

Million-Hectare Forest Program Implementation Through Sustainable Forest Management

Forester Manuel Bonita
Forestry Consultant

Session 1: How can the country attain self-sufficiency
in wood and non-timber forest products?



2023 National Conference

8-12 Nov 2023

Subic Bay Exhibition & Convention Center, Zambales



Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc.

IDENTIFYING FORESTLAND FOR THE PROGRAM

- **Sites** include both **protection** and **production** forests and **non-forest** areas
- **Zoning** of identified **sites**
 - **Forest Zone** comprising existing and emerging natural forests
 - **Agro-Forest Zone** comprising open areas for agro-timber plantations
 - **Non-Forest Zone** comprising infrastructure, settlements, permanent agriculture areas, etc.
- **One million hectares** of natural and emerging **forests for rehabilitation** come from the summation of the **Forest Zones** of FMUs established for MHFP
- **One million hectares** for **agro-timber plantations** come from the summation of the **Agro-Forest Zones** of FMUs established for MHFP



2023 National Conference

8-12 Nov 2023

Subic Bay Exhibition & Convention Center, Zambales



Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc.

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

- ☐ **SFM** does **not** refer to **sustainable forests**
- ☐ **SFM** does **not** refer to **sustainable harvests** and **benefits** from forests
- ☐ **SFM** refers to the **sustainable management** of **forests**
- ☐ **Sustainable forests** and **benefits** are the **outcomes** of **sustainable management**



2023 National Conference

8-12 Nov 2023

Subic Bay Exhibition & Convention Center, Zambales



Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc.

FOREST MANAGEMENT UNITS

- **Elements of FMU** – **land** resource, **resource manager**, and forest management **system** as detailed in the **FMU Development and Management Plan**
- **SFM happens** when the **resource manager develops** the land resources into forest resources and **sustainably manage** the forest resources according to the **FMU Development and Management Plan**
- **Tree planting** operations are **conducted by FMUs** in the **Agro-Forest Zone** to meet SFM objectives, such as producing wood for processing and marketing
- **SFM** does **not** result from **tree planting projects**; in practice usually after the project ends the tree planting area starts to be neglected and does not necessarily turn into a forest or plantation
- **Main weakness of NGP** – designed to implement **tree planting projects** rather than **assigning FMUs** to **develop forests and plantations** and **manage them**

2023 National Conference

8-12 Nov 2023

Subic Bay Exhibition & Convention Center, Zambales



Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc.

FOREST CLUSTER

- **MHFP Program** should focus on **FMUs clustered** to attain **industrial scale**
- **CBFM** is generally conducted at **subsistence scale** so benefits are small
- **CBFM Units** should be **clustered to attain industrial scale** and reap significant gains toward poverty reduction and environmental conservation
- **Large Forest Clusters** are the result of **clustering the FMUs** into a **network** of **production** areas, **processing** centers, and **market shipping** points
- **Production areas** of Forest Clusters may come in different modes, for example
 - **IFMA as nucleus FMU** with **CBFM Units as satellite FMUs**
 - A **network of CBFM Units** that **add up to industrial scale**



2023 National Conference

8-12 Nov 2023

Subic Bay Exhibition & Convention Center, Zambales



Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc.

FOREST REHABILITATION AND AGRO-TIMBER FARMING

- **Forest rehabilitation** happens **naturally** through **forest protection**; no need to invest much in tree planting
- **Investments** should focus on the **development** of **agro-timber plantations**
- **Why agro crops** with timber crops?
 - **Timber crops alone** are prone to **fire and livestock damage**
 - **Agro-crops** provide effective **protection of timber crops** because the protection of agro-crops for livelihood by the local people would also protect the timber crops



2023 National Conference

8-12 Nov 2023

Subic Bay Exhibition & Convention Center, Zambales



Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc.

PROCESSING AND MARKETING

- **One million hectares** of **agro-timber plantations** are enough to return the Philippines to its past position as a **major exporter of wood products**
- **Forest certification** of FMUs should come on stream within 5 years so the country can enter the **certified wood market**



2023 National Conference

8-12 Nov 2023

Subic Bay Exhibition & Convention Center, Zambales



Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- **Capacity building** of DENR **extension workers** to enable them to **build the capacity of FMU operators** should be a major undertaking of MHFP
- **Capacity building** should be **modular** based on the **progress of FMUs** in SFM and **sustained** until the FMU operators can sustainably manage the FMUs with little outside help



2023 National Conference

8-12 Nov 2023

Subic Bay Exhibition & Convention Center, Zambales



Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc.

TIMELINE OF MHFP IMPLEMENTATION

- **No hurry** to immediately **plant trees**
- **Establish FMUs first** and cluster them to **industrial scale** – that is the first priority
- **First year**
 - Identify and **allocate forestland** for the Program
 - **Extension work** to establish or identify existing **FMUs to participate** in the Program
 - **Capacity building** of **resource managers** for SFM initiated and sustained
- **Second year**
 - **Formulate** and approve **FMU Development and Management Plans**
 - **Secure financing**, e.g., DENR supervised credit from NGP funds deposited with Land Bank or DBP
- **Third year onward**
 - Accelerate **plantation establishment** and **plan for processing and marketing**
 - Initiate **forest certification** and seek **domestic and export markets**



2023 National Conference

8-12 Nov 2023

Subic Bay Exhibition & Convention Center, Zambales



Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc.

PUSH FORWARD AND ONWARD !!!



2023 National Conference

8-12 Nov 2023

Subic Bay Exhibition & Convention Center, Zambales



Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc.