

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
Global Environment Facility

PROPOSAL FOR PDF BLOCK B GRANT

Country:	Philippines
GEF Operational Programme:	Mountain Ecosystems
Project Title:	Samar Island Biodiversity Project
Funding Requested:	US\$ 350,000
Co-funding:	US\$ 70,000 (Government of the Philippines in kind contribution)
Country Eligibility:	Convention on Biological Diversity ratified in October 1993 GEF Member since June 1994
Requesting Agency:	UNDP
Executing Agency:	Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Government of the Republic of the Philippines
Project Type:	PDF Block B
Block A Grant Awarded:	No
Duration:	10 months
Estimated Starting Date:	January 1998
GEF Operational Focal Point:	Dr. Delfin J. Ganapin, Jr., Undersecretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Estimated Project Size:	GEF : US \$ 8 Million Others : US \$ 6 Million

I Summary, Project Objectives and Description

The overall objective of this preparatory project is to develop a full GEF project for the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity within the 360,000 hectares of rainforest in the mountainous part of Samar Island that have been declared as Forest Reserve under Presidential Proclamation 744 in 1996. The full GEF Project is expected to strengthen local capacity to protect and manage the remaining biodiversity within the Samar Forest Reserve. It will complement activities already underway to conserve the Reserve and the biodiversity found therein, as well as those activities directed to socio-economic development within the Reserve. The project will also help fulfil the Government's obligation under the Convention on Biological Diversity in protecting species of global significance.

Biodiversity conservation and management for the protected areas will take place through an integrated approach. This will be supported by interventions to improve awareness, education and training on the value of biodiversity; development of alternative economic livelihoods for local communities which are sustainable; and ensure the active participation of all stakeholders in the decision-making processes on the management of the Samar Forest Reserve. It is expected that the full project would have a duration of approximately 7-10 years.

Background

Samar Island retains some 3,600 square kilometers of tropical rainforests in the mountainous interior of the island. It is known to be very rich in species, many of which are endemic to the island or to the biogeographical region which encompasses Samar, Leyte and Eastern Mindanao. Samar is listed both as an Endemic Bird Area (EBA) and a Center of Plant Diversity (CPD). Information is rare for some animal groups and virtually absent for others (e.g., freshwater fish and invertebrates). At least one frog, three snakes and 14 bird species or sub-species are endemic to Samar, and at least 25 birds (of several hundred species in total) are restricted to the EBA. Some, such as the Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jfferyi*), are almost extinct elsewhere but can still be seen in Samar. To these can be added several thousand ferns, liverworts and flowering plants, such as the famous pitcher plant, (*Nepenthes spp.*) of which some are known to be endemic to the CPD (e.g., the

Dipterocarp, *Hopea samarensis*, *H. dalindingan*, and *Ampelocissus spp.*).

Twelve bird species are listed under the Appendix II of the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), whose commercial export and trade is strictly regulated. Two bird species are listed as endangered, two reptiles are listed as rare and one mammal is considered threatened by the IUCN. Concerns over the biodiversity in Samar are now focused on the survival of viable and representative samples of remaining natural habitats, including intact or regenerating rainforests of all altitudes and on different soil types. The remaining low elevation primary forests in Samar are considered the last remaining stands of the dipterocarp forest type in the Philippines.

The DENR has identified twelve protected areas within the Reserve because of their status of critical habitats of endemic and endangered plant and animal species and their unique natural formations. Four of these are key sites of the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS): Jicontol, Bulasao and Loog Watershed Forest Reserves and the Sohoton Natural Bridge National Park. Basic inventories and surveys are on going to develop appropriate management plans for the protection and management of these areas. Likewise, Protected Area Management Boards (PAMBs) have been established for each site, in accordance with the provisions of the NIPAS Act.

The three provinces of Samar Island are among the poorest in the Philippines. This is due in part to the limited resources available for Samar's development resources, which are at the same time, largely untapped. Access to these limited natural resources and their rapid deterioration is at the center of Samar's under-development (Cramer and Cramer, 1991). The division of Samar's forests into logging concessions began in the late 1960s, which were licensed to logging companies under timber licensing agreements (TLAs) with the government. In the early 1990s, mining also took place, further contributing to the deforestation rate. The rate of deforestation in the island was estimated at 52,000 has/yr for the 1978-1987 period. By 1987, the forest area of Samar was restricted primarily to the more remote areas of central and southern Samar. The loss of forest cover has led to an increase in other land uses, primarily agriculture.

In early 1989, several days of rain resulted in heavy flooding and caused disastrous landslides, leaving many people dead, destroying farmlands and many villages. The many years of deforestation (including road construction for logging purposes) were blamed for these calamities. As a result, the government suspended all logging operations, which continues to be in effect. In 1990, the remaining forest area was estimated at 258,700 has, which is 26.7% of Samar's land area. Of the remaining forest cover area, 0.76% (10,300 has) is mossy forest and 1.7% (22,600 has) is mangrove forest. A large contiguous tract of forest remains in the heart of the Basey-Borongon area. Mining activities were likewise suspended, with the exception of coal mining. Coal mining was allowed because the mining operations are not located deep within the Reserve but only along its periphery.

The people of Samar have resolved to protect the remaining forest stands of the island and the biodiversity found therein. This is clearly manifested through the continuing public opposition to major development projects that would cause damage to the forest areas and other natural resources in the island. For example, the proposed Basey-Sohoton-Borongon road that would cut through the last primary forest stands of Samar has been completely abandoned and an alternate route was developed instead. While the alternative route is more costly to construct and time consuming for travellers, the people of Samar have decided to accept this alternative if only to protect the forest areas of the island.

Presidential Proclamation 744 was established in 1996 to allow the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to urgently address the unabated resource depletion and degradation of the remaining ecological sensitive forest land in Samar. It gives the authority to the DENR to administer and manage the Samar Forest Reserve in coordination with concerned agencies of the government and local NGOs. By virtue of the proclamation, Samar Island's rainforests are now classified as part of the permanent forest estate. This means that these forestlands can not be classified for any use that is not compatible with forest use, such as mineral exploration.

The proclamation also calls for the immediate resource and land-use survey and delineation as well as the preparation of a framework for the protection and management of the Reserve. In this respect, old growth and environmentally critical areas may be declared as protected areas, while part of the residual forest may be categorized as production forest. As such, one result of the proclamation would be management plans for demarcated protected areas and buffer zones around these protected areas.

At present, there is an existing nation-wide ban on logging in virgin and old growth forests. Any move to re-activate the timber licensing agreements may be done within the framework of an overall management strategy for the Reserve. Moreover, all mining operations have been suspended due to consistent public opposition. The formulation of an acceptable management plan for the Reserve will help resolve all these apprehensions and provide a well-defined framework for the utilization of resources within the Reserve. The biodiversity management plan to be prepared under the GEF will help strengthen the forest management plan by way of providing guidance in the management and protection of critical habitats and species in the Reserve.

Threats

- a) Mining activity represents a potential threat to the biodiversity of the Reserve. Mining activities are now limited to coal operations within the periphery of the Reserve.
- b) Another threat to biodiversity is shifting cultivation in areas that are considered part of or near protected areas.
- c) Commercial logging activities are another potential threat to the island's biodiversity. These activities have been suspended since 1989 soon after the devastating floods. A change in the political administration could result in a lifting of the moratorium. A recurrent threat to the biodiversity is from the illegal small-scale logging of trees in the Reserve.
- d) Relocation of urban dwellers within the Reserve is another potential threat to biodiversity. As part of the Urban Poor Resettlement Project of the government, some 50 has of the Reserve have been proclaimed as resettlement area.

Description of Current and Planned Activities

Environmental Impact Assessment: The Philippine Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) System under Presidential Decree 1586 was put in place to ensure that mining activities do not have detrimental environmental impact on the Reserve's protected areas. Therefore, all mining activities are subject to EIAs, and the enforcement of the Decree would ensure that all mining operations do not take place in the protected areas of the Reserve.

Preparation of Provincial Forestry Master Plan: Activities are being undertaken by the DENR Region VIII in the preparation of a Forestry Master Plan for Samar Island. Basic inventory on the island's existing resources and preliminary assessment of its biodiversity potential is on going.

Watershed Management: To arrest deforestation in the Reserve and to enhance the provision of energy and water supply for irrigation purposes, the DENR has proposed four watersheds to be protected in much the same manner as the protected areas. Rehabilitation of three of these four watersheds is among the proposed projects indicated in the 1996-1998 Regional Development Investment Program of Eastern Visayas.

Forest Protection: Forest protection is being undertaken to protect the Reserve from fire, shifting cultivation (or *kaingin*), and illegal logging. Forest protection activities are carried out through the support of the Multi-Sectoral Forest Protection Committee (MFPC) composed of military, non-government organizations, local government units, media and religious groups.

Community-Based Forest Management Program: Community participation in the conservation, protection, and management of a 2,000 ha area is strengthened through the Community Forestry Project. This project aims to involve local communities in reforestation efforts and to provide alternative means of livelihood by contracting them to carry out reforestation.

Biodiversity Conservation Projects: As part of the DENR Region VIII Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan four major programmes are being implemented to pursue biodiversity conservation in Samar Island. Habitat or protected area management is being carried out through the identification, delineation, establishment and management of national parks and protected areas. Wildlife resource management is being done through regulatory measures such as licensing, issuance of permits and enforcement of wildlife rules and regulations. The Nature Conservation Programme carries out an information, education and communication campaign on the importance of protected areas, wildlife resources and environment and the need to conserve and protect them. The fourth programme is the Cave Resources Management and Conservation Programme.

Presidential Proclamation No. 744 (PP-744): The Governor of Samar created a Task Force on the proclamation through Executive Order No. 03 issued on 6 March 1996. The Governor of Samar chairs the Task Force with representatives from the DENR, Tandaya Foundation, Inc. (a local NGO), the Multi-Sectoral Forest Protection Committee and the Environmental Unit of the European Union funded WESAMAR Project. The Task Force is mandated to initiate the delineation of the Reserve, carry out the land use survey, prepare a framework plan for the protection and management of the Reserve, and prepare the implementing guidelines for the Proclamation. Public consultations regarding the establishment of protected areas within the Reserve have been held.

Poverty alleviation efforts: UNDP is currently supporting a project on the strengthening of institutional mechanisms for the convergence of poverty alleviation efforts in Region VIII that covers Samar Island. This poverty alleviation effort is within the framework of the government's Social Reform Agenda (SRA) and will operationalize the Convergence Policy¹ and assist in building capacities of communities to participate effectively in governance.

