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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)”  
LAG-A-00-99-00052-00**



**Project Period October 2001 – September 2008**

**Global Conservation Program (GCP) – USAID  
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## **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 Four Work Plan**

In FY 2005, the fourth year of the project, most of the planned activities are on track or completed. Federation members have updated and formulated their long-term management plans in compliance with new policies of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Planting activities and individual property rights (IPR) areas in communal CBFM lands were delineated. This serves as an incentive for members to work harder because benefits that will be derived from the communal CBFM will be according to the kind and amount of input they contribute, backed up with recognized land rights. The combination of increased land rights coupled with targeted technical assistance in agroforestry planting regiments provides direct incentives to protect core high biodiversity areas. This is because the tenure holders must protect the core biodiversity areas if they are to retain the rights to the denuded areas where they are investing in agroforestry models. Provincial and regional task forces have continued to initiate and provide the leadership for multi-sector collaborative environment and natural resource related

activities. Each year EWV is seeing these groups take on more threats to biodiversity and work more effectively to counter specific threats in a coordinated manner (for example this year specific actions on fire, farm land expansion from migrants, and mining threats).

Two activities under Objective 3 have been delayed and were re-assessed to determine replacement activities. The nationwide suspension of the Resource Use Permit (RUP) for plantation forests within public lands has deterred the implementation of planned activities on furniture processing. Until the suspension is lifted, further development of the furniture processing activities will have to be on hold. Agroforestry and sustainable agriculture are promising options for income generating activities for CBFM members. The piloting of the individual property rights (IPR) mechanism is now producing incentives for agroforestry in CBFM sites, where previously “communal” efforts were not effective. Agroforestry will now be the emphasis for economic development under objective 3.

Finally, landscape level planning is being advanced in both Region 2 and Palawan. The task forces already initiated under the GCP work are being rationalized with municipal and provincial level groups, as well as the CBFM federation structure. The emphasis is to get CBFM issues properly reflected in the landscape level planning. EWV will continue to assess what local groupings are best to attain this goal and integrate task force functions with other ongoing efforts as needed. It may be that EWV encourages the CBFM federations to work through some of the existing groups, rather than forming task forces in provinces where task forces have yet to be constituted. For this reason in Table 1, activity 1.a is noted as “redesigned” to adapt to this new development in formalized landscape level planning in the GCP Philippine sites. Table 1 provides an overview of the status of each activity and Table 2 presents the year’s major accomplishments by objectives. Success stories follow at the end of the document.

**Table 1 – Activity Status for Year Four**

Activity Number	Activity Title	Status*
<b>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.</b>		
1.a	Institutionalize the Multi-Sector Task Forces in Region 2	Redesigned
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
<b>Objective 2 – Develop Federations’ capacity to administer biological monitoring and meet legal compliance with forestry regulations.</b>		
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	Completed
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
<b>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.</b>		
3.a	Conduct 1 sub sector study for furniture woods and consolidate select CBFM enterprise activities to gain efficiencies	Delayed
3.b	Pilot one set of production and processing improvements 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
<b>Objective 4 – Conduct monitoring, adaptive management and learning</b>		
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	On-track

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

**Table 2 – Year Four Goal and Objectives Vis-à-vis Major Accomplishments  
Highlights – October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005**

