



Forest Foundation Philippines Program Plan, 2017-2021



About

Established in 2002, under two bilateral agreements between the governments of the United States of America and the Philippines, the Forest Foundation Philippines is a non-profit organization that provides grants to organizations that empower the people to protect the forests.

Since its inception, the Forest Foundation Philippines has supported over 450 projects which has improved the management of 1.5M hectares of forest lands, restored approximately 4,200 hectares of forests through the re-introduction of appropriate native species, established over 40 community-conserved areas and built over 60 community enterprises.

Today, the Forest Foundation Philippines' work continues as the forests still face threats. Guided by the Forest Foundation Philippines Program Plan, 2017-2021, the Foundation has allocated around Php 480M to protect the country's most critical forest landscapes: Sierra Madre, Palawan, Samar and Leyte, and Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental.

Vision

Lush forests protected by
empowered people

Mission

To support activities that
foster forest protection

Forest Foundation Philippines

Program Plan, 2017-2021



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Background and Objective

The Forest Foundation Philippines Program Plan, 2017-2021 is a straightforward and practical strategy for the Foundation and its stakeholders in grants management.

This plan is a product of the Forest Foundation Philippines' decade of experience in grants management, with elements from various national framework strategies.

To substantiate the plan with the realities on the ground, the Foundation vetted the plan with its stakeholders at the national and focal levels.

Approach

The Forest Foundation Philippines employs the sustainable forest landscape approach. The Foundation supports projects, which can establish participatory and coordinated forest protection strategies on a large scale. Through this strategy, the Foundation hopes to meet the full range of local needs, while contributing to national commitments and targets.



At the core of the sustainable forest landscape approach is the support for climate change mitigation objectives through reducing emissions from forest degradation and deforestation (REDD-Plus) activities, consistent with the Philippine National REDD-Plus Strategy (PNRPS).

Focal Landscapes

Given their ecological significance and importance to communities, the Forest Foundation Philippines, through the Second Tropical Forest Conservation Agreement (TFCA2), has committed its resources for the protection and sustainable management of the following landscapes:

1. Sierra Madre
2. Palawan
3. Samar and Leyte
4. Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental

Areas outside the focal landscapes may also be supported depending on its contribution to the attainment of the goal of the program plan.



Program Plan, 2017-2021, Goal and Outcomes



Goal

The Forest Foundation Philippines' overall, long-term goal is the protection and sustainable management of Philippine forests and its biodiversity.

Outcomes

1. GROW FORESTS

Enhanced forest ecosystems that provide products and services

The Forest Foundation Philippines supports the participatory protection, management and enhancement of forest ecosystems that provide products and services. Key stakeholders must share information, develop a common understanding of the problems and collaborate on management decisions to protect the forests.

2. GROW LIVELIHOODS

Improved community livelihoods

The Forest Foundation Philippines supports the development of sustainable livelihoods, consistent with the manner of protecting the forests.

3. GROW PARTNERSHIPS

Strengthened organizations and institutions

The realization of the Forest Foundation Philippines' goal requires collaboration with the government and other development partners. The Forest Foundation Philippines supports the strengthening of organizations and frameworks critical to the attainment of its goal.

4. GROW ADVOCATES

Enhanced knowledge management and advocacy

The Forest Foundation Philippines recognizes the power of citizen participation in the attainment of its goal. The Forest Foundation Philippines supports projects which can empower the public to be the driving force of forest protection.

Program Plan, 2017-2021, Outputs

To achieve its goal, the Forest Foundation Philippines has planned the following outputs from 2017 to 2021.

1 GROW FORESTS

Enhanced forest ecosystems that provide products and services

| Outputs | Scope |
|---|---|
| 1.1 Scientifically-sound forest ecosystem assessments supported in four focal landscapes by 2019 | <p>Policies and operational decisions for the sustainable management of forests, especially in the four focal landscapes, should be grounded on scientific information. The Forest Foundation Philippines supports assessments that will serve as project baselines, such as (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forest biodiversity• Forest ecology and forest conditions• Forest resource inventory on wood and non-wood products• Forest protective functions• Forest social and cultural services• Carbon stocks• Climate change vulnerability and risks <p>Outside of the focal landscapes, the Forest Foundation Philippines extends its support for the characterization, assessment and protection of critical habitats within forests.</p> |

