



NTFP-EP

non-timber
forest products -
exchange programme



2014 **ANNUAL REPORT**

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Non-Timber Forest Products - Exchange
Programme for South and Southeast Asia
(NTFP-EP)

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2014 Annual Report. Quezon City, Philippines.

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NTFP-EP

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ACRONYMS

AGMIHICU	Agtulawon Mintapod Higaonon Cumadon	FMIP	Financial management improvement plan
AMAN	Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara	FPIC	Free and Prior Informed Consent
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	FRA	Forest Rights Act
ASFCC	ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change	FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
ASFN	ASEAN Social Forestry Network	ICCA	Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Territories and Areas
AIPP	Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact Bee Conservation and Wild Honey Enterprises	IMR	Impact Monitoring Report
BCHE	Borneo Chic	FDS	Forest Department Sarawak
BC	Borneo Chic	IP	Indigenous peoples
CADT	Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title	IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
CBHE	Cambodia Federation for Bee Conservation & Community based Honey Enterprises	JMHI	Jaringan Madu Hutan Indonesia
CBNE	Community-based NTFP enterprises	MACS	Mutually Aided Cooperative Society
CBO	Community-based organizations	MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
CCA/DRR	Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Response	MGF	MicroGrants Fund
CLAPS	Community Livelihood Appraisal and Product/Resource Scanning	NGP	Non-governmental organization
CMCC	CustomMade Crafts Center	NGP	National Greening Program
CNWG	Cambodia NTFP Working Group	NTFP	Non-timber forest products
CRM	Conservation and Resource Management	PaFF	Partners for Forestry and Fisheries Cambodia
CSO	Civil society organization	PFHN	Philippine Forest Honey Network
DOST	Department of Science and Technology	PGS	Participatory Guarantee System
DOT	Department of Tourism	PRM	Participatory Resource Monitoring
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry	PTRI	Philippine Textile Research Institute
EXCEED	Expanding Community Enterprise and Economic Development	REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
FA	Forestry Administration	RFRI	Rainforest Restoration Initiative
FDS	Forestry Department of Sarawak	RSPO	Round Table for Sustainable Palm oil
FFI	Fauna and Flora International	SIE	Southern Institute of Ecology
		SHGS	Self-Help groups
		UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
		UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
		WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature





Maria Teresa Guia Padilla

Maria Teresa Guia Padilla

President of the
Board of Trustees

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the past years of my engagement with NTFP-EP in various capacities, I witnessed the growth and challenges faced by the organization. I had been a project partner in 2004 through my organization, Anthropology Watch; was a board member in 2004, and took on the Presidency post of its board in 2014.

I know of its humble beginnings in 1998 when a handful of organizations in Asia together with their Dutch counterparts agreed to initiate a pilot programme to help local communities and NGOs build capacity through mutual cooperation and information exchange. The programme would deal with various aspects of NTFP development including resource management, food security, subsistence use and marketing, not to mention national and regional networking. Initial collaboration came from organizations from the Philippines, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, and later followed by Cambodia, with the first annual regional meeting held in 2000. By 2004, the NTFP Exchange Programme was registered as a collaborative network of NGOs and community-based organizations in South and Southeast Asia working with forest-based communities to strengthen their capacity in the sustainable management of natural resources.

Fast forward to 2014, NTFP-EP has grown to a network of over 60 NGOs and community partners. There are now over 50 staff from the regional and country offices who work tirelessly and remain dedicated to our cause. Despite the increasing and more complex challenges that surround our work – successive natural disasters,, local insurgencies and environmental threats in the name of industrial progress, not to mention the internal challenges of not having enough people with the right skills and limited finances, NTFP-EP pushes on with even more committed actions from the ground up.

We welcome some transitions at NTFP-EP, especially of a new Executive Director, Ms. Femy Pinto, who will replace Ms. Crissy Guerrero in March 2015. Femy comes from the NTFP-EP family and previously was the Cambodia Coordinator and later was Coordinator for the Mekong Region. Ms. Crissy Guerrero picks up a key position in the organization as Senior Advisor for Strategic Programs.

Finally , we wrapped up 2014 with an evaluation of NTFP-EP on its effectiveness in achieving its goals along the areas of forest conservation, sustainable harvest, as well as the management and rehabilitation of NTFPs. We also prepare ourselves to welcome not only the new year but also a new strategic plan for 2015-2018, which will be a collective effort amongst staff, partners and our active Board of Directors.

The NTFP-EP family is indeed thankful to all its donors, supporters and friends for sharing our commitment and for your partnership with NTFP-EP in linking people and forests.



WHO WE ARE

About a hundred million people living in and around forests in South and Southeast Asia depend on NTFPs for their subsistence and cash income. NTFPs and NTFP-derived products such as furniture, honey, varnish, beeswax candles, and herbal medicine are necessities in urban centers too.

However, communities often have no access to strategic information, practical technology, and financial support to make viable enterprises. A handful of organizations that saw the link between sustainable use of forest resources and economic development for indigenous peoples (IPs) and forest communities started helping these communities, and the Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) Asia sprung from the need for these groups to come together.

The NTFP-EP is a collaborative network of over 60 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) working with forest-based communities to strengthen their capacity in the sustainable management of natural resources in Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Vietnam.

WHAT WE DO

For centuries, communities in the region have been using traditional ecological systems, knowledge, and practices to protect forestlands, which have in turn provided them with their basic needs. Our shared goal is to promote forest conservation through the empowerment of forest-based communities and the sustainable management of NTFPs.

Employing a participatory strategy, NTFP-EP helps strengthen the capacity of forest-based communities and their support organizations by serving as a platform for information and knowledge exchange of appropriate resource management techniques and experiences. The network also provides technical support and training, assistance in strategy formulation, documentation of best practices and success stories, mobilization of resources, advocacy for local initiatives, and lobbying efforts for enabling policies.

Specifically, we work towards:

- Forest conservation through management and sustainable harvesting of NTFPs, to emphasize the forests' intrinsic relationship with the culture and livelihood of indigenous peoples;
- Tenurial security and enforcement of user rights through legal measures and policy advocacy;
- Food and health security through the enhancement of subsistence uses of NTFPs, and promotion of indigenous peoples' culture and traditional ecological knowledge;
- Increased income from value addition and marketing of NTFPs using the low volume, high value approach;
- Land rights, tenure and policy advocacy through constituency building, ensuring enabling environments in which various sectors are in support of indigenous land rights and their NTFP enterprises

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2014 was a challenging year for Malaysia which experienced two airline tragedies and the worst flooding to hit the country in decades. The Philippines also had its share of flooding and a serious blow to a landmark peace agreement with Moslem rebels. Cambodia continued its reforms amidst a rapidly shifting climate of politics and economics. Both India and Indonesia went through a change in governments resulting in new policies that have a bearing on the advocacies of non-government organizations. But in spite of all these challenges, NTFP-EP continued to work with its partners in strengthening the capacity of forest-based communities.