<b>Year Four Goal Movement Toward Effective Management</b>	<b>Year Four Achieved Movement Toward Effective Management</b>
300,000 hectares (cumulative) within 5 Federations	302,066 hectares in 129 community based forest management sites within 5 Federations in Region 2 and Palawan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 108,759.15 hectares covering 25 sites in Cagayan</li> <li>• 46,223.18 hectares covering 18 sites in Isabela</li> <li>• 83,252.66 hectares covering 35 sites in Quirino</li> <li>• 16,688.70 hectares covering 23 sites in Nueva Vizcaya</li> <li>• 45,076.31 hectares covering 28 sites in Palawan</li> </ul>
<b>Year Two Objectives</b>	<b>Major Accomplishments</b>
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"> <li>• Continued to institutionalize the multi-sector task forces. The community based forest management (CBFM) federations participated in municipal, provincial groups and regional multi-sector group (also known as task forces or technical working groups) that are now working on landscape level planning. Continued coordination with Conservation International (CI) and Eco-Governance Program, especially in the area of landscape level planning. Key activities included:</li> <li>• Worked to counter emerging mining threat in Region 2. Two stakeholders’ forums covering three regions convened; discussed threats on mining within forestlands, particularly a case of mining within CBFM. A 3<sup>rd</sup> conference was convened with three other NGOs, the provincial local government unit of Cagayan and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). A 4<sup>th</sup> conference was convened with five other NGOs, 1 Provincial Local Government Unit (PLGU) and the DENR. The objective of the conferences was to better coordinate biodiversity conservation efforts in the Sierra Madre mountain range and work to abate the mining threat in high biodiversity areas.</li> <li>• Linked funding windows and assistance opportunities offered by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) and Department of Agriculture (DA) with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Provincial Federations to benefit CBFM areas.</li> <li>• Formulated Federations’ work plans with the DENR, local government units (LGUs) and NGOs; priority CBFM sites identified for assistance.</li> <li>• Developed MOA for sharing GIS database information generated by DENR, Community Forestry Foundation of Quirino (CFFQ), and EWV. EWV provides information on land uses within CBFM areas and clarification of boundaries using GPS which provides more updated and accurate planning information compared to reliance on satellite maps.</li> <li>• Presented project lessons of Quirino Federation and EWV in the Consolidation workshop for Tenure Assessments made in three municipalities in Quirino. Workshop sponsored by EcoGov; priority activities and counterpart contributions from local government units (LGUs) identified.</li> <li>• Contributed to protected area proclamation, integrating the CBFM perspective. United Cagayanos Movement for Sustainable Environment and Economic Development (UCMSEED) and EWV participated in the resource based inventory exercise leading to the proclamation of the North Eastern Cagayan Protected Area covering seven municipalities in Cagayan.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established linkages with International Center for Research on Agriculture and Forestry (ICRAF), University of the Philippines – Los Baños (UPLB) - College of Engineering and Agricultural Technology (CEAT), Forest Products Research Development Institute (FPRDI), and Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) for collaborative activities in CBFM sites.</li> <li>• Completed CBFM site reassessments for Lallo and Allacapan in Cagayan with Multi-Sectoral Committee.</li> <li>• Resolved resource management conflict on Palawan, giving CBFM holders the right to manage core zones within CBFM areas. Previously the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSDS) had jurisdiction, but little ability to guard the areas. The new policy allows for some limited sustainable use, but more importantly allows the CBFM holders to protect high biodiversity areas from outsiders.</li> <li>• Participated in a seminar with the Palawan Technical Working Group (TWG) on the harmonization of Individual Property Right (IPR) law with the existing DENR policies.</li> <li>• Leveraged Php2,547,731 (US \$46,322) from other stakeholders for investment in biodiversity conservation and increased local economic security. Region 2 People’s Organizations = Php581,203 (US \$10,567); other Region 2 agencies = Php1,187,508 (US \$21,591). In Palawan People’s Organizations = Php525,639(US \$9,557) and other agencies = Php253,381 (US \$4,607).</li> </ul>
<p>Objective 2 – Develop Federations’ capacity to administer biological monitoring and meet legal compliance with forestry regulations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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"> <li>▪ Land Use Planning and Validation completed for eight sites in Region 2 and seven sites in Palawan</li> <li>▪ Boundary demarcation completed for two sites per province in Region 2 (eight sites total) and seven sites in Palawan.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Accomplished signing of 15 individual property rights (IPR) MOAs; completed 45 parcel surveys covering 100 hectares and eight agroforestry/farm plans completed. Five areas are now implementing their respective plans.</li> <li>• Concluded individual property rights (IPR) option a good incentive for improved forest management and protection and have moved to expand the pilot effort. Community consultations undertaken in Cagayan, Isabela, and Palawan.</li> <li>• Established demonstration areas for agroforestry and sustainable production in three sites (0.5 hectare in Cagayan; 2 hectares in Isabela, and 0.6 hectares Palawan). Continued maintenance and monitoring.</li> <li>• Provided technical assistance to Salvacion CBFM site in the establishment of 8 hectares of reforestation. Funded by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the city government (Php136,000, about US \$2,473).</li> <li>• Provided assistance to the CBFM Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) agroforestry project in Cagayan that is incorporating fruit trees (mango) into reforestation efforts.</li> <li>• Assisted eight CBFM sites in Region 2 (two for each province) and seven sites in Palawan with their updated Community Resource Management Framework (CRMF) and new 5 year work plans. Previously annual work plans were required, but in an effort to reduce the paperwork burden for the groups, five year plans were adopted.</li> <li>• Harmonized and validated maps of CBFM sites in Cagayan and Palawan</li> </ul>

