

**Funding Source:**

Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) – 46%, CDO HMPC – 54%.

Program:

Enterprise Challenge Fund for the Pacific & South East Asia

Project Name:

Expansion of Abaca supply sourcing and the handmade paper manufacturing facilities of Cagayan de Oro Handmade Paper Crafts

Project Location:

Cagayan de Oro City, and Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon Provinces in the Philippines

Project Start Date:

October 2008

Project End Date:

September 2011

Total Grant Funding Approved:

A\$346,130

Cagayan de Oro Handmade Paper Crafts

THE PROJECT AND HOW IT WORKS

The Cagayan de Oro Handmade Paper Craft Company (CDO HMPC) was started by Lolita B. Cabanlet 14 years ago when she started making paper with a blender in her kitchen. Today, the company is exporting its products to markets around the world. Their vision combines the entrepreneurial endeavours of the Cabanlets with the desire to assist unemployed and underprivileged members of the community.

While CDO HMPC, the lead organisation, will focus on production and marketing, other consortium partners will be involved. The Minibay Higaunon Tribal Cooperative and Land Care Foundation of the Philippines will be responsible for plantation establishment and Mindanao Socio-Economic Development Foundation will arrange training/capacity building and poverty alleviation projects.

The project has three main components:

1. To increase incomes of the Indigenous Peoples (the Higaunon Tribe) of Claveria, Misamis, Oriental and Malitbog, Bukidnon by sourcing abaca fibres from their lands and fostering export of abaca fibre and abaca based products.
2. To expand handmade paper manufacturing and craft making facilities of Cagayan de Oro Handmade Paper Crafts
3. To contribute to the capacity building, training and poverty alleviation of the local communities.

The project will develop the abaca industry in areas more accessible to Cagayan de Oro City. It will engage over 900 families that have grown abaca but cannot sell their products due to poor transportation links between their villages and Cagayan de Oro City.

BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

The anticipated benefits of this project include:

- Providing a new market opportunity for over 900 families, with flow on benefits to the wider community.
- Improving business conditions for the 900 families by enabling them to sell their produce direct to the manufacturer.
- Increased direct fulltime employment for 80 papermakers (40 males / 40 females).
- Increased number of home-based workers and full-time employees in manager and supervisor positions.
- Creation of additional small businesses involving abaca pulping, abaca weaving, natural dye production, accessory making, master box making and cargo forwarding
- Improved transportation to Cagayan de Oro City for the abaca products.

THE ROLE OF ECF FUNDING SUPPORT

The Cagayan de Oro Handmade Paper Craft Company has an ongoing commitment to manage the supply chain, from sourcing the raw material to marketing the finished products using natural and sustainable methods, supported by capacity building and training of their human resources. With the support of the ECF this company will be able to expand their socially responsible business to capture new market opportunities. This will bring increased profits to the company and livelihood benefits to Indigenous and other people in the region.



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