

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization's Legal Name: Yakap Kalikasan Tungo sa Kaunlaran ng Pilipinas, Inc.

Project Title : Mt Irid-Mt Angilo Proposed Protected Area Advocacy Project

Implementation Partners for this Project: Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Region 04, Provincial and Community Environment & Natural Resources Offices (PENRO & CENRO) of Rizal, Bulacan and Quezon, and the Conservation International-Philippines.

Project Dates : June 1, 2004 – April 30, 2005

Date of Report (month/year): April 25, 2005

II. OPENING REMARKS

Mt. Irid and Mt. Angilo are two forested mountains within Southern Sierra Madre Corridor that serve as headwaters of five major watersheds of the provinces of Bulacan, Quezon and Rizal. These watersheds are the main sources of water of the households and industries in Metro Manila and the said provinces. The continuous forest depletion in the Corridor has been alarming causing loss of biodiversity; landslides; floods; loss of farms, properties and lives; and the inevitable decrease in and scheduled distribution of water to consumers.

The Southern Sierra Madre Corridor is very essential to the life of people and the diverse flora and fauna. As such, protection is necessary. The National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992 or RA 7586 provides for a multi-stakeholder establishment and management of protected areas in the country through certain participatory processes, such as census, area mapping, planning and demarcation, among others. Through the serious implementation of the NIPAS Act, a protected area is secured from unfriendly human interventions, and therefore becomes more sustainable. However, Mt. Irid and Mt. Angilo have not yet been declared as protected area. Illegal logging, rampant use of swidden farming, animal and endemic plant poaching, land conversion and increasing rate of upland migration are now threats to the sustainability of these headwaters.

The one year implementation of Mt Irid-Mt Angilo Proposed Protected Area Advocacy Project by Yakap Kalikasan Tungo sa Kaunlaran ng Pilipinas, Inc (YKKPI) led to the (a) development of a better linkage between and among the PAMBs, DENR, LGU and the people's organizations, (b) strengthening of the management capabilities of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of Kaliwa Watershed and Marikina Waterhsed, (c) identification of the critical areas in the watersheds that need environmental, tenurial and socio-economic assistance, (d) validation and prioritization by different stakeholders of the environmental, tenurial and socio-economic problems of the upland communities in the three above mentioned provinces, (e) awakening of the importance of the corridor and its watersheds to selected business companies, foundations and local government units, (f) recognition of Yakap Kalikasan in the PAMBs of 1636, Kaliwa and Marikina watersheds, and the (g) sharing of project lessons in local and international conventions.

Yakap Kalikasan saw the growing concern and aggressiveness of the PAMBs as well as the local DENR offices, LGUs, NGOs, and POs in the watersheds with no PAMBs yet, to work hand-in-hand in protecting and conserving the forests and forest resources of the corridor. It is being hoped that in the coming years, the PAMBs will be able to set their feet forward to finally declaring the corridor as a protected area.

III. PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

A. Project Objectives and Outcomes

The *Mt Irid-Mt Angilo Proposed Protected Area Advocacy Project* aimed that within 1 year, Yakap Kalikasan will be able to:

- a. undertake a study on the different tenereal instruments in the 5 major watersheds of Bulacan, Rizal and Quezon, to wit: Kaliwa, Marikina, Anggat, Umiray and Pamintinan watersheds, with the ultimate goals of harmonizing them into a single tenereal instrument and such as a protected area or a watershed management unit.
- b. Conduct advocacy activities to initially prepare local constituency including local government units for new protected area establishment in the southern corridor by:
 - a. Identifying existing tenereal instruments;
 - b. Identifying overlapping issues and problems regarding these proclamations;
 - c. Identifying existing management interventions;
 - d. Recommending ways to consolidate and harmonize the various existing management interventions;
 - e. Conducting information and education campaigns among key stakeholders in the area on bio-diversity protection, in general, and the benefits of protected area establishment in the area, in particular.

The objectives set were practical and feasible that they remained until the end of the project period. Yakap Kalikasan, together with the avid cooperation of the partner groups (i.e. DENR, LGU, P0s and other NGOs), was able to come up with the following outcomes:

Objective #1. Undertake a study on the different tenereal instruments in the 5 major watersheds of Bulacan, Rizal and Quezon, to wit: Kaliwa, Marikina, Anggat, Umiray and Pamintinan watersheds, with the ultimate goals of harmonizing them into a single tenereal instrument such as a protected area or a watershed management unit.

