

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Surigao Economic Development Foundation, Inc.

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *Expansion of the Mt. Hilong-Hilong Range Protected Landscape*

Implementation Partners for this Project:

1) Northeastern Mindanao NGO Alliance (NORMINGOAL) -

An alliance of seven (7) local NGOs in CARAGA/Region 13 in Mindanao, composed of Surigao Economic Development Foundation, Inc. (SEDF), Livelihood and Agroforestry Enhancement Foundation, Inc. (LEAF), Rural Enterprise Assistance Center Foundation (REACH), Lanuza Bantay for Advancement Group Foundation (LABAG), Caraga Center for Environment Studies and Management (CCESM), Surigao Sur Organization for Human Development (SSOFHDEV) and Caraga Consortium for Environment Protection and Sustainable Development, Inc (CCEPSD). The consortium is an association of seven (7) peoples organization and two (2) NGOs with Lake Mainit Development Authority (LMDA).

SEDF was elected to manage the fund of the project and be the signatory of the Memorandum of Agreement with CEPF in behalf of NORMINGOAL.

2) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) -Region 13

The Protected Area, Wildlife and Coastal Management Zone Services (PAWCMZS) Division of the Regional Office directly oversee and approve the overall processes undertaken by the project in compliance with the implementing rules and regulations under the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act (NIPAS) or Republic Act 7586.

The two (2) Provincial Environment and Natural Resource Offices (PENROs) and two (2) Community Environment and Natural Resource Offices (CENROs) directly oversee and approve the conduct of field activities in compliance with other sectoral policies of DENR Field Offices.

The Mining and Geoscience Bureau (MGB) Division supervises the Technical Working Group (TWG) that discuss coordination and program information among DENR officers, representatives of mining companies, other private sectors and NGOs in the mineral reservation areas or mining areas within the proposed expansion areas in Mt. Hilong-hilong Range.

Forest Management Bureau (FMB) oversee the coordination between the Project Management Team and the peoples organization awarded with various forest stewardship tenurial instruments.

Planning and Development Management Unit (PDMU) approves the map and technical description of the boundaries of the proposed Mt. Hilong-hilong expansion.

3) National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)-Region 13

The Regional Director, Regional Technical Director for Program, Provincial Officers and the Field Based Investigation (FBI) Team directly oversee and approve the compliance of the project to the Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) policy and other implementing rules and regulations under the Indigenous Peoples Right Act (IPRA) or Republic Act 8371.

4) Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF)

PEF conducted the biological survey, GIS and/or mapping in the proposed Mt. Hilong-hilong Range expansion areas.

5) Northeastern Mindanao Institute of Science and Technology (NORMISIST)

NORMISIST conducted the socio-economic survey in the proposed Mt. Hilong-hilong Range expansion areas.

6) Conservation International- Eastern Mindanao Coordination Office

Organizes the stakeholders' group for discussion and formulation of the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor Framework Plan.

NORMINGOAL acts as the Secretariat of the CARAGA or Region 13 stakeholders group for planning.

7) Provincial Government of Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Norte

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan (Provincial Council) gives accreditation and recognition to SEDF and NORMINGOAL for the implementation of the project in the municipalities within the political boundaries of the respective provinces.

The Provincial Planning and Development Offices (PPDO) provides data and information in the profiling and resource basic inventory surveys of the project.

8) Municipal Government of Carrascal, Cantilan, Madrid, Carmen and Lanuza of Surigao del Sur; and Jabonga, Kitcharao and Santiago of Agusan del Norte

The Sangguniang Panlungsod (Municipal Council) gives accreditation and endorsement to the implementation of the project activities in the areas within their political boundaries.

9) Barangay Government of Adlay, Babuyan and Pantukan (Carrascal); Cabangahan and Lobo (Cantilan); Bayogo (Madrid); Hinapuyan (Madrid); Pakuan (Lanuza); Hinimbangan, Bangayan and Jaliobong (Kitcharao), Libas, Bangonay, Baleguian and Maraiging (Jabonga); Tagbuyakan (Santiago).

The Barangay Development Councils (BDCs) give endorsement and approval to the implementation of the project in their respective barangays. It provides personnel that will go with the Project Management Team (PMT) in every activities conducted in their areas.

10) Tribal Council of Elders and communities of Barangay Adlay, Pantukan, Cabangahan, Lobo, Hinapuyan, Pakuan, Hinimbangan, Baleguian and Bangonay

The Tribal Council of Elders and the communities give the FPIC certificate for the inclusion of their ancestral domain located within the proposed expansion areas in Mt. Hilong-hilong Range.