	<p>using Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) Database.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convened four provincial policy forums covering topics on reorientation of CBFM groups on Department of the Environment and Natural Resources policies to include CBFM, chainsaw act, mining act, and registering agencies' reportorial requirements.</li> </ul>
<p>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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanded fire protection activities and linkages. There are now joint provincial local government unit (PLGU)-Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and EWV activities in fire prevention and control strategies. The Environment and Natural Resources Office (ENRO) has a Php400,000 (US \$7,273) provincial fund for the activities and EWV will be adding green break establishment in the fire prevention training module. Nueva Vizcaya CBFM Advocates will be one of the implementing agencies in the program alongside DENR, ENRO and BFP.</li> <li>• Initial research on sambong, bamboo crafts, and agroforestry species, and yacon undertaken, in addition to subsector workshop for furniture, which is now on hold. Agroforestry establishment for pilot sites initiated.</li> <li>• Presented lessons from United Cagayanos Movement for Sustainable Environment and Economic Development (UCMSEED), highlighting IPR as a conflict-resolution strategy in Conference of Best Mediation Practices on Resource Use and Land Tenure Conflicts.</li> <li>• Conducted trainings on work plan development for eight sites in Region 2 and seven sites in Palawan. Within these 15 sites other trainings also included: resource management; agroforestry techniques; boundary demarcation; biological monitoring system establishment; financial management; organizational development (modules in leadership and cooperative management).</li> <li>• Facilitated regular meetings of the five provincial federations and one regional federation.</li> </ul>
<p>Objective 4 – Conduct monitoring, adaptive management and learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed draft biological monitoring manual which is now being used with the CBFM groups.</li> <li>• Installed Biological Monitoring System in eight sites in Region 2 and seven sites in Palawan.</li> <li>• Continued documentation of CBFM progress in achieving effective management through monitoring sheets</li> <li>• Participated and facilitated Conservation Measures Partnership (CMP) Workshop where project cycle lessons were shared with other GCP groups and local conservation NGOs.</li> <li>• Lessons from learning component included in various PowerPoint presentations and presented at local, national level, and international meetings/conferences.</li> </ul>

## **Success Stories (Philippines)**

### **Strengthening of Local Governance Structures Generates Documented Threats Abatement and Biodiversity Conservation**

#### **Communities Bring Fire Threat to Biodiversity and Plantations Under Control**

In Region 2, the communities ranked fire as one of the major threats to forest biodiversity. EnterpriseWorks/VITA (EWV) initiated fire abatement activities with select community-based forest management (CBFM) areas as part of the CBFM group's annual work plans. One of the pilot sites for the fire abatement activities is Bunig Agroforestry Development Association (BAFDA) in Bunig, Isabela, where forest fires have been successfully prevented for the past two years.

In 2002, BAFDA ranked grass and forest fires as their two top threats to forest biodiversity and their timber and fruit tree plantations. In 2003, EWV worked with the community to complete a resource inventory and updated annual work plan. During this resource inventory it was documented that recent fires affected 10% of their forest plantation and wiped out the established citrus orchard. To address the fire threat, BAFDA assigned foot patrols to protect their area especially during the summer burning season. They also put up a bunkhouse to further monitor other encroachers and potential fire sources and maintained existing trails used for monitoring. Since 2003, there has been no reported incidence of fire occurrence in their CBFM area. Forest fire occurrence could be further enhanced by incorporating green breaks as a component in their agroforestry/replanting projects and this is being explored with BAFDA.

