

CEPF Project Completion report for Small Fund

Please fill in the following form of report so as to be consideration for CEPF to understand the results of your project. In the pat of narrative description, give clear and concise answers; please also include sufficient details describing progresses and results obtained out of your project.

Period of Report (month/date/year)
September 31, 2004

Organization Related Information
Name of organization
Yayasan Bina Ketrampilan Desa Indonesia : BITRA Indonesia
Project Title
Strategy Development for Sumatra's Newly Declared Batang Gadis National Park
Project of Date (like included in the Grant Agreement)
January 1, till July 31, 2004
Working Partner Organization
Yayasan Pusaka Indonesia Yayasan Samudera Indonesia Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Sumatra Utara

Project Summary – Describe briefly the project you have undertaken

Introduction

The short seven months project period (January 1, till July 31, 2004) was designed systematically to build a mutual framework between Bitra Consortium and Conservation International Indonesia in materializing the establishment of Batang Gadis National Park (BGNP) located in Mandailing Natal North Sumatra, as a great part of Northern Sumatra Ecosystem.

The activities undertaken in his project were covering 8 components, such as the following:

1. Internal Consortium Consolidation (Bitra Indonesia, Pusaka Indonesia, Walhi Sumatra Utara and Samudera Indonesia).
2. Preliminary discussion on strategy for BGNP among CII, CEPF and BITRA Consortium.
3. Community organizer recruitment and orientation.
4. The making of Terms Of Reference (TOR) for assessment and preparation for assessment.
5. Assessment undertaking covering socio-economic, opinion and legal aspects.
6. Workshop undertaking between Bitra Consortium and CII
7. Internal Bitra Consortium Strategy Planning.
8. Proposal finalization and its submission to CEPF.

Process and Results:

In general, the available time schedule for this project implementation could be maximized. It was begun by holding 2 or 3 time meetings among the members of consortium in order to further understand various contexts and history of idea initiation on how BGNP came to light as well as platform changes out of Saving Strategy of Angkola Natural Forest in 3 regencies (initial version) to Strategy of Establishing BGNP in Mandailing Natal regency (Madina), and this would part of Angkola natural forest.

A preliminary discussion was held in January 24, 2004 involving Bitra Consortium, CEPF and CII in Bitra Consortium's secretariat, in Medan, North Sumatra. The said meeting resulted in more additional understanding about roles and responsibility of each institution involved in the work of the saving of Northern Sumatra corridor, in general, and BGNP especially. In addition, the said meeting also successfully opened an opportunity to carry out some reviews toward various assumptions having been developed by Bitra Consortium in connection with political motives prevailing among bureaucrats and local, regional and national key players, especially in promoting the establishment of BGNP. The testing review went further on the basis of on-field assessment.

Shortly before the said assessment took place, Bitra Consortium carried out recruitment for Community Organizers (CO). During its first inception all COs were deployed to the field as members of assessing team in order to measure the readiness socio-politically, economic viability of the people, as well as the political elites in Madina Regency as it related with BGNP establishment plan, following the making of Terms Of Reference for assessment undertaking and other preparatory work.

The said assessment was conducted more or less in a three-week period in Madina, Medan and Jakarta. There were 10 assessors were deployed to Madina in order to trace back some fact findings having related with motives, readiness, potential, and a lot variety overviews prevailing among some community groups and political elites on the planning of BGNP establishment plan. Three assessors were focused in obtaining overviews from among the bureaucrats concerning BGNP's matters at provincial level. One assessor was sent to Jakarta in order to obtain data on the responses of Jakarta in relation with BGNP (in this case, Ministry of Forest).

The results of assessment indicated that:

First, the said area as planned to be a BGNP constitutes a very strategic location and it holds invaluable and significant potentials for the conservation of natural resources, especially the forest itself. Second, interaction between local people and the surrounding forest adjacent to the buffer zone is relatively very strong, which is blended with local rules (traditional rules), in which they have believed in for many generations back since ancient time. Third, the local people had been so far made in a great absence within policy-making system concerning the idea of establishing BGNP. This all has been proved of the fact that local people tend to have so limited understanding about what national park is. This has been going along with the lack of know-how in the principle of conservation as well. Fourth, the regional government has not been successfully committed to stopping various forest encroachments in the region. This is all not only caused by the lack of political will but also by the relatively unclear law enforcement between both the government and the total absence of local people's participation, especially in stopping illegal logging practices.

The next activity was a workshop focused on building a mutual understanding and synergy between Bitra Consortium and CII in Medan on March 4 – 6, 2004, in Medan North Sumatra. The said workshop was initiated by a presentation on the results of assessment previously carried by Bitra Consortium as well as the interim results of surveying team containing biodiversity of BGNP, facilitated by CII. The said workshop came out with some constructive results where there is a solid understanding in work-sharing based on each institutional expertise. Synergic principles and a work-plan were achieved for future undertaking. The said principles are:

1. Actors in Synergy/Alliance

1.1. Conservation International Indonesia (CII) carried out scientific based conservation, policy study and lobbying with local elites and fund raising.