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): May 1, 2005-September 30, 2007

Date of Report (month/year): January 31, 2008

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

Mt. Hilong-hilong Range is one of the eleven (11) key biodiversity conservation areas identified in Eastern Mindanao. It straddles 11 municipalities and 1 city of 3 provinces in CARAGA (Region 13) in Mindanao. It is habitat and homing range of endemi, critically endangered, threatened and economically important flora and faunal species of Mindanao. It also contained the few remaining old growth forest of the Philippines. The range is located in the so called, timber and mining corridor of the Philippines.

In 2005, a House Bill known as the Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape Act of 2005 was submitted in the 12th Congress of the Philippines. It covers three (3) municipalities and 1 city of one (1) province in CARAGA with a total land area of 25,833.0069 hectares. It did not encompass the larger territories of the range,hence, significantly excluding the areas that are considered critical habitat of important species, watershed and old growth forest. Upon the recommendation of the past DENR Region 13 Regional Technical Director, the group of non-government organizations (NGOs) in CARAGA agreed to the concept of expanding the areas of the proposed Mt. Hilong-hilong Rane Protected Landscape and amendment of the House Bill. The project, Expansion of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape, was the output of the discussions and taken on with collaboration among seven (7) local NGOs, called Northeastern Mindanao NGO Alliance (NORMINGOAL). The project is in direct collaboration with DENR Region 13 with grant support from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).

The overall purpose of the project is to step up support from various stakeholders for the expansion of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape and work in partnership for the formulation and implementation of sustainable development plan. Particularly, it intends to a) process, in close coordination with DENR, the protected area documentary requirements under the National Integrated Protected Area Systems (NIPAS) Act; b) launches an advocacy campaign for protected area and expansion of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape; c) conduct protected area institutional development awareness campaign and capacity-building among stakeholders within the proposed protected areas; and d) formulate management plan for the entire expanded Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape. The project started in May 1, 2005 and ended on September 30, 2007.

The advocacy, IEC materials distribution and awareness campaign for protected area among the targeted municipalities and barangays resulted to the local government units (LGUs) support to the project. Seven (7) municipalities and sixteen (16) barangays have been recommended for inclusion in the proposed expansion of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape. It covers a total land area of 85,210 hectares. In January 2006, the results of the initial socio-economic-political-cultural study, resource profile and prevailing issues in the recommended areas for expansion of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape were presented to various stakeholders.

Dialogues with various stakeholders area conducted after the list of recommended areas have been agreed between DENR CARAGA, provincial, municipal and barangay government units. Two (2) logging companies, 54 mining exploration permittees, 5 peoples organizations with community-based forest resource management agreements (CBFMAs) ,1 tribal community awarded with Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title

(CADT) and 5 tribal communities with Certificate of Ancestral Domain Certificate (CADC) were the focus of project orientation, NIPAS and IPRA consultations and dialogues for the support to the declaration of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range as protected landscape. These activities involved the regional and provincial offices of different government line agencies that are mandated to facilitate the various applications or processes related to the different claims and stewardships. These are the NCIP for the free and prior informed consent under IPRA Law; and the various offices under the DENR such as: the MGB, FMB, PAWCZMS, PENROs, CENROs and PDMU.

The results of the dialogues led to the participation of NCIP and tribal communities in the diagnosis of the benefits of the proposed expansion of Mt. Hilong-hilong Protected Landscape. Of the nine (9) tribal communities, four (4) signed the Memorandum of Agreement indicating their full consent on the inclusion of their ancestral lands located in the proposed expansion areas. The lone CADT holder is within the territory of one of the logging concessions of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range and agreed to include their demarcated strict protection zone for the protected landscape. The other tribal communities expressed reservation because of current conflict of interests among members such as: priority for the tribal barangay-led gold panning activities, existing tree plantation agreement and consent given to one (1) mining company to operate large-scale mining operation within the ancestral domain areas. Nevertheless, the areas are still included in the list of areas for the proposed expansion of Mt. Hilong-hilong Protected Landscape as indicated in the Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA). Further review and analysis of the results of the various validation studies on Mt. Hilong-hilong will be used to resolve the identified conflict issues.

