

Darwin Initiative Annual Report

Darwin Project Information

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1. Project Background

The Polillo Islands, located 29 km off the east coast of Luzon, Philippines, comprise a small group of 27 islands and islets divided into 5 municipalities under the administrative jurisdiction of Quezon Province (see Annex 3). The Polillos also comprise the most distinct subcentre of endemism within the 'Greater Luzon Faunal Region' or 'Luzon Endemic Bird Area (EBA)', and thus constitute the sole basis for survival of diverse range of Polillo endemic species and sub-species of birds, reptiles, invertebrates and (probably) flowering plants. The Islands also noted for supporting important populations of several globally threatened species, such as Philippine cockatoo (*Cacatua haematuropygia* – IUCN 'Critically Endangered') and Gray's monitor lizard (*Varanus olivaceus* – IUCN 'Vulnerable') and astonishingly high terrestrial and marine biodiversity, including many other threatened Philippine endemic species.

The biodiversity of the Polillos is threatened mainly by loss of habitats, especially the once extensive lowland forests which were reduced to c.16% of land area by extensive commercial logging between the 1950s and 1980s. Most formerly forested areas have since been converted into human settlements and agriculture, especially coconut plantations, whilst most of the few remaining forests are secondary, fragmented and otherwise disturbed. The continued attrition of these fragments through slash-and-burn cultivation ('*kaingin*'), coupled with illegal logging, hunting and extraction of other forest products, poses further obvious and severe threats to these habitats and species.

Prior to this project, only three small areas were officially protected as 'critical watersheds', though no meaningful conservation management strategies had ever been developed or enacted in any of these sites. Moreover, relevant local stakeholders (especially LGUs and communities) were neither prepared or capacitated to manage/conservate these or any other biologically important sites in the Polillos, since this was perceived to be the responsibility of the national government through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Unfortunately, the DENR had also taken no effective action to conserve these areas, whether for reasons of its own limited resources or other institutional constraints.

This primary objectives of this project were therefore to identify and develop a new network of local conservation areas (LCAs), selected on the basis of both their biological importance and

'representativeness', and to do this by capitalising on existing legislature empowering local government units to declare and maintain key watersheds and other biologically important sites; whilst also ensuring the active participation of relevant local communities. In so doing, the project was also able to capitalise on existing good relations with these stakeholders and several previous years of applied field research, personnel training and education/awareness activities conducted under the auspices of the Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Programme (FFI-PBCP) and implemented by its local partner agencies and associates.

2. Project Partnerships

The regional, national and international importance of the Polillo Islands to biodiversity conservation, especially in terms of numbers of threatened endemic species and degrees of threat, prompted the FFI-PBCP to initiate, in collaboration with local and international partner agencies, a variety of key activities commencing in the early 1990's. These included: a ground-breaking forest wardening scheme, locally referred to as the 'Polillo Ecology Stewardship Project (PESP)', which has been in continual operation since 1998 with annual funding support from the North of England Zoological Society (NEZS, Chester Zoo); a whole series of local (from 1993) and UK (from 1999) university expeditions, avifauna and herpetofauna surveys; two pioneering and on-going field studies of Gray's monitor (initiated in 1999) and Philippine cockatoo (initiated in 2004); an important, if intermittent, series of marine and coastal biodiversity and habitat surveys (from 2002); and a wide range of education and awareness activities, including the first Polillo Teacher's Training Programme (in 2003). The increasing local, regional (etc.) interest in the Polillos spurred by these activities, and the corresponding and increasing need to assist and coordinate these interests, therefore also prompted the conceptualization of the 'Polillo Islands Biodiversity Conservation Programme (PIBCP)' and the formal establishment (via SEC registration in Dec 2003) of the 'Polillo Islands Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (PIBCFI)' to enable the effective implementation and development of the PIBCP and closer collaboration with relevant local stakeholders.

All this also neatly set the scene for the Polillo Darwin Project inasmuch as local partnership/capacity building was and remains a key premise of the PIBCP/PIBCFI. This strategy lies at the heart of this project and has been duly manifested in the development of formal agreements (MOAs) between PIBCFI and the three key municipal governments of Polillo, Burdeos and Panukulan. It has also resulted in diverse and ground-breaking new commitments from these LGUs, including internal revenue allotments for agreed biodiversity conservation activities, and the active participation and assistance of nearly all key '*barangay* councils' (N.B. '*barangays*' are the smallest democratically elected LGUs in the Philippines) having local administrative responsibility for the selected (and thereby agreed) LCAs.

Other important linkages established during the course of this project include a new MOA between PIBCFI and the Department of Education covering the teachers' training activities, and informal agreements with the DENR (CBD Focal point), the Department of Interior & Local Government (DILG) and the National Council for Indigenous People (NCIP) re. other local training activities. The project is also assisting with the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Panukulan re. resource protection and law enforcement, and similar initiatives are being developed with the PNP in Burdeos and Polillo Municipalities. LGU responses to this project have also resulted in the development of new, and more effective deployment of existing, local '*Bantay Kalikasan/Gubat*' (forest guards), development of several new native species tree nurseries, accession of no less than three new patrol boats, and the production and distribution of diverse new awareness/education materials (see later text). This project, through PIBCFI, also developed and agreed new partnership arrangements with several other local NGOs aimed at facilitating various project activities, including the: Marine Aquarium Council and the *Tanggal Kalikasan* in Burdeos; the Ateneo Institute of Social Order in Panukulan); and the Katala Foundation (KFI), based in Puerto Princessa (Palawan Island); the latter not only assuming financial responsibility for the continuing operation of the Philippine cockatoo project on Patnanungan Island, but also agreeing to extend the scope of this project to include the first ever studies of the two Polillo endemic races of *Tanygnathus* parrots, which are undoubtedly even more threatened than the 'critically endangered' cockatoo.

