



NTFR-EP

LINKING

PEOPLE and
FORESTS



Strategic Direction 2016-2019



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Non-Timber Forest Products -
Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP)

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Strategic Direction 2016 - 2019

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Layout: Earl Diaz - NTFP-EP Asia

Cover Photo: © Madhu Ramnath - NTFP-EP India

NTFP-EP Asia

92 Masikap Ext. Bgy. Central, Diliman,
Quezon City, Philippines 1100

NTFP-EP Cambodia

#17B, Street 494 Sangkat Phsa Doeum Thkov,
Khan Chamkarmon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

NTFP-EP Indonesia

Jl. Balitvet CC-19 Cimanggu Kecil
RT 001/011 Kelurahan Ciwaringin
Kecamatan Bogor Tengah,
Bogor 16124, Indonesia

NTFP-EP Malaysia

Lot 6788, 1st Floor,
Taman Tunku Commercial Center, 98000 Miri,
Sarawak, Malaysia

NTFP-EP Philippines

92-A Masikap Ext. Bgy. Central, Diliman,
Quezon City, Philippines 1100

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Acronyms

ADSDPP	Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan
AEC	ASEAN Economic Community
AFTA	ASEAN Free Trade Agreement
AIPP	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
ASOF	ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry
AWG-SF	ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry
AFA	Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
IPB	Bogor Agricultural University
CANDO	Cambodia NTFP Development Organization
CDRI	Cambodia Development Resource Institute
CBHE	Cambodia Federation for Bee Conservation and Wild Honey Enterprises
CLAPS	Community Livelihood Appraisal and Scanning
CNWG	Cambodia NTFP Working Group
CADT	Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title
CSOs	Civil society organizations
CFI	Community Forestry International
CBNE	Community-based NTFP enterprise
CBEs	Community-based enterprises
COP	Conference of Parties
DSNP	Danau Sentarum National Park
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
EXCEED	Expanding Community Enterprise and Economic Development
FFI	Fauna and Flora International
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDS	Forest Department Sarawak
FMB	Forest Management Bureau
FRA	Forest Rights Act (FRA)
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
FPIC	Free prior and informed consent
ICCAs	Indigenous and local community conserved areas
IFAM	International Folk Art Market

IKSPs	Indigenous knowledge, systems and practices
INACRAFT	Jakarta International Handicraft Trade Fair
IPs	Indigenous peoples
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forestry
NGOs	Non-government organizations
NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Products
NTFP-EP	Non-Timber Forest Products - Exchange Programme
NW	NatureWild
PaFF	Partners for Forestry and Fisheries
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PESA	Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas
PARARA	Panen Raya Nusantara Festival
PDR-SGF	Pastor Delbert Rice-Small Grant Fund
RAC	Rattan Association Cambodia
REDD	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
RSPO	Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil
SASOF	Sabah Social Forestry Working Group
SIE	Southern Institute of Ecology
SEI	Stockholm Environmental Institute
SWOT	Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SSNC	Swedish Society for Conservation of Nature
TEEB	The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity
TEKPs	Traditional ecological knowledge and practices
UN	United Nations
VMG	Vision, mission, goal
WUR	Wageningen University
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WWF	Worldwide Fund for Nature
YMI	Yayasan Mitra Insani



1 Introduction



Our context: Vanishing forests, vulnerable peoples

Throughout tropic South and Southeast Asia, rainforests have dominated the landscape for thousands of years. Different geographic factors shaped the diversity of its forests, from the vast Sundarbans mangroves of India and Bangladesh, to the dry broadleaf forests of Indochina, and stretching to the tropical, perennially-wet forests of Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines. These forests are home to a significant part of the planet's biological diversity and possess an outstanding level of endemism across all groups of plants and animals. The abundance and generosity of Asian forests have also sustained the many cultures which arose out of this same beneficence. Here, people and forests shape and re-shape each other in a mutual embrace of dynamic cultures and evolving landscapes.

Yet today, only about half the total land area of the region is covered by forests. According to the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 (FAO, 2015), the global forest area fell by 129 million hectares (3.1 percent) in the period 1990–2015, to just under 4 billion hectares. The decline in forests are seen in most poor countries in the tropics, while middle income countries are reporting forest gain through the encouragement of expansion of plantations.

In Asia, the destruction of natural forests continues to be the greatest challenge to forestry. Between 1990 and 2010, the forests of Southeast Asia contracted in size by just under 33 million hectares mainly due to conversions for agriculture; and the FAO outlook to 2020 (FAO, 2011) indicates that this trend of primary and natural forests loss will continue, and total forest cover is expected to decline further from 49% to 46%.

Conversion to agriculture, including the recent expansion in the region devoted to oil palm plantations, continues to be the main cause of forest loss particularly in Southeast Asia. Meanwhile, a large portion of mangrove areas has been converted to shrimp farms or rice cultivation. Logging and pulpwood clear-cutting have also been major causes of deforestation in some areas of the region. The high proportion of valuable timber species in the lowland forests and easy access to shipping routes are among the reasons for intensified and profit-oriented logging. The direct causes of deforestation are numerous, including selective logging, urbanization and agriculture. There are underlying causes of forest loss and degradation including undervaluing the ecological and socio-cultural functions of forests, national development priorities on agro-industrial development, poor natural resource tenure framework and elite capture.

The vulnerable poor who live in or near forests are often the most affected by deforestation. This situation is compounded by global warming, social inequities, lack of forest tenure rights, and an ever expanding consumer market which radically heighten the vulnerabilities of these forest-dependent communities.

Forest-related policies in the international level, meanwhile, are mostly oriented to technical initiatives. Scant regard is generally given to the socio-economic context in which forest use occurs. The end result is that forestry practices may improve, but little if anything is done to redress persistent patterns of impoverishment or root problems of disempowerment. Many non-state actors from national to international levels are concerned about the failure to integrate community livelihood appropriately to

conservation initiatives; about the failure to locate conservation policy and strategy within a coherent development policy framework; and about the failure of many agencies to support the organized efforts of local people to defend their natural resource base.

Millions of people's lives are tied to the forest. According to the World Bank, an estimated 1.3 billion people – one-fifth of the global population – depend on forests for employment, forest products, and contributions to livelihoods and incomes (2016). Some are employed, directly or indirectly, by the forest industry. But most people who live inside or near forests, often living as hunter-gatherers, small sedentary farmers or shifting cultivators, are heavily dependent on forests on a subsistence basis or a mixed subsistence and cash economy. Wood is by far the most dominant forest product, used for many purposes such as fuel or the finished structural materials used for the construction of buildings, or as a raw material in the form of wood pulp, that is used in the production of paper. All other non-wood products derived from forest resources, comprising a broad variety of other forest products, are collectively described as non-timber forest products (NTFPs) including nuts, seeds, fruits, mushrooms, oils, rattan, resins, gums, medicinal plants and honey. Non-timber forest products play an important role in the livelihoods of the rural poor as a source of food, medicine, construction materials, and income. These communities that are highly dependent on forests for their livelihood are so closely tied to the fate of forests that they are more likely than urban centres to suffer from unsustainable forest management practices, economic fluctuations, and environmental changes.

The year 2015 saw critical developments in the regional and global socio-political and economic landscape especially as it impacts on forest governance. For instance, the end of 2015 marked the launch of the Association of Southeast Asian (ASEAN) Economic Community (AEC) which is a framework of liberalizing trade across the Southeast Asian nations. Forestry, agriculture and fisheries sectors will require support and focused action, as these will be affected by the requirement of harmonization and standardization for example, in trade and customs, processes, procedures, and related information flows. An NTFP-EP impact study of the AEC on social forestry and on forest communities anticipates considerable risks and challenges to rural livelihoods and to achieving equitable outcomes for local people if without adequate attention to social and environmental safeguards in the implementation and execution of the AEC (Razal, 2015).

The adoption in 2015 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UN Sustainable Development Summit and the Paris Agreement at the COP spelled out the important inclusion of forest management strategies for climate action. REDD-Plus, payment for ecosystem services (PES) and forest restoration programs became part of international funding packages. Of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 15th emphasizes the sustainable management of forests for food security, shelter, protecting biodiversity and people especially the indigenous populations. In 2015 also, the Durban Declaration of the World Forestry Congress complemented the Sustainable Development agenda. By the next year, 2016, the first ratifications of the Paris Agreement were seen; by COP 22, over 100 Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) which include forest management-related responses to climate change, were already submitted to the UNFCCC. After its adoption, the SDGs as a universal framework to end poverty and to protect the planet cascaded shortly to over 100 nations. Taken together, these international agreements and agenda provide a vital opportunity to assert forest peoples rights and the positive contribution of the forestry sector.

Promoting community enterprises as a strategy for climate change adaptation have also gained considerable attention over the past years, and found their way also in the declaration and commitment at the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission meeting in February 2016 in the Philippines.

Another strategy for climate change promoted by the forestry sector is “tree planting” for “intensively managed forests.” This is seen as a corollary to the ongoing pressure to convert natural forests to “more productive” land uses like oil palm, rubber, intensive agriculture, etc. This strategy needs to be questioned and other approaches are needed, such as documenting changes and impacts which could well show what climate change actually means to local communities and what mitigations are suited to local contexts.

Increased demand for space and infrastructure due to rapid urbanisation is also becoming a key environmental threat. To counter this, landscape approaches are a developing trend that promise better conserved forests, improved biodiversity, and more sustainable livelihoods for communities.

Another trend that must be looked into is the increasing demand for recreational services, eco-tourism, and conservation of forests for recreational functions which offer a positive influence on governments protecting Asia’s forests for their tourism value.

The dearth of substantive results from the money that foreign governments are spending on development also impacts on forest and conservation activities. Taxpayers are asking where their money is going, and alleging the inefficient use of their tax money for development in other countries.

Along with migrating to big cities, there is also an increased desire for “integration” and economic development, leading to risks of exploitation like the ‘selling’ of traditional lands to investors.

Pressure on forest resources is projected to intensify as more countries accept initiatives from industries to “reduce deforestation, but continue with business as usual”.

Indeed, the caveats of today will remain the same in the next 5 years or more, including regional priorities for the forest sector, which are often still production-oriented. The 2016-2025 Strategic Plan of Action on Forestry in ASEAN (ASEAN, 2016) also commits to the achievement of food security and poverty reduction goals through sustainable forest management. This provides a concrete space to champion a shift in orientation of forest management to be more people and food-security oriented. NTFP-EP is also in a critical position to respond to the call for a global to local action in order to deter the climate crisis we face. Finally, NTFP-EP shall pursue stronger integrated actions that ensure the voice of forest-dependent peoples is not further muffled or distanced.

