

Upland Development Programme

Barangay Forest Protection and Management Scheme (BFPMS)

Terminal Report

Executive Summary

After more than three months of extension, the third contract for PEF as service provider in the implementation of the BFPMS was finally completed. Actual implementation of the contract actually started November, 2006, since the MLGU of Manay issued a directive to set aside any other activity for October, 2006 to focus on their 'Araw ng Manay' celebrations. Then after two months of IEC work in San Fermin, the BLGU decided not to pursue the BFPMS implementation through a Barangay Resolution. Hence, the three months extension.

The piloting process of the BFPMS is on the whole a big success. Already, we can say that the Provincial LGU and MLGUs of Davao Oriental have the capability to replicate the scheme in other barangays. This is evident during the Provincial Conference for BFPMS conducted last January 17, 2007 at the Provincial Tourism Complex, Mati.

As far as PEF's coverage for BFPMS implementation, Mati is ahead with its rehabilitation efforts in Culian. Tarragona had just replicated the scheme at Ompao with its 1,672 hectares declared protected area. Though the first attempt failed at San Fermin, Manay had recovered with it at Del Pilar. In Caraga, the Tribal and Barangay Councils of Sobrecarey have resolved their long-drawn misunderstanding and decided to push through with the replication of the BFPMS after the presentation of the results of the Land Used-Based-Barangay Development Planning (LUB-BDP) process. In Baganga, the MLGU has decided to intervene and resolve the impasse for the establishment of the protected area in Mikit between the BLGU and the IFMA-holder, Baganga Plywood Corporation (BPC). Except for a defective GPS, the

replication process in Abejod, Cateel is also well under way.

However, based on the results of the consultations and the last Provincial Conference on the BFPMS with MLGU, BLGU and BFPMC officials, this trend could be turned around if the following conditions and tendencies would not be met or countered:

1. Interference of partisan politics especially with the coming local elections;
2. Fund mismanagement;
3. Intensifying logging activities and mining ventures;
4. MENRO office remains temporary.

Based on the results of the regular monitoring and assessments, it is recommended that a the provincial and municipal LGUs should moved towards formulating a forest land use plan (FLUP) and a logging moratorium be declared in the whole province of Davao Oriental while the FLUP process is done; the MENRO office should be established permanently and capability-building training programs be provided to the staff; massive IEC campaigns be conducted; rainforestation and agro-forestry be promoted; and eco-tourism projects and alternative livelihood activities implemented in the upland communities.

I. Introduction

UDP

With a grant from the European Union, the Upland Development Programme (UDP) in Southern Mindanao envisions to come up with replicable models or schemes to improve the living standards of upland communities and conserve upland resources. Since 1999, UDP was able to develop and test these development schemes which are basic and complementary to each other and considered the key to sustained upland development. These schemes are as follows:

- Upland Agricultural Extension Delivery Scheme
- Barangay Forest Protection and Management Scheme (BFPMS)
- Labor-Based Routine Road Maintenance Scheme

In order to ensure that these schemes are sustained and replicated to other areas, UDP has initiated in integrating them into the programs of the local government units (LGU) of the municipality and barangay. UDP emphasizes the primacy of the Barangay Local Government Units (BLGU) to directly implement and sustain these key upland development schemes at the community level, with technical support from the municipal government units, provincial government units and some regional units of the national government.

The Barangay Forest Protection and Management Scheme (BFPMS)

This 'on-site' forest management approach was conceptualized and tested with success by the UDP to address the continuing destruction of the remaining forests in the uplands which is caused by the expansion of inappropriate farming and other destructive activities.

The objective of BFPMS is to empower and put the responsibility on the BLGUs and the local communities in managing the natural resources within the barangay. Its guidelines are based on the devolved functions of the DENR on forest management to the LGUs provided in DENR-DILG JMC 98-01 and 2003-01.

Service Providers

In order to implement the BFPMS, due to their staffing limitations, UDP hired the expertise of Service Providers, such as in this case, the Philippine Eagle Foundation.