Two UK-based NGOs also provided invaluable assistance, namely: Coral Cay Conservation (CCC), which conducted pilot studies of coral reef resources with a view to the development of collaborative follow-up projects, and the North of England Zoological Society (NEZS); the latter being especially important in that it not only supported the PESP forest wardening project for the eighth successive year, but also enabled and led the first freshwater fish survey, underwrote all Phase I development costs of the new 'Polillo Islands Biodiversity Conservation Handbook (now in first complete draft stage) and several new Polillo Tarctic Festival activities (including a kite-flying contest and new Polillo biodiversity exhibit),

and new costumes for the Tarictic Fiesta Parade. Co-financing for the Gray's monitor study was also received from Cincinnati, Dallas and Los Angeles Zoos in the US.

3. Project progress

During this reporting period, the project structure remained fully operational with the Project Manager and three Local Area Coordinators (LACs) serving as full-time staff; and the assistance of two PIBCFI staff serving part-time, the continued participation of several highly experienced local technical consultants, and technical support and guidance provided by FFI through the Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Programme (FFI-PBCP). The PIBCFI office and staff house located in Polillo Town centre, which also serves as operational headquarters for this project, is fully functional and equipped to serve the local administrative and other logistical needs of this project.

This project has also assisted PIBCFI to establish itself and gain local recognition as the pioneering conservation NGO in the Polillos. The Municipalities of Polillo, Panukulan and Burdeos each awarded PIBCFI the formal accreditation required by NGOs under the Local Government Code to conduct projects in these areas, as well signing the aforementioned partnership agreements intended to facilitate development of this project and ensure the participation of these LGUs; thereby also strengthening the requisite legal operational bases for this project, and greatly assisting production of key outputs that have already greatly exceeded originally proposed targets (see below).

3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

Output 1. Priority sites selected and biological surveys and mapping completed.

The project considerably exceeded its original targets in two crucial respects; namely: a) completing the survey and mapping of a total of 10 sites (Annex 3), *versus* the originally agreed target of only 6 sites; and b) successfully incorporating a number of important additional activities (i.e. socio-economic, cultural and institutional assessments and related workshops and training courses) omitted from the original work plan and budget. Moreover, similar surveys scheduled for the next reporting period on the two remaining larger islands of Patnanungan and Jomalig are expected to include up to 4 more sites; thereby more than doubling the total number of originally agreed sites. In the interim, the ten sites surveyed thus far also collectively constitute all of the most important remaining habitats on the main island of Polillo and therefore the three key Municipalities of Polillo, Burdeos and Panukulan. Surveys conducted in each of these sites included: (i) biological assessments (habitats, flora and fauna), (ii) mapping and spatial analysis (physical profiling), and (iii) socio-economic, cultural and institutional assessments; the latter activities being added to assist design and development of management interventions.

Output 2. At least 'six' priority areas agreed by a process of consultation with local communities, authorities and other key stakeholders.

Activities for this output were carried out as planned in all 10 (no longer 6 – see above) sites, with consultations pertaining to the establishment of the LCAs completed in 17 barangays across the three municipalities. All of these barangays subsequently issued resolutions to their respective *Sangguniang Bayan* (Municipal Council) endorsing passage of ordinances declaring 10 LCAs; all of which resolutions were passed following presentations to each of these councils by project personnel. The project also provided requisite technical support in the crafting of barangay resolutions and ordinances for the declaration of 10 LCAs and organized various additional training workshops and seminars aimed at enabling/capacitating relevant LGUs to develop and implement local environmental protection agenda that incorporated biodiversity conservation training on Basic Ecology and Environment and Natural Resources Laws Workshop (BEELTW) in October 2006, where representatives from 15 barangays affirmed the need to establish these conservation sites. The same presentation was initiated during the Habitat Protection and Restoration Training involving representatives from 18 barangays of the municipalities of Polillo, Burdeos and Panukulan. Consultations re. the establishment of LCAs were also included during the PRAs and FGDs in 8 barangays, .

Output 3. Management strategies and operational plans developed and agreed for protected sites

Activities for this output were also carried out as planned. The project facilitated the formulation and development of management strategies and operational plans for habitat protection and restoration for 17 barangays covering the 10 LCAs, and assisted in the formulation of legislative agenda for 15 barangays as outputs of the BEELTW. The three Municipalities of Polillo, Burdeos and Panukulan also adopted conservation action plans as final outputs of the Eco-Governance Enhancement Seminar

Workshop organised by the project last year. Communication plans were also drafted as outputs of the Teachers' Training on Environmental Education and Biodiversity Conservation to advance the conservation awareness in the Polillos. Progress on the implementation of these action plans is presented in Output 5. The second level of the management planning is scheduled to be undertaken in the next reporting period, when relevant stakeholders in each municipality will be convened in a series of planning workshops to consolidate previous outputs and formulate comprehensive management plans for each of the 10 LCAs.

Output 4. Local personnel trained in site management and monitoring and essential management resources provided

All activities for this output were carried out as planned, though it also proved necessary to augment originally proposed outputs via additional training activities when it became clear that the salient LGUs had little knowledge of relevant environmental protection legislature or prior experience in natural resource management. The project responded by organizing a number of additional seminars, workshops and training courses, and producing relevant training manuals and audio-visual presentation materials aimed at assisting/capacitating these agencies to prepare, develop and implement local environmental conservation policies and agendas, including management of the LCAs. Key topics included: a) Basic Ecological Concepts and Biodiversity Importance of the Polillos; b) Relevant Environment and Natural Resources Laws of the Philippines; c) Habitat Protection and Restoration; d) Teachers' Training on Environmental Education and Biodiversity Conservation; and: e) Eco-Governance. The modules on basic ecology and environment and natural resources laws were lumped in one training schedule; whereas the other topics/trainings were conducted separately, as follows:

Training Module	Participants	Number
Basic Ecology, Biodiversity Importance of the Polillos and Environment and Natural Resources Laws of the Philippines	Representatives of barangays covering the LCAs, DENR, DILG, some NGOs and municipal employees and officials	159
Eco-Governance Enhancement Seminar Workshop	Mayors, Vice Mayors, Members of the Sangguniang Bayan of Polillo, Burdeos and Panukalan and representatives of DENR, DILG, NCIP and NGOs	42
Habitat Protection and Restoration	Representatives of barangays covering the LCAs, DENR, DILG, some NGOs and municipal employees and officials and several students and teachers in selected schools	166
Teachers' Training on Environmental Education and Biodiversity Conservation	Science teachers from 14 elementary schools, 6 secondary schools and 1 college	28

Output 5. Essential habitat and species restoration/recovery, enforcement and other management interventions initiated in protected sites

Implementation of species and habitat protection, enforcement and restoration and other management interventions in the three Polillo Island municipalities is underway. To institutionalize and sustain this output, the project facilitated the mainstreaming of conservation strategies to local governments by assisting them in organizing community-based resource protection and enforcement groups, establishment of habitat restoration sites, and implementation of other activities included in actions plans formulated during the various training exercises; all of which activities are additional to the technical assistance provided by the project *vis-à-vis* capacity building, establishment and management of conservation legislations.

PIBCFI and its local partners, particularly the LGUs, are also conducting various other species and habitat protection interventions and monitoring exercises. These include: the PESP, which supports the operation of one full-time and seven part-time forest wardens; the establishment and/or redeployment of *Bantay Kalikasan/Gubat* (forest guards), in each municipality and establishment of several new forest tree nurseries (see later text); on-going field studies of Gray's monitor lizards; protection and monitoring of Philippine cockatoo on Patnanungan (in collaboration with the Katala Foundation); and production of the 'Polillo Biodiversity Conservation Handbook'. PIBCFI also mobilized a total of PhP300,000 (£3,150) for the purchase of patrol boats to be deployed in each of the three municipalities of Polillo, Burdeos and Panukulan from Congressman Miguel Zubiri.

Output 6. Heightened awareness and understanding amongst local governments & communities of the need to conserve biodiversity in the Polillo Islands.

Training manuals, presentation materials and handouts to support the various training activities were produced. A CD on the compilation of the different laws and regulations on environment and natural

resources management was produced and distributed during the Eco-Governance Enhancement Seminar Workshop. In partnership with the Center for Environmental Awareness and Education (CEAE), the biodiversity features of the Polillo Islands were featured in a documentary entitled "Endangered Tales", which also covers some other important biodiversity areas of the Philippines. The development of the 'Polillo Biodiversity Conservation Handbook' is now in the first complete draft form.

Aside from the teachers' training, several school-based conservation campaigns have been pursued by the project to increase the biodiversity awareness of students and to reach out a larger number of teachers. These activities, including lectures, film shows, exhibits and distribution of communication materials depicting the importance and threats of the Polillos' biodiversity and what possible measures can be undertaken including the establishment of habitat restoration, were presented to over 1,900 students in 12 different schools, and at numerous other forums attended by senior local government officials and other government employees, high school teachers and health care workers

Biodiversity conservation awareness activities also incorporated several special events, such as a kite making contest in Panukulan on 23 June 2006 and the Tarictic Festival in Polillo from 15 to 19 March 2007; the latter including a kite-flying context, an exhibit and wildlife mascots featured in the parade. The project also had an exhibit during the 2nd Birdfest in the Philippines on 23 September 2006 in Manila. Articles about the project was also featured in a national newspaper and in the March 2007 issue of the Darwin Newsletter. The outputs of the teachers' trainings also included the development of three posters, three brochures, three flyers and three flipcharts; the printing and distribution of two of these posters being sponsored by Municipal Government of Polillo.

3.2 Progress towards Project Outputs

Output 1. Priority sites selected and biological surveys and mapping completed.

The project also pioneered the first attempt to complete physical, biological, socio-economic, cultural and institutional profiles of each of the three municipalities where these 10 LCAs are located. These profiles serve not only provide essential references data, but also offer strong justifications for the declaration of LCAs, are crucial in the development and implementation of management plans and in determining appropriate institutional mechanisms to effectively manage the different LCAs. Key findings included:

- areas covered by surveys contain the largest remaining forest blocks in the three municipalities;
- these areas are important habitats to numerous endemic and globally threatened species and sub-species of animals and plants, many of which had not been previously recorded in these areas;
- these areas also comprise most of the island's watershed supplying the agricultural and domestic water requirements of the three municipalities;
- forests in these areas although already fragmented contain economically and commercially viable species and are still the major source of timber and other forest products; but the collection of these products is currently unregulated and almost unsustainable at present rates of collection;
- slash-and-burn agriculture is prevalent in surrounding areas and poses a continuing major threat, but assistance in developing and non-destructive livelihood alternatives is absent in almost all areas.
- hunting of wildlife for food and trade has diminished in recent years, but still reported in some sites;
- settlers already occupy and claiming land tenure rights in certain areas; some of whom have also availed 'Certificate of Stewardship Contracts (CSCs)' through the 'Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP)' of the DENR. Aside from the awarding of these land tenure instruments, however, no other assistance had been provided to CSC holders. Regulations on the use of land covered by ISFP such as the implementation of agro-forestry technologies and establishment of tree plantations were not observed and most CSC holders are apparently unaware of such requirements. Certain areas have also been claimed as 'ancestral domains' of the Dumagat indigenous people;
- there are no existing community or people's organizations in these sites; and even CSC holders are not organized into any community associations.
- apart from the PIBCFI no NGOs are implementing conservation initiatives in any areas covered by surveys. Communities have low awareness of biodiversity issues and are not engaged in resource conservation and management; assistance provided by LGUs is focused on basic social services;
- although three areas are declared as critical watersheds, no management systems are in place and these sites are openly accessible for other uses. The seven other sites also have no prevailing management arrangements and presence of concerned authorities is negligible in all sites at present.

Output 2. At least 'six' priority areas agreed by a process of consultation with local communities, authorities and other key stakeholders.

Based on surveys conducted during this project and review of other available biological data, a total of 10 sites, covering an area of c.11,016 ha have been identified and are in the process of being agreed in consultation with relevant stakeholders. Although the project has therefore already exceeded its original target of 6 sites, it is expected that up to 4 more sites will be identified and agreed in the island municipalities of Jomalig and Patnanungan during the next reporting period (please see Annex 3) .

Output 3. Management strategies and operational plans developed and agreed for protected sites

As a matter of strategy, the project has adopted a two-tiered thematic approach on management planning for the establishment of the new network of conservation sites in the Polillos. The first level of the planning process conducted during this reporting period comprised baseline scenario building, situational analysis and thematic action planning initiated during presentations made to stakeholders by project personnel and during the various training activities conducted by the project. The first level of management planning process was done through presentations of survey results to stakeholders, thereby enabling their inputs into collective identification of critical issues and concerns needing to be addressed. Based on the thereby agreed priority issues, action plans were developed that defined key conservation strategies and activities including the identification of resources needed and sources of funds, responsible institutions and timetable for implementation of the agreed actions.

The second level of the management planning (to be undertaken in the next reporting period) will involve the convening of planning workshops involving concerned stakeholders in each municipality by municipality, to consolidate earlier outputs and formulate comprehensive management plan and management system for each of the LCAs. These management plans will elaborate the long-term conservation strategies and outcomes for the network of conservation sites in the Polillos, which can then be integrated to the medium and long-term development plans of LGUs. The project also envisions the need consolidate these separate plans to formulate an islands-wide conservation strategy for the Polillo Group of Islands.

Output 4. Local personnel trained in site management and monitoring, and essential management resources provided.

The Basic Ecology and Environment and Natural Laws Seminar Workshop held in three batches validated several assumptions in the project design, enabled the participants to better comprehend the biodiversity conservation importance of the Polillos, and the importance of ensuring that the legal framework needed to support biodiversity conservation actions are in place. However, and despite the enactment of the Local Government Code (LGC) in 1991, all participants readily acknowledged that their unfamiliarity with these statutes had also resulted in little or no enforcement. Legislative agenda for the 15 barangays covering the 10 LCAs were crafted as key outputs of these workshops, and subsequent training activities were coordinated with the relevant municipal governments, DENR, DILG and NCIP.

The Eco-Governance Enhancement Seminar Workshop on 11-13 October 2006 also brought together for the first time the relevant senior-most officials from the three Polillo municipalities, including all three mayors and the majority of members of the each of three municipal councils. Discussion between these officials and attending representatives of DENR, DILG, NCIP and other local NGOs, were facilitated by PIBCFI; which, together with FFI-PBCP, also prepared audio-visual presentations on all key topics, including existing legislation pertaining to environmental protection and natural resource management. As a result, the three LGUs issued a joint resolution calling for the formulation of a unified ordinance on biodiversity conservation in the Polillos, and established a technical working group composed of representatives from each municipality to draft this ordinance. Each LGU also formulated a conservation action plan, defining key strategies to be implemented in each municipality. Consequent to discussions on the continued logging and illegal collection of other forest products, the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) of the DENR also issued a memorandum calling for more intensive patrol operations by local DENR personnel.

Output 5. Essential habitat and species restoration/recovery, enforcement and other management interventions initiated in protected sites

As a direct consequence of this project, particularly the aforementioned workshops, the Municipal Government of Panukulan has recently:

- allocated an annual budget of PhP 783,248.73 (£7,790) to cover costs of meetings, travels, supplies and materials and monitoring activities, and additional sums of PhP50,00 (c. £525) for the training of volunteers involved in resource protection activities and PhP32,006 (c. £335) towards PIBCFI's costs;
- created a new, 12 member team of forest wardens, locally referred as *Bantay Kalikasan*, to lead protection activities in all areas with remaining forest cover;
- appointed 3 new 'watershed caretakers', four new 'marine sanctuary caretakers', 2 other persons to assist sea patrol operations; and no less than 22 persons as 'environmental aides'.
- enlisted the active assistance Philippine National Police for resource protection and law enforcement, including the creation of environmental police desk (which the Chief of Police is now committed); and:
- created a new Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) to take the lead in implementing various conservation initiatives.

Similarly, the Municipal Government of Burdeos and relevant barangay councils:

- added new responsibilities environmental protection and natural resources management to the functions of the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO);
- assigned seven persons designated by barangay councils in 3 key LCA areas (i.e. Carlagan, Aluyon and Anibawan) to serve as forest guards or '*Bantay Gubat*', who are expected to be joined by four more guards designated by two other barangays (Poblacion and Amot);
- allocated the sum of PhP45,000 to each of aforementioned three barangays (i.e. a total of PhP135,000 or c. £1,420) to assist implementation of their habitat protection and restoration plans, for which purposes these barangays also allocated co-financing totaling a further total of PhP55,000 (c. £580); and similar arrangements are expected to be agreed with Brgys. Poblacion and Amot; and
- these five barangays have also issued and are actively enforcing resolutions relating to enhanced forest and wildlife protection that have already resulted in three cases of apprehensions involving illegal gathering of forest products.

Whereas the Municipal Government of Polillo and relevant barangay councils:

- appointed a new watershed caretaker in Sibulan-Pinaglubayan area;
- is now finalizing an annual allocation for the future protection and management of this watershed;
- is assisting development of a new *Bantay Gubat* comprising 14 members, i.e. two from each of seven key barangays, which have so far also allocated a total of PhP34,000 (£360) for this purpose; and:
- provided funding support for the printing and distribution of two new biodiversity conservation posters designed by local teachers during the Teacher's Training Course, likewise organised by this project.

Representatives of several barangays who attended the habitat protection and restoration training have also constructing growth chambers and started forest tree nurseries. The project has provided materials for these purposes and assisted in the selection of suitable sites. A forest tree nursery previously established by the PESP close to the Sibulan Watershed in Polillo Municipality is also being expanded, while the three barangays in Burdeos are now collecting native seeds for propagation once their respective nurseries are established, and the first 100 seedlings from a new tree nursery Brgy. Bato in Panukulan have been replanted by the new *Bantay Kalikasan*.

Output 6. Heightened awareness and understanding amongst local communities and government of the need to conserve biodiversity in Polillo Islands and wider Philippines

Aside from the initiatives mentioned already in earlier sections of this report the project has implemented or assisted diverse other communication strategies intended to generate increased public support for biodiversity conservation in the islands, often in close collaboration with other local agencies and institutions. For example, in response to the projects awareness campaigns, the Southern Luzon Polytechnic College (SLPC) in Polillo issued a resolution incorporating in the annual school calendar the celebration of biodiversity day every 5th of May, Earth Day on the 22nd of April, environment month every June and International Celebration for the Preservation of Ozone layer every 15th of September The school board also awarded recognition to PIBCFI for the efforts of the project and approved the formation of the school-based biodiversity club of students, which is already organised.

3.3 Standard Output Measures

Table 2. Project Standard Output Measures

Expected Outputs	Status of Implementation to Date
<p>4C: 8 post-graduate biology students to be trained in terrestrial & marine surveys; and 50 teachers to receive biodiversity conservation training (theory, demonstration, some field work)</p> <p>4D: more than 10 weeks (field surveys); more than 2 weeks (teachers).</p>	<p>4 students were trained in terrestrial and marine surveys. 28 teachers attended the training on biodiversity education and conservation and at least 30 others attended the orientations on biodiversity conservation initiated by the project in the different schools of Polillo, Burdeos and Panukulan.</p> <p>For field surveys a total of 12 weeks for biodiversity surveys; two weeks each for coral reef resources assessment and freshwater fishes surveys and another two weeks for the monitoring of Philippine cockatoo. Ten weeks were spent in the socio-economic and cultural assessment and another 10 weeks for mapping and ground validation surveys.</p>
<p>6A: at least 6 (but probably 10-12) field wardens to be trained in site management, wildlife monitoring, wardening and restoration.</p> <p>6B: c. 2 weeks intensive training and at least 3 months field training with existing wardens</p>	<p>9 forest wardens (Bantay Kalikasan) of Panukulan attended the seminar on basic ecology and environment and natural resources laws.</p> <p>Another para-legal training will be implemented during the next reporting period. Six wardens attended in the training on habitat protection and restoration and assisted the 12 weeks biodiversity surveys.</p>
<p>7: 1 wardens training manual; c. 10 teacher training briefs; 4 posters; 1 Polillo Biodiversity Conservation Handbook</p>	<p>Wardens training manual is scheduled to be prepared in the next reporting period; four posters were already development and produced; and the biodiversity handbook is already in the final stage of production. Teachers briefed (or didactic tools) developed were 3 sets of flipcharts, 3 flyers, 3 posters and 3 brochures, which are being used as teaching aids.</p>
<p>9: at least 6 (probably 10-12) site management plans</p>	<p>The first level of management planning implemented during this reporting period included the development of: a) 15 legislative agendas; b) 17 habitat and restoration plans; c) 3 municipal conservation action plans; and d) 3 conservation communication plans. These plans covered the municipalities of Burdeos, Polillo and Panukulan. The second level of management planning will be conducted in the next reporting period, which would involve the compilation and enhancement of these plans and development of other conservation strategies for the effective management of the different LCAs.</p>
<p>10: 8 species photo guides.</p>	<p>4 new photo-guides produced, others to be produced in next reporting period</p>
<p>12A: 1 database; 12B: 1 photo archive</p>	<p>System developed and implementation is on-going</p>
<p>14A: 12 local community workshops</p> <p>14B: 1 per annum (excluding lectures and seminars in local universities by local and UK project personnel)</p>	<p>16 community workshops were conducted during the conduct of Participatory Rural Appraisals and Focus Group Discussions where local communities collectively identified and analyzed the socio-economic and cultural conditions affecting the biodiversity and possible courses of actions. Additional 11 workshops were facilitated by the project during the different training activities where various conservation issues were analyzed and possible courses of actions were formulated. Four major seminars were implemented by the project during this reporting period.</p>
<p>21: 2 x PIBCFI offices (1 in Polillo Town, 1 in Los Banos, Laguna); 1 Education/Visitor's Centre on Polillo (partly co-financed)</p>	<p>The office in the Polillo is already functional but the project did not find it necessary to establish one in Los Banos, Laguna. The education/visitors' center is still under negotiation with the local government</p>
<p>22: 60 (i.e. c. 10 plots per site x 6 sites), excluding (co-financed) coastal habitat sites/plots</p>	<p>17 barangays have already identified sites for habitat restoration activities likely to meet the required target outputs, though additional sites also likely.</p>

3.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

Whilst some of the key conservation outcomes of the project now seem set to greatly exceed original targets (see sections 3.1 & 3.2, above), relevant bureaucratic processes have inevitably and negatively influenced project timetable and operational funds have been severely stretched by the need to address and accommodate additional training needs and other unexpected costs. Conversely, recent indications of growing tangible support amongst LGUs (as described in Section 3.2: Output 5, above) provide strong presumptive evidence for desired future sustainability of this project, and the increasing capability and effectiveness of the PIBCFI in originating innovations and developing and sustaining excellent relations with key stakeholders.

3.5 Progress towards impact on biodiversity, sustainable use or equitable sharing of benefits

The project, through PIBCFI, has made every effort to share the results and conclusions of the various surveys with relevant stakeholders, especially LGUs, and to do this as soon as these findings can be made available. This may seem an obvious requirement, but it is one that is actually seldom considered, much less accomplished, owing to diverse other pressures (e.g. perceived sanctity of original data pre-publication, lack of time or resources for return visits by relevant researchers, etc.); whereas the earliest possible sharing of such data was not only deemed crucial *vis-a-vis* the objectives of this project, but built into the terms of the covering agreements with these LGUs. Consequentially, these findings also constituted the main basis for the development and adoption of diverse new municipal and barangay council ordinances aimed at the enhanced protection future of the island's threatened species and habitats. In particular, the Municipalities of Panukulan and Polillo enacted local environment codes with specific provisions on the protection of endemic and threatened species and habitats, and five separate barangays in Burdeos passed resolutions for the protection of threatened species; all of which resolutions were crafted in close collaboration with project personnel. In many (most?) cases salient officials were previously unaware of the local/national/international significance of their biological heritage and eagerly grasped and positively responded to the opportunities thus provided to invoke previously untapped legislative mechanisms intended to enable biodiversity conservation objectives; which they were likewise either previously unaware or unmindful of. Also see preceding and succeeding sections re. other outputs.

4. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

An annual work plan is prepared to guide implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project. The Project Manager also convenes quarterly and/or *ad hoc* meetings to assess progress, wherein all involved staff and technical consultants report on the progress *vis-à-vis* expected and actual outputs and accomplishments in their areas of expertise and responsibility. This process is greatly assisted by the three Local Area Coordinators (LACs) hired by the project to facilitate the delivery of conservation outcomes by project personnel and partners, particularly the LGUs, in each of the Polillo municipalities. In addition, the LACs also monitor the effects and impacts of the awareness campaigns, capacity building and other initiatives carried out by the project in each area.

Amongst the most important lessons thus far:

- this project adopted the Local Government Code as the most appropriate (arguably the only feasible) legislative framework, thanks in part to national decentralization policies, but also because the salient national government agencies were both poorly represented and demonstrably ineffective in the region. Moreover, the salient national government mechanisms for the creation and management of new protected areas are not only extremely cumbersome, but ultimately offer few, if any, practical benefits re. the more effective protection and management of such areas;
- local awareness raising and capacity building are crucial, particularly amongst LGUs and other community leaders, most of whom are not only unaware of the biodiversity conservation significance of the region, but equally unfamiliar with salient legislation and, hence, the tools at their disposal to quickly effect conservation actions, such as the adoption of ordinances and implementation of habitat protection and restoration activities; but that:
- enabling legislations, once enacted, are often misapplied and/or poorly sustained; meaning the availability of pertinent data and continued expert guidance via strong partnership linkages with credible, experienced and (preferably) locally-based NGOs is likely to prove equally crucial; and that:
- even if the requisite goodwill and all other key factors are in place, the rate of change will still be controlled by the salient bureaucratic processes; meaning that project work plans and timetables may

(and often are) seriously impacted by factors beyond the influence and control of non-governmental agencies/partners, even if eventual outcomes meet or exceed originally expected outcomes.

The latter point is especially important in the context of this project, inasmuch as all of the underlying indicators strongly suggest we will not only greatly exceed agreed targets, but demonstrate and establish highly important precedents (and modus operandi) that can and should be applied elsewhere. However, whilst we are confident that all agreed and duly extended targets will be met, it remains to be seen if these can be accomplished within the originally proposed time frame of this project for these reasons.

5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

6. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Please see earlier sections re. the progress of this project, and difficulties encountered (and addressed), especially re. prior lack of conservation awareness and practical management experience amongst LGUs and other stakeholders. The main (if hopefully few) risks posed by this project are climatic (i.e. periodic, but sometimes severe, hurricanes); and forthcoming elections that might conceivably produce administrations less sympathetic than the clear majority of prevailing LGUs and/or require similar levels of training and awareness-raising.

7. Sustainability

A key concern addressed during this reporting period was the need for increased awareness raising and capacity building amongst local stakeholders, particularly the LGUs, to also enable their greatly increased involvement and leadership in resource management, particularly in conserving the biodiversity of the Polillos. To these ends, the project is also providing technical support in the formulation of legislations and implementation conservation action plans relevant to the immediate and longer-term needs of this project. While the declaration of these LCAs is still progressing, the approach taken by this project is already generating substantive and increasing funding and other support from the relevant LGUs (see Section 3.2, Output 5). In all of these respects, it is also important to note that although this is a new project, it is also part of a longer-term conservation programme in this region. Indeed, the PIBCFI was specifically established to facilitate the continued development of the PIBCP, which has already been in continuous operation for over eight years. During this period, the Programme has successfully accommodated an increasing range of activities, and there is every expectation that it will continue to do so long after the conclusion of this project. Equally, it is expected that the PIBCFI will, with FFI assistance, also continue to provide technical advice and such other support to the concerned parties in the Polillo Island to help ensure the longer-term protection and management of these areas.

8. Dissemination

As previously mentioned, the findings and conclusions of the various surveys are shared with relevant stakeholders and constitute a main basis for the designation of the LCAs, formulation management plans and other outcomes. The various and diverse training and awareness raising activities of this project also constitute important means of disseminating information; coupled with the production and distribution of multi-media materials and extensive local media coverage (including several local TV documentaries thus far). The project is also producing a 'Polillo Islands Biodiversity Conservation Handbook' incorporating both printed and VCD sections, which is expected to constitute a key resource for local decision-makers, community leaders and educators, but which will also be made more widely available.

9. Project Expenditure (1st April 2006 to 31st March 2007)

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2006/07

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2006 - March 2007	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Goal: <i>To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources to achieve</i></p> <p><i>The conservation of biological diversity,</i></p> <p><i>The sustainable use of its components, and</i></p> <p><i>The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</i></p>		<p><i>(report on any contribution towards positive impact on biodiversity or positive changes in the conditions of human communities associated with biodiversity eg steps towards sustainable use or equitable sharing of costs or benefits)</i></p>	<p><i>(do not fill not applicable)</i></p>
<p>Purpose. Establishing a network of protected sites, with the active participation and approval of relevant local communities and other stakeholders, in order to conserve endemic and globally threatened species and habitats</p>	<p>Number of protected sites has increased, bringing the total area under protection to at least 5%.</p> <p>Effective management measures in place, including trained site wardens.</p> <p>Longer-term management strategies agreed with all relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>Major milestones have been accomplished during this reporting period. 10 LCA (from 6 LCAs originally targeted)</p> <p>An island-wide conservation strategy is being drafted to support site-focused management/protection plans. These will be supported by ordinances and endorsements from communities and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Trainings conducted reached further than envisaged, these included LGU officials, teachers, and general public. LGUs have invested (co-financed) the projects activities</p> <p>Species/habitat restoration & protection teams were mobilised by the LGUs</p>	<p>Additional surveys on two islands (Jomalig and Patnanongan) to increase the LCAs to 14</p> <p>Technical support will be provided to LGUs and other stakeholders</p> <p>Management plans will be finalised subject to stakeholder approval</p> <p>Habitat restoration activities will be expanded</p> <p>Sustainable mechanisms for LCA protection identified with stakeholders</p>

