



- [1] **Executive Order No. 263** is the enabling law for the implementation of the Community Based Forest Management Strategy as the national strategy to ensure development of the country's forestland resources. It pursues the constitutional provisions on social justice, respect for the rights of the Indigenous Peoples to their ancestral domains and the protection and advancement of the right of the Filipino people to a healthful and balance environment.

It is also the policy of the State to acknowledge and support the capacities and efforts of local communities and Indigenous Peoples to protect, rehabilitate, develop and manage forest lands and coastal resources. Under the CBFM, the State provides legal and technical support to ensure equitable access to and sustainable use of natural resources.

The primary aim of CBFM is to promote social justice and improve the well-being of local communities especially the Indigenous Peoples living within or near forestlands. It also aims to ensure the sustainable management, rehabilitation, protection and utilization of forestland resources.

- [2] **Pioneering Programs on CBFM.** People-oriented forestry programs in the Philippines started as early as the 1970s with the launching of the Forest Occupancy Management (FOM) Program, Communal Tree Farm (CTF), and the Family Approach to Reforestation (FAR). They were primarily designed to rehabilitate open and cultivated areas and contain occupancy in forestlands. On July 28, 1982, the **Integrated Social Forestry Program** (ISFP) was launched through Letter of Instruction (LOI) No. 1260 with the goals of alleviating poverty, promoting social justice, and developing and protecting forest resources through proper stewardship of the uplands. Considering the similarity of objectives and target participants, the ISFP consolidated FOM, CTF and FAR to promote a more holistic approach in the development of open and occupied areas within the forestlands.

DAO No. 123 series of 1989 launched the **Community Forestry Program**, a collaborative undertaking of rural communities and non-government organizations. Its basic feature is the granting of the 25-year Community Forestry Management Agreement (CFMA) to organized upland communities. It provided forest products utilization rights and privileges to the communities based on their prepared management plan.

In 1988, the **National Forestation Program** was adopted which focused on the enormous task of reforesting the country's denuded forests. Contract reforestation was the primary vehicle of the NFP which involved families and communities.

The **recognition of ancestral domains claims**, on the other hand, was formalized thru the issuance of Certificate of Ancestral Domain/Land Claims (CADC/CALC). CADC is a certificate issued by DENR to an indigenous cultural community/indigenous people declaring, identifying and recognizing their claim to a particular traditional territory which they have possessed and occupied, communally or individually, in accordance with their customs and traditions since time immemorial. CALC is a certificate issued by DENR to an indigenous Filipino individual, family or clan, declaring, identifying and recognizing their claim to a particular area they have traditionally possessed, occupied and used by themselves or through their predecessors in interest since time immemorial. It grants IP management and utilization rights through the affirmation of their Ancestral Domain Management Plan (ADMP). With the passage of the IPRA Law, the CADC/CALC are being converted into Certificate of Ancestral Domains Title.

- [3] **Primary forest** is synonymous to old growth forest (Philippine Official Reference for Forest Related Terms and Definitions).

- [4] **Executive Order No. 318** entitled Promoting Sustainable Forest Management in the Philippines was issued on June 9, 2004 in pursuance of the government policy on sustainable management of forests and forestlands in watersheds. It adopts the following guiding principles: 1) Delineation, classification and demarcation of state forestlands; 2) Holistic, sustainable and integrated development of forestry resources; 3) Community-based forest conservation and development; 4) Incentives for enhancing private investments, economic contribution and global competitiveness of forest-based industries; 5) Proper valuation and pricing of forestry resources and financing SFM; and 6) Institutional support for SFM.
- [5] **Executive Order No. 606**, issued on February 27, 2007, is titled, "Pursuing Sustainable Upland Development (SUD) Anchoring on Food, Wood and Non-wood Security and Economic Productivity and Providing the Mechanisms for its Implementation and for other Purposes". It aims to pursue sustainable development of the country's upland areas and communities by ensuring a proper balance between ecological and economic concerns while maintaining and improving the forests natural resource base. It further promotes economic activities of local communities as well as ensures the equitable access to and benefit from the resources. The SUD is anchored on the principles of sustainable forest management adopting primarily the community-based forest management strategy in the conduct of community mobilization, local land-use planning, delivery of basic social services, extension services, forest protection & resource management, rural infrastructure and development of local enterprises and livelihood activities.