II. Terms of Reference

Deliverables

Based on the Third Service Contract between UDP and PEF made last August 15, 2006, the following are the expected deliverables by PEF:

1. Coaching the MLGU-Manay in implementing the BFPMS in the pilot barangay which is Barangay San Fermin, Manay, Davao Oriental. The following outputs are expected in this barangay:

- The residents in the barangays are informed and have fully understood and appreciated the Barangay Forest Protection and Management Plan;
- Barangay Forest Protection and Management Committee formed and functional;
- Barangay Co-Management Agreement is formally executed by the various stakeholders;
- Barangay LGU officials and community members are capable to sustain efforts in protecting and managing the forests in the barangay;
- Forest occupants or dwellers understand, support and benefit from their efforts in protecting the remaining forests and other identified ecologically critical areas;
- Forest occupants have willingly entered into a Site Management Agreement with the BLGU, MLGU, DENR, and NCIP;
- Perimeter survey of the identified forest site is conducted;
- Maps of the identified forest are processed and completed;
- Remaining forests and ecologically critical areas within the barangay are officially declared as Barangay Protected areas through barangay ordinance adopted by the MLGU, DENR, and NCIP;

- Pilot protection site is visibly delineated or fenced-off with any appropriate materials and billboards;
- Facilitate the preparation, submission and follow-up of required documents for potential forest guards to DENR;
- Assessment of the institutional capability of the Municipal LGU to sustain the scheme is conducted;
- Action-Planning of the Barangay LGU to sustain the barangay forest protection and management within the barangay is done;
- Action-planning of the Municipal LGU for replication and sustainability is done;
- Entire piloting process and suggestions for refinement of the scheme is documented;

2. Monitoring the implementation of the follow-up activities of BFPMS in the pilot barangays of the Municipalities of Caraga, Mati, Baganga, Tarragona and Cateel. This will include the following activities:

- Barangay-level assessment and planning of the BFPMC
- Municipal-level assessment and planning (in the covered municipalities)
- Provincial-level assessment and planning (to include other municipalities such as Banaybanay, San Isidro, and Lupon)
- Conduct training needs assessment (TNA) for the continuing capability-building of the BFPMS in the covered municipalities
- Facilitate the processing of the deputation of BFPMS forest guards in the covered municipalities
- Facilitate and assist in accessing other resources for the conduct of the following trainings:
 - Forest Management: Biodiversity Monitoring and Evaluation
 - Law Enforcement: Para-Legal Training for BFPMS
 - Organizational and Project Management

III. The Project Sites

Municipality / Barangay	Land Area (has)	Size of Protected Area (has)	Status of Protected Area (PA)
Mati Culian	4,252	386	PA is composed of reforestation sites, steep slopes, road allowance, and riverbanks. PA was launched last Dec. 12, 2005.
Tarragona Tubaon	5,986	1,102	Declared PA primary dipterocarp forest and confirmed Phil. Eagle nesting site; launched last August 28, 2006.
Ompao	4,184	1,672	Declared through Ordinance No. 1, series of 2007 and endorsed by the SB; launched last March 6, 2007
Manay Del Pilar	1,896	18	PA is declared through Brgy Ordinance 01 series of 2007; forest land is claimed owned by the Punong Barangay of Del Pilar; launched last March 21, 2007.
Caraga Palma Gil	2,475	512.56	PA is located in the steep slopes of the river bank of Caraga River in Sitio Bantolinao; illegal logging allegedly continuing. Launched last Dec. 9, 2005
Sobrecarey			Declaration of the PA was stalled due to some misunderstanding between the Barangay and Tribal Councils; although this was resolved later through the LUB-BDP process facilitated by another service provider (PBPF), PA declaration awaits the result of the LUB-BDP to be presented to the Barangay and Tribal Councils.

Baganga Mikit	1,710	274	PA is part of the IFMA of NORCAMCO; with Brgy Ordinance endorsed by the SB; was not launched due to non-issuance of waiver by the IFMA-holder
Cateel San Antonio	3,600	122	PA is patches of forests; launched Nov. 16, 2006; illegal logging allegedly continuing.
Abejod	3,500	150	BFPMS implementation is still continuing; it was stalled for weeks due to a defective GPS.

IV. Accomplishments

The following activities were conducted for the period:

1. Coaching the MLGU-Manay in implementing the BFPMS in the pilot barangay which is first, Barangay San Fermin, then Del Pilar, Manay, Davao Oriental.

Consultations with the MENRO-designate and the MPDC of Manay, Davao Oriental started last September, 2006. But the piloting process effectively commenced last November, 2006 due to a Memorandum issued by Mayor Antero Dayanghirang to all offices and Barangay LGUs to set aside other activities for the month of October, 2006 other than those focusing on the celebration of "Araw ng Manay".