1.2 Non-Timber Forest Products - Exchange Programme - The concept: Empowering forest-dependent communities

The Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) is a collaborative network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations in South and Southeast Asia, working with forest-dependent communities to strengthen their capacity in sustainable management of these natural resources. The NTFP-EP was organized as a network to promote the use of non-

timber forest products, with the fundamental purpose of protecting the forests. The forest is not just the trees but a conglomeration of many inter-dependent species of plants and animals, from the microscopic to the very large, which occupy an area together. The forest is more than the sum of its parts. There are several things that a forest accomplishes which cannot be done by anything else. They cannot even be done by the various forests species working separately. They are only done by a forest and that is why the forests must be protected (Rice, 2010).

The NTFP-EP believes that an effective way to protect and enrich the forests, and simultaneously fight poverty, is by helping forest dwellers make a good living from the forest itself by increasing the value of the various non-timber forest products (NTFPs). We define NTFPs as all biological materials from the forest that are extracted and consumed for human use (de Beer and McDermott, 1996). We believe that increasing the value of NTFPs might not be the only way to achieve the protection and enrichment of forests and at the same time to fight poverty, but it is certainly a good place to start. In brief, the NTFP-EP was founded on the goal to protect and improve the integrity of the forests and the livelihood and well-being of forest dwellers.

OUR CORE VALUES:

1. We work to protect and promote the rights, culture and livelihood of local and indigenous peoples, and support approaches and initiatives that strengthen the voice and rights of indigenous and forest dependent communities.
2. Sustainable forested landscapes are shaped by the dynamic interactions of people and forests. We support approaches that contribute to sustainable forest-based livelihoods, and the management of forested landscapes for multiple uses including biodiversity conservation, ecosystems services and cultural functions.
3. We support the adherence to national and international norms, laws and regulations that seek to protect, promote and uphold the rights of indigenous peoples and forest dependent communities and espouse principles of equity, social justice and sustainable development.
4. We recognize, advocate for, and build upon indigenous knowledge systems and practices that contribute to sustainable management and expansion of livelihood opportunities in forested landscapes.
5. Partnerships provide opportunities for expanded influence and impacts. We work through strategic partnerships with institutions, organizations and individuals on initiatives and advocacies that share the same goals and principles with NTFP-EP.

Since its foundation, the NTFP-EP works with forest-dependent communities to empower them and to strengthen their capacity in the sustainable management of their natural resources. The NTFP-EP's approach to empowering forest-dependent communities is through strategic knowledge exchange, experience sharing and practical community based actions toward an optimal use and management of non-timber forest resources, to support basic livelihoods, and to provide these communities a strong incentive for involvement in forest conservation.

The NTFP-EP catalyzes and supports activities that build up and strengthen the capacity of its network – of NGOs and community based organizations - in their work with forest-dependent communities, particularly with indigenous peoples. The NTFP-EP, while respecting the integrity of cultural traditions,

works together with communities in developing and implementing initiatives that meet local needs, all the while ensuring that the benefits of these initiatives are equally enjoyed by young and old, and by both men and women.

Focusing on sustainable forest management, particularly non-timber forest products development and community-based livelihoods, the NTFP-EP aims: 1) to facilitate the exchange of information, expertise, experiences and approaches among non-government organizations, forest-based communities and other stakeholders; 2) to provide technical and strategic assistance to women and men in forest-based communities and their support organizations on legal aspects, advocacy, resource management, marketing and other related concerns; and 3) to generate broader research and policy support by promoting the needs and approaches of women and men in marginalized, forest-based communities to government agencies, business communities, and research institutes.

1.3

Strategic planning process: Committing to new directions, appraising the old

One of the fundamental premises of the strategic planning process is the internal evaluation conducted in 2014. The evaluation was based on interviews of NTFP-EP staff, board members, and partners about the previous five themes of the NTFP-EP: *Community Resource Management and Conservation, Tenure Rights and Policy Advocacy, Enterprise Development, Subsistence/Food and Health Security, and Strengthening Voice of Indigenous Communities*. In addition, there were three functional themes, *Organizational Strengthening, Communications and Knowledge Management, and Resource Mobilization/Fundraising*.

A strategic planning workshop was conducted in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam from 27 to 29 January 2015 to articulate the four-year direction of the NTFP-EP, to identify the gaps and challenges that prevent the organization from making successful leaps towards its objectives, and to formulate strategies and approaches to respond to these gaps. The workshop was also designed to appraise external influences or determinants, including socio-political, cultural, economic and technological influences that impact and might impact the organization. At the regional level, the workshop sought to identify the existing regional initiatives of the NTFP-EP, to discern approaches in achieving its regional targets, and to identify the kind of support needed to accomplish these. At the country level, the workshop also sought to discern how country-level offices can contribute to the regional targets and regional initiatives. The consultations continued beyond January 2015 in order to deepen the assessment of the NTFP-EP's priorities and approaches for the period from 2016 to 2019.

The Vision, Mission and Goals (VMG) were also reviewed. Participants in the 2015 workshop revisited the VMG and themes to assess whether these were still relevant given the changing socio-political landscape of the region. The results of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis of the 2014 internal evaluation critiqued in the same workshop.

Each country presented their accomplishments, organizational changes, challenges, and future actions on each of the NTFP-EP themes. The information from the different countries and further internal and external consultation fed into the development of a final framework for the NTFP-EP direction for 2016- 2019.

1.4 Highlights of the 2014 evaluation of NTFP-EP

The evaluation was based on interviews of NTFP-EP staff, board members, and partners about the previous 5 themes of NTFP-EP and its functional and cross-cutting themes. The evaluation revealed some of the ways that NTFP-EP could be more effective as an organization. The internal evaluation conducted in 2014 manifested the need for a four-year strategic plan instead of the original intent to do a three-year plan.

Staff Development, Funding, and Partnerships. Those interviewed agreed that staff development must be a priority. Funding strategies and mobilizing financial resources for long term coordinated projects, as well as partnerships with government and other networks must be strengthened. The evaluation also showed the necessity of mainstreaming non-timber forest products at the national level.

Institutional Alliances. Important institutional alliances and linkages were also identified in the evaluation. This includes United Nations and international agencies, such as Ecosystem Alliance, International Union for Conservation of Nature, International Union of Forest Research Organizations, Regional Community Forestry Training Center (Asia & the Pacific) - The Centre for Peoples and Forests. Government offices, research, management and educational institutions were also identified. Linkages with the private sector were also determined as essential.

Developing Critical Linkages. Other specific issues that were regarded as necessary for NTFP-EP include developing links with groups working on multinational institutions and trade, specific researches into NTFPs, mobilizing resources to work on subsistence, forest foods, indigenous rights and health security, and directing action towards securing tenure of indigenous peoples' traditional lands.

Board Management and Fundraising Efforts. To effectively ensure appropriate management, oversight and long term financing, it was recommended that the frequency of board meetings be increased to at least twice a year. Investing at least a year's worth of resources (i.e. staff time) for strategic fundraising was also recommended.

Gender Sensitivity. Integrating gender sensitivity in NTFP-EP work was also a critical recommendation from the 2014 Evaluation. This includes, among others, developing gender sensitive training for its partners and for NTFP EP staff, increasing handicraft activities and developing appropriate products for women groups.

Across the original 5 themes of the NTFP-EP, Enterprise Development, and Strengthening Voices of Indigenous Communities were identified in the 2014 evaluation as strong themes where work and resources were given more accent than the rest of the other NTFP-EP themes. These themes involve assisting communities and partners to strengthen the development of local NTFP-based enterprises, and to effectively relay messages to the different stakeholders.

The theme Subsistence/Food and Health Security and specific works on Tenure and Rights Advocacy were identified as needing more attention in future NTFP-EP endeavors. The evaluation indicated that the current focus of the NTFP-EP on policy issues might have drawn the organization away from ground level issues and community work.

The number of staff in 2014 was at 50, yet it was identified that staff were multi-tasking and overworked. Discernment was needed for organizational issues such as whether or not the NTFP-EP should reduce regional staff as country units grow and strengthen, how to let partner organizations do more, or if staffing for country offices should be reduced.

In terms of the NTFP-EP's impact on forests and communities, concern was raised on how much effort the organization actually gives to mainstream non-timber forest products. Giving equal focus on policy, advocacy, and forest conservation was identified as a challenge for the next 4 years.

Several other issues that surfaced in the interviews needing more attention were: integrating the NTFP-EP endeavors to emphasize the interrelationship of the 5 themes and to avoid compartmentalizing specific works; discerning mutually constructive partnerships; balancing communication between national and community levels; gender-sensitivity across the countries; and resource support and staff development.

2.1 Our Vision, Mission, Goal

NTFP-EP envisions self-empowered generations of forest-dependent communities, contributing to and benefiting from sustainably-managed forested landscapes and ecosystems, knowledge and cultural traditions.

NTFP-EP is a leading network in Asia that is effective, strategic and committed to sustainable management of forested landscapes and ecosystems, and the security of the right of indigenous and other forest-dependent populations, to access to natural resources, livelihood, cultural identity and gender equality.

NTFP-EP mission is to act as a catalyst in empowering local organizations working with marginalized, forest dependent communities, mainly indigenous peoples (IPs) in Asia, towards sustainable management of forested landscapes and ecosystems, and the right to access natural resources, livelihood, cultural identity and gender equality.

Goal: To secure the empowerment of forest-dependent communities through programs on community conservation and resource management, indigenous food and health, tenure rights and governance, sustainable community livelihoods in Asia. We work most especially in the field of NTFPs and the related community-based livelihood strategies, integrating the ethno-cultural and democratic values of gender and equity.

2.2.1. Remain grounded. Work with forest-dependent communities to strengthen their capacity, secure their voice and build alliances

The NTFP-EP's niche remains with its work in the field, which allows us to speak credibly and facilitate confidently about stories and experiences from the field. We should continue to immerse in field work sufficiently in order to continually learn from and be appropriately guided by the true needs and aspirations of indigenous and forest dependent communities. We will increase our involvement in policy dialogue, but this should not drain our resources nor detract from our work with communities. We shall build our core expertise in assisting local and indigenous communities to fulfill their economic potential while balancing their role as stewards of the forest.

2.2.2. Use a variety of creative communications platforms and knowledge management strategies to celebrate and promote the expression of indigenous and local visions, diversity and knowledge.

The NTFP-EP's approach to empowering forest-dependent communities is through strategic knowledge exchange, and facilitating experience sharing and practical community based actions. We embrace the diversity in knowledge and experience that we have in the network, inspired and informed by community visions, voices and plans. We will harness the communication of these through learning and communication platforms and through creative means of exchanges such as through festivals, roadshows, creative exhibitions, use of social media, interspersed with dialogue and dynamic interactions among our constituencies, partners, stakeholders and decision-makers.