The involvement of the different offices of DENR resulted to the presentation of the project during the dialogues with the mining companies that already have mining exploration permit and pending application with MGB. There are four (4) mining companies with exploration activities within the range, while two (2) companies have started their mining operation in the lower elevation areas of the range. The other mining application are now reviewed using the data and information given on the proposed expansion of the range as protected landscape. Overall recommendation by MGB is for the local government units and non-government organizations to advocate for the declaration of identified critical ecosystem within the range as watershed or critical habitat of endangered and endemic species. It will be used as reference by MGB in the review of the mining applications while NIPAS processes are still being conducted.

The PAWCZMS, FMB, PENRO and CENRO of DENR Region 13 are the main bodies that oversee the compliance of the project to the implementing rules and regulations of NIPAS Act for protected area declaration. Six (6) of the thirteen (13) required steps or processes of NIPAS have been completed by the project in close coordination with the said offices. These are 1) compilation of maps, technical description; 2) initial screening; 3) public notifications; 4) initial consultations; 5) resource basic inventory; 6) survey and registration of protected area occupants; and 7) resource profiling. The Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) report which contained the results of activities undertaken in doing steps 1 to 7 of NIPAS have been submitted to PAWCZMS for finalization and endorsement to the Regional Executive Director of DENR Region 13. It is an on-going activity and outlives the project completion period. Nevertheless, PAWCZMS and NORMINGOAL have agreed to continue the remaining processes required for the declaration of Mt. Hilong-hilong Protected Landscape.

The project's target to facilitate the formulation of the Initial Protected Area Management Plan (IPAP) and convening the interim Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) for the expanded Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape were discouraged by PACWZMS. This is in lieu of the agreed upon series of presentation of the final PASA Report among local government units (16 barangays, 8 municipalities and 2 provinces), business sector, regional development council and other government line agencies. These were targeted during the requested extension period of the project but was not started due to the pending finalization of the PASA report and other document by DENR. However, there is a commitment to continue the planning, as Mt. Hilong-hilong had been listed as priority area for conservation by DENR.

Simultaneous with the abovementioned processes, several capability building activities for the members of the barangay officials, municipal officers and the tribal communities members were conducted. These are biodiversity monitoring and evaluation (BIOME), Biodiversity Corridor Conservation Program Planning, IPRA, NIPAS and Resource Basic Inventory (Field). The project management team and NORMINGOAL members enhanced and updated their knowledge on biodiversity conservation, flora and faunal research studies and biodiversity program evaluation through their participation in two (2) national conferences on wildlife conservation, regional and national assessment impact of CEPF-funded programs and facilitation of two (2) stakeholders conference in CARAGA.

On the status of the original House Bill on the Declaration of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range as Protected Landscape, the Bill reached the Senate Committee on Environment but was not deliberated for approval. The said Bill will be resubmitted for another round of deliberation. It has been recommended that the Bill be amended to include the proposed expansion area. Officials at the DENR Regional Office are still discussing the next move.

NORMINGOAL was designated as the lead organization, in direct collaboration with DENR CARAGA and Conservation International-Philippines, in crafting the CARAGA Regional Framework Plan for the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Conservation Program. It also facilitated two (2) round table discussions on Mt. Hilong-hilong Range; joined other institutions for the socio-economic survey on key biodiversity areas in Eastern Mindanao and the finalization of the Vision, Mission, Goals and Key Principles of the Eastern Mindanao Framework.

Overall, the project brings to the fore the importance of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range, as priority area for conservation in CARAGA. It rallied communities' interest on biodiversity corridor conservation program and CARAGA as part of the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor. The series of consultations have consciously and strongly expressed the message on the need to take on the agenda on biodiversity conservation as equal, if not the most urgent, agenda as logging and mining. However, the end goal of getting a Presidential Proclamation for the Expanded Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape is yet to be achieved. The prevailing national government's priority development interests (i.e. continuation of logging and revitalization of mining industry) in the region significantly limit the built up of stakeholders consensus for the protection of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range. Subsequently, delays the processes leading to the declaration of the range as protected landscape. Nevertheless, the project opened the floodgate of awareness on biodiversity conservation. Allied stakeholders are at present making the rush for biodiversity protection and conservation in Mt. Hilong-hilong Range. 250 mand-

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: Stakeholders sanction the expansion of the Mt. Hilong-hilong Range as Protected Landscape and work in partnership to formulate and implement sustainable management plan.

