

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community-Based Forest Management Program (CBFMP) revolutionized forest development and rehabilitation efforts of the government when it was institutionalized in 1995 by virtue of Executive Order No. 263.

Before the adoption of the CBFM approach, the sole motivating factor of contract reforestation awardees was primarily financial gains. With the implementation of the Forestry Sector Project (FSP) using CBFM as its main strategy to rehabilitate the mangrove ecosystem, it empowered beneficiary communities economically, socially, technically and politically while transforming them into environmentally responsible managers. The tenurial right to develop subproject sites alongside the various inputs from the Subproject deepened their commitment to collaborate with other stakeholders in the implementation of these subprojects.

The Capalonga Mangrove Rehabilitation Subproject is within the proclaimed Mangrove Forest Reserve in Capalonga, Camarines Norte and covers six barangays: Alayao, Mataque, San Isidro, Poblacion, Camagsaan and Calabaca.

Massive conversion of mangrove forests into fishponds and resettlement area; widespread cutting of mangrove species for fuel wood and charcoal production severely degraded the Mangrove Forest Reserve and thus had to be rehabilitated.

Lapses in community organizing activities were compensated by those of the comprehensive site development with all of the targeted 933 hectares fully accomplished with a weighted average survival rate of 89%. The People's Organization, Capalonga Mangrove Development Association, Inc. (CAMADA) has a track record for good performance with its project cited as the Best Mangrove Project for Luzon.

Involvement in CSD activities created employment for 157 members of the organization as well as 31 who are non-members for a total of 148,990 man days while the Infrastructure Component provided jobs to some 120 persons from the six barangays equivalent to 9,480 man days. On the other hand, 126 members were employed in livelihood projects.

Cumulative increase of income per annum of household for all six barangays for their involvement in CSD and other project activities went up from a total average of PHP111, 000.00 (before project implementation) to PHP175,000.00 or an increase of 58.01% during implementation. This positive development was translated into capability to acquire houses and lots,

motorboats, appliances and furniture and the capability to provide education to their children.

In terms of infrastructure, six multi purpose drying yards, one for each barangay, were awarded to the PO to support their livelihood projects.

Other benefits include a total of 24 trainings on various subjects ranging from improvement of management capabilities to technical ones such as crab fattening and seaweed production, post harvest as well as other vital trainings to empower the members like paralegal orientation, preparation of project proposals, among others.