Accomplishments focused on the themes of conservation and sustainable resource management; food and health security; land rights, tenure and policy; and income generation for the forest-based communities. These include a more comprehensive database for NTFP species that was completed and is scheduled for uploading in our website, better harvest protocols for honey and resin, documented harvest strategies for some 65 species, creation of wild food nurseries, inroads in resin market and trade initiatives, among others.

There were exchange visits on Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs) and Tenurial Security, as well as visits between Indonesia and the Philippines on forest honey networks, between India, Malaysia and Indonesia on documenting forest foods including river fish. NTFP-EP with its partners joined the World Parks Congress in Australia and collaborated with the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN) to continue working with governments and other institutions.

Enterprise development projects focused on the two value chains of forest honey and natural resin, and on resource assessment of potential NTFPs available for local consumption and/or commercialization. To further expand community forest enterprise initiatives, NTFP-EP launched its training programme called Expanding Community Enterprises and Economic Development (EXCEED) with its first training on the mechanics of upscaling community forestry enterprises.

Organizationally, NTFP-EP went through a number of changes at the regional level with a new president of the board of trustees and a new Cambodia coordinator. At the country level, Indonesia office had a turnover of staff, while the Philippine office began the process of becoming a separate entity.

THEMATIC OUTCOMES





Conservation and sustainable resource management practices of forests and NTFPs continued for partner communities across the region in 2014. Some partners focused on conservation of the forest ecosystem while others focused on the restoration of specific threatened NTFP species such as cycads, mahua, custard apple, bamboo, yams, and rattan.

Work on systematization of sustainable harvest protocols increased, with more emphasis on natural resins for the Philippines and Cambodia. National standards were developed for honey in the Philippines, and harvest practices for 65 species across the region were documented. A total of 1,970 NTFP species in 5 countries were collated in an ongoing effort to build the database of products.

Support was given to communities in managing their landscapes, including assistance in blocking external threats through community mapping and land rights workshops, delineation of ancestral land and land use planning, and documentation of Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs). ICCA work has intensified particularly for the Philippines and Indonesia, with 23 communities being assisted.

An exchange visit on two focal learning themes, ICCAs and Tenurial Security, was organized for 38 participants

coming from 7 countries. Participants learned and appreciated (1) the roles of indigenous communities in securing, managing and conserving their lands, (2) the legal instruments available to them including legal contexts in several countries, and (3) the strategies and experiences of Philippine communities in ensuring land ownership and conservation governance.

NTFP-EP and partners participated in the World Parks Congress (WPC) in Australia under the banner of Governance Quality, Diversity and Vitality of the ICCA Consortium. Members of the Consortium gathered to share experiences, issues and triumphs in terms of indigenous peoples and local communities managing and conserving their own land. The Consortium, together with many partners and indigenous representatives, made recommendations on the importance of traditional wisdom and management in conservation, which was taken up in a collective statement released after the WPC. The book published by the Working Group on ICCAs in Indonesia (WGII) on ICCA case stories was launched at this event.

Internal capacity building of staff on conservation and resource management work progressed, with staff from 3 countries undergoing several workshops on basic NTFP ecology, community-based resource management, and strategies for conservation.



FOOD & HEALTH SECURITY

A study on health of indigenous communities was conducted in Malaysia and the Philippines. This looked at forest food nutrition, assimilation and loss of culture, and the health of communities in relation to the state of their respective forests.

NTPF-EP participated in a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) event to bring out the issue on the

importance of food and health security. In recognition of river fish as an important indigenous food source, staff across the region have begun discussing how to document its use and traditional practices surrounding it.

In India and Malaysia, planting of food species continues, while a wild food festival was celebrated in the Philippines.



Most Asian countries continue on the road towards large-scale, extractive development, often times within indigenous people and local communities' territories. This often results in forest degradation and conflict situations with the state and private business interests. Challenges are expected as well with the launch of the ASEAN economic integration.

As key strategies to meet ongoing and future challenges, NTFP-EP and partners together with the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN) CSO Forum, continue to work with governments and other institutions. They aim for greater recognition of community tenure rights, and democratization through multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms by providing evidence-based policy recommendations. Particular emphasis was given to the Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) process as the minimum standard requirement for implementation of forest projects and investments.

Significant progress in civil society engagement was shown in ASFN-endorsed plans that incorporated civil society's calls to provide secure access to indigenous and local communities, to simplify the process of social forestry (SF) registration and to tackle food security and food

sovereignty together. ASFN's plans also include establishing value chain support and incentives for SMEs in SF, and adopting the voluntary guidelines on business and human rights, among others. The same plans have been endorsed to higher ASEAN bodies.

Through an international meeting on indigenous community conserved areas (ICCAs and tenure), NTFP-EP was able to share knowledge and experience across different countries through workshops and field visits. Continued exchange among countries for national level deepening is scheduled in 2015.

In the climate change arena, NTFP-EP and the ASFN CSOs endeavored to make social forestry and safeguards reflected and relevant in the UNFCCC process by engaging in the discussion and formulation of country level submissions on Non-Carbon Benefits and Safeguard Information System (SIS). NTFP-EP, for the first time, supported the participation of an ASFN CSO contingent from Cambodia, Myanmar and the Philippines to the 20th Conference Of Parties (COP) of the UNFCCC in Lima, Peru, where experiences on strengthening equity, accountability, and benefit distribution in forest governance were shared.



INCOME GENERATION

NTFP-EP continues to expand its support of community-based NTFP enterprise (CBNE) in its countries of focus. Emphasis was placed on two value chains namely, natural resin and forest honey.

Cambodia and the Philippines have been involved in supporting resin market and trade initiatives. This resulted in increased incomes by as much as 20% which was the case for the Philippines' new resin trading arrangements. In Cambodia, market research on two finished resin products (boat caulking resin and fire starter) was conducted, and signing of supply agreements of 5 community-based resin enterprise (CBRE) with a local company was facilitated. Sustainable collection also improved for over 400 resin gatherers in both countries.