The NTFP-EP as a knowledge broker can create and manage a comprehensive database of information and analyses at different geographic and political levels. The use and dissemination of this information will be guided by participatory principles and also respect of free prior and informed consent (FPIC) guidelines and processes. We will support the revitalization of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and indigenous knowledge, systems and practices (IKSPs). We will pursue the protection of TEK and IKSPs, and adapt these to today's community context and priorities. We will provide the support and tools to communicate the value of local and indigenous management practices to forest managers and policy makers. This will necessitate creative and sometimes unconventional or more contemporary forms of communication.

2.2.3. Promote transformative changes in policies and approaches by bridging local knowledge, science and field practice, and decision-making institutions.

There will be more policy challenges ahead for forest dependents and their partners and allies. The NTFP-EP's key contribution is to demand more action to protect the environment, local communities and indigenous peoples but in doing so, it needs to also be active in the policy space and to have a more influencing voice within it.

The regional nature of the NTFP-EP has made it appropriate to take lobby and advocacy actions on national and multilateral decision-making processes. The NTFP-EP should consider closer working relationships with other organizations that have access to policy makers (e.g. UN, FAO, ASEAN ASOF etc.). The NTFP-EP will take advantage of the regional policy space in the ASEAN strategic cooperation on forestry that it already engages. As a network that is grounded in the field and connected to local knowledge and practice, the NTFP-EP has a unique entry point to bridge community voices for policy change by leveraging its experience in forest based livelihood, forest management, capacity building and governance. The NTFP-EP will promote forest-dependent communities' key messages and advocacies at various significant levels – local, national, regional, and with different actors and champions.

We will support documentation of local observations of change, as well as documentation of how people are adapting their strategies so that these lessons can be shared. The NTFP-EP will endeavor to become smarter in sharing good practices and strategies across countries, members and partners in order to empower community groups effectively and emphasize the message of communities being key to development solutions and not to reinforce the onslaught of negative rap for communities.

2.2.4. Strengthen partnerships and alliances to champion and empower communities, and enable their organizations and sustainable forest-based enterprises.

The NTFP-EP works and grows based on where there are partners with similar interests, beliefs, and approaches. The organization supports communities where its partner civil society organizations (CSOs) work and where it feels that it will have the most impact or where its assistance will add the most value. The NTFP-EP seeks partnerships and connections to people and organizations who can serve as champions for NTFP development and the messages it carries about forest protection, forest peoples' rights and sustainable forest based livelihoods.

Still, the NTFP-EP faces the daunting challenge of remaining relevant in view of perceptions of NTFPs as outdated and irrelevant. The organization itself was found to have had a narrow focus on NTFPs, and so to address this, it will seek wider partnerships in broader landscape management and livelihood development, and in other crucial thematic sectors. Thus, the NTFP-EP will grow its constituency across its thematic programmes and core strategies. It will seek partnerships in the promotion of community-based management and sustainable use of forest products as an important contribution to poverty reduction, sustainable forest management and community economy and livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and mitigating climate change. It is also the organization's role to help shape and influence policies that promote more efficient and cost-effective NTFP production. It will tap networking options for communities and for their products and enterprises.

Biodiversity-friendly and ethical green products will be promoted for the niche markets and tourism, but they could be fragile and less resilient if market trends are unstable, and policies and markets work against the protection of the environment, community rights and equitable benefits for local and indigenous communities. The NTFP-EP will tap more strategic market opportunities, but at the same time advocate for ethical domestic, regional and international markets for NTFPs and creative

industries. Greater links to the market economy and employment will test the ability of NTFP-EP networks to develop and engage solutions that truly work for environmental conservation, respect for IPs and culture, and for local community rights. With the opening of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), NTFP- EP will engage in policy reform processes in order to ensure rights, safeguards and benefits for local and indigenous communities are adequately secured.

The NTFP-EP's work will link farmers and communities to elements of production, technologies, capital, and markets. It will begin to form productive connections in allied fields, networks and constituencies such as with the Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), as well as in sustainable lifestyle and livelihood campaigns and networks. Its work at the ASEAN level shall ramp up as we also grow in strategic linkages and gain trust and respect in this and other inter-governmental circles. Here the organization will play more facilitation roles in engaging the media and advocating with government, the private sector and multi-sectoral bodies; and where strategic, with multilateral and multi-stakeholder actors and platforms. In this, it may partner with other regional (or international / global) organizations in developing programs that can influence these actors – governments and other actors better.

Women and youth partnerships with the NTFP-EP have also expanded in the past years and will be strengthened through its participation and partnership with the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA), and various existing and emerging alliances and networks.

2.2.5. Strengthen organizational governance while maintaining the flexibility necessary for sustaining and empowering NTFP-EP regional and country programsme.

There is a need for organizational change and clarification of the governance arrangements of the NTFP-EP given recent developments, particularly the registration of NTFP-EP country offices as independent organizations.

NTFP-EP has different characteristics and arrangements as far as governance is concerned and there are some emerging questions on who should we consider as partners, members of the network and the relationships and agreements that will govern these relationships. See further discussion under Section 7. Governance and structure.

Each of the core strategies of field presence and practice, communications, policy advocacy, partnerships and organizational development of the NTFP-EP in 2016 to 2019 shall be appropriated into programmes and priority actions by NTFP-EP in different countries and regionally, under 4 themes, namely Community based Conservation, Tenure Rights and Governance, Sustainable Community Livelihood, and Indigenous Food and Health. There will also be programs on cross-cutting themes of Gender and Culture. Strengthening voice of indigenous communities that was a stand-alone thematic programme in the prior phase is embedded in all the programmes as a key strategic action.

3

Key thematic areas & strategic actions

NTFP-EP 

3.1 Community-based conservation

The shrinking and degradation of forests through deforestation and conversion to other land uses, climate change, and the rapid commercialization of forest products are considerable threats to ecosystems health and to community livelihood in South and Southeast Asia. The lack of forest tenure and usual lengthy process of securing customary land titles or community forest recognition weakens the defense of communities against these threats.

The NTFP-EP interventions take a participatory, holistic and integrative approach to strengthening the capacity of communities in addressing these threats and to fill the gaps in community capacity in order to hurdle the challenges. Such challenges include a) the lack of data about the conditions of the resource and ecosystems, b) the lack of governments' appreciation as well as the dearth in the public's recognition of the value of forest ecosystems and of NTFPs, c) forest communities' limited capacity and declining interest (especially among the youth) to document their Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Practices (TEKPs), as well as of community NTFP protocols and management systems. The transfer of knowledge and capacities to younger generations is indeed a major challenge. Finally, the lack of human and financial resources to support community initiatives, and the limitations of NTFP-EP staff capacity and knowledge on ecological monitoring are also given attention.

NTFP-EP will prioritize the following outcomes: 1) effective community-based ecological monitoring is practiced; 2) traditional ecological knowledge and practices are maintained and revitalized; 3) community forest areas are restored, protected and managed effectively; 4) sustainable NTFP harvest practices are in place; and 5) the government and public, value forest ecosystems and NTFPs, and that they will provide support to community based conservation initiatives.

Strategic Actions

- Update partner communities regularly on the changes occurring in their forests' health. There are community ecological monitoring teams in place which are regularly collecting and using monitoring data for sustainable forest management, and the formation of these teams shall be encouraged. The number of such community monitoring teams that are functioning is expected to increase year to year.
- Encourage young people in local and indigenous communities to practice their TEKPs, while other stakeholders will recognize these traditional practices.
- Engage with governments to accelerate the recognition of community forest tenure rights and practices of indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities. It will also document the traditional ecological knowledge and practices of its partner communities, as well as their sustainable NTFP management practices. The number of communities with conserved forest areas, as well as restored and protected forest land areas are expected to increase. Many of the essential non-timber forest products species in community forest areas will be restored are expected to increase. There will also be an increase in the number of community management plans that have been approved and implemented in the NTFP-EP's partner communities.

- Establish NTFP learning centers in all member countries, which will be open to the general public. Other partnerships will be established that will result in the better appreciation and support of community-based conservation and non-timber forest products.
- Employ technological approaches such as land use planning; climate proof plans will also be employed. This will be coupled with capacity building including exchange visits of the NTFP-EP staff and communities across the network.
- Forge linkages with scientists to complement sustainable NTFP harvest practices and ecological health. More partner communities of the NTFP-EP will be practicing sustainable non-timber forest products collection. These communities will be conducting ecological monitoring which will reflect an increase in the number of sustainably harvested non-timber forest products.
- Use social marketing tools and the documentation of partner communities' good practices to popularize the NTFP-EP's work and non-timber forest products among governments and the general public.
- Conduct staff capacity building on this theme for NTFP-EP regional and country offices.

3.2 Tenure rights and governance

Forest tenure is a broad concept that includes ownership, tenancy and other arrangements for the use of forests. It is a combination of legally or customarily defined forest ownership, and of rights and arrangements to manage and use forest resources. Forest tenure determines who can use what resources, for how long and under what conditions. The NTFP-EP's over-all work on tenure reforms include advocacy to improve forest and natural resources governance and the implementation of policy and regulatory frameworks. Empowerment of forest-dependent communities to assert tenure rights does not come from titling alone, and titling does not ensure the capacity to benefit from forest resources. These require several other forms of support from formal and informal institutions and from various stakeholders.

This thematic programme will address some of the challenges in securing tenure rights for forest dependent communities, such as: a) the overlapping, conflicting and unrealistic state policies in the countries where we operate; b) the lack of coordination, cooperation, and communication of national agencies on their agenda to address development, poverty and natural resource issues; c) the enforcement and compliance of policies, and the serious limitations or lack of civil and political rights/freedoms in the countries where we are; d) changes in the leadership of key government agencies which cause a loss in momentum in the NTFP-EPs advocacy; e) the lack of transparency and information dissemination by stakeholders sometimes including by CSOs to communities.

The NTFP-EP will prioritize the following outcomes: 1) that Governments have an understanding, and will adopt and enforce policies, and implement programmes that promote NTFPs and Community-Based Forest Management/ Social Forestry, protected areas, sacred groves and community-conserved areas; 2) Institutions (governments, corporations and other interest groups) will promote equitable, gender-responsive and inclusive governance in forest resources utilization and management; 3) Regional and local constituencies advocating for NTFPs, social forestry, tenure and resource use rights are built, strengthened and expanded; and 4) Communities are united and enabled to secure and enjoy their customary tenure and/or resource use rights

Strategic Actions

- Facilitate learning opportunities for government offices and CSOs in participatory and multi-stakeholder approaches to securing forest tenure and natural resources governance.
- Conduct evidence-based policy analysis on tenure rights and forest / natural resources governance and prepare policy briefs with the academe and CSOs.
- Advocate for and support processes to secure NTFP permits, tenurial agreements, memoranda of agreements, and recognition and registration of community based forestry, protected areas, indigenous and local community conserved areas (ICCAs), and others.
- Demonstrate, adopt and promote FPIC principles and processes in the exercise of NTFP-EP interventions and advocate the same over policies and projects that affect local and indigenous communities.
- Develop and champion a community-centred forest rights agenda through multi-stakeholder dialogue and site-based approaches; where appropriate, employ negotiation, mediation and litigation strategies, and build key competencies around these.
- Build and participate in technical working groups, multi-stakeholder platforms, alliances and coalitions for advocacy on forest rights, particularly pertaining to resource use and access, safeguards and tenure.
- Conduct awareness-raising (including learning and exchange activities), and use multimedia and community-appropriate communications channels in community capacity building.
- Develop site level strategies (both short- and long-term) for engaging policymakers to improve resource access and community tenure rights.