Output 1. Biological surveys completed and priority sites selected and mapped.	All remaining forest patches and other key wildlife habitats surveyed, mapped and entered onto computer database.	Output accomplished; additional research activities completed (socio-economic, participatory rural assessments, institutional capacity assessments)
Output 2. At least six top-priority areas agreed by a process of consultation with local communities, authorities and other key stakeholders.	All communities and key stakeholders enabled to contribute to consultations/ workshops, and any conflicts resolved.	Accomplished; outputs delivered exceeded target set (see narrative sections); 2 additional full surveys will be conducted next reporting period with additional target of 4 additional sites; assumptions and means of verification still valid
Output 3. Management strategies and operational plans developed and agreed for the protected sites.	Strategies and plans agreed with all relevant stake-holders for 6 priority sites (at least 4 finalized by end Yr	This output is not fully accomplished. Draft ordinances have been prepared. This will be covered in the following reporting period. Activities will include consultations with stakeholders for adoption of the management strategies.
Output 4. Local personnel trained in site management and monitoring, and essential management resources provided.	c. 30 persons (from the local population) trained in site management and monitoring. Polillo biodiversity conservation manual completed by Year 3.	Output mostly accomplished; 4 training strands were implemented with 395 trainees. Trainings have resulted to re-orientation of LGUs to habitat restoration and enforcement of conservation laws. Publication of the sourcebook will be completed next reporting period
Output 5. Essential habitat and species restoration/ recovery, enforcement, and other management interventions initiated in the protected sites.	Essential interventions underway in at least 3 of the protected sites by Year 3.	Output was accomplished. Various LGU staff have been mobilised to address this agenda which was recently adopted. Consequently, expenses on these activities were covered by LGUs.
Output 6. Heightened awareness and understanding among local communities and government of the need to conserve biodiversity in Polillo and the wider Philippines.	Teacher-training course (Year 1), at least 2 posters & other materials produced each year; extensive media coverage (including national television) every year;	This output is accomplished. Continuing work to sustain this output is needed.

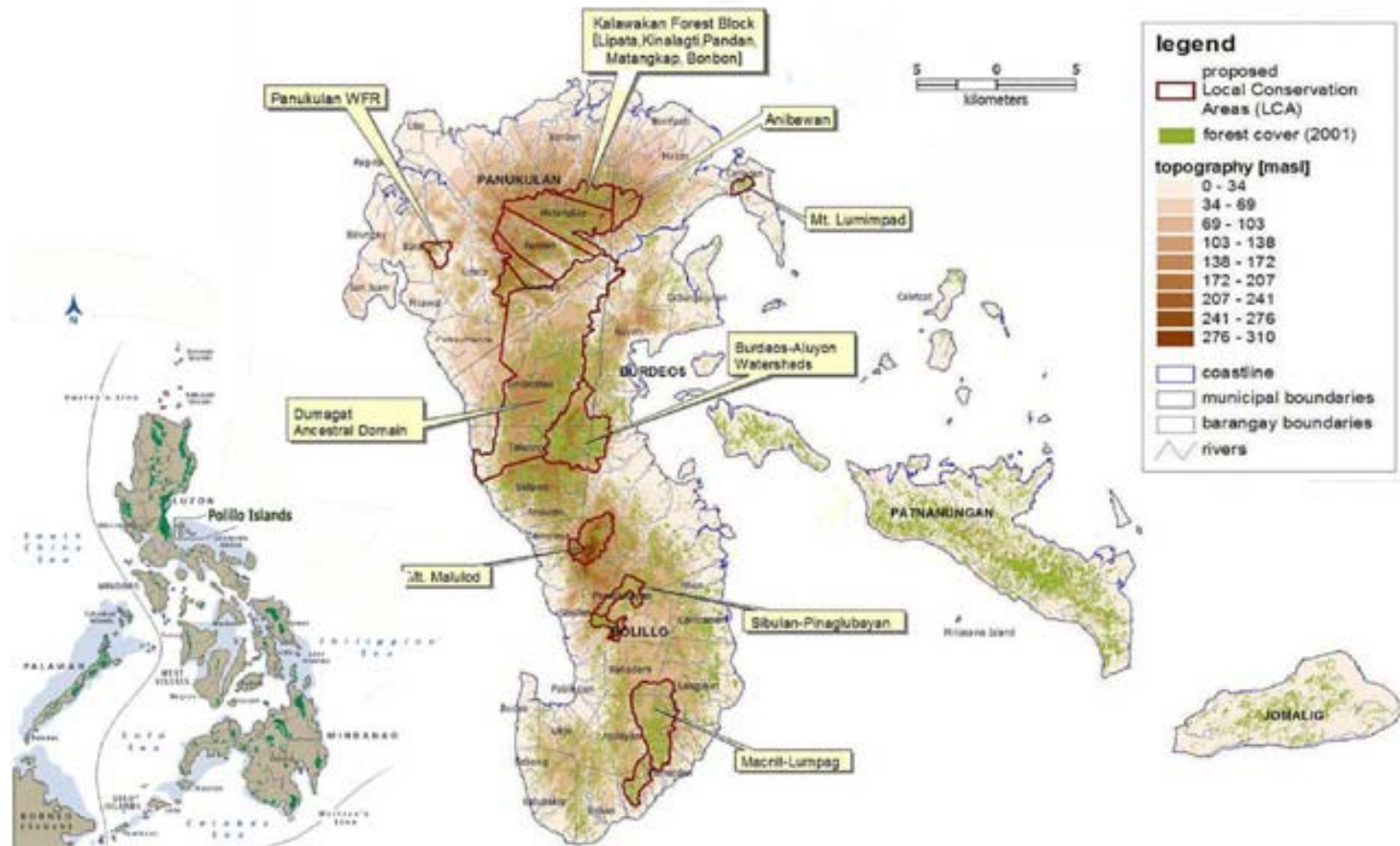
Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

Project summary	Measurable indicators	Means of verification	Important assumptions
<p>Goal:</p> <p><i>To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</i></p>			
<p>Purpose</p> <p><i>Establishing a network of protected sites, with the active participation and approval of relevant local communities and other stakeholders, in order to conserve endemic and globally threatened species and habitats.</i></p>	<p><i>Number of protected sites has increased, bringing the total area under protection to at least 5%.</i></p> <p><i>Effective management measures in place, including trained site wardens.</i></p> <p><i>Longer-term management strategies agreed with all relevant stakeholders.</i></p>	<p><i>Relevant municipal ordinances, management agreements for all sites.</i></p> <p><i>Trained wardens registered and deployed in all sites.</i></p> <p><i>Stakeholder-endorsed agreements, management plans for all sites.</i></p>	<p><i>Relevant communities and authorities continue to be supportive.</i></p> <p><i>All protected sites contain recoverable wildlife populations and habitat.</i></p> <p><i>Conservation measures can be sustained in all protected sites.</i></p>

Outputs			
1. <i>Biological surveys completed and priority sites selected and mapped.</i>	<i>All remaining forest patches and other key wildlife habitats surveyed, mapped and entered onto computer database.</i>	<i>Survey reports, maps and database.</i>	<i>Relevant specialist expertise available.</i>
2. <i>At least six top-priority areas agreed by a process of consultation with local communities, authorities and other key stakeholders.</i>	<i>All communities and key stakeholders enabled to contribute to consultations/workshops, and any conflicts resolved.</i>	<i>Minutes and other records of consultations and meetings. Municipal ordinances and/or private or village contracts.</i>	<i>Surveyed taxa are good indicators of overall biodiversity.</i>
3. <i>Management strategies and operational plans developed and agreed for the protected sites.</i>	<i>Strategies and plans agreed with all relevant stake-holders for 6 priority sites (at least 4 finalized by end Yr 2).</i>	<i>Endorsed management strategies and plans.</i>	<i>Sites and the necessary protective measures can always be agreed.</i>
4. <i>Local personnel trained in site management and monitoring, and essential management resources provided.</i>	<i>c. 30 persons (from the local population) trained in site management and monitoring. Polillo biodiversity conservation manual completed by Year 3.</i>	<i>Training records and personnel evaluations. Manual published.</i>	<i>Personnel will remain in Polillo after receiving training.</i>
5. <i>Essential habitat and species restoration/ recovery, enforcement, and other management interventions initiated in the protected sites.</i>	<i>Essential interventions underway in at least 3 of the protected sites by Year 3.</i>	<i>Site activity records and annual inspections.</i>	<i>All of the necessary management interventions are feasible.</i>
6. <i>Heightened awareness and understanding among local communities and government of the need to conserve biodiversity in Polillo and the wider Philippines.</i>	<i>Teacher-training course (Year 1), at least 2 posters & other materials produced each year; extensive media coverage (including national television) every year;</i>	<i>Archive of published and digital awareness materials Teacher-training records (materials, attendance and performance, including independent Dept of Education records).</i>	<i>Knowledge improves attitude and behaviour</i>

Activities	<i>Activity Milestones (Summary of Project Implementation Timetable)</i>
<i>Field research & mapping</i>	<p><i>Years 1 and 2: UK and Philippine scientists collate data sets (including GIS), conduct gap analyses and design field research plans during rainy seasons (July to December). Conduct standardised biodiversity assessments and mapping in prospective sites during dry seasons (January to June).</i></p> <p><i>Year 3: complete first round of field monitoring in established protected sites (monitor biodiversity and threats).</i></p>
<i>Stakeholder consultations</i>	<p><i>Conduct consecutive site-based stakeholder consultations and networking to reach consensus on boundaries and management of agreed priority sites (at least 4 agreed by end Yr 2, and an additional 2 by mid Year 3).</i></p>
<i>Training</i>	<p><i>Year 1: conduct training of trainers (c.30 teachers) and teacher training (c.50 persons) courses, and evaluate impact.</i></p> <p><i>Years 2-3: conduct series of at least 5 modular training exercises on managing the protected sites, each module involving 20-30 participants. (Modules will include enforcement procedures, biodiversity assessment & monitoring, extension & awareness, re-forestation and other forms of habitat restoration, taught by UK trainers). Timing will be linked to other relevant project 'Activities' as appropriate.</i></p>
<i>Awareness raising</i>	<p><i>All years: a total of at least 6 posters (1000 each), brochures (c. 2,000 each) and other materials produced and disseminated. Various national TV and other media broadcasts and news articles, spread across the three years.</i></p> <p><i>Year 2: 'Polillo Biodiversity Conservation Handbook' completed [N.B. this item has been specifically requested by local teacher's; but is also needed for personnel training, local decision-makers, etc]</i></p>
<i>Critical management interventions</i>	<p><i>Years 2-3: develop and agree intervention plans for each protected site, likely to include such measures as establishing indigenous tree nurseries; assisting natural regeneration and enrichment planting; provision of nest boxes; visitor facilities, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Year 3: implement agreed management interventions in at least 3 protected sites.</i></p>
<i>Monitoring & reporting</i>	<p><i>Years 1-3: produce series of biodiversity survey, training reports, site management plans and monitoring reports.</i></p> <p><i>Years 2-3: evaluations of community attitudes and involvement, establish permanent monitoring programmes to monitor key biodiversity components (e.g. bird populations, habitat quality), and threats and impacts (e.g. encroachment, tree-cutting and poaching) in the new protected sites.</i></p>

Annex 3



The Philippines (left) showing main biogeographic divisions; and the Polillo Islands (right) showing location of the 10 currently designated LCAs (c. 11,000 ha) on the main island of Polillo; the (<4) additional LCAs expected to be established this year on Patnanungan and Jomalig Islands are not shown as the requisite surveys are not yet complete and the precise boundaries not yet agreed.