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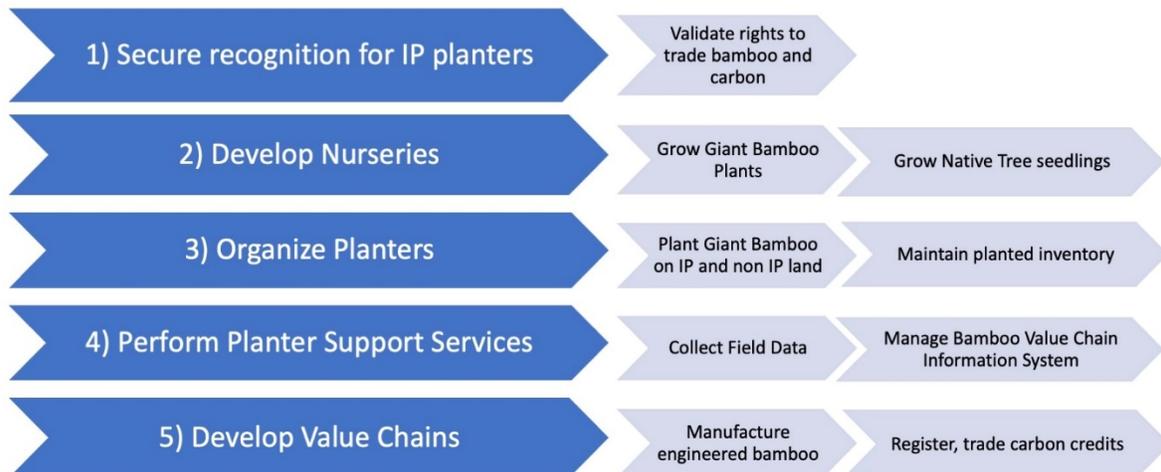


MINDANAO BAMBOO VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Executing a bamboo reforestation campaign for climate mitigation, adaptation, and social impact amongst indigenous communities

The USAID Philippines, in partnership with Buktamaco, the economic arm of the Bukidnon Tagoloanon tribe, is implementing the two-year Mindanao Bamboo Value Chain Development Project. Working with a diverse team of IP nurseries, IP planters and private sector actors from Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental in Mindanao as well as the United States, the Project aims to stimulate a yet-undeveloped bamboo value chain that will allow Mindanao planters to participate in the multi-billion dollar global bamboo economy, thanks to the unique technical attributes of Mindanao’s endemic *Dendrocalamus asper*, known as “Giant Bamboo.”

To achieve these goals, the project will:



CLIMATE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

With over 40% of Mindanao's land controlled by Indigenous Populations (IP), the project unlocks the massive potential to offer a path for economic improvement for IP communities while contributing to a global race to lower carbon emissions. By planting 1500 hectares of Giant Bamboo and native trees, the project will result in 600,000 tons of carbon removal over 10 years. Planting these trees strategically along Mindanao's river system also leverages another key characteristic of bamboo, namely the web-like below ground root network which helps control land erosion and flooding.

INDIGENOUS AND GENDER-NEUTRAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

Indigenous communities are engaged at virtually every phase of the bamboo value chain, from nursery development to planting of 275,000 giant bamboo and 250,000 native trees, harvesting and management. At the same time, the project will have significant societal impact by fostering an agro-forestry economy that encourages women to enter the workforce across the entire bamboo value chain.

ANCESTRAL PRACTICES AND HIGH-TECH CONVERGENCE

The project's work with IP communities "on the ground" is augmented by the use of high technology. The University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines. Center for Precision Agriculture / Smart Farming Center (USTP) will apply satellite-based imagery to identify propitious areas for bamboo reforestation.

A COMPLETE VALUE CHAIN

A complete value chain will be made successful and sustainable with the project's engagement of an industrial partner, Bamboo Ecologic Corporation Inc., which manufactures engineered bamboo materials for the global construction industry. Synchronized investments by this US-based company in Mindanao will create demand for "made in Mindanao" giant bamboo materials.

In the current context of a global race toward "net zero", the project also includes highly innovative access to climate finance. The Mindanao Bamboo Value Chain Development Project will support the development of carbon offset methodology per the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS), a key step toward accessing follow-on climate financing in support of a large-scale reforestation in the Philippines beyond the project's two-year life.

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