| Outputs | Scope |
|--|---|
| 1.2 Participatory planning, zoning and demarcation of forests supported in four focal landscapes by 2020 | <p>The Forest Foundation Philippines supports the participatory identification and delineation of management zones within forestlands. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-sectoral approaches in developing and/or updating management plans • Establishment of major and minor physical demarcations of boundaries within classified forest lands |
| 1.3 Participatory, threat-based, multi-sectoral forest maintenance and protection supported in four focal landscapes by 2020 | <p>The Forest Foundation Philippines supports the participatory identification of threats to forests, and the maintenance and protection of the existing contiguous forest blocks.</p> |
| 1.4 Science-based and participatory reforestation, restoration and enhancement in appropriate management zones conducted in four focal landscapes by 2021 | <p>Guided by existing information on site-specific drivers of deforestation and degradation, the Forest Foundation Philippines supports the participatory restoration and enhancement of focal landscapes using native tree species.</p> <p>Outside the focal landscapes, support is extended to the establishment of community nurseries.</p> |

| Outputs | Scope |
|--|---|
| 1.5 Mangrove forests management supported by TFCA1 scaled-up by 2021 | <p>The Forest Foundation Philippines was able to exhibit success in mangrove conservation in its past projects. The Forest Foundation Philippines supports the replication of best practices on mangrove conservation outside of the four focal landscapes.</p> |
| 1.6. Forest management strategies piloted in at least three small island ecosystems by 2021 | <p>The Forest Foundation Philippines supports “research for conservation” interventions in small islands outside the focal landscapes.</p> <p>Small island ecosystems to be supported should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total land area less than 2,000 square kilometers • A total population not more than 200,000 • Natural forest cover that is at least 30% of its total land area • Island endemics (unique flora and fauna) • Eligible partners willing to implement projects |
| 1.7 Scientifically-sound biophysical evaluation supported in four focal landscapes by 2021 | <p>To assess the impact of the program plan, the Forest Foundation Philippines supports the evaluation of the projects that it has supported under outcome 1.</p> |



2 GROW LIVELIHOODS

Improved community livelihoods

| Outputs | Scope |
|--|---|
| 2.1. Participatory action research, analysis and development of sustainable livelihood supported in four focal landscapes by 2021 | The Forest Foundation Philippines employs the sustainable livelihood approach – starting from the assessment of the existing livelihood assets of the communities to the participatory planning and implementation of sustainable livelihood strategies. |
| 2.2 Community enterprises catalyzed with partner communities and other stakeholders in four focal landscapes by 2020 | One of the imperatives of sustainable livelihood is access to strong markets for the focal landscapes' raw and secondary products. Guided by this principle, the Forest Foundation Philippines supports the conduct of market studies and value-chain analysis, and implementation of capacity and capability development activities. |

| Outputs | Scope |
|--|---|
| <p>2.3. Characterization of and support for options for sustainable financing mechanisms in four focal landscapes by 2021</p> | <p>Sustainable livelihood does not only refer to the production of an array of products. It also refers to the identification and development of forest ecosystem services with economic value.</p> <p>The Forest Foundation Philippines supports the development and implementation of mechanisms that provide incentives to communities, which maintain the ecosystem's ability to provide these services. This includes the identification and implementation of sustainable financing options, such as ecotourism, PES scheme and REDD-Plus, among others.</p> <p>To complement these, support is extended to the development of national and local policies in leveraging market contribution to sustainable landscapes.</p> |
| <p>2.4 Interventions on sustainable livelihoods, including enabling policies, assessed in four focal landscapes by 2021</p> | <p>To assess the impact of the program plan, the Forest Foundation Philippines supports the evaluation of the projects that it has supported under outcome 2.</p> |