3.3 Sustainable community livelihood

The NTFP-EP considers it essential to achieve conservation and sustainable management of forested landscapes that communities are able to maintain or improve their livelihoods, and that they have the opportunities to develop and manage a thriving community economy. Especially for indigenous communities, cultural and structural discrimination bar their access to socio-economic development opportunities; the failure of development project proponents and industries to exercise meaningful FPIC in customary forests and protected landscapes prevent communities from having a say in projects and investments that transform or worse destroy their livelihood. These may also hinder them from designing and implementing their own livelihood and resource management plans.

There are other challenges to achieving sustainable community livelihood goals such as the lack of business skills and enterprise development capacities among communities. Not all community based economic development initiatives are profitable and sustainable, so they resort to other income sources that are not environment-friendly but which might provide better incomes like mining, charcoal making, illegal logging or wildlife poaching. Hazards posed by climactic changes like typhoons, heavy rains and flooding are also key challenges in these communities. Together with land conversions and unsustainable harvesting practices, they magnify already existing vulnerabilities in the NTFP-EP's partner communities.

The NTFP-EP assists local and indigenous communities in developing forest-based enterprises, making them operational and contributing gainful income for its members. But some communities are just not interested in mainstream business or “economic commercial activities”, and this needs to be respected. Nevertheless, these communities have vibrant livelihood activities that may include village level production and small-scale trade of household produce, forest collection and seasonal harvests. In a number of cases, both subsistence and (local) market-based livelihood activities make up the community economy and these thrive under conditions of good community leadership, the maintenance of customary natural resources governance, and sustainable resource management systems and practices.

For the many communities that engage the market actively and beyond village boundaries, they also face a number of challenges, and for which they seek support and partnerships: 1) difficulty in meeting the volume, quality demand, and standards of the market; 2) product competition, 3) lack of access to efficient technologies; and 4) the basic lack of awareness and appreciation by government and market actors of the value of nature and culture-based enterprises, which makes technical support, extension and innovations to be either distant or costly for the community enterprises.

The NTFP-EP will prioritize the following outcomes: 1) that there is an enabling environment for community forest-based livelihood and enterprise strategies; 2) community-based non-timber forest products enterprises (CBNEs) allow community participation and benefit sharing; 3) CBNEs are profitable, sustainable and resilient; 4) CBNEs contribute to culture protection and promotion.

Strategic Actions

- Facilitate CBNE development across partner communities under NTFP-EP CBNE development guidelines, principles and agreements with communities that conform with NTFP-EP values and principles.
- Develop and enable value-based and sustainable market linkages for CBNEs through green intermediaries and equitable partnership agreements.
- Facilitate the creation of committees to oversee the enterprises, conduct open consultations with stakeholders, and ensure that enterprises/projects will comply with the FPIC requirement.
- Document agreements that specify the benefits of these enterprises to local and indigenous communities.
- Conduct feasibility studies and develop markets that are willing to accept the limited volume capacity of CBNEs. This entails responsible branding, value chain management, and ensuring the standardization of quality, social responsibility, and environmental accountability.
- Develop and integrate a community-based resource management approach into the CBNE model which will include education and capacity building, resource assessment, regeneration, sustainable harvesting, and monitoring systems.
- Climate-proof all CBNEs in the partner communities.
- Document traditional knowledge and technologies in partner communities.
- Conduct educational campaigns to highlight the detrimental effects and health hazards of

destructive industries or enterprises that may be destructive to ecosystems, culture and traditional livelihoods

- Adopt culturally-appropriate technologies and market instruments that will enhance the value and benefit of community and forest-based livelihood programmes.
- Support the transfer of traditional livelihood skills and practices to the younger generation.
- Engage policymakers to push for policies that support CBNs.
- Maintain a database of good practices community economy and livelihood development; the database is available and maintained in all NTFP-EP countries; replicate and upscale where appropriate.

3.4 Indigenous food and health

The NTFP-EP has a strong regard for the contribution of forest ecosystems in the diets and subsistence of forest-dependent communities. In increasingly market-oriented economies, forest ecosystems also provide a significant portion of the food and medicines consumed by urban populations. The NTFP-EP recognizes that the sustainable use of forest resources is essential for local livelihoods and the well-being of national populations. This provides a foundation for investment in the conservation of forest ecosystems in poverty reduction, food security and disease reduction in development policies.

Overexploitation or overharvesting of non-timber forest products is a current reality and a challenge for the NTFP-EP. Changing patterns, perceptions and habits about consumption of forest foods and their links to the current state of the forests, natural resources and ecosystems, and the indigenous knowledge systems and practices that nurture them need to be properly understood. Sadly a gap in knowledge, awareness and understanding of these among the general public, policy-makers and even the youth in communities exist. Even scientific and anthropological data on the subject, that would otherwise build a community of practice and advocates ready to facilitate forest food and community health programmes, is limited. There is a lack of resource persons especially from the academe who can provide leadership in the study and in building a broader understanding about the theme.

Thus, the NTFP-EP targets the following priority outcomes: 1) to increase general public awareness, appreciation and knowledge on the subsistence uses of NTFPs; 2) to advocate for food related forestry, and development policies that take into account the changing food habits due to limited/ threatened access for communities; and 3) to raise awareness and cultivate pride on forest food culture, especially among the indigenous youth.

Strategic Actions

- Conduct capacity building for communities on data collection, monitoring and analysis (including the nutritional value of indigenous food, status of wild foods, e.g. depleting, endangered, etc), and community level scientific documentation and analysis of wild foods and NTFPs.
- Advocate for the propagation of wild food gardens, nurseries and demonstration sites in its partner communities.
- Conduct information campaigns on sustainable harvesting practices in its partner communities as

part of the NTFP-EP's efforts in awareness-raising on indigenous food and health.

- Conduct health and nutrition workshops, learning exchanges and exposure visits, and food and cultural festivals.
- Conduct case studies on the issue of food related policies and the changing food habits of forest-dependent communities. These studies will include investigation on access to forest food and corresponding changes in food habits.
- Publish articles, case studies and other materials for public awareness and advocacy on indigenous food and health.
- Develop and implement an advocacy agenda on forests for food security and community health.

Longer periods of field work are targeted in order to ascertain different kinds of seasonal foods available and for a more complete list. The NTFP-EP will link local and cultural information about wild foods, scientific and policy analysis.

Cross- Cutting Themes

NTFP-EP Asia works on two cross-cutting themes that are not stand-alone but are incorporated into the 4 thematic areas. The Culture and Gender themes relate to the revival and strengthening of cultural identity and respect for cultural integrity, and to gender equality, in particular the strengthening of women's voice and securing women's empowerment. Strategies to embed these cross-cutting themes into NTFP-EP's strategic actions will be included.

3.5 Culture

Local realities in South and Southeast Asia show how cultural values and rights of Indigenous Peoples in the exploitation of forest resources have been undermined. The NTFP-EP, in achieving its goals, respects the cultural traditions and values of its partner communities. The NTFP-EP believes that these traditions and values are often embedded in the historical identity of cultural groups, hence, the primary importance of respecting the cultural integrity of its partners.

Strategic Actions

- Conduct FPIC validations on NTFP-EP projects and indigenous community support.
- Conduct case studies and organize orientations on culturally-appropriate methods for securing Free Prior and Informed Consent from local communities regarding the entry of projects and programs.
- Organize food and cultural festivals and youth camps that cultivate and strengthen cultural identity and pride.
- Develop culture-based messaging and culturally appropriate tools in communications, knowledge management and marketing strategies.

3.6 Gender

The gender composition of a local forest management group affects forest conservation outcomes. The NTFP-EP strongly takes into consideration the assigned gender roles in its partner communities because gender roles influence how forests are managed. The NTFP-EP also believes that improving gender relations will ensure equitable benefits and outcomes in its forest conservation, management and community development efforts. The inclusion of women in forestry conservation and enterprise programmes and in embedding women's rights and a gender equality perspective is an important element to achieving the NTFP-EP's goals.

However, the NTFP-EP has had no explicit gender indicators targeted in its work programmes and activities. The organization has had limited or no explicit strategies to build gender analysis capacity inhouse to frame its programmes and interventions. The NTFP-EP therefore commits to the following: 1) to address gender issues programmatically; 2) to ensure gender-sensitive and responsive staff in all levels and areas of NTFP-EP's work; 3) to achieve gender balance of participants in NTFP-EP's activities; and 4) to include gender equity in decision-making at all levels of intervention and practice, including decision-making at the institutional level.

Strategic Actions

- Activate a team of gender focal persons.
- Build capacity of staff and partner communities on gender, eg. gender analysis, manifestations of gender bias, practical and strategic gender needs analysis, gender-responsive planning, etc.
- Organize leadership skills training for both women and men.
- Develop monitoring tools such as attendance sheets and others that indicate and consider women and men's participation, perceptions and impacts.
- Conduct gender-based analysis and studies including project evaluations, case studies and documentation of good practices and lessons learned, enterprise monitoring reports, and the like.

4

Core Countries

The NTFP-EP has been registered as an official international NGO in Cambodia since its establishment in June 2008. The country with its timber-biased forest industry has considerable limitations and barriers for NTFP development. These were brought to light at a National NTFP Workshop held in December 2006 that triggered the development of an NTFP-EP programme in Cambodia. These obstacles included the lack of support to communities to transport and trade NTFPs; lack of guidelines for the harvest, utilization and transport of NTFPs and the absence of support for sustainable production, value addition, marketing and technology transfer. Moreover a weak land and forest tenure system particularly the lack of recognition, protection and security of tenure security of indigenous and local communities has been a fundamental barrier. For instance, widespread conversion of communal forest and customary land to agricultural land under an economic concession policy that favors agribusiness has resulted in a decline of NTFPs, and thus, the insecurity in livelihood and subsistence of forest-dependent communities.

