



PROGRESS REPORT

CY 2011 July - October
Philippine Component
ASEAN Peatland Forest Project



Component Sub-outcome 1: Capacity in relevant agencies/ institutions and other concerned stakeholders on peatland

Output 1.1 A core group of peatland managers/ experts established at national, local and community levels

1.1.3 Support the transfer of technology for peatland management, including practical training, from other ASEAN countries; e.g. cross visits, exchange programs.

- Cross Visit/ Study tour at Raja Musa Forest Reserve in North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest and Klias Peat Swamp Forest Reserve in Malaysia last 3-7 October 2011
- Fourteen (14) participants participated the study tour
 - DENR (PAWB, FMB, ERDB, DENR Caraga)
 - Other Government Agencies (BSWM-DA and BFP-DILG)
 - Local Government Units with confirmed peatlands
 - Municipalities of Alangalang and Sta. Fe, Leyte
 - Municipalities of San Francisco and Talacogon, including PPDO, Agusan del Sur
 - Academe (Visayas State University and Caraga State University)

Study Tour in Malaysia

Briefing at the Selangor Forestry Department Office in Shah Alam and site visit



Group picture in Raja Musa



Study Tour in Malaysia



Filling up the Fire Danger Rating Sheet



Navigation to North Selangor Peat Swamp to observe management practices (e.g. water level monitoring, fire risk assessment, CSR, etc.)

Study Tour in Malaysia

Tree planting in Selangor and Klias Peat Swamp Forest



Study Tour in Malaysia

Briefing at Klias Peat Swamp Field Centre



Study Tour in Malaysia

Proboscis monkey and firefly tour in Klias



Study Tour in Malaysia

Learnings from the Study Tour

- Most of the participants recognized the political will of the Forestry Department to protect the Rajah Musa Forest Reserve from encroachment and forest fire, including the importance of engaging in the rehabilitation of denuded areas, boundary demarcation and signages, ground and aerial patrolling through multi-stakeholder approach.



Study Tour in Malaysia

Learnings from the Study Tour

- Ecotourism is the strong selling point of Klias Forest Reserve.
- Ecotourism proved that it is an effective avenue for conservation awareness and nature appreciation.
- The facilities established at the Klias Peat Swamp Field Centre such as the boardwalk made nature appreciation easy and forest resources accessible to the tourists.



Study Tour in Malaysia

Learnings from the Study Tour

- Establishment of the Klias Peat Swamp Center caters for scientific research, conservation and protection of flora and fauna and also effectively functions as an ecotourism centre.
- Rehabilitation effort in Klias from 2006 to 2011 is also considered a successful undertaking. There is no visible indication now that the area has been previously gutted by fire.



In both the Raja Musa and Klias the strong presence of government regulatory body is very much felt.

Study Tour in Malaysia

Learnings from the Study Tour

Practices worth replicating/emulating in the pilot sites:

1. Blocking of drainage canals previously used in logging to restore water table and therefore lessen the risk of fire.
2. Massive replanting both through natural and artificial means with civil society/private sector support and participation
3. Water table monitoring and existence of Fire Danger Rating System as a pro-active means of protecting peatlands from fire.
4. Multi-stakeholder approach and sourcing of funds for forest rehabilitation
5. Comprehensive planning as shown in the case of Klias Conservation and Strategic Plan
6. Ecotourism campaigns and activities supported by private entrepreneurs e.g. river cruise and board walk.
7. Strict enforcement of government laws, rules and regulations
8. Continuous IEC.

Study Tour in Malaysia

Learnings from the Study Tour

Immediate plans:

Strengthening coordination between and among the DENR units, Regional Offices, Local Government units concerned, and key stakeholders in the preparation of local plans applicable to Leyte Sab-a and Agusan marsh.

Preparation of project proposals for funding assistance in the construction of boardwalk and other ecotourism activities in the peatlands that can potentially enhance and increase awareness on the appropriate use of peat for conservation and local livelihood. (GIZ for the Leyte Sab-a and integration with the incoming project on the Agusan River Basin to be funded through grant and loan from ADB)

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Study Tour in Malaysia

Learnings from the Study Tour

- Immediate plans:
- Instruction based integration of peatland concepts (nature/importance/conservation/sustainable use)
 - Coordination and facilitating awareness raising activities in the local communities such as through trainings and giving assistance in identifying suitable livelihood activities
 - Crafting of national and local legislative/protection measures
 - Preparation/Updating of local peatlands management plan
 - Proposal generation for rehabilitation of the denuded/abandoned/converted peatlands