Here is the account of the implementation of the BFPMS in San Fermin:

Date and Venue	Itinerary / Activity / ies	Observations and Remarks
September 11; San Fermin	Site visit and courtesy call with Punong Barangay. We were introduced to Punong Barangay Cinderilla Bantayan and some of the officials by the TOU-Chief of UDP-PPO2 Myrna Rosillo and Agricultural Technician Dovelyn Ambrobueno.	Barangay San Fermin is around 20 kms of rough roads from the town proper. The road is impassable during the rainy season. An elementary school teacher, and a son-in-law of the Punong Barangay, Herman Lagnayo, remarked that it would be difficult to implement the BFPMS in San Fermin, given the fact that all the forest were already sold by all claimants to log buyers.
November 7; San Fermin	Barangay Orientation at San Fermin did not push through because of some miscommunications.	Present were MENRO-designate Richie Diuran, AT Dovelyn, PEF staff Vards Estrda and Jun Morales. The Punong Barangay was also around.
November 8; San Fermin	Barangay Orientation pushed through during the meeting arranged for the conduct of the Barangay Dev't Plan (BDP).	Around 10 - 15 participants attended the orientation. The Punong Barangay herself handled the cooking for the meals, as if there was no one else to ask for help.

		The Punong Barangay stated that it is too difficult to gather people to a meeting unless there are free meals.
November 15; Manay covered court	Stakeholders Conference was attended by just a handful: the Punong Barangay and 2 Brgy councilors; MPDC, MENRO, MAO, CENRO-Manay representative, SB Chair for Environment, UDP PPO2 Manager Cuda, 2 agri-technicians, and 2 from PEF.	The Punong Barangay was hesitant to join the conference. There was probably some politics involved between the Punong Barangay and the Mayor inasmuch as they supported rival candidates for Governor during the last elections.
November 25; Sitio Fatima, San Fermin	IEC at Sitio Fatima was held at the primary school building. Around 15 residents participated in the IEC. They were amenable of declaring the 3-hectare forest as a Protected Area because of its being the source of their water.	Ocular survey of the proposed 3-hectare PA in Fatima revealed an isolated patch of forest surrounded by slash-and-burn farms. Interviews with some residents further disclosed that the property was already sold to a businessman in Manay and anytime soon cutting of the timber stands would begin. And there is no assurance that anyone would be able to stop loggers.
Nov. 26; Sitio Caipok, San Fermin	Site visit / consultations at Sitio Caipok. A small gathering of community residents at the house of Kag. Vidal, after the church services. Vehemently, they opposed the establishment of the PA in Sitio Caipok. A formal IEC was scheduled at the sitio on Dec. 2.	Same as in Sitio Fatima, according to the residents of Caipok, who have land claims of the forest of San Fermin, most of the forest stands were already sold and paid by financiers and alleged loggers of Manay. They were forced to do so due to indebtedness and grinding poverty.
Dec. 2 - IEC at Sitio	The IEC did not push through due to the military operations	

Caipok	at San Fermin (insurgency related).	
Dec. 12 - Sitio Caipok	Another visit at Sitio Caipok and consultations with Kag. Vidal Maglutong, who acted as virtual leader.	Kag. Vidal proposed to PEF to present the case of Sitio Caipok to the Barangay Council for discussions and decision.
December 18 - Barangay Council meeting	Barangay Council meeting was postponed due to lack of quorum.	
Jan. 14, Barangay Council meeting	Barangay Council meeting was postponed due to lack of quorum.	Due to the rains, the road to San Fermin was terribly slippery. PEF staff, Jun Morales, met a minor accident and got a deep wound on his foot despite the rain boots he was wearing.
Jan. 22, Barangay Council meeting; San Fermin	Punong Barangay and Barangay Council signed Barangay Resolution disallowing the establishment of any forest PA in their barangay.	Resolution No. 01, series of 2007, stipulates the residents "signifying non-interest of stakeholders of Sitio Caipok to support the implementation of BFPMS..."
Feb. 15; MPDC office and Del Pilar, Manay	Consultations with MLGU and BLGU officials, notably MPDC Zaldy Escarian and Brgy Captain Primo Lumando, for the BFPMS implementation at Del Pilar, Manay	MLGU and BLGU officials of Manay and Del Pilar were disappointed of the decision of Brgy San Fermin. The Brgy Captain of Del Pilar, Primo Lumando, volunteered his barangay for the BFPMS. MPDC Escarian really led and spent time to talk personally with the Brgy Captain and BLGU officials.
Feb. 20-22; Del Pilar, Manay	Consultations with the BLGU officials of Del Pilar; perimeter survey of the PA and IEC at Sitio Banakabak, Del Pilar.	PEF's Jun Morales joined with MPDC staff Andymel Mamada and Brgy Councilwoman Liliosa Macadagat and several guides from Del Pilar and completed the perimeter survey and marking of boundaries of the PA proposed for Del Pilar. The estimated 18-hectare PA is

		part of Brgy Captain Lumando's property and is located along the boundaries of brgy Upper Macopa and Del Pilar. PEF's Vards Estrada, with MENRO-designate Rechie Diuyan led the IEC campaign at Sitio Banakabak whose residents were more than willing to support the scheme and designated three persons as forest guards.
Mar. 3; Del Pilar, Manay	Special Brgy Council session for the drafting of the Brgy Ordinance and MOA	The leadership factor of Brgy Captain Primo Lumando made a lot of difference as compared to his counterpart in San Fermin.
Mar. 6-7; Del Pilar, Manay	Barangay Council Session at Del Pilar for passing of the Brgy Ordinance for the declaration of the PA at Del Pilar.	
Mar. 21; Del Pilar, Manay	MOA Signing and launching of the PA of Del Pilar	MOA signing and launching was conducted last March 21, 2007 at the Municipal Hall of Manay. The CENRO Eduardo Ragaza, Vice-Mayor Vicente Silveron, Punong Barangay of Del Pilar Primo Lumando, UDP Provincial Project Manager Esmindo Cuda and Resource Management Coordinator Gel Abalus were around to grace the launching.

2. Monitoring the implementation of the follow-up activities of BFPMS in the pilot barangays of the Municipalities of Caraga, Mati, Baganga, Tarragona and Cateel.

The following follow-up and monitoring activities were conducted:

Barangay / Municipality	Activity	Results and Observations
Culian, Mati	Monitoring of rehabilitation activities, participation in the UDP Anniversary	Visits in Culian, Mati were conducted. Last Oct. 13, BFPMC officials and members of Culian were busy with their seedlings nursery production and reforestation activities. The MLGU contracted their services for their 'Plant a Tree and Grow with me' program. A reforestation site was also prepared for the UDP anniversary tree-planting activities on Oct. 19. Two Dutch visitors were also exposed by PEF together with BFPMS point person of Mati, Vicky Lobaton, to the rehabilitation activities of Culian. Interviews were also conducted with BFPMC members and BLGU officials.
Tarragona	Submission of Terminal Report Philippine Eagle monitoring at Tubaon PA Replication of BFPMS at Ompao: IEC campaign	Terminal Report for the piloting of BFPMS at Tubaon, Tarragona was submitted to the MENRO-designate, Charito Garzon. PEF field research team had conducted regularly monthly monitoring of the Philippine Eagle (PE) nesting site in the PA of Tubaon. PE pair produced an eaglet, indicating no disturbance in the PA. An IEC was conducted together with Tarragona MENRO-designate, CENRO-Mati, and the BLGU-Ompao on BFPMS last Dec.1. The BFPMC of Ompao was formed; exposure training, perimeter survey were scheduled. PEF's Vards Estrada

	<p>Perimeter survey at Ompao</p> <p>MOA Signing</p>	<p>served as Resource Person.</p> <p>Perimeter survey of the PA of Ompao was conducted last Dec.19-20. PEF's Jun Morales participated in the survey.</p> <p>MOA signing between stakeholders of Ompao, Tarragona was held last March 6, 2007 at the Barangay Hall and Stage, Ompao.</p>
Caraga	<p>Monitoring of PA at Sitio Bantolinao, Palma Gil, Caraga</p> <p>Participation in the Brgy Council session at PM Sobrecarey last Feb. 19, 2007</p>	<p>Monitoring and informal meeting was conducted with the MENRO-designate of Caraga, Bernardo Hernaez, and the Punong Barangay of Palma Gil. It is sad to note that illegal logging activities perpetrated by allegedly moneyed persons and kin of politicians had encroached the PA. There was exasperation and surrender evident in the expressions of the MENRO and Punong Barangay.</p> <p>Strong winds brought about by the recent typhoons had also wrought damage to the forest stands of the PA as well as the houses of residents of Sitio Bantolinao.</p> <p>The Barangay Council and Brgy Captain Lourdes Basta were very glad to see PEF back and showed their continuing interest for the declaration of the PA for their barangay. But they will only identify their proposed PA after the results of their LUB-BDP will be presented to them. PBPF is the service provider for their LUB-BDP.</p>
Baganga	Submission of Terminal Report to MLGU	Terminal Report on the BFPMS piloting at Mikit, Baganga was submitted to Kag. Dante Caubang, SB Chair for Environment and to Mikit Punong Barangay Prosperador Balog.

	<p>Monitoring of installation of billboards and funds for the BFPMS</p> <p>Follow-up of the issuance of waiver by the Baganga Plywood Corporation (BPC) to the PA in Mikit, Baganga</p> <p>Monitoring and scheduling of MOA signing</p>	<p>The billboard in Mikit was already delivered but was borrowed and installed at Binondo, Baganga during the 'Field Day' last Oct.16-17. No funds were yet again released for the catering and labor during the perimeter survey. Evidently, funds for BFPMS were used for other purposes by the MLGU.</p> <p>Dialogues were also held with CENRO-Baganga, first on Dec.4 and last Dec. 12 at the CENRO office. Present were Gel Abalus, UDP Resoruce Mgt Coordinator; Kag. Dante Caubang, and PEF's Vards Estrada. The CENRO revealed that the PA in Mikit is within the IFMA of BPC and that the latter was not interested in issuing a waiver. He gave advice for the BLGU of Mikit to talk it out alone with BPC management. However, the BLGU of Mikit was no longer interested in talking with BPC. It is evident there was some tension going on between the two parties and it's not going well with the PA establishment.</p> <p>Another monitoring visit was conducted last March 7-8 by UDP's Gel Abalus and PEF's Vards Estrada. MENRO Ely Jobilla informed us in the presence of Mikit Brgy Captain Prospero Balug that Mayor Gerry Morales of Baganga took upon himself to talk with the BPC management regarding the waiver. MOA signing will be scheduled after the waiver is issued.</p>
Cateel	Submission of Terminal Report	Terminal Report on the BFPMS piloting at San Antonio, Cateel was submitted to the MENRO-designate of Cateel, Danny

	<p>Monitoring of installation of billboards in San Antonio, Cateel and fund releases for the BFPMS</p> <p>Follow-up for the MOA signing</p> <p>Monitoring of BFPMS replication in Abejod, Cateel.</p>	<p>Reyes and San Antonio Punong Barangay last Oct.14.</p> <p>Billboards for San Antonio were already delivered. Funds and plans for its installation were in place during the MOA signing scheduled on Nov.16, 2006.</p> <p>Finally, last Nov. 16, the co-management agreements for the PA in San Antonio was signed by the stakeholders. Present during the occasion were Vice-Gov. Ega Lopez, Mayor Alderito Silverio, members of the SB, the Association of Barangay Captains (ABC) and MLGU personnel of Cateel, BLGU and residents of San Antonio, PEF and UDP officials and staff.</p> <p>Featured also during the launching was the oath-taking and giving of IDs to the forest guards of the PA of San Antonio.</p> <p>Another monitoring was conducted last March 8 by Gel Abalus and Vards Estrada. BFPMS replication in Abejod started just last week of February, 2007. The perimeter survey and marking of boundaries was conducted in the first week of March but was put on hold due to a defective GPS. Gel Abalus promised to provide a replacement for it once the MLGU of Cateel or PPO-2 will send its request.</p>
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Provincial Assessment and Planning

Provincial Tourism Complex

January 17, 2007

Rationale and Background of the Conference

Since 2005, almost 5,000 hectares of forests are declared protected areas in sixteen (16) barangays of nine (9) towns in Davao Oriental through corresponding Barangay Ordinances which are adopted by their respective SB. Facilitated by service providers contracted by the Upland Development Programme (UDP) in Southern Mindanao, these are made possible by the support of various stakeholders like the LGUs, DENR, religious organizations, NGOs, and irrigators associations through co-management agreements.

These protected areas are diverse, dispersed, and in various stages of management by respective Barangay Forest Protection and Management Committees (BFPMC). The BFPMS need to be strengthened and enhanced through further capability-building trainings.

The institutionalization and sustainability of the scheme is of utmost concern. UDP is about to terminate its operations by July, 2007. Piloting has been mostly successfully implemented and replication to adjacent forested communities is necessary. Continuing, broader, and more in-depth IEC campaigns need to be institutionalized. More resources from the stakeholders need to be generated to support the initiatives as well as in the rehabilitation activities and in the implementation of alternative livelihood for forest occupants. There is need for the Provincial LGU to adopt and sustain the BFPMS.

Meanwhile, logging - both legal and illegal - continues without let-up.

Hence the Provincial Assessment and Planning for the BFPMS was called.

The first initial consultation was conducted last November 6, 2006 at the conference room of the Provincial Office of the UDP at Mati, Davao Oriental. It was participated in by representatives of the Provincial ENRO (2), service providers: PEF (3), Kalumonan Foundation (3), PPHILDRA (1);

UDP (Gel Abalus, the Resource Management Coordinator; Myrna Rosillo, TOU-Chief, and Mel Laborada, PMES-Chief). The consultation agreed on the rationale and the program design for the conference and the tentative date was set for the first week of December, 2006. Target participants composed of the 16 barangay captains, MENROs, SB Chair for Environment, BFPMC Chairpersons, CENROs, service providers, and UDP officials would total to 70. Duration of the summit is two days.

However, after further reviews by the UDP National Director with the Resource Management Coordinator and PEF, the target participants was reduced to 30 and that it should just be a 1-day meeting. When the proposed program design and budget was finally approved last December, 2006, final date for the conference was set on January 17, 2007 and venue at the Provincial Tourism Office.