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
<i>PA documentary requirements (Initial Protected Area Plan, PA maps, official public notices in local and national newspapers and draft Presidential Proclamation) for the Expanded Mt. Hilong-Hilong Protected Landscape, gathered and endorsed by DENR-CARAGA and the Regional Development Council to the DENR Central Office by March 2006.</i>	The documentary requirements have been gathered and contained in the Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) report drafted and submitted to DENR Region 13-PAWCZMS for further review and finalization. Their office has not finalized and submitted the documents to the Regional Executive Director (RED) for endorsement to DENR Regional Office and/or Regional Development Council (RDC).
<i>PA documentary requirements reviewed and endorsed by the DENR Central Office to the President for approval by June 2006.</i>	The DENR Region 13 has not forwarded recommendations on the proposed expansion of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape to the DENR Central Office for endorsement of the Office of the President
<i>Composition of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) reconstituted to include representatives from the Municipalities of Carrascal, Cantilan, Madrid, Lanuza and Carmen in Surigao del Sur, as well as the Municipality of Kitcharao in Agusan del Norte by December 2005.</i>	The DENR Region 13-PAWCZMS recommended that the convening of the interim PAMB and the formulation of the management plan for the expanded Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape be postponed. For the following reasons: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Under the original or first Mt. Hilong-hilong Protected Landscape processes, PAMB has not been constituted. 2) The first House Bill has not been approved by the Senate during the 13th Congress and requires re-submission at the current (14th) Congress for approval. 3) It was recommended that the proposed expansion areas be incorporated in the documents that will be re-submitted to 14th Congress for deliberations and approval.
<i>Management Plan for the expanded Mt. Hilong-Hilong Range Protected Landscape drafted/revised by August 2006.</i>	The DENR Region 13-PAWCZMS recommended that the formulation of the management plan be postponed until the PASA and other documents have been finalized and approved by the DENR 13- Regional Executive Director. Also for the same reasons given for the postponement of PAMB reconstitution.
<i>Presidential Proclamation on the expansion of Mt. Hilong hilong Range Protected Landscape to include the Municipalities of Carrascal, Cantilan, Madrid, Lanuza and Carmen in Surigao del Norte, as well as the Municipality of Kitcharao in Agusan del Norte signed by February 2007.</i>	The Municipalities of Carrascal, Cantilan, Madrid, Carmen and Lanuza of the Province of Surigao del Sur agreed to be included in the final list of expansion areas. Also, three (3) municipalities in the Province of Agusan del Norte, namely, Kitcharao, Santiago and Jabonga. A total of eight (8) municipalities and sixteen

	<p>(16) barangays have been processed for inclusion in the proposed expansion of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape.</p> <p>The documents and reports completed by the Project Management Team have been submitted to DENR 13-PAWZMS for finalization, submission to DENR-13 RED and National Offices for endorsement to the Office of the President as basis for Presidential Proclamation.</p> <p>The original House Bill on Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape is recommended for re-submission to the 14th Congress for deliberations and approval. It is recommended that the House Bill be amended to include the proposed expansion areas.</p>
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Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.

The project was able to gather the important information, stakeholders' consensus on the protection of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range, enhance community awareness on key biodiversity areas protection and conservation, and rallied support of significant numbers of direct stakeholders for the expansion of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape.

Despite the conflict issues and interest in the areas, the project was able to facilitate and complete the NIPAS processes that involve community and stakeholders participation and consensus.

The results and the lessons learned from project implementation in Mt. Hilong-hilong Range are made as basis for continuing policy advocacy on biodiversity conservation and protection, protected area processing and equitable socio-economic program at the regional and national level.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The unexpected positive impacts of the project are manifested by the business sectors involved in mining and logging activities. They have actively participated in the discussions of the issues and concerns on the protection of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range. Collectively, they shared their views, interests and activities that can complement the intent of the project. They agreed on the protection of the range based on the results of the scientific studies conducted. The cooperation of MGB in information sharing, data dissemination and in the resolution of identified issues were welcome moves. The business sector's openness displayed during several dialogues resulted to rational recommendations and action plan for the completion of some processes under NIPAS.

Another positive impact is the concurrence of two (2) municipalities to be added in the list of proposed expansion areas of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape. This was the results of collective analysis of information and data gathered during the resource profiling and field assessment. It increased the scope and magnitude of field or community work but was rewarded by the active participation of the members of the community.

The unexpected negative impact came from the altered decisions of four (4) tribal communities in one province when they were influenced by the Provincial Office of NCIP' plan for a unified CADT claim, a mining company information campaign on greater economic returns upon their consent for operation and tribal leaders who led a gold

panning activities in the area. Further studies on the impact of their decisions and more dialogues after the PASA report finalization is set to resolve the issues.

