

Executive Summary of 2008

The year 2008 has been challenging but better than last year. Every year brings renewed hopes as the program grows older, the quantity and quality of the output of its goals and objectives get even better and more promising yet encouraging.

The program has taken the program out to the other provincial regions of the country. Two major trainings were conducted for the Highlands and Momase Regions of Papua New Guinea where a total of a 100 plus trainees passed out with certificates in specific field. This is by far the single largest number of participants who have passed out in a single year.

The courses that were run in the Highland and the Momase centers were "Module 3: Protected Area Establishment & Management" and "Module 2: Biodiversity Conservation Policy and Law". It was an opportunity for a lot of Government, NGOs and CBOs from that part of the country to have learned things that are otherwise confined to National Capital District which is the hub of about 97% conservation organizations in PNG. There is now a greater demand from the Highland and Momase Region to bring the rest of the courses to the provincial centers in the regions. The training will be conducted in the New Guinea Island Region in 2009.

During the Module 2 Training Workshop in Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province, a draft Provincial Forestry bill for the Eastern Highlands Province was drafted as part of the training exercise. The Draft Provincial Forestry Bill was accepted by the Eastern Highlands Provincial Government Executive Committee. It is now with the Provincial Governors Official Lawyer to study its content before it can be endorsed, (please log on to the SCCP web site for a copy of the draft bill as well as the training report(s)). This document produced during the training turns out to be a blue print for the Eastern Highland Provincial Government Forestry Bill that would eventually look into Reforestation and Forestry Management issues.

The SCCP run the first training for Module 6: Economic Values of Biodiversity Conservation in Port Moresby. Thou 25 participants were accepted to participate, 13 managed to make it to the training and pass out with certificate. The training discussions were fruitful especially with the issues of mainstream economics as against environmental economics; food security, population and environment, climate change, global warming and of course the carbon trade issues.

Above all the SCCP has completed 4 course modules with individual unique ISBN number. Hopefully each course module will go into publication. The courses have standard structure and layout, supplemented with additional resources materials, practical exercises, power point slides and activities that should eventually be used by universities, collages and senior high schools as well as top primary education institutions in PNG. The SCCP is looking at Two (2) more course module to be completed before the end of the year and should also go into publication. In total, 6 course module text books will be going into publication once funding is available for mass production of those publications.

The feedback forms issues after every training has helped to further improve the content of the course modules. The SCCP is very confident with the outcome of what will be going into publications. The mass publication/production of the courses text books will depend on the availability of funding in 2009 and 2010.

The SCCP in an attempt to run courses in the Niugini Island Region has conducted its pre-visibility studies. Resources centers and coordinating partners have been identified. Financial costing for the training in that part of the region has also been done. The evaluation and assessment for training has been finalized. Hopefully some training will be run in that part of the country.

The SCCP web site has been given a face lift with more detail information, as the course contents have been finalized for publication. Other national reports, news and announcements have also been put on the web site for all stakeholders to have access to. The web site is being continually updated with the latest news and events.

The general SCCP database is still being updated. All SCCP training participants' contacts and details is kept on the Training Participants Database. The Training Participants Database is currently being used to do an assessment and evaluation of the output of the program after the participants have attended the courses. The training assessment is being conducted for courses conducted before April 2008. Basically this is being done to assess the impact the training has on the programs of the trainees once they are back out in the field, practicing for over 6 months to a 1 year period. Additional information collected from the fields is then filtered and tailored to strengthen or further improve the courses contents.

During the year the SCCP has participated in several workshops hosted by partner organization. The SCCP has contributed significantly in some of issues relating to Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas in PNG. Some of them include the;

- Climate Change & PinBIO
- Writing a report on the GIS & Database on Protected Area in PNG
- Participation in the Report on PNG Fisheries, Coastal & Marine Legislation and Policy Gap Analysis Project
- Participation and Mentoring in the drafting of the "The Karimui Conservation & Resources Management Project" 5 Year Strategic Plan. This project is the initiative of one of the constant participant of the SCCP training program.