Indonesia and the Philippines have been leading in forest honey product development which included honey shampoo and lotion in Indonesia and honey soaps in Cambodia and the Philippines. NTFP-EP Indonesia is also finalizing anti-cancer and anti-aging testing for forest honey which could add value to forest honey, as well as increase markets and incomes for forest honey producers.

Another exciting area of expansion in 2014 was the participation of Philippine and Indonesia artisans in the

International Folk Art Market (IFAM) in Sta. Fe, New Mexico, U.S.A. This generated more than €18,885 in outright sales over a 2.5 day fair period and has led to invitation to other fairs for 2015 as well as repeat orders.

At the regional level, NTFP-EP launched its training programme called Expanding Community Enterprises and Economic Development (EXCEED) in order to further expand the reach of its community forestry enterprise initiatives. Its first training which focused on Upscaling Community Forestry Enterprises was held in Bukidnon, Philippines last September 2014 with 17 trainees from 5 different countries.

The succeeding table shows the scope of support that the NTFP-EP network provides across the continent as well as the impact with regard to sales and number of enterprise participants. Increases in sales were recorded in Cambodia through its marketing arm, NatureWild, and the Philippines through its marketing arm, CustomMade Crafts Center (CMCC) and community-based NTFP enterprises (CBNE). Challenges related to marketing were experienced by India, Indonesia and Malaysia which resulted in lower sales record for the year. Likewise, funding limitations affected NTFP-EP Malaysia's support to community enterprise initiatives.

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF ENTERPRISES	NUMBER OF PERSONS INVOLVED		NUMBER OF VILLAGES	NTFFPS USED	SALES
		WOMEN	MEN			
CAMBODIA	44 CBNEs	335	1,313	85 villages in 10 provinces	resin, honey, rattan, bamboo, natural dyes, palm, soap nut, Lepironia leave (Sleuk Anchort), palm leaves	€ 96,070.56
INDIA	2 producer companies, 6 district level federations & 45 village level federations	24,504	15,950	905	bamboo, mahua, mahua flower & seeds, honey, sal leaf & seed, char seeds, medicinal herbs/plants, tamarind, karanj, kusum, dammar, amla, phoenix, chebula, soapnut, shikakai, wild ginger, mango, jamun, wood apple, gum karaya, adda leaf, kalmegh, sugandhi, tinospora, hill broom, bahada, harida, neem seed, bel, siali leaf, marking nut, terminalia chebula & bellerica, tendu leaves, tubers & plants, mushrooms	€239,557
INDONESIA	31 CBNEs	457 weavers	983 honey farmers	75	rattan, water reed, leaf fiber, bamboo, natural dyes, honey, and honey products, seeds, bamboo, rattan, pandan	€ 197,386.14
MALAYSIA	3 villages & 2 FDS staff	4	1	3 villages	rattan, sand beads, small scale wood	€211
PHILIPPINES	53 CBNEs	709 direct beneficiaries	957 direct beneficiaries	30 provinces	indigo tinctoria, almaciga resin, forest honey (apis dorsata & trigona), eco-textiles (abaca, piña, cotton), forest food (guyabano, wild citrus, passion fruit, taro, wild banana, tomato, nipa), essential oil (lemon grass, citronella), rattan, nito, pandan	€113,807 CBNE sales & €80,346 CMCC sales



COUNTRY REPORTS



CAMBODIA

Coordination was done with community forestry committees and networks, at the provincial and national levels. This allowed for a bigger voice from the community and better discussions to influence planning processes.

DRR/CCA field assessment and planning review meetings were also organized in 2 provinces. Information briefs summarizing the findings of the DRR/CCA research were distributed to the target communities and stakeholders for further support or mobilizing resources to implement their DRR/CCA plans.

Crucial steps were taken to support self-declaration of indigenous communities in their struggle for self-determination, with significant progress made in the communal land titling process for 3 communities.

Staff and partners learned tools on community assessment, ICCA, mapping and community and land information documentation. Two (2) members of the IP Alliance Project Secretariat participated in a regional exchange on Indigenous and Local Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) and Tenure in the Philippines.

Six (6) training courses on enterprise development were also given to 53 staff from 8 Community-based Organizations (CBOs) and NGO partners that applied NTFP-EP tools and approaches in their projects in 70 Community Forests (CFs) and Community Protected Areas (CPAs). The training topics included Community Livelihood Appraisal Product Scanning (CLAPS), resource assessment, Community-based NTFP Enterprises (CBNEs) development and management and business planning.

Resource assessment was conducted in 3 villages in Monduliri province in partnership with CANDO. The assessment identified potential NTFP and crops available for local consumption and/or commercialization. Solid resin and forest honey were selected for developing community-based enterprises in the villages.

Technical support was given to Monduliri Forest Venture (MFV), a group of 552 members formed from the 13 groups of wild honey network (formerly Monduliri Wild Honey Network), which has since expanded to resin and bamboo. An MFV shop was set up and has already generated at least 14% net profits in 2014.

Forest honey groups were strengthened and improved through the Cambodian Federation for Bees Conservation and Community Based Wild Honey Enterprises (CBHE). CBHE sold forest honey with a total amount of €34,270 , a 15% increase from 2013 figures.

Market research on two resin products, boat caulking and fire starter, was conducted and supply agreements were signed between 5 community-based resin enterprises (CBRE) and Pusethana, a local company. This resulted in improving the capacity of CBREs by at least 70% in monitoring sustainable collection technique, resin processing and quality control.

Marketing arm NatureWild increased its sales revenue amounting to €19,925.30 which was 17% more than the previous year. Preparatory documents such as by-laws and 3-years business strategic plans were drafted, and multimedia presence was also developed.

INDIA



Conservation efforts in India included planting of native species in degraded areas and sacred groves. A total of about 19,500 saplings were planted with 100,000 in stock for planting during the 2015 monsoon. Ecological monitoring by the community yielded much information about the local environment, but has yet to be collated into the modules.

Research provided valuable insights about *Apis florea*, particularly about its declining status in the region. Forest protection was undertaken through *thengapalli*, as well as through more regular patrolling. A ban was put on the sale of bamboo shoots in Bastar, while first fruit ceremonies have been delayed to promote the conservation of various food plant species, especially mango.

A new 'wild foods nursery' was established in Tamil Nadu where several species of yams and other food plant species are being grown. The nursery is expected to function as a 'centre' for wild food information. Partners are currently documenting wild foods.

Paralegal work conducted in 9 villages in Bastar has raised legal awareness among community leaders. In Tamil Nadu, Keystone worked closely with communities to develop their own Conservation and Development Plans, a state scheme through which the people can avail of funds for

their development. Consultations were held in Delhi, Assam and Odisha to explore the possibility of expanding the NTFP network to other states in India.

