



# Ikalahan Ancestral Domain

Mean annual rainfall: 4,000 mm

## Leverage on real drivers of change

Poverty is prevalent in Ikalahan ancestral domain. Poor access and underdeveloped public services, such as market infrastructure, education and health services, characterize their living condition. Rewarding the Ikalahans for their ecosystem services provide an opportunity to transform their lives and landcape. This requires strengthening their capacity for sustained natural resource management, and enabling policies that modify incentive rights and motivation.



Photo Credit: Kalahan Educational Foundation



Table 1. Customary laws and KEF policies on land and resource use

Resource use/ issue	Nature of restriction	Fine/ Penalty
Use rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kalahan residents only access to resources in secondary forest areas subject to resource guidelines below</li><li>• New residents need permit for resource use</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Non-residents reported to DENR for persecution</li></ul>
Firewood and lumber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For use on the reserve only, not for external sale</li><li>• Harvesting restrictions marked trees</li><li>• only to be cut</li><li>• Cutting permit required</li><li>• Registration of chainsaws with Agroforestry (AF) Office</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 400 Php per tree cut</li><li>• Confiscation of all produce</li><li>• 500 Php for unregistered chainsaw and reported to DENR for persecution</li></ul>
Swidden farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New clearings must have permit from AF Office</li><li>• Cultivated lands to be interspersed with forest and not on the land</li><li>• susceptible to slides</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 500 Php in dedicated watershed or sanctuary (primary forest) areas and required to cover cost of reforming area</li><li>• 100 Php anywhere else</li></ul>
Forest fires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No burning except for ‘proper agricultural development’</li><li>• Guidelines for firelines and burning times</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 500 Php, plus payment for damages and reforestation area</li><li>• plus remuneration of people involved in putting out fire</li></ul>
Orchid collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strict guideline on methods for orchid collection complete ban on collection of endangered orchids</li></ul>	See below
Wildlife and flora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In sanctuary areas, no harvesting of trees, orchids, rattan, bamboo, birds or other animals</li><li>• Outside sanctuaries: hunting of animals permitted from July-Aug</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1st Offense: 1000Php +confiscation</li><li>• 2nd Offense: 2000Php +confiscation</li><li>• 3rd Offense: 3000Php +confiscation of resources (this fine also applies for hunting wild pig and other big animals in sanctuary areas on the 1<sup>st</sup> offense)</li></ul>

Source: KEF, 1995, Development Plan: Ancestral Domain Kalahan reserve Phase 2

- The World Agroforestry Centre’s (ICRAF) Rewarding the Upland Poor for the Environmental Services that they provide (RUPES) projects (Phase 1 and 2) facilitated the development of reward mechanisms for the Ikalahans. Mediated by the Kalahan Educational Foundation (KEF), RUPES focused on developing carbon sequestration payments mechanism for the domain, helping the community surrounding the Kalahan Forest Reserve to prepare to enter the international carbon market, particularly through training and searching for potential buyers.
- A national environmental services market fair was organized to link the KEF to ecosystem services buyers. Two potential buyers expressed interest: water for SN Aboitiz Power’s hydroelectric power plant, while Aboitiz Equity Venture would like to offset their carbon emission. Negotiations are still on-going.
- Indeed, rewarding the Ikalahans for providing ecosystem services is supportive to the Millennium Development Goals 1 and 8 (e.g. to eradicate poverty and ensure environmental sustainability), as well as to the Philippine Agenda 21.



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