

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



NTFP  EP



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

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Cover photo:

Boating through one of the community fisheries area in
Cambodia, Kouy Socheat, NTFP-EP Cambodia

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ABBREVIATIONS

| | | | |
|--------|---|---------|--|
| AEC | ASEAN Economic Community | M&E | monitoring and evaluation |
| AK | Aksyon Klima | MAFF | Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries |
| APFC | Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission | MNRE | Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment |
| APFW | Asia-Pacific Forestry Week | MoE | Cambodia – Ministry of Environment |
| ASEAN | Association of Southeast Asian Nations | NCFPCC | National Community Forestry Program Coordination Committee |
| ASFCC | ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change | NCIP | National Commission on Indigenous Peoples |
| ATM | Alyansa Tigil Mina | NCR | Native Customary Rights |
| AWG-SF | ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry | NDC | Nationally Determined Contributions |
| CBD | Convention on Biological Diversity | NGOs | Non-government organizations |
| CBNEs | Community-based NTFP Enterprises | NTFPs | Non-timber forest products |
| CBOs | Community-based organizations | NTFP-EP | Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme |
| CF | Community Forestry | PARARA | Panen Raya Nusantara |
| CFi | Community Fishery | PIAPS | Peta Indikatif Areal Perhutanan Sosial |
| CFiMP | Community Fishery Management Plan | PCFPC | Province Community Forestry Program Coordination Committee |
| CFMP | Community Forestry Management Plan | PCSD | Palawan Council for Sustainable Development |
| CFR | Community Forest Rights | PRSGF | Pastor Rice Small Grant Fund |
| CIYA | Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association | PESA | Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas |
| CKM | Communication and Knowledge Management | PGS | Participatory Guarantee Systems |
| COP | Conference of Parties | RFRI | Rainforest Restoration Initiative |
| CSOs | civil society organizations | RSPO | Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil |
| DENR | Department of Environment and Natural Resources | SCL | Sustainable Community Livelihoods |
| ENIPAS | Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System | SDC | Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation |
| EXCEED | Expanding Community Enterprises and Economic Development | SDG | Sustainable Development Goals |
| ICCAs | Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas | SEI | Stockholm Environment Institute |
| IFAM | International Folk Art Market | SIE | Southern Institute of Ecology |
| INDCs | Intended Nationally Determined Contributions | SFD | Sabah Forestry Department |
| IPR | Intellectual Property Rights | SHWET | Sustainable Hand-Woven Eco-Textiles |
| IUCN | International Union for Conservation of Nature | SRJS | Shared Resources, Joint Solutions |
| FDS | Forestry Department of Sarawak | SSNC | Swedish Society for Nature Conservation |
| FMU | Forest management unit | TEEB | The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity |
| FRA | Forest Rights Act | TRG | Tenure Rights and Governance |
| GAGGA | Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action | UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| GLA | Green Livelihoods Alliance | WGII | Working Group on ICCAs Indonesia |
| | | WWF | Worldwide Fund for Nature |

Left: One of the nurseries in India, Madhu Ramnath, NTFP-EP India

Message from the Chairperson



Linking People and Forests - the main thrust of NTFP-EP's work is encapsulated in this phrase. People from the forests or those living off the forests are the vital populations for which the NTFP-EP has renewed its commitment to serve and on whom the NTFP-EP shall focus its programs from 2016-2019. The interrelatedness of the lives across generations of indigenous and local peoples to their customary lands and forests is seen in the remaining rich natural forests in our region, and cultures still steeped in a belief system of protection and care such as those of the Higaonon and Agta-Remontado of the mountain ranges of Mt. Kimangkil in Bukidnon and the Sierra Madre in the Philippines respectively, and the *adivasi* in India, and the Benuaq Dayak of East Kalimantan, to the Bunong of Mondulkiri and of rural Khmer in Cambodia. Conversely, it is also this interrelatedness of people and forests, that explains the severity of impact of forest loss and destruction because of extractive activities and civil conflicts like no other – from the physical and material, even more so impacts felt and seen at the social, spiritual and cultural levels of well being of forest communities. By the close of 2016, the NTFP-EP was clear that the challenges are immense for forest peoples and for us as allies and partners in forest conservation and sustainable community development. While this is so, we saw that NTFP-EP's role and contributions have the power to communicate and facilitate significant changes. Looking back and also looking ahead, an “exchange programme” has immense value. At the core of this is still empowerment of forest peoples, and conserved and sustained forests for future generations.

We closed 2016 with an important consensus achieved – among a collegial Board of Trustees and the growing country programs across 6 countries – on the NTFP-EP’s strategic direction until 2019. NTFP-EP is now a network of over 100 non-government organizations (NGOs) and community partners.

I will highlight the salient points for the NTFP-EP in the coming years:

1. We have articulated our core values as a network – foremost that the NTFP-EP works to promote and protect the rights, culture and livelihood of forest dependent communities. We advocate and respect indigenous knowledge systems and practices. Other core values that run through our work including those of gender and age equity, social and environmental justice as interlinked, and sustainable development. We see the forests holistically and not just for the trees. Our work shall reflect these core values; program and partnership decisions need to be guided by them.
2. Our field work and direct connection to people and forests remain fundamental to programs and without which we cannot speak with legitimacy and credibility in platforms outside the local, in national, regional, even more so global levels.
3. Communication, advocacy and alliance building are our strategic tools to communicate and express the vital knowledge of local and indigenous peoples about their forests, but additionally we recognize these as critical tools to facilitate a transformational change in policy and systems. We will explore and take on new partnerships particularly for the transformational aspects of our work and for our advocacies.
4. Our economic programs go hand in hand with rather than at the expense of food and health security and cultural integrity, particularly that as contributed from food from the forests. We shall nurture the forest peoples concept of forests, that the forest is our life – our shelter, our garden, market, our hospital, our place of worship.
5. There are important gender dimensions in forest conservation, management and sustainable development that need to be captured. We accept that we cannot meaningfully address rights, equity and justice issues in our work without capturing these. To begin with, we will build our capacity and voice to promote women’s rights in forests and livelihoods.

6. We are growing at the local bases at the country level as well as becoming more visible in other levels, take the ASEAN as an example. This is a relatively new arena for us and we will hone our ourselves to also be effective interlocutors and facilitators of multistakeholder processes.

Finally, our 2016 achievements highlighted in the next pages reflect NTFP-EP being rooted on the ground but with more diverse partnerships and a more active voice for policy change.

I welcome a new member of the Asia Board of Trustees from the corporate sector in the cosmetics, sustainable biotrade industry, Nuning Barwa. Ibu Nuning shall represent NTFP-EP Indonesia in the Asia Board. We also welcome Tai Keo as our Country Coordinator for Cambodia. In 2016, we also forged a Memorandum of Understanding with the Southern Institute of Ecology under the Vietnam Academy for Science and Technology to cooperate in the development of NTFP-EP country program in Vietnam. In addition, we also welcome a new set of Board of Directors of NTFP-EP Malaysia, Andrew Aeria, Diweng Bakir and Nicolas Mujah (renewing his term as member of the Board). We owe great thanks and share our utmost respect and wishes of good health to our stalwart IP advocate and leader, Harrison Ngau who stepped down as Chair of the Board of Directors of NTFP-EP Malaysia.

On behalf of the NTFP-EP family - all my colleagues in the Board of Trustees, the staff across all the country programs and their respective Boards and network partners- we thank all our donors, supporters and friends for continuing to share our vision. We thank in particular BothENDS, IUCN Netherlands Committee, Misereor, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) and the Swiss Development and Cooperation (SDC) for their long-term support and partnership.



Maria Teresa Guia Padilla
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees



WHO WE ARE

About a hundred million people live in the forests of South and Southeast Asia and they depend on non-timber forest products (NTFPs). People in these forests subsist from their incomes on products they produce with NTFPs such as furniture, honey, varnish, beeswax candles, and herbal medicine, most of which are sold in the urban city market.

However, these forest communities often have no access to strategic information in terms of distributing these commodities, practical technology that will facilitate a smoother chain of production, and financial support that will make their enterprises viable and sustainable. A few organizations then started to help by showing the link between sustainable use of forest resources and economic development for the indigenous peoples (IPs) and forest communities. Over time, the Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) organically emerged as different groups worked together to respond to various issues and problems.

