcement mechanisms (e.g. stop illegal logging campaigns) to achieve conservation. In the final year of GCP, all the areas continued to identify and take action to address ongoing and new threats.</p> <p>Results/Outputs: Institution of ongoing threats assessment and biological monitoring activities of the Federations and Multi-Stakeholder groups and development of threat assessment and biological monitoring field guidelines. As part of the Federation and Multi-Stakeholder closeout meetings, CDs with the training materials on threat assessments and monitoring and the biological monitoring field manual and forms were provided to the groups.</p> <p>Results/Outputs: Agroforestry model for replanting programs at the CBFM federation level established and is attracting other donor and conservation funding.</p>
<p>Objective 4 – Conduct monitoring, adaptive management and learning</p>	<p>Result/output: EWV Completed Revised Version of Biological Monitoring Manual for Field Practitioners in cooperation with the NTFP Task Force.</p> <p>Result/output: A cumulative total of over 312,000 hectares of CBFM areas under effective management status. The Federations and their CBFM member groups are now taking the lead in the collection of impact data and preparation of strategy documents and monitoring data.</p> <p>EWV/Philippines helped to facilitate a final packaging of the impact analysis, strategies used, accomplishments and lessons learned that were assembled into a PowerPoint report package for each group. Forums were conducted from May through July 2009 to present the reports to the stakeholders thus conveying the results of the experience, impact and lessons learned in the implementation of GCP project. EWV also presented a consolidation of the tools and lessons learned across the site during these forums.</p>

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

This project targets Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) two sites in the Philippines - Palawan and the Sierra Madre biodiversity corridor that run through the provinces of Quirino, Cagayan and Isabela, as well as forests in Nueva Vizcaya. In these sites, forest under community control is significant. For example, of the 2,137,151 hectares of biodiversity rich forestland found in the Sierra Madre (Cagayan, Isabela) and Palawan, 371,915 hectares (17% - over half of which are old growth or contiguous second growth forest adjacent to protected areas) are under CBFM management. CBFM sites that are more degraded or have only remnant forests often are adjacent to government forests and act as a buffer or first warning for illegal forest activities on government lands.

The Philippines is a priority region for biodiversity conservation under the hotspots approach. The Philippines has evolved fauna and flora with high levels of endemism, due in part to its bio-geographical isolation and fragmentation into 7,100 islands. Sadly, in the past fifty years, two thirds of the forest has been cleared (Myers 1988, Myers 1990, Mittermeier et al 1998). Some of the most intact remaining forest ecosystems are in Palawan and the Sierra Madre biodiversity corridor that runs through Region 2.

Based upon the threat analysis undertaken in coordination with local government units, regional government planners, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), local NGOs, and the individual CBFM areas and their federations, the major threats to the forest ecosystem are: illegal logging, mining, unsustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products (including animal poaching), slash and burn cultivation; and burning of grazing lands. The CBFM groups noted that encroachment from outsiders was an over-arching threat that allowed the illegal logging, unsustainable harvesting, slash and burn cultivation, mining, etc. to happen.

GCP partner historic and current roles in this landscape

In the Philippines, EWW has been active since the late 1970s and in the Sierra Madre and Palawan landscapes has been working since the early 1990s with community groups and the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to address threats to the forest biodiversity. EnterpriseWorks/VITA (EWW) has had a branch office in the Philippines - EnterpriseWorks Worldwide Philippines (EWW-P) since the early 1980s and been active in community forest management, biodiversity conservation, and agro-forestry and forests products enterprise development since the early 1990s with Ford Foundation and USAID Philippines Mission support. In 2001, the Philippines sites were added to the Global Conservation Program portfolio through the “Capacity Building for Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) Project”. EWW and its branch EWW-P plan to continue partnerships with the community-based forest management (CBFM) and multi-sectoral task forces supported under GCP as well as expand the models developed for biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management to other areas of the Philippines, in particular, Mindanao. Funding for these future efforts is still pending.

GCP partner approach to threats based conservation at a landscape scale

EnterpriseWorks/VITA targets biodiversity conservation in areas outside protected areas to advance approaches to conservation. Activities address: 1) poverty alleviation; 2) the specific needs and interest of women, indigenous people and other disadvantaged groups; 3) local resource governance; 4) organizational capacity building; 5) policy advocacy; and 6) linkage development with government, the private sector, NGOs, and communities. These activities are considered essential to 1) achieving biodiversity conservation in areas outside protected areas, that often make up the majority of a priority biodiversity landscape, and 2) building a “conservation constituency” that supports and conserves protected areas.

In the Philippines sites, EWW’s approach emphasized building up the local capacity to effectively identify threats, design interventions to abate the threats, and conserve biodiversity. Linking the multiple stakeholders that are active in the landscape that have both potential power and resources to conserve or degrade the forests became a top priority. The entry point was through the community-based forest management (CBFM) groups, over 130 in the two sites that eventually were assisted under GCP. The CBFM groups’ federations were launched and/or strengthened. The project focused on improving the Federations’ abilities to provide sustainable services to their members in forest resource use planning and management through improved coordination with multi-sectoral task forces that have influence at the landscape level. These multi-sectoral task forces worked together to identify threats, implement coordinated actions to address the threats, and put in place ongoing monitoring and working relationships that allow them to be adaptive and proactive to new threats.

Implementing conservation at a landscape scale

Protected area management

While this project targeted areas outside protected areas, it did include stakeholders responsible for protected area management. By facilitating working relationships between stakeholders outside the protected areas, i.e.

the local government units and CBFM groups, the managers of protected areas gained allies in detecting threats and encroachment. The multi-sectoral stakeholder groups also helped to integrate the protected area management strategies with CBFM areas and non-protected areas governed by the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the local government units (LGUs). One notable success of this collaboration was in fire abatement which was threat to both protected and CBFM areas. The other major success was in mainstreaming the concept biodiversity conservation to the entire landscape rather than protected areas alone.

Conservation in the broader economic landscapes

The EWV project helped the stakeholders to understand that conservation is in their long-term economic interests and that both conservation and economic planning had to be considered from a landscape level perspective. In the Philippines landscapes, agriculture and forest management needed to be integrated, but were treated separately at government and community organizational levels. The threats-based approach to conservation identified threats that impacted forests and agriculture and introduced activities that addressed these threats while introducing interventions that improved agricultural-based livelihoods. The two examples below illustrate how the project abated the fire threat and promoted nursery development to use both economic incentives and enforcement mechanisms to achieve conservation and improve local livelihoods.

Fire Abatement Efforts - Tangible and Immediate Impact on Biodiversity: A significant impact from the coordinated CBFM activities is the control of fire on forest loss. For example, over a six year period (2000-2006), Quirino province satellite images have recorded an almost complete control of forest deforestation, the majority of it previously due to the threat of fire used to clear land for slash and burn agriculture and grazing. Fire while a tool used by farmers and livestock owners also too often caused economic losses when run away fires damaged perennial crops and structures. Prior to the threat abatement intervention, data from the 1990s showed forest loss in Quirino province was at an average of three per cent per annum. Best practices in fire prevention and more proactive monitoring were piloted at individual CBFM sites, then incorporated into Federation level activities, and embraced by the local government units and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). This is a good example of tangible site-based threat abatement activities being scaled up to the larger landscape and being adopted by a larger group of stakeholders to make threat abatement sustainable.

CBFM Nursery Development Supports Agroforestry to Rehabilitate Denuded Areas, Take Pressure Off Intact Biodiversity and Expand Local Livelihoods: Nurseries managed by the CBFM groups in all five provinces have cultivated over 200,000 seedlings and their planting used to rehabilitate over 500 hectares of denuded area with native species and high value, non invasive species. These pilot efforts have now established models that other donors and the Philippines Government are investing in to expand plantings and sustainable livelihoods that conserve the forest biodiversity and expand income generation for local communities that is not dependent on clearing forest with slash and burn farming methods.

Policy issues and government partnerships

The launching and promotion of the CBFM Federations and Multi-Sectoral Groups was essential in promoting government – civil society partnerships that allowed for constructive and collaborative work on policy issues impacting forest biodiversity in the Philippines. The GCP project activities first focused on increasing capacity in biological monitoring, resource inventories and mapping, but as profiled below these technical skills were then used to comply with government policies as well as inform government policies.

Biological Monitoring, Resource Inventories, and Mapping Efforts Yield Multiple Benefits:

These activities have had governance and economic development benefits well beyond the biological monitoring data that is generated. The CBFM sites use these data to comply with the requirements of the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to keep their CBFM agreements in good standing and justify access to Resource Use Permits (RUPs) for sustainable forest use in non-old growth areas. Compared to other provinces in the country implementing CBFM, Region 2 and Palawan are considered advanced in meeting the resource inventory and monitoring requirements of the government. Hands on participatory resource inventories and mapping exercises have promoted trust and capacity building among the stakeholders to better address threats.



Stakeholders work on identifying threats using site maps

Adaptive Management and Governance Capacity Address the Recent and Growing Threat to Forests from Mining on Palawan:

As a result of the up to date mapping information, CBFM organizations started airing their complaints against the issuance of mining permits on Palawan when they learned that mining claims over-lapped with CBFM and protected forest areas. They became more vigilant on the enforcement of forestry regulations on mining. The CBFM organizations with help from local legal NGOs and EnterpriseWorks/VITA were responsible for the cancellation of one mining operation for violating its transport permit and operating outside the approved mining area. Through the coordinated effort of the multi-stakeholder group, a moratorium on small-scale mining permits was issued in 2009. By knowing the environmental laws associated with mining, lobbying was successful in getting a more reasonable approach to issuing mining permits, monitoring and enforcing environmental laws for operating mines. The goal was not to ban mining, but rather to promote responsible mining that adheres to the environmental and forestry laws. The attention of the multi-stakeholder group and their vigilance in monitoring mining applications, permits and operations discourages “under the table” deals that would impact high biodiversity areas.



Mining encroachment into forest stopped

Measures of success

312,000 Hectares Under Effective Management

The project’s target of bringing 300,000 hectares into effective management has been exceeded by more than 12,000 hectares. The 312,000 hectares, in 133 Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) sites, are coordinated under five Federations in Region 2 and Palawan and are linked to landscape level planning with the

provincial multi-sector task forces. The Federations monitor that forestry laws and regulations are enforced, CBFM sites are included in the local governments' landscape level management plans and lobbying for policy/regulatory reforms are a concerted effort of CBFM federations. The management models and threat abatement strategies used for the 312,000 hectares are being adopted for additional areas. The multi-sectoral task forces and federations are now a sustainable mechanism to help ensure that areas continue under effective management.

The CBFM Federations now coordinate with a diverse set of stakeholders to actively protect and manage the province's ecosystems and continue to develop the capacity of the CBFM stakeholders to address threats to the environment while improving local livelihoods. The integration of local livelihood considerations with the overall resource management strategies and biodiversity conservation is considered key to the success of project interventions.

Value of the GCP program

The long-term commitment of the GCP program allowed for program activities to build political constituencies at local, regional, and national levels that are critical to impacting landscape level conservation. The long-term commitment garnered significant trust and reliable working relationships that would have been difficult to achieve in a short-term project. The financial support provided by GCP was used to provide direct technical assistance to the local groups and link groups across the landscape to work collaboratively on conservation and exchange learning. Based on the final close-out meetings of the multi-sectoral groups assisted by the GCP program the following lessons learned and continuing challenges were reported by the groups.

- ❑ Conservation has to be relevant to local communities as they need economic security
- ❑ Reconciliation of land and resource conflict management steps should first be undertaken BEFORE effective management could be achieved
- ❑ Resource assessments and resource management plans are critical to determine production levels of forest-based enterprises
- ❑ Strengthening of forestry groups through federation efforts was effective
- ❑ CBFM compliance issues are bottlenecks for most activities of the People's Organizations (POs)
- ❑ Opportunities for product development, but needed longer-term vision and development of skills (agro forestry, NTFPs)
- ❑ The business discipline among POs, as much as social discipline, is required to make enterprise development a success
- ❑ Lots of competition from outside "big players" (armed illegal loggers, mining interests)
- ❑ Civil conflict in isolated areas, inconsistent policy progress with government
- ❑ Control of illegal activities requires collaboration among stakeholders beyond the community groups and DENR. The inclusion of law enforcers (e.g. military, police) in the process has been effective.
- ❑ Deputized CBFM members are a valuable mechanism to apprehend violators of forest laws.
- ❑ Organized actions on threats supported by good data and maps are key to successful lobbying for change by stakeholders.
- ❑ Regular assessment of plans by the groups is fostering adaptive management that identifies new threats quickly and fosters coordinated action.

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