

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)
March 15, 2003

Organization Information
Organization Name
Yayasan Biota Lestari
Project Name
<i>Assessment and Boundary Setting for High-Biodiversity Forests in Angkola, Northern Sumatra.</i>
Project Dates (as stated in the contract agreement)
15 November 2002 - 15 January 2003.
Partners
Mitra Angkola, CI
Project Description – Provide a brief description of the project your team implemented.
<p>Mandailing Natal (Madina) District has 421.669,17 Ha forest. The width is less than 13 % of total forest cover in North Sumatera Province. The total forest cover in North Sumatera Province is 3.294.470,06 Ha. There are many important functions of forest in Madina. But, especially as one of link of the tropical rain forest line in Sumatera where millions of flora and fauna live.</p> <p>In order to preserve forest function conservations steps should be taken. Preliminary steps that considered important are to identify the area potential, especially the forest land coverage condition and also some important fauna species within the area. From there, there should be delineation on important areas.</p> <p>Therefore Biota Lestari was trying to identify potential and to map the land cover in “Angkola” Madina District area. It is hoped that the result of this activity will ease the formulation of area development planning and also in making important steps in saving “Angkola” ecosystem.</p>

Narrative Questions

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

To identify "Angkola" forest potential

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

No

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

The realization of Angkola potential identification project execution produced data and information on the "Angkola" forest potential condition in the form of survey results report and the map of forest/vegetation coverage, which we will deliver in the form of CD.

Survey was conducted in Hutnamale, Huta Baringin Julu, Sibanggor Julu, Purba Julu, Aek Roburan, Muara Soma, Sopotinjank, Sikara-kara, Batu Sirah, Singkuang, Aek Sihayu and Simpang Maligi.

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.

No

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.

The assessment on forest/land coverage analysis provides data and information on natural resources in the Angkola forest ecosystem. Also there is a map on the forest/land coverage condition in Angkola ecosystem. The document can be used as a foundation in taking important steps in saving the Angkola ecosystem, for example delineation, determination of important and priority areas, intensive monitoring and on the potential and its development.

Field observation showed misused of the forest natural resources and the violation of existing laws. For example, logging activity on the habitat of endangered species such as Sumatran Tiger. The activity altered the ecosystem balance. It was indicated by conflict between human and wildlife. This incident occurred in the area where a private logging company (PT. Aek Gadis Timber) had their activity in the past. Therefore in conducting the status proper assessment of the area where logging or conversion would occur, the existence of wildlife should be a vital consideration.

Further, the project result will be disseminated to related government parties for policy decision making in forest management, especially to BAPPEDA Mandailing Natal, Mandailing Natal Forestry Service and other Mandailing Natal local district government elements. With hope that the results of this project can become a consideration in district policy making related with forest resources. The form of socialization will be conducted after the final of this project by conducting meetings at local level with the district authorities using fund excluded funding of Angkola forest potential evaluation project.

The result of temporary observation on community showed that there is a bad habit appears on how the community uses the forest. With excuse of fairness, some members of community enter the forest and poach the ex-private logging company area and protected forest area. In the past, the private logging companies were given concession to do logging activities, whilst the local communities who have lived in the vicinity and have guarded the area for years were just become the spectator. They did not taste even a little from this 'green mine'. With the political change and the end of term of some private logging companies, the local community feels that it is their turn to take advantage on the forest productions.

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

After a discussion with several parties about the condition of Angkola ecosystem, there were some ideas emerge from some institutions. The ideas were to make follow-up on this activity by making Angkola ecosystem saving program. The evaluation result showed important areas, which is a priority in the effort to save the forest. The priority areas are Sorik Merapi forest area, and several forests ex-forest logging company area in Mandailing Natal District and South Tapanuli District.

The Sorik Merapi forest area and the vicinity are a priority area. Because the area used to be the upper course of some big rivers in Mandailing Natal, Batang Gadis river which flows along the Angkola area and Batang Natal river and becomes water resource for Natal. Also, it is habitat to big mammal such as Tapir, Sumatran Tiger, *Harimau Dahan*, Honey Bear and Wild Pig. In the area, there are many sources of hot water contain sulfur. The substance is main source of salt. Although part of the area is designated as protected forest, but the status does not limit all types of logging activities, in particular logging poaching and encroach for agricultural purposes.

In the future, the function of this area can be up graded to conservation area such as national park/local park. The term of local park seemed more appropriate in the current system, although need further study.

Different interests on forest resources among stakeholders raises immediate action to save Angkola forest. The stakeholders are the local and central government, business people and community. The stakeholders should also share role in forest resources management, especially initiation in searching methods or wise forest management patterns by considering other creature's interest other than human needs and also putting local community as the key actor. The project can be done by starting intensive dialogues to map all problems and explore all interests and needs of each stakeholder, and so there will be one pattern for collaborative forest management which accommodate all interests of government, business people and community.

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

The evaluation of forest potential in "Angkola" Mandailing Natal District was conducted according to the logical framework paper work. For instance some important potential were identified, especially potential relates with the existence of wildlife as bioindicator on habitat condition and the existence of other species of fauna. The species are for example Tapir, Honey Bear, Sumatran Tiger, Siamang, Wild Pig, *Harimau Dahan*, Deer, etc.

The project was also succeeded in analyzing the form of forest/land coverage in Angkola area. Through overlay using forest function map, topography, riverside area and other areas, some important areas can be identified. These important areas need immediate attention due to the rapid deforestation in the area. The area is Sorik Merapi forest area. Other than that, there are also forest areas logging company (HPH) which now is becoming the target of illegal logger.

The result of potential assessment and GIS analysis using satellite imaging which now available can be used as input and consideration in managing the Angkola ecosystem area.