The NTFP-EP's entry into Cambodia facilitated the valuable networking of environment and development NGOs in the country in order to act upon these concerns and reverse the trend of forest loss and livelihoods. The Cambodia NTFP Working Group (CNWG), made up of staff of Community Forestry International (CFI), Pact Cambodia, WWF Cambodia, Fauna and Flora International (FFI), Cambodia NTFP Development Organization (CANDO), The Learning Institute, Ponlok Khmer, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI), as well as government officers, collectively and individually became consistent NTFP programme advocates and sought-after resource persons. Their expertise and advice informed a number of natural resource management and environment programmes and projects in the latter's design and strategies. CNWG or the NTFP-EP network advocated the integration of NTFP development and value chain strategies into a number of programmes to contribute to sustainable forest and natural resources management and poverty reduction in Cambodia.

Since 2008, the NTFP-EP Cambodia already made a number of accomplishments through its partnerships, such as the training of NGO staff and communities in NTFP value chain development, research on the economic value of NTFPs, such as dipterocarp resins and *Sterculia lychnophora* or *Scaphium lychnophorum* (commonly known as malva nut), and *Apis dorsata* honey, a database of NTFP species (now at 284 species), research on wild food diversity in the northeast indigenous Cambodia, and the development of a number of community based NTFP enterprises around forest honey, crafts and natural dyes, handwoven textile (from cotton or bark), resins and most recently bamboo. In parallel with this, other NTFP-EP network partners particularly WWF Cambodia led research and policy work on sustainable rattan and the organizing of rattan enterprises – and also the Rattan Association of Cambodia (RAC). Meanwhile, the NTFP-EP Cambodia facilitated the networking of around 16 organized community based forest honey enterprises in 6 provinces into the Cambodia Federation for Bee Conservation and Wild Honey Enterprises (CBHE). CBHE is the first and only wild honey federation in Cambodia that also applies sustainable community-based wild honey harvest protocols and quality standards among its members under a collective CBHE trademark and Khmum Prey (wild honey) brand.

To date NTFP-EP Cambodia (and not counting those organized by partners) has supported the establishment of up to 40 community-based forest and related enterprises (forest honey, bamboo, crafts resins, fish processing and ecotourism) in at least four (4) provinces, 24 of which are currently operational and are being monitored and advised by NTFP-EP.

In 2015, the NTFP-EP Cambodia registered NatureWild (NW) as a formal business entity with Cambodia's Ministry of Commerce. NatureWild is a green (marketing) intermediary that supports the CBNEs – CBHE being one of its main partners - through the provision of sales and marketing services. In the short to medium- term, NatureWild will focus on forest/wild honey product sales with the goal of establishing business stability within the next 4 years. Its priority is to build up its capital out of a targeted sales and distribution strategy of forest/wild honey products, and improve its production process with a focus on consistent quality production standards, strong internal controls and business operating system. NatureWild must secure financing partners to support its business plan and in particular to support research and development activities, e.g. product development for honey and bee products, and to continue with other resin products, packaging research, and market testing. NatureWild continues to collaborate with the Institute of Technology of Cambodia to develop new products and review the installation of technology requirements for new honey products (e.g. honey vinegar, honey wine, and honey lemon tea). NW needs to find investment partners who share their social enterprise mindset; this is crucial in this period.

Meanwhile, supply agreements were signed involving 5 community-based resin enterprises in 2013-2014 with Dampak Trading and later in 2015 with Pusethana Company. However these were not sustained due to challenges in meeting production requirements and competitive pricing. The forest honey business on the other hand, continued. CBHE and NatureWild partnership alone garnered a total sales of US\$ 21,836 in 2013, US\$ 24,267 in 2014, and US\$ 26,715 in 2015. The challenge for NatureWild is to cover its operating costs fully and to be compliant with government regulations as a registered business entity.

The NTFP-EP Cambodia's network facilitator role involves policy engagements. The NTFP-EP Cambodia convened the 1st National CBNE Forum with the support of the National Council for Sustainable Development and the Forestry Administration in 2015. The Forum is an important platform for stakeholder dialogue (of NTFP collectors, producers, community enterprises, government representatives, NGOs, donors and private sector) about the lingering issues in Cambodia forestry and of its underdeveloped NTFP industry. The limitations in NTFP development policy were discussed as well as the potential for at least 3 NTFP value chains to be further developed – rattan, bamboo, forest honey. There are also other NTFPs not given enough attention that are favorable for both community income and subsistence such as medicinal and aromatic plants, mushrooms and lac to name a few. Tree tenure issues need to be addressed and these issues are found linked with threats of logging and deforestation that plague the development of dipterocarp resin value chains for example. Resin transport permits are held only by a handful of wholesaler / processors in a few provinces yet thousands of rural Cambodians are still dependent on this NTFP for subsistence and informal trade. NTFP-EP Cambodia plays an important role to follow through with the stakeholder dialogue towards concrete actions to increase the attention to and mobilize support for NTFP development. A 2nd National CBNE Forum will be held in 2017.

The NTFP-EP Cambodia engages other forest policy issues and programmes. The NTFP-EP Cambodia played a key role in advocating and facilitating the participation and inclusion of indigenous people and CSOs in the Cambodia REDD-Plus governance and management arrangement. Together with the Indigenous Peoples Working Group on REDD-Plus, the CSOs REDD-Plus Network and the NGO Forum on Cambodia, IP and CSO representation were secured in the REDD-Plus Consultation Group. Meanwhile CSO and IP voices and inputs were strong in the National REDD-Plus Roadmap and the National REDD-Plus Strategy. The NTFP-EP Cambodia focuses its engagement in securing, from mere community participation to community representation in forest governance, and applying community-based planning tools for NTFP enterprise development, community forestry and community protected areas development, and disaster risk reduction/climate change adaptation. In a few projects, the NTFP-EP Cambodia collaborates with other NGOs to advocate security of community tenure (particularly community forestry and community protected areas), strengthening the functionality of existing tenure instruments especially through livelihood support such as on sustainable NTFP harvesting, production and value addition, and the promotion of community safeguards in REDD-Plus. The NTFP-EP Cambodia collaborates with the Forestry Administration in organizing the multi-stakeholder Community Forestry Coordinating Committees at the provincial level and the national levels, and also strengthening the Community Forestry and Community Protected Areas Network. Under a consortium programme called Partners for Forestry and Fisheries (PaFF) that NTFP-EP leads, 10 Community Fisheries (CFi) agreements with a total area of 14,835 hectares, and 14 Community Forestry agreements with a total area of 27,589 hectares, were signed as of 2016.

The NTFP-EP Cambodia continues to support the strengthening of the indigenous peoples movement in Cambodia, particularly as secretariat to the Cambodia Indigenous Peoples (IP) Alliance. The IP Alliance has been a strong voice against the indiscriminate implementation of the Prime Minister's Directive 001 on private land titling, which they saw as a deeply divisive strategy for indigenous peoples and for communal land titling. The Alliance also supported community land titling processes in 3 villages and will continue to support others, and the provision of leadership and planning support to develop, manage and protect these communal lands. At the same time, the IP Alliance facilitates grassroots organizing of indigenous peoples and mobilizing a general assembly of indigenous peoples from the ground up in order to promote and advocate for the empowerment and recognition of IP rights.

The staff of the NTFP-EP Cambodia is now fully local. They plan to strengthen the enterprise development capacity of the team in order to support the existing and new CBNEs. NTFP-EP Cambodia will pursue further advocacy and engagement on tenure rights of local and indigenous forest dependent communities, support the strengthening of IP voices, and facilitate policy dialogue on forest and community conservation concerns. A country strategic plan will be developed and a network vision shall be consulted to guide the plan.

4.2 India

Over the past 5 years there has been a steady decline in NGO voices in India, especially those NGOs which point out state violations (or state supported violations) against adivasi and other traditional forest dwellers. Many of these violations are in resource-rich regions like central India and the

northeast. Some of the progressive legislations that are in place – like the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act and the Forest Rights Act (FRA) – are often not implemented, for various reasons. Lack of funding also constrains NGO activities. There is also a shortage of available youth who may want to work with groups such as the NTFP-EP India. Among the adivasi youth, the main issues that hinder them from participating are often due to insurgency and the fear of having to take sides, bad agricultural policies, displacement due to large projects, etc.

The problem extends from the lack of participation from government and society, to the dilution of laws that supposedly protect and support the NTFPs. The overall hype toward economic growth has sacrificed the environment, forsaking the implementation of laws such as the PESA and FRA which were meant to safeguard adivasi peoples; giving way instead to the exponential increase in mining licensing. India's disturbing support of mining ignores completely the efforts that foster conservation and environmental health and this proves to be the biggest challenge for the forests and therefore to NTFP-EP in the country.

The NTFP-EP in India has proceeded to stimulate conservation and subsistence with its resources to conduct research, and to implement projects for its adopted enterprise and advocacy activities. There is an abundance of ecological (monitoring) data in places like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh. Some of these have been made into workable models and used in management by local communities. There is data for about 100 species of wild foods, collected and ready to be edited to proceed to formal documentation. (At present the Ministry of Culture in Chhattisgarh is translating a compendium of central India food plants from English to Hindi compiled by the NTFP-EP India).

Apart from scientific monitoring that entails systematic data collection and analysis, the NTFP-EP India has worked on traditional forest monitoring, like the thengapalli, which is a practice of community forest patrolling. In many parts of central India, NTFP-EP India nurseries raise plants to enrich degraded areas, sacred groves and community forests, usually with NTFP and wild food species.

Despite the challenges of the Indian NTFP industry, the NTFP-EP India was able to still develop community based enterprises and foster livelihoods. In April 2013 to November 2014 there was a turnover of Keystone production with an accumulated profit of over 74,00,000 Indian rupees (approx. 100,000 euros) – a transaction from selling duvet covers of silk cotton as well as usual NTFPs (honey, amla, and shikakai). Consequent to it was the promotion of lac cultivation among 47 beneficiaries in 2 districts of Odisha. Producer groups have begun to develop their products like sal-leaf plates, oils from mahua, and Gandhamardhan Honey.

The NTFP-EP's advocacy in India is widespread. Political parties during the last election showed some interest in the green manifesto of an NTFP-EP partner in their campaign. Other partners were part of the committee deciding on the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 14 NTFPs with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, a big change as MSPs have traditionally been for agricultural products alone. Other efforts that have been successful include the particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTG) communities, having them decide on their own plans for development (with respect to the Community-cum-Development Plans of the state in the Nilgiris); campaigning against coal mines in Surguja, Chhattisgarh and granite quarries in Srikakulam and Vishakapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. There have been instances of tension

between the forest department and some communities, like in Bastar and the Nilgiris, over community forests. These have however been successfully mediated by the NGOs working with the respective communities, LEAF and Keystone Foundation.

The NTFP-EP India intends to continue to empower the communities it works with. This implies even more measures will be taken for conservation, enterprise, and advocacy in the future. One of the first steps would be preparing material for extended publications for barefoot ecology, ecological monitoring, wild foods, and other NTFP-related studies. Separately, this involves an engagement with four communities both for research on their harvest protocols and security of specific NTFPs. The partners of NTFP-EP- India desire to ensure the planting of 100,000 native species and to secure their protection and eventually to be upgraded and recognized as sacred groves and forests among community lands. Overall, NTFP-EP India partners have consistently planted about 100,000 saplings of native NTFP species each year. These have helped enrich sacred groves and degraded lands as well as reforest spaces in neighbouring states, a part of large reforestation programmes.

Another one of NTFP-EP India's goals would be to engage with the local or state governments with regard to the inclusion of wild foods in their policies. Meanwhile discussions are underway to raise awareness with elected village/panchayat leaders in many parts of the country to develop a youth team for conservation.

Another future action of the NTFP-EP in India would be an agreement with the corporate sector in India regarding the sal seeds. The development and marketing of sal-leaf and the innovative sal-leaf plates was assessed to have great potential. The promotion of the lac cultivation (in at least 3 sites) followed this. Value was starting to flood back into the business of NTFPs and this includes, quite specifically to India, the added market value of bamboo and fiber craft.

Finally, the Indian NTFP-EP partners seek to develop communication to spread the project and the advocacy all over the world. This makes the development of the website a huge factor for their upcoming plans. The NTFP-EP India has a quarterly newsletter (Leaf Litter) that brings out relevant articles, updates and field notes from the partners. Partners have also published in Down to Earth and in other fora like India Together, newspapers and some scientific journals about 6 articles on NTFP issues. They acknowledge the power of good media and the importance of an updated and interactive online resource that will help connect the programme to as many people as possible.

Some of the immediate plans for India is to continue to strive for the implementation of the FRA and the PESA legislations; this will entail awareness programmes among the youth and the larger adivasi communities in all the partners areas. Specifically this will be to ensure Community Forest Rights over forests that adivasi people have been using customarily. In addition, the NTFP-EP India will endeavour to undertake the following: coordinate on advocacy across the region (finding common threats and formulating collective responses); also cross-country work to take forward the health and nutrition theme among indigenous peoples; and collective regional publications and exchanges.

4.3 Indonesia

There is very little data to facilitate the development of the NTFPs in Indonesia. In 2014, from 30, the number of NTFP government priorities went down flat to 3 namely: rattan, forest honey, and bamboo. This is of consequence to environmental degradation where forest service is lost to illegal logging, and environmental benefits are delegated to forest rehabilitation. The main causes of forest degradation include unsustainable logging, agriculture (shifting cultivations), fires, fuel wood collection, and livestock grazing, which have various impacts of degradation level. However, for the time being there is no general approach to identify a degraded forest because perceptions on forest degradation vary depending on the causes, particular goods or services of interest, and temporal and spatial scales considered. These do not yet include the bio-geophysical condition that impact on the forests. With the complexity of Indonesia's unique bioregions, defining the degree of forest degradation is not a simple task. So the definition of forest degradation used here is the general one.

The current president of the country, Joko Widodo, together with his Ministers, express great hope for the forestry sector. In 2014, he merged the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Forestry into the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF). In the effort to prevent more forest fires, the MoEF, under the supervision of President Widodo, released two policies that: 1) merges REDD-Plus facilitating bodies with the MoEF; and, 2) transfers permits related to forest investment into another ministerial branch.

The government insists on ensuring effectiveness in all aspects of the move. There is to be an efficient implementation of the policy that includes transparency, rule of law, law enforcement, conflict resolution, decentralization, and dialogue-based decision-making processes.

On the smaller scale of local government and community, there is a problematic decline of interest on traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) due to expanding opportunities that rely on oil palm, mining (coal, gold) and timber plantation – all of which promote commercialization and thus stray far from tradition. The NTFP-EP has done its best to promote conservation and enterprise development despite the given challenges in the forestry and environmental sectors in the country. As a way of applied research, a couple of books have been published like the "Women, Rattan Gardens and Traditional Crafts: How a Forest Gives Meaning to Culture" and the report of the Indigenous People and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCA) entitled "Customary Territories, Community Traditions, Nature Conservation" which is a collection of Indonesian Stories and Perspectives on Indigenous and Local Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs).

Accomplishments in research also include the completed forest honey research and the discovery of its anti-cancer and anti-aging properties. The research was a collaborative work of the Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) and the NTFP-EP Indonesia. The research of the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity (TEEB) in Kampar Peninsula was done in collaboration with the Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) and Yayasan Mitra Insani (YMI) in Riau. Another study is about multiple benefits assessment in Danau Sentarum National Park (DSNP). The multiple benefit assessment was a collaborative research among Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI), Wageningen University (WUR) and Bogor Agricultural University (IPB). The documentation of the study of utilization patterns

and water fish conservation in Punan Adiu was also completed. In addition to the endeavors for conservation alongside research, the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) that promotes sustainable harvesting has had its successful pilot testing on rattan products in Kutai Barat, Kalimantan and Sigi, Central Sulawesi.

At present, the NTFP-EP Indonesia continues to advocate fair rights of tenure and feasible policies to support sustainable livelihoods initiatives. The NTFP-EP Indonesia also will continue to support the commitment of the Indonesian government by having 12.7 million hectares covered under social forestry schemes (village forest, community forestry, community plantation forest, indigenous forest and partnership forest). This target is already listed in the National Medium Term Development Plan (RPJMN 2015-2019). Under this scheme, the NTFP-EP Indonesia sees that there will be more room to contribute to the enhancement of community welfare as well as to forest ecosystems by increasing community and other stakeholders knowledge, skills and improving market access for NTFPs. The NTFP-EP Indonesia's current efforts in enterprise development includes the involvement in events such as the biggest craft exhibition in Indonesia, INACRAFT 2014, and in the very large International Folk Art Market (IFAM) in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA, having sold some 358 products and achieving US\$ 13,000 in its first participation. While there are cases of outsourcing problems that have closed markets in the previous years (like Borneo Chic in 2014), new strategies are being formulated to avoid such unfortunate events from happening again. The NTFP-EP Indonesia currently also led the PARARA (Festival Panen Raya Nusantara) consortium as a vehicle and window for promoting and developing green and sustainable products from local communities. The PARARA consortium currently involves 26 national and local NGOs.

The NTFP-EP Indonesia aims to further improve its work in the immediate future and beyond. Conservation will continue to be articulated through research and documentation, including the aspect of how it can be made useful for the communities. More activities of integration and events like festivals and youth camps are planned. Also in line with the feats in research, there is a plan to launch the database of the NTFP-EP Indonesia online for a more widespread, if not deeper, understanding of the importance of culture, nature, and subsistence (quite specifically Indonesia, the river fish in Punan Adiu). There are even more specific visions for the development of enterprise and advocacy, having brought to light both the problems and improvements the NTFP-EP has encountered and achieved so far. For instance, the identification of the market for unsaleable products will continue. Furthermore, there is an aim to increase the number of weavers among villagers and to visit districts (like West Sumatera and Sulawesi) to learn about the village forest processes and its benefits. The Indonesian partners will also be part of the third participation at the IFAM 2016 and national rattan workshop to establish the National PGS Board.

Finally, the future of the programme in Indonesia involves developing the strategic plan for Indonesia office 2016-2018. This also includes completing the manual of the NTFP-EP Indonesia which would hopefully enhance the capacity of financial staff and the financial management of tax statements in accordance with state regulations.

4.4 Malaysia

The NTFP-EP Malaysia is optimistic that given the recent changes in the country, specifically within the Sarawak State Government, political space is improving. The NTFP-EP Malaysia is hopeful that the new Sarawak Chief Minister will be an improvement from the last. He has so far cancelled the Baram Dam project and this decision will be an indicator of his integrity. There is also a new Director of the Sarawak Forestry Department who so far, has a positive impression on the people. Further, the Sabah Forestry Department and other relevant Sabah government agencies continue to be open to engage CSOs and intend to collaborate further. In addition, certain market platforms have improved i.e. FSC has included a Permanent Indigenous Peoples Committee whereby a member of the NTFP-EP Malaysia's board is the representative for Asia. Certain Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) members i.e. PT Wilmar also continue to engage CSOs in both Sabah and Sarawak with their No Deforestation, No Exploitation and No Expansion on Peat policy.

However, Malaysia continues to suffer from structural corruption in government in union with the private sector i.e. as the 1 Malaysia Development Berhad scandal that implicates the Prime Minister where many international NGOs supporting Sarawak's issues have been in the forefront of the campaign. These NGOs' actions are amiable and need to continue, however their actions could cause further monitoring and clamp down on CSO engagement in Sarawak. Finally, there is the ongoing expansion and establishment of the NTFP-EP Malaysia board, with a new office in Miri, and new staff focusing on community based enterprises, administration and finance.

The NTFP-EP Malaysia has played a significant role in Sabah and Sarawak. Evidences of conserved ecosystems and forest covers have been reported. The NTFP-EP Malaysia's community and NGO partners have been very successful in lessening logging and land grabbing. They implemented training workshops on native customary rights, the state land codes and court processes, extra legal actions, potential and limitations of market platforms and accumulated support from the community. As a direct result, communities managed to deter logging companies for as much as the estimated 25,000 hectares of saved forest. The interest is refreshing for the NTFP-EP. Malaysia Communities have been organized into a local land conservation association and a youth association. Collaboration with other NGOs was just as helpful, resulting to completed and functional maps of four villages. Rehabilitation of NTFPs especially sago, fruit trees, and rattan do not only save the environment and the industry, but it also serves as a strategy to exhibit the forest's economic value and natural potential.

Research, as always, has been part of the operations of the NTFP-EP. For Malaysia, there is an initial documentation of key subsistence resources and NTFPs of 64 species in its final draft in English and the local indigenous language, Penan. Some species were selected from communities and were subjected to restoration. One of the key products that was found to be most threatened was the sago palm. After rehabilitation of the palm over a period of 10 years with various nomadic and semi nomadic communities, this time sago flour can be processed and replenished as a staple food source. It has also provided an additional impetus for the communities to deter the logging companies from entering their native customary land.

The NTFP-EP Malaysia conducted workshops about food from the forest and health, targeting the Penan youth as its audience. The elders were brought in to share their knowledge with the youth and eventually, the responses became keen in its involvement with rehabilitation efforts. A key activity is the joint documentation of the NTFPs. The workshop trainings also extended to discussions on native customary rights, land laws, leadership, and negotiation skills all for the benefit and knowledge of leaders and the youth. This was conducted in collaboration with NGO partners and its results were that communities finally know their rights and effectively negotiate and defend their native customary land. The impact of these efforts reach as far as communities pursuing court cases to defend their rights and negotiate with companies for a fair outcome.

