

Project Update: December 2012

1. Organisational Meetings

Pre-organisational meetings were conducted on 9th and 10th October 10, 2012 in Barangay Larap, Jose Panganiban and Barangay Palanas, Paracale, Camarines Norte, Philippines, respectively. These pre-organisational meetings were conducted before the proponent received the grant notice from the Rufford Small Grants Foundation. Succeeding meetings were done every other week to let the local people know the plans of actions for project implementation.

A little advanced from the original plan, the proponent fortunately met an organisation composed of local environmental advocates who were then working in mining company in Barangay Larap, Jose Panganiban. The organisation's name is Jose Panganiban Environmental Protectors Association (JPEPA). The organisation is already registered to the Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE). The proponent's current thrust is to seek accreditation from the local government units, especially municipal and provincial level.

In the case of Barangay Palanas, Paracale, the proponent decided to have partnership with the local village officials since they signify intention to be part of the project. This was decided after the proponent gave presentation during the regular session of the Barangay officials.

2. Conduct of Ecological Survey

From 26th – 27th October 2012, the proponent, together with Prof. Pastor L. Malabrigo, Jr., project team taxonomist, conducted an ecological survey to determine the vegetation existing in the project sites. Local partners assisted the team in conducting the said activity. The team established 10 m x 10 m plots. Geographic locations were also gathered using the GPS.

Based on the results, both project sites need immediate rehabilitation. In the case of mangroves in Barangay Larap, Jose Panganiban, some of the mangrove areas started to turn into beach forest type. According to local people, several decades ago, crabs, shrimps and fishes could be seen in the shoreline. This is one of the biggest challenges of the project, to bring back those driven away species caused by habitat loss. According to the taxonomist, some species of mangroves to consider are *Ceriops* sp., *Avecinia* sp. and *Sonneratia* sp., among other associated mangrove species.

In Barangay Palanas in the Municipality of Paracale, the team noticed that the project site is on the second stage of ecological succession. Pioneer species were identified, to include, *Ficus* sp. among other shrubs and herbs. Other associated species suggested by the taxonomist to be planted in the project site are the following: (1) Lisak (*Neonuclea barthlingii*), Narra (*Pterocarpus indicus*), Salago (*Weikstroemia* sp.) and locally named Banocboc. The proposed planting site is very strategic because it can be viewed in the town proper. Therefore, site development can be observed not only by the project partners, but also by other people visiting the Municipality of Paracale.

3. Information, Education and Communication (IEC)

Although information, education and communication campaign is not included in the proposed plan, the proponent prepared a tarpaulin signage indicating the project title, the project site, the project implementer and the project location. Please refer to the attached photo.

4. Meeting Area / Shed

Using the limited resources, members of Jose Panganiban Environmental Protectors Association (JPEPA) worked for free to build a small structure to serve as venue for meetings and workshops near the nursery site. The first workshop on Problem Tree Analysis was conducted on the said shed.

5. Workshop

The first workshop on Problem Tree Analysis was conducted in Barangay Larap, Jose Panganiban on December 15th, 2012. Most of the participants were community leaders including four women. Technology of participation was used to assure sharing/contribution/inputs from the local people. They were given meta-cards and pens to write the problems, as well as the possible causes and effects.

Based on the result, the primary problem in the community is limited job opportunity or lack of alternative livelihood leading to cutting of mangroves and small-scale mining operation in the mangrove areas. Primary causes of the problem are illegal fishing, non-prioritisation of local villagers to job hiring due to lack of technical skill among local villagers. Another problem identified was the lack of equipment support for fish wardens. Community people's foreseen solutions to the said problems are the strengthening of the local community-based organisations like the JPEPA and to encourage local leaders to enhance political will."





PROJECT TITLE: Engaging Communities to Rehabilitate Mine Sites Using the Potential of Natural Vegetation Techniques in Camarines Norte, Philippines

PROJECT PARTNER: Jose Panganiban Environmental Protectors Association (JPEPA)

LOCATION: Brgy. Larap, Jose Panganiban, Cam. Norte

FUND SOURCE: The Rufford Small Grants Foundation