- (a) Provincial Profiles and Prioritization of Focal Municipalities. Yakap Kalikasan conducted a thorough profiling of the environmental, socio-economic, demographic and political conditions of the provinces of Bulacan, Quezon and Rizal. The technical staff reviewed and validated available secondary data, and conducted direct observation, interview and focused group discussions. The profiling resulted in the prioritization of the municipalities of Real, Infanta and General Nakar in Quezon; Antipolo, Tanay and Rodriguez in Rizal; and Doña Remedios Trinidad, San Jose Del Monte and Norzagaray in Bulacan. The basic criteria used in prioritizing the areas are that the municipalities are within the 5 critical watersheds or vice versa; and that care and protection of the remaining municipal forests are urgently needed. The chosen areas also attracted many business companies upon seeing their possible intervention's impact as well as the fitness of the advocacy project's long term vision to their operations.
- (b) Mapping and Map Validation. Yakap Kalikasan validated the maps of the corridor developed by NAMRIA. In the course of validation, Yakap Kalikasan was able to deduce and digitize 11 thematic maps of the area. Today, it has clearly designed the corridor's:
 - i. Administrative
 - ii. Land classification
 - iii. Land use
 - iv. Vegetative cover (1987)

- v. Vegetative cover (1993)
- vi. Infrastructure
- vii. Watershed
- viii. Elevation
- ix. slope
- x. Conflict areas or hotspots
- xi. Tenurial instruments and their overlaps

- (c) Situational Analysis. An overall situational analysis using the profiles of the three provinces is being finalized. The analysis gives a more detailed presentation of the trends in the Corridor. Such assessment will therefore give a bigger window for designing a more practical and feasible plan of action.

Objective #2. Conduct advocacy activities to initially prepare local constituency including local government units for protected area establishment in the southern corridor.

- (a) Southern Sierra Madre Corridor Stakeholder Consultative Workshop (Antipolo City, September 2004). A workshop was held by Yakap Kalikasan to get a multi-sectoral consensus on the priority issues and concerns in the corridor. It was also a chance for Yakap Kalikasan to inform the attendees about the critical status of the forests and biodiversity in Sierra Madre as well as to introduce the objectives of the advocacy program. Through the workshop, the representatives from the DENR, LGU, NGO, academe and PO sectors agreed, among others, that the overlapping land tenure instruments in the corridor has to be resolved, livelihood and enterprises as sources of income have to be well-studied and promoted among the CBFM communities, and that forest depletion can be acted on initially through reforestation.
- (b) Participation in PAMB Activities. Through the advocacy project, Yakap Kalikasan was able to participate in the series of PAMB meetings held by the PAMBs of Marikina Watershed, Kaliwa Watershed and RA 1636. The meetings became a venue for promoting the idea of working together in protecting and regenerating the forests of the corridor.
- (c) Kaliwa Watershed PAMB Capability Building. (Calauan, Laguna, February 2005) Yakap Kalikasan spearheaded a team building and skills development training to about 40 members of PAMB Kaliwa Watershed. The training had an add-on cross visit to a successful PAMB in Laguna. The members verbalized their satisfaction on the lessons gained from the classroom lecture and discussions as well as from the observation and interviews done during the cross visit in Mt. Banahaw.
- (d) Presentation of Project Vision to Selected Business Partners. The CEPF Grant Manager facilitated the meeting of Yakap Kalikasan with the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and First Philippine Conservation, Inc. (FPCI), two corporate foundations based in Metro Manila. The foundations have committed their support to the project after having been awakened about the reasons and threats of the decreasing water supply in Metro Manila, and of everyone's responsibility of protecting the main water source (i.e. Sierra Madre). Yakap Kalikasan requested for the business companies to fill in the financial gaps for capability building, livelihood assistance, health assistance and infrastructure development.
- (e) Guestings in Local Cable and Radio Networks. Two exposures on TV and radio about the advocacy project in Sierra Madre were conducted by Yakap Kalikasan. The Executive Director was interviewed on air by Radio DWDD, the radio station of the Armed Forces of the Philippines which has also served as DENR's radio network. DWDD has a frequency that reaches the remotest areas in Luzon down to Mindanao. During the

