



## Community-Based Forest Management

### Philippines - Community Forestry, Social Forestry

**Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) refers to the organized efforts to work with communities in and near public forest lands with the intent to protect, rehabilitate, manage, conserve, and utilize the resource in partnership with the LGUs and other stakeholders.**

**Aim/objectives:** The objectives of the CBFM are the following: to develop, protect, conserve and utilize forestlands through sustainable forest management practices; to generate additional income for forest communities towards poverty reduction and hunger mitigation in the uplands; to promote equity through the provision of long term land tenure security and access to forest resources through issuance of CBFM agreements and certificate of stewardship; and to enhance the capacity of CBFM agreement holders as climate-resilient forest land resources managers.

**Methods:** The methods involved in the approach include agroforestry, plantation establishment, enrichment planting, forest protection and conservation of existing forests. Agroforestry is the combination of forest trees, fruit trees and annual crops including livestock in the same piece of land. Plantation establishment is growing of forest trees in degraded grassland areas. Part of the enrichment planting is growing of rattan 'littuko', fruit trees, and indigenous species (dipterocarp, etc) along with existing trees in the area to improve forest cover and species diversification.

**Stages of implementation:** The project of CBFM in Nueva Vizcaya was initiated in 1998 and ended in 2002. The stages of implementation started with the preparatory stage, then the people's organization formation and issuance of tenure instrument. It was followed by the planning stage, implementation stage then the monitoring, assessment and reporting stage.

**Role of stakeholders:** The stakeholders in the approach are the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Community or the Peoples' Organization (PO), Local Government Unit (LGU), Non-government organizations, other government agencies, academe, private sector and donor institution. DENR provided the funding support in the implementation of CBFM, twenty five(25) years security of tenure renewable for another 25 years to qualified organization of forest occupant in the management of forestlands thru CBFM agreement, provision of technical assistance, formulation of guidelines, monitoring and evaluation. The POs serve as managers of the forestlands allocated to them through CBFM agreement. They are responsible in the development, protection, and maintenance of the area. The LGU provides support to communities in the implementation of CBFM within its jurisdiction.

**left:** Overview of the Approach (Photo: Baldwin Morales Pine)

**right:** Indigenous trees planted in the CBFM area. (Photo: Engr. Evangeline F. Dacumos)

Location: Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya  
Approach area: 30.00 km<sup>2</sup>

Type of Approach: project/programme based

Focus: mainly on conservation with other activities

WOCAT database reference: A\_PHI007en

Related technology(ies): Littuko growing for forest enhancement (T\_PHI047en), Multi-Storey Cropping Technology (T\_PHI053en)

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## Problem, objectives and constraints

### Problems




Forestland degradation, low productivity, poverty, food insecurity, land tenure insecurity, decreasing wood supply and climate change

### Aims/Objectives

The main objectives of the approach focused on the economic, social and environmental aspect to increase income and standard of living, to develop the capacity of the communities to sustain and manage the forestlands and resources, to promote social justice through security of tenure, use rights, and to reclaim or rehabilitate degraded lands and sustain its productivity.

Constraints addressed		
	Constraint	Treatment
social / cultural / religious	Lack of unity among three associations (Kalongkong, Kakilingan, and Vista Hills farmers Associations)	The three farmers association were organized into Federation of Vista Hills, Kalongkong and Kakilingan Upland Farmers, Inc., using CBFM as entry point.
financial	Lack of funds to develop the degraded grasslands.	The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) provided financial support for plantation establishment experiment and for developing the area through CBFM.
institutional	Limited institutional support	The Buenavista Upland Development Advisory Council, with representatives from DENR, Community, DA, LGU, Academe, NCIP, and DPWH was formed and assisted in the implementation of CBFM in Buenavista, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya.
legal / land use and / water rights	The community has no security of tenure over the 3,000 hectare area.	Through CBFM, the Federation of Vista Hills, Kalongkong and Kakilingan was awarded with CBFM Agreement to manage the area for 25 years, renewable for another 25 years .
technical	Lack of technical assistance on CBFM implementation	Through CBFM, training and technical support were provided by DENR and other service providers.
workload	The development and protection of the area is fragmented.	It became holistic through the Federation under CBFM.
other	Before, forest fire was a common occurrence in the area.	Through people's participation, the Federation was able to reduce or control occurrence of forest fires in the area.