The official survey and feedback forms for people who have attended the training and are currently practicing out in the field will be sent out by December 2008. Already some of the course participants from the SCCP training program in 2006, 2007 and 2008 have given positive testimonies on the outcome of the training program. Some of the participants have managed to secure funding for their project after attending the Proposal Writing & Fundraising Course. The Karimui Conservation & Resources Management Project is another fruit of the course run by SCCP. Various other have also indicated the same. The SCCP will be officially sending out the standard SCCP Feedback Assessment Form to capture the testimonies of the graduate from the SCCP training program. All the testimonies as well as what has or has not worked well will be compiled early next year. Mitigation measures will be put in place to facilitate all comments and recommendations.

Financially, the SCCP has spent more this year than any other years. This is basically because of a large number of participants who have been trained in various fields this year than any other years. Also, the training this year has been for a duration of 2 weeks unlike the previous years which was for only a week. Cost was inflated also as a result of the training being conducted in other provinces of PNG outside of Port Moresby where the project is usually based. Fair amount of financial resources was put into the collation and editing of the course modules which will be going into the publication. Other costs include transportation

and freight charges for books that were distributed around the country through the training workshops held in other regional centres.

The time factor is an issue that SCCP could never do without. All activities conducted by SCCP have been a race against time. There is never a stress free or relaxing time for the staff working on the program. Few hours a day is not really sufficient given the small amount of work one could possibly accomplish in a day with yet a major project. Despite, the realities, the SCCP can substantiate itself with measurable output. Not too bad for one or two person to undertake in a major program that needs more than commitment from the SCCP program staff(s).

There is never a moment without working under pressured in such a project. I guess the program has developed that resistant rather resilience to go under pressure despite being under pressure. However, money is not the factor for SCCP to consider against time as money can only buy time; once time becomes a determining factor the probably are that there may or may not be tangible output. Therefore, I can confidently without doubt state that the SCCP has achieved so much, beyond the expectations of the initial expectation of the program with the development of 8 fully pledged course module comprising of 51 units with each course modules having an average of 350 pages each besides having to run numerous workshop, yet the program remain buoyant on solid financial basis. As can be seen trainings are being run concurrently as new courses come on board.

Thou the MacArthur funding will surely be running out eventually, there is a possibility that the program will continue since the program has made bigger impact and there is a lot of room to take it on in a much bigger way. Really the SCCP has triggered a lot of excitement and enthusiasm for people and organizations who have been involved or know the program one way or the other. There are requests from people for more training to be conducted in other provincial centers. The existing material's needed to be published and circulated. All feedback from the fields will be collected, assessed, evaluated and drafted into the existing materials.

Lastly but not the least, I am more than happy to say that the SCCP has achieved a lot within the space of 4 years. With only one person working on the program was not any easier. The running or operational costs for the program since 2004 has very low with tangible outputs in the short and long term period.

As always, the SCCP would like to take this opportunity to thank the John D & Catherine T MacArthur Foundation for its generosity and continuous assistant not only in this project but other projects within PNG and the Pacific Region. It is my pleasure as a Project Manager & Coordinator of SCCP to bring to the MacArthur Foundation the "SCCP Narrative & Financial Report for 2008".

Without repeating the highlights of the achievements for the last 4 years which was thoroughly covered in last year's (Please see 2007) Narrative & Financial Report, let me take this opportunity to highlight some of the major achievements and events in 2008.

Despite the program being extended from the initial Project phase of 3 years starting in 2004 to February 2009 with a no-cost extension beginning 2007; 2008 has proven to be yet another fruitful year. Thou the SCCP had a tight time frame to implement the project with limited amount of funding left in 2008, the time factor was not considered in the expenditures

of 2008 spending. A lot of financial costs have been saved from very wise spending. If the time factor was brought into the picture, cost cutting measures would not have been an optional.