Studies and research were undertaken on NTFPs like sal seeds and sal resin, tassar silk, lac and the traditional dye *alta*. Through its existing production centres, Keystone Foundation trained community members in making duvet covers, using the silk cotton available in the region; along with the habitually value-added and traded NTFPs (honey, shikakai, amla, broom grass, etc.).

Gram Swaraj has developed new products such as sal leaf plates, lip balms, balms for cracked feet, kusum oil, and medicinal mixtures. In Odisha, they supported 47 beneficiaries in producing lac and formed 3 new producer groups. RCDC procured and marketed honey within the Gandhamardan region. In Karnataka, Prakruti supported its producer company in a new product, Kokum Cola, marketed as a health drink. In Andhra Pradesh, Kovel Foundation trained 16 entrepreneurs in NTFP enterprises including vegetables and honey. Market information was also collected on bamboo & tamarind trade.

Through the Communities of Change (CoC) programme, all partners participated in a workshop to plan and develop PGS wild.



The completed study on “The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) in the Kampar Peninsula, Sumatra” was used to advocate the need to conserve large forest areas. Policy work outputs included sustainable livelihoods initiatives and models (SLIMS) cost benefit analysis paper and a film production. Active support was provided to the Social Forestry Directorate of the Ministry of Forestry in promoting community forestry arrangements and NTFP centers around the country.

A stakeholders meeting on DRR/CCA was conducted in Kapuas Hulu district to share information and to seek inputs from stakeholders on community plans on DRR/CCA from two communities.

In partnership with the Indonesia Working Group on ICCA (WGII), a collection of Indonesian stories and perspectives on ICCAs entitled “Customary Territories, Community Traditions, Nature Conservation,” was launched at the World Parks Congress (WPC) in Sydney, Australia.

Documentation of utilization pattern and waterfish conservation in Punan Adiu was completed and presented during the food and culture festival in Kalimantan. The study included information on traditional equipment used, fish utilization, preparation and management.

The Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for rattan was initiated to increase benefits for rattan producers and to promote sustainable resource management. Initially tested in Kutai Barat, East Kalimantan, this has since expanded to Sulawesi, the biggest wild rattan producer in Indonesia. Collaboration is being undertaken with United Kingdom-based furniture buyers interested in PGS certified rattan. The certified rattan was also brought to the International

Folk Arts Market (IFAM) in New Mexico, U.S.A.

A short book on rattan crafts entitled “Women, Rattan Gardens and Traditional Crafts: How a Forest Gives Meaning to Culture” was published and launched at the IFAM exhibition in New Mexico. First time participation of NTFP-EP Indonesia at this event resulted in €10,674.12 income from sales and led to additional orders from other U.S.-based buyers.

Other participations included INACRAFT 2014, the biggest craft exhibition in Indonesia, and the “Pekan Raya Perhutanan Sosial” (Social Forestry Festival) organized by the Ministry of Forestry, ASFN and the Partnership in Lampung. A crafts trade fair in Jakarta, “Meet The Makers”, was also co-organized.

The visit of the Philippines forest honey networks to Sumbawa Forest Honey Network (JMHS) facilitated learning about sustainable honey harvesting, post-harvest process and marketing of honey products. The forest honey research on anti-cancer and anti-aging properties was completed in collaboration with Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) and will be used to improve the positioning of forest honey products.

The recorded 2014 sales of Borneo Chic (BC), marketing unit of Crafts Kalimantan, decreased due to outsourcing problems. New strategies are being formulated to address this. The latter also has a new member Yayasan Palung, based in Ketapang, West Kalimantan. To ensure sustainability of resources, some of their weavers’ groups already planted their raw material sources such as the species bemban (*Donax grandis*), rattan, mengkudu (*Morinda citrifolia*) and Jerenang (*Daemonorops* sp).



Recommendations from the Workshop on Identification, Management and Monitoring of High Conservation Values (HCV) 5 and 6 were incorporated into the revised Audit Licensing Scheme. HCV studies will be conducted on related concessions, as well as on the entire native customary land of the affected communities.

A workshop organized on “The Value of Forest and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)” was attended by 25 NGO and community leaders from 14 villages. FSC certification was introduced as a potential solution to unsustainable forest management practices, as recent policies have enabled small holders including indigenous communities with forest plots to apply for certification. Certification for non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and services is likewise available. The training also helped increase knowledge of the participants on the value and benefits of NTFPs, and costs of certification.

The collaborative initiative with the NTFP-EP India Coordinator, who gave a training to document forest foods for the Penans, identified an initial list of 40 food plants based on the sharing by the elders. It indicated that Penans have limited knowledge of plant life but are more confident in explaining about meat and fish from the forest.

A 2-day workshop on food from the forest was also conducted among the Penan youth and elders of 4 villages. They discussed how to ensure continuity of traditional knowledge of food and medicinal plants, and what the youth can contribute to ensure food security within their villages. A village level committee was developed during the workshop to take the lead on potential rehabilitation of food and other NTFPs.

Comparative health assessment of 2 Penan villages was undertaken through comprehensive interviews, blood pressure and pulse tests. It showed that the overall physical health of the Ba Puak living a semi-settled lifestyle for the past 3 years was generally good but they showed signs of being psychologically unhappy. The inhabitants of Long Belok, who have been living a sedentary lifestyle outside the forest, have challenges with very high blood pressure and obesity. Recommendations were to bring back forest foods to the diet and to increase awareness on health issues.

There were initiatives in increasing knowledge and strategies on legal frameworks to tackle common threats to natural resources and community integrity. Learnings from a cross border negotiations training included new perspectives on political and economic dimensions of natural resource conflict, international legal tools, and mechanisms in negotiation. Negotiation skills were enhanced with a 4-day Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) Standards for 11 CSO and community leaders from Sarawak. It also increased participants’ understanding of land laws, dispute settlement and certification process.

The ASFN conference held in Sabah was a boost for the social forestry movement in the state, particularly with the formation of the multi-stakeholder social forestry working group. The meetings of the Sabah Forestry Department (FDS) and the CSOs that formed the Sabah Social Forestry Working Group, tackled issues on community-based enterprise and tagal hutan or traditional resource management practice.



PHILIPPINES

Conservation initiatives included support in the establishment of 10 rainforestation nurseries in 3 provinces. In Aklan and Bukidnon, the abaca rainforestation technology was used to support partner communities.