## Participation and decision making

Stakeholders / target groups	Approach costs met by:
 SLM specialists / agricultural advisors	international (ITTO-Yokado Co., Japan; Government of Japan; USA; Australia and Republic of Korea)
 teachers / school children / students	
 land users, groups	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>
Annual budget for SLM component: US\$ 100,000-1,000,000	

**Decisions on choice of the Technology(ies)** mainly by land users supported by SLM specialists

**Decisions on method of implementing the Technology(ies):** mainly by SLM specialists with consultation of land users

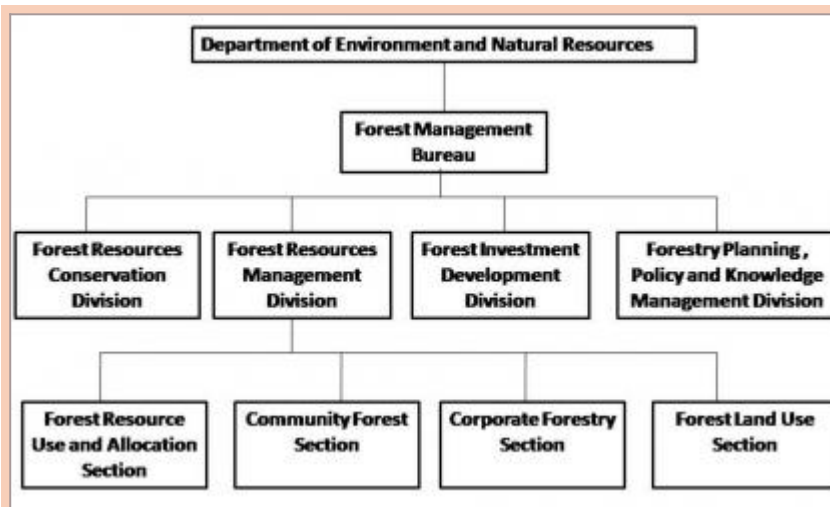
**Approach designed by:** national specialists

**Implementing bodies:** international (International Tropical Timber Organization), government (Department of Environment and Natural Resources), local community / land users (Federation of Vista Hills, Kalongkong, and Kakilingan Upland Farmers Inc.), local government (district, county, municipality, village etc) (Province of Nueva Vizcaya, Municipality of Bayombong, Barangay Buenavista LGUs)

Land user involvement		
Phase	Involvement	Activities
Initiation/motivation	Interactive	Community Organizing Training, Orientation about CBFM, Community Mapping
Planning	Interactive	Agroforestry and Farm Planning, Planning and Management of Community Enterprise, Formulation and Preparation of Community Resources Management Framework (CRMF), Farm Planning and Agroforestry Development
Implementation	Interactive	Livelihood training such as dressmaking, fossilized flower, agroforestry and soil and water conservation (SWC) technologies
Monitoring/evaluation	Interactive	Environmental Performance Monitoring, Project Development and Management, Project Accounting and Reporting System
Research	Interactive	

**Differences between participation of men and women:** No

**Involvement of disadvantaged groups:** Yes, moderate  
CBFM involves the women, youth, senior citizen and indigenous people.



**Organogram:** Organizational structure of the Forest Management Bureau at the National Level Showing the location of the community forestry section where CBFM is the major concern (DENR-FMB) (For. Isabelita V. Austria)

## Technical support

### Training / awareness raising:

Training provided for land user, field staff/agricultural advisor  
Training was on-the-job, demonstration areas, workshops, site visits / farmer to farmer

### Advisory service:

Name: Technical Assistance

Key elements:

1. Community Organization
2. Agroforestry
3. Plantation Establishment and Forest Protection

The extension system is quite adequate to ensure continuation of activities.

### Research:

Yes, little research. Topics covered include technology, economics / marketing, ecology  
Mostly on-farm research.

Done by the Nueva Vizcaya State University (NVSU) and the DENR-ITTO CBFM Project, Doctorate students from Nepal and Myanmar and Masteral students from DENR.