NTFP-EP stands as a diverse and collaborative network of over 100 NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) who all work with forest-based communities to strengthen their capacity in the sustainable management of natural resources in Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Vietnam.



WHAT WE DO

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

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

Its work focuses on four (4) thematic outcomes: Community-Based Conservation (CBC), Indigenous Food and Health (IFH), Tenure Rights and Governance (TRG), and Sustainable Community Livelihoods (SCL). Gender and culture are cross-cutting concerns that are addressed in all thematic outcomes.

Center: Indigenous Peoples' day celebration in Cambodia, Femy Pinto, NTFP-EP Asia



2016 at a glance

The year 2016 created opportunities for indigenous peoples' movements to discuss their shrinking democratic spaces at numerous regional and global platforms. The ICCA Consortium successfully lobbied that Indigenous Peoples and Local Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs) are adopted as a conservation mechanism in the official texts of both the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). ICCAs are also gaining recognition by governments in several Southeast Asian countries.

The adoption in 2015 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit and the Paris Agreement at the Conference of Parties (COP) spelled out the important inclusion

of forest management strategies for climate action. Within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is the strong emphasis on the sustainable management of forests for food security, shelter, protecting biodiversity and people especially the indigenous populations. After its adoption, the SDGs were cascaded shortly to over 100 nations as a universal framework to end poverty and to protect the planet.

The first ratifications of the Paris Agreement were initiated, and by COP 22, over 100 Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) were already submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The INDCs include forest management-related responses to climate change. These international agreements and



agenda provide a vital opportunity to assert forest peoples' rights and the positive contribution of the forestry sector.

As one of the fastest growing economies in the Asia-Pacific region, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was set to integrate as one negotiating economic body in 2016. Driving towards a shared goal of economic, political, social, and cultural cooperation across the region, the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) will become the world's seventh largest single market economy that is based solely on voluntary commitments from politically-diverse countries. However, the implications in terms of opportunities and challenges for small and medium enterprises, most especially on community-based forest enterprises, have yet to be established. Finding the synergies and potential collaborations under the framework of the ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on Forestry and the ASEAN

Strategic Action Plan for Small and Medium Enterprises may provide the vital window of political and technical support for forestry MSMEs. While the road ahead is not without complexities brought about by the challenges of diversity, the AEC is envisioned to provide significant potential for its member states, once it has addressed pervasive issues of worsening poverty, and inequalities of health, resources, rights, and power.

The civil society movements and advocacies at national, regional to global landscapes galvanized multistakeholder dialogue and cooperation on people and forest concerns, subsequently also bearing some influence to national and local forest actions. NTFP-EP's work is at the core of this dynamic process – continuing to emphasize and perform its key role as facilitator, interlocutor, convenor and catalyst through its region-wide field programmes.

The year for the region

NTFP-EP's goal for 2016-2019 is to secure the empowerment of forest-dependent communities through programmes on community-based conservation and resource management, indigenous food and health, tenure rights, and governance and sustainable community livelihoods. Rights, gender equity and cultural integrity principles and concepts are embedded in the thematic program practice.

These are the highlights for NTFP-EP at the regional level:

Community-based Conservation

Initiatives to identify, seek recognition of and secure ICCAs have begun in Vietnam, Malaysia, Cambodia and Myanmar. Networking, knowledge sharing workshops and community research and documentation on local community conservation practices were undertaken in these countries, and facilitated by the focal points, Pan-Nature (Vietnam), Pacos Trust (Malaysia), CIPA (Cambodia), POINT and WWF (Myanmar). Due to lack of dedicated resources for regional activities, there were no opportunities for a regional exchange in 2016. As Southeast Asia coordinator of the ICCA Consortium, NTFP-EP visited Pan Nature to gather their updates on the ICCA networking progress in Vietnam. The visit coincided with NTFP-EP's participation at the Asia regional workshop on illegal wildlife trade organized by IUCN. NTFP-EP presented the context of sustainable indigenous community livelihood and security of tenure as measures of frontline defense of the forests and indigenous community conserved areas.

A regional training on participatory resource monitoring and preparation of a manual on the same is planned for 2017.

Indigenous Food & Health

NTFP-EP launched its regional initiative on forests foods at the Asia Pacific Forestry Week (APFW) in February 2016 held in Clark, Pampanga, Philippines. In a special sharing session entitled “Wild and Healthy Forests Foods for Nutrition,” six speakers representing different Asian countries discussed links between forest foods and nutrition, culture and food security; developing a user’s guide, working with the youth to revive food traditions and restore forest foods, and the importance of documentation of wild foods. The event was an intimate squeeze as over 40 participants crammed into the Canopy Corner – an exhibition space to listen to the interesting discussions and sample forest foods such as forest honey, nuts, jams, velvet tamarind, etc. A Wild Bar was also opened in the same area during the APFW that was managed by NTFP-EP staff as bartenders and service crew. The featured Wild Bar was able to create and serve drinks sourced from a variety of indigenous communities’ products and ingredients such as forest honey, tea, and coffee in the morning and other forest cocktails, mixed drinks and juices in the afternoon.

During this week, the regional research and publication project team also held their meeting and peer discussion to support the country writers/researchers. “Coming Home to the Forest for Food: Lessons from Selected Countries in Asia” aims to enhance understanding among the non-forest dwelling population that the forest is truly the last frontier that will ensure food security for the burgeoning human population living in most parts of Asia. Field research in 6 countries – Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam were started this year for the book. Support to the country on their field research methods and questions, and on content refinements for the writers, were provided. The project also includes forest food youth initiatives in the region and film documentation about forest foods and related issues. The project is expected to be completed by July 2018.

A total of 108 species of NTFPs have been documented for sustenance, while 20 more were documented for medicinal use in Malaysia and the Philippines.

Sustainable Community Livelihood

It was also a productive year for NTFP-EP's regional work on sustainable community livelihoods. NTFP-EP's training and advisory arm - Expanding Community Enterprises and Economic Development (EXCEED) held its 4th regional customized training entitled "Managing Community Forestry Enterprise Growth and Effective Marketing Strategies". The training was held in the scenic Keystone Foundation campus. Last Forest Enterprises' new restaurant venture – A Place to Bee - and Puthukkad, as one of its successful restaurant partners, and Aadhimalai Producer Company, shared their experiences, challenges and strategies towards sustainability to a diverse group of trainees from 6 countries.

Following NTFP-EP's "extravaganza" presence during the World Forestry Congress in Durban, South Africa in 2015 with the successful forest fashion show feature, NTFP-EP took to the ramp again to showcase forest fashion from the Philippines and Indonesia out of eco-custom-made handwoven textiles at the APFW.

At the same event, NTFP-EP co-hosted and organized a plenary session together with the Ministry of Forestry Indonesia, and the Indonesia Forest Honey Network (JMHI) on "Innovative NTFP marketing channels and Mechanisms". Innovations such as the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) experience from Indonesia called Rotan Lestari (ROLES), the case of private sector and forest honey cooperative also in Indonesia and the important role and support of the Indonesia government in the promotion of NTFP development were presented. Finally, the proposed collective trademark called Forest Harvest on sustainable forest products was also presented by NTFP-EP. Forest Harvest collective trademark is aimed at providing added value to community forest products through the use of the mark. It is being piloted on Sumbawa forest honey and the

mark's registration will initially be in the Philippines under NTFP-EP and eventually be handed over to a Forest Harvest Association. The mark is targeted to be launched in 2017.

NTFP-EP also held a mini-seminar at the APFW around their ongoing Forest & Beauty case study project in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO). Case study research was started in 2015, and still ongoing in 2016, on 12 selected forest resources that are used for beauty products in the cosmetics, personal care and perfume industries such as wild turmeric from India, dipterocarp oleoresins from Cambodia, langsat from Indonesia, sandalwood from the Pacific Islands, Manila elemi from the Philippines and thanaka of Myanmar and others. During the mini seminar at the APFW, Nuning Barwa of Martha Tilaar Group, a leading cosmetics company in Indonesia shared that the global beauty industry was USD 465 billion in 2014, with premium beauty, including natural beauty products, expected to grow to 2019 to more than 20% of the total market.

To introduce the mini-seminar and also as a promotional event, NTFP-EP also featured a Forest Spa and information posters of the 12 products displayed at the NTFP-EP exhibition space. Guests were invited to try out a turmeric-based traditional skin care treatment formula used for centuries in India.

Finally, NTFP-EP's advocacy on community forest enterprises achieved more mileage within the ASEAN Social Forestry Working Group. NTFP-EP prepared policy briefs on the impact of the ASEAN Economic Community on community forest enterprises and on key recommendations to support them within the Strategic Plan of Action on Forestry and for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Engagements towards potential concrete partnerships and support are envisaged further to 2017 and beyond.

Tenure Rights and Governance

The Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Forum on Social Forestry in ASEAN vision was affirmed with corresponding strategic plans. Recommendations in four thematic areas were submitted and presented in a Dialogue with the ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry (AWG-SF), which was held in Palawan, Philippines. Key messages and recommendations included 1) the creation and enforcement of laws and regulations for protection and sustained access and tenure rights for indigenous and local communities to their community managed forests and customary lands, 2) adoption of FPIC and other safeguards in forestry, 3) ensuring full and genuine participation and representation of women and men in social forestry, d) acceleration of the recognition and awarding of community forestry and other tenure arrangements over forested landscapes, and improving the policy support for securing community livelihoods therein. The CSO Forum has over 50 participants representing 40 organizations in 8 countries in Southeast Asia. The CSO Forum on Social Forestry in ASEAN meets annually in June back to back with the AWG-SF Annual Meeting.

At the APFW, NTFP-EP in a consortium with the Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA) and the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) co-convened two sessions on benefit sharing and tenure and consolidated our key messages in a joint statement shared at the closing of the APFW on “Gaining Momentum: Building on our Initiatives and Strengths Towards Securing Our Rights to Forestlands and Resources, Sustainable Forest Management Livelihoods and Food Security.” Together with participants and representatives of organizations and communities of small-holders, community forest producers and enterprises, and indigenous peoples living in forests and forested landscapes, together with their support groups, the statement captured the following key positions were made at the APFW platform – particularly to the delegates of the Asia-Pacific Forest Commission (APFC) to: 1) secure ownership/stewardship/management of farm and forestlands that fully respect traditional institutions and customary laws and are negotiated in fully participatory ways. 2) call on APFC to develop and fund community driven programs on sustainable forest management, agro forestry, agro ecology and related

livelihoods with the support of appropriate technical agencies. 3) accrue the benefits from the forests to the local farming families and indigenous communities with their organizations, who are closest to these resources based on ownership, needs and sustainable practices. With these said, a further call was made for the a) recognition of peoples organizations, cooperatives and enterprises by supporting their organizing work and by respecting their freedom of association, giving simple, accessible requirements for registration, and c) ensuring adequate and appropriate policy and program support such as, the provision of infrastructure, tax incentives, non-timber forest products development support and access to finance, technology and markets.

Scaling up of NTFP-EP's advocacy under the CSO Forum or with other alliances through capacity building, research and analysis, is anticipated from next year onwards.

Gender and Culture

In 2016, NTFP-EP started to take more active steps in the area of strengthening women's voice and securing women's empowerment particularly along the thematic issues it works on. NTFP-EP joined the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA), a global programme led by a consortium of international women's funds and rights based organizations, FCAM, Mama Cash and NTFP-EP's long time partner, BothENDS. Under this programme NTFP-EP launched in 2016 a special small grants programme under the Pastor Rice Small Grant Fund (PRSGF). The GAGGA-PRSGF fund is dedicated towards strengthening the capabilities of grassroots groups to lobby and advocate for women's rights and environmental justice agendas. NTFP-EP country offices, together with the Asia office, conducted orientation sessions with community and network partners on how to gain access to the fund. Moreover, a gender session was facilitated and a cohesive plan put in place for more successive sessions. The goal is to institutionalize gender responsiveness and promote gender equality across NTFP-EP and its network.

Other highlights:

Development on work in other sub-regions have begun particularly in the Lower Mekong covering Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam and Thailand- with regional organization participation including NTFP-EP Asia, Freeland Foundation and the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, and by donors – mostly US funders. NTFP-EP took a volunteer role to be part of the core group to facilitate a 2nd Lower Mekong Environment Network Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The Lower Mekong convening was participated by several regional or nationally networked organizations working in the areas of biodiversity; conservation; and civil society (from Thailand; Cambodia; Laos; and Vietnam). The convening resulted in the development of a shared vision of a Lower Mekong Network. The group also identified collective projects and a plan for regular communications. Out of this emerged, and in which NTFP-EP is participating, a voluntary collective project to exchange methods, systems and best practice on small grants. A 3rd Lower Mekong meeting is planned in March 2018.

A 1st Eurasia GAGGA meeting was held in Sri Lanka in November 2016, where it was agreed among others that GAGGA alliance partners will collaborate to develop in 2017 regional initiatives on advocacy and capacity building around women and natural resources and plantations, and women and extractives.



Top: Birds taking flight, Kouy Socheat, NTFP-EP Cambodia
Middle: Cluster of beehives, Anang Setiawan, NTFP-EP Indonesia
Bottom: Tourism boats, Kouy Socheat, NTFP-EP Cambodia
Right: Honey packaging, Keystone Foundation



Country stories

Cambodia

29,342 ha community forest covered

14,853 ha community fisheries covered

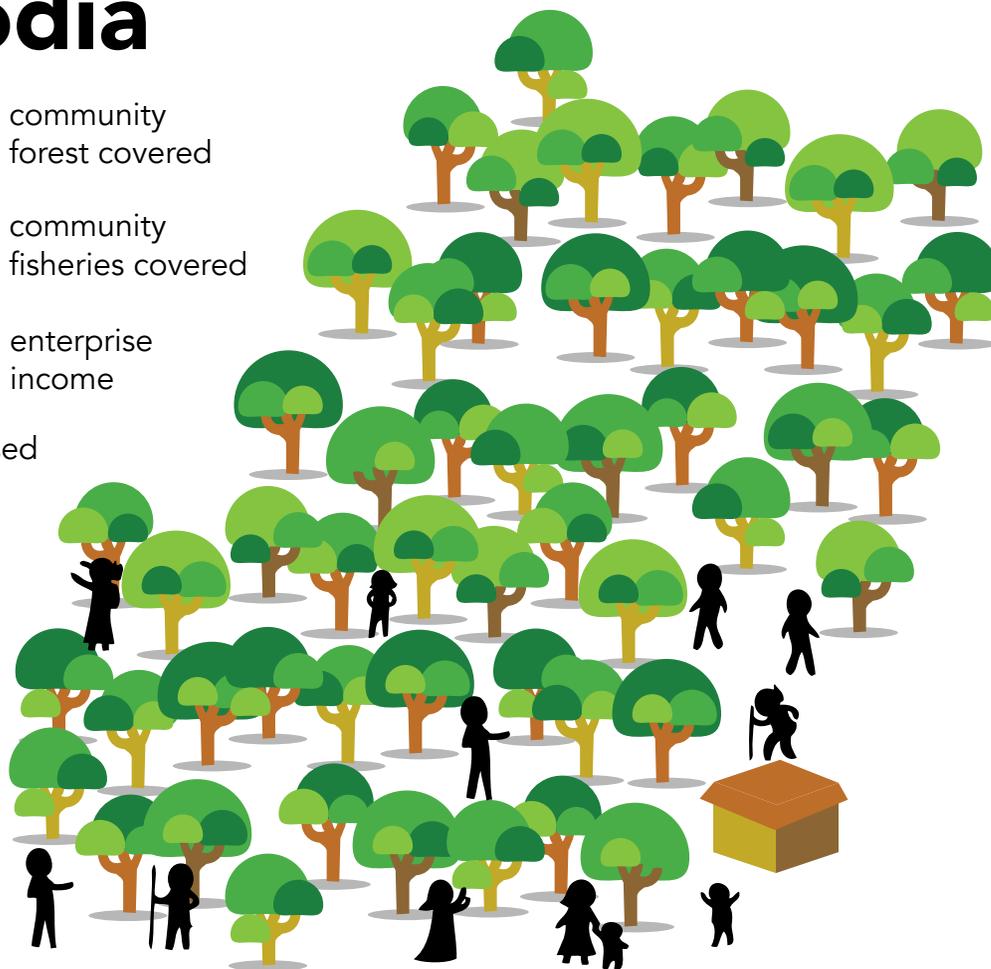
€ 185,203 enterprise income

32 community-based enterprises

1 national green intermediary

7 indigenous peoples groups

Steang, Bunong, Mel, Krol, Ro Oung, Khonh and Kuy



In 2016, The Royal Government of Cambodia restructured the institutional bases of its natural resource governance with the jurisdictional shifts within two ministries: the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). The RGC announced in mid-2016 the transfer of a total land area of 2,674,503 hectares previously under MAFF to be under the management and conservation of the MOE. This area covers newly established 18 natural protected areas including Prey Lang forest. Sub-national authorities also gained stronger role in natural resources governance with the forestry and fisheries cantonment offices being transferred under the Provincial Departments. The basic roles and responsibilities of the forestry and fisheries cantonment offices remain the same. However, the transfer of status of some of the community forestry areas turned protected areas have created confusions in coordination and oversight, and uncertainty about the status of their management plans and future support.

