

# CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** Aurora Resource Development Initiatives Association, Inc.

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** Expansion of the Aurora Memorial National Park

**Implementation Partners for this Project:**

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** September 1, 2005 - August 31, 2006

**Date of Report (month/year):** Quarterly

## II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The Expansion of the Aurora Memorial National Park is located at the Central Sierra Madre Mountains, specifically within the jurisdictions of the provinces of Aurora and Nueva Ecija and portions covered by seven (7) municipalities and 47 of their barangays. The proposed expansion area covers 59,000 hectares, excluding the areas covered by the Community-based Forest Management Agreement (about 6,000 ha) and the Food Production and Agro-forestry Project (320 ha), both of which are sited within the proposed AMNP expansion. Nine (9) watershed forest reservations formed part of the proposed expansion area.

The absence of an effective on-site management Aurora Memorial National Park has exacerbated timber poaching and proliferation of Kaingin areas. These are evidently reported by local people who used to see squared lumbers hauled at night and patches of kaingin plots that are observable on mountain slopes.

In spite of the above man's exploitative activities, the project area is still considered home to bio-diverse flora and fauna, including the Philippine Eagle which is sighted several times in the area by local people, one of which was caught by a local resident in 1999 in "Susong Dalaga" mountain a portion of the Dibudalan Forest Mountain Reserve. This eagle was brought to PAWB and was name "Kalayaan".

There is a need really to make the existing Watershed Forest Reserves and the surrounding sensitive forestlands be clustered and proclaimed into a single protected landscape to preserve and conserve what are still remain and enhance their environmental functions, particularly forests.

### III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

**Project Purpose:** Concerned provincial, municipal and barangay government units support and endorse the proposed expanded Aurora Memorial National Park Protected Landscape for congressional action.

#### Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
<b>Purpose-level:</b>	
PA documentary requirements (Initial Protected Area Plan, PA map, RBI, PASA and copies of endorsement/resolutions) completed and endorsed by DENR, LGU and Regional Development Council for the expansion of AMNP by May 2006.	The project has so far completed the Protected Area documents such as the Initial Protected Area Plan, Protected Area Map, Resource Based Inventory, and Protected Area Suitability Assessment. Final Endorsement/ resolutions from the DENR, LGU, and the Regional Development Council was overtaken by the timeline of the project. These documents have to be secured from the said entity upon presentation of the IPAP document and other relevant documents the project has completed
Protected Area advocacy campaign successfully conducted to obtain support and endorsement of concerned barangays, municipal and provincial government units on the proposed expansion of the Aurora Memorial National Park Protected Landscape by August 2006.	Supportive endorsements from Municipal Development Council, Municipal Mayors and People's Organizations manifesting their support to the project were secured.
Protected Area awareness campaign on the proposed expansion of the Aurora Memorial National Park Protected Landscape successfully initiated and conducted by July 2006	Brochure about the project was prepared and distributed to stakeholders for information dissemination.  During the conduct of Surveys and Registration of Protected Area Occupants (SRPAO) within the 47 barangays covered, consultations were conducted prior to survey proper. The necessity and importance of expanding the existing Aurora Memorial National Park and protecting the same are comprehensively explained to the stakeholders, particularly respondents.

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

Awareness and support of local people and elected officials are positive impact for the project. Much more if the will continue and the end result is attained, that is proclaiming the expanded Aurora Memorial National Park into a Protected Landscape and effective management is put in place.

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

**Yes there are. The environmental functions and change in the socio-economic living conditions of local people. Biological conservation increases floral species and faunal population. This provides balances in the ecosystems. A healthy ecosystem means healthy community and abundance of resources where people could derive their stable incomes.**

## IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

**Project Outputs:** Enter the project outputs from the Logical Framework for the project

### Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
<b>Output 1:</b> Documentary requirements for the proposed expansion of AMNP completed and endorsements secured from concerned barangays, municipalities, provincial government units, and other stakeholders, and subsequently forwarded to congress for congressional action.	Protected Area documents were completed but have to be presented to the DENR, LGUs and Regional Development Council, and other concerned entities the completion of which was overtaken by the project's timeframe completion, thus securing the necessary endorsements in this regard was not accomplished.
<b>1.1.</b> Orientation/consultation meetings, public hearings with stakeholders within and downstream portions of the proposed expanded Protected Area successfully conducted by December 2005.	Orientation/ consultations meetings with residents of affected barangays were carried out during the period. The objectives of the project and its importance were properly explained along with the impacts to their socio-economic life and the environment per se
<b>1.2.</b> Conduct PASA and RBI in the affected municipalities by February 2006.	PASA and RBI conducted during the period. These are included the prepared documentary requirements.
<b>1.3.</b> Conduct workshop for the preparation of Initial Protected Area Plan and PA boundary map by March 2006.	The preparation of the IPAP used the collected information gathered during the conduct of SRPAO, PASA, and RBI. Likewise issues/ problems and other important information derived from interviews of local residents of the project-covered barangays and affected forest dwellers were also bases for the IPAP write-ups.  All legal documents such as maps, proclamations, land classification, plan documents, and other related report documents were use as bases for preparing the Protected Area Map.
<b>1.4.</b> Conduct site public hearings in the affected communities and municipalities by March 2006	Same as 1.1
<b>1.5.</b> Facilitate deliberation of the proposed PA to the PAMB, MPDCs, PDC, RCSD and DENR for their endorsement by April 2006	Not accomplished. Overtaken by project timeframe completion
<b>1.6.</b> Secure resolutions/endorsements from PAMB, MPDCs, PDC, DENR, NCIP, RCSD and RDC by May 2006	Not accomplished. Overtaken by project timeframe completion
<b>Output 2.</b> Protected Area advocacy campaign successfully initiated for the immediate review of PA documents to facilitate congressional action on the proposed	Not accomplished. Overtaken by project timeframe completion