## External material support / subsidies

**Contribution per area (state/private sector):** Yes. Financial support during the initial stage of CBFM implementation

**Labour:** Voluntary, paid in cash.

### Inputs:

- Agricultural (seeds, fertilizers, etc): seedlings. Partly financed

**Credit:** Credit was not available

**Support to local institutions:** Yes, little support with financial, training, equipment  
Fire fighting tools

## Monitoring and evaluation

Monitored aspects	Methods and indicators
technical	Ad hoc measurements
socio-cultural	Ad hoc measurements by government
area treated	Ad hoc measurements by government, land users
no. of land users involved	Regular measurements by land users: Number of members in the PO
bio-physical	observations by government, land users: Mapping of planted materials in terms of hectarage
technical	observations by government: Evaluation of the effects five years after giving assistance

### Changes as result of monitoring and evaluation:

There were few changes in the approach. More focused on the importance of enterprise and forest protection. Incorporation of more native species in the plantation. Strengthening of PO Federation.

There were few changes in the technology. More enrichment planting of indigenous species.

## Impacts of the Approach

**Improved sustainable land management:** Yes, moderate; Significant increase in forest cover through rehabilitation of grasslands to forest plantation. Enhanced natural regeneration through effective forest protection, enrichment planting of dipterocarp species, rattan, and multi-storey agroforestry development.

**Adoption by other land users / projects:** Yes, many; There are 1,884 communities implementing the CBFM approach nationwide. In the case of Brgy. Buenavista, its neighboring barangay Busilac have started to adopt the CBFM approach.

**Improved livelihoods / human well-being:** Yes, moderate; According to the study conducted by the DENR-Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), an increase in income by CBFM beneficiaries was realized.

**Improved situation of disadvantaged groups:** Yes, moderate; They were made stewards of forestlands for 25 years, renewable for another 25 years. Also, they were granted use rights and more than 50% of the Peoples' Organization are with active registration and qualified to enter into livelihood development contract with the DENR thru National Greening Program (NGP) and CBFM-CARP.

**Poverty alleviation:** Yes, moderate; Through income derived from wood, agroforestry products, employment or job generation.

### Training, advisory service and research:

- Training effectiveness  
Land users\*: good  
SLM specialists: good
- Advisory service effectiveness  
Politicians / decision makers: fair  
Land users\*: fair
- Research contributing to the approach`s effectiveness: Moderately

### Land/water use rights:

Help - greatly in the implementation of the approach. The security of tenure (CBFM Agreement) provides long-term (50 years) stewardship and resource use rights based on approved strategic plan. The approach did reduce the land/water use rights problem (greatly). It provided security of tenure that encourages long-term investments by community.

### Long-term impact of subsidies:

Positive long-term impact: Greatly

Negative long-term impact: Low

Subsidies like free seedlings, technical support and training, community organizing support, material assistance are important especially during the early years of CBFM implementation.

## Concluding statements

### Main motivation of land users to implement SLM:

Production

Increased profit(ability), improve cost-benefit-ratio

Environmental consciousness, moral, health

Well-being and livelihoods improvement

Aesthetic

Community organizing and development

### Sustainability of activities:

Yes the land users can sustain the approach activities without support.

The CBFM project at Barangay Buenavista, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya had financial support from the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the DENR from 1998-2002. It was then turned-over to the Federation of Vista Hills, Kalongkong, and Kakilingan. Thereafter, the CBFM area has improved significantly in terms of forest cover, biodiversity and organizational capacity. The Federation is the manager of the forestland and its resources with the LGU and DENR providing monitoring technical support; minimal and limited financial assistance through the NGP and CBFM-CARP.

### Strengths and → how to sustain/improve

Secured tenure → Issue more CBFM agreement (CBFMA) to qualified forest occupants near or within degraded forestlands.

Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP) of upland communities including indigenous people. → Documentation of these IKSP and sharing it with other communities in the upland.

Multi-benefits from multi-storey and agroforestry practices. → Conduct more research towards evidence-based CBFM technologies and practices.

### Weaknesses and → how to overcome

Poor financial management, record keeping by the POs, and members. → Enhance training of CBFM farmers in simple accounting, record keeping and auditing.

Limited market access for CBFM products. → Develop market information systems to improve bargaining power of communities. Encourage value adding and primary processing.



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