Looking Back

A midterm evaluation of Partners for Forestry and Fisheries (PaFF) Phase 1, which NTFP-EP Cambodia led, was conducted in 2016. The development and approval of community forestry management plans (CFMPs) are still pending completion and approval. However, overall, the process of community forestry and community fisheries in the PaFF target sites is progressing well. Meanwhile, a total of 29,342 hectares of community forestry are already with CFMPs. Planning for PaFF Phase 2 commenced with identification of expanded targets and partners.

NTFP-EP Cambodia also completed other collaborative projects including a forest tenure policy assessment and institutional capacity assessment in forestry, technical assistance to the Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Alliance (CIPA) in communal land titling, and support to the Province Community Forestry Program Coordination Committee (PCFPCC) and the National Community Forestry Program Coordination Committee (NCFPCC). Community livelihood assessments and product scanning (CLAPS) was conducted in 20 villages with the Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA), as part of a regional indigenous food and health participatory action research, and capacity building support to indigenous youth.

The direct support to 33 community-based NTFP enterprises (CBNEs) resulted in the value addition of forest honey, fish, bamboo and resin products. CBNEs are established in forestry and fishery communities. Community-based ecological tourism (CBET) is also slowly gaining popularity among communities. With these developments, there will be more focus on CBET in 2017.

NTFP-EP Cambodia continues to lobby for the simplification of the Community Forestry (CF) guidelines, longer terms for Community Fishery (CFi) agreements, and clarifications in the draft environmental code on the aspect of forest landscape governance and on community forestry funds and livelihood. The publication and case study documentation, along with joint position papers for supporting evidence-based advocacy will be encouraged. In advancing these programmes, the goal will be to work on the sustainability of all these efforts.



Moving forward

NTFP-EP Cambodia will be taking a closer look at the strategic dimensions of its operations. Taking value in NTFP-EP's strength in knowledge exchange and learning, NTFP-EP Cambodia recognizes the need to learn from the experiences of other NTFP-EP country offices in improving staff capacities, specifically for administrative, human resources, and financial aspects of its organizational development. Adapting NTFP-EP's general manual of operations to the context of Cambodia was also identified as a key activity for 2017. Technical support from NTFP-EP Asia is needed with the launch of an Enterprise Development Programme of 2017-2020 which is expected to be completed by April 2017. This institutional strengthening will not only improve the capacities of its staff, but also of the network of civil society and community-based organization partners of NTFP-EP Cambodia.

NTFP-EP Cambodia will continue with the following strategies: supporting the alliance building alliance of CBET and other community enterprises, enhancing the resource monitoring of NTFPs, finalizing and disseminating NTFP value chain studies and the eco-labeling study partnered with the National Council for Sustainable Development's Department of Green Economy, regular monitoring and reporting of CBNE income, and building the capacities of partners on the nexus of biodiversity, food security, water provisioning and climate provisioning in a stakeholder engagement, dialogue and capacity building programme in the Mekong River Flooded Forest Landscape.

*Top: Community members reading about PaFF. Kouy Socheat, NTFP-EP Cambodia
Bottom: CBET site in Cambodia, Kouy Socheat, NTFP-EP Cambodia*

India

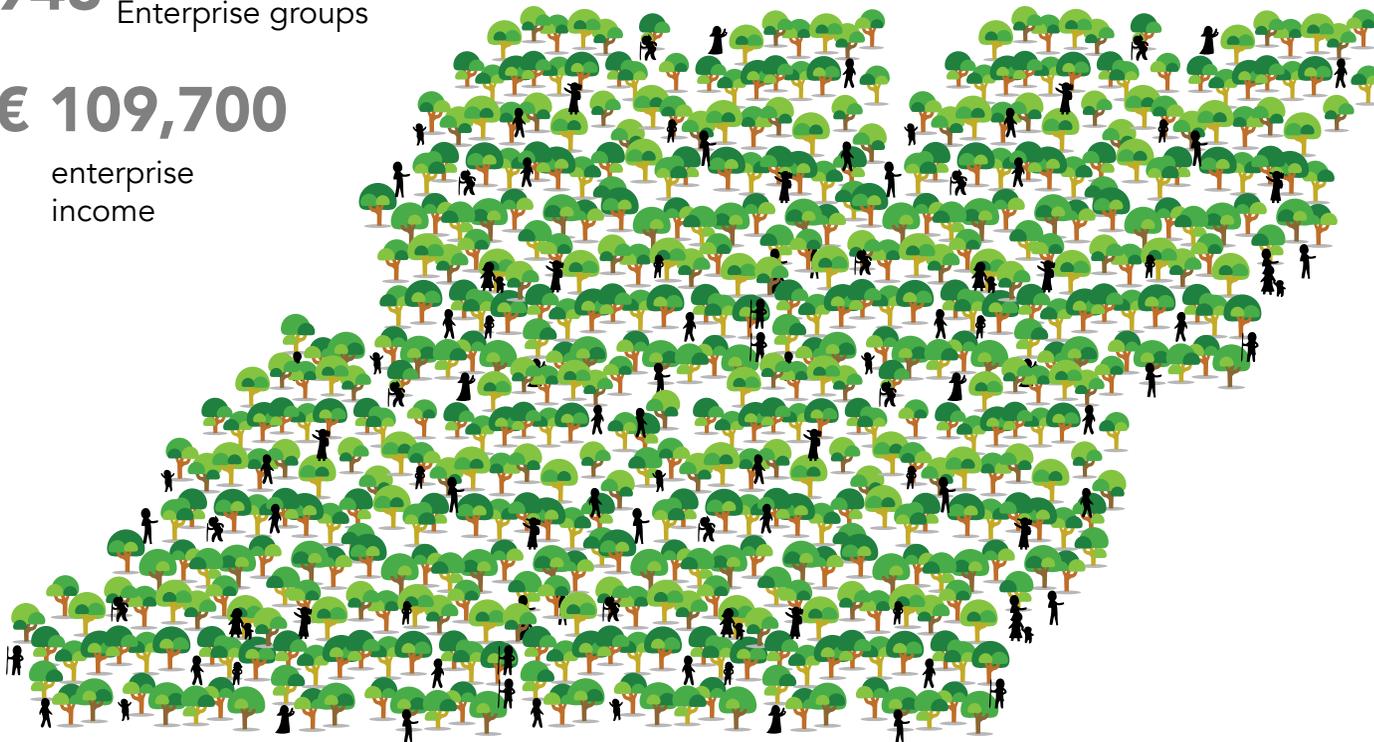
44 indigenous peoples groups

Andh, Bhagata, Bhatara, Bhumia, Bhumij, Bhunjia, Chenchu, Cholanaicken, Durwa, Gadaba, Gond, Halba, Ho, Irula, Jenu Kurumba, Kamar, Kathanaicken, Katkari, Khadia, Khotia, Koitoor, Kolam, Konda Dora, Konda Reddy, Kondh, Kota, Koya, Kurumba, Kutia, Lanjia Saora, Mankdia, Manya Dora, Nukadora, Paniya, Paraja, Santhals, Saora, Sholiga, Sidar, Thakar, Toda, Urali, Valmiki, Yanadi

948 Community-based Enterprise groups

€ 109,700

enterprise income



India has a very progressive law protecting its natural resources, specifically its forests. However, the positive changes in affected communities and forests have been slow. Even with the passing of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) in 2006, its implementation has only been a dismal 3%, ten years after its passage. In spite of this, the networks continue to focus on working with Adivasis whose specific issues are steeped in the context of the forested areas. The Adivasis' concerns with forest conservation have been an enabling platform for NTFP-EP India to pursue further the FRA, and with such convergence between the network and the forest communities, the network sees the FRA as the means in laying down the vision of NTFP-EP that includes the management of land, conservation, enterprise, among others.

Looking back

Protecting the forests remains to be an ongoing challenge for the Adivasi, due to various transgressions that dilute the fangs of the law, if not outright violate them. At present, the law allows the government to evict the people living in the areas now declared as Tiger Reserves. These areas are supposedly protected from industrial interventions. In reality, the government implements legal denotification which allows some authorities to open the reserve areas which include the forests, for mining. Instead of strengthening the protection of these natural resources, the legal denotification makes NTFP-EP India's efforts in environmental conservation at odds with the laws of the Indian state.

Forest conservation is meant to provide a direct benefit to the community, with partners working to further advance the implementation of the FRA. The Community Forest Resource Rights, as well as the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA), serve as NTFP-EP India's platforms to further assist the Adivasi communities by empowering them through facilitating mechanisms that will help them gain their rights as dwellers of the forests. Many of the exchanges facilitated by NTFP-EP India have shown that most of the concerns are specific to Community Forest Rights (CFR) and management of such lands claimed. Because of this, the organization seeks to build stronger linkages with other larger networks in the country that are also working on the same issues.

The year 2016 has been a productive year, specifically in the areas of conservation and the decade old policy of the FRA. With this exchange, including a more concrete direction in the areas of conservation and policy review, the communities have also shown some developments. For example, the *then-gapalli*, a traditional method of community forest conservation has been adopted in other villages like Chhattisgarh in Andhra Pradesh, and was even included in the school curriculum to involve the youth. This method started in the community wherein the villagers decided among themselves to organize a way of patrolling in the forest with a sacred pole. One person would go around with the pole as a symbol of authority and is entrusted to keep the village in harmony. With the full support of everyone, s/he is empowered to confront those who violate the laws of the community. As they took turns in guarding the forest, each one of them gradually built a stronger commitment to the cause. With a stronger collective responsibility in the community, including forest conservation as part of the school curriculum became a natural extension.

NTFP-EP India's advocacy is already showing positive outcomes, as the network is recognized with a new staff appointed as one of the juries of the independent people's tribunal on FRA implementation, organized by the Human Rights Law Network. This tribunal tackles environmental issues and conducts public forums. NTFP-EP India also started publishing issues of Leaf Litter, a newsletter that documents its work.

Work in Western India is expanding especially in Rajasthan, and plans are underway to work in new areas such as Jharkhand, as well as with some groups that the organization has contacted in the Northeast parts of the country.



Moving forward

NTFP-EP India wants to advance CFR claims so that the management of claimed lands are asserted for the well-being of the Adivasis.

With this vision, the organization will tap groups working on aspects such as on CFR-learning agenda since most of its partners are already working on this project anyway. The CFR claims filed for the communities that the network works with are sometimes followed up by using the Rights to Information (RTI). The nursery work and conservation will continue as seed collection and exchange, planting, and possible commercial deals in selected states will take off this year. There will also be new focused efforts on fundraising as a network. In addition, the barefoot ecology work shall continue to be promoted in CFR lands of

select communities. There will be assessments and gathering of baseline data to monitor the biodiversity over time. Overall, the focus is to actively engage networks working on the FRA/PESA across the country.

NTFP-EP India wants to work on basic field-based capacity building for staff, which will be approached holistically. A priority will be the monitoring of total claims and areas filed by the Adivasi communities, including the scope for environmental management. There will also be monitoring and regular field observations and reporting of overall conservation work, specifically the nurseries, the number of plants and planted areas, and other field projects.



Left: Men fishing, Madhu Ramnath, NTFP-EP India

Right: Percussions during the EXCEED training welcome, Madhu Ramnath, NTFP-EP India

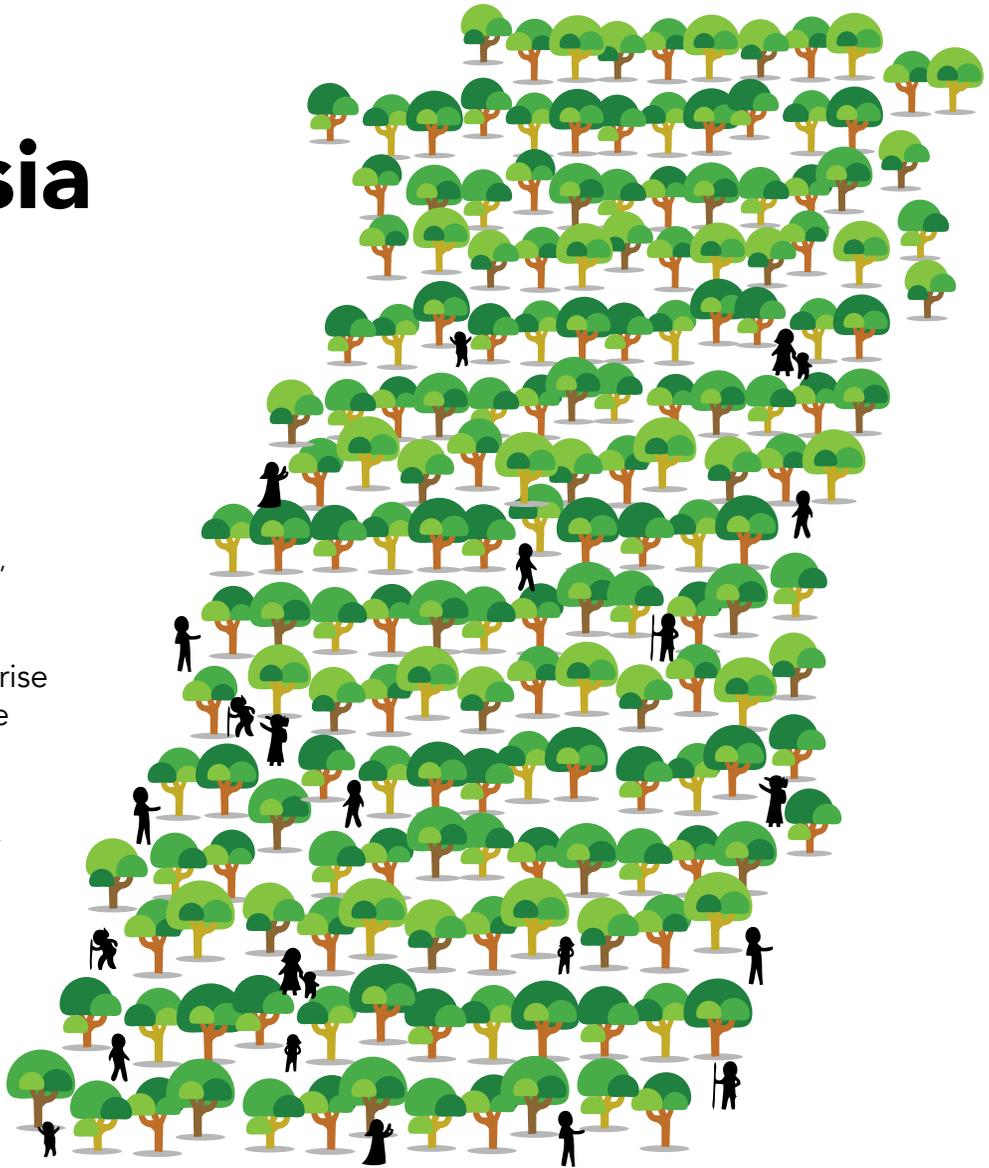
Indonesia

7 indigenous peoples groups

Bidayuh, Desa, Iban, Ngaju, Benuaq, Kaili, Papua

€ 5,200 enterprise income

22 weaving groups & community-based enterprises



The present social reality in Indonesia presents both challenges and opportunities for forest-dependent communities in the country. These can be seen in the social forestry policy reforms that require a meticulous revisiting of existing conservation, agrarian, mapping, permitting policies. Significant areas were apportioned for the communities after Indonesia fortified its commitment to increased social forestry allocations. More areas were classified as community and customary forest areas that recognize the communities' capacity to govern. Such development has figured into an ambitious 12.7 million hectares allocation for social forestry by 2020. With this direction, President Joko Widodo has ordered the production of current maps of social forestry zones (referred to as PIAPS or Peta Indikatif Areal Perhutanan Sosial) for 9 community forests. This policy direction aims to ensure both the conservation of Indonesia's rapidly declining forest cover, and the sustainability of the fast growing palm oil industry in the country. However, the setbacks and threats affecting the people and the forests are coming from aggressive palm oil and mining operations.

Looking back

The formalization of the agreement between the local government and NTFP-EP towards an integrated support for the Doyo weavers was a major achievement in Kutai Barat. As a result, the bupati has specified the promotion of the production of natural dyes in the district.

Panen Raya Nusantara (PARARA) is a celebration of the agricultural and forest harvests of communities from different parts of the archipelago. It is an "event that celebrates traditional cultural expressions such as woven fab-

rics, baskets, and other bounties that mother earth and their ancestors have given the people of Indonesia." The festival consortium, led by NTFP-EP Indonesia, consists of 26 NGOs promoting community-based enterprises.

The PGS in Central Sulawesi has yet to bear fruits with the initial exportation of rattan products to the United Kingdom in collaboration with small-medium rattan producers from Sukoharjo, Central Java. While promotion at the local level can still be improved, the recognition from other neighboring commu-

nities and requests to replicate such success in other villages, is indicative of the potential of the alternative certification system. Media coverages from Metro TV, Media Indonesia, and also local newspapers have enabled communication with potential buyers such as Van der Sar in Netherlands, WEND studio in USA, to name a few.

The production of bilingual documentations and publications regarding ICCAs have been successful through the efforts of the Working Group on ICCAs (WGII) Indonesia. This is key in ensuring that the network's growth is recorded and duly recognized.

Challenges in tenurial rights and governance are being addressed in several lobbying efforts in different districts like Kutai Barat, Sintang, and Central Sulawesi. Lobbying policies for the community's welfare are now reviewed, processed, and analyzed through documents published like the Multi-Benefits Assessment in Danau Sentarum which happened in West Kalimantan, in collaboration with Stockholm

Environment Institute (SEI) and Wageningen University.

Indigenous food and health documentation in Punan tribe in North Kalimantan was also conducted as a supplement to the hutan adat (customary forest) claims in Malinau. The uses of forest honey and *Langsat (Lansium demosticum)* in the cosmetic industry were documented in case studies commissioned by the FAO. These studies were presented during the APFW 2016 in the Philippines.

Given the significant developments at the policy-level, NTFP-EP Indonesia gained recognition as an exemplary NGO that successfully organizes people to develop their respective communities with a view towards economic development.

Moving forward

The year 2017 is envisioned to be a promising for NTFP-EP Indonesia as it galvanizes its sustainable livelihoods and community-based conservation strategies as concrete responses to the pressing poverty dilemma. On the issue of land conversion, some rattan farmers converted their land for other uses such as rubber and palm oil plantations. This development forces NTFP-EP Indonesia to raise crucial questions: How to deal with oil palm, its challenges and opportunities? What resources will be needed to work on said issues? The enterprise-conservation strategy will develop the strengthening of social forestry schemes in places like Namo Village Forest and other similar areas.

Given current developments, along with prospects for this year and in the future, efforts will be concentrated strategically on the development of NTFP business in Berau district, East Kalimantan. The training, data collection, business plan, and market linkages will be executed as programmes of action in the said area. There will also be increased focus on inclusive and participatory forested landscape in Central Sulawesi, which can be done

through research-based lobbying and advocacy and capacity building. NTFP-EP Indonesia has also committed to advocate curbed footprints in community-based enterprises as part of their low carbon development initiatives. In the end, the value chain of community enterprises is ironed out through training, action research, dialogue, and lobbying initiatives.

There is also emphasis on the value chain as well, in a study in Papua and other areas. Preparations for the next PARARA Festival are already ongoing. The purchase of 2-4 hectares of land in Kutai Barat is in line with NTFP-EP Indonesia's plan to develop an NTFP Learning Center in the said district.

Malaysia

5 indigenous peoples group

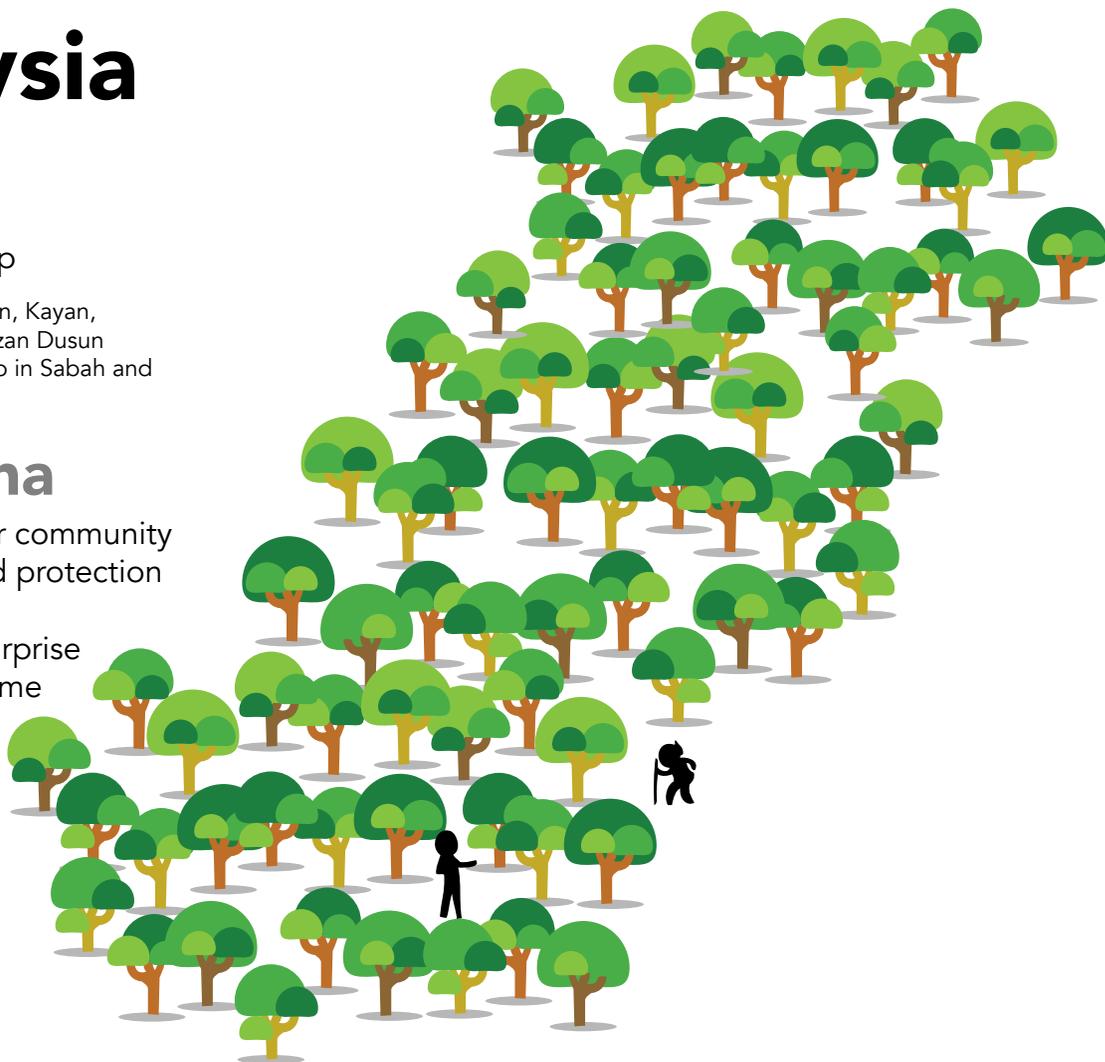
Penan, Dayak Iban, Kayan, Kenyah and Kadazan Dusun (main ethnic group in Sabah and Sarawak)

20,000 ha

forest area under community conservation and protection

€ 725 enterprise income

2 craft producer groups



In 2016, the Sarawak Forestry Department promoted its Community Service Unit into a Social Forestry Department. This further opened up spaces for community participation in Sarawak where forest management is solely under the jurisdiction of the Forestry Department. It also became a window of opportunity to lobby for the inclusion of indigenous peoples' rights and capacities as protectors of the forest and its resources. Through various collaborative and engagement efforts, a key subsequent milestone this year was the formal recognition of the Sabah Social Forestry Working Group (Sasof), a multi-stakeholder platform jointly conceptualized and formed by Sabah Forestry Department and CSOs in Sabah including NTFP-EP Malaysia.

Further, CSOs in Sarawak and Sasof facilitated the participation of communities and other CSOs and presented papers in a series of workshops organized by the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment and the respective forestry departments in Malaysia to develop a national definition of Social Forestry and draft a national 10-year strategic plan on Social Forestry.

However, in a turn of events, the Federal Court had decided to set aside the recognition of Sarawak native customary land i.e. 'Pemakai menoa', and 'Pulau galau', a communal forest reserve. The court decided that the "native customs have no force of law". Such court decision will reverse native rights to tenureship of land particularly in Sarawak.

Looking back

In 2016, conservation projects became more rooted in the community. Rubber, local tree species, wild sago and wild fruit seedlings in around 46-50 hectares of customary land were rehabilitated. Community participation has been quite significant in the effort to strengthen their connection with the forest. This resulted in a more purposive determination from the communities to secure and conserve their native customary forests. In addi-

tion, the Sarawak State Government has plans to construct a feeder road leading to Mulu and by-passing Lg Iman area, which could potentially be helpful in rattan rehabilitation in the said areas.

A total of 67 indigenous NTFP species used for sustenance and traditional medicine have been documented since the project began in 2015. This work culminated in a publication entitled, *A Pictorial Guide of Some Useful Plants of Sarawak, Malaysia*, which is available both in English and Penan.

Scanning, shortlisting, and tagging of potential NTFP crafts were conducted among 3 of NTFP-EP Malaysia's community partners. Through the NTFP Carnival organized by the Forestry Department of Sarawak (FDS), two new CBNEs in Sarawak were able to sell their products. Further assessment of partnership is being explored based on the initial local marketing effort. A market study conducted in Mulu National Park recommended future collaboration with the park management. A number of communities underwent an introduction to methods of resource and product scanning, as well as rehabilitation of key NTFPs such as rattan.

The formal recognition of the collaboration between the Sabah Forestry Department (SFD) and CSO partners in Sabah is advantageous to concerted efforts in lobbying for 'tagal hutan' in the policy arena and popularization in media.

Moving forward

For 2017, addressing livelihood options through community based enterprise development as a new area of community and forest development becomes an important goal. This direction is expected to address the need for resource mapping and rehabilitation. Further, there is a strong need to ensure a consistent supply of food for the indigenous and local communities. This will also be complementary to NTFP-EP Malaysia's strategy for conservation and tenure rights.

The strategic actions for the year will begin with strengthening and empowering communities through leadership and capacity building interventions such as on CBNE development and relevant workshops and trainings to develop their perspective on their context and rights. This will be expanded into leadership meetings with youth and elders. A continued lobby and advocacy effort through Sasof based on the 10-year social forestry strategic plan of action could lead to an eventual development of similar multi-stakeholder working groups in Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia and potentially a national working group on social forestry.

NTFP-EP Malaysia will continue to enhance livelihood development through the establishment of CBNEs and revive the interest of the youth in traditional knowledge and practices through forest food rehabilitation and documentation on forest and resource management, such as tagal hutan, harvesting and hunting protocols etc. The active involvement of the youths and the elders is important in keeping the knowledge exchange alive. Last but most importantly, NTFP-EP Malaysia will be assisting the indigenous and local communities in sustaining their access and rights to their land and forest.

The network will also explore addressing major threats to land and forest by logging and plantation companies through monitoring the value chain particularly its end markets, and also monitoring the CSR commitments made by these companies through policies of the company, buyer or other membership platforms. An intensified campaign against logging companies is believed to be more effective if NTFP-EP Malaysia explores linkages in countries where logging companies also operate heavily.

NTFP-EP Malaysia will be reviving the interest of the youth in traditional knowledge and practices among the Penan through the establishment of CBNEs, forest food rehabilitation, continued documentation on forest and resource management, such as tagal hutan, harvesting and hunting protocols etc. The active involvement of the youths and the elders is still deemed important in keeping the knowledge exchange alive. However, there are threats affecting a few ongoing negotiations and a number of community actions.

Philippines

20 indigenous peoples group

Agta/Aeta/Ati/Dumagat, Aklanon, Batak, B'laan, Higaonon, Ifugao, Manobo, Mandaya, Gaddang, Kalinga, Kankanaey, Mangyan, Pala'wan, Panay-Bukidnon, Sama, Tagbanua, Tausug, Tinggian, T'boli, Yakan

237,484 ha forest covered

€ 222,034 enterprise income

5 local intermediaries

1 national intermediary

7 non-indigenous peoples group

Antiqueno, Capisnon, Ilocano, Ilonggo, Marinduqueno, Negrense, Romblon

29 community enterprises



The year 2016 started with a sense of optimism, with changes happening in the leadership of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). However, this optimism was tempered by threats to human security with a spate of extrajudicial killings nationwide and a suspended peace process between the government and the separatist movements. By year-end, the Philippines ranked 3rd out of 24 countries reported by Global Witness in terms of number of environmental activists reported killed in 2016. 28 deaths were recorded in the Philippines after Colombia and Brazil. Other key policy developments are also being challenged by different stakeholders in the current administration. This includes a previous statement made where President Duterte welcomed investments on oil palm production, which spelled potential threats to NTFP-EP Philippines community partners in Palawan and Bukidnon.

At the micro level, NTFP-EP Philippines partners have been experiencing positive developments, with their growing sources of income and more empowered forest based communities governing themselves. The programme takes an area-based approach – focusing on three (3) major forested landscapes Kimangkil-Kalanawan-Sumagaya-Pamalihi (KKSP) Mountain Range (Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon), the Southern Sierra Madre (Rizal and Quezon), Victoria-Anepahan and Mount Mantalingahan (Palawan).

Looking back

NTFP-EP Philippines' community partners have proactively defined their own conservation efforts. At present, a significant part of the forest areas are under restoration and rehabilitation by partner communities through projects in the Kaliwa Watershed area, Tulaog and Tinipak ICCAs, KKSP Mountain Range and in the Mount Mantalingahan Protected Landscape. Additionally, larger areas were defined under the comprehensive National Greening Program.

NTFP-EP Philippines actively participated in networks and alliances, such as Aksyon Klima (AK), Rainforest Restoration Initiative (RFRI), Green Bills Network, and Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM). NTFP-EP Philippines also takes a seat in the newly-formed National Technical Working Group (TWG) on NTFPs and is presently assisting the Forest Management Bureau in the formation of a national multistakeholder social forestry working group or network. Significant support has been provided to the

granting of ancestral domain titles, ICCA and resource harvesting permits. Important progress in mobilizing support from the youth has been achieved with the youth camp held to train its participants on documentation of traditional knowledge through cooking, writing, filmmaking, and acting.

Indigenous food and health as a thematic work is slowly taking the centerstage as part of the initiatives aiming for active participation from the communities, especially among the indigenous youth. However, it remains a challenge to implement such advocacies in the Philippines, because of the inconsistencies in undergoing the process of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

As for Enterprise Development, at present, NTFP-EP Philippines is supporting 45 CBNEs and 6 Local Marketing Centers in 12 provinces involved in 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 oil. It also started the establishment of product-based alliances – the Philippine Forest Honey Network, the Southern Palawan Almaciga Group and the Network of Sustainable Eco-Textile Handweavers.