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: PA documentary requirements under the NIPAS Act (Initial Protected Area Plan, PA maps, official public notices in local and national newspapers and draft Presidential Proclamation) completed and endorsement secured for the Expanded Mt. Hilong-Hilong Range Protected Landscape.</p>	<p>Please see details indicated below.</p>
<p><i>Maps and technical description of the proposed expanded Mt. Hilong-Hilong Range Protected Landscape compiled and submitted to concerned government agencies and others by December 2005.</i></p>	<p>The activities for the finalization of the maps and technical description of the proposed expansion areas were part of the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Assessment by the Philippine Eagle Foundation and the Northern Mindanao Institute for Science and Technology (NORMISIST). The project is the end user of the output of their project activities on biodiversity profiling and socio-economic survey.</p> <p>Seven (7) thematic maps and technical description of the proposed expansion areas were completed on January 2007. It was submitted to DENR 13-PAWCZMS and have been approved for printing by the PDMU. A base map (scale 1:50,000, as required) in mylar paper was included and have been reviewed and endorsed by CENRO and PENRO for finalization by the DENR-13 PDMU.</p> <p>The DENR 13- PDMU had agreed on the final printing and endorsement of the maps for endorsement by DENR 13-PAWCZMS.</p>
<p><i>Suitability and unsuitability of areas for inclusion in the proposed expanded Mt. Hilong-Hilong Range Protected Landscape evaluated by December 2005.</i></p>	<p>All of the recommended sixteen (16) barangays in eight (8) municipalities have been found suitable for inclusion in the proposed expansion of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape.</p> <p>The decisions were based on the results of the dialogues with the concerned LGUs and tribal communities, outcome of the biodiversity assessment conducted by PEF and NORMISIST, resource inventory validation and field consultation conducted by the PASA Team of DENR Region 13.</p> <p>The results of the biodiversity assessment indicated that:</p>

	<p>a) The majority of the plants identified are categorized as near threatened and vulnerable (using IUCN list) such as Philippine Tarsier, Rufous Hornbill, Philippine Deer and wild pigs. One (1) plant species, Xanthostemon verdugonianos, commonly called Magkono, is endemic to Surigao.</p> <p>b) Faunal species categorized as critically endangered, threatened and endemic are found in the range. Nesting sites of Philippine Eagle (Pithecophaga jefferyi), a globally important and critically endangered species, are validated.</p> <p>c) The survey documented 91 species of birds, 24 species of bats, 11 species of frogs, 20 species of reptiles and three (3) species of rodents from two lowland dipterocarp forest sites. Bird endemism was 51% which is relatively high despite the history of disturbance in the area. Ten (10) species of birds are considered threatened under various categories based on IUCN and the T and threatened Birds of the Philippines. The reptiles and amphibians has a relatively high endemism with 58% (18 species) and three (3) frog species, threatened, based on IUCN listing. For bats, endemism is 21% (5 species) and new country record of two (2) interesting species were found: Emballonura monticola and Murina sp. An insect bat endemic to Mindanao, Hipposideros coronatus, are observed roosting in the caves located in the lowland dipterocarp forest.</p> <p>d) The proposed areas contain vast tracts of low elevation old growth dipterocarp and mossy forest. The areas serve as critical watershed of the eight (8) municipalities within the proposed expansion area.</p>
<p><i>Conflict resolved through consultative meetings at locations within or near the areas identified for the proposed protected areas by December 2005.</i></p>	<p>From September 2005 to April 2007, more than 100 consultation meetings were conducted with various stakeholders in eight (8) municipalities and 16 barangays. These meetings clarified and resolved issues on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Harmonization between NIPAS and IPRA 2) Management zones delineation in protected area 3) Rights of existing tenurial instruments in the areas 4) Participation of the community groups in the management of the proposed protected area. 5) Economic activities allowed in a proposed or declared protected areas 6) Limitation of mining and logging activities in a proposed or declared protected area 7) Conduct of FPIC process and Memorandum of Agreement signing with the tribal community 8) Involvement of the community members in