interview, the Executive Director discussed the importance of protecting the corridor and encouraged everyone to cooperate in bringing back the losing life of Sierra Madre. He also presented the other on-going programs and services of Yakap Kalikasan. Furthermore, Yakap Kalikasan's Project Development Specialist served as a resource person in the on-camera interview by the local cable station in Laguna. The station reaches the municipalities of Los Banos, Bay, Calauan, Nagcarlan, Magdalena, Liliw, Victoria, Pila and a part of Siniloan. The interview pressed more on the relationship of Laguna province and Laguna de Bay with Southern Sierra Madre corridor. The guest ended with Yakap Kalikasan's basic philosophy of "bigyang kalinga ang ating Kalikasan para sa ating salin-lahi" as a challenging note to the viewers.

- (f) Paper Presentation in the Annual Community Forestry Conference in FAO-UN. (March 2005, FAO-UN Rome) Yakap Kalikasan was invited as the Asian paper presenter during the 17 Annual Community Forestry Conference held by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. The paper emphasized on the experiences of Yakap Kalikasan in its involvement in community based forest management and advocacy work in protected areas, i.e. Southern Sierra Madre. The invitation to present was a result of Yakap Kalikasan's involvement in a CBFM research work for FAO in 2004 and its current advocacy initiatives in biodiversity areas. The final research report and the paper presented can be browsed over in the web site of FAO-UN.
- (g) Participation and Affiliation in Laguna Sierra Madre Forum. (February and March 2005) The CEPF support help Yakap Kalikasan extend its reach to other coalitions wanting to help regenerate Sierra Madre. Yakap Kalikasan supported the series of activities conducted by the Laguna Sierra Madre Forum. The forum was envisioned by UP Los Banos' Conservation Farming Movement, Inc. together with Yakap Kalikasan in the latter part of 2004. The forum has held one large consultative workshop and one meeting of the task force/forum. The forum or task force is being advised by Gov. Teresita Lazaro. It has gained a lot of support from the different sectors of Laguna. The CEPF-assisted advocacy project in Sierra Madre of Yakap Kalikasan was seen by the different sectors as very much related to the task force's vision for Laguna Sierra Madre.
- (h) Participation and Affiliation in Environment Foundations. Yakap Kalikasan is now a member of Haribon Foundation, Inc. and has been involved in some of the foundation's activities. Yakap Kalikasan's affiliation to the foundation allowed it to be able to promote the organization to the network and to share to the other affiliates Yakap Kalikasan's grounded experiences in community organizing, community-based forest management, biodiversity protection and technology promotion.
- (i) Participation in Sierra Madre Biodiversity Corridor 3rd Annual Assessment. Yakap Kalikasan participated in the 3rd Annual Assessment of the Sierra Madre Biodiversity Corridor held last April 14-16, 2005 in Isabela. Through the workshop, Yakap Kalikasan was able to build and expand its alliance with government and private institutions working in Sierra Madre. The attendees in the workshop agreed on developing a stronger partnership with each other by working together on common issues and concerns, more particularly on mining and logging issues. A covenant of resource sharing was also designed.
- (j) Training Assistance on Community Based Forest Management to DENR-CALABARZON. (March 2005). Yakap Kalikasan extended its services to DENR-Region IV by providing a training-orientation on team building and organization management to its technical staff in the CBFM section, the ENROs based in the LGUs, and PO representatives. The training was also used by Yakap Kalikasan to introduce the CEPF-assisted advocacy project as well as in encouraging a more zealous approach in protecting our remaining forests.

B. Problems/Limitations Faced

- a. Yakap Kalikasan did not have big problems in implementing the program, except for the November 2004 landslide in Real and Infanta Quezon and a part of Bulacan which derailed the scheduled profiling in Quezon. The incident also suddenly changed the entire environmental, socio-economic and demographic set-up of the province. The inaccessibility to the area slowed down Yakap Kalikasan's research. Also the incident brought instability in the political set-up of the province, particularly with the PENRO and CENRO Offices.