1.2. Consortium:

Bitra Indonesia is carrying out community development as well as preparing community organizers, micro farming development and advocacy activity. Pusaka Indonesia carries out legal drafting, Walhi Sumatra Utara carries out campaign, people organizing, provocative and networking and policy intervention at both up and down stream, Samudara Indonesia, Sibolga carries out community organizing consolidation, Local Institutions empowering and social forestry system development.

2. Principles

2.1. Transparency (open communication, financing and synergy, program and approach)

2.2. Involvement and stakeholders participation (people based)

2.3. Intellectual property Rights.

Copy Rights: Individuals or institution that are writing and publishing their works

Patent Rights: Compensation towards patent registration given to people.

2.4. Solidarity (complimentarily completed to each other)

2.5. Respecting local wisdom among institution involved in the collaboration.

3. Collaboration Forum:

3.1. Routine based meeting

3.2. Share notes

3.3. Any problem arising among members of collaboration/synergy was resolved amicably

by taking it into account based on the principles of democracy.

3.4. Unless otherwise the above point could not be resolved, impartial third party was invited to provide mediation)

4. Fund Source:

4.1. CEPF provided project fund for BGNP.

4.2. CII and Bitra Consortium have to respect CEPF's principles.

4.3. In case any other funding agency interested in giving supporting support, the collaboration would notify CEPF.

5. Research on the potentials of BGNP

5.1. Assessment:

- a. Economic resources: comparative commodities, market, financing institutions, business center at local level)
- b. Social Capital: (established local wisdom, pesantren/religious education institutions, village governance)
- c. Sustainable use of BGNP resources.
- d. Mapping of local institutions, local socio-economy and culture, the strengths local elites, illegal logging players.
- e. Networking of local potentials
- f. Boundary marking of BW across all villages.

5.2. Socialization and Community counter-parting

- a. At community level: boundary management, BGNP concept, collaborative management, sustainable use of resources, local institution strengthening.
- b. At Regional Government level: socialization of BGNP concept, Collaborative management, and community-based development, sustainable use of natural resources.

5.3. Counter-parting process in the establishment and implementation of management board and the restructuring plan of BGNP.

- a. The establishment of initiating team
- b. Working mechanism and collaborative values
- c. Long term financing, Central Government Budget, Regional Government Budget, special allocation fund.
- d. Organizational structure.
- e. Working program

5.4. Counter-parting at Regional level:

- a. Good Governance
- b. Cross-sector coordination
- c. Local community based development concept and conservation of natural resources.
- d. Legal Drafting (bill) concerning traditional local wisdom, intellectual property rights, regional spatial plans.
- e. The promotion of human resource development capacity.

After the said workshop conducted, Bitra consortium carried out internal strategy planning in order to structure a more detailed agenda directed to the structuring of Letter of Inquiry for program for future implementation on developing BGNP (LOI had been sent and gained positive response from Judy Mills, CEPF Asia Grant Director.

Base on the additional program request, that BITRA Consortium has been handle internal meeting for Logical Framework planed in Sumatera Village Resort Hotel Medan and Performance Tracking in Sayum Saba Medan, project of Empowering for Local People and Local Government to Support Batang Gadis National Park.

And then meeting together between BITRA Consortium and Conservation International Indonesia (CII) in Dharma Deli Hotel, Medan 9 July 2004 for Logical Framework synchronization and development. The purpose of this meeting is to share common goal and understanding toward supporting development Batang Gadis National Park (BGNP). The result is that BITRA Consortium now 7 Outputs on project BGNP for time 2 year 3 months, as below:

1. The availability of comprehensive data on the aspects of culture, economy, and politics of all stakeholders involved, and some pictures of threats to the forest, including the most possible funding source from local government (Regional Expense and Development Fund).
2. The establishment of People Based Conservatory Organizations within 35 key villages in context of supporting the sustainable establishment of BGNP.
3. The emergence of initiatives in building efforts or alternative economic activities among the people living adjacent to BGNP, such as: agroforestry/non-timber forest production (cocoa and coffee), traditional based freshwater fisheries (Ibuk larangan) and the possibility of ecotourism development.
4. The emergence of Local Based Regulations (Village Regulation) in 10 key selected villages based on preliminary assesment and the availability of Village Based Conservatory Management Plan (VBCMP). Such village based regulation is expected of supporting the implementation of collaborative management over BGNP.
5. The emergence of solid, strong and intensive cummunication between CII and Bitra Consortium as well as local partners in support of BGNP Establishment.
6. The emergence of efforts in the improvement of capacity among parties at the level of program implementation.
7. The availability of campaign media in support of BGNP establishment.

