

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Palawan Conservation Corps

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Enhancement of Educational Park as Reforestation Training Center (phase II)

Implementation Partners for This Project: Environmental Legal Assistance Center, Inc. (ELAC), Canada Fund (CIDA), Fellows in Environmental Leadership and Development (FIELD), Barangay Councils in Puerto Princesa City, Samahan ng mga Maliliit na Mangingisda ng Puerto Princesa City (SAMMAPP), Puerto Princesa City Agriculture Office, Provincial Environmental and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) and City Environmental and Natural Resources Office (City-ENRO).

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): September 1, 2004 – October 31, 2005

Date of Report (month/year): December 30 2005

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The Palawan Conservation Corps has successfully implemented its target deliverables for the project. To attain the over-all goal which was to train local communities on proper restoration and reforestation techniques and advocate for Palawan's biodiversity conservation through environmental education, PCC targeted three main deliverables: Environmental Work Camps, Information Center and Park Enhancement and Guided Tour and Educational Materials. Table 1 shows the summary of activities undertaken for the project.

Table 1. Summary of activities for the Restoration and Educational Nature Park Project (Phase II)

Target Activity	Actual Output	Remarks
A. Environmental Work Camps		
Restoration and Trail Building Training in three watershed areas	Restoration training in three areas: 1) May 2-6, 2005- 40 community participants in Sition Nagtabon, Brgy. Bacungan, PPC. Restoration of the riverbank inside the watershed area. 2) June 9, 2005- 40 community participants in Brgy. Lucbuan, PPC. Restoration of 3,000 square meters of abandoned quarried site. 3) July 11-14 – 30 participants in Brgy. Bahile, PPC. Stabilized 150 meters length riparian zone of the Bahile river.	Trail building topics was not included in the trainings because during the training needs assessment, the participants did not list the trail building as priority topics; Brgy. Lucbuan officials and community chose to restore an abandoned quarried site rather than the watershed area.

Upland Reforestation in three barangays	Planted total of 2,500 seedlings of Native Tree species in five areas: 1. June, 2005 Bgy. Salvacion, PPC. 2. July 8, 2005 Bgy. Bahile, PPC 3. July 18, 2005 Bgy. Macarascas, PPC 4. July 21, 2005 Bgy. Concepcion 5. July 21, 2005 Bgy. San Rafael	Originally only three sites were supposed to be reforested but with partnership with other organizations, PCC was able to conduct reforestation for 2 more barangays.
Compost Toilet Construction at the Mangrove Paddleboat Tour, So. Sabang	Finished construction of 1 compost toilet at the Mangrove Paddleboat information center with the active support of local guides of the Paddleboat tour.	The compost toilet is presently being used by the tourists visiting the Mangrove Paddleboat tour.
B. Information Center and Park Enhancement		
Construction of safety walls, fencing, and security	Hired an experienced carpenter to complete the construction of the safety walls and fences with the assistance of the PCC youth alumni volunteers.	
Park Trail Enhancement	Completed the 5,000 ft. trail in the nature park with the construction of bridges and stairs. The trail was completed with the help of PCC youth alumni volunteers.	
Brochures, booklets, information materials	Printed 900 copies of brochure for the nature park; 500 copies of bio-engineering module; and 300 copies of basic ecology booklet.	The brochures were distributed during the launching of the nature park, some copies were at the information center, City Information Office and the City Tourism office. The booklets and modules were distributed to different barangays and different offices.
Interpretive signs and billboards	Created 6 information billboards of the different ecosystems and different interpretative signs around the park	
Water catchment using plastic barrels and ferro-cement training	Established 15 water barrel catchments around the hardwood nursery, information center and at the camping area. Finished construction of 2 ferro-cement tanks at the information center and at the camping area	These activities were for the improvement of the water supply for the hardwood nursery, nature park and camping grounds
C. Guided Tour and Educational Materials		
Education modules, workshops, camp activities	Created different interactive activities for guest and visitors.	
Materials, books, documentation	Received a lot of donated educational materials and modules from partner organizations; purchased audio and visual appliances for educational purposes; and purchased a digital camera used for documentation	

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. *What was the initial objective of this project?*

The central purpose of affirming Palawan to be a biosphere reserve is to promote practices that improve human well-being, without degrading the environment. In response to this purpose, the Palawan Conservation Corps (PCC) aims to share knowledge on how to manage natural resources in a sustainable way through restoration, upland reforestation, and education. The over-all goal of PCC is to train local communities on proper restoration and reforestation techniques and advocate for Palawan's biodiversity conservation through popular education.

Objectives

- ♦ provide the opportunity for the youths, local communities, local government units, tourists, and conservation partners to perform environmental protection and conservation through restoration work and upland reforestation
- ♦ develop the education park as a venue to demonstrate how to manage an integrated system where man can provide for his basic needs while preserving the environment
- ♦ promote the urgency in preserving biodiversity existing in the region through popular education using interactive learning methods

Expected Results

- ♦ youths conducting skills training among local communities on environmental restoration, which includes: bio-engineering, soil erosion control, trail work, stream restoration
- ♦ youths working side by side among local government units on upland reforestation, which includes: plant propagation & identification and hardwood nursery maintenance
- ♦ improving and promoting the educational information center and nature park where schools, tourists, and local communities can learn about the environment through day camp games, activities, and interactive educational instruction

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

Generally, the project objectives did not change much from the original proposal. What was more noticeable was the extent of accomplishments given very little funding for the project. Some examples follow; (1) two additional barangays benefited from the reforestation activity,(2)able to accommodate participants more than what was expected for 2 restoration trainings.