| Outputs | Scope |
|---|--|
| 3.1 Baseline data on organizations, institutions, policies and relevant development plans gathered and analyzed in four focal landscapes by 2021 | The Forest Foundation Philippines supports the stocktaking and analysis of other organizations and institutions' relevant management plans. The results of the study will serve as basis in setting local level conditions for a sustainable forest landscape. |
| 3.2 Needs-based, area-appropriate capacity-building program implemented in four focal landscapes by 2021 | The Forest Foundation Philippines supports capacity and capability development activities on sustainable management of forests, leadership, sustainable livelihoods, communications and advocacy of the civil society and government agencies. |
| 3.3 Community-based organizations organized and/or strengthened for forest management in four focal landscapes by 2021 | The Forest Foundation Philippines supports the organizing and strengthening of community-based organizations that sustainably manages the forests, as well as the development and enhancement of community development plans. |

| Outputs | Description |
|--|---|
| <p>3.4 Appropriate forest management bodies and frameworks supported in four focal landscapes by 2021</p> | <p>The Forest Foundation Philippines supports the development of frameworks, strategies and plans to strengthen local-level forest resource management.</p> |
| <p>3.5 National policies and bodies that promote forest protection supported by 2021</p> | <p>The Forest Foundation Philippines supports the development and strengthening of the capacities of institutions that provide an enabling environment to support community-based organizations and finance local-level forest management networks.</p> |





4

GROW ADVOCATES

Enhanced knowledge management and advocacy

Outputs

Scope

4.1 Information on the knowledge, attitude and perception of the relevant audience regarding forests generated by 2019

Knowledge management and communication strategies should be anchored on evidence. The Forest Foundation Philippines supports researches which provide baseline information regarding forest protection.

4.2. Knowledge on forests and forests ecosystems services and products generated and managed at the national level and in the four focal landscapes by 2021

The Forest Foundation Philippines supports knowledge generation and management, including scholarships, researches, publications and knowledge-sharing platforms, among others.

4.3. Knowledge, attitude and perception of the relevant audience on forests enhanced by 2021

The Forest Foundation Philippines supports projects that will increase knowledge and understanding on forest protection.

4.4. Constituency established and participation encouraged in forest protection and sustainable forest management related activities by 2021

The Forest Foundation Philippines acknowledges the power of citizen's participation as the driving force of forest protection.

Grant Programs

To attain the program plan's goal, the Forest Foundation Philippines is implementing the following grant programs:

1. Forest Landscape Grant Program

The program supports activities that foster the protection and sustainable management of forests in the focal landscapes.

2. Focused Grants Program

The program supports activities that foster the protection and sustainable management of forests outside the focal landscapes.



Implementation Strategies

Because of the different levels of the stakeholders' involvement and capacities, there may be variation on the implementation of the program plan per focal landscape.

Collaboration

Collaborative program development is proactively being undertaken by the Forest Foundation Philippines, together with its key stakeholders, to align the Foundation's program plan with the national and local plans.

Increased Grants

The Forest Foundation Philippines has increased its grants to cover larger areas and support bigger projects. Depending on the project's scope, the Forest Foundation Philippines may support projects up to Php 24 M per year.

Request for Proposals

To allow equal access for project support, the Forest Foundation Philippines publicly issues Request for Proposals (RFPs) for its grant programs on a rolling basis.

Grant Agreements

Grant Agreements (based on conservation agreements and LGU development plans) between the Forest Foundation Philippines and community-based organizations or LGUs may be done to achieve particular outputs in support of a common project outcome.

Consultancies

When necessary, the Forest Foundation Philippines engages consultants to achieve particular outputs in support of a project outcome.

Monitoring and Evaluation

To realize the goal of the program plan, monitoring and evaluation is conducted by the Forest Foundation Philippines at the following levels:

Project-level monitoring is conducted periodically during the implementation of the project as basis for fund disbursement. Guided by the recommended indicators of the grantee, the Forest Foundation Philippines reviews and ensures the progress of the project through accomplishment reports, site validation and interview with stakeholders.

Program-level evaluation is conducted at various phases to continuously learn from the projects supported by the Forest Foundation Philippines. Guided by the results matrix, the Forest Foundation Philippines reviews and measures the effectiveness of the program.



Reference:

Forest Foundation Philippines. (2017).
Results Framework for Sustainable Management of Forests, 2017-2021.





**Forest
Foundation
Philippines**

Let's grow together.

2F Valderrama Bldg., 107 Esteban St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City,
Metro Manila, Philippines 1229

www.forestfoundation.ph

Phone: (+63 2) 891 0595 ■ (+63 2) 864 0287