

# FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Name:** Conservation International - Philippines

**Project Title:** Palawan Strategy Development Project

**Implementation Partners for this Project:**

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** June 1, 2002 – June 30, 2004

**Date of Report (month/year):** November 14, 2004

## II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The Palawan Corridor Strategy Development Project was implemented by Conservation International - Philippines, in collaboration with the Provincial Government of Palawan, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS), Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Region IV (DENR), and the Palawan NGO Network, Inc. (PNNI).

The project was aimed at developing a conservation model for the Palawan biodiversity corridor utilizing current knowledge of local stakeholders and scientific experts, and fostering a consensus among key stakeholders in the province to support and undertake strategies to strengthen corridor initiatives.

The development of a conservation strategy for Palawan involved the analysis of biophysical, social, economic, and policy dimensions of biodiversity conservation and resource management efforts in the province. Moreover, a consultative process was employed to instill a strong sense of ownership among the stakeholders participating in the project. This is expected to catalyze a coordinated effort to save species and key biodiversity areas in Palawan. Such efforts are particularly important considering the numerous actors in the conservation field who are working in the province but have not necessarily been able to coordinate efforts that will allow maximization of resources and a better understanding of the issues, threats, and opportunities for conservation.

Furthermore, the strategy document, one of the major project outputs, serves as a guide to NGOs, government, and communities to facilitate better decisions about where to focus conservation efforts and what efforts are of highest priority/urgency. It also provides a road map for grant making within Palawan by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, and hopefully, for future investment of conservation resources by other donors.

### III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

**Project Purpose:**

Critical stakeholders participate in the design of a province-wide conservation strategy for Palawan and actively engage in the implementation of this strategy.

#### Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
<b>Purpose-level:</b>	
1.1. Relevant biological and socio-economic data for the province are compiled in a database and incorporated into PCSD and Palawan Provincial Planning Office databases by 2004.	Partnership and data sharing protocols were formalized with PCSDS, DENR, PNNI and the Provincial Government through a memorandum of understanding.  Socio-economic and biological data were compiled into a user-friendly database.
1.2. At least five proposals are submitted by key partners to CEPF that reflect strategic priorities by 2004.	Three organizations in Palawan have been granted CEPF funds: Environmental Legal Assistance Center, Palawan Conservation Corps, and the Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Project. Proposals to CEPF submitted by PCART, Bandillo ng Palawan, and PSU College of Law.
1.3. Key private sector players, e.g., the Palawan Tourism Council, endorse the strategy and incorporate its priorities into investment plans by 2004.	Palawan Tourism Association agrees to work closely with CI in making use of PCSDP results to guide/plan private sector investments in the future.

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

The participation of key project partners in the implementation of the project, particularly the PCSDS, DENR, PNNI and the Provincial Government of Palawan has paved the way to a clear consensus on the need to come up with a conservation framework for Palawan.

With the completion of the project, the stage has been set toward a better understanding of the issues, threats and opportunities for conservation in the identified priority areas in the corridor. The provincial government of Palawan has made a major step in integrating the resulting conservation strategy to its Provincial medium term development plan (from 2004-2014). The planning exercise in August 2004 was undertaken by sectoral approach. The environment sector utilized the strategy document as reference for enhancing the environmental policy for the province. Given particular attention was the

need for science-based decisions and the establishment and/or expansion of protected areas as a tool for biodiversity conservation.

**Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?**

Several key NGOs have started utilizing the defined outcomes as bases for advocacy, e.g., PNNI campaign against cyanide fishing.

<b>IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS</b>
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**Project Outputs:**

Output 1: Biological priorities for province-wide corridor plan that defines conservation outcomes for Palawan are defined and refined.

Output 2: Social assessment for use in corridor conservation strategy development is completed.

Output 3: Economic assessment for use in corridor conservation strategy development is conducted.

Output 4. Conservation policy assessment for use in corridor conservation strategy development is conducted.

Output 5. Conservation strategy and implementation options developed, evaluated and adopted using participatory approach

Output 6. M&E program to measure success of implementation of corridor conservation strategy for Palawan is developed.

Output 7. Corridor Strategy Information, Education and Communications (IEC) Plan developed

**Planned vs. Actual Performance**

Indicator	Actual at Completion
<b>Output 1:</b>	
1.1. A database of all available biological information (e.g., species lists, endangered/endemics, habitat types, ecological studies, commercially valuable species, coral reef cover/status) is compiled by month 3.	Data for both terrestrial and marine species were compiled in a database with notations on endemism and conservation status.
1.2. Consolidation and analysis of all available abiotic data (forest cover, land use, elevation, and slope) from existing PCSD and/or NAMRIA sources and LANDSAT images completed by month 3.	Digital data on land cover, topography, elevation, and river systems were shared with the PCSDS and Provincial Government.