	<p>the conduct of 13 steps of NIPAS</p> <p>9) DENR as the lead agency in the NIPAS steps implementation</p> <p>10) The process of information exchange and sharing among various stakeholders</p> <p>11) Declaration of watershed and critical habitat based on the results of biodiversity assesment and other studies.</p> <p>12) Delineation of tasks between NORMINGOAL, PEF, NORMISIST and DENR Regional Office for the study and declaration of expanded Mt, Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape.</p> <p>13) Formulation of the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor Conservation Framework</p>
<p><i>Census and registration of protected area occupants completed by December 2005.</i></p>	<p>The survey and registration fo protected area occupants (SRPAO) started in February 2007 and completed in April 2007. The DENR officers from CENRO, PENRO and PAWCMZS took the lead in the activity.</p> <p>A total of 3,595 households were registered as the protected area occupants within the proposed 16 barangays.</p> <p>SSPS software program is used to store and archive the data from the census.</p>
<p><i>Resource profile completed by December 2005.</i></p>	<p>The resource profiling of the 16 barangays started in January 2006 by the Project Management Team for initial screening of the area. Biodiversity information was gathered through the biodiversity survey and profiling conducted by PEF.</p> <p>The final process was undertaken with DENR Officers from PAWCZMS, PENRO and CENRO using the Resource Basic Inventory procedures and format under NIPAS. The results of the resource profiling was consolidated using PASA Form 2.</p> <p>The Resource Basic Inventory requires field interview of community members. A total of 240 households are randomly selected as respondents. The accomplished and signed forms were submitted to DENR-13 PAWCZMS as part of the NIPAS compliance.</p>
<p>Output 2: Protected Area advocacy campaign for the expansion of the Mt. Hilong-Hilong Range Protected Landscape successfully conducted.</p>	<p>Please refer to the details mentioned below.</p>
<p><i>Meetings with Municipal and Provincial Governments, DENR-CARAGA, Regional Development Councils and other stakeholders for endorsement of the Expanded Mt. Hilong-Hilong Range Protected Landscape heldby December 2005.</i></p>	<p>More than 250 man-day meetingwere done with officials of 16 barangays, 8 municipalities and 2 provinces to obtain support, official accreditation and/or written endorsement for the expansion of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape. The LGUs gave accreditation to SEDF and recognized the implementation of the project in their area.</p>

	<p>Meetings with various offices of DENR Region 13 have become a regular activity since the project begun and continue until at present.</p> <p>There have been several meetings with some officials of the Regional Development Council (RDC) for information on the project. Actual presentation in the en banc session of RDC is postponed upon recommendation of the DENR-13 PAWCZMS. It will be conducted after the PASA is endorsed by DENR 13- RED.</p> <p>Two (2) region- wide conference attended by representatives from mining and logging companies were conducted. They expressed support to the protection and conservation of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range. However, further actions and delineation of protected zones are still waiting for the results of further review of DENR Region 13-PAWCZMS.</p>
<p><i>Meetings with DENR Secretary for endorsement of the Expanded Mt. Hilong-Hilong Range Protected Landscape for Presidential Proclamation completed by June 2006.</i></p>	<p>Meetings with DENR Secretary have taken place in the 2nd and 3rd Quarter of 2006 with the RED of DENR 13. Based on the feedback, plans for Mt. Hilong-hilong is always on the agenda for discussion, being listed as one of the key biodiversity areas in CARAGA. An Executive Order had been issued by the National Government mandating DENR to work for the protection and conservation of the identified key biodiversity areas in the Philippines.</p> <p>The project had been reported by the Regional Technical Director-PAWCZMS to the RED and DENR-Central Office-PAWB.</p>
<p><i>Meetings with the President and Executive Staffs results to the release of Presidential Proclamation by February 2007.</i></p>	<p>To date, this has not taken place.</p> <p>The documents needed as basis for discussion have not been finalized or endorsed by DENR-13.</p>
<p>Output 3: Protected Area institutional development , awareness campaign and capacity building among stakeholders within the Expanded Mt. Hilong-Hilong Range Protected Landscape conducted.</p>	<p>Please refer to the details mentioned below.</p>
<p><i>Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) composition of the Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape created/reconstituted to include representatives from the municipalities of Carrascal, Cantilan, Madrid, Lanuza and Carmen in Surigao del Sur, as well as the municipality of Kitcharao in Agusan del Norte by February 2006.</i></p>	<p>When the project started the greater assumption was an interim PAMB had been created as a result of the earlier House Bill, Declaring Mt. Hilong Range as a Protected Landscape. It was found out that no interim PAMB created.</p> <p>The areas covered by the said House Bill are previously declared watershed i.e. Cabadbaran River Natural Forest Reserve under Presidential Proclamation No 824 Series of 1991 and the Taguibo River Watershed under Presidential Prolamation No. 1526 dated September 4, 1997. Each of the declared watershed has its own PAMB but have not merged or function as one PAMB for the Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected</p>