#### **Integrating Satellite Data with On-the-Ground Monitoring for More effective Forest Resources Governance**

In Quirino, EnterpriseWorks Worldwide co-initiated the Quirino Collaborators to achieve better coordinated and more effective forest resource governance. The Quirino Collaborators are composed of:

- Community Forestry Foundation, Inc. (CffQI);
- Provincial and municipal local government units (LGUs);
- Provincial Natural Resources and Environment Office (PnREO); and
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The Quirino Collaborators was organized in the late 1990s to sustain support to community-based forest management (CBFM) groups as well as coordinate province-wide resource governance. There are 42 CBFM groups in Quirino that govern approximately 86,000 hectares. CffQI provides regular satellite images of the province which are used by the Quirino Collaborators to monitor changes in land use and the extent of farm expansion – one of the main threats to forest biodiversity in Quirino, including CBFM areas. The satellite-based maps are used for landscape-level planning at the provincial level, but are difficult for CBFM groups to use as they do not provide sufficient details to document and monitor threats to the forest resources.

EnterpriseWorks/VITA has introduced its biological and threat monitoring tools (which include geographic information system (GIS) based community maps) for the Quirino CBFM holders to effectively determine the status of biodiversity in the province and implement threat abatement strategies and monitoring plans. With the GIS tool, local level plans (CBFM community maps)

can be integrated with the larger level landscape plans such as the provincial land use, comprehensive land use plans (CLUP) and Forest Land Use Plans (FLUP) of the municipalities generated from the satellite maps. Through local-level GIS and satellite landscape level integration, the Quirino Collaborators and the CBFM groups can more effectively implement necessary actions to arrest biodiversity loss in the province. Latest satellite images from the CffQI revealed that previous second growth areas are now “closed canopy” which indicates that threat abatement measures are starting to show some success.

### **CBFM Guarding Efforts and Linkages with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Reduce Migrant Slash and Burn Agriculture in Forest Lands**

Landless families from the province of Ifugao in the Caraballo range have been migrating to the Cagayan Valley for land. The municipality of Sto.Nino in Cagayan is not exempt from this threat as the new migrants frequently engage in slash and burn agriculture in forested areas. A CBFM group in Cagayan had 20 families that migrated into their CBFM area in 2004. There had been no attempt by the families to ask permission to settle and cultivate within the CBFM area from the barangay council or the CBFM group. The CBFM group reported the encroachment to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO), which initiated a consultation with the Ifugao migrants. Given the migrants were indigenous people, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples were invited to explain the migrant’s rights and represent their interests in regards to ancestral domain. The CBFM group’s intent is to guard its forestlands from further unsustainable agricultural practices. The consultation has resulted in a decrease of migrants from 20 families to 11 families with efforts still continuing to resolve the conflict with all families. The CBFM is continually pushing for no new settlements within the CBFM area.

This coordination between the CBFM groups, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO), and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples was rare prior to the interventions of the GCP work. GCP activities have clearly articulated threats to the biodiversity and linked key actors together to work constructively to resolve threats.

### **Integrated Assistance to Sites Results in Conflict Resolution and Threat Abatement**

The use of the threats-reduction tool has been critical to the identification and resolution of most resource-based conflicts on the ground. Paired with the Community Resource Management Framework (CRMF) and five year work plans, the CBFM groups are now taking concrete steps towards reducing the threats in a strategic fashion in collaboration with other key stakeholders. CBFM encroachment problems are now being recognized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other stakeholders. Multi-sectoral actions towards conflict resolution have been initiated and are being shown to work, which hopefully will encourage further effort in this area. Slash and burn agriculture was checked at two sites as a result of the investigations and biological monitoring done on site by the CBFM groups. Conflicting claims have been identified and resolved with the individual property rights (IPR) mechanism and boundary delimitations, undertaken by EWV, are settling long-standing boundary disputes. Resolution of land conflicts is essential in the CBFM context for protecting the forest biodiversity while encouraging sustainable livelihood options for the local people.