Partner organizations participated in the National Greening Program (NGP) with 600 hectares rainforested, with an additional 4 hectares under the NTFP-EP Philippines initiative.

There was continuing REDD plus awareness in its demonstration sites and coordination is ongoing with the REDD plus Desk of the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) and the Climate Change Commission so that the Philippine National REDD+ Strategy can be implemented.

The titling process of two ancestral domains in Palawan totaling 36,830 hectares had been stalled as it took a while for the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to issue the Work and Financial Plan.

Paralegal training conducted for the IPs increased their awareness of laws related to forest protection. Some of the community members are now working for their deputation as DENR forest guards in addition to their designation by the community as forest guards.

An IP Youth EcoCamp was attended by 21 women and 14 men from across the country including 2 Dutch volunteers. The initiative discussed education and indigenous health systems, the role of IP youth in culture and traditional resource management, and how IKSPs can be passed on to the next generation.

A food and cultural festival was organized to showcase Pala'wan traditional culture through their food, games, poetry, songs and dances. It also became an opportunity

to discuss issues and concerns, and for various government officials and NGO leaders to present their programs for the Pala'wan tribe. Participation in the 9th Negros Organic Food Festival allowed presentations on Sustainable Wild Honey Harvesting and Food from the Forests.

Process improvement trainings on natural and synthetic dyeing process were conducted in several weaving communities. Design clinics involving designers from abroad were organized for local weaving enterprises. Product displays during the Manila FAME, the country's premier trade platform for exports and design, resulted in several inquiries and orders placed for Indigo-dyed t'nalak and hinabol bags from a Japanese buyer.

Three (3) production centers in Aklan and 4 indigo dye houses were constructed. Weaving tools and other production equipment were provided to 6 CBNEs where processing of indigo dye also started.

A 7-point standard checklist on Sustainable Consumption and Production of Hand-Woven Eco-textile (SCP HWET) was formulated. This will guide CBNEs engaged in textile weaving enterprises toward ensuring environment-friendly, culturally-sensitive, and socially-responsible production while optimizing quality.

Almaciga resin trading started in 2014 but only 2 CBNEs secured permits to harvest. New resin trading arrangements resulted in 20% increase in incomes of the CBNEs. Sustainable collection also improved for resin tappers.

The participation of CustomMade Crafts Center (CMCC), the local marketing arm, in the International Folk Arts Market in Sta. Fe, New Mexico, U.S.A. showcased products from Bukidnon (Hinabol), Lake Sebu (T'nalak), Cordillera (Tapis), Tawi-tawi (Sama/ Tepo mats) and Basilan (Yakan).



VIETNAM

Under the theme land rights, tenure and policy, a short documentary was produced by SIE, NTFP-EP partner in Vietnam, as a means to conserve the Kien Giang Karst Area, a biodiversity hotspot threatened by quarrying and other development projects. The film, which was supported through the Catalyst Grants, won awards and was instrumental in the declaration of Kien Giang as a protected area.

A new partner, Center for Sustainable Development in Mountainous areas (CSDM), was also supported through the MicroGrant Funds (MGF) in implementing a project to secure forest tenure of 145 Hmong families in 2 villages by resolving a conflict with a private company. Community members discussed and were trained on basic laws and on participatory land mapping which enabled them to mark their boundaries.



ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

2014 for NTFP-EP started with the Regional Staff Meeting (RSM) held in Batangas, Philippines where representatives from 6 countries reported their accomplishments for 2013 and their plans for thematic and country concerns for 2014. One of the meeting's highlights was the inspirational message by Mr. Yeb Saño, a Commissioner of the Philippine Climate Change Commission (PCCC), who emphasized that forest-based communities are very crucial for promoting social and environmental justice. He commended NTFP-EP's work that contributes towards building resilient communities and eradicating poverty in indigenous and forest communities.



BOARD & MANAGEMENT TRANSITIONS

NTFP-EP went through several organizational changes in 2014 at the regional and in country-specific concerns. At the level of its board of trustees for NTFP-EP Asia, Ms. Maria Teresa Guia-Padilla was elected as President of the Board of Trustees at the October 2013 board meeting. She took over the function from Ms. Snehlata Nath in March 2014.

Regular meetings of the board were held in May via Skype and in October in the Philippines which was attended by all Execom and members of the board. There were fourteen (14) board resolutions passed and 18 memoranda issued on various concerns. One of the important advisories was the approval of the NTFP-EP Manual of Operations as of 5 September 2014.

Application for the new Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) tax exemption was initiated but additional requirements were requested. The approval of the tax exemption is one of the requirements for the Philippine Certification for NGO Council (PCNC) application.

Towards the end of 2014, Ms. Femy Pinto, former Mekong Region Coordinator, accepted the NTFP-EP Asia Executive Director (ED) post. By March 2015, she will take over the post and replace Ms. Crissy Guerrero who had resigned as ED due to family-related concerns. Ms. Guerrero will continue to serve as NTFP-EP Asia's Senior Adviser for Strategic Programs.

Country-level changes also happened in 2014. In the Philippines, the NTFP-EP Philippine partners and board of trustees recommended the separate registration for the country office at the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Initial processing and preparation of organizational documents and requirements started before the end of 2014. Four new staff were hired, making a total of 20 NTFP-EP Philippines personnel.

In September 2014, NTFP-EP Cambodia appointed a new Coordinator, Mr. Sony Oum, relieving Ms. Pinto of the Cambodia internal management function although she maintained oversight as Mekong Region Coordinator until she takes over the ED post in 2015. NatureWild hired a new Business Manager, Mr. Im Sinath, and a new partnership program, Partners for Forestry and Fisheries Cambodia (PaFF) requires hiring 6 new staff.

In India, the functioning of the network remained the same even with the merging of the partners in the Ecosystem Alliance project and those of NTFP-EP. A communications officer works closely with the country facilitator and manages the website.

NTFP-EP Indonesia had a turnover of staff both in the foundation and in Borneo Chic (BC) but the changes did not have a big impact on the organization. There are plans to split the management of NTFP-EP Indonesia as a foundation and BC as a business company to give more space and opportunity for BC to expand and to grow as a business.



COMMUNICATION & KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

To enhance the communication skills of staff, the January 2014 RSM included a feature-writing workshop where 12 staff attended. Two (2) NTFP-EP staff also attended a 3-day social media training in Indonesia.