	<p>Landscape Bill.</p> <p>The project cannot initiate the convening of the interim PAMB for the range (including the proposed expansion areas) without the permission of DENR-13. The Regional Executive Director acts as the Chairman of the PAMB. The PAMB creation is supervised by DENR in compliance with the NIPAS guidelines.</p> <p>In addition, the approval of the said House Bill was not able to make it before the closure of the 13th Congress, thus, needed re-submission to the 14th Congress of the Philippines for approval.</p> <p>At present, the recommendation is to amend the Bill to include the proposed expansion areas before it will be re-submitted to 14th Congress. The DENR-13 has to make the final decision.</p>
<p><i>Training Needs Assessment (TNA) for LGUs, PAMB members, DENR and other stakeholders conducted and training modules developed by October 2005.</i></p>	<p>The targeted TNA activities have no fund allocation in the approved budget. However, the project able to conduct it, in conjunction with the same activity by Conservation International-Philippines. The Project Management Team supervised distribution to and retrieval of survey questionnaires from 50 respondents that had direct stakes in the planning and management in Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape.</p> <p>The results and recommendations were shared by CIP resource persons to the project. A comprehensive capability building plan for the stakeholders in the Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape was formulated based on the results of the TNA.</p>
<p><i>At least three trainings on planning, community development, project management conducted by June 2006.</i></p>	<p>Training activities on planning, community development and project management were conducted for the Project Management Team, NORMINGOAL members and selected LGUs (municipal and barangay) officials. The activities were done in last quarter of 2006.</p> <p>The planning and project management training activities focus on the development and management of protected areas.</p>
<p><i>IEC materials produced and awareness campaigns conducted starting 3rd Quarter of 2005.</i></p>	<p>The Project Management Team designed and distributed flyers as IEC materials about the Mt. Hilong-hilong Range as a key biodiversity area and its proposed declaration as protected area under NIPAS.</p> <p>The awareness campaign on protected area, NIPAS Law and biodiversity corridor conservation program were done from January to December 2006 in 16 barangays and 8 municipal LGUs through individual and focus-group discussion sessions.</p>

Output 4: Management Plan for the Expanded Mt. Hilong-Hilong Range Protected Landscape formulated.	Please refer to the details mentioned below.
<i>Community consultations and orientations on the reformulation of the Mt. Hilong-Hilong Range Protected Landscape Management Plan conducted by January 2006.</i>	A community consultation was conducted in each of the 16 barangays for initial orientation on the formulation of protected area management plan. The consultations confirmed the absence of any protected area management planning under the processing of the House Bill and the existence of the various management plan within Mt. Hilong-hilong Range. DENR Region 13 recommended that the management plan be formulated after the approval of the House Bill by Senate.
<i>Workshops on community planning and mapping of Barangays and Municipalities covered by the Expanded Mt. Hilong-Hilong Range Protected Landscape conducted by May 2006.</i>	Focus group discussions on community planning and mapping in 16 barangays were conducted for the completion of the barangay profile. The barangay profile serves as the baseline for the future formulation of the management plan for Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape.
<i>Development of publicly-sanctioned Plan and Manual through public hearings by June 2006.</i>	To date, no management plan had been formulated for the Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape. This is based on the recommendation of DENR13-PAWCZMS.
<i>Regional agencies endorse and approve Management Plan and Manual by June 2006.</i>	DENR 13-PAWZMS has not recommended any protected area management plan for Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape.

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

The project was able to complete the documents required under NIPAS Act. In close coordination with DENR 13-PAWCZMS, the project was able to fulfill the 1st to 6th of 13 steps of NIPAS processes. The advocacy campaigns have convinced sixteen (16) barangay LGUs in eight (8) municipalities to be part of the proposed expansion of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape. The institutional development activities, awareness campaign and capacity building resulted to the information and program sharing among stakeholders within the proposed expansion areas. The management plan formulation had only gone as far as community consultation and barangay profiling.

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

Some indicators, i.e. PAMB reconstitution to include stakeholders of the proposed expansion areas, publicly sanctioned and regional agencies endorsed PAMP and signed Presidential Proclamation have not been achieved during the project implementation. The indicators are activities that strictly depend on DENR 13 facility to complete prior processes under NIPAS Act. The project worked in close coordination with DENR13-PAWZMS. It directly oversee the assessment and approval of processes under NIPAS. To date, it has not finalized or signed the PASA report for further endorsement by national offices of DENR.