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

Aside from having a capable working staff, our project became very successful because of the partnerships involved, the timing of the activities, and the sharing of resources that resulted from these partnerships.

Other driving force of this project is the PCC youth alumni from our residential program. Their interest and dedication is of primary importance in meeting our objectives. Without their presence, it is difficult for PCC to plan projects and map out methods that will encourage the youths and local communities to play major roles in conservation. It is also quite difficult to complete the projects without their volunteer efforts as much of the activities are labor-intensive.

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.*

PCC experienced failure in Barangay Bahile, one of the areas that they conducted restoration training, in terms of community participation. Only few local residents and local officials participated in the three-day restoration training and practicum. During the initial meetings with the local barangay officials, the community participation was committed for the activity. Barangay Bahile was chosen as one of the target areas because of ongoing community projects of ELAC and the City government in the area.

PCC tried its best during the initial preparation in getting the community participation thru meetings with the barangay officials with the assistance of ELAC community organizer assigned in the area. Though there might be many possible reasons for the lack of community participation, PCC realized that a strong commitment of the community for environmental protection is important for the success of the project.

It is fortunate that during the training, PCC youth alumni, volunteers and OSY residential program corpsmembers participated to ensure the completion of the soil stabilization of the 150 meter riparian zone.

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.*

One of the positive lessons we learned in this project is partnering with established organizations working in our project sites as it made our community organizing and networking much more easier. Barangays Lucbuan and Sitio Nagtabon, Bacungan were established community partners of ELAC thru their more than seven years of Community-based Coastal Resource Management (CBCRM) program. The restoration training project is more successful if the communities already have a strong commitment for environmental protection.

Moreover, the assistance of the Puerto Princesa City Government thru the PCC's OSY residential program also is very helpful for the success of the project. Besides the financial assistance, the partnership with the city government made it easier for the PCC to establish contact with the barangay officials and the local communities.

Establishing partnership was also a positive lesson learned during the launching of the educational park. Different stakeholders such as NGOs, media, government agencies and academe were invited to the launching ceremony of the educational park. The attendees were impressed with the trail and nature park that assistance and support were pledged for the promotion of PCC and its education park. An important support that needs to be developed was the pledge of support from the City Information Office. According to Mr. Mirasol, the representative of the City Information Office, they will help in the promotion of the PCC's nature park as one of the tourist spots of Puerto Princesa City. If this plan will be realized, the promotion of the PCC's nature park as a tourist spot will bring additional income for PCC as well as means of livelihood for the PCC alumni as possible park rangers and tour guides.

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

To monitor the success of the project, PCC has been conducting monthly monitoring and evaluation in the three restoration sites and the five reforestation sites. The monitoring and evaluation activities help PCC to document both negative and positive impacts of the restoration trainings and activities. The lessons learned in the monitoring and evaluation will improve the restoration skills and technology of PCC.

Based on the monitoring activities, the restoration of the portion of the abandoned quarried site in Brgy. Lucbuan was the most successful. In fact, the area has been the showcase of PCC during the two separate cross visit activities of U.S. Peace Corps Tudlo Mindanao project and the Western Palawan University (WPU) students. The teacher participants of the U.S. Peace Corps were very much impressed with the simplicity of the restoration technology of PCC that they promised to replicate it in Mindanao.

The barangay officials, ELAC and PCC already planned for the upcoming completion of the rehabilitation of the whole abandoned quarried site which will entail more funding.

With regards to the Nature park, PCC continues to improve the facilities and activities as to anticipate the coming of visitors. There were already few visitors to the nature park brought by the attendees of the launching of the nature park. PCC will target in the few months that the nature park will be developed and promoted as one of the Puerto Princesa City's tourist spot thru partnership with other organization and the City government; and development of additional funding proposal.

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

With the success of the Community Restoration trainings in Nagtabon and Lucbuan particularly in bioengineering, PCC will focus in conducting more restoration trainings in other barangays. Even with the completion and the launching of the Nature park, the PCC will continue to improve the facilities and activities as it would like to accomplish its

goal to make the PCC nature park as the center for environmental appreciation and learning.

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

***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.

Particularly, the PCC plans to replicate the community restoration trainings to other barangays by obtaining other funding assistance; and continue establishing partnerships with other organizations and local government units. PCC already has initial plans with other local people’s organization for more restoration trainings. As of recently, PCC was able to secure funding from Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Fund (PTFC) and the Puerto Princesa City Government for more restoration activities.

The promotion of the PCC’s Nature Park as one of the Puerto Princesa City’s tourist spot is one of the major potential for PCC as a sustainable source of funding. Moreover, not only PCC will be benefiting from this plan but as well as the PPC youth alumni corpsmembers as potential co-managers and park rangers.

V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

With the PCC trying to put more emphasis on community-based restoration projects in the future, it is hoping that it would still continue to get funding assistance from CEPF. The small monetary incentive that PCC gave to PCC youth alumni volunteers in this project inspired them to be more involve in community environmental projects.

PCC will need to further improve its restoration program as regards to the development of more simple and cost effective skills and technology; and providing research on baseline data that shows the importance and impact of environmental restoration activities in Palawan.

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 _____

No _____

If yes, please also complete the following:

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