Project Objectives and Activities

The project that is to be prepared with this PDF Block B grant is intended to complement the efforts mentioned above in order to ensure protection of globally significant biodiversity in the development of the Reserve. The objectives of the proposed full GEF project are:

- a) To ensure that at least four existing protected areas within the Samar Forest Reserve are strengthened to effectively protect critical biodiversity;
- b) To support biodiversity conservation and sustainable alternative livelihoods with the buffer zones of these protected areas; and
- c) To incorporate biodiversity conservation into provincial and local development plans, including the Provincial Forestry Master Plan.

Protected areas and buffer zones

Develop and implement management plans for the protected areas: To ensure effective management of at least four existing protected areas within the Reserve, management plans will be developed and implemented. Additional sites within the Reserve will be identified as possible protected areas.

Strengthen the capacity to implement the management plans: Staff of existing PAMBs, NGOs, LGUs, DENR field offices and local communities will be trained to effectively implement the management plans for the protected areas. The staff of the PAMBs will also be equipped to further strengthen their capacity to manage the

¹ The Convergence Policy is that government policy to focus all poverty alleviation efforts and resources in priority areas of the country, which includes Samar Province.

protected areas.

Strengthen long-term monitoring and inventorying systems: Monitoring and inventory systems will be strengthened and/or established in the protected areas on biodiversity dynamics and threats. Basic geographic information systems capability will be provided.

Development and implementation of medium-term strategic action plans for the protection of critical species within the protected areas and buffer zones: These plans will be developed on the basis of action-oriented research sub-contracts and will be directly linked to project implementation.

Establishment of buffer zone committees: Buffer zone committees will be established in a democratic and participatory manner. Training will be provided for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development planning, including preparation of buffer zone management plans.

Buffer zone boundaries and delineation: The buffer zone committees will carry out the final determination of the buffer zones for the protected areas. The delineation of the buffer zones will be completed.

Management of the Reserve

Public awareness campaign: A public awareness campaign will be undertaken to facilitate the design and compliance of the buffer zone management plans within the protected areas and buffer zones.

Valuation of biodiversity and other resources: Targeted studies will be conducted to provide an estimate of the value of the Reserve's biodiversity. The result of these studies will allow for the more effective identification and development of sustainable alternative livelihoods and implementation of the buffer zone management plans.

Provincial Forestry Master Plan: Biodiversity conservation will be incorporated into the current development and implementation of the Provincial Forestry Master Plan by the DENR. The capacity of the DENR Regional Office and local governments to incorporate biodiversity conservation into the forestry plan will be enhanced to ensure that threats to biodiversity originating outside of the protected areas are removed.

Land-use development and zoning plans: Biodiversity conservation will be incorporated into provincial and local land-use development and zoning plans as they relate to the Reserve:

Environmental regulation: Existing environmental laws will be developed and amended to ensure biodiversity conservation in the Reserve.

Incentive system: An incentive system will be developed and incorporated into laws and regulation to ensure that sustainable use practices and biodiversity conservation in the buffer zones can be maintained and replicated elsewhere in the Reserve.

Establishment of a sustainable financial mechanism for biodiversity management: Long-term biodiversity conservation hinges on the availability of financial resources. This component will look at available financial mechanisms in order to provide a continuous source of funds to implement biodiversity protection and management.

II Description of Proposed PDF B Activities

This PDF will lay the groundwork for the full implementation of the proposed Samar Island Biodiversity Project. Specifically, it will define the institutional mechanisms for coordinating its implementation, establish a process for multi-stakeholder participation in project design, undertake initial studies and analyses, and formulate a full project brief, which will describe the framework, strategy, scope and activities to address the

objectives as defined.

The PDF B will be carried out in such a way that each proposed activity of the proposed full project will complement baseline activities. In this respect, the additional (or incremental) cost of those measures to achieve global environmental benefits will be determined. Existing national and sustainable development plans and activities will be reviewed. The incremental cost will depend on the choice of alternative GEF activities, which delivers the equivalent domestic benefits as well as additional global benefits over and above those achievable in the baseline. Activities would be technically, economically and environmentally feasible, yet consistent with social and political constraints. Financially realistic GEF contributions will be distinguished from the non-GEF contributions designed to address the threats to biodiversity conservation.

Activity 1: Establishment of a coordination and consultation mechanism: A multi-sectoral approach is envisioned for the management and implementation of the project. The design will necessitate the active participation and collaboration of the DENR, NGOs, community-based organizations, local and municipal authorities, PAMBs, regional government entities, private sector (mining concessionaires, timber license agreement holders, etc.), as well as academic and research institutions.

A Steering Committee will be established and the respective roles and responsibilities of each Steering Committee member will be defined. The Steering Committee will set up a project management team, which will in turn organize consultative committees. The Steering Committee would allow for effective communication and decision-making between the project management team and other actors. The consultative committees would focus on biodiversity management, resource assessment, environmental economics, restoration and forest functioning. The project management team, in consultation with the Steering Committee, would determine the exact focus and number of the consultative committees. The project management team and consultative committees will work with the existing PAMBs to develop indicative management plans for each protected area. It will be comprised of representatives from government, NGOs and technical specialists. These will draw largely on local technical expertise with inputs as and when required by international consultants.

