

# DENR, farmers revive grassland

BY PIA

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SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga: The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has partnered with a group of upland farmers in bringing back trees in a portion of grassland ecosystem in Zambales.

The Malatapi Community Livelihood Center Inc. (MCLCI) in Candelaria town, a people's organization and beneficiary of the DENR's Community-Based Forest Management Program, uses a cost-efficient way to establish a second-growth forest.

"MCLCI has managed to reforest a total of 60-hectare grassland portion of their CBFMP area without planting any seedlings or additional cost from us but through Assisted Natural Regeneration [ANR]," DENR Assistant Region 3 Director Arthur Salazar said.

"What the upland farmers did is to find surviving tree species or seedlings including wildlings in the grassland area, then, they uprooted the grass around the tree, combined with grass pressing by foot to clear the surrounding of the tree species from weeds. This method of forest restoration is technically called as ANR," he explained.

ANR is a cost-efficient technology of rehabilitating degraded forest land and shrub vegetation by taking advantage of trees already growing in the area, and by protecting and nurturing them.

"They have protected the tree species from grass fire and grazing by establishing fire lines or fire breaks to make sure its survival. They

have also constructed look-out tower for regular monitoring against any forest disturbance,” he said.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/nluzon-denr-offices-unite-vs-environment-threats/490993/>