

**EnterpriseWorks Worldwide (EWW)
EnterpriseWorks Worldwide Philippines (EWW/P)
and
Region 2 and Palawan Federations of CBFM People's Organizations**

***In Situ Biodiversity at Two Sites in the Philippines*
“Capacity Building for Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM)”**



Project Period October 2001 – September 2008

**Global Conservation Program (GCP) – USAID
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**EnterpriseWorks Worldwide
1828 L Street, N.W.
Suite 1000
Washington D.C. 20036
U.S.A.
Contact: Ann Koontz
annkoontz@aol.com**

**EnterpriseWorks Worldwide/Philippines
7E Vernida 1 Bldg., 120 Armosolo St.
Legazpi Village, Makati City, Philippines
Contact: Susan Naval, Program Officer**

Introduction

The “Capacity Building for the Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) Project” in the Philippines is implemented by EnterpriseWorks Worldwide (EWW). The project was amended in 2003 to extend the project period until September 2008 and add/expand activities to better address the threats to biodiversity. A more explicit learning component was also added. The goal of the project is to:

- 1) Bring 300,000 hectares under effective management (up from 225,000) in Region 2 and Palawan already in the Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) Program - a national land tenure program administered by the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources - DENR. The CBFM program allows communities to gain tenure to an area of old growth, secondary, and/or denuded forest. CBFM agreements give communities a mix of opportunities (limited extraction in secondary forests and rehabilitation rights in denuded areas) and responsibilities (protection of old growth areas).
- 2) Build a sustainable mechanism within the CBFM province level federations for providing CBFM resource management services that conserve biodiversity while providing for sustainable economic activities. In each province approximately 25 to 35 CBFM agreements have been awarded to communities. These groups are federated in order to more effectively interact with the government and leverage opportunities for effective forest management.
- 3) Link the CBFM groups to government, NGOs, and other efforts in adjacent non-CBFM forest areas to conserve and protect the overall forest biodiversity regardless of tenure classification.

The Philippines is a priority region for biodiversity conservation under the hotspots approach. The Philippines has evolved fauna and flora with high levels of endemism, due in part to its biogeographical isolation and fragmentation into 7,100 islands. Sadly, in the past fifty years, two thirds of the forest has been cleared (Myers 1988, Myers 1990, Mittermeier et al 1998). Some of the most intact remaining forest ecosystems are in Palawan and the Sierra Madre biodiversity corridor that runs through Region 2. This project targets CBFM sites in Palawan and the Sierra Madre biodiversity corridor that run through Quirino, Cagayan and Isabela, as well as forests in Nueva Viscaya. In these sites, forest under community control is significant. For example, of the 2,137,151 hectares of biodiversity rich forestland found in the Sierra Madre (Cagayan, Isabela) and Palawan, 371,915 hectares (17%) are under CBFM management. In addition, the CBFM sites often are adjacent to government forests and under-guarded protected areas. The communities act as a buffer or first warning for illegal forest activities.

Progress on Year Three Work Plan

Overall the project made good progress in year three with the majority of activities on track or completed. Federation and task force activities made good progress with tangible experiences that the groups are gaining capacity to counter the threats to biodiversity (see success stories). Several activities, especially under objective 3 were delayed and are being reassessed. These include the gmelina subsector study and piloting of production and processing improvements. The gmelina subsector was started but data from three primary sites indicated there were not sufficient quality supplies of gmelina to pursue further study or conduct pilot. Another product will be substituted and this activity done in 2005. The new learning component was also delayed. Some data has been collected, but complete data collection, analysis and documentation will be done in 2005. Table 1 gives an overview by each objective and activity and Table 2 summarizes the major activities and accomplishments vis-à-vis the project’s goals and objectives. Details are available

on each activity including number of trainings held, number of participants, and specific outputs upon request.