Component Sub-outcome 1: Capacity in relevant agencies/ institutions and other concerned stakeholders on peatland

Output 1.2 Peatland management enhanced by better coordination between concerned agencies and other stakeholders and policies developed

- 1.2.1 Set up inter-agency national and local working groups to review existing laws and policies and recommend policies and an institutional structure for the management of peatlands.
- 1 Leyte Technical Working Group meeting
 - 1 Agusan Technical Working Group meetings

Preparation of the 2012-2013 Budget Proposal in SEApeat Project of the Agusan Marsh Technical Working Group last 26-27 September 2011



Local Technical Working Group



Component Sub-outcome 1: Capacity in relevant agencies/ institutions and other concerned stakeholders on peatland

Output 1.3 Awareness of peatlands raised at national and local levels through an information and education campaign

1.3.2 Conduct lectures and presentations for government agencies, Local Government Units and members of civil society.

Leyte: 1 presentation

29 July – Civil Society Leyte Center for Development, Inc.

Agusan: 3 presentations

1 August – Bunawan

12 August – Brgy. Pag-asa, Sta. Josefa

12 September – Sta. Josefa

Component Sub-outcome 1: Capacity in relevant agencies/ institutions and other concerned stakeholders on peatland

Output 1.3 Awareness of peatlands raised at national and local levels through an information and education campaign

- Presentation on Introduction to Peat and Peatlands to the Orientation of Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) Technical Working Group for the Philippine National Red Plus (PNRPS) last 26-27 July 2011
- Served as a stock taking exercise for the various criteria and indicators already being used by governments and civil society in terms of biodiversity conservation for possible use in the MRV

Lectures and Presentations



Capability Building



Attendance to the Technical Workshop on Best Management Practices on Peatland Management on June 15-18, 2011 in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia.

- Armida Andres – National Coordinator
- Jaime Ubanos – Agusan Marsh Pilot Site
- Cora Makabenta – Leyte Sab-a Pilot Site
- Major Dennis Molo – Bureau of Fire Protection

Component Sub-outcome 1: Capacity in relevant agencies/ institutions and other concerned stakeholders on peatland

1.3.3 Develop locally-appropriate materials (comics and posters) in local languages and make these available to communities in and around pilot sites.

- IEC specialist was hired for the month of October to November for the enhancement and post production of the Caimpugan Peatland video
- Raw footages taken by the specialist were submitted to the National Coordinator

Component Sub-outcome 1: Capacity in relevant agencies/ institutions and other concerned stakeholders on peatland

1.3.4 Hold community assemblies and dialogues to increase the level of awareness of peatlands in the communities.

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Component sub-outcome 2: Creating an enabling environment for the conservation and sustainable use of peatlands in the Philippines

Output 2.1 Peatlands suitable for sustainable use and conservation activities identified

2.1.1 Carry out immediate surveys of probable peatlands in the Philippines

- Probable areas of peatlands (approximately 6,000 hectares) had been assessed and confirmed in Sta. Josefa, Agusan del Sur comprising of Barangay Pag-asa, Barangay Tapaz, Barangay Aurora and Poblacion
- From **11,000 hectares** of earlier confirmed peatlands in Agusan Marsh alone, approximate of **50,000 hectares** has been assessed at present

Assessment and Validation of Probable Peatland Areas



Brgy. Pag-asa in Sta. Josefa, Agusan del Sur


Component sub-outcome 5: Project Management

- Drafted Terms of Reference for the following Specialist:
 - Land Use Planning Specialist
 - Web Developer
 - Ecotourism Specialist
- Attended the Mid-Year Assessment and Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Foreign Assisted Projects last 15-16 September 2011
 - status and performance of the project was assessed

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENT



Attendance to the National Training Workshop on Forestry Carbon Markets and Opportunities for Rural and Livelihood headed by the Forest Management Bureau last 13-15 July 2011



The collage includes several informational graphics:

- Role of Government in Carbon Trading**
- Why trade carbon?**: Emissions trading will allow nations and firms to reduce their GHG emissions in the most cost effective manner possible.
- Forestry Voluntary Carbon Markets: New Pathway to Improving Rural Livelihoods**: Rodel D. Laseo, Allene Florese, and Romnick Baliton (World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF))
- Brand of Corporate Social Responsibility**: A diagram showing the relationship between Profit, Society, and Environment, with CSR at the center.
- Corporate Citizenship in Integrated Watershed Management**: FBSF's Cebu Hillside Experience
- Why Engage?**: Reasons behind forestry voluntary carbon offset purchasing can vary greatly... individuals might purchase offsets to reduce their personal carbon footprint, business might purchase offsets in preparation of an impending compliance market, companies might purchase offsets to comply with their mission of corporate social responsibility as part of marketing strategies... what's your reason?
- CSR and Social Connectivity**