C. Lessons Learned

- a. The availability of project funds from other donors largely contribute to a fast-paced and well-motivated evolution of a PAMB, i.e. The World Bank for Kaliwa Watershed. PAMBs meet regularly, hence, they need funds to convene representatives from different offices and groups from as far as the innermost areas of the forests. This is a usual complaint of the DENR as the lead convenor of the PAMB. That's why, in one occasion, Yakap Kalikasan funded the meeting of the PAMB of Kaliwa Watershed so that discussions about the ultimate declaration of the corridor as protected area be discussed and agreed on. The meeting resulted in the agreement to (i) allow Yakap Kalikasan to spearhead the capability building program of the PAMB Kaliwa, (ii) have Yakap Kalikasan be included in the planning activities for Kaliwa Watershed, (iii) endorse Yakap Kalikasan as a regular member of the said PAMB and other existing PAMBs in Southern Sierra Madre corridor.
- b. Formalizing relationships such as through memoranda of agreement with DENR or the PAMB facilitates project implementation and develops a stronger and legitimate partnership with the government. MOAs should emphasize the tasks and responsibilities of the parties involved and the target outcomes of the partnership.
- c. Yakap Kalikasan's partner groups in this project were very receptive to the program and to the ultimate vision of declaring the Southern Sierra Madre corridor as protected area, primarily because of Yakap Kalikasan's basic principles of participation and transparency.
- d. CEPF was in constant supervision and guidance especially in providing means and ways of developing networks with the business groups and other environment foundations. As such, Yakap Kalikasan has developed a larger reach and network with partners and donors.
- e. The CEPF's scheme of releasing financial assistance on a lumpsum basis allowed Yakap Kalikasan to operationalize its targets on time and with ease.

D. Follow-Up Activities

Yakap Kalikasan is proposing to continue the advocacy work in the corridor through a more intensive and grounded education campaign. This shall be coupled with a more active mobilization of the existing PAMBs, and the pursuance of building PAMBs in the other protected areas with no PAMBs to date. Yakap Kalikasan shall advocate for the creation of a single protected area management plan, whether through a collective effort of the different PAMBs or through the convergence of the different PAMBs into one board.

Yakap Kalikasan shall also help strengthen the community organizations so that they could be more actively represented in the PAMB and other policy making bodies as well as be able to manage their own activities contributing to a more sustained forest management. In

addition, Yakap Kalikasan shall also continue collaborating with different foras, groups and environment coalitions (i.e. Laguna Sierra Madre Forum, Haribon Foundation, Inc., LLDA, DENR, NIA an the media).

The business sector shall be encouraged to participate in the implementation of activities that support the millennium development goals, particularly the goal for sustainable environment. This includes activities that are in line with enterprise management, appropriate technology promotion, health and education, riverbank rehabilitation and restorative reforestation.

The LGU from the provincial to the Barangay levels shall be considered strong partners in the efforts to be undertaken. The LGU shall also be encouraged to include in their comprehensive land use plan (CLUP), annual plan of work and budget the activities that will support sustainable forest conservation.

IV. 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
Philippine Business For Social Progress (PBSP)	Partner-Grantee Leveraging	\$70,000.00	To be granted for livelihood, infrastructure, health and education projects of Southern Sierra Madre Corridor.
FAO-UN	Partner-Grantee Leveraging	\$6,000.00	Travel and accommodation during the presentation of the organization and its advocacy project (i.e. Southern Sierra Madre Experience) in forest policy development through civil society participation
DENR-World Bank Project in Kaliwa Watershed	Complementary Funding	P170,000.00	Financial assistance to train 40 PAMB members on team building and protected area management capability building

****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.

V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Advocacy Project for the ultimate declaration of Southern Sierra Madre protected landscape is strongly recommended for continuance. The declaration is a necessity to ensure the (a) restoration of its biodiversity resulting in the protection of endemic species, (b) well-defined land use and zones of the areas, (c) sustained water supply to the homes and industries in the greater Metro Manila and the provinces of Bulacan, Quezon and Rizal, (d) sustained irrigation to rice and other forms of crop lands in the said areas, and other adjacent provinces; (e) and the availability of forest and non-forest products and resources. The process will entail a stronger collaboration of the different stakeholders both in the uplands and the lowlands, as well as the ultimate harmonization of the various management interventions of these stakeholders.

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, 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 XXXX

No _____

If yes, please also complete the following:

For more information about this project, please contact:

Name: Nelson G. Martires
Mailing address: 2F Ordoveza Bldg, Sto Domingo, Bay, Laguna
Tel: 049-5368385
Fax: 049-5368385
E-mail: yakap_kalikasan@yahoo.com