The first major activity envisaged is the conduct of an inception workshop. It is important that from the very beginning, a common understanding is reached on the basic project framework. The purpose of the inception workshop is to initiate development of the management plans and how the concerns of the key stakeholders will be addressed. It is expected that during this workshop, all the parties will reach agreement, especially those who will be affected by the project. The workshop will outline alternative activities for the key stakeholders (such as occupants of critical habitats, mining concessionaires, timber license holders, etc.) in order to pave the way for more effective project implementation. Participants of the project inception workshop would be comprised of representatives of all major stakeholders (e.g., local experts from academia and research institutions, NGOs, national and local governments, local civil society organizations, private sector, local community representatives, international experts).

The objectives of the inception workshop are: (1) to formally establish the Steering Committee; (2) to familiarize stakeholders with the long-term project goals; (3) to develop a mechanism and detailed work plans to draft management plans and their linkage with the overall forest management plan for the Reserve.

Output 1: A Steering Committee; project management team; local consultative groups; work plans; and an agreed framework for the development of the protected area management plans.

Activity 2: Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA): A preliminary assessment of the sites shall be conducted by the project management team in order to get a good understanding of the existing situation. This exercise will, among others, highlight the extent of biodiversity degradation and the underlying causes and determine the potential for protecting the remaining rich habitats and intact areas. The RRA will also determine the overall economic situation of the surrounding communities in the Reserve, including its linkage with biodiversity and help identify the stakeholders, their nature and roles in the full project implementation. In particular, the root causes of threats to biodiversity will be further uncovered. Opportunities for biodiversity conservation will thus

be determined with a view to developing an appropriate approach to the project. Aspects to be covered include the whole range of initial biophysical socio-cultural, institutional and economic dimensions. In order to address the threats to biodiversity conservation, amendments to certain policies and plans (local, state or national) may be needed. A review of the existing legislative and regulatory framework will therefore be performed to determine their effectiveness and identify gaps.

Output 2: Rapid rural appraisal report including guidelines on socio-cultural needs for effective biodiversity conservation and management. Review of legislative and regulatory framework governing activities that impact directly on the conservation of biodiversity. Guidelines will be included on the human resource potential for managing the protected areas and buffer zones.

Activity 3: By the second month of the rapid rural appraisal, the Steering Committee will meet to make a decision on the selection of the project sites within the Reserve.

Output 3: Project sites within the Reserve are selected.

Activity 4: A preliminary mapping of the selected sites and an inventory of the biodiversity within (through a gathering of existing information) will begin.

Output 4: Preliminary mapping and inventory of the project sites and biodiversity within.

Activity 5: *Securing of co-financing:* Meetings with potential donors and other actors will be convened to canvass their interest and commitment to contribute the required co-financing for the full project. Co-financing will be sought to finance those activities that are not eligible for GEF financing but which still need to be undertaken in the proposed full project. It is therefore essential that this meeting take place early on in the PDF B process.

Output 5: Pledges and commitments of co-financing for the proposed full project.

Activity 6: *Preliminary mapping and inventory:* The project management team will work with the DENR to carry out the mapping and inventory exercise already begun as part of the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan. In particular, the mapping and inventory exercise will be refined to define in more accurate terms, the exact locations of critical biodiversity sites within the Reserve. Additionally, the delineation of the buffer zones of the selected protected areas will be initiated. This information will help in the formulation of the management plans for the selected protected areas.

Output 6: Defined areas of critical biodiversity and ecosystems; and initial delineation of the buffer zones.

Activity 7: *Preparation of indicative management plans and stakeholder participation plan:* Indicative management plans will be developed, within the framework of the overall forest management plan for the Reserve. The design should be able to present the overall approach for effectively addressing the threats to biodiversity conservation. At the same time, it will respond to the needs of the communities for improved economic well being through sustainable alternative livelihoods. It will also elaborate the project activities to be undertaken. A stakeholder participation plan will be developed which will include mechanisms to ensure stakeholder involvement in the preparation and implementation of the management plans.

Output 7: Indicative management plans and stakeholder participation plan.

Activity 8: *Preparation of project brief and draft project document:* The project brief and the draft project document are the main outputs of the PDF Block B phase, the development of which will be initiated early on in the process. It will be prepared and developed through consultation with all sectors. The project brief will clearly distinguish the baseline from the incremental activities needed to conserve biodiversity of global significance and outline sustainable alternative livelihoods. It will also identify the extent to which co-funding

has been identified and committed to finance non-GEF eligible activities.

Output 8: Project brief and draft project document.

PDF Outputs

The outputs of the PDF will be:

- (1) Selected project sites (protected areas);
- (2) Preliminary delineation of the buffer zones of the selected project sites;
- (3) Refined map of critical biodiversity and ecosystems of the protected areas, buffer zones and within the larger Reserve;
- (4) Report of the rapid rural appraisal;
- (5) Indicative management plans for each selected project site;
- (6) Stakeholder participation plan;
- (7) Sources of co-financing sought; and
- (8) Project brief and draft project document.

III Eligibility

The proposal seeks to remove the imminent threats to the rich biodiversity of Samar Forest Reserve. These threats encompass physical and ecological degradation of an important forest reserve, exacerbated by the continuing poverty of the local communities therein.

The proposal is a result of the local clamour to protect the remaining resources in the island. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Environmental Management Bureau (in charge of the EIA system) and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau have all strongly endorsed the proposal.

The Convention on Biological Diversity was signed in December 1992 and ratified on 8 October 1993. The Government of the Philippines is participating in the restructured GEF as of 16 June 1994. This project is eligible for funding under the GEF Operational Programme for mountain ecosystems.

IV National Level Support

The Philippine Strategy for Sustainable Development has guided the DENR since early 1990s. It aims to integrate environmental, population and social welfare concerns into decision-making and development planning, and to promote environmental education and citizens' participation in resource management. A recently issued DENR Administrative Order (DAO 37) prescribes strict EIA procedures to be applied to forest management plans, among others. The National Integrated and Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992 recognizes the importance of the integrated protected areas system as a powerful mechanism for the conservation of the country's biodiversity. It reformed and consolidated protected areas under local management through protected area management boards (PAMBs). There are 194 protected areas under the initial components of the NIPAS.

The Philippine Agenda 21 was approved by President Ramos in 1996 and serves as a consensus document for NGOs and LGUs and is the country's blueprint for sustainable development. Major areas of concern are the loss of biodiversity and conservation of endemic species; problems and conflict in the implementation of the NIPAS Law; and bio-prospecting.

The Philippine National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), was prepared in 1996 as part of the Philippine Biodiversity Country Study Project funded by UNEP. Six strategies and action plans have been outlined in the NBSAP. These six strategies are:

- (1) expanding and improving knowledge on the characteristics, uses and values of biological diversity;
- (2) enhancing and integrating existing and planned biodiversity conservation efforts with emphasis on in-situ activities;

project brief and draft project document

VI Special features

Benefits: Within Samar island, improvements in education and in the security of resource tenure and ecosystem services directly affecting large numbers of people will have permanent and positive effects on economic performance. Important revenues from eco-tourism are also possible in the longer term. The project will also create more favourable conditions for other investments in rural development by the national government and its international partners. This will mainly result from the strengthening of local institutions that will increase local capacity to participate in and benefit from such investments. Meanwhile, the Philippines and the international community will benefit to the extent that biodiversity will be secured in protected areas, protecting tens of thousands of species, many of which are endemic and would otherwise become extinct.

Risks: The national government is currently streamlining decentralization of functions to the local governments. A risk to the project could result from the repeal or revision of the Local Government Code (or equivalent policy changes) which could undermine local participation in resource management and local control of the Samar Island biodiversity.

The technical advice and information management services that the project will be able to offer in Samar Island are likely to be crucial. Thus, the project will help the DENR to establish NIPAS sites, and will help the PAMBs to manage them properly. It will also support biodiversity inventories for the NIPAS sites, so that the people of Samar Island can better know the nature of the conserved resources.

Staffing and training: Based on the experience of the WESAMAR programme, there are many competent and enthusiastic Samarenos ready to meet almost all the personnel requirements of the project, especially when combined with on-the-job training.

VII Work plan

Activities 1 to 8 will be implemented in the first 8 months of the PDF Block B phase. The results of this will be used to implement Activity 8 (Development of full GEF Project Brief) during the last three months of the PDF Block B phase.

Activity	Month									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Creation of the Steering Committee	x									
Steering Committee Meetings	x			x		x				x
Inception workshop		x								
Rapid rural appraisal and stakeholder consultations			x	x	x					
Selection of project sites				x						
Preliminary mapping and inventory				x	x	x	x	x		
Meetings with potential donors			x				x			x
Development of indicative management plans						x	x	x		
Development of the project brief and draft project document						x	x	x	x	
Monitoring and Evaluation				x						x
Finalization of the project brief and draft project document										x

- (3) formulating an integrated policy and legislative framework for the conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of the benefits of biological diversity;
- (4) strengthening capacities for integrating and institutionalizing biodiversity conservation and management; and
- (5) mobilizing an integrated information, education and communication (IEC) system for biodiversity conservation.

The Western Samar Agricultural Resources Development programme (WESAMAR) is an European Union-funded project on agriculture directed towards the concerns of the rural poor, and is implemented by the Department of Agriculture. The WESAMAR programme, with the assistance of the DENR, local governments and NGOs helped formulate the proposed Samar Island Biodiversity Project for GEF consideration. The WESAMAR programme has coordinated the implementation of a series of micro-projects to strengthen agricultural production and improvement of incomes.

The DENR has devolved certain functions to local government units in the area of protected area and wildlife management. These include the establishment, protection and maintenance of tree and forest parks, greenbelts and other tourist attractions in areas identified and delineated by the DENR and which are not part of the Protected Areas Systems. Other devolved functions include the collection of fees for services and use of tourism facilities established within tree parks, green belts and other tourist attractions; the implementation of the Rescue for Importation Conservation Awareness (RICH) Project in areas identified and delineated by DENR; and the implementation of the Community Awareness in Resource Environment (CARE) Project in areas identified and delineated by the DENR.

An inter-provincial conference on the Samar Forest Reserve convened in August 1996 looked at the implementation problems associated with Presidential Proclamation 744. This brought together the provincial chief executives, NGOs, DENR officials and various other stakeholders from the three provinces of (Western) Samar, Northern Samar and Eastern Samar. The meeting called for the urgent finalization of the implementation framework of Proclamation 744 and the physical delineation of the Reserve boundaries.

Justification for PDF Grant

This PDF Block B grant is urgently required to continue the consultative process, begun under the WESAMAR and DENR. It will enable the full project brief and draft project document to be developed, building upon the support and input of all major stakeholders. The project would facilitate the implementation of national policy directives not only for national benefit, but for global benefits as well, by mitigating the loss of biodiversity. The project would be consistent with and build upon the Philippine National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan.

V Relationship with other on-going GEF and related activities

The Conservation of Priority Protected Areas Project (CPPAP) is a US\$ 20 million World Bank/GEF funded project that started in 1994 and will end in the year 2001. The project aims to: (1) establish ten Integrated Protected Areas System (IPAS) priority sites as protected areas pursuant to the NIPAS Law; (2) protect biodiversity value and future sustainability value and future sustainability of the sites as protected areas; (3) integrate concerns of the indigenous communities, LGUs, NGOs and local communities in the management and development of the protected areas; (4) establish and protect the land tenure rights of indigenous peoples and long established residents of the areas; (5) develop a permanent funding mechanism for the management, administration and development of the protected areas; (6) develop sustainable forms of alternative livelihood and restorative activities which are consistent with biodiversity conservation; and (7) strengthen the capabilities of the DENR, PAMBs, NGOs and the local communities to be able to carry out their respective activities on protected area management. The project is jointly implemented by DENR and NGOs for Integrated Protected Areas (NIPA) component. The CPPAP does not include Samar Island, thus no overlapping of activities is expected. Lessons from the implementation of this project will be fully considered in the design of the full GEF

Annex 1 References

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VIII Budget - PHI/97/AO1

The estimated cost of this PDF B proposal is US\$ 350,000, the amount that is being requested for funding from the GEF. There is an in-kind contribution from the Government of the Philippines that is estimated at US\$ 70,000. This will be in respect of the Steering Committee meetings, support staff, consultations and review of the project brief and draft project document, and office administration. The expected date of the PDF B completion is October 1998.

PDF item	National in-kind Contribution (US\$)	GEF contribution (US\$)	Total (US\$)
<i>Establishment of a coordination and consultative mechanism</i>			
Inception workshop		15,000	15,000
Steering Committee meetings	5,000	10,000	15,000
Consultations with local groups		25,000	25,000
Technical consultations (Consultative Committees)		30,000	30,000
Biodiversity Specialist/CTA		26,000	26,000
Support staff	50,000		50,000
<i>Rapid Rural Appraisal</i>		65,000	65,000
<i>Meetings with potential donors</i>		15,000	15,000
<i>Development of indicative management plans and stakeholder plan</i>		25,000	25,000
<i>Preliminary mapping and inventory</i>		65,000	65,000
<i>Monitoring and Evaluation</i>		10,000	10,000
<i>Project brief and document preparation</i>			
Project Development Expert		15,000	15,000
Consultation and review of the full project brief	5,000	10,000	15,000
<i>Communication costs</i>		5,000	5,000
<i>Supplies and Materials</i>	2,000	4,000	6,000
<i>Printing/Reproduction Costs</i>		5,000	5,000
<i>Office Space</i>	8,000		8,000
<i>Equipment</i>		15,000	15,000
<i>Support Cost</i>		10,000	10,000
Total	70,000	350,000	420,000

Annexes

- (1) References
- (2) Map of Samar Island, showing the approximate Forest Reserve area under Proclamation 744.
- (3) Letter of Country Endorsement
- (4) Presidential Proclamation 744
- (5) Executive Summary of the report of the Samar Island Biodiversity Workshop



Republic of the Philippines
 Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, 1100
 Tel. Nos.: (632) 97-66-26 to 36; (632) 97-70-41 to 43



13 June 1996

Mr. Jorge Reyes
 Sustainable Development Advisor
 United Nations Development Programme
 106 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village
 Makati City

Subject : Proposed Samar Biodiversity Project

Dear Mr. Reyes,

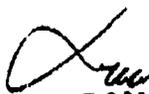
This refers to your letter dated 29 May 1996 informing us of UNDP Headquarters' review of the above mentioned proposal. We are pleased to note that UNDP has expressed interest in moving the project into the active pipeline.

The proposal was briefly discussed with DENR staff before it was endorsed to the GEF Secretariat during the last GEF Council Meeting. In our discussions with Mr. Caldecott, it became apparent that the institutional arrangements for the project needs to be clarified. While efforts of the EU's WESAMAR Project in the development of the proposal are well appreciated, we still feel there is a need to identify an appropriate entity to which the DENR or GEF, for that matter can continue to liaise in subsequent discussions on the proposal. It is in this purview that the DENR has taken the liberty of taking on the initial responsibility of sponsoring the proposal to generate interest and hopefully solicit funding support. We are of the view that this issue can be addressed in the detailed design for the project.

Nevertheless, we believe the proposal is worthy of support and will address an obvious gap in the implementation of Action Plan for Biodiversity. In this regard, we hereby endorse the proposal for funding under the Project Development Facility of the GEF. We will be forwarding to you shortly the accomplished form once we have conducted consultations with local authorities on the project.

Your usual support and consideration would be highly appreciated.

Regards.


DELFIN J. GANAPIN, JR.
 Undersecretary and GEF Focal Point

**MALACAÑANG
MANILA**

**BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
Proclamation No. 744**

**DECLARING THE RAINFORESTS OF THE PROVINCES OF NORTHERN SAMAR, EASTERN
SAMAR AND WESTERN SAMAR AS FOREST RESERVE**

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the government to develop, conserve and manage the natural resources of the country on sustainable basis and adopt a policy of maintaining a nationwide program of environmental protection for the benefit and welfare of future generations of Filipinos:

WHEREAS, the three provinces of Samar have suffered and sustained extensive damages to life and property caused by devastating flashfloods and landslides:

WHEREAS, the denudation caused by rampant and unabated logging and other exploitative activities have been pinpointed as the causal factor of the catastrophic calamities which resulted in unwarranted loss of human lives and misery to thousand of Samareños, burying their homes, villages and farmlands and destroying roads, bridges and numerous infrastructure projects:

WHEREAS, the people of the three provinces of Samar have petitioned the government to act expeditiously and with resolve in order to preserve, conserve and manage on a sustainable basis the remaining forest cover of Samar, to protect human lives and property, promote environmental and socio-economic security and provide sanctuary and refuge for many endangered flora and fauna such as the Philippine Tarsier, the Philippine Eagle, the Rufus Hornbill, the Bleeding Heart Pigeon and the Philippine Cuckatoo:

NOW, THEREFORE, upon recommendation of the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources and by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Republic of the Philippines, do hereby proclaim the rainforest of the Provinces of Northern Samar, Eastern Samar and Western Samar as forest reserve, subject to existing recognized claims and private rights.

The Samar Forest Reserve, covering an aggregate area of 560,000 hectares, more or less, shall be subjected to immediate resource and land use survey and delineation.

Consistent with this Proclamation, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall administer and manage the Samar Forest Reserve in coordination with concerned agencies of the government and other non-government organizations within the locality, and as an initial activity cause the above-mentioned resource and land use survey. It shall likewise initiate the preparation of a framework plan for the protection and management of the Reserve.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

Done in the City of Manila this 20th day of February in the year of our Lord Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-Six.

By the President:

(SGD) FIDEL V. RAMOS

Executive Secretary:

(SGD) RUBEN D. TORRES

WESTERN SAMAR AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME(WESAMAR ALA/PHI/9215)

**REPORT ON THE SAMAR ISLAND
BIODIVERSITY WORKSHOP**

Samar Island
Biodiversity Team

3/F Hotel San Bartholomew
Catbalogan, 15 - 16 March 1996

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The impetus to develop a biodiversity management strategy for Samar Island came in mid-December 1995. The idea was expected to involve consultations in Manila and in the three (3) Samar provinces to define measures for establishing and managing nature reserves, biodiversity inventories, bio-prospecting and data security, education, and for setting up a long-term financing mechanism to support this work throughout the island. WESAMAR assistance was sought whereby a Samar Island Biodiversity Team was organised. The team was composed of J. O. Caldecott (WESAMAR Biodiversity Advisor), E.C. Piezon (Deputy National Programme Director), and J.S. Aliposa (Senior Environmentalist).

A Concept Paper entitled the Samara Island Biodiversity Project (SIB) was drafted and underwent a consultation cum refinement process with concerned Egos, Lugs (provincial and municipal levels), WESAMAR itself, and some national government agencies, particularly DENR, DA and NEDA. The endorsement of the national GEF Focal Point was also needed before the Concept Paper could be submitted to the GEF Implementing Agencies i.e., WB, UNDP or UNEP for consideration, review and later development with the stakeholders into a Project Information Document or PID.

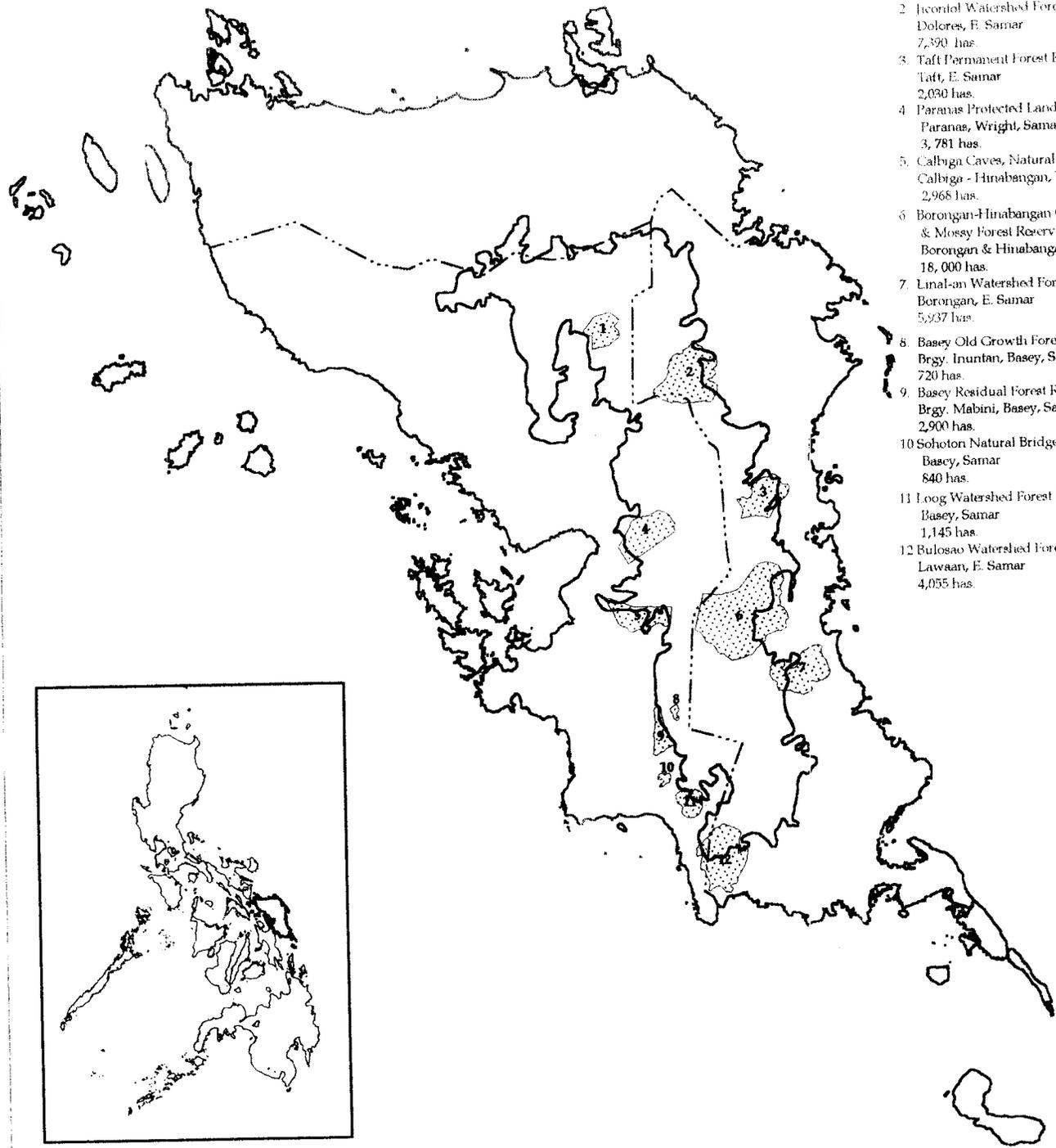
The consultation process covered the period of 22 February to 20 March 1996. Visits by the team to the three (3) Samar provinces elicited feedback from two (2) provincial governors, three (3) regional directors, two (2) PENROs and two municipal LGUs. More than fifteen (15) NGOs have been consulted in the process. Their comments and suggestions were promptly inputted into the concept paper.

As a culminating activity, a Samar Island Biodiversity Workshop was held in Catbalogan on 15 - 16 March 1996. A total of twenty-six (26) participants were present during the workshop the final output of which is contained in the Concept Paper dated 28 March 1996.

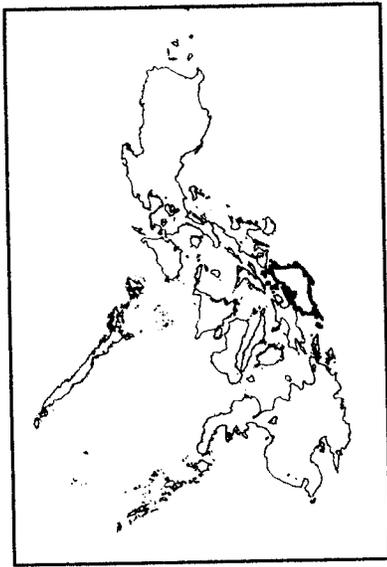
It behoves us to admit some shortcomings as we went through the consultation process. The workshop proceedings were not documented in detail, hence this Report does not convey as much information as it should except for the headings used which are simply enumerated. Time constraints and conflict in schedules prevented the team from meeting the provincial governor, WESAMAR technical persons, some NGOs and DENR staff in Samar province. However, a third (8 out of 26) of all the participants in the final workshop came from this province.

We assure all the stakeholders that the Concept Paper is a faithful and consensual version of their individual and collective inputs to the Samar Island Biodiversity Project. In a collective gesture of support, all the participants favourably endorsed the SIBP to the DENR Secretary Victor O. Ramos and sought the support of H.E. President Fidel V. Ramos to the project.

Comments and suggestions were also received from the GEF Focal Point in the DENR as well as from the EU Delegation in Manila



- 1 Mt. Huraw Protected Landscape
San Jose de Buan, W. Samar
1,351 has.
- 2 Licorol Watershed Forest Reserve
Dolores, E. Samar
7,390 has.
- 3 Taft Permanent Forest Reserve
Taft, E. Samar
2,030 has.
- 4 Paramas Protected Landscape
Paramas, Wright, Samar
3,781 has.
- 5 Calbiga Caves, Natural Landmark
Calbiga - Hinabangan, W. Samar
2,968 has.
- 6 Borongan-Hinabangan Old Growth
& Mossy Forest Reserve
Borongan & Hinabangan, E. & W. Samar
18,000 has.
- 7 Linal-an Watershed Forest Reserve
Borongan, E. Samar
5,937 has.
- 8 Basey Old Growth Forest Reserve
Brgy. Inuntan, Basey, Samar
720 has.
- 9 Basey Residual Forest Reserve
Brgy. Mabini, Basey, Samar
2,900 has.
- 10 Sohoton Natural Bridge National Park
Basey, Samar
840 has.
- 11 Loog Watershed Forest Reserve
Basey, Samar
1,145 has.
- 12 Bulosao Watershed Forest Reserve
Lawaan, E. Samar
4,055 has.



Layers

-  FOREST RESERVE (Approx. 324,664 has.)
-  PROTECTED AREA
-  PROVINCIAL BOUNDARY
-  PHILIPPINE SHORELINE
-  SHORELINE

MAP OF SAMAR ISLAND

Showing the Approximate Forest Reserve Area

Under Proclamation No. 744

Geographic Info. & Stat. Section
Planning and Management Division
DENR, Region VIII

SCALE 1:1,200,000