Even though most of the funding has been well spent on what it was supposed to cover, cheaper and less costly options taken in selected budgetary allocation has resulted in the SCCP being able to keep itself afloat in 2008 financial year and at least for a while in 2009. The SCCP anticipates on using most of what is left in publishing some of the course modules as well as running few more training before the MacArthur Funding runs out hopefully in late 2009 or early 2010.

This time it seems definite that the SCCP will be doing fund raising before the end of this year to publish most if not all course module on a large scale. The training has been extended to other provincial regions and would greatly intensify in the year 2009 and beyond. This means more funding will be needed to be secure to supplement the 2009 financial year apart from the original budget that will be fully utilized to implement the program which is reaching a gigantic proportion in what has been perceived to be small at the infant phase.

The SCCP being a major project with less than 2 persons to fully implement the program has been challenging as always but the positive and rewarding results has given the program staff's the strength, courage and the resilience to push on with the program. With some of the very committed Papua New Guineans and resources persons, the SCCP has reached a mile stone by training over 113 participants in various course modules in 2008, the single largest number of trainees in any given year. To date well over 220 people have passed out with certificates in several sort courses. It is also encouraging to see the University of PNG especially the School of Natural & Physical Sciences use the material developed or generated by the project to enhance some of its existing courses. Moreover, a lot of NGOs in PNG are using the information to their advantage as well.

Though the SCCP had some set back in 1 or 2 course modules, I am more than pleased to announce that the program has produced 80 % of the course materials that are exceptionally professional and can be readily published by reputable publishing companies for use by targeted stakeholders which includes, NGOs, universities, colleges and senior high school students. Some of the publications come with field guides that can be used by any ordinary literate person in a village setting. All of the publication can even be sold by bookshops around the country.

Apart from the SCCP initial mission, the program has contributed positively in other program areas through meetings, workshops and mentoring program in association with some of its partner organizations.

The SCCP has also redistributed relevant information materials and publications from Government and NGOs to educational institutions, information resources centers, community based organization as well as government departments through the training outreach activity. This is so because SCCP does not want to reinvent the wheels since some of the information on biodiversity and conservation issues already exist but do not usually get out to the target people yet collect dust in some corner of a government or NGO building. While this is so the SCCP has further managed to bridge the gap between existing and emerging issues.

We have had request from the University of South Pacific, Suva, Fiji to use our course materials. We also had requests from the Solomon Islands to run similar trainings. Various people have requested for us to offer the course through the University Centers of Distant Correspondence Mode (External Studies). Though the SCCP would like to do as per the requests, all the course modules are yet to be officially published before the SCCP could fundraise to look at other emerging issues as such. Moreover, numerous other people have commented positively in the information put up by SCCP on its official web site. These are some of the major indicators of how the SCCP has really made an impact and why the people and organizations would like to see the Program move on.

On behalf of the SCCP and its management group, I take this opportunity to once again thank the Funding Agency, The John D & Catherine T MacArthur Foundation, other organization involved and the great people whom the program was fortunate to have associated with over the years.

Though the results of this program cannot be physically measured, I am more than confident to assure the funding agency as well as all the stakeholders that the knowledge imparted through the training program as well as the training materials generated so far has actually translated to more, textbooks being written on Biodiversity Conservation, Protected Areas being created, existing Protected Areas being improved, Educational Institutions being enhanced or empowered with up to date information, and of course conservationist have a sound and good knowledge on biodiversity conservation and environmental issues.

Let me take this opportunity to farewell and thank Professor Lance Hill who leaves the University of PNG at the end of 2008. Professor Hill is part of the SCCP Project Management Group and is the on site mentor of the Program. He leaves behind a legacy. Let me take this opportunity also to well come Dr. John Duguman who will resume the duties of Professor Lance Hill as the onsite mentor for the SCCP at the University of PNG.

Over all, I am more than satisfied with every ones performance this year. I look forward to working closely with you all in 2009. Together we can move another mile or maybe more.



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