



Ikalahan Ancestral Domain

Mean annual rainfall:
4,000 mm

Stakeholders of tree change

The Ikalahans community-led approach to natural resources management accounted for achieving their goal of enhancing livelihoods and reducing poverty, while promoting environmental conservation at the same time. Various stakeholders play critical role, including the Kalahan Educational Foundation (KEF), the CADT holders who are mostly Ikalahan farmers, and the local government. Their degree of influence varies to natural resources in the area. Traders in particular influence the utilization of non-timber forest products, such as bamboos and wild fruits.

Box 1: Indigenous Rights for Ikalahans

13 May 1974—A memorandum of Agreement (MOA) No. 1 was signed between KEF and the Bureau of Forest Development (currently the Department of Environment and Natural Resources or DENR). The agreement established the 14,730 hectare- Kalahan Forest Reserve which resolves threats to ancestral lands and culture of indigenous people. It recognized their claims and assured that they would not be given away from their lands. It further gave them complete control and authority to manage the natural resources within the reserve (Dolom and Serrano, 2006).

Box 2: Kalahan Educational Foundation

The KEF provides the umbrella program for the KFR. One of these programs is agroforestry, which focuses on natural resources protection and development, including reforestation activities.

- Different stakeholders are being involved in consultation meetings and focus group discussions to discuss matters related to tree growing and sustainable land use systems.
- For example, in developing their Sustainable Resource Use Plan, stakeholders collaborated in identifying original and current land uses of the proposed forestry carbon project site, identifying the institution responsible for the land use change, and the corresponding impacts of these changes to water, biodiversity, livelihood and settlement.



- The government's national agencies, such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the National Commission of Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), the academe and research organizations among others also have stake because of Ikalahan's important landscape. Their perceptions and priorities affect the change of tree cover and land use systems on this dynamic landscape.
- The Ikalahans are currently supporting the DENR's National Greening Program.
- Other stakeholders include the downstream communities for the various ecosystem services they benefit from the domain, such as water, eco-tourism, and others. Even the global community has stake on this landscape because of its carbon storage potential and rich biodiversity.