The NTFP-EP has also built committees from state-wide constituencies on behalf of community forestry groups and NTFP environmental associations like the Sabah Social Forestry Working Group (SASOF). Through the SASOF, the Sabah Forestry Department and CSOs focus on tagal (traditional resource management practice) and community based enterprise as a means of developing policies and laws that recognize communities' tenure rights and community management or co-management of community forest. A research paper was completed exploring forest 'tagal' for conservation, tenure and management of water catchment areas. The paper was effectively used to introduce and start a dialogue between key government agencies, communities, CSOs and private sector on the same through a series of workshops initiated by the NTFP-EP Malaysia.

Further, the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) agreed to collaborate on community-based enterprise with CSOs and community members. Its Forest Department in the past mainly focused its resources on top down projects that involved building toilets, bridges, fish ponds, etc. After collaborating with NTFP-EP, it has now changed its approach to also include NTFP development and refers to communities' existing practices i.e. cultivating honey, rattan, and gaharu. In the next phase of the Malaysian plan starting in 2016, the Forestry Department Sarawak, Community Service Initiative Unit had submitted a proposal (including budget) which was granted by the federal government that included social forestry and community-based enterprises. The unit has also been elevated to the Social Forestry Department.

With the new Community-based Enterprise Officer and based on earlier comprehensive livelihood appraisal and product scanning (CLAPS) workshops and enterprise assessments with Penan villagers, the NTFP-EP Malaysia has begun enterprise efforts in two Penan communities near Mulu National Park. In cooperation with Bolsamulu Management Authorities and with the support of Sarawak Forestry Department, a market research among tourists to Mulu NP was conducted.

The main development areas in the next four years would be to:

- a. Establish and develop the community-based enterprise programme in the NTFP-EP Malaysia. This would mainly include the development of community-based NTFP enterprises, support in marketing of NTFP based products from the CBNEs, and an enhanced documentation and research on the culture, products and processes involved.

- b. Expand to other Penan villages i.e. Long Jaik and other communities in need of support particularly for the rehabilitation of NTFPs i.e rattan and food resources and tenure and access rights.
- c. Build and strengthen strategic collaboration between CSOs and key government agencies through available platforms, including the Sabah Social Forestry Working Group and the potential Sarawak Social Forestry Working group.
- d. Explore engagement with the private sector through market platforms i.e. certification bodies or facilities provided by companies.
- e. Improve on research and documentation to capture indigenous knowledge and practices i.e. 'tagal' or 'tagang' for lobby and advocacy and the education of the next generation of indigenous youth.
- f. Establish and strengthen the management particularly financial management of the NTFP-EP Malaysia office in Miri and the NTFP-EP Malaysia Board.
- g. Expand local and other potential funding options.

The NTFP-EP Malaysia would need additional staff particularly an understudy to the current Community Development Officer focusing on land and tenure and field assistants or coordinators for the development of community-based enterprises.

The NTFP EP Malaysia will also need support within the community-based NTFP enterprise programme and the establishment and strengthening of the NTFP-EP Malaysia's Board and office and financial structures and systems. Finally, the NTFP EP Malaysia needs resources particularly assistance in developing new local funding options and continue inclusions in regional funding proposals.

4.5 Philippines

After his inauguration into office, President Rodrigo Duterte launched his ruthless anti-drugs campaign resulting in the extrajudicial killing of over 3,000 suspected drug users and pushers. The spate of killings has included labor union and urban poor leaders. The President has dismissed human rights concerns from the different sectors in society, including the Commission on Human Rights. He has lashed out at the United States, the United Nations and the European Union for criticizing human rights abuses in the Philippines. Jews and the Israeli government have found deeply offensive and inappropriate his comparison of drug users and dealers to Holocaust victims.

On the environmental front, he appointed an anti-mining environment secretary leading to the suspension and closure of mining firms. As for climate change, initially he said that he will not sign the historic Paris agreement but has since shifted saying that climate change is a "top priority."

On the agricultural front, palm oil has been identified as one of the priority high value agricultural commodities. The current situation, if unabated, will have dire consequences on the operational security of the staff and community leaders. It might also have an impact on relationship with donor countries. Despite the anti-mining stance of President Duterte and Environment Secretary Gina Lopez, the inclusion of oil palm may also impact on the forests.

The Strategic Planning of the the NTFP-EP Philippines will be conducted in January 2017. But, given the current internal (within the organization) and external situation, the strategic plan will still focus on sustainable forest environment and provision of alternative livelihoods to forest-dependent communities, specifically indigenous peoples but with more advocacy work.

For advocacy, focus will still be on NTFP permits ensuring that the permitting system will be simplified and less costly. Currently, the Forest Management Bureau-DENR has established an NTFP Technical Working Group, of which NTFP-EP Philippines is a member. Part of the work is to ensure that the policies that will be approved are implemented on the ground. There will be continuing advocacy against mining and palm oil and other plantations. This includes lobbying for a new mining law, a new sustainable forestry code, revised FPIC and an Environmental Impact Assessment Administrative Order/Law.

The NTFP-EP Philippines will continue to work with its partner indigenous peoples communities in ensuring their land tenure security through the awarding of their Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) and also in the inclusion of their Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plans (ADSDPP) in comprehensive land use plans in various municipalities. Work on REDD plus especially in exploring the non-carbon benefits and participatory forest governance will be continued.

The NTFP-EP Philippines strength is on establishing community-based enterprises (CBEs). At present, there are a total of 45 CBNEs and 6 Local Marketing Centers in 12 provinces in the different product lines – honey, sustainable handwoven eco-textile, almaciga resin, forest food (teas, juice, fruits), crafts (baskets and others), natural dyes (including indigo) and essential oils. It will continue to work on establishing and strengthening CBNEs through the formulation of quality standards and systems. Similar to the Philippine Forest Honey Network, product-based networks will be formed to ensure compliance to standards, work on fair pricing and marketing. Capacity building trainings, product development, learning exchanges and other activities will be conducted so that the CBNEs will become viable, sustainable and resilient. Some of the products, especially the handwoven eco-textile and crafts, are considered cultural products. Thus, promoting the indigenous culture and ensuring that these traditions will be passed on to the younger generations will be done.

Following its successful participation in the Terra Madre Salone del Gusto 2016 through the presentation of the Philippine forest honey, the NTFP-EP Philippines will work on the formation of Terra Madre Philippine Indigenous Peoples that will work on and advocate for the sustainable production and distribution of quality food that are linked to their culture and history.

To ensure the steady supply of raw materials used by CBNEs, capacity building on resource management planning, participatory resource monitoring and sustainable harvesting will be conducted. Reforestation will be done to expand healthy forests.

Gender mainstreaming will be used as a strategy to ensure institutionalizing gender concerns in the different programmes and projects and the overall management of NTFP EP Philippines.

In implementing its various programmes, the NTFP-EP Philippines will work with CSOs and other sectors including government and business and participate actively in multi-stakeholder initiatives.

Internally, the NTFP-EP Philippines will work on expanding and strengthening its membership. Fundraising through various means will be explored. As part of its organizational development, operational security, programme monitoring and evaluation, fundraising through various means, human resource development and communication will be given emphasis.

4.6 Vietnam

The Mekong River is the lifeblood of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. The large forests in the Mekong River basin are habitat for thousands of species of flora and fauna. Its downstream is one of the largest fishing areas in the world with approximately 850 to 1,200 fish species producing about 4 million tons per year and contributing approximately US\$ 17B a year to the GDPs of these Lower Mekong countries. For Vietnam, the fish caught from the Mekong River alone make up 3.1 percent of its GDP (VietnamNet, 2016). The Mekong is home to more than 60 million people living along and around it; people consisting of over 100 different ethnic groups. But today, the greatest challenges that the river and its forests face are climate change and the developing dams — a precarious situation for 18 million people in the Vietnam Mekong delta. Latest field data of climate models show that the Vietnam's Mekong Delta in particular is at high risk of sinking (Jacobson, 2016) due to anticipated variable and high rates of future sea level rise. Damming of the Mekong River would also impact on the Delta with the low delivery of sediments resulting in the soil surface elevation not keeping up with the rate of sea level rise. Mangrove forest conditions will deteriorate when this arises and in particular, major livelihood and physical displacements of people in the Delta area will pose serious concerns.

The NTFP-EP's work in Vietnam has been mainly partner-based via the Center for Biodiversity and Development under the Institute of Tropical Biology, which is now reconstituted as the Southern Institute of Ecology (SIE) under Vietnam's Academy for Science and Technology. The SIE works mainly on the study of ecological systems and biological resources and conservation and management of these resources and restoration of ecosystems. Earlier projects and cooperation with the NTFP-EP have been in key biodiversity areas, national parks and nature reserves from the Delta to the southwest and south central coastal areas.

Recently, the SIE joined an active civil society network Save the Mekong's petition to stop the proposed Don Sahong dam located less than 2 kilometers upstream of the Cambodia-Laos border. Don Sahong will block the main channel passable year-round by fish migrating between Cambodia, Laos and Thailand, thereby threatening both the subsistence and commercial fisheries vital to rural populations in the Lower Mekong Basin. The SIE proposes to conduct an assessment of changes in natural resource management patterns and practices as a consequence of displacement and resettlement by transboundary dams and other infrastructure or extractive projects. This research idea resonated also with other countries like Cambodia and India and will be explored in this period.

The SIE will continue to pursue its efforts in ecosystems research and application of sustainable natural resources management methods including forest enhancement, rehabilitation and restoration of ecosystems particularly in parks and nature reserves, and in buffer communities. It also has made key efforts in the documentation of NTFP species and assessment of the status of NTFPs in their research locations, and where they also support livelihood and resource management interventions. SIE will continue its partnership with the Xuan Thuy National Park and Kien Giang Karst Reserve in the North, and the Tram Chin National Park as well as with the Nui Chua National Park and Takou Nature Reserve in the South. SIE has studied benefit sharing schemes in participatory parks and protected area management and protection. Additionally, SIE and the NTFP-EP will also pursue the eco-museum concept in Dalat, the gateway to the Vietnamese Central Highlands.

By end of 2016, the NTFP-EP will formalize an agreement with SIE to host NTFP-EP in Vietnam with the provision of a part-time facilitator and administrative and communications support. This will enable regular outreach and project support to target communities and also to finally establish a working network in Vietnam. The NTFP-EP has initiated and cultivated contacts with groups in the North on ethnic minority livelihoods, forest governance, social forestry and indigenous peoples rights in REDD-Plus. Additionally towards the end of 2016, the NTFP-EP will be engaged in a National NTFPs Forum organized by ICRAF Vietnam and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and Vietnam Forest organization. The national forum will provide a venue to discuss the current and potential role of NTFPs in income generation and climate change mitigation and adaptation. The forum will also explore the issues confronting NTFP development and conservation today it shall also provide and develop recommendations to strengthen NTFP development and conservation to ward better climate change mitigation and adaptation in the country.