One of the outputs of the youth camp was the newsletter entitled MAMS – an acronym of the various ways ‘morning’ translates to the different native language used by the youth participants.

Moving forward

The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) guidelines on Free and Informed Prior Consent (FPIC) and the DENR guidelines on NTFP utilization are now being discussed further in light of challenges in extractive industries, plantations, and unsustainable resource use, and NTFP resource permitting to link to long-term markets. There are challenges as well with concerns on peace and order, funding for local initiatives, and community cultural shifts triggered by conflict and poverty. The crucial question on fostering international linkages against activities such as mining and plantations, including oil palm, should be answered urgently. In addition, a new advocacy programme Shared Resources, Joint Solutions, (SRJS), kickstarted discussions with private sector about the pertinent issues on mining and oil palm.

In seeking for genuine transformational policy reforms, NTFP-EP Philippines aspires for a forest bill that contains robust provisions in order to address the root causes of the climate and forest crisis and national actions to contribute to curbing its impacts. The goal is

to link existing bills in the country that address the environmental problems, and in turn push for something more progressive, by especially recognizing the need to climate-proof livelihood as an example. More so, existing legislative conflict between bills like the ICCA bills and the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) requires a more strategic advocacy strategy. This has already been voiced out by NTFP-EP Philippines a few years back. There is also a need to continue the advocacy for the crafting of a new mining law.

NTFP-EP Philippines will continue to work on establishing and strengthening the CBNEs through the formulation of quality standards and systems. Capacity building trainings, product development, learning exchanges and other activities will be conducted so that the CBNEs will become viable, sustainable and resilient. The industry/product-based networks will be further strengthened by establishing a participatory guarantee system to ensure compliance to quality environmental and social responsibility standards.

Vietnam

44,963 ha forest covered

2 indigenous groups
Raglai, Bana

2 protected areas covered



In 2016, NTFP-EP Asia and the Southern Institute of Ecology (SIE) under the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) forged a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate in NTFP-EP program development in Vietnam. SIE is a pioneer in biodiversity conservation research in Vietnam. As a science organization in Vietnam, it is laudable in its institutional commitment to integrate community based approaches and cultural context into their scientific research programs. The focus on developing biodiversity monitoring systems in key biosphere reserves has been the core of SIE's work since its early beginnings.

Perhaps the biggest hurdle for NTFP-EP in Vietnam will be the implementation of the policies targeting development of NTFPs. Almost all local communities have no official rights to access to forest protected areas. Despite such problems, pilot programmes for benefit sharing have been launched while still lacking in sufficient resources to implement them fully. There has been low capacity development initiatives of government and communities for conservation and development of NTFPs. While destructive exploitation following urgent uncontrolled market demands that are usually orchestrated by Chinese traders are imminent, there have also been several threats to the community's livelihoods. The impact of climate change, together with the aggressive pressure from exploitative human activities, such as forestland conversion into agricultural land, industrial parks and hydropower developments have made work in Vietnam quite challenging.

Looking back

Work in conservation and development for some selected areas continue to be in demand, with pressures that exist both within and outside the community areas. As such, there is a need to collaborate with community representatives from protected areas to propose an NTFP development policy that is suited to maximize community and conservation bene-

fits. This endeavor requires building a network for information sharing to increase awareness on NTFPs in Vietnam. In 2016, NTFP-EP Vietnam pursued 2 community based projects in Nui Chua National Park and An Toan Nature Reserve. In Nui Chua, NTFP-EP is piloting the conservation and development of the velvet tamarind (*Dialium cochinchinensis* Pierre) in

local household farms as a sustainable source of income for Raglai ethnic communities. The villagers were further supported for cultivating better-yielded banana and papayas as cash crops to subsidize their living during the trees' growth. Meanwhile, in An Toan Nature Reserve, NTFP-EP is supporting through a small grant project, the empowerment of local ethnic women to access marketing and social-economic knowledge for development of forest honey products. A forest honey farmers association was formed, and capacity building in forest honey sustainable harvesting and quality processing and marketing was initiated.

There have been new discoveries and descriptions of new species, especially in flora research where 5 new species were named in

2016. SIE had significant contributions to a book project entitled, "Coming Home to the Forest for Food: Lessons from Selected Countries in Asia". River basin management has also been identified as a potential work area in the future.

NTFP-EP Vietnam is looking to synergize work with the other NTFP-EP offices by sharing experiences and developments through the village initiatives in selected NTFPs such as forest honey and velvet tamarind. SIE also participated to share their experience and showcase NTFPs of Vietnam at the National NTFPs Workshop held in Hanoi in November 2016, which was organized by ICRAF and the Vietnam Academy of Forest Sciences and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Fruits from the forest, Trinh Thi My Dung, NTFP-EP Vietnam



Moving forward

It's a new chapter for NTFP-EP in Vietnam with a new local office under the wings of SIE. With an increased awareness on the importance of NTFP conservation among local partners and authorities, there is a pronounced potential for development work in the country. Cognizant of the time required to establish a true network, NTFP-EP Vietnam has set the development of partnerships with the two communities as its initial target to additional 5 communities in the Mekong Delta, Southeast and South Central Vietnam. Future directions will depend on the lessons learned from this initial objective and also further fund mobilization. Given SIE's experience and expertise on working with local communities and organizations, making the partnerships a reality will not be a problem.

The organization's goal is to work with partners, communities and enterprises mainly in Ho Chi Minh city, and venture into partnerships with entities from other cities. Specifically invited are partners who have already

been involved in forest honey harvesting and beekeeping, and velvet tamarind in An Toan and Nui Chua. NTFP-EP Asia is also visiting groups in Laos who are working on beekeeping and marketing of honey products. They have been coordinating with Dr. Phung Huu Chinh of the Vietnam Research Center for Tropical Bees and Beekeeping so the organization can organize a study visit to see the *Apis cerana* in Northern Vietnam. This will happen in the first week of April, 2017. There will also be a national workshop in Laos that is happening in late 2017 where they anticipate to participate.

SIE's experience is not limited to NTFPs, but also in holistic scientific-based research on biodiversity. This will be quite helpful specifically in the lower Mekong region, where hydropower dams continue to be a pertinent problem and where scientific research and monitoring capacity will be an added value to the Lower Mekong environmental network advocacies.

Organizational highlights

The annual Regional Staff Meeting (RSM) was held in Clark Pampanga, Philippines, right after the conclusion of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (APFW). Like with previous RSMs, representatives from various countries reported on their respective accomplishments and their upcoming plans for the following year. Ms. Maaïke Hendricks of Both ENDS extended her stay after the APFW to provide an overview of the new GAGGA programme. Ms. Miks Padilla, NTFP-EP Board Chairperson and a gender expert, facilitated a session on gender awareness on day 2 of the meeting.

The year also saw NTFP-EP becoming a recipient of a Microsoft Office 365 software donation worth USD 9,600 on an annual basis. This donation enabled the staff to start shifting from the use of their personal email addresses to an official email address that uses ntfp.org. The organization also became eligible for significant discounts on various licensed software, including the latest Microsoft Office and Adobe software versions.



Governance and management

Ms. Nuning Barwa was welcomed as a new member of the NTFP-EP Asia Board of Trustees during the October board meeting. She is concurrently a member of the Board of Trustees for NTFP-EP Indonesia and shall represent the same in the Asia Board.

The audit committee was formed and is comprised of Mr. Lanny Nanagas, currently Treasurer and a member of the Executive Committee, Atty. Gerthie Mayo-Anda another Trustee, and Mr. Matthew John of Keystone in India. The Board also decided to form an ad-hoc committee that would tackle the relationship between the regional office and the country offices, and this was comprised of Mr. Benedicto Sanchez, Dean Ramon Razal, Mr. Jeremy Ironside, together with Ms. Femy Pinto Executive Director. The consultation on NTFP-EP membership and scope of the network continues to 2017. Memorandum of Understanding between NTFP-EP Asia and the Country Programmes will be reviewed and formally instituted by 2017.

The NTFP Academy

The NTFP Academy, envisaged to house three (3) programmes – EXCEED, The Virtual Academy, and the NTFP Learning and Knowledge Center is still