

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Counterpart International

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *Sierra Madre Forest Gardens Program*

Implementation Partners for this Project: Counterpart International/Philippines

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): April 1, 2005 and amended February 5, 2007, Grant Extension September 30, 2007

Date of Report (month/year): January 8, 2008

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The Sierra Madre Forest Garden Project is a replication of the Forest Garden Program initiated by Counterpart International in the central part of the Philippines. It utilizes the processes of analog forestry in restoring and protecting biodiversity and the environment. During the entire project duration, three farmer cooperatives were formally organized. Two of these cooperatives are operating within the Penablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape (PPLS) in Penablanca, Cagayan. The third cooperative is composed of tribal farmers residing within the proposed Mount Mantalingahan Protected Area, located in Brookes Point Palawan. These cooperatives are implementing various development projects in their respective communities. Farmers are trained on the principles and practices of analog forestry. Each of them is implementing various sustainable farming practices, including Forest Gardening.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: *Forest Garden/analog forestry technology and process implemented by the participating communities. 2. Palawan NGO Network, Inc., Line agencies and local government trained on analog forestry and forest garden concepts and process as a method of biodiversity conservation and restoration.*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
<i>Number of forest gardens developed by farmers.</i>	172 farmers are implementing forest gardening practices, (109 in Penablanca, Cagayan and 63 in Brookes Point, Palawan).
<i>Acceptance level of farmers on the Technology on analog forestry and processes</i>	Analog Forestry is gaining favorable support from local farmers, local government units, line agencies

	(Departments of the Environment and Natural Resources, Agriculture, Education) and local academia. The level of support can be measured in terms of a) farm development initiated by the farmers, b) participation of line agencies in workshops and hands-on applications of the technology, and c) support from the local government units and their offices in project implementation.
<i>Increase awareness and understanding on analog forestry/(AF)forest garden concepts as method of restoration and providing livelihood</i>	Planting of permanent crops, fruit trees and endemic species of forest trees, shifting of farming practices from mono-culture to multiple cropping, establishment of soil and water conservation schemes.
<i>Acceptance level of the AF and Counterpart International</i>	Counterpart is accredited with local government units as well as with line agencies in the provinces of Cayagayan and Palawan. The neighboring communities have requested the Forest Garden program to be expanded to their localities.

Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.

1. Sustained income from the introduced cash crops and active participation in environment awareness training. The income generated helped divert the attention of the participating farmers from illegal cutting of trees and made them focus on farm production and community involvement instead.
2. Additional income derived from cash crop production among tribal communities in Amas, Brookes Point.
3. Establishment of a Farm Development Plan, planting of hedgerows and other soil and water conservation measures have allowed the tribal communities to use sustainable farming technology rather than slash and burn.
4. Development of Community-Based Development Plans (CBDP) in each community. A participative approach to identify socio-economic, environmental and cultural issues in the community. This process has allowed the farmers to come up with strategies and options on how to respond to those problems.
5. Implementation of micro-financing and livelihood activities within the community has generated the following benefits for the participating farmers: a) increase in cash income, b) savings and capital generation, d) assurance for future losses of income through micro-insurance; and 4) collective marketing of products from the community (e.g. corn, livestock and NTFP, resin, etc.)

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The project had positive impacts among the participating farmers and not only within the two project sites as the neighboring communities have benefited as well. The same concept and processes are currently being implemented by Counterpart within the CI/Toyota Funded Agro-forestry contract although long-term benefits of the projects are yet to be realized in the next 5 years.

The time frame for the expansion in the southern Palawan has provided hopes for the tribal communities. However, its intervention and funding have only allowed Counterpart to work with a small number (50) of tribal communities. The application of Analog Forestry cannot be appreciated within the project term.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs: Enter the project outputs from the Logical Framework for the project

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
<p>Output 1: Trained at least 200 farmers on the application of the analog forestry and forest garden concepts. Each farmer cultivating an average area of .5 hectares of forest garden, implementing appropriate farming systems on sustainable agriculture. Micro-habitat of endemic species of fauna established. Developed forest garden farm plans.</p>	<p>Trained 217 farmers on the application of analog forestry and forest garden (FG) concepts. A total of 107 farmers are implementing FG activities at different levels. The total surface of land developed into FG has an aggregate of 117 hectares of individual forest, excluding 5 hectares of communal and demonstration farm. Farmers are shifting farming practices from monoculture to multiple cropping, integration of permaculture and small ruminants, soil and water conservation measures and composting.</p>
<p><i>Year 1: 100 households or a total of 500 household members; 50 hectares of individual farm lot devoted to Forest Garden</i></p>	<p>77 farmers or some 385 household members are involved in the implementation of FG activities with an aggregate of 78 hectares of farm devoted to Forest Garden or an average of 1 hectare per farmer.</p>
<p><i>Year 2: 100 households or a total of 500 household members; 50 hectares of individual farm lot devoted to Forest Garden</i></p>	<p>An additional 37 farmers or 185 household members joined the implementation of FG.</p>
<p>Output 2 Nurseries and arboretum established at the community level, producing at least 200,000 endemic trees, fruit trees, cash crops, and other planting needed by the farmers. Demonstration on the application of analog forestry and forest garden processes attended by the participating farmers.</p>	<p>Nurseries and Demonstration Farms were established in the communities. A recorded production of 280,000 seedlings of fruit trees, endemic species of forest trees and cash crops were produced and dispersed to the participating farmers.</p>
<p><i>Year 1: a) Two communal nurseries established, producing a combined 100,000 seedling.</i></p> <p><i>2) One Arboretum at the same time demonstration farm established in Barangay Manga.</i></p>	<p>Two communal nurseries were established; one in Mangga and one in Minanga, with a combined production of 35,000 seedlings of various fruit trees and cash crops.</p> <p>Two arboretum/demonstration farms were established in each project site. In Mangga, the arboretum/ demonstration farm has an area of 1.7 hectares and is currently maintained by the MAFAMCO. A communal vegetable garden of .5 hectare was also established, while in Minanga, the demonstration farm has an area of 2.8 hectares.</p>
<p><i>Year 2: Sustained nurseries operation with a combined production of 100,000 seedlings and other planting materials</i></p> <p><i>Developed a seed bank/ or seed exchange mechanism among farmers in the two project sites.</i></p> <p><i>Planting of endigeneous tree species, and enhanced planting of cash crops</i></p>	<p>Sustained operation of two nurseries producing more than 180,000 seedlings and other planting materials. Two additional nurseries were established in coordination with the Dept of Education. These nurseries are located in: a) Minanga Elementary School and has produced some 15,000 seedlings, and b) Penablanca National Highschool -Mangga Extension School and has produced more than 50,000 seedlings of narra, fruit trees and other cash crops.</p>

