

Project Update: May 2007

Project Objectives:

This project will make a substantial and long-lasting contribution to nature conservation by:

1. improving the capacity of fisher and community leaders to plan, implement and monitor mangrove conservation and rehabilitation projects,
2. facilitating the formation of a learning and sharing network of fisher and community leaders involved in mangrove conservation and rehabilitation,
3. documenting good practices in community-based mangrove conservation and rehabilitation, and
4. promoting the participation of fisher and community leaders in planning, policy-making and project implementation involving mangrove conservation and rehabilitation in the local and national level.

Specifically the project aims to:

1. conduct an initial inventory and mapping of community-based mangrove conservation and reforestation projects in the Philippines,
2. conduct area-based workshops and a national consultation for community and fisherfolk leaders involved in community-based mangrove conservation and reforestation projects to share experiences, synthesize learning, and network among these leaders, and
3. disseminate these learnings through the publication of the proceedings and learnings from the area-based workshops and national consultation.

Project Plans and Updates:

A. Inventory and Mapping of Community-Based Mangrove Conservation and Rehabilitation Projects

Through our contacts among NGOs and networks of community organizations, we plan to build a database and map of community-based mangrove conservation and rehabilitation throughout the country.

A survey tool was developed for the inventory of community-based mangrove conservation and rehabilitation initiatives. The survey tool was made in Pilipino to facilitate the participation of local community leaders.

More than 200 copies of the survey tool (not counting the e-mailed tools. was distributed through our networks of NGOs and community organizations, as well as through government agencies such as the DENR and contact local government units. So far, about 50 answered forms have been returned to us.

The processing of the data and the mapping of the initiatives have just started. We hope to finish this December.

B. Area-Based Workshops

Instead of cross-visits, we plan to conduct three area-based workshops to be conducted in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao for sharing of experiences, synthesis of learnings and formation of regional groups among community organizations and leaders involved in community-based mangrove conservation and reforestation.

We have made initial contacts with select community-based mangrove conservation and rehabilitation projects through our contacts among NGOs and government agencies.

Among the proposed areas for the regional workshops are:

<i>Island Group</i>	<i>Area/ Region/ Schedule</i>	<i>Proposed Communities</i>
<i>Luzon</i>	<i>North-Western Luzon Venue: Iba, Zambales September 14-15, 2006</i>	<i>Bolinao, Pangasinan Anda, Pangasinan Bani, Pangasinan Masinloc, Zambales Palauig, Zambales Botolan, Zambales Mariveles, Bataan Morong, Bataan</i>
<i>Visayas</i>	<i>Eastern/ Central/ Western Visayas Venue: Cebu October 4-5, 2006</i>	<i>Concepción, Iloilo Tagkawayan, Negros Occidental Calape, Bohol Maribojoc, Bohol Guian, Eastern Samar Calbayog, Samar Maasin, Southern Leyte</i>
<i>Mindanao</i>	<i>Eastern Mindanao Venue: Davao City September 20-21, 2006</i>	<i>Hinatuan, Surigao Gov Generoso, Davao Oriental Matina, Davao City Aplaya, Davao City Cagayan de Oro City Baliangao, Misamis Oriental</i>

C. Learning, Sharing and Planning Session

This will involve the coming together of the fisher and community leaders to share their learnings, formulate a common agenda, and plan for future activities. It is hoped that the strengthened ties of the participants will lead to formation of a learning and sharing network among them. Aside from those involved in the regional workshops, several other community and fisherfolk leaders will also be invited to participate.

Proposed venue is Manila, so as to involve also academe, government officials and NGO leaders. Proposed date is sometime late November or early December.

Talks have been started with other stakeholders for their participation in the learning, sharing and planning session. This include government agencies, NGO networks and community leaders.

Among those who have confirmed their interest in participating are:

- *Department of Environment and Natural Resources, especially the Coastal and Marine Management Office*
- *UP Marine Science Institute*
- *NGOs for Fisheries Reform*
- *Institute of Social Order*

D. Publication

The concept and plan for the publication has been finished.

The publication shall include summary of the inventory/ mapping, profile of the participating organizations/ projects, synthesis of lessons and recommendations, and documentation of the learning, sharing and planning session. Proposed title is “Lessons on Community-Based Mangrove Conservation and Reforestation”.

It is also proposed that there be two versions of the publication: one in Pilipino (for the community organizations and leaders in the Philippines) and another in English (for academe, policy-makers, and international readers).

Proposed Schedules:

Activities	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
A. Inventory and Mapping									
1. Questionnaire design	X								
2. Distribution of forms	X	X	X						
3. Gathering of responses			X	X	X				
4. Data processing				X	X				
B. Area-Based Workshops									
1. Preparations			X	X					
2. Luzon Workshop				X					
3. Mindanao Workshop				X					
4. Visayas Workshop					X				
5. Proceedings					X	X			