5

Developing work in sub-regions

NTFP-EP

In Southeast Asia, since 2012, the NTFP-EP has been engaging the economic pillar of ASEAN through the ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry (AWG-SF) and the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF). This is done by promoting and advocating for the Member States' increased commitments in social forestry, and the integration of social forestry in strategies to address climate change and food security challenges. An ongoing partnership with the AWG-SF provides a vital opportunity for the NTFP-EP and the Civil Society Forum on Social Forestry in ASEAN, which it convenes, to have regular dialogue and exchange and field collaboration with the AWG-SF and members. Through this channel, the NTFP-EP provides policy recommendations on FPIC, recognition of customary forest tenure of indigenous peoples, adoption of community safeguards in forestry, and improved policy support and benefits for community forest enterprises in the ASEAN.

Efforts shall be made through opportunities provided by regional projects and funding (such as collaborations with the Swedish Society for Conservation of Nature (SSNC) to develop transboundary strategies that will address common concerns around forest tenure, community rights and sustainable livelihoods. The common language also allows for exchange of strategies for both learning and advocacy.

Transboundary alliances for policy influence and learning shall also be strong thrusts of the NTFP-EP's broadening work in the Mekong region. The strengthening country office in Cambodia, growing work in Vietnam, and formation of partnerships in Laos, Myanmar and Thailand will further form a basis to identify common areas of interest and joint advocacies around natural resource protection, sustainable forest management and sustainable community livelihood.

The NTFP-EP's increasing work in subregions shall be to:

- Move for policy influence (e.g. AWG-SF and the CSO Forum in ASEAN), through which dissemination of good practice and communication of evidence from the ground-up can be done,
- Provide the landscape and ecosystems-based framework,
- Develop a framework for consolidation and integration,
- Replicate and scale up in new neighboring countries (e.g. Laos, Myanmar & Thailand)
- Undertake advocacy, outreach and communication, and
- Expand fundraising options.



6

Implementation tools & support

NTFP-EP

6.1

Communication & Knowledge Management

The NTFP-EP will work toward a broader and deeper understanding of the NTFP concept by different stakeholders (external) and among NTFP-EP partners and members. We will do this through:

- Instituting an organizational communications and knowledge management system
- Establishing clearly defined and described target audiences and sectors
- Streamlining and making our messaging consistent, and communicating these effectively and through innovative tools and channels, and
- Creating a strong media platform as a channel for communicating messages and acquiring feedback

As a cross-cutting strategy, communication is integral in achieving the goals of each thematic key area. With corresponding activities and outputs, communication strategies have been integrated into each area as support strategies to achieving respective goals and outcomes. The NTFP-EP will continue to exhaust relevant media and platforms that could efficiently support social mobilization toward its institutional goals.

Media/Platform	Strategic Actions
Visibility and branding	Develop a communications and visibility policy, strategy and toolkit
Information dissemination (newsletters, social media, website, etc.)	Expand reach, institutionalize feedback mechanisms
Knowledge center (databases: publications, NTFP-related data – species, policies, etc., essential organizational information – partners and donors contact information, etc.; among others)	Improved collection, documentation, storage, management, and sharing of knowledge among and outside of network partners; Expand publications medium print, films, infographics, etc.
Public events/ social mobilization	Build NTFP-EP “signature” events that mark NTFP-EP identity, content leadership in the field, and integrating multipurpose objectives - information dissemination, promotion/marketing and advocacy

6.2 Institutional strengthening

The NTFP-EP aims to strengthen its internal systems and processes to improve its effectiveness, efficiency, and especially its sustainability. The areas for strengthening are as follows:

Management structures, systems, and capacity. Strategic and program management skills will be enhanced through mutual support activities and provision of improved tools and facilities as the organizational resources expand. The regional management team will convene regularly for NTFP-EP’s strategic support and feedback. Country program management teams will be formed as needed.

Financial management controls and protocols. These will need to be tightened with clear agreement

on levels of authority/ autonomy for contracts and other matters, and with local registrations. Finance reports are to be generated regularly, and financial systems, standards, and protocols must be synchronized across NTFP-EP country units. The NTFP-EP operations manual and policies will be regularly reviewed and updated.

Monitoring and evaluation system. The NTFP-EP will use country-based monitoring and evaluation systems. Project based reporting will continue to be done according to donor requirements. However an NTFP-EP wide annual report/impact framework will also be agreed upon, that will include sharing of significant change stories.

Staff and partners capacity building. We will incorporate in staff and partner development capacity building programs across the thematic areas and cross-cutting themes. Capacity development needs and plans will be factored in the staff appraisals and budgets will be earmarked for the purpose.

6.3 Resource mobilization

The NTFP-EP will increase the capacities of the country offices and the Asia office to raise their own respective funds. At least 30% of country funds are raised independently.

The NTFP-EP Asia will increase its total funding from 2015 base year by at least 7% per year.

There will be increased support to countries with minimal funding support (i.e. currently India, Malaysia and Vietnam). There will be increased funding for underfunded thematic areas like Food and Health and Community Conservation, with a targeted increase of 10% per year. There will be increased funding from consultancies and non-grant initiatives by at least 2% per year in 2017 and up to 4% by 2019.

There will be increased donor financing for the Pastor Delbert Rice-Small Grant Fund (PDR-SGF) to expand support to communities and grassroots activities. We expect a 50% increase in funds for PDR-SGF in 2017 and at least 20% increase yearly in 2018 and 2019 or at least 1 additional donor each year from 2017 to 2019 contributing to the small grants fund.

6.4 Impact monitoring and evaluation

The NTFP-EP will utilize an outcome based reporting framework consolidated from results from the country and regional programs. Country and regional indicators are developed for outcomes that are targeted by the country programs and the Asia office. The NTFP-EP will continue to utilize other methods and forms to capture results and impacts from the ground and enhance documentation through media tools and the web platform.

An external evaluation at the end of the plan period will be commissioned.

6.5 The NTFP Academy

Three programmes developed that collectively will comprise The NTFP Academy will also provide avenues for knowledge exchange and networking of NTFP-EP.

Expanding Community Enterprise and Economic Development or EXCEED is the Training and Advisory Programme of the NTFP-EP targeted to support the work of NGOs, government agencies and community-based organizations in Asia on expanding and strengthening livelihoods and community-based enterprises anchored on sustainable resource management in rural, forest and protected areas. EXCEED offers an array of training courses and advisory services to provide comprehensive support to sustainable community enterprise development, from the start of the initiative including, conducting assessments, program design and development, product and market scanning; during the project, including product development, business planning, systems enhancement, market linking, mentoring; until the end of the project, such as impact evaluation. Special courses are also developed to cover vital and urgent topics that have impacts on communities and their enterprises such as climate change, disaster risk reduction, among others.

The Virtual Academy is a pool of advisers, experts and resource persons from the research and academe fields. Together they also are key members in the network. They are pooled as necessary for advice, collaborative research, peer reviews and support advocacies as champions.

NTFP Learning and Knowledge Centers will be physical and online spaces for learning and knowledge sharing that will be developed and grown over time as knowledge is documented and generated from field practice, research and exchanges of the NTFP-EP. For the virtual knowledge center, the NTFP database shall be further enhanced through linked NTFP documentation initiatives in the countries. Local NTFP learning centers shall be encouraged and where initiatives emerge, support shall be facilitated in concept and content development and resource mobilization.



7

Governance and structure

NTFP-EP

The NTFP-EP identifies Institutional Strengthening as one of key areas for attention in this period. Clarity will be sought on the status and definition of the network, and its governance arrangement given organizational developments and changes including the independent registrations of NTFP-EP country offices, eg. Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia, where each have their own Country Boards. The independent standing of the country programmes are in keeping with the values and principles upheld by the NTFP-EP such as the empowerment and local ownership of priorities of the NTFP-EP in its participating countries, according to their specific context and needs. The NTFP-EP remains committed to a shared vision, mission and goals, values, and philosophy about the rights and development of forest-dependent communities.

Reflecting on the network and governance of the NTFP-EP, the important elements here would be its membership composition and members' involvement in governance/decision-making, and the flow of decision-making from members to Board of Trustees to country offices/programmes, partners and back. Through a consultative process from country offices to regional office, further clarification and elaboration on the role, composition and guiding principles (code) of governing the network, e.g. the Board of Trustees (at the country and Asia levels) will be carried out. The specific role of the Asia office will be reflected on by the Board, staff and partners and its relationship with the country offices and the accountabilities and support it provides. An Advisory Group composed of past Chairpersons and founders and former senior staff and advisers will be constituted for this purpose.

The NTFP-EP shall undertake an NTFP-EP-wide consultative and inclusive process to strengthen regional and country relationships alongside network strengthening activities and initiatives. In doing so, it will need to clarify the relationship across the structure, and the levels and modalities of operations at the Asia regional office and country programme offices. By mid-2018, an NTFP-EP charter will reflect the agreements forged during the consultative process.



8

Financial resources

NTFP  EP

NTFP-EP Asia's total expenses in 2016 are projected to end at some PhP 35.2 million or € 690,638 euros. The bulk of these is earmarked for project activities at 57%, followed by programme management at 26%. Administration expenses will account for some 14%, with the remaining 2% allocated for communications and knowledge management.

For 2017, NTFP-EP prepared 3 scenarios, where the minimum, moderate and maximum scenarios refer to 5%, 10% and 15% increases respectively from previous year expenses. Realistically, the organization is looking at a moderate increase at PhP 42.4 million or € 832,550 euros for the year. Aside from inflationary increases, there will be additional spending under programme management to cover the cost of a grants officer to be hired and based in the regional office, additional staff based in India and in Vietnam, as well as to subsidize office administration costs in the country offices.

For budgeting and fundraising purposes, across the board 10% increases were also estimated for fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

2016-2019 Regional Projected Budget

Total projected cost (Peso)		2016	2017	2018	2019
MAXIMUM	[30%]		44,030,378.00	50,368,272.24	55,405,099.46
MODERATE	[20%]		42,460,053.00	46,493,789.76	51,143,168.74
MINIMUM	[10%]	35,222,568.00	39,509,938.00	42,619,307.28	46,881,238.01

Total projected cost (Euro)		2016	2017	2018	2019
MAXIMUM	[30%]		915,786.77	1,007,365.44	1,108,101.99
MODERATE	[20%]		845,341.63	929,875.80	1,022,863.37
MINIMUM	[10%]	704,451.36	774,896.50	852,386.15	937,624.76

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