Table 1 – Activity Status for Year Three

Activity Number	Activity Title	Status*
Objective 1 – Improve the Federations’ abilities to provide sustainable services to their members in forest resource use planning and management through improved coordination with government, NGOs, and private industry.		
1.a	Institutionalize the Multi-Sector Task Forces in Region 2	Mixed
1.b	Continue training programs in Region 2 for Multi-Sector Task Forces	Completed
1.c	Continue training programs in Palawan for Multi-Sector Task Forces	Completed
1.d	Continue coordination with Conservation International (CI) and Eco-Governance Program for project integration; Hold investment forums.	Completed
Objective 2 – Develop Federations’ capacity to administer biological monitoring and meet legal compliance with forestry regulations.		
2.a	Clarify and mark at the ground level CBFM boundaries and gain clarity between communities and DENR officials on boundaries and encroachment enforcement procedures	Completed
2.b	Assess Individual Property Rights (IPR) within CBFM agreements and timber replanting and agroforestry options to increase forest cover and provide additional income that will decrease the need to over harvest or poach plant and animal species	Mixed
2.c	Initiate replanting programs with at least one federation	Completed
2.d	Continue to work for streamlining of CBFM requirements and more transparent and uniform understanding and application	Completed
Objective 3 – Transfer resource management tools and strategies to Federations - developed under proven conservation programs - for articulating and integrating threat abatement strategies into resource management and economic development activities.		
3.a	Conduct 1 sub sector study for Gmelina and consolidate select CBFM enterprise activities to gain efficiencies	Delayed
3.b	Pilot one set of production and processing improvements (kiln drying) to serve as examples for the federations.	Delayed
3.c	Explore fire prevention and control strategies with CBFM federations and local government units	Completed
3.d	Continue Training Programs for Federations and Select CBFM groups	Completed
Objective 4 – Conduct monitoring, adaptive management and learning		
4.a	Continue biological assessment (including threats reduction tool) and monitoring in Palawan and Region 2	Completed
4.b	Affirmation/Approval of CBFM paperwork requirements	Completed
4.c	Document progress of CBFM POs gaining improved and effective management status	Completed
4.d	Initiate new learning component in project	Delayed

*Status may include activities that are Completed, On-track, Delayed, Mixed Performance, or Canceled.

**Table 2 – Year Three Goal and Objectives Vis-à-vis Major Accomplishments
Highlights – October 1, 2003 through September 20, 2004**

Year Three Goal Movement Toward Effective Management	Year Three Achieved Movement Toward Effective Management
200,000 hectares (cumulative) within 5 Federations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal exceeded; 252,999.22 hectares in 93 community based forest management sites within 5 federations of Region 2 and Palawan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 53,777.60 hectares covering 28 sites in Quirino ▪ 78,942.84 hectares covering 16 sites in Cagayan ▪ 43,672.18 hectares covering 15 sites in Isabela ▪ 3,563.48 hectares covering 3 sites in Nueva Vizcaya ▪ 73,043.12 hectares covering 31 sites in Palawan
Year Two Objectives	Major Accomplishments
Objective 1 – Improve the Federations’ abilities to provide sustainable services to their members in forest resource use planning and management through improved coordination with government, NGOs and private industry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued to institutionalize the multi-sector task forces. The community based forest management (CBFM) federations participated in 4 provincial groups and 1 regional multi-sector group (also known as task forces or technical working groups). Continued coordination with Conservation International (CI) and Eco-Governance Program. Key activities included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EWW co-convened with 4 other NGOs (including CI) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) the 2nd Sierra Madre Biodiversity Corridor Annual Stakeholders Conference, participated in by 100 stakeholders from 4 Regions to better coordinate biodiversity conservation efforts. ▪ Region 2 Task Force participated in reviewing the national policies on strengthening the implementation of the CBFM program and production sharing within CBFM sites. ▪ Conducted dialogues between the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSDDS), the Palawan CBFM Federation and Technical Working Group to resolve issue of inclusion of cores zone within CBFM areas as protection forests/areas. (See success story) ▪ Quirino Federation officers participated in the evaluation of existing land-uses within a provincial watershed area initiated by the Task Force for monitoring purposes and participated in the formulation of a Municipal Land Use Plan initiated by the Municipal government that includes 6 CBFM sites and 1 certificate of ancestral domain claim (CADC) site. ▪ Linked federations with EcoGovernance small grants programs and participation in Investment Forums (forums brought 34 investors together with CBFM groups to explore investment opportunities in enterprise compatible with sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation). • Working with the government, NGOs and private sector stakeholders leveraged support for the federations which enabled them to provide services to their members (i.e. community based forest management groups): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Two Provincial Federations availed of grants and implemented projects from the Eco Governance Small Grants Program for capability-building and agroforestry activities (P500,000 for Nueva Vizcaya, P910,175. for Quirino). Increased funds leveraging by 22% which included increases from CBFM groups and funding commitments to the groups from local government agencies. For example, the Quirino federation, QSEED, committed Php261,320 (29%) as counterpart in project implementation to their EcoGovernance grant, while the various agencies in Quirino have