	Seed exchanges activities were initiated by the two communities for cash crops (vegetables and corn).
Output 3: Community based development plans (CBDPs) developed by the participating community based organizations (CBOs). Capabilities of the CBOs in the implementation of the CBDPs' developed and improved.	Each of the two organizations was able to develop Community-based Development Plans, indentifying their community Vision, Mission, Goals (VMGO) and specific projects in response to the identified community problems. The two partner cooperatives are implementing their own livelihood projects. In Mangga, an agricultural credit for cash crop production was established and in Minangga, a corn marketing and agricultural credit fund.
<p><i>Year 1. Community organized into formal organization, registered with the registering bodies</i></p> <p><i>Trained leaders</i> <i>Formulated organizational policies and set up financial management systems.</i></p> <p><i>Year 2 Defined Vision, Mission and Goals of the two organizations.</i></p> <p><i>Development of annual plans and budget</i></p> <p><i>Mobilization of local resources for the implementation of CBDP.</i></p>	<p>The two cooperatives: Mangga Farmers Multi-purpose Cooperative and Minanga Farmers Multi-purpose Cooperative are registered with the Cooperative Development Authority - Region II.</p> <p>Officers and key leaders are trained on various capability building techniques such as leadership, financial management, credit management and have formulated organizational policies.</p> <p>The VMGO of the two organizations were formulated and lead to a five-year development plan. Annual plans and budgets were presented and approved by a general assembly of respective cooperatives.</p>
<i>Improved capabilities of the officers of partner CBOs' to mobilize local resources and provide local equity in the form of labor, land, etc.</i>	The two cooperatives were able to generate from among their members a Capital Build Up of Php 35,000 or USD 853 (at P41.00 to USD 1). This amount does not include communal labor volunteered by the members and the use of land. The cooperatives have also developed a proposal for local government units to finance some of the identified projects.
Output 4Farmers realized increase in production and income from the application of the analog forestry and sustainable agriculture farming technologies, thereby reducing the utilization of forest products. Improved soil fertility of farms, reduced soil erosion, and water run offs.	An income increase was realized by the farmers starting at year 2 of the project which can be attributed to the introduction of various cash crops and livestock production in the community and to the assistance of the cooperatives in the marketing of agricultural products and NTFPs. The implementation of appropriate farming technologies, including planting of hedgerow species, establishment of contour canal, application of composting, and preparation of botanical concoction (fermented plant juice, fish amino acids, etc.) also contributed to generating more income for the farmers.
<p><i>Year 1. Established hedge rows, compost and other soil and water conservation measures</i></p> <p><i>Number of farmers shifting from current farming systems into sustainable agriculture.</i></p> <p><i>Year 2: At least 20% increase in production yield based on the year 1 data.</i></p>	<p>Farmers are trained on the application of SALT technologies and planting of hedgerow species. They have also been trained on composting using endogenous materials, farm residues and application of mulching during dry season period. There are 170 farmers (107 in Cagayan province and 63 in Palawan) who have continuously improved their farming systems.</p> <p>Additional income is derived from cash crop production and multiple cropping system. A recorded income of Php 323.00/farmer per 80-day-cropping cycle was realized in the first quarter of year 2 and Php 2,518.25 in the third and fourth quarters of year 2.</p>

<i>Increased in production Yield realized by the participating farmers</i>	The vegetables sold at local markets (Penablanca) are coming from the project sites, while the tribal community of Amas, Palawan has started supplying the local market with organic vegetables. A total of 22 tons of vegetables were reported by MAFAMCO and MIFAMCO in December 2006 and 30 tons in August 2007.
<i>Number of forest gardeners provided with loans for farm production</i>	Micro-finance services are being sustained by the Counterpart Credit & Saving Cooperative in collaboration with the two partner cooperatives in Penablanca. 75 farmers were given loans; they are currently in their 4 th cycle. The total amount of loans provided to farmers was Php 750,000 or USD 18,300, maintaining an average repayment rate of 98% over the last 4 cycles. Aside from the participating farmers, the cooperative is also extending loans to poor entrepreneurs in Tuguegarao City and Penablanca.
Output 5: Trained 20 NGO-members of Palawan NGO Network and local executives on Analog Forestry and Forest Garden Concepts	Two provincial-wide workshops were conducted in Palawan.
<i>1.1Participation of 20 NGO leaders & technical staff and 25 representatives from the local government units on the AF training course 1.2 NGO participants able to establish AF data base</i>	20 NGO leaders, 2 from the local state universities and 18 representatives from the local government units and line agencies were trained in analog forestry. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Ranil Senanayake who was assisted by the local Counterpart team.
<i>Working agreement with the local government units, line agencies and NGOs signed.</i>	Counterpart was given a work permit by the Municipality of Brookes Point. PNNI was initiated while participating in the regular meeting of the South Palawan Planning Council, PNNI was initiated. No formal agreement was signed between Counterpart, line agencies and NGOs.
Output 6: Established Site Demonstration Farm on Analog Forestry	Two nurseries and demonstration farms were established in Amas, Brookes Point, Palawan
<i>Started the lay-outting and farm development, seedling production for the demonstration farm</i>	The two nurseries and two demonstration farms are located in the upper and lower Amas. The tribal community is divided into two sub-groups to attend to the labor requirements of the nurseries and demonstration farms. At the lower Amas, a tribal house was constructed for the group meetings and training. Currently, these two nurseries have a combined production of more than 40,000 different seedlings of fruit trees and cash crops.
Output 7: Identified and improved the capability of Local NGO for the implementation of FG ground activities and on the implementation of economic and livelihood activities/micro-finance operation for the target farmers.	The existing SPABP (Samahan ng mga Palawano sa Amas Brookes Point or the Association of Palawan tribe in Amas Brookes Point) is assisting in formalizing and registering the association into a formal cooperative. The SPABP Multi-purpose Cooperative is the local partner of Counterpart International in the implementation of FG in Brookes Point.
<i>Number of farmers trained on analog forestry by the local NGO partner Number of farmers implementing forest garden activities Development of Sustainability Plan for the implementation of Forest Garden</i>	Out of 70 tribal farmers trained in analog forestry, 63 farmers are implementing FG activities. Each farmer has developed an individual Forest Garden Farm Plan with an average farm size of 1.6 hectares of tribal land. Implementation of the project is on-going despite grant termination. A sustainability plan is yet to be discussed with the SPABP MPC, line agencies and NGOs.