However, overall impact of the project on the urgent call for the conservation and protection of Mt. Hilong-hilong is not affected by the aforementioned matters. The project had placed Mt. Hilong-

hilong in the priority list of DENR plan for protected areas. The documents completed through the project activities will always be the basis or references for further actions on the declaration of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range as protected landscape. Overall, the project has prepared the grounds for continuing discussions on Mt. Hilong-hilong Range protection and conservation.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

Close coordination, i.e following the office protocol of regional offices of DENR and NCIP are required actions toward environment safeguard policies within the project.

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.

Proclamation of an area as protected area under NIPAS is DENR led and supervised. The targets of the NGOs that participate in the NIPAS processes should only be until the completion of the required PA documents and the PASA reports. The steps leading towards presidential proclamation or congressional action should be left solely to DENR. At this stage, NGOs should heighten policy advocacy and IEC to heighten public support and vigilance for faster actions for proclamation of protected areas under NIPAS.

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

The design of the project was highly based on the recommendatin of the past RTD of DENR13-PAWCZMS. It set its intended output based assumptions that documents and processes required under NIPAS have been satisfied when the House Bill for the proclamation of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range as Protected Landscape was submitted to the 12th and 13th Congress of the Philippines for review and approval.

The project did not establish a field verified baseline status of the NIPAS processes previously conducted for Mt. Hilong-hilong Range protected area before it set its intended target for the expansion. This was the aspect of the project design that caused delay or failure in delivery of some targets.

In the project design, some of the targeted output are commissioned by CEPF to other institutions or organizations for completion. The project is the end user of their output. The implementation of most project activities that depend on these output were significantly delayed. It is because of problems on synchronization of schedule among partners institutions and long discussions on the required quality and specifications of the output based on NIPAS.

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

In the project implementation, competency of the Project Management Team (PMT) on community consensus building in the context of protected area and biodiversity conservation goals; and full knowledge on NIPAS processes were critical factors in the delivery of the intended output. The project implementation has become a learning

process on NIPAS, IPRA, protected area and biodiversity conservation for most members of PMT.

The execution of NIPAS steps are DENR supervised processes, several offices within the agency have to be coordinated to get consensus or recommendations on how each of the steps under NIPAS will proceed. On the tribal communities, the consensus building and IEC needs the approval of NCIP in compliance of the FPIC guidelines. The project spent 12 months getting a Memorandum of Agreement from NCIP for the conduct of FPIC in nine (9) barangays with tribal communities. Another three (3) months were spent for field assessment and one (1) month for the report of the activity. The final report has to be requested by DENR 13-PAWCZMS for it to included as attachment to the PASA report .

The agreement that PEF and NORMISIST will establish the biodiversity and socio-economic profile of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape caused considerable delay in the submission of the PA documentary requirements. Finding common time for implementation of joint activities, reconciliation of different project framework and compliance to different guidelines were the main reasons for delays.

The project was also caught in the frenzy of 2007 national election. Field work was very minimal for three (3) months to avoid "electioneering" tag and for security reasons. The areas within and around Mt. Hilong-hilong Range were tagged as election hotspots. The PMT exercised maximum precaution in their field work, cause delays and/or significant changes in the planned schedule of implementation.

Overall, the aforementioned experiences did not fail the project. It enriched project implementation in terms of knowledge on situational analysis, stakeholders' coordination and conflict resolution. However, the project is still challenged by a Presidential Proclamation target within the two-year project implementation period. The target will eventually be achieved even beyond the project period using the information, documents and reports completed by the project.

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
NONE		\$		
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		

**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.

The NIPAS steps for the proposed Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape i.e. initial protected area plan (IPAP) formulation, DENR regional office' review and endorsement, DENR national office' review and recommendations, presidential proclamation, congressional actions and demarcation will still be pursued by DENR13-PAWCZMS and NORMINGOAL after the project period. DENR 13 will utilized its own fund and resources. NORMINGOAL will mobilize resources through project proposal submission to other donor agencies and District Congressman offices.

At present, DENR 13- PAWCZMS continues its review and finalization of the submitted documents on Mt. Hilong-hilong Range protection.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following document is enclosed as Annex to the final report:

1. 4th Draft of the PASA Report for the proposed Expansion of Mt. Hilong-hilong Range Protected Landscape.

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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