

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Integrated and Sustainable Community Upland Development Foundation, Inc.

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Strengthening Conservation Efforts and Land Use Planning on the Northern Sierra Madre Corridor through the Regional Geographic Information Network (RGIN)

Implementation Partners for this Project: National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Regional Office 2

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): January 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

Date of Report (month/year): AUGUST 2007

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The Project utilized the Regional GIS Network (RGIN), which was established in 2003 and steadily built up itself until it received support from the CEPF in 2006. The original grant agreement for US\$19,662 ended last December 2006. The project was given opportunity to go beyond initial targets when it was extended to June 2007 with additional grant of US\$20,338.

The Strengthening Physical Planning & Conservation Efforts through the Regional GIS Network Project has attained its intended purpose and outputs, and has achieved more than it set out to do. It has even resulted to prospects for replication of some activities in the other regions of the country.

The RGIN, with support from the project, enhanced regional governance. Adding spatial dimensions to a variety of information used policy/decision-making and in promoting biodiversity conservation makes a lot of difference to the region's leaders, planners and project stakeholders in making the right choice. In the long run, developmental and biodiversity conservation concerns will go hand-in-hand.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: Improved capability of the RGIN on the utilization of GIS-based technology, system and information for physical planning, bio-diversity conservation and other development concerns at the regional and sub-regional level and in the promotion of the concept of networking.

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
Five (5) Provincial GIS Centers (PGISCs) operational by end of June 2007	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Three (3) Provincial GIS Centers operational as of the end of June 2007. Two (2) provincial GIS centers operational by the end of 2007. 2. NRDB Pro Trainings were given to members of PGISCs (Batanes and Isabel) to help them start the operations of their respective PGISCs. Likewise, PGISCs were included in the RGIN Educational Program on GIS Application to give them a first hand look on the other applications of GIS. 3. Continued technical assistance was provided to the provinces of N. Vizcaya Batanes, Cagayan and Quirino regarding the preparation of their Provincial Physical Framework Plans (PPFP).
Enhanced GIS capabilities of the RGISC by end of June 2007	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The upgrading of the system through the acquisition of new hardware and peripherals (i.e., back-up server, additional work station UPS, external storage devices, among others) would facilitate the Center's provision of mapping assistance and inputs to decision-making of RGIN members. Likewise, the addition of new hardware would ensure the security and integrity of the RGISC's data holdings. 2. The upgrading of the Center's software from Arcview 3.1 to Arcview 9.1 has enhanced its capabilities to provide multi-criteria and spatial analysis, and data management among others. 3. The Center now has the capability to use GIS technologies in tandem with a socioeconomic database in its task of ensuring the balance between socioeconomic development and biodiversity concerns. (<i>The training of RGISC staff on the use of NRDB Pro and DevInfo System facilitated the acquisition of this capability.</i>)
RGIN replicated in the CARAGA region	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Caraga Action Plan adopted during the RGIN Executive Briefing last June 20, 2007 in Butuan City with Regional Development Council-Caraga Region planning to establish its own Network by the end of CY 2007. 2. Exploratory meeting regarding RGIN Replication conducted with NEDA-Caraga, the Northern Mindanao State Institute of Science and Technology, Philippine Eagle Foundation and Conservation International Philippines (March 05, 2007) 3. Continuing technical assistance to Caraga in

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

Over-all the project has:

1. Improved institutional capacity to manage SD through improved technical and managerial capacity of RGIN members, improved information database for planning, information exchange & coordination, promotion of shared governance, and promotion of replicating the project (*Replication of the RGIN in the Caraga region has been successfully started with the approval of an action plan toward the establishment of Caraga's RGIN. Aside from the said region, interest in RGIN replication has been signified by Regions XI and XII. A lower level LGU and a state university are being prepared to enter the network*).
2. Promotion of environmental conservation awareness through education on biodiversity and corridor concept.
3. Application of environmental management tools in planning through the facilitation of the preparation of a common & accepted reference for land use & conservation management through standardization of the region's base map. This has also resulted in improvements in land use and riverine zone planning
4. Promotion of sustainability of ENR through the establishment of an environmental management fund (prepared an initial project proposal for the sustainable financing of the Cagayan River Basin Program including RGIN operations & expansion)

The success of the project in its attainment of the intended impact objectives and performance indicators is manifested through the current use of GIS-based technology, systems and information by the RGIN members in the preparation of the proposed Northeastern Cagayan Protected Landscape and Seascape (its boundaries, existing land use, protected areas, among others), and the provincial land use plans.

Likewise, enhancements in the capabilities of the RGISC saw to the production a Poverty Map for the Province of Cagayan (as requested by the Peace and Equity Foundation, PROCESS-Luzon) that will aid the province in its fight against poverty. The translation of socioeconomic indicators in map form was made possible through the tandem use of NRDB Pro and the Development Information System (A socioeconomic database information system that is capable of producing maps and performs map overlays using basemaps coming from the NRDB Pro or any GIS program). Such capability would aid the RGISC in its role of providing mapping assistance and decision-making advice to RGIN members and the Regional Development Council 2, and will ensure balance between socioeconomic development and biodiversity concerns.

The replication of the RGIN in the Caraga Region would improve the capability of the said region in the utilization of GIS-based technology, systems and information for physical planning, biodiversity conservation and other development concerns at the regional and sub-regional level, and promote the concept of networking. In its continuous effort of promoting the RGIN, RDCXI through the NEDA Regional Office XI has made known its intention of also replicating the RGIN. Interest in RGIN replication has also been signified by Region XII.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

1. *RGIN Replication in Caraga.* An unintended effect when the project first began in 2006 was the interest shown by the Caraga Region in replicating the RGIN. Such as interest was

perked by the continuing promotion and advocacy for the RGIN done under the Project. The extension of the Project enabled us to provide full technical assistance to Caraga in replicating the RGIN.

2. *Prospects for replication in Region 11 (Southern Mindanao Region).* This region holds a portion of the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor with Caraga Region, that's why it was invited to activities to start up a Caraga RGIN. Their NEDA staff likewise participated in the Educational Tour Program that studied various applications of GIS in the government and again in the study tour to the Region 2 RGIN.
3. *Extension of RGIN to Lower LGU and State Universities/Colleges (SUC).* Though the project only focused its activities and promotion of the RGIN on a regional and provincial scale, a lower level – municipal – local government unit has signified its intention of developing its own Center. Based on talks with the municipality's Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator (MPDC) they would be requesting continuous technical assistance from the RGIN, and he will be pushing with other 26 other MPDCs the conduct of an NRDB Pro Training. Likewise, technical assistance is being provided to the Isabela State University in developing its GIS capabilities and facilities in preparation for their possible entry into the RGIN.
4. *Enhanced public use of GIS from other project products.* The assistance from JICA/ JOCV resulted to the formulation of the RGIN Information Database System Users' Manual and the Metadata Preparation Manual that will further aid the users of GIS, especially the RGIN members' technicians.
5. *Review and improvement of the RGIN.* The first RGIN Conference was conducted last May 02, 2007 which resulted with all RGIN members agreeing to complete all digitization activities for current map holdings by the end of 2007, conduct of a training course on NRDB Pro and the DevInfo System new GIS Coordinators/Technicians and those agencies that have not acquired a GIS Software, charging of fees for all requests for maps/information in the RGIN DBIS, printing of the RGIN DBIS User's Manual and Metadata Guidelines, and design and pre-testing of map analysis training course.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

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

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: Support to RGIN Database and Information System development.	
1.1. One (1) RGIN database information system completed.	One (1) RGIN database information system completed. The completion of RGIN DBIS went through the following process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and Encoding of RGIN DBIS • Review and Refinement of RGIN DBIS • Internet Trials Runs • Acquisition of Expressed Written Permissions from concerned agencies such as, NAMRIA, DA-BAR, BSWM, CIP for the use of their maps in the RGIN DBIS (IPR concerns) • Final Uploading

Indicator	Actual at Completion
	The preparation for the presentation of the RGIN DBIS to the RDC2 on September 24 for approval is on-going.
<p>1.2. RGIN GIS software and hardware components upgraded.</p>	<p>RGIN GIS hardware components upgraded as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 unit back-up server • 1 unit workstation • 2 units 650VA UPS • 2 units 1200VA UPS • KVM Switch • External Hard Drives • 2 pcs. 4GB Thumb drives • Various peripherals
<p>1.3. RGIN database backup system set up.</p>	<p>External database storage set-up at Conservation International, Philippines (Tuguegarao City Office)</p>
<p>1.4. RGIN operations manual reproduced and disseminated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 additional copies RGIN Operations Manual reproduced and disseminated <p><i>Unplanned:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 copies of RGIN Database Information System Users' Manual and disseminated • 50 copies of Metadata Preparation Manual prepared and disseminated
<p>Output 2. GIS Capability building program and workshops designed and implemented for target provinces and RGIN members.</p>	
<p>2.1. Two (2) GIS capability building training modules conducted per province</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive briefings held with the governors of Cagayan, Isabela and Batanes. • Batanes: 3 Trainings (NRDB Pro and ArcView – georectification and digitization, and 1st Regional GIS Conference) • Cagayan: 2 Trainings (NRDB Pro and 1st Regional GIS Conference) • Isabela: 2 Trainings (NRDB Pro and 1st Regional GIS Conference) <p><i>Unplanned:</i></p> <p>A Regional GIS Conference conducted to discuss various concerns of the network members ended with agreement to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete all digitization activities for current map holdings by the end of 2007 2. Conduct of a training course on NRDB

Indicator	Actual at Completion
	<p>Pro and the DevInfo System new GIS Coordinators/Technicians and those agencies that have not acquired a GIS Software</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Charging of fees for all requests for maps/information in the RGIN DBIS 4. Printing of the RGIN DBIS User's Manual and Metadata Guidelines 5. Design and pre-testing of map analysis training course.
<p>2.2. GIS Exposure trips conducted for RGIN GIS manpower</p>	<p>RGIN Educational Program on GIS Application conducted for RGIN members last May 21-24, 2007 participated in by 40 RGIN members (with LGU-San Mariano joining the group) that visited 8 agencies/institutions.</p> <p><i>Unplanned:</i></p> <p>This program was extended to include Regions 13 (Caraga) and 11(Southern Mindanao).</p>
<p>2.3. Specialized trainings conducted for RGIN GIS manpower.</p>	<p>NRBD Pro and Development Information System Training conducted for RGIN members last June 25-28, 2007</p>
<p>Output 3. Advocacy activities on biodiversity conservation.</p>	
<p>3.1 RGIN Information System launched in the internet by June 2007</p>	<p>RGIN Database Information System (DBIS) accessible via the Internet as of the end of June 2007.</p>
<p>3.2 Biodiversity conservation concepts/topics presented at the provinces</p>	<p>Advocacy on biodiversity conservation integrated in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RGIN Executive Briefing (Butuan City) June 20, 2007. • GIS Familiarization Workshop and NRDB Pro Training for the Province of Isabela (Ilagan, Isabela) May 15-18, 2007 • First Regional Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Conference (Tuguegarao City) May 02, 2007 • GIS Familiarization Workshop and NRDB Pro Training for Batanes (Basco, Batanes) February 12-15, 2007 • GIS Familiarization Workshop and NRDB Pro Training for Cagayan in 2006. • Executive Briefing on GIS and the RGIN with the Batanes, Cagayan and Isabela led by their governors (2006)