<i>Local NGO partner providing micro-financing services for the participating farmers</i>	SPABP members and officers are trained in the operation of micro-financing services. Credit policies, books and financial management systems were installed. However, SPABP is still mobilizing resources for the lending operations.
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Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.

Project deliverables in Penablanca were accomplished. Their implementation was expanded to 4 other barangays through the CI/Toyota Agro-forestry project. The impact of the project in terms of economic benefits that will be derived from maturing forest gardens cannot be measured yet due to the short project term. However, shifting to sustainable farming practices has resulted in an increase in production yield and cash income. It has also decreased the number of farmers engaged in illegal cutting of forest trees. It was estimated that about 70% of the current members of Minanga and Mangga used to be dependent on illegal cutting of trees for cash income. They are now concentrating on farm diversification and implementing appropriate technologies in agriculture.

Were any outputs unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

Due to the timeframe allotted for the Palawan Sierra Madre Project, SPABP was not able to implement micro-finance services and collective marketing of products. Counterpart's efforts were exerted to increase food production and educate the tribal communities on the different technologies. Another output not realized was the formalizing of a Memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Counterpart, NGOs and line agencies in the implementation of FG in the Brookes Point area. However, without the MOU, line agencies and NGOs are actively involved in the implementation of the Forest Garden activities.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

1. Presence of personnel from the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources, specifically from the Office of the Protected Areas. While the project participants are implementing FG activities or have minimized participation in the illegal cutting of trees, logs and timber can still be seen in the community. Pouching is done by non-project participants. Implementation of Environmental laws as such illegal pouching of forest products should be strictly implemented within the PPLS area. Physical presence of concerned agencies can minimize illegal activities within PPLS.
2. Improve access to basic services such as health and nutrition, sustain technical assistance in the area of agriculture and marketing enterprise development. Intervention provided by Countepart and Counterpart Credit and Savings Cooperative is very limited in terms of scope and reach due to funding limitation. Unmet basic services will always result in more illegal activities within the PPLS.
3. Local governance at both the village and municipal level must also include serious efforts in the implementation of environment programs, protection and restoration.

VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.

1. Human Welfare and the Environment. Sustainability of conservation efforts is always associated with the welfare of the community. Unless human needs (e.g. food security, health and population issues) are satisfied, interventions towards illegal poaching of forest products and environment degradation cannot be effective. The issue of poverty among farmers who have no alternative source of income as well as the poverty of those residing within the protected areas, has adverse effects on the protected area.
2. Enterprise development within the protected area for non-timber forest products provides an opportunity for economic growth and sustainability of protection efforts.
3. Tribal communities and farmers residing within the protected area are the best protectors of the forest.
4. Environment and Biodiversity can be best appreciated and understood by the farmers/project participants if these can be translated into sustainable economic benefits to their families.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/failure)

