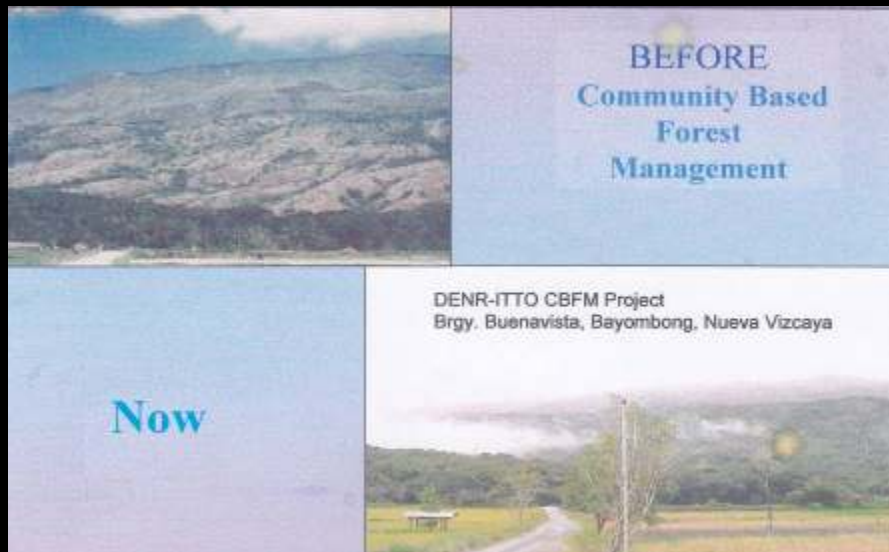
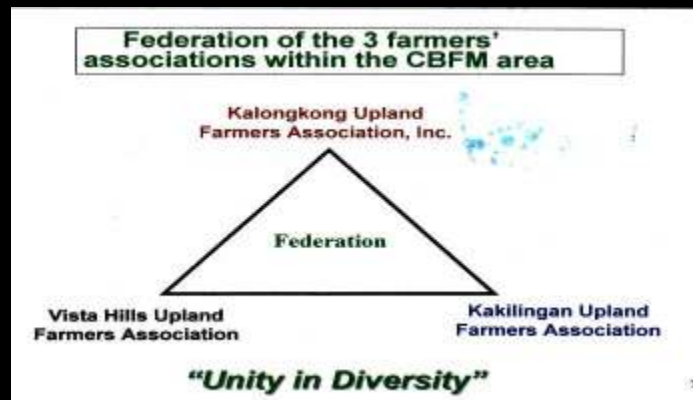


**BEST PRACTICES
IMPLEMENTED IN THE ITTO
CBFM PROJECT
Buenavista, Bayombong,
Nueva Vizcaya**





The ITTO CBFM Project located at Buenavista, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya is being managed by the People's Organization issued with CBFM agreement last March 29, 1999 under CBFMA No. 020219005. The total project area is more or less 3,000 hectares.



The Federation of Vista Hills, Kalongkong and Kakilingan Upland Farmers Inc., the CBFMA holder, is a conglomeration of 3 Associations entrusted by the DENR to manage in a sustainable manner the 3,000 hectares forestland in Barangay Buenavista Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya. Majority of the members of this PO were once engaged in timber poaching, kaingin and illegal charcoal making leaving almost half the area barren and marginal. In the former days, anyone can quickly describe in exaggeration this upland community as a burning hell during summer as these former kaingeneros do the land preparation and their indiscriminate charcoal making business.

- In 1995, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) thru the recommendation of the DENR has selected the community for the implementation of the 177 hectares Research-Based Plantation Establishment Methods which was successfully completed in 1997. Recognizing the good impact of this short-term project to the community and to sustain the development of the established plantation as a strategy to continue transforming this community into a more responsible and productive partner of development, the DENR proposed the 2nd phase of the project under the CBFM development strategy which was favorably approved by ITTO. More aggressive initiative was then implemented within this second term of project development from July 1998 to July 2002. This phase of the project concentrated primarily in transforming the values of the community members to come into terms with the forest and the environment; and at the same time equipping them with proper knowledge, skills and attitude to enable them to effectively carry out

- Within the span of about 3 years of consistent intensive social preparation aggressively exerted by the DENR-ITTO project personnel, the values towards caring for the forest by these former timber poachers, kaingineros and illegal charcoal makers eventually changed dramatically. From their bitter personalities as forest destroyers, they were transformed into better persons and become effective partners and managers in the sustainable development of forestland resources. In terms of organizational responsibility, they were able to strengthen their once fragmented associations into a strong Federation and become instrumental in attaining the following achievements:

**1. Effective protection of
1,500 hectares
remaining residual
dipterocarp forest:**



2. Rehabilitation of the once denuded 1,500 hectares forestland, (caused by destructive economic activities before) into:

a) Tree plantation – 100 hectares:



b) Regenerating natural forest – 100 hectares:



c) Agroforestry farms – 1,300 hectares



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c) Agroforestry farms – 1,300 hectares



3. Development of various community-based enterprises such as:

a) 1-hectare tiger grass plantation



b) Carabao for hire business



c. Goat-raising



Establishment of strong link with the DENR, the Provincial Government\LGUs, Academe such as the Nueva Vizcaya State University (NVSU), Saint Mary's University (SMU) and Aldersgate College, Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Public Work and Highways (DPWH), Department of Education etc. which finally led to the creation of the Buenavista Upland Development Advisory Council (BUDAC), an inter-agency collaboration represented by the same government and private organization which are now actively providing assistance to the Federation.



Developed Partnership among CBFM stakeholders:

- Community
- DENR
- Local Government Units
- Non-government Organization
- Academe
- Other Government Agencies

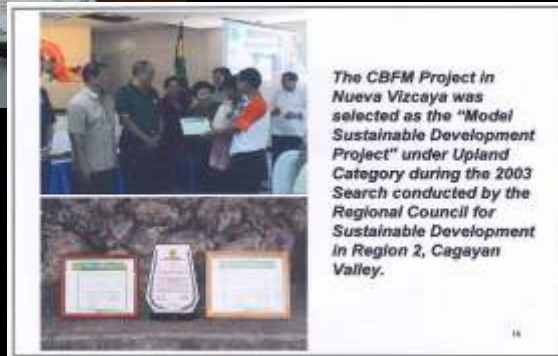
Signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) of collaboration among members of the Buenavista Upland Development Advisory Council (BUDAC) on June 19, 2003

Remarkably, this once brown and denuded forestland described as a burning hell during summer times was successfully transformed into a vast green haven by so-called former forest-destroyers.

Despite the cessation of funding support from ITTO in 2002, this Peoples Organization with the support of DENR local officers was able to sustain the continuous development of the Project.

These excellent and worth-emulating achievements eventually earned them the title as the No.1 Model Sustainable Development Project in Nueva Vizcaya and in Region 02 for 2 consecutive years (2003 and 2004) succeeding the Banila Community Based Cooperative, a Hall of Fame Awardee on the same competition.





In 2009 the DENR implemented the UDP/CBFM-CARP Agroforestry and ANR project, one of the strategies for sustainable forest development for hunger mitigation poverty alleviation in the upland communities wherein there were 30 project beneficiaries for agroforestry and 18 beneficiaries for ANR.



As the popular saying “kung may itinanim may aanihin” goes, the Federation is now counting the fruits of their labor. In June and July of year 2010, an inventory of harvestable Gmelina trees from the community's tree plantation was undertaken with the assistance of the concerned personnel of the DENR local office. This resulted to the DENR issuing a permit to harvest Gmelina trees with a volume of 3,500 cubic meters. This volume would obviously translate to about 16 million in gross sale and an expected net sale of P 7,120,000.00 for the diligent and responsible members of the People's Organizations.





As a manifestation of responsible stewardship, substantial part of the proceeds hereof shall be allocated by the PO for replanting, maintenance and protection, agro-forestry, local livelihood enterprise, organizational development and the like.



For calendar year 2011, an income generating project on Integrated Agro forestry and Bamboo Plantation amounting to P1,067,000.00 under CBFM-CARP fund was awarded to the Federation by the DENR. This project includes the purchase of two (2) working animals, fruit bearing trees, vegetable seeds, bamboo cuttings and, nursery tools and equipment. Training on bamboo propagation and team building was conducted by the DENR under this project.

A ten (10) hectares reforestation project under the National Greening Program (NGP) was also awarded to the Federation by the DENR on the same year.

Income Generating Projects



Income Generating Projects



Training Seminar on Bamboo Propagation



The National Greening Program (NGP)



- The remarkable development now happening in this lowly forest community is an undeniable manifestation that people empowerment is indeed a vital key to forest development.
- NOW, CBFM-ITTO Project serves as a show window on researches and studies by schools and other institutions on sustainable agro-forestry and other community-based projects implemented by People's Organization.
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- Therefore, the CBFM principle **“PEOPLE FIRST, FOREST FOLLOWS”** is now being translated into reality by the Federation of Vista Hills, Kalongkong and Kakilingan Upland Farmers Inc., one of the emerging heroes of sustainable forest management of today in the entire country.

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PO members in various activities



PO members in various activities



LESSONS LEARNED:

- The strength of a peoples' organization is the active participation of every member in all project/ activities. PO members should be involved in planning, policy making, implementation, decision making and monitoring and evaluation.
- Good and strong leadership through transparent management and operations of officers share the same weight to the success of an organization.
- Introduction to alternative livelihood for PO members will veer them away from being dependent to forest products as primary means of living