Indicator	Actual at Completion
	<p><i>Unplanned:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation and presentation of a poster on the project during the Wildlife Conservation Society of the Philippines (WCSP) Symposium in Davao City. • Preparation of a paper on the RGIN and sustainable planning for publication by the WCSP in the UP Mindanao's Banwa Journal.
<p>Output 4. Advocacy on the Replication of RGIN in the CARAGA region</p>	
<p>4.1 Consultation meetings with CARAGA stakeholders</p>	<p>Exploratory meeting regarding RGIN Replication conducted with NEDA-Caraga, the Northern Mindanao State Institute of Science and Technology, Philippine Eagle Foundation and Conservation International Philippines (March 05, 2007).</p>
<p>4.2 RGIN replication trainings and workshops conducted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First dialogue held with Caraga stakeholders (CIP, PEF, NEDA Caraga and NORMISIST) to determine the structure and center of a Caraga RGIN. • RGIN Executive Briefing conducted last June 20, 2007. Body adopted the action plan for the establishment of Caraga's RGIN. <p><i>Unplanned:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the 2007 Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Stakeholders' Conference and delivery of a presentation on the RGIN experience and lessons that motivated participants to include it in the EMBC action plan. • Initial assessment of LAN set-up and manpower capabilities of NEDA-Caraga. • Initial training on Getting to Know GIS designed for Caraga agencies and LGUs. • Initial training on NRDB Pro designed for NEDA-Caraga (as Caraga's RGIN Center) • Participation and presentation of RGIN experience during the Initial CEPF Evaluation Workshop and again during the Final CEPF Workshop.
<p>Output 5. Standardization of the Regional Basemap.</p>	
<p>5.1 Regional standard basemap completed and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitized the 66 topographic sheets and edge-matched the connecting sheets to

Indicator	Actual at Completion
approved by the RDC before end of June 2007	form the Riverine Map of Region 2 conforming it to the map of NAMRIA. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing (on-going) for presentation to the RDC before E.O. 2007
5.2 GIS data holdings of RGIN member agencies conformed with the standard basemap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The completed RGIN Riverine Map will be disseminated to the RGIN members for the conformation with their own datasets. • Participation of RGIN members in the preparation of the basemap.

Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.

The delivery of 93 percent (or 13 out 14) of the intended outputs in half of the required time (from 6 months to just 3 months) is partly attributed in putting the Regional GIS Center (hence the project) under the direct supervision of a division. Such a move made the personnel of the division available to the RGISC in the conduct of project activities. Likewise, the mix of expertise in the said division coupled with the close and constant coordination with the provincial governments, partners, and RGIN members has made possible the achievement of project outputs in just 3 months. All of these were made possible through the strong will, determination and proactive stance of project leaders to see it succeed.

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

Only 1 of the 14 outputs was not fully realized. This was the specialized training for all 5 provinces. The reasons that this was not fully realized were: 1) strengthening of the Philippine Peso (from the initial US\$1.00=PhP 52.00 to US\$1.00=PhP 46.75) that affected funds programming; 2) conduct of the May 14, 2007 Elections wherein all local government activities grinded to a halt even a month before election day; and 3) time constraints. However, these had no bearing on the overall impact of the project since other activities were designed to replace them such as the conduct of the First Regional GIS Conference, the NRDB Pro-DevInfo Training, and the reproduction of the RGIN DBIS User's Manual and Metadata Preparation Guidelines.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

The implementation of the project generated positive effects along the promotion of environmental conservation through education on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, and application of environmental management tools in planning that were influential in the preparation of the Proposed Northeastern Cagayan Protected Landscape and Seascape and its Initial Protected Area Plan that was endorsed jointly by the RDC-RDCC-RPOC last December 14, 2006 (Joint RDC-RDCC-RPOC Resolution No. 02-022 series of 2006).

The project is only likely to have minimal or no adverse impacts regarding the environment, human health and safety, social, and international waterways and disputed areas aspects, hence, no further action is required towards ensuring environmental and social safeguards.

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. The support and commitment of the leadership in the Provincial Governments is critical. Local government units have to invest in GIS to have their centers operational. To this end, the provinces of Cagayan and Batanes have issued Executive Orders/Special Orders to this effect not only for the procurement of the needed equipment, training expenses, but also the designation of GIS focal persons per provincial departments, and the creation of the Provincial GIS Structure.
2. As LGU/RLA leadership changes, so does the priorities. In order to sustain the gains made by the project, it is imperative to discuss and explain fully the benefits (as well as cost implications) that could be had by maintaining and optimizing the use of the skills and knowledge acquired through the various RGIN activities. Without the support of these leaders, the acquired capabilities of these agencies/LGUs along with the utilization of GIS for physical planning, biodiversity conservation and other development concerns would be for naught.
3. A dollar-denominated grant has its benefits and downsides. It is beneficial to a project if their country's currency is depreciating since more funds would be available to the said project. However, if the said currency continues to appreciate against the dollar, then the project implementer would have a hard time managing the funds left for the project. It is recommended that future grants should be denominated in the country's own currency.
4. It is not enough to improve the capabilities of the RGIN along the lines envisioned by the project. There is a need to properly equip the RGIN with other skills and knowledge along map analysis, modeling/simulations among others to see what would happen in the future if a specific decision was made and if it is the right one. Likewise, with simulation, e.g., effects of El Niño/La Niña on lowland and freshwater ecosystems, RGIN members would know what actions to take and the extent of such actions given the spatial information.
5. It pays to always share good practices to other organizations or regions, in order to pick new ideas, and to stimulate replication of these practices.
6. Networking has to be fully optimized to help finance project activities and through cost-sharing, maintain the operations of the Regional GIS Center.

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

The project design process was well thought-out and is evident with the attainment of the project's short-term impact objective and objective outputs. The project was designed based on observed demand for the services it offers. For example, during the implementation of the original grant agreement in 2006, the replication of the RGIN in the Caraga region was not included in the planned activities. When we saw that there was a demand for RGIN's replication in Caraga, we had it included as one of the project's outputs in its extension phase.

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

- As stated earlier, putting the RGIN/RGISC under the direct supervision of a division has contributed to the success of the project. More manpower was available to the project along with the various expertise and skills of the division’s personnel. Likewise, close coordination and good relationships with the RGIN members, partners, and other stakeholders saw to the success of the project.
- The NEDA Regional Office shared experiences when opportunities became available. This stimulated interest of Caraga NGOs which later led to activities toward replicating RGIN in the said region.
- The preparation of the regional basemap was facilitated with the distribution of workload among LGUs (Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya, etc.) and line agencies (NEDA, DENR, DPWH, among others.

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	Notes
JICA/JOCV	B	Undetermined	JICA/JOCV Volunteer worked full-time on the project to complete the RGIN DBIS, prepare the RGIN DBIS User’s Manual, and Manual of Metadata Preparation and provided assistance in other project-related outputs.
NAMRIA	B	Undetermined	Resource person contributing expertise during training activities
CI Philippines	B	Undetermined	Resource person contributing expertise during training activities
Regional Development Council	B	Undetermined	Equipment and supplies
LGUs and Agencies that are members of the RGIN	B	Undetermined	Equipment and staff for basemap preparation

***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 funded 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 funded 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.

The implementation of a cost recovery scheme for data/information requested through the RGIN Database Information System and funds from the Regional Development Council 2 for operating expenses would ensure the maintenance of the RGIN and Regional GIS Center. However, to build-up on the gains made the project, additional funding would be required.

To ensure the maintenance of RGIN/RGISC operations, a concept paper entitled “Cagayan River Basin Program” was developed for the sustainable financing of the said program including operations and expansion. This later led to a technical assistance proposal for the management of the entire Cagayan River Basin.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The RGIN should move beyond map digitization and other mapping concerns. It should move towards map analysis, modeling/simulations/forecasting, disaster risk management, among others to fully utilize the capabilities of the GIS and serve as input to policy/decision-making. Putting a spatial dimension on inputs for policy/decision-making has a great impact in making the right choice.

VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.

Yes .
No

If yes, please also complete the following:

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