Communication support such as promotional and information materials (in print, e-mail, and website) as well as branding and packaging assistance, were provided during various events in line with NTFP-EP's organizational themes throughout the year. Support was also provided to NTFP-EP Philippines' National Greening Program (NGP) Summit and the Indigenous Peoples' Youth EcoCamp. For NTFP-EP Asia, it included the Learning visit on ICCAs and Tenorial Security in August; the EXCEED launch in September; the OXFAM-GB exchange visit to Palawan, Philippines in November, and the green intermediaries.

Two issues of *Voices from the Forest*, NTFP-EP's newsletter, were produced. Issue 26 officially launched EXCEED, while Issue 27 focused on the theme of subsistence. Other print materials produced include a regional calendar promoting honey products, a honey consolidator poster and manual for NTFP-EP Philippines, a workbook for the Agta children from the Philippines, and a calendar and book released during the World Parks Congress in Australia on ICCAs of Indonesia. Additionally, three videos were finalized: (1) a documentation of the FPIC process in the Philippines; (2) climate change in the context of Filipino forest communities; and (3) a documentation

of the participatory capacity and vulnerability assessment to climate-related risks in Indonesia.

An improved database system for NTFP species was developed, to be uploaded online pending the re-structuring of the NTFP-EP website. Some, 1,970 NTFPs were collated from 5 countries as part of an ongoing process over the last 3 years. NTFP-EP maintained its online presence to reach a wider audience. For this period, the website was visited 27,865 times by 8,570 unique individuals from 148 different countries. While the website redesign is underway, NTFP-EP Indonesia and NTFP-EP India have established their own country pages. NTFP-EP continually strives to add more reach and feedback as its FB page likers increased from 363 in January 1, 2014 to 544 in December 31, 2014. Throughout the year, NTFP-EP also sent out e-newsletters to support increased traffic to the web-based platforms.

As funding came in for the communication aspect of the ASEAN Swiss Partnership on Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC), NTFP-EP intensified communication support to ASFCC activities. A working paper series of 6 individual thematic calls was published to relay the key messages of ASFN communities and CSOs to the ASEAN member states on themes such as governance, safeguards, forest tenure and access rights, and community economy and livelihoods. Two policy briefs were also produced and distributed during the Conference of Parties (CoP) side event in Peru.



RESOURCE MOBILIZATION & FUNDRAISING

2014 started positively with new projects in several countries. Funds were raised through the usual strategy of proposal development and submissions to various donors as well as engaging them in discussions and conducting fundraising visits to share the good work of NTFP-EP for marginalized forest communities. These new initiatives include 5 regional projects supported by various donors including Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), Both ENDS, ICCO, IIED and SDC.

A total of 20 projects were implemented in 2014, including 5 new projects supported by various donors including SSNC, Both ENDS, ICCO, IIED and SDC. These were proposals submitted some years back. Some proposals developed include the Pastor Delbert Rice Small Grants Fund/PDR SGF facility, Rockefeller Global Resilience Partnership, FAO Forest Farm Facility, and FINNIDA. However, FAO and FINNIDA proposals were not approved.

To supplement the dwindling donor grants, NTFP-EP strengthened its consultancy unit through the development of the training programme Expanding Community Enterprise and Economic Development (EXCEED). The pilot that ran in September focused on “Upscaling Community Enterprises – Ensuring Viability, Sustainability and Resilience” was a good start. This earned about €2,300, and was backed by staff across the region and partners in

Bukidnon, Mindanao project area. There were a total of 17 trainees from 5 countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia and the Philippines).

In November, NTFP-EP accepted a consultancy project requested by Oxfam Great Britain (OGB) in Cambodia. OGB’s cross-learning visit focused on “Participatory and Accountable Governance of Land and Natural Resources” involving 14 Cambodian delegates who were organized to visit NTFP-EP Philippines’ partners in Palawan.

NTFP-EP Asia has been able to continue nurturing relations with its donors with regular updates and constant communication through its online publications, e-newsletters and reports to specific donors.

The Cambodia office also prepares to launch a major partnership programme called PaFF in cooperation with WWF Cambodia, RECOFTC (The Centre for People and Forests) and the Culture and Environment Preservation Association (CEPA) with contribution funding from major donor, Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) in Cambodia of \$2M for the 1st phase November 2014 to December 2016. The programme anticipates to sign a project agreement with Cambodia’s Forestry and Fisheries Administration in 2015.



MICRO GRANTS FUND

NTEP-EP has been managing the grants facility under the Untold Story project of Both ENDS and the Broederlijk Delen (BD) Micro Grants Fund (MGF). The combined facility supported implementation and completion of 13 community-based projects in 6 countries. Eight of the funded projects focused on livelihood, with 7 on resource management, 4 on land tenure, 3 on lobbying against threats, and 1 on food and health issues, although most projects had cross-cutting themes.

In memory of NTEP-EP's beloved first Board Treasurer, Reverend Delbert Arthur Rice, The Pastor Delbert Rice Small Grants Fund for Community-Based Forest Ecosystem

Initiatives (PDR SGF) was launched last October at Pastor Rice's hometown in Imugan, Nueva Vizcaya. This was in the presence of Kalahan Educational Foundation (KEF) staff, people from the community and NTEP-EP Board members and staff. Pastor Rice established KEF that pioneered an indigenous school system recognized by the government. He had been a force in defending indigenous peoples' rights and an advocate of forest conservation and sustainable resource utilization. The grant set up in his legacy had initial grants from 3 institutions (i.e. Both ENDS, Broederlijk Delen and The Samdhana Institute), and serves as the third phase of the MGF which started in 2007.



CHALLENGES & LESSONS **LEARNED**

Despite challenges in getting appropriate personnel for key positions in the regional office, programs, projects and activities were implemented as planned for the year. The committed board members, management and staff of the regional office and supportive country office personnel, cooperated well in ensuring that expected outputs and outcomes are delivered for each of the projects implemented.

On NTFP-EP's conservation work, there was good collaboration with many NGOs and partners such as in Indonesia although there were challenges in the different levels of commitment in terms of time, resources and staff assigned to the network. It was also noted that sustaining the momentum from the WPC and the ICCA Consortium General Assembly will be difficult as members are spread out and have programmes of their own.

In the course of implementing the program, it was recognized that conserving culture is necessary to conserving forests, as affirmed in the many cases presented at the WPC. NTFP-EP efforts at strengthening its work on wild foods, cultural pride, and connecting with the youth should be continued. Furthermore, it was also noted that ICCA, though not a new concept, needs to be clarified and leveled off at all levels, from big funding institutions to governments and communities themselves.