	<p>also pledged Php207,500 (23%). Actual contributions exceeded this with QSEED contributing Php329,720 (36%) and the agencies' contributing Php538,316.50 (59%).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Six projects packaged for Region 2 CBFM groups and federations and submitted to 3 investors; 2 are in final review. ▪ Three physical offices established for the Quirino federation, Nueva Vizcaya federation and Region 2 regional federation located in Quirino. A Task Force member donated the use of the office space. ▪ Three municipal orientations on CBFM and environment and natural resources policies held in Quirino for 22 CBFM sites and one orientation held in Nueva Vizcaya for 5 CBFM sites. ▪ Participation of the Region 2 federations in the Natural Resource Based Conflicts in the Philippines Workshop sponsored by USAID. EWW presented the forestry conflict paper. ▪ Formation of a new Region 2 federation (to replace the inactive one) to represent CBFM groups in regional and national audiences and formation of a Provincial Federation for CBFM groups in Nueva Vizcaya that is now part of the Region 2 federation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned trainings on organizational, resource and financial management completed for the task forces and federations. Examples follow. A complete list of trainings held is available upon request. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conducted GPS hands-on training for Panay State University forestry students who held their practicum in Palawan. ▪ Palawan Federation participated in the Training Needs Assessment for the CBFM groups to enhance the implementation of CBFM Program in the Philippines (a project sponsored by the DENR-JICA).
<p>Objective 2 – Develop Federations' capacity to administer biological monitoring and meet legal compliance with forestry regulations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarified and marked CBFM boundaries and completed land use and resource inventories to gain clarity between communities and government officials that is leading to more coordinated abatement of threats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land Use Planning and Validation completed for 6 sites in Region 2 ▪ Boundary demarcation completed for 1 site in Cagayan and 6 CBFM areas in Palawan. ▪ Resource inventory done for 2 sites in Region 2. ▪ Region 2 and Palawan federations participated in the policy review for the Philippine Code of Harvesting in CBFM areas. • Initial assessment of individual property rights (IPR) feature within the CBFM agreements completed. Discussions on the requirements for a IPR MOA undertaken in 1 site in Region 2. • Agroforestry model sites established in Region 2 and Palawan (communal nursery, green-break establishment for fire prevention, out-planting of fruit trees, perennial and commercial tree species). • Establishment of 25 hectares of enrichment planting with 1 certificate of ancestral domain claim (CADC) group using indigenous forest species. • Federation Manual on Organizational and Accounting Policies published and adopted in Quirino province. This will be used as a model to support greater streamlining, consistency, and accountability in CBFM reporting and resource management.
<p>Objective 3 – Transfer resource management tools and strategies to Federations – developed under proven conservation programs –</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data on gmelina plantations in Region 2 was compiled from 3 sites. This was the first step in the planned gmelina subsector study. It was found their was not sufficient quantities of gmelina in the quality required to warrant further subsector work and piloting of production and processing improvements for gmelina. These activities (subsector study and piloting) were therefore delayed and another product will be prioritized.

