

Barangay Forest Protection and Management Scheme

The Barangay Forest Protection and Management Scheme was conceptualized by the Upland Development Programme to address the further destruction of the remaining forests in the uplands which is generally caused by the expansion of farming activities and encroachment of destructive activities in the forestlands.

This “on-site” forest management approach aims at empowering the Barangay Local Government Units and the local communities in managing the natural resources within the barangay by mainstreaming forest management functions in the barangay governance systems and structures. The guidelines are based on the devolved functions of the DENR on forest management to the Local Government Units provided in DENR-DILG JMC 98-01 and 2003-01.

Concerns and Issues

- Expansion of inappropriate farming practices and encroachment of other destructive activities that further destroy the forestlands.
- Limited functions of the barangay local government units in forest management
- Lack of commitment and capacities of the local communities in protecting and managing the forests
- Inadequate implementation of community-based extension services of concerned government agencies in protecting and regulating the use of forestlands in the barangays.

Objectives

- To protect the remaining forestlands from further expansion of farming activities and other destructive activities
- To organize and mobilize the Barangay Local Government Units and the local community organizations (such as the Upland Barangay Association) in protecting and managing the remaining forestlands in upland communities.

- To introduce appropriate community-based and “site-specific” forest management projects.
- To forge strong co-management partnership between the Barangay LGU, Municipal LGU, DENR and the local communities in managing the forestlands at the barangay level.

Results/Benefits

- Preservation of the remaining forestlands and, consequently, maintain the ecological balance in the uplands.
- Improve the water sources and river systems in the uplands that would adequately supply water and prevent floods in the lowlands.
- Increased commitment and enhanced capacity of the barangay local government units and local communities in protecting and managing the environment.
- Mobilized resources from DENR, Municipal LGU, Barangay LGU, local communities and other donor agencies for the protection and management of the forestlands.

General Mechanisms

- Drafting and execution of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the BLGU, MLGU, DENR and local communities
- Formation of Barangay Forest Protection and Management Team and deputization of Barangay LGU and local community organizations as Barangay Forest Protection Officers
- Identification, Delineation and Declaration of the identified site as Protected Zone based on the Barangay Land Use Plan integrated in the Barangay Development Plan.
- Assessment and formulation of a site-specific Forest Protection and Management Plan for the identified forest protected area
- Actual Implementation of the Forest Protection and Management Plan
- Monitoring and Evaluation of the Forest Protection and Management Plan