Objectives

1. To share experiences and collate significant lessons learned by the MENROs in implementing the BFPMS in their respective municipalities.
2. To discuss and recommend solutions to some issues and concerns arising from the implementation of the BFPMS in the province.
3. To define the roles and establish coordination mechanisms among various institutions namely the PLGU-ENRO, MLGU-MENRO, BLGU, DENR, NCIP and service providers in the further replication of the BFPMS in the province.
4. To come up with an action plan on how to replicate the BFPMS in the province.

Program

Day / Time	Activity / Topic	Person/s Responsible
Nov. 16: PM	Arrival for Participants from Cateel, Baganga, Caraga, and Manay	Secretariat and Participants
Nov. 17: 8:00 - 9:00	Arrival / Registration	Secretariat
9:00 - 9:30	Opening Ceremonies - Invocation - National Anthem - Welcome Remarks - Introduction of Participants and Rationale of the Activity	PLGU - ENRO UDP-Davao Oriental Esmindo M. Cuda Provincial Project Manager UDP - PPO2 Myrna A. Rosillo Technical Operations Unit - Chief
9:30 - 10:00	Presentation of the SUD Model and Review of the BFPMS Process	Gel Abalus Resource Management Coordinator - UDP
10:00 - 11:00	MENRO Reports on Experiences and Lessons Learned in the Conduct of BFPMS	MENROs
11:00 - 11:30	Synthesis: BFPMS Common Trends and Issues / Concerns	Elmer Mailwas PhilDRA
11:30 - 12:00	Open Forum	Facilitator and Participants
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch	Facilitator and Participants
1:00 - 2:00	BFPMS Institutionalization and Sustainability Mechanism Within the BFPMS	Facilitator and Participants
2:00 - 3:00	Worskshop 2: Action Planning	Facilitator and Participants
3:00 - 3:30	Policy Recommendation	Dashiel P. Indelible National Co-Director
3:30	Closing Prayer Departure	

Highlights of the Conference

The conference was able to start at exactly 10:00 o' clock AM.

Attendance

Municipality / Office	Name	Designation
Provincial ENRO	William Alas Romeo Remedio	Forester Forester
Banaybanay	Engr. Aquilan B. Sarigan	MENRO-designate
Lupon	Eugenio T. Rosete Nestor A. Aldeguer	MENRO-designate (previous) MENRO-designate (new)
San Isidro	Madonna A, Masillones	MENRO-designate
Mati	Vicky Lobaton Engr. Eddie Cobacha Kag. Allan Andrada	BFPMS Point Person MENRO-designate SB Representative
Tarragona	Charito Garzon	MENRO-designate
Manay	Richie Diuran	MENRO-designate
Caraga	Bernardo Hernaez	MENRO-designate
Baganga	Prosperador Balog Crisologo Oronan	Punong Barangay - Mikit Barangay Kagawad - Mikit
Cateel	Danny Reyes Roberto Rodriguez	MENRO-Designate SB Chair for Environment
PBPF / Kalumonan Foundation	Melvin Masaliyaw	Assistant Director
PhilDRRA	Elmer Mailwas	Project Coordinator
Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF)	Angelito Cereno Vards Estrada Jun Morales	OIC-Deputy Dir. For CBI Senior Com. Dev't Officer Com. Dev't Officer
UDP-PMO	Dashiel Indelible Gel Abalus	National Co-Director Resource Mgt Coordinator
UDP-Davao Oriental	Esmindo M. Cuda Myrna A. Rosillo	Prov't Project Manager Tech'l Opns Unit - Chief

Of the 30 target participants, 22 were able to make it and three (3) served as proxy. Most of the absent participants are the SB Chairpersons for Environment for the respective towns of Banaybanay, Lupon, San Isidro, Tarragona, Manay, Caraga, Baganga, and Cateel. Only the MENRO of Baganga was not around of all the MENRO-designate of the nine towns. The Punong Barangay and Barangay Kagawad of Mikit both served as proxy for the MENRO-designate and SB Chairperson for Environment of Baganga.

Results

Activity / Topic	Highlights
<p>Introduction of Participants</p>	<p>Myrna Rosillo did a lively introduction of each of the participants due to her familiarity with most of them.</p>
<p>Presentation of the SUD Model and Review of the BFPMS Process</p>	<p>Gel Abalus first showed a video presentation of the SUD model then gave a step-by-step powerpoint presentation of the BFPMS. The video had to be rewinded due to some technical problems with the sound system</p>
<p>MENRO Reports on Experiences and Lessons Learned in the conduct of BFPMS</p>	<p>The reporting system follows the schedule of implementation of the piloting process and launching of the BFPMS by the respective MLGUs. That is, 1) Mati; 2) Caraga; 3) Banaybanay; 4) Tarragona; 5) Lupon; 6) San Isidro; 7) Baganga; 8) Cateel; and 9) Manay.</p> <p>Vicky Lobaton of Mati delved on the ongoing rehabilitation and reforestation measures conducted in Culian, Mati. This was made possible with the strong partnership between the Municipal and Brgy LGUs.</p> <p>Illegal logging activities in Caraga because of political influence was highlighted by Bebot Hernaez.</p> <p>Likewise also in Banaybanay, Lupon, Manay, Baganga, and Cateel - logging, both legal and illegal, was ongoing.</p> <p>Cateel was concerned about the status of their position as MENRO-designate. As casuals or job orders, they are not allowed to request cash advances for BFPMS activities.</p>

	<p>San Isidro dealt about the conflict of boundaries with adjacent towns.</p> <p>Baganga expressed exasperation about the power of the logging company, Baganga Plywood Corporation, which has not issued a waiver on their declared PA, which is within the IFMA.</p>
<p>Synthesis: BFPMS Common Trends and Issues / Concerns</p>	<p>Elmer Mailwas presented his synthesis of the reports of the MENROs. The synthesis reiterated the main issues and concerns such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - continuing logging activities - politics between the barangay and municipal LGUs - status of MENRO as designates - peace and order conditions - conflict of policies and tenurial instruments - the relevance of extra legal tactics - financial management of MLGUs <p>Myrna Rosillo, TOU-Chief, added on the synthesis with the overall status of the BFPMS in the 16 barangays of the nine towns of Davao Oriental and capped her presentation with the financial report on the utilization of the BFPMS funds lodged with the MLGUs.</p>
<p>Open Forum</p>	<p>Questions and discussions regarding the legal issues surrounding the BFPMS dominated the open forum.</p> <p>Good that Melvin of PBPF was around to shed light on the legal issues, such as on the harmonization of forestry laws and policies. He further recommended</p>

	<p>that the policy framework for protected areas under the BFPMS be made clear.</p> <p>Manager Cuda cushioned on the reliance of legal instruments and emphasized the relevance of people empowerment and the use of extra legal methods in forest protection,</p>
<p>BFPMS Institutionalization and Sustainability Mechanism Within the BFPMS</p>	<p>Lito of PEF presented a power point putting the BFPMS in context to the conservation of the biodiversity-rich Eastern Mindanao Corridor (EMC). Among the several lessons learned during the piloting process are the ff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ BFPMS effective implementation depends largely on some of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. size, quality, and strategic location of PA 2. level of community awareness and empowerment in environmental concerns 3. LGU support, capability, and quality of governance 4. politics between the BLGU and MLGU 5. available funds, data, staff, equipment 6. stakeholders support and initiatives 6. level of capability building measures ■ BFPMS can easily be replicated ■ BFPMS can be easily integrated into LUB-BDP and CLUP processes, in watershed and ancestral domain management planning, as well as in large protected areas and biodiversity corridors

	<p style="text-align: center;">like the Eastern Mindanao Corridor</p> <p>Among the Recommendations cited are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ BFPMS needs to strengthen itself in terms of policy and build on more success stories. ■ Consolidate BFPMS Initiatives, summon stronger policy and replicate in adjacent and more strategic areas ■ Formulate plans and programs (such as capability-building and rehabilitation activities) to sustain BFPMS ■ Stop all large-scale logging and mining activities and develop a more sustainable form
<p>Action Planning Workshop</p>	<p>Due to time constraints, action planning focused on the more practical terms such as 1) what needs to be done on the existing BFPMS sites? 2 identify the proposed sites for replication? And 3) possible sustainable mechanism. While most opted to submit their report, representatives from Cateel, Tarragona, and the Provincial ENRO presented theirs to the body.</p>
<p>Policy Recommendations</p>	<p>Actually, Mr. Indelible presented his policy recommendations first before the Action Planning. Mr. Indelible expressed appreciation about the legal issues brought out during the discussions. He recommended that a separate forum will be scheduled for this concern. He cited about the political will of MLGU officials in sustaining BFPMS, and gave some possibilities for the coming</p>

	<p>elections. He also gave credence to the importance of the MENROs in sustaining BFPMS, though he decried about their temporary positions, being co-terminus with the incumbent officials. A regular MENRO would be most appropriate, and capability-building trainings planned by UDP in the coming months would be most useful and relevant. This would also link the services of the Provincial ENRO effectively. The results of this conference will be presented also in the scheduled Regional Assessment and Planning on the BFPMS on January 30-31, 2007 at Davao City.</p>
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The conference ended with a brief silent prayer led by the MENRO of Banaybanay. The time was a few minutes after 5:00 PM.

V. Analysis of Results

Based on the results of the site visits, regular consultations with the MENRO-designates, Punong Barangays, SB Chairs for Environment, CENRO officials and personnel, as well as on the Provincial Conference, the following assessment points and observations are evident:

Logging

Basically, it's a field day for logging from Manay to Cateel. Legal logging activities in Baganga and Cateel practically precipitated illegal logging activities in adjacent towns of Caraga and Manay and resulted in a dominant logging culture that made people in the four municipalities including the very people tasked to protect the forest apathetic or resigned to forest protection.

One of the victims or beneficiaries (whichever one may look at it) of these logging culture is San Fermin, Manay which finally threw out all hypocrisy and issued a Brgy Resolution indicating their disinterest in the establishment of a Protected Area in their barangay. As all their remaining forest stands were claimed by the residents and were already sold and paid by log buyers.

Even declared PAs such as in Bantolinao, Palma Gil, Caraga are no guarantee for protection. People with money, power and influence can trample on barangay or municipal ordinances with impunity. The Barangay Forest Protection and Management Scheme (BFPMC) had become inactive, except to some extent maybe in Culian, Mati and San Antonio, Cateel, and succumbed to the pressures of logging. Small people couldn't help it but join the fray. And then everybody is doing it. In the process, enforcement of forest protection laws by the community simply collapsed.

Logging companies are, on the whole, untouchables in the east coast of Davao Oriental and can be uncompromising to BLGUs and local people. The non-issuance of the waiver of the IFMA holder, Baganga Plywood Corporation, for the protected area declared by Mikit LGU, despite the many requests by the LGU and the CENRO, is a mark of arrogance by the company that had further delayed the signing of co-management agreements. On the other hand, it had created a stalemate situation with a challenged BLGU and in effect put a stop to all logging activities in the proposed PA.

Only in Tarragona that large scale logging activities have not been reported.

Fund Management

Funds downloaded to the accounts of MLGUs for the BFPMS activities are clearly not secured to the whims of unscrupulous local executives. This is clearly evident in Baganga. Caterers and labor hired during the IEC campaign, perimeter survey and marking of boundaries were still not paid by the MLGU up to this time. Other activities such as the educational tour were not conducted because funds for the purpose were no longer available.

Local Politics

A difference in political loyalty clearly affects BFPMS implementation. This was made evident in the case of the MENRO-designate of Cateel, Danny Reyes, who probably has a different mayoralty candidate in mind in the coming May, 2007 elections. As a result, the motorcycle assigned to him was being recalled by the acting Mayor for 'inventory' purposes. His requests for travel, replacement for the defective GPS, and the like were no longer timely addressed.

The provincial government had only lately become visible in the BFPMS activities such as in the Provincial Conference and in the MOA signing at Ompao, Tarragona.

LGU Capabilities

Coaching the MLGUs of Tarragona and Cateel, and even in Manay (despite the failed attempt in the San Fermin) proved to be a success, despite some shortcomings. Any replication of the BFPMS in their respective municipality could now be handled and led by their MENRO-designates.

PA Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation measures conducted by the BFPMC of Culian, Mati for their PA was proceeding significantly, this of course with the willing support and partnership with the MLGU of Mati.

Recommendations

1. The provincial and municipal LGUs should move towards the formulation of a forest land use plan (FLUP) for the municipalities and the whole province. Through this process, management zones such as strict protection zones, critical habitat management zones, and production zones will be identified and established. While this is being done, a moratorium on all logging activities may be declared. Then BFPMS may be used as the tool for protected areas identified in the FLUP.
2. At the same time that this is being conducted, the municipal LGUs should also move towards the establishment of the MENRO as a permanent office task to pursue the FLUP and BFPMS process.
3. Implement capability-building training programs for the MENRO and other personnel involved in forest management which should include knowledge and skills of the following:
 - 3.1 Biodiversity conservation, forestry laws and policies and on the conduct of the FLUP process;
 - 3.2 Community Organizing, facilitating and organizational management;
 - 3.3 Mapping, GPS and GIS system;
 - 3.4 Conflict resolution;
 - 3.5 Education and advocacy work;
 - 3.6 Rainforestation and agro-forestry systems.
4. Conduct massive information and education campaigns to raise and deepen the awareness of the communities and the general public on biodiversity conservation and forest protection and management.
5. Promote rainforestation and agro-forestry systems. Establish a municipal central seedlings nursery or network of nurseries in the upland communities for rainforestation and agro-forestry activities.
6. Develop eco-tourism projects and alternative livelihood activities for the upland communities.