

**Second Phase of the Forest Protection and Management Project in Carmen,
Baguio District, Davao City**

Status Report

By

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BACKGROUND



Figure 1. Datu Paulino Landim welcomes the visitors for the launching.

The first phase of Forest Protection and Management Project of the Obu Manuvu community (CADT No. R11-DAV-1108-091) at Sitio Macatabo, Barangay Carmen, Davao City ended in 2011. This project was funded by Eurogenerics International Pharmaceuticals Inc (EGIP) Foundation. At this stage, a Forest Protection and Management Committee (FPMC) was organized.

The FPMC underwent a series of trainings and exposure trips to build their capacity on forest protection. Its role was likewise identified; a) to report illegal activities such as logging and encroachment within the forests of the ancestral

domain and implement laws if necessary; b) formulate plans for the ancestral domain and the Obu Manuvu community; c) monitor and conduct foot patrolling within the ancestral domain at least once a month; d) monitor wildlife including the Philippine Eagle within the ancestral domain; and e) spearhead reforestation of degraded areas within the ancestral domain.

A Participatory Resource Assessment (PRA) was also conducted to survey the kinds of birds and mammals along the large parcel of unprotected upper and lower montane forests of the ancestral domain. The data generated serves as baseline information for the management of the ancestral domain (AD). The results strongly suggest that the area is a critical habitat for Philippine biodiversity. It is the home of many globally threatened species of birds and mammals. A high level of species endemism was also recorded; more than 50% of the species listed.



Figure 2. Alec Dierendonck shares his optimism for the project.

Additionally, a ten-year Forest Protection and Management Plan (FPMP) was also formulated. FPMC likewise developed another one-year action plan that covers the details of forest protection, health, education and livelihood components.

To further secure the forest and socio-economic sufficiency among the *Obu Manuvus*, EGIP funded the second phase of the Forest Protection and Management Project with the *Obu Manuvu* cultural communities of Carmen. The second phase will fund most of the one-year action plan developed during the first year. The project further aims to install an IP-based monitoring

system that integrates *Obu Manuvu* ecological knowledge with scientific knowledge. Forest guards equipped with an improved knowledge in monitoring and law enforcement is the main output of the project.

Here we provide report on the activities done after the launching in October 19, 2012.

RESULTS

Launching



Figure 3. Giovanne Tampos, PEF project coordinator for EGIP project, explains the forest protection component.

The project's second phase was launched last October 19, 2012. It was participated in by the community and the Tribal Council of *Obu Manuvu* headed by Datu Paulino Landim. Likewise, several government sectors joined the launching: LGU- Carmen, City Agriculture's Office (CAO), and NCIP. Other non- government organizations were also present, namely PCEEM and Mindanaon.

The tribal council and the community of Macatabo were grateful and excited for the second phase of the project according to Datu Landim. He extended his gratitude to EGIP for funding

another year of the project to protect their ancestral domain. The LGU-Carmen, CAO and NCIP were also glad about the project and they promised to provide support. The EGIP, on the other hand, represented by Mr. Alec Dierendonck, was grateful and happy that the project will soon start.



Figure 4. Datu Luis Lambac shares his ideas on the importance of the project.

Hadassah Faith Carig, former coordinator for the project, introduced the new Project Coordinator, Giovanne Tampos. Giovanne elaborated the forest protection and rehabilitation project component and the activities that will be undertaken. PCEEM also discussed the livelihood component of the project.

First Meeting

Soon as *Obu Manuvus* finished celebrating their festival, a meeting was set and held on November 6, 2012 at the Chapel of Alliance Gospel in Sitio Macatabo, Brgy. Carmen. Primarily, the objective of the meeting is to identify the list of forest guards to undergo series of trainings and workshops for the forest protection component.

Since Datu Paulino Landim was attending equally important activity, Bae Nilda Landim and Bae Arlene Unok helped facilitate the meeting. Prior to discussing the main objective, Project Coordinator Giovanna Tampos introduced himself again. He likewise introduced the forest protection officer, Joshua Donato, a field biologist, who will assist with training the forest guards during monitoring.

The project coordinator explained that the objective of the meeting is to finalize the number and list of forest guards so that succeeding activities can already be scheduled. Bae Landim said that they already identified the forest guards. Bae Unok handed the list they made to Mr. Tampos who read out loud the forest guards to the group to identify the people.

A concerned forest guard asked if social incentives (health benefits like Philhealth) for forest guards were included in the project. He likewise stressed if rubber boots, flashlights, raincoats, camp tarpaulin and camera will be provided to them. Mr. Tampos assured that these necessary equipment will be provided to them once they are already ready for monitoring.

Another forest guard asked why it is only Php.75.00 per day allotted for food and transportation. It was answered that the very concept of the project is capacity building and partnership. The role of the funder is to provide funds to achieve this goal, and the only counterpart the community must share are their time, strength and effort to learn.

Another person from the audience, introduced himself under Bagobo-Klata tribe, wanted to clarify if the project area covers the co-management zone of the two tribes. Bae Landim stressed that based on the delineation survey; the site is not included in the areas to be covered for monitoring.

Additionally, the workshop to set the criteria and responsibilities of forest guards and to identify their cultural ways of monitoring and protecting the forest was scheduled on November 28, 2012.

Acknowledgment

We are grateful to EGIP for providing funds for the second phase of the project. We are likewise indebted to the Obu Manuvu community in Sitio Macatabo Brgy. Carmen.

Figure 5. List of Forest Guards.

**FOREST PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (FPMC)
OBU MANUVU TRIBAL COUNCIL
CARMEN, BAGUIO DISTRICT, DAVAO CITY**

DATU PAULINO M. LANDIM SR.
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BAE NILDA A. LANDIM
VICE CHAIRMAN

BAE RODELYN A. AGGAS
FOREST SECRETARY

BAE ARLENE A. ONOC
FOREST TREASURER

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