NTFP-EP's communications activities have intensified with ASPN's support and request to provide more assistance. However, there were challenges in communicating everything that NTFP-EP had accomplished as an organization regarding regional initiatives due to limited resources. Long-term organizational communication priorities like the website redesign and the library were postponed in lieu of more immediate concerns such as launching EXCEED and ASFCC-related events.

A lesson herein is that while the value of NTFP-EP's ground-level engagement has been widely acknowledged, there is still need for more efforts to promote NTFP-EP's advocacy as a network rather than merely as an organization. With the increasing opportunities for communication, there is also an increasing need to put up a more convenient system of generating stories from the ground, and transforming them into communication and knowledge, which means more human resources.

A major challenge in **fundraising** was the strict competition among organizations securing donor funds through proposals. NTFP-EP proposals for some submissions were not approved even with the presence of NTFP-EP contacts in some donor agencies where proposals were submitted. The Pareto principle, also known as the 80-20 rule or the law of the vital few, remains to be valid so it is still a good practice to submit proposals to more donors. NTFP-EP should also continue nurturing good relations with donors and advocates who had been sources of information for donor funds or calls for proposals which can complement NTFP-EP work in the region.

There were some delays in the payment of training fees by some organizations supporting the EXCEED training conducted last September. It goes without saying that longer term and more systematic planning for training and events will result in more efficient and effective outcomes.

In **Cambodia**, initiatives to secure tenure were supported in order to protect the area where NTFP raw materials are gathered for enterprises. It is also important to support collectors/ producers in their access to free market to gain economic benefits for short-term income.

It was also recognized that multiple products from different levels of the forest help increase nutrition, food security and income generation, and that a diversity of products and types of enterprises can help reduce risk against climate fluctuation and sudden changes in price and demand. Likewise, multiple layers of CBNEs (local, national, regional and international) can provide different kinds and complementarity of services.

Projects also become easier to implement when there is a focal point person and there are meetings to share information and activities.

The integration of DRR/CCA community plans into district plans could be an indication of good governance and complementary support between government and development partners. Cooperation between the provincial department and Cambodia Organization to Promote Kui Culture (OPKC) also improved through the support for communal land title.

Most partners of NTFP-EP India are short of the funds

required to do the work they would like to do. In addition, state policies are increasingly non-conducive to NGO activity, and there is a shortage of available youth who want to work with groups such as NTFP-EP India. Among the adivasi youth, the main issues are migration, a general disinterest in matters of conservation, and party politics that have entered the villages.

India partners have learned that it is necessary to engage with community-level leaders and develop action plans from what already exists, such as the thengapalli. Exchange and exposure visits at the community level are also important.

Advocacy is an integral part of conservation and Adivasi rights, and it will be necessary to learn the intricacies of the law. Specific case-studies are important and need to be highlighted through the media.

At the local level, NTFP-EP **Indonesia** saw the declining interest of communities on traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) due to expanding opportunities from oilpalm, mining (coal, gold) and timber plantation. In terms of projects themes, most of the challenge was about limitation on skills and knowledge of its staff. Another factor that influenced staff performance was the simultaneous implementation of too many projects. In terms of organization, NTFP-EP Indonesia had high dependency on project funds where almost 100% were restricted budgets. This makes the continuity of its operations very risky. Increasing government involvement through its network has also been very challenging.

Documentation of all projects and activities are very important and useful for communities. The existence of companies (such as mining and oilpalm) in communities are greatly influencing the culture and life style of indigenous people in exploiting natural/subsistence resources.

In **Malaysia**, an unexpected change in priorities by a key funder has caused delays in implementing rehabilitation and enterprise efforts, in particular, the employment of a full time community-based enterprise officer. Funding continues to be a challenge for Malaysia as more funders geographically phase out Malaysia as a recipient country based on its annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) performance. Unfortunately, Malaysia's GDP growth does not reflect the

actual distribution of wealth in the country.

The involvement of the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) in the controversial relocation efforts of the displaced Penan communities caused by the Murum and potentially Baram dam resulted in delays in continued engagement with FDS, as most partners in Sarawak have opposed these mega dam projects.

Key lessons learned from 2014 include the potential of exploring market mechanisms such as RSPO, FSC or company CSR policies in establishing indigenous people's rights particularly in Malaysia where the rule of law and good governance are weak.

With NTFP-EP **Philippines** being mandated by its board to start the process of an independent registration from NTFP-EP Asia, the challenge was how to manage and develop the organization as a separate entity, and yet still remain a part of NTFP-EP Asia. Governance will be crucial as harmonization of policies is important. Funding is a big challenge as there is uncertainty with Dutch funding which has been their main source of funding for so many years. The process of securing the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of the indigenous peoples' communities continues to be a major challenge.

Sustainable utilization of natural resources is possible if indigenous communities will be truly allowed to manage their ancestral domains starting with utilizing their NTFPs. For sustainability of community-based projects, there is a need to engage the youth and women. There is also a need to provide more opportunities for exchanges between and among communities.

In engaging government, there is a need to identify and work with officials who are supportive of policies that will be beneficial to community enterprises. Standardization of production processes to expand market reach is necessary, and in order to mainstream NTFP products in the market, there is a need to strategically network with the private sector including media for promotion.

Existing strategies contribute to climate resiliency of communities but there is need to be more proactive because Philippines is vulnerable to climate variability and stresses.

ONWARD TO 2015



Several events for the region and at country level are planned for 2015, with the Strategic Planning Workshop (SPW) and the Regional Staff Meeting (RSM) as the initial activities for the year. Both sessions will be organized back to back with representatives from all country network office staff, partners and board members. The result of SPW discussion may have an effect on the thematic priorities of NTFP-EP for its strategic plan covering 2015 until 2018.

Madhu Duniya, the forest honey festival first organized in Indonesia in 2011, is another regional event that will be hosted by NTFP-EP Cambodia in April. NTFP-EP's involvement in the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN) continues with its involvement in its Secretariat for various events in May including the ASEAN people's forum in Malaysia, the CSO Forum in Myanmar, and the ASFN Conference in June also in Myanmar.

NTFP-EP Indonesia will host the 2015 EXCEED Training on CLAPS scheduled in May in Padang, Indonesia. NTFP-EP Philippines will host the NTFP Management Training in Palawan in October.

