

CEPF Small Grant Final Project Completion Report

Complete the following report worksheet to provide CEPF with an overall summary of the results of your project. Within the narrative section, responses should be concise, but include sufficient detail to present a clear understanding of the development and progression of this project.

Date of Report (MM/DD/YY)
5/6/04

Organization Information

Organization Name
Philippine Eagle Conservation Program Foundation, Inc.

Project Title
Collaborative Work Plan for the Newly Formed Alliance for Research and Conservation of the Philippine Eagle

Project Dates (as stated in the contract agreement)
February 1 to February 28, 2004

Partners
Haribon Foundation Kabang Kalikasan ng Pilipinas Conservation International- Philippines Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau Birdlife International – Philippines Cambridge University Central Mindanao University University of the Philippines in Mindanao

Project Description – Provide a brief description of the project your team implemented.

We hosted the second planning-meeting of the Philippine Eagle Alliance held in February 10 – 12, 2004 in Davao City. This meeting is part of a series of meeting that is meant to institutionalize a unified approach to addressing the conservation needs of the critically endangered Philippine Eagle. It served as a venue for exchange of ideas to arrive at a consensus over conservation priorities and areas of collaboration among others. The idea is to share resources and strengthen interaction and cooperation in the field. The second meeting has two specific objectives as proposed. The first was to finalize the Integrated Philippine Eagle Conservation Plan. This document, which was developed by the Philippine Eagle Working Group a few years back, has been the basis for government and NGO initiatives on eagle research and conservation. A common framework for eagle work developed in the light of recent information was considered a priority by the members during the first meeting. The second objective was to finalize a Philippine Eagle conservation plan that will serve as a basis, not only of CEPF funded eagle projects, but also for other eagle-specific projects by participating institutions for the next 3 to 5 years. Part of the conservation research plan is a research work agenda from which all field research initiatives will be based.

Narrative Questions

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

The project has two specific objectives:

1. Review and finalize the Integrated Philippine Eagle Conservation Plan
2. Develop a conservation research work plan for the next 3 to 5 years

2. Did the objectives of your project change during implementation? If so, please explain why and how.

Yes, one of the objectives was dropped. This happened in the light of a new Special Order issued a few weeks before the meeting (SO) by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) which reconstituted the Philippine Eagle Working Group (PEWG), an advisory body to the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) of DENR concerning research and conservation work on the eagles. The alliance felt that it may not be appropriate to review and revise the Integrated Philippine Eagle Conservation Plan as it has no mandate to do so. The group was initially keen on reviewing the plan as they were eyeing the possibility that the alliance would later be recognized as the new advisory body that would eventually replace the PEWG. But with the issuance of the SO that reorganized and strengthened the PEWG, that possibility became apparently remote. Thus, the first objective was dropped and removed from the meeting's agenda.

3. How was your project successful in achieving the expected objectives?

Although the first objective was dropped, the second objective was satisfactorily met as indicated by some outputs. Firstly, the presentation of concept proposals by each member of the alliance provided a venue to improve on each other's project design based on comments and recommendations. A deadline was set by CEPF for the LOI's and concept proposals, which was last March 5. The activity has certainly refined the proposed projects and increased the chance that it gets accepted not only by CEPF technical reviewers but also by other potential funding agencies should the members submit their proposal to other funding windows. Specific issues addressed include resolving overlaps in a few study areas. To prevent duplication of work and in effect maximize resources and impacts, geographical focus of each institution was delineated. Secondly, the research plan was also finalized and it included which ecological information would be prioritized and which activity is doable within the next 5 years. A matrix was made showing the four scientific aims, which are namely habitat use and relative indicators of preference, feeding ecology, breeding biology, and capacity-building aim. Remarkably, the proposed projects conformed to these scientific aims. Aside from improved proposals and the research plan, another success indicator included the finalization of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the signing of which happened during the next meeting last April.

4. Did your team experience any disappointments or failures during implementation? If so, please explain and comment on how the team addressed these disappointments and/or failures.

Failure to meet the first objective can be considered a disappointment. But the circumstance that led to such decision was beyond the alliance's control. And with the members' knowledge on the dynamics within PAWB, everyone agreed that skipping the first objective was a prudent action.

Achieving perfect attendance can be another. A few participants to the first meeting failed to join primarily because of conflict in schedules. But to keep these people updated, the minutes of the meeting were circulated via the e-group.

5. Describe any positive or negative lessons learned from this project that would be useful to share with other organizations interested in implementing a similar project.

Although the meeting lasted only two days, there were important lessons learned. One is that a meeting like this provides a suitable venue to explore areas of work where there can be mutual agreement and collaboration. And such areas have been identified. But more importantly, an action plan was crafted with each institution contributing their experience and expertise for the refinement of such plan. The facilitator also plays an important role in meetings such as this.

6. Describe any follow-up activities related to this project.

A third meeting was set on April in Antipolo City with two main agenda:

1. Finalization and signing of the MOU
2. Finalization of the research proposal to include research methodologies

7. Please provide any additional information to assist CEPF in understanding any other aspects of your completed project.

The impetus that formed the alliance was the CEPF commitment to invest in the conservation of one of the most threatened bird species of the world. Working for the creation of the alliance as a preparatory move toward funding eagle projects gave added benefits that can last long term. Such benefits include increased personal interaction and an expected consequence would be a better working atmosphere between alliance members. This activity, and the string of meetings that would follow, is an integral part in strengthening the alliance, as it also builds confidence amongst members and galvanized trust and teamwork resulting in doable and practical plans around which the members formed a consensus.

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