expansion of the AMNP Protected Landscape.	
<b>2.1.</b> Meetings with mayors and congressmen of concerned municipalities and provinces to advocate the immediate review of the documents for the proposed AMNP expansion vis-a-vis congressional action by April 2006	Not accomplished. Overtaken by project timeframe completion
<b>2.2.</b> Endorsement of mayors and congressmen of concerned municipalities and provinces on the proposed expansion of the AMNP Protected Landscape by August 2006.	Not accomplished. Overtaken by project timeframe completion
<b>Output 3.</b> Protected area awareness campaign on the proposed expansion of the AMNP Protected Landscape successfully initiated.	Awareness campaign has been part of the project's activities prior and during the conduct of SRPAO, PASA, and RBI
<b>3.1.</b> Stakeholders consultations and orientations for the Protected Area between July and August 2006.	Orientations and consultations were carried out with stakeholders, particularly by barangay
<b>3.2.</b> IEC materials(flip charts, posters, etc.) developed and community awareness campaign and outreach program with the PA covered areas initiated between June 2006 and July 2006.	Project brochures prepared and distributed to stakeholders  During meetings in the project-affected barangays, the project team was always at the outset explained the project, its objectives and the positive impacts it would create.

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

The project has come to the point of completing the necessary Protected Area documentary documents which will be the basis for securing endorsements from various stakeholders after presentation. And these endorsements shall be the basis for congressional action and eventually president's approval of the proposed AMNP.

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

Yes (please refer to the above table). The project is short of coming to securing the necessary endorsements from various stakeholders vis-à-vis congressional action and president's approval.

Note: The project's commitment is up to securing endorsements from various stakeholders through presentation of completed Protected Area documentary requirements. Congressional action and president's approval should be part of the second phase activity.

## V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

- ✚ If the proposed AMNP expansion is legally approved, there should be an implementation of an effective on-site management of the area. This is to plug or close its open access conditions, whereby forest resource exploiters can just come in and out of forestland taking away its resources.
- ✚ Make sure of putting monument into the perimeter boundary of the expanded AMNP as identification marker for unauthorized forest resource users. Also provide a buffer zone between the expanded AMNP and the surrounding forestlands such as biological buffer.
- ✚ Forest dwellers need to be educated and change their livelihood based from forest resource users to other income sources not necessarily on forests exploitation.
- ✚ The DENR in collaboration with the communities should strictly implement forestry rules and regulations.

## 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.***

The project faced several problems along its process of implementation, these combined human and nature. People, particularly local elected officials have different views as to the project's direction. If their constituents are negatively affected by the project, it's hard to convince them on the noble objectives of the project being presented. You can take their side gradually through sincere immersion with them, gaining their confidence and trust.

Nature on the other hand, is unpreventable but its effect can be minimized. Proper scheduling of activities is needed. The project site's climate and weather conditions are historically recorded. This provides project staff the necessary guide to implementing the various phases of the project.

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

Since the project has not yet attained its main output that is proclaimed as protected landscape, the many stages of its project design process is not yet comprehensible. All aspects of the project design will provide the determination of its success or failure.

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

The project execution, which started by local CI and continued by ARDIAI with different people of different styles who directly handled the project's execution, has possibly affected the implementation of the latter resulting to the project's current result. We cannot say at this moment that the project is a failure or a success unless its continuation is given another chance and put the house in order.

## 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	Notes
DBP Forest Project	Co-sharing- Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Provincial Government of Aurora (PGA), and Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO)	PhP 10 Million	The project implementation formally started during its launching on 17 August 2006. It covers three (3) sites within the Proposed Expansion of Aurora Memorial National Park with combined area of 444 hectares. It focuses on the plantations for rattan, bamboo, agro-forestry and endemic forest tree species.  The DBP provides about 90 % of the total budget with the DENR and PGA equally share the remaining.

***\*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 funded 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 funded 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.***

What has been started needs to be continued. Spending in the initial phase of the project is futile in substance if not completely attained its end objective that is proclamation into an Expanded Aurora Memorial national Park

An additional 10 to 15 thousand dollars is possibly enough for the next implementer of the project to realizing the end result of the project.

### VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✚ It is recommended that constant monitoring and visiting the project site should be done by the country programme coordinator and some time by the donor. This provides project implementers to really give full attention to the right project implementation.

### VIII. 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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