Conservation and Resource Management activities will include ongoing ICCA work in Indonesia and in the Philippines, a 2nd edition of published ICCA case stories, collaboration on exchanges, and exploratory expansion of ICCA work in the Mekong region. There are also documentation of additional NTFPs including endangered species in Vietnam, harvest protocols in India, as well as good practices documentation of community-based resource management in Indonesia. The Philippines also plans to rehabilitate 72 hectares of forestland through rainforestation, India is targeting to plant 100,000 native trees, while Malaysia will rehabilitate degraded areas to further strengthen indigenous Penans' claim to their land and forest. There is also the plan to improve resource management modules for EXCEED and other training.

In the areas of tenure rights and governance, NTFP-EP will work at both the national and local government levels in the countries where it operates to support community forestry and fisheries through ongoing dialogues, advocacies and consultations with village committees.

The food and health security programme will focus on wild food rehabilitation, documentation, exhibitions and festivals in India, Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines, and also promote a better understanding on the importance of river fish in Indonesia and Malaysia.

Promoting sustainable livelihood for target communities will start with a community assessment tool that identifies the most viable NTFP products to be produced, followed by technical support and training on enterprise development. Cambodia for example will focus on honey and bamboo enterprises, while India will focus on lac cultivation, use of sal leaves, and engage the corporate sector with regard to sal seeds.

For the organization's communications platform, the focus will be on redesigning the website, improving story generation, knowledge material production, as well as strengthening communication capacities at the country level.

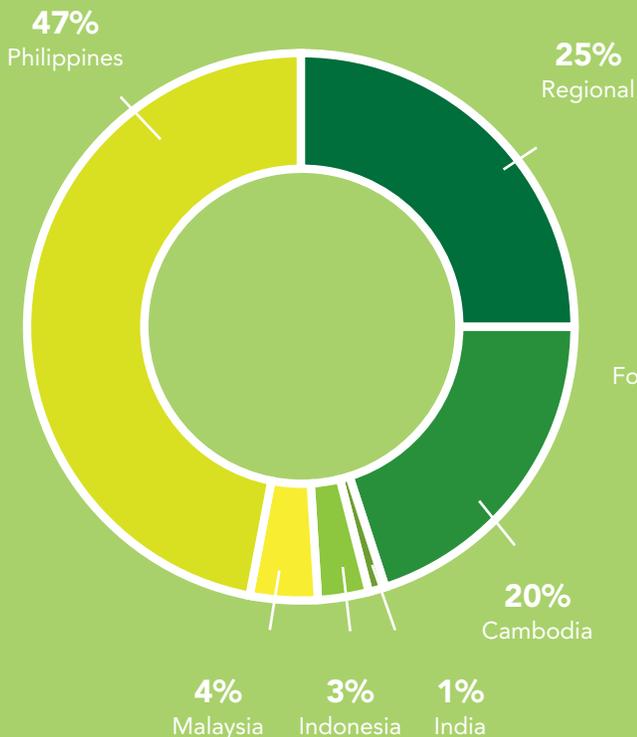
The most important resource of NTFP-EP remains to be its people. As such, the organization would like to organize capacity building and staff development activities. For example, NTFP-EP Indonesia is looking at financial management for its administrative and financial staff, Philippines is looking at proposal writing and fundraising activities, while Malaysia is looking at additional staff to focus on community-based enterprise development.



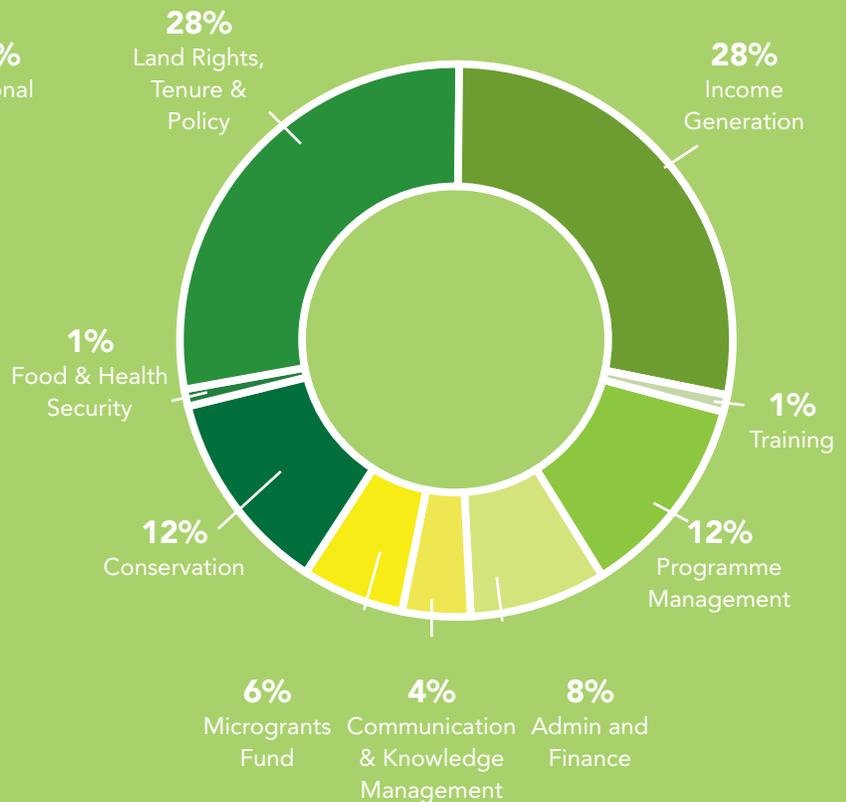
STUNG TRENG

FINANCIAL REPORT

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF NTFP-EP FUNDS RECEIVED*



THEMATIC DISTRIBUTION OF NTFP-EP EXPENSES



Total spending for 2014 amounted to 1,692,121 euros for various thematic programs in the countries where NTFP-EP operates. This was a 9.5% increase from the previous year. Above chart shows substantial amounts going to Income Generation and Land Rights, Tenure & Policy. Food and Health Security and Training registered the least spending due to the lack of funding opportunities within the context of forestry.

The Philippines continued to show the highest spending which went foremost to Income Generation followed by Land Rights, Tenure & Policy. Regional spending was mostly in the area of Land Rights, Tenure & Policy, Conservation followed by Income Generation and Programme Management. India

and Vietnam still recorded the lowest expenditures, with India dependent on its local partners and networks for funding, and Vietnam focused on Microgrant Funding.

Donor funding came primarily from Dutch & Swiss sources. The European Union and United Nations continued to provide support for specific projects in some countries where the network operates. All grants are on a project basis with no guarantee on the future operations of NTFP-EP. As such, the mandate to actively search for donor partners who can support its core programs for catalyzing forest community conservation and sustainable development continues.

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