Narrative Question

1. What is the initial objectives of this project

Preliminary plan for conserving an important part of Northern Sumatra's ecosystem. The outputs will include an assessment of community forestry schemes after logging concessions cancellation.

2. Are there any changes of objectives during the course of your project implementation? If yes, please explain why and how.

There is no change for the big part of it. However, in practice, assessment for community forestry scheme, after logging concession was not carried out. It was due to the fact that still there are many logging related matters prevailing in the field. It is predicted that the matters will continue to several stages to go. Therefore, the assessment carried out was trying to trace back the conflicting positions prevailing in planned area of BGNP, in which there are found some on-going forest concessions and other industrial activity, such gold mining – both traditional and modern types.

3. Please, explain how your project has successfully achieved the expected goals.

Bitra Consortium tried to developed collaborative approach based on multi-stakeholder mechanism. The principles of transparency was put at the top priority, and various ideas of every institution involved in the project undertaking were put into account and respected accordingly, at all level of activities of this project. The available facilitation from CEPF and the already established communication between CEPF and CII, with various institutions in Madina and Medan, North Sumatra. The said progress has facilitated Bitra Consortium to meet with various number of people/related institutions having related with this project undertaking. More importantly, there has been a solid and strong commitment among members of consortium and CII to save the remaining natural forest, and it becomes a prospective capital for ensuring the implementation of saving activity of North Sumatra Corridor, in the future.

4. Was there any disappointment among your team or any failure during the course of project implementation? If yes, explain and describe how your team overcomes the disappointment and the failures.

In the first inception, there was indeed some disappointment and misinterpretation toward the positioning of CII in whole scheme of Angkola Forest Protection. It was due to the failure of the first plan of program implementation in the region. It was more than one year the structuring process of LOI making, Logframe and tracking performance was finally suspended and delayed.

However, after communication could be rebuilt, Bitra Consortium conducted several meeting in order to analyze what had been the factors of failure during its first stage, and it was finally concluded the most key problem was about misinterpretation, and this was merely due to miscommunication problems.

5. Please, explain positive and negative lessons obtained from this project, which is useful for other organizations doing similar project.

It is not the time anymore to work alone upon our individual conception, especially in carrying out this multi-disciplined project. Indeed, and it should be better, such a collaborative working principles should be on top of priority – among diverse and related institutions by still putting transparency and openness on the frontline.

Besides, promoting the principles of respecting everyone's idea to be on top of priority, it is also strongly advised that the community living in the surrounding forest area be made well known and well informed on the status of the project and its broad objectives. It is all because that the local community living surrounding the project area is the biggest part that will receive the whole impact of the project with various natural resources found in the project site. Doing so, there is a guaranty that the BGNP would sustain its conservation to the best performance, in the future.

6. Please, explain the follow up activities towards this project.

- 1.1. **BGNP management planning and technical capacity building support delivered** – this output will improve our knowledge of social cultural aspects of community in saving the Park, invest in local capacity (incl. project implementing) to manage the Park, and support the creation of Park management institutions.
- 1.2. **Support for creation of an enabling environment by local community and local agencies is provided** – this output will ensure that the BGNP will exist within a larger natural resource management and that community is in full support of the Park management objectives.
- 1.3. **BGNP outreach and public support campaign implemented** – this output will implement direct advocacy among local stakeholders involved in protected area creation and expansion with support for implementation of key elements of a communications strategy for the BGNP that reaches a local, regional, national, and possibly international audience.
- 1.4. **Implement sustainable economic alternatives delivered to local key stakeholders** – this output will implement community economic development alternatives that are consistent with Park management objectives and creates new incentives for local stakeholder support of conservation.
- 1.5. **A resource mobilization program to support implementation and sustainable financing is carried out** – this output will ensure that capacity and resources are in place to find new resources to support BITRA and its consortium activities in the Park that will indirectly contribute to saving the Park in the future.
- 1.6. **Support for creating an enabling legal condition:** this output will develop related local regulations (Perda -Peraturan Daerah, Perdes =Peraturan Desa) that will ensure law is secured/strengthened at district and village levels.
- 1.7. **Development and dissemination of lesson learned mechanism/process to influence decision making process in neighboring districts and provinces (Tapanuli Selatan, Tapanuli Tengah and Pasaman in West Sumatra):** this output will develop, document, and disseminate lesson learned process to neighboring districts and provinces to influence their decision making process in favor to community-based conservation.

7. Please include additional information as necessary for CEPF to further understand other aspects of the already accomplished project phase.

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