- Completion of thesis dissertation of Dr. Van Leeah Alibo, entitled “Carbon Storage and the Role in Climate Change Mitigation of the Caimpugan Peatland in Agusan Marsh, Philippines”
 - The first Doctorate Degree holder specializing in Philippine peatland and climate change studies

Objectives of the Study

- Determine the current aboveground C storage of the peatland in the following pools: (i) trees, (ii) understorey, and herbaceous vegetation, and (iii) litter and its below-ground C storage: (i) roots, and (ii) peat soil;
- Describe the genesis and classification of Caimpugan peat soils based on USDA Soil Taxonomy;
- Analyze the ecosystem threats that may deter the present and future capability of Caimpugan peatland in mitigating climate change; and
- Determine the perception of the community surrounding Caimpugan peatland towards its importance and identify their role for its protection and conservation.

Carbon Storage of Caimpugan Peatland in Agusan Marsh, Basilan and its Role in Greenhouse Gas Mitigation

Alibo, Van Leeah B. Advisory Committee: Leticia, Eulalia D. - Espalacion, Maria Victoria O., Baldeza, Rodrigo J., Alarcon, Arnel J.

Soils of Caimpugan Peatland: Genesis and Taxonomy

Methods and Materials

- Primary Data: On-site morphological observations for field capacity conditions and air dried conditions at CSU analytical laboratory (Mettler Color Chlor, Van-Past Scale of Humification); pH

Wetlands Caravan: Mobilizing Communities for the Conservation of Agusan Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary (20-24 June 2011)

- Headed by the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, Inc. (SCPW) in partnership with DENR Caraga
- Endeavored to increase awareness of key stakeholders on the importance of the Agusan Marsh and how they can help in conservation
- Joined by
 - 10 school teachers from Bunawan and San Francisco
 - 3 DENR personnel
 - 1 personnel from Provincial Government of Agusan del Sur
 - 33 high school students from various schools of Bunawan and San Francisco

Wetlands Caravan: Mobilizing Communities for the Conservation of Agusan Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary (20-24 June 2011)

- Activities of this event include the following:
 - ✓ Training of Trainors
 - ✓ Youth Ecological Camp
 - ✓ Community Forum
- Held in Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur and Agusan Marsh
- Funded by Ramsar Regional Center-East Asia based in Korea : US\$ 15,000)

Wetlands Caravan








A presentation on the profile of Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary was given by the AMWS Assistant Protected Area Superintendent, Mr. Rufino Miranda. A special feature of the AMWS is the presence of peat, and this was also discussed by Ms. Ana Maria Gunay of DENR.

Wetlands Caravan





Field Exposure Activities of the students

Wetlands Caravan



Processing of Field Data and Workshop/Reporting

Wetlands Caravan



Commitment Setting
Campers wrote their commitments in conserving Agusan Marsh on pieces of paper symbolizing leaves on the Commitment Tree

Seminar/Workshop on Sustainable Use of Peatlands through the Prevention and Suppression of Wildland Fires
(10-14 October 2011)

- Organized by the Bureau of Fire Protection
- Field visit and actual drill on peatland forest firefighting was conducted in Agusan Marsh
- 30 firefighters participated the training workshop

Seminar/Workshop on Sustainable Use of Peatlands through the Prevention and Suppression of Wildland Fires



Welcome Remark of Slnsp Augusto Cezar Kinazo, Acting Provincial Fire Marshal of San Francisco, Agusan del Sur



Pre-test of the firefighters



Seminar/Workshop on Sustainable Use of Peatlands through the Prevention and Suppression of Wildland Fires





Seminar/Workshop on Sustainable Use of Peatlands through the Prevention and Suppression of Wildland Fires

Field Visit and Actual Drill on Peatland Forest Firefighting



Seminar/Workshop on Sustainable Use of Peatlands through the Prevention and Suppression of Wildland Fires

Field Visit and Actual Drill on Peatland Forest Firefighting



**OTHER ACTIVITIES TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BY
DECEMBER 2011**

- On-the-job training for communities around the pilot sites on participatory assessments to improve local knowledge of sustainable use of peatlands
- Hiring of consultant for the land use planning activities for the pilot sites



Maraming Salamat Po!