1. Ownership of the project. Forest Garden/analog forestry is a technology and a process. Sense of ownership of the project at every level provides commitment and direct involvement not only from the farmer but from the entire family. The development of the individual forest garden is viewed as normal farming activities each family member engages in. Family members share their labor, contribute to production and assign tasks and responsibilities to their siblings. Their contribution and investment provide them with a sense of ownership.
2. Partnership. Line agencies, local government units, academia and NGOs are the best resources to provide delivery of basic services, information, technical experience and expertise and other services that compliment the project.
4. Community Organization. Setting up of formal community organizations such as the three cooperatives. Responding to economic and environmental issues requires commitment and collective efforts from the community.
5. Capital Mobilization. Project participants are viewed as co-owner of the project; as such, they are required to provide and share the cost of development, including project equity in the form of volunteer labor, use of land, and generation of cash contribution for income generating projects. Farmers and members will only protect the organization and its projects if they have stakes or equity in the actual implementation.
6. Introduction of perennial and short term cash crops that provides short and long term benefits to the family.

Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)

1. Building a strong and functional partnership. A strong partnership with line agencies provided the sharing of tasks, responsibilities, resources, information and expertise. Collaborative effort of bringing development in the community is less taxing and more effective.

2. Self-help initiative. Project activities and intervention are viewed as main responsibility of the community. This has allowed the organization to develop capabilities in terms of mobilizing community resources, including endogenous planting materials, labor, capital build-up and to respond to identified community problems.

3. Micro-financing services. Farm development and active participation both during and after project have become a necessary requirement for availment of loans. This process has allowed the planting of perennial crops, cash crops, and participation of protection activities. The micro-financing also provided micro-insurance for the project participants for medical reimbursement, untimely death of family members and other calamities. Additional capital was generated from the participating members through the forced savings scheme. Future enterprise and livelihood project can be financed through the self generated capital. As of this reporting period, an amount of USD 1,250.00 coming from MIFAMCO and MAFAMCO is held in-trust by Counterpart Credit & Savings Cooperative.

4. Transparency. Understanding of the entire program goals, objectives, activities, organizational policies and field level budget has strengthened relationships with the partner organizations, and built trust and commitment among direct project participants.

5. Farm-to-farm and house-to-house visits. As part of the community organizing process, building good relationships with the community and developing individual commitment from the project participant requires knowing the individual farmers. This activity has also allowed hands-on demonstration on the actual application of sustainable technologies at the farm level.

VII. 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	Date Received	Notes
Counterpart International/Counterpart Credit & Savings Coop	C	\$178,158	April to Sept. 2007	Loan Fund and Overhead Cost of Micro-financing. (computed at Php 41.00 to 1 USD) for Sierra Madre FG
Counterpart International/Counterpart Credit & Saving Cooperative	C	\$3,731	January 1 to September 2007	For Palawan FG activities.
BothEnds	C	\$2,000	September 2007	International Training on Analog Forestry and Certification
		\$		
		\$		

		\$		
		\$		

***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.

Continuation of the Forest Garden in Sierra Madre is supported by CI/Toyota Project. A 700 hectare agro-forestry plot was awarded to Counterpart Credit & Savings Cooperative. The same concepts and processes will be utilized to implement the project while the FG activities in Palawan are financed using the revolving fund of the Cooperative. However, plans and fund raising initiatives are being discussed with Counterpart International-HQ.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. A project term of two years is too short to put sustainability in place even though project deliverables were met. There are community issues and problems that need to be addressed before project activities start on the ground which will eat up project timeline. These include problems associated with human well-being as an effective strategy for long term conservation, protocol with the local government units, collaborative meeting with the line agencies and NGOs and the village community. A five-year program is much appreciated.**
- 2. There are more potential livelihood activities that respond to both conservation and poverty alleviation. However, these require more investment and time (e.g. community-based ecotourism, processing of value added NTFP's and skills development of the participating communities).**
- 3. Conservation Funds should also respond to improving local governance on the conservation and environment efforts and improving access/delivery of basic services.**

VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. One way we do this is by making programmatic project documents available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these in our newsletter and other communications.

These documents are accessed frequently by other CEPF grantees, potential partners, and the wider conservation community.

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