for articulating and integrating threat abatement strategies into resource management and economic development activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community maps prepared for 7 sites in Region 2 and 6 sites in Palawan. • Fire prevention strategies incorporated into management plans of 4 sites. • Established contour farming, hedgerow and green-breaks in 1 site in Cagayan • Planned trainings on organizational, resource and financial management completed for the 5 Federations and selected member CBFM groups. Complete list of trainings held available upon request.
Objective 4 – Conduct monitoring, adaptive management and learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threats assessments done in 12 sites in Region 2 and 6 sites in Palawan. Threat monitoring and abatement strategies incorporated into 6 community resource management frameworks (CRMFs). • Comprehensive evaluations of the CBFM program implementation conducted for 17 sites in Cagayan and Isabela by the Region 2 Multi-Sectoral Task Force. • Community resource management frameworks (CRMFs) prepared for 5 sites in Region 2 with 3 affirmed, 1 under public consultation and 1 drafted; 2 prepared in Palawan; 1 CRMF revisited in Nueva Vizcaya. • Formulated annual work plans as required under the CBFM program for 1 site in Cagayan and 2 sites in Palawan. • Biological threats monitoring undertaken in 2 sites in Region 2 and 6 sites in Palawan. Biological Monitoring System Manual for CBFM sites drafted. • Initiated data collection for new learning component of project, but analysis postponed/delayed until year four.

Success Stories

First Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN) Ground Validation Activity Conducted for Two CBFM Sites in Bgy. Caruray, San Vicente Palawan

Continuing Progress in Reconciling Palawan’s Strategic Environmental Plan and the Agencies that Have Overlapping Jurisdiction

The STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN (SEP law) for PALAWAN, also known as Republic Act 7611 was signed by President Corazon C. Aquino on June 19, 1992. This law was formulated to address the environmental threats faced by Palawan and for the protection, preservation and sustainable management of its natural resources. Through RA 7611, the PALAWAN COUNCIL for SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (PCSD) was then created to facilitate, manage, set policy and direction in implementing the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) Law. The ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS NETWORK (ECAN) became the main strategy in implementing the SEP law for Palawan.

The use of Environmentally Critical Areas Network zoning (ECAN maps), developed by a Japanese funded project, became the basis for the development the entire Province of Palawan according to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD). Palawan is unique in the Philippines in that there are two government bodies that address environment issues, PCSD and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Prior to reactivation of the Palawan Provincial CBFM Technical Working

Group by EnterpriseWorks, the DENR and PCSD coordination was sporadic. Lack of coordination has meant havoc for the CBFM program. Numerous CBFM areas were awarded to groups by the DENR without consulting the ECAN maps and the ECAN process did not take into account local inhabitants (e.g. tribal groups) when zoning the land. Most of the CBFM areas are affected by the ECAN maps that indicate core zones (i.e. no touch zones) within their areas.

Following the ECAN guidelines, CBFM areas that have core zones must be protected and should not be touched or should be excluded from the total area awarded to the group. The community groups argue that they have been protecting the core zones and if handed back to PCSD, who has minimal guarding capacity, outsiders may destroy the forest. The communities also argue that the satellite images used to prepare the maps are sometimes not correct when it comes to interpretation of the images or the vegetation on the ground. For example some areas have been color coded core (protected), but are actually logged over areas or plantations. The ECAN map process did not go out and find out who has been living in the area and core zones also include tribal groups that have been there for centuries. Through the Palawan Provincial CBFM Technical Working Group (TWG), the ECAN map mandate that PCSD follows and the CBFM program that DENR implements are seeking rationalization.

Before EnterpriseWorks' interventions there was no effort from the two agencies to sit down together and talk about the concerns of the CBFM groups regarding the implementation of CBFM program and conservation of core (protected) areas. The creation of the Palawan Provincial CBFM Technical Working Group (TWG), which PCSD and DENR are both members, provides a venue for discussion of the CBFM groups' problems. The Technical Working Group (TWG) together with the Palawan CBFM Federation made an effort to have a dialogue with the Executive Director of PCSD to discuss the issue of pending CBFM clearance applications submitted since January 2003 by four (4) CBFM holders. The dialogue was conducted last December 2003 with an agreement to have these CBFM areas ground validated to determine their existing land uses in comparison to the ECAN map.

The ground validation of the two CBFM sites (Gintong Ani & Caruray Multi-Purpose Cooperative) in the Municipality of San Vicente happened July 29 to August 1, 2004. **This is the first CBFM ECAN validation activity** conducted. But, more importantly was the multi-stakeholder participation from PCSD, DENR, Provincial officials, EnterpriseWorks and the CBFM groups in the validation activity. The data gathered by the team was submitted and interpreted by PCSD Geographic Information System (GIS) Department. The revised ECAN map now accurately reflects the zoning on the ground and the same methodologies will be applied for ground validating other CBFM areas in the future. More constructive working relationships among the main actors on Palawan who have the responsibility to protect the islands unique biodiversity should allow for more effective and coordinated abatement of threats.

Educating CBFM Groups on Their Rights and Boundaries Allows Group to Counter Illegal Logging

Assistance to Samahang Magsasaka ng Sta. Lourdes Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SMSLMPC) on CBFM Forest Protection Program

EnterpriseWorks assists CBFM Groups in formulating their required Community Resource Management Framework (CRMF). Part of the formulation is the ground validation of CBFM areas to assess present land uses, threats and resources of the area. The Samahang Magsasaka ng Sta. Lourdes Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SMSLMPC), a CBFM group and also a member of the Palawan CBFM Federation, requested assistance from EnterpriseWorks in the ground validation of their awarded area.

The ground survey was conducted last October 2003 with a Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) representative and CBFM group participants. After the survey was conducted, the CBFM group became aware of their boundaries and threats that could hamper the implementation of the CBFM program. Threats in the area included human encroachment for home and farm expansion and illegal extraction of natural resources (mainly timber). Though the CBFM group had identified these threats, they did not have the means to legally address the problem on their own. One of the main concerns of the CBFM group is the Spring Valley Institute (SVI) that bought contiguous tracts of land near the CBFM site and has been building structures in the area without corresponding permits. Spring Valley Institute (SVI) does not recognize the CBFM program being implemented in the area and started encroaching on forest land and illegal logging in the CBFM area.

The CBFM group was confused on how to address the problem and approached the Palawan CBFM Federation and EnterpriseWorks on what strategies and procedures they could apply to counter the conflict. EWW advised the CBFM group to submit a resolution to all concerned government agencies (DENR, PCSD, Provincial government, City Government, etc.) requesting a site inspection and investigation on any possible violation committed by Spring Valley Institute (SVI) under government laws and policies. An investigation was launched and the violations were found to be true. In addition, on November 19, 2003, an estimated of 1,632 board feet of illegally fresh cut lumber were apprehended by DENR personnel from Barangay officials and SVI. The CBFM group immediately informed EnterpriseWorks of the incident and asked EnterpriseWorks to be part of the team that would haul the lumber from SVI. The CBFM group worried that local authorities would collude with SVI and the case would be “excused”. The lumber was properly confiscated, hauled and put in the custody of the City Government for proper filing of a legal case.

Together with the local environmental law NGO (ELAC), EnterpriseWorks facilitated the filing of a legal case for the apprehended lumber with DENR as complainant. Forester Allan Abrea of EnterpriseWorks executed an affidavit as witness to the incident. Then on April 26, 2004 a warrant of arrest was issued by the court for Mr. Samuel Casel of

SVI as charged with the crime of violating Sec. 77 of P.D 705 as amended by E.O No. 277 (illegal logging). The court case is now pending.

The intervention of EnterpriseWorks through the Community Resource Management Framework (CRMF) formulation and ground delimitation increased the level of awareness of the CBFM group on forest protection. The organization of the CBFM Palawan Federation and the Palawan Provincial CBFM Technical Working Group meant the CBFM group had an organized venue they could approach with multiple sympathetic stakeholders. In the past, a CBFM group's only recourse would have been to approach a local official who may or may not take action to file a case. Complaints could be dismissed by claiming the violators were not really on CBFM land and/or with a payoff since there were not organized bodies to approach for advocating the CBFM group's complaints. This dynamic has now changed.

It is essential for the CBFM groups to know their boundaries on the ground, be able to determine proper management strategies especially in dealing with existing threats in the CBFM area, and have a venue to file claims. The CBFM groups became empowered with EnterpriseWorks capacitating support and by using linkages to bring other stakeholders together to take the necessary legal action.