

CANADA FUND PROJECT BRIEF

1. Project Title : Managing Environmentally Critical Areas in the Talomo-Lipadas Watersheds through Community Partnership Building
2. Location : Davao City
3. Project Sector : Water supply and sanitation - small systems
Agricultural development
Agricultural inputs
Food crop production
Forestry development
Environmental policy and administrative
Bio-diversity
4. Budget : Php 1,220,075.00
5. Implementing Organization : People Collaborating for Environmental and Economic Management in Davao Foundation (PCEEM Davao)
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6. Duration : May 24, 2005 - February 28, 2006
7. Project Description :

This nine-month project is designed to strengthen capacities of two barangay communities to plan and manage their resources and initiate protection measures utilizing good watershed resource use practices. The project is expected to result in building a broader base support from among local communities as well as from various sectors to work on the sustainability of the Talomo and Lipadas Watershed (TLW) using an integrated approach to watershed management.

The intervention shall focus on building or enhancing capacities of communities on specific skills and knowledge on becoming effective watershed managers. The watershed consultation and planning processes to be undertaken in the barangays are expected to consummate into an integrated and sound micro-watershed management plan (WMP). The developed processes in the Watershed Management Framework (WMF) of PCEEM and the results of the Environmental Critical Areas (ECA) study will be used as major input in the WMP.

The WMP shall influence all development interventions that will be undertaken in the target areas. Technologies that demonstrate sustainable and environment-friendly utilization of resources shall be adopted. Critical collaborative partnerships shall be established with the government, companies and other sectors to generate resources in terms of policy, technical assistance and funds to support local initiatives.

The proposed project shall build on the past gains of PCEEM interventions by adopting the processes and technologies developed (i.e. WMF, EM & E system, multi-stakeholder collaboration process, sustainable agricultural technologies) in a comprehensive approach. It shall be implemented in two barangays that are outside of the Foundation's current project priority.

8. Beneficiaries : 8,424 residents

9. Expected Results :

- Physical and socio-economic data are gathered, analyzed and validated by community for input in the WMP
- Developed and implemented (2) WMPs thru multi-stakeholder effort
- Demonstrated skills in managing own organizations, planning, problem-solving and implementing watershed projects and activities.
- Organized and mobilized community monitoring team to conduct EM&E activities
- Formulated area development and farm plans that will organize planting and farming activities
- Farmers identified suitable crop mix and incorporated it into their farm plans
- Forested at least 5% of non-forested critical areas- gullies, river and stream banks and sloping areas
- Initially established at least 20 farms with design to demonstrate technologies such as agro-forestry, soil and water conservation, and other environment-friendly practices
- Installed or Improved water delivery system facilities that are community-managed

10. End of Project Results :

Objective #1: To delineate environmentally critical areas (ECAs) and prepare WMP with two communities.

The ECA identification and ground delineation survey in the two project sites were completed. Two (2) Survey Teams were dispatched to conduct the ground level survey using Geographic Information System/Global Positioning System (GIS/GPS). On 20 and 21 January 2006, the Project Management Team (PMT) facilitated a multi-sectoral meeting that helped validate the results and/or findings in the survey and addressed the issues and problems that came up. The major issues identified in the ECA report included the following: a) improper disposal of agri-industrial wastes; b) massive agricultural activities including timber poaching along easements and riverbanks; c) plantations along critical slopes; and d) lack of enforcement of laws governing easements and riverbanks. An inter-agency meeting of the ECA Technical Working Group was conducted on 1 February 2006 to assess the results of the ECA Survey and to harmonize existing laws governing critical slopes. The Technical Working Group prepared a draft Management Plan for presentation to the concerned communities.

Moreover, the PMT conducted a community-level consultation-fora on the results of the Terrain Analysis Study of the Davao City's watershed that was commissioned by the city government. The study provided critical information needed to fully understand the geophysical environment of the watersheds and provided reliable and comprehensive information particularly on the land uses of the watershed.

Meanwhile, the two barangays adopted a common community WMP planning framework. This was achieved through the assistance of the Davao City Planning and Development Office, and City government and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources that conducted series of meetings to harmonize the watershed planning process in order to avoid duplication of efforts. The watershed management planning framework was leveled off through meetings and consultations between PCEEM and the barangay councils in two project sites. The framework was integrated in the barangay development plans.

Objective #2: To organize and capacitate communities involving different sectors within to become effective watershed resource managers.

The PMT regularized the meeting of the Barangay Watershed Management Council which resulted to the review and implementation of the Barangay Environmental Action Plan that was formulated during the Community-based Watershed Seminar-Workshop. It institutionalized the council and got the support of

the Davao City Council for the multi-sectoral body. An orientation on Ecological Monitoring and Evaluation was conducted which helped the communities to be familiarized on the basic ecological indicators to monitor community projects. Advocacy activities about the ECA were conducted through the a) production and distribution of primers on the Talomo-Lipadas Watershed and ECA Survey Project, and b) community consultation. The local farmers and leaders from the indigenous peoples' community also received insights on good watershed management practices through a field tour to areas with successful watershed management projects.