<p>1.3. A biological visioning meeting to conduct a gaps analysis of National Level priority-setting results to target biological outcomes and ZBL is held by month 6. This will result in a map representing the biological vision and minimum requirements to achieve these outcomes.</p>	<p>Twenty-six priority areas for conservation and research have been identified, 17 of which are terrestrial and nine are marine sites. Each of the key conservation sites identified on the vision map is of national and/or global significance for biodiversity and should therefore be managed in a manner that will ensure protection for the threatened and endemic species and key habitats identified within each site. These areas both validate the work done in the PBCPP, and refine the results as specific to Palawan.</p>
<p><b>Output 2:</b></p>	
<p>2.1. Analysis of "push" and "pull" factors driving migration to Palawan completed by month 4.</p>	<p>A technical report has been completed.</p>
<p>2.2. Spatial analysis of community types completed by month 4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Broad cultural characteristics</li> <li>▪ Basic demographic information</li> </ul>	<p>A technical report has been completed.</p>
<p>2.3. Broad organizational analysis of development and conservation organizations and sectors completed in 4 months.</p>	<p>A technical report has been completed.</p>
<p><b>Output 3:</b></p>	
<p>3.1. Identify a preliminary set of threats to biological priorities and habitat based on existing knowledge and understanding (current candidates are roads, mining, fisheries, illegal hunting, migration, illegal logging, and point source pollution) by month 1.</p>	<p>Ten threats were prioritized: mangrove destruction, legal and illegal fishing, quarrying, slash and burn agriculture, infrastructure development, large-scale mining, large-scale logging, tourism, fuelwood gathering, and wildlife hunting.</p>
<p>3.2. Collect and assess data availability to adequately characterize the scale, immediacy of most important threats and major players behind them and fill gaps where needed through key informant interviews / secondary data collection by month 3.</p>	<p>These threats were regrouped into forest destruction related threats, marine and coastal fishery related threats and infrastructure development.</p>
<p>3.3. Local experts develop summary, spatially explicit description of these threats based on the compilation of existing analysis wherever possible to provide a preliminary assessment of scale, immediacy, and major players behind them by month 6.</p>	<p>A profile of the threats and an extensive economic analysis of the threats to Palawan fishery and forestry has been completed.</p>

<p>3.4. Produce a risk of habitat loss map with 5-year projections of loss based on preliminary findings (a first cut business-as-usual layer) by month 7.</p>	<p>Due to unavailability of complete data for the whole province, the habitat loss analysis was carried out for the South Palawan Planning Area, covering five municipalities in southern Palawan. Spatial econometrics was used to tease out the relationships between geophysical features of the land with the broader socio-economic and demographic trends.</p>
<p>3.5. Livelihood analysis completed for the Calamianes region to begin to identify and analyze the various opportunity costs associated with marine protected area establishment completed by month 8.</p>	<p>A technical report on enforcement economics in the Calamianes was completed.</p>
<p>3.6. An ecotourism assessment completed by month 6.</p>	<p>An ecotourism assessment in Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, El Nido Managed Resource Protected Area and Coron Island was conducted in collaboration with CI's Ecotourism Department.</p>
<p><b>Output 4:</b></p>	
<p>4.1. Review and assess current and potential biodiversity protection options done by month 4. To include: identification of currently effective management structures, institutions and major decision-makers related to the functioning of National Parks, PAMBs, CBFMAs, CADTs, and other resource management mechanisms, and potential threats to PA management.</p>	<p>A technical paper covering indicators 4.1 to 4.4 has been completed and validated with key stakeholders.</p>
<p>4.2. Review of relevant NRM policies and legislative factors, including the Palawan Strategic Environment Plan (SEP), ECAN, CLUP, etc., that would likely affect (limit or support) biodiversity conservation completed by month 4.</p>	
<p>4.3. Spatial analysis of policy assessment, i.e., identifying areas in the corridor where biodiversity conservation would be easiest or difficult in terms of political support, enforcement capacity, and institutional infrastructure completed by month 6.</p>	

<p>4.4. Identification of policy and institutional arrangement recommendations based on an expert consultation meeting completed by month 7.</p>	
<p><b>Output 5:</b></p>	
<p>5.1. Policymakers and relevant experts from govt., NGO, private sector, and donor stakeholders are identified and invited to a conservation-planning workshop. Summaries of biological, social, economic and policy assessments are compiled and circulated to invitees by month 7.</p>	<p>Using the results of the biological, social, economic and policy assessments, key stakeholders in Palawan were able to refine priority areas for conservation. Long-term strategies and priority actions have been formulated for each target site. This forms part of the conservation strategy document for Palawan corridor.</p>
<p>5.2. Workshop held by month 8 where 5-year outcomes, risk of habitat loss, and other spatial analysis are presented along with preliminary results of the context assessment. Participants are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Validate and / or challenge results of the assessments;</li> <li>▪ Identify and prioritize changes in behavior required to protect the identified biological priorities;</li> <li>▪ Recommend potential interventions for further analysis; and</li> <li>▪ Commit their own organization's time / resources towards implementation efforts.</li> </ul>	
<p>5.3. Results of the workshop are incorporated into a strategy document that includes 5-years outcomes, risk of habitat loss, and other spatial analysis, conclusions of the social, economic, and policy assessment, and recommendations for action by month 10.</p>	
<p><b>Output 6:</b></p>	
<p>6.1. In a one day experts meeting following the conservation-planning workshop (by month 8) is, a multidisciplinary M&amp;E design workshop held to agree upon and integrate preliminary baseline information and critical indicators for monitoring.</p>	<p>Baseline information and critical indicators for species and sites have been agreed upon by key organizations.</p> <p>Outcomes monitoring protocol was developed in coordination with CI-DC units.</p>
<p>6.2. Appropriate monitoring processes / systems are identified and associated costs for implementation are determined by month 10.</p>	

6.3. Proposal for province wide strategy monitoring is developed and submitted to CEPF by month 12.	
6.4. Agreed upon monitoring protocols are proposed for incorporation into all CEPF proposals submitted for Palawan by month 12.	
<b>Output 7:</b>	
7.1. Participatory workshop to create a communications strategy, including key stakeholders and decision makers completed by month 10.	A communications strategy for Palawan corridor was formulated by local communicators in a workshop facilitated by CI's International Communications Department. The strategy includes priority objectives, target public and the product or event.
7.2. Analysis/assessment of target audience knowledge, attitude and behavior in order to 1) use as formative research in message creation and project design; and 2) serve as a baseline of information for monitoring of post-activity effectiveness and change completed by month 10.	

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

The project delivered all its intended output. Critical to this success is the project staff's painstaking effort to engage the key stakeholders at all times in the project, informing them of the progress and getting them committed to the implementation of all activities. Winning the trust and support of key partners have led to a more efficient pooling of information which provided the strong basis for the development of the conservation strategy for Palawan's biodiversity corridor.

Towards the end of 2004, the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), one of the four major project partners, is convening an "environmental summit" that will serve, among others, to highlight the corridor strategies and invite external donors to fund specific projects aligned to these strategies. The Palawan NGO Network Inc., another project partner, has been invited to sit in the preparatory body representing the NGO sector and will use Surublien, the strategy document, as its reference in the preparations for the conference.

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

No output was unrealized.

## 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 project was essentially a research and planning exercise conducted over a period of 18 months. It has had no adverse impact to the environment and with human health and safety.

As a planning exercise, the project involved communities during key informant interviews and focus group discussions and has had insignificant impact on their regular livelihood activities and social or religious practices.

## 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.***

GIS is a useful tool, but the data being processed using GIS has to be verified for accuracy and reliability. As an example, the project has had several experiences in successfully engaging local government executives who were otherwise incognizant of conservation issues, particularly in Southern Palawan in the Mt. Mantalingahan area, by making full use of GIS tools to demonstrate impacts of business-as-usual scenarios on their natural resources.

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

The participation of the Palawan Working Group, comprised of DC-based technical staff, in the project design allowed for the multi-disciplinary approach in corridor strategy design process. The inputs received from this interdisciplinary team significantly contributed to the project's success, making the design robust enough to take into consideration multiple factors to contribute to a good design

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

The support of local organizations, both government and non-government and the inherent capacity of local stakeholders significantly contributed to the success of the project.

## VII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The visit of Ms. Judy Mills, CEPF Asia Grant Director, to the project site and her interaction with stakeholders heavily contributed to strengthening the commitment of partners to continue the project to its final conclusion- the conservation strategy development for Palawan biodiversity corridor.



## VI. 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](http://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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