

COMMUNITY- BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT

THE UN-FINISHED JOURNEY

**Under one label or another,
CBFM has been a strategy
proposed, pursued and
promoted by government
agencies and many NGOs for
the last 50 years**

As envisioned, communities residing on forest lands would derive sustainable livelihood from forest products and agricultural crops grown on the forest lands

**Residents of these communities
would be awarded tenure
security and receive guidance
and training to develop grass-
roots organizations**

**It was assumed that to protect
and defend the benefits they
would derive, communities
would practice sustainable
forest management**

Harvesting of forest timber, rattan, bamboo and other forest products would not exceed the volumes that would be replaced by natural regeneration and regrowth.

Destructive slash-and burn farming (“*kaingin*”) would be replaced by improved land use practices like orchard development, contour farming and cut-and-carry livestock management

It is clearly apparent from realities on the ground that many of the noble goals envisioned in the CBFM concept have not been realized

**CBFM agreements now
cover many thousands of
hectares and numerous
communities**

**But conflicts within the
communities and from
external pressures have
emerged in many of these
agreements**

**There are very few recorded
instances of sustained yield
forest management being
practiced**

**“Kaingin” farming and other
destructive land use methods
continue to applied**

**WHY HAVE SO MANY
CBFM GOALS BEEN SO
DIFFICULT TO
ACHIEVE?**

**Answering that question
would take much more
time that we have available
at this event.**

**But it is possible to highlight
some of the principal
problems that have emerged.**

**First, despite limited actual
experience on the ground,
DENR and NGOs chose to
implement CBFM nationwide**

There was a severe shortage of personnel adequately trained in the mix of required skills

**Inadequate dialogue to
arrive at consensus on
what land use practices to
apply, where and by
whom?**

**Lack of simple, basic
“hands-on” skills in forest
management, agroforestry
and animal husbandry**

**Failure to correct the
widespread mis-conception
that harvesting, use and sale
of forest products would
inevitably lead to
deforestation**

**Imposition of rules and
regulations that created
dis-incentives to tree-
planting**

**Failure to provide training for
development of simple
bookkeeping skills on,
accounting and audit of funds
provided to and/or earned by
the community organizations**

**Corruption and extortion
exerted on the communities
by many levels of authority**

THE WAY
FORWARD?

**SUSTAINED PUBLIC INFORMATION
CAMPAIGN EMPHASIZING THE
PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF
SUSTAINED YIELD FOREST
MANAGEMENT**

ABOLISH RULES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES THAT GOVERN THE HARVEST, SALE AND TRANSPORT OF TIMBER GROWN ON TREE FARMS AND PLANTATIONS. THESE RULES, ETC. CREATE DISINCENTIVES TO TREE PLANTING.

**PROMOTE AND SUPPORT ASSISTED
NATURAL REGENERATION (ANR) AS A
PRINCIPAL COMPONENT OF CBFM AND
AS THE FIRST PHASE OF
IMPLEMENTATION IN REFORESTATION
AND FOREST RESTORATION PROJECTS
AND PROGRAMS.**