

General Guidelines for the Barangay Forest Protection and Management Scheme August 2005

I. Rationale

After the experiences in testing various approaches for upland development in the past five (5) years, UDP has finally put in shape the **Sustainable Upland Development Model**. Consequently, the model composed of six (6) key development schemes become the “credo” of the programme. It served as the programme’s basic framework in further providing assistance to the covered barangays and in working with the municipal and provincial LGUs.

In particular, **Barangay Forest Protection and Management Scheme (BFPMS)** is one of these schemes that aims to protect, rehabilitate and preserve ecologically critical areas within the upland barangays. As a strategy, it aims to empower and assign responsibility to the BLGUs and the communities in jointly managing the natural resources within their barangays. This approach, specifically, works to mobilize the municipal local government units to provide assistance to barangay local government units and the community-based organizations in protecting and managing the remaining forests in the uplands.

Conceptualized in 2004, the piloting of the scheme started in March 2005 in eleven (11) UDP-covered barangays. The phase one that includes formation of the BFPM Committees, negotiation with forest occupants and site management agreement formulation, MOA signing, identification, delineation and declaration of the forest sites as protected zones are in progress.

UDP’s initial experiences in implementing the scheme have provided many insights on how to further undertake this with its partner LGUs to other barangays. The need was realized to provide more assistance to the Municipal LGUs in implementing the scheme because this is a new endeavor for the LGU and given its limited staff and technical and financial resources.

Hence, these guidelines were formulated to provide the programme as well as the partner LGUs with a common reference in assisting the Municipal LGUs in pursuing the Barangay Forest Protection and Management Scheme in the pilot barangays.

II. Objectives

General Objective:

To protect and rehabilitate the remaining forest pockets and ecologically critical areas in the upland barangays.

Specific Objectives:

- a) Enhanced awareness of the entire barangay on the importance of protecting the remaining forests and ecologically critical areas within the barangays;
- b) Motivated and trained Barangay LGU officials and local community organizations in protecting and managing the remaining forests and other ecologically critical areas as forest protection zones within the barangay;
- c) Declared barangay forest protection areas through corresponding barangay ordinances adopted by the Municipal LGU, DENR and NCIP.
- d) Installed and operational community-based and site-specific forest protection and management plan;
- e) Forged partnership among the Barangay LGU, Municipal LGU, DENR, NCIP and local communities in managing the forestlands at the barangay level.
- f) Established LGU mechanisms for the adoption and replication of the Barangay Forest Protection and Management Scheme to other barangays within the municipality

II. Scope of the BFPMS Implementation

A. Area Coverage / Target Areas

- Municipal LGUs that have pilot barangays with Land-Use based BDP
- Priority is for all UDP-covered areas with Land-Use based BDP.
- UDP-covered barangays without Land-Use based BDP, however, Barangay Officials expressed commitment and enthusiasm to protect the remaining forests and critical areas.
- Barangays with on-going or pending riverbank stabilization or reforestation projects.

B. Major Milestones to be considered and Expected TimeFrame

PHASE ONE: DECLARATION OF THE SITE						
Milestones		M1	M2	M3	M4	M5
1	ABC Presentation/endorsement	X				
2	SB endorsement	X				
3	Mayor's endorsement	X				
4	Appointment of MENRO or designated point person	X				
5	Barangay LGU Orientation		X			
6	Barangay Action Plan		X			
7	Review of Land Use Maps/Site Identification		X			
8	Formulation of Resolution re: Site ID / Committee Formation		X			
9	MOA Signing			X		
10	Barangay-wide IEC / EAC		X	X	X	X
11	Consultation/Negotiation with Forest Occupants		X	X		
12	Formulation of Site Management Agreement with Forest Occupants		X	X		
13	Conduct Perimeter Survey		X			
14	Map Production		X			
15	Ordinance re: Declaration of Protected Area				X	
16	Fencing / Planting on Forests Lines					X
17	Establishment of Billboards					X
18	Appointment of Forest Guards				X	X
PHASE TWO: CAPABILITY-BUILDING						
1	BLGU / BFPM Committee (including forest guards) Training on Environmental Laws			X	X	Or beyond
2	Training on Site-specific Forest Management for forest guards				X	
3	Training of BFPM Committee, Occupants/Forest Guards on RAINFORESTATION				X	
4	Formulation of Barangay Forest Management Plan				X	
5	Continuing IEC Activities				X	
6	Deputation of Forest Guards		X			
7	Implementation of Support Projects				X	
	(eg. nursery establishment, tree planting, buffer zone development, etc.)				X	

C. Steps in undertaking the Barangay Forest Protection and Management Scheme

1. PPO Point Persons to assist the MLGU / MENRO to formulate a proposal with budget for BFPMS in 2006 (or in the remaining months of 2005) and facilitate the submission of proposal with written request from the Municipal Mayor re: BFPMS indicating target barangays and schedules within its capacity.
2. PMO to review, validate, approve and facilitate the preparation of the activity document for financial assistance needed based in the approved workplan and budget from the MLGU and.
3. PMO in consultation with the PPOs to assess the need for service providers and, if needed, facilitate the tapping of their services to assist the MLGU in implementing the scheme.
4. PMO to initiate a coordination meeting between the PPO, Municipal LGU, concerned Barangay LGU and Service Provider (if there is) to review the TOR and proposed workplan and plan for the actual implementation.
5. Municipal LGU together with the Service Provider will assist the target barangays in implementing the scheme.
6. PMO will come up programme-wide training plan and tap other institutions (e.g. Haribon, Tanggol-Kalikasan, PBPF, SALIGAN, etc.) to conduct actual trainings for MLGU (MENRO), BLGU and local community organizations (forest guards and barangay officials).
7. Assessment and Planning for further replication within the municipality.

D. Financial Requirements

Barangay Forest Protection and Management Scheme Projected Budget (per barangay)

Milestone Activities	Budgetary items included	PLGU	MLGU	BLGU	UDP*)
PHASE ONE: DECLARATION OF THE SITE					
1	Perimeter Survey		500	500	15,000
2	BFPMC Mobilization Activities (meetings, consultations)		2,000	2,000	
3	Barangay-wide IEC activities				15,000
4	MOA Signing / Actual Declaration of Protected Area				10,000
5	Legal Documentation (notarization, blue printing of maps, etc.)				2,500
6	Billboards- major billboard only			1,500	15,000
8	Fencing / Planting in forest lines (depends on size of the forest area)		10,000	5,000	

*) maximum contribution

PHASE TWO: CAPABILITY-BUILDING**)					
Milestone Activities	Budgetary items included	PLGU	MLGU	BLGU	UDP*)
1	Processing Expenses for the Deputization of the Forest Guards			3,000	
2	BLGU / BFPM Committee Training on Environmental Laws including Forest Guards				
3	Training on Site-specific Forest Management/Forest Guards				
4	Training of BFPM Committee, Occupants/Forest Guards on RAINFORESTATION				
5	Formulation of Barangay Forest Management Plan				
6	Continuing IEC Activities				
7	Implementation of Support Projects				
8	(eg. nursery establishment, tree planting, buffer zone development, etc.)				

***) UDP* contributions through a Service Provider if needed, or for the MENRO if this Office has the capability to do it