Part of this objective is the introduction and implementation of livelihood activities that would reduce the total dependence of the beneficiaries on the natural resources found inside the watershed. A livelihood fund was set aside for this purpose. The management of the fund, which amounts to Php 515,744.00 (Php 250,132.00 for the Tamayong Tausug Multi-Purpose Cooperative and Php 265,612.00 for the Lower Sirib Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative) was turned over to the two beneficiary groups through a memorandum of agreement. These cooperatives received capacity enhancement activities in preparation for their subsequent assumption of the livelihood program. The activities included the following: farm plan assessments of 41 old farmer cooperators, farm planning for 48 farmers including the 26 members of the indigenous communities, goat production training for new farmer cooperators, and technical assistance on production and marketing.

Objective #3: To demonstrate and apply technologies that promote best practices in watershed protection, rehabilitation and management.

At present, 99 farmer-cooperators are developing about 100 hectares of eco-farms using sustainable agriculture practices. The farmers individually maintained a total of 8,400 hills of forest trees planted along their farm boundaries and adjacent gullies and slopes. Eighty percent (80%) survival rate has been observed per monitoring report. Sixty-three (63) of the farmers availed of loan assistance and acquired the following: 2,443 lanzones seedlings, 3,611 durian seedlings, 46 heads of goat, 4 heads piglets and 157 bags of organic fertilizers.

Thirty six (36) farmer cooperators belonging to the indigenous people (IP) communities adopted sustainable agriculture and agroforestry after they received adequate training. These training activities were the following:

- **Farm Planning Training.** Farmer-cooperators were trained in developing individual farm plans based on farm assessment that integrates various useful farm practices. Business planning was likewise integrated in the farm planning process to development the farmers into rural entrepreneurs. The training resulted to the formulation of 47 farms / business plans.
- **Technology Demonstration on Soil and Water Conservation Measures.** The farmer-cooperators were introduced to various soil and water conservation techniques adopted by small farmers in Barangay Tungkalan which is the site of another PCEEM pilot project on agroforestry and sustainable agriculture.
- **Other technical trainings.** These included trainings on soil sampling procedures and analysis, fruit and vegetable production, and fishpond and small livestock management.

Meanwhile, a water system in Barangay Sirib was improved benefiting 25 households through delivery of potable water and irrigation of crops.

Lessons learned:

Harmonization efforts among mandated government agencies have taken time as it took a long process to resolve coordination problem and sometimes overlapping and conflicting mandates and programs. The organization of a Technical Working Group composed of technical persons from government mandated agencies such as the DENR, City Planning and Development Office, City Agriculture Office, and plantation companies has provided mechanism for collaboration among agencies. In a condition that environmental concerns cut across various mandates of government agencies, the PCEEM has provided appropriate venue for them to meet and resolve coordination and harmonization. Beyond project term,

there is a need to further *enhance collaboration* and even institutionalize this inter-agency, inter-disciplinary character of the Technical Working group.

Watershed management concept is a new development paradigm to most of the principal stakeholders like the Barangay LGUs. Recognizing the critical role of the key players, pursuing watershed management in the barangays level takes time and requires strong and sustained institutional support. LGU participation is dependent on their level of commitment and capacity. There is a need to build their capacity for them to fully appreciate the watershed management framework and assume responsibility in local resource management. Intervention in terms of capacity enhancement for the local players especially the Barangay LGUs and other sector should be sustained.

Finally, considering the PCEEM's strong bias on multi-sectoral collaborative processes, the project duration has been short to deliver substantive results. The project was proposed as one (1) and half year project but what was approved is a nine-month project due to the management transition affecting the Canada Fund. Follow up activities have still to be conducted to sustain the processes to deliver desired project outputs.

Impact on Women

The women were a productive participant-stakeholder in the project. They served as trailblazers, being always the first ones to actualize ideas and directly learn from experience. Their patience and attention to details did not only make the implementation of activities possible but it even more enhance their accomplishment. In the livelihood component, the women were natural managers. While the men tended to shy away from "additional" livelihood activities and concentrate on their "main" source of income which is farming, the women were creative in expanding the base of their sources of income even through smaller scales. In the end, it was the smaller incomes that enabled them to survive in between the planting and harvest seasons. This project just added to the proofs that the women are good if not better partners in development and ecological conservation.

Finance

The proponent has already completely utilized the Canada Fund grant amounting to Php 1,220,075.00. On the other hand, the combined cash and in-kind counterpart contribution reached Php 1,072,025.00 or 102% of the annual commitment of Php 1,052,025.00. The grant and counterpart fund utilization appear to be generally appropriate.