

The Philippines



Organization: Bukidnon Umayamnon Tribe Kapu-unan To Mga Datu Association (BUKDAA)

Location: Malaybalay City and Cabanglasan, Bukidnon Province

Solution: Cultivating bamboo and cacao for building climate resilience and creating new sources of income in Mindanao, the Philippines

Factsheet Period: First round of UNDP AFCIA funding (18 months); Second round of UNDP AFCIA funding (16 months)



Community members working in the bamboo plantation in Bukidnon province, The Philippines @BUKDAA

The Philippines lost approximately 6.2% of its tree cover between 2001 and 2021, driven by unsustainable farming practices ([Global Forest Watch](#)). The Bukidnon Umayamnon Tribe's Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan aims to address biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation caused by illegal logging. The solution focuses on establishing giant bamboo plantations and promoting bamboo and cacao cultivation to combat deforestation, soil erosion, flooding and pollution. The solution provides training in cultivation, harvesting and marketing to enhance livelihoods and foster climate resilience while preserving the tribe's ancestral lands.



Key achievements

- Established 40 hectares of green cover (20 ha for giant bamboo and 20 ha for cacao) in the riverbanks of the Pulangi River
- Engaged 138 individuals from Indigenous and cultural communities in sustainable management practices of giant bamboo and cacao, ensuring long-term productivity, and environmental and biodiversity benefits
- Conducted seven community consultations and workshops over the AFCIA grant implementation period, with more than 1,250 farmer-partners participating, representing an average of 178 participants per workshop
- Provided short-term paid employment to 11 Indigenous families
- Led by Indigenous leaders, supported by the "Council of Elders", implemented by local communities
- Supported cacao plantation development in Misamis Oriental Province
- Completed Cacao Farmers' Educational Trip to established IP-managed plantations and markets in the Davao Region (Sawata, Davao del Norte, and Malagos, Davao City)
- Addressed sustainability partly in management of the Ancestral Domain, by establishing their legal entity, the Bukidnon Umayamnon Tribe Kapu-unan To Mga Datu (BUKDA) Association or BUKDAA, under the Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE), and formulating a BUKDAA Sustainability Plan



Social impact

- Creates sustainable livelihoods for Indigenous communities through agricultural production, sales and marketing of bamboo poles and cacao beans
- Strengthens 'Council of Elders' for local stewardship of resources



Adaptation benefits

- Promotes nature-based solutions for erosion control, watershed rehabilitation and climate resilience
- Engages communities in governance and climate adaptation efforts
- Enhances riparian ecosystem resilience through bamboo's carbon sequestration capacity



Innovation

- Integrates sustainable harvesting schemes to ensure long-term productivity of bamboo and cacao
- Utilizes low-cost nature-based solutions for soil erosion, watershed rehabilitation and biodiversity conservation and enhancement



Replication potential

- Planting giant bamboo and cacao is replicable across riverbanks of ancestral domains in similar contexts
- Council of Elders model ensures a strong foundation for sustainable practices



Funding snapshot

- UNDP-AFCIA grant: US\$185,000 (initial grant: \$60,000; scaling grant: \$125,000)

Investability

Revenue per year	N/A while crops are growing.
Sustaining criteria	Seeking to establish market links with potential buyers and social entrepreneurs. 70% of net income will be allocated for market and site development.
Financial innovation	<p>Indigenous farmers are provided with capacity building, logistical support and access to industry and entrepreneur networks to support their long-term financial sustainability as social entrepreneurs.</p> <p>BUKDAA is exploring a revenue-sharing model with its farmers and, eventually, a revolving credit fund to allow farmers to scale and improve their operations.</p>
Expected return	Starting in year 5, cacao sales are expected to bring in \$13,500 each year. Bamboo sales will add \$2,800 annually starting in year 7, increasing to \$11,200 per year from year 10 onwards.



To read their story, visit [UNDP-AFCIA](#)

To watch their video, click [here](#)