

Forest Management Units in Sustainable Forest Management

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Scope of the presentation

Main topics

- Introduction covering the FMU concept and situation in the Philippines
- Sustainable Forest Management covering what SFM means and the path towards SFM in the Philippines

Introduction

Definition of Forest Management Unit (FMU)

Three elements of an **FMU**:

- Defined **area**, generally tenured
- Recognized **forest manager** as the resource-use rights holder
- Sustainable **forest management system** described in a forest management plan and implemented by means of annual operations plans, may be mental/verbal or unwritten plans

Introduction

Examples of FMUs under the Philippine situation

FMU	Area, ha	Forest manager	Forest management system
CSC area	0.5-5	Individual	Tree farm, unwritten management plan
CBFMA area	50-500	Local community	Forest plantation + agroforestry, CRMF
Ancestral land	500-5000	IP community	Agroforestry, written IP plan
IFMA area	5000-50000	Forest company	Forest plantation, written FMP
Forest park	5-50	Company, LGU	Ecotourism, written/unwritten plan
Communal forest	100	LGU	Forest protection, written/unwritten plan
School forest	1000	School	Multiple use, written/unwritten plan
Military reservation	100	Military unit	Multiple use, written/unwritten plan

Introduction

Not examples of FMUs

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- NGP areas in **open access areas** because the **planting contractor is not the forest manager** of the planted area
 - Watershed areas assigned to GOCCs like NIA and NAPOCOR because of **unclear forest management** due to large areas of virtually **open access areas** or **informally settled areas**, in spite of the stewardship responsibility assigned to the GOCC

Introduction

Current situation concerning SFM in the country, or the lack thereof

- **Concept** of FMU or SFM **not properly understood** even by foresters.
- **Focus on technical forestry aspects** neglecting the FMU concept in forestry schools.
- Large areas of **open access** forest land.
- **Unprotected FMU** areas become virtually open access resources.
- Low morale of FMU holders due to **changeable government policy**.
- **Low standard of management** of FMUs, veering on the unsustainable.
- **No FSC certified FMUs** in the country.
- Heavy reliance on **imported wood, uncontrolled illegal logging**.

Path to SFM in the Philippines

What does the objective of attaining SFM in the country mean?

- **Non-overlapping FMUs** completely occupy the **entire forest area** of the country, such that:
 - ✓ FMUs are being managed by designated **forest managers** under a forest **management system** whose **areas are protected by secure tenure**.
 - ✓ Forest managers are able to secure the **capacity** and the **means** to sustain their **management activities** to meet their **management objectives**.
 - ✓ **DENR** as the ultimate **steward** of forest lands and their resources provide **supportive policy, encouragement, and support** so that the forest managers not only sustain their management activities, but **improve progressively the standard** of management.

Path to SFM in the Philippines

Systems that DENR must institute toward attaining SFM in the country

- Dynamic fully transferable **forest land tenure distribution system**
- Profitable and market-oriented **timber and NTFP value chain systems**
- Technological **demand-oriented R&D and extension system**
- **FMU accreditation system** developing into a **forest certification system**
- Sustainable forest **financing mechanism**

Path to SFM in the Philippines

Establishing a forest land tenure distribution system

- Designate forest managers with defined FMUs occupying forest land entirely, **no more open access** forest land.
- Provide secure and **fully transferable tenure** to every forest manager.
- Establish a **forest land tenure information and implementation system**.
 - ✓ Establish **procedures and database for tenure transfers** through sale, lease, inheritance, consolidation, and subdivision, as well as grievance mechanism.
 - ✓ Establish a forest **land-use valuation and rent setting system**.
 - ✓ Establish with LGU a **forest land rent collection system**.
 - ✓ **Organize and train staff** to implement the different systems mentioned above.

Path to SFM in the Philippines

Developing timber and NTFP value chains

- **Link** the forestry **R&D sector with DTI** to develop timber and NTFP value chains.
- Develop **extension programs** promoting timber and NTFP value chains.
- Develop **FMB as a line agency** that provide technical support, including on value chains, to small-scale forest managers., e.g. tree farmers and POs/IPOs.
- **Deregulate the harvesting** and utilization of timber and NTFP in FMUs.

Path to SFM in the Philippines

Re-focusing R&D and extension to technologies that FMUs need

- **Re-focus** the efforts of the **forestry R&D sector** to the needs of FMUs, especially of small and medium enterprises.
- R&D publications are useless if the published results and **technologies** do not **benefit the FMU managers**.
- **Scale up** the production of **technologies** that work, e.g. biotechnology.
- Make sure of the **access of FMU managers** to those **technologies**.

Path to SFM in the Philippines

Establishing a forest certification system

- Establish the system for and require **PO accreditation** of DENR partners.
- Develop the **national forest certification system** independently first for experience and credibility before seeking PEFC endorsement.
- Promote **FSC certification** for forest products exporting companies while no PEFC endorsement yet.
- Develop **third-party certifiers** capable of using both FSC and PEFC standards, e.g. SFFI.

Path to SFM in the Philippines

Sustainable forest financing mechanism

- Course the **public funding** of forest development to forest-based SMEs through a **Forestry Development Fund** instead of direct use by DENR.
- Develop **PES as financing mechanism**, obligatory rather than voluntary, from power and water supply schemes based on watersheds.
- Develop **crop insurance** with forest **development loan financing**.
- **Large forestry enterprises** can take care of themselves provided they have **secure tenure** over their land uses and **deregulated harvesting** and utilization of their products.

Path to SFM in the Philippines

Do we have the political will toward SFM in the country?

- Can DENR develop the **political will toward a paradigm shift** in forestry development?
- The **choice** is between **continued stagnation** or **sustained progress** of forestry in the Philippines.
- **Timeline** for attaining SFM? **Five years** with systematic, coordinated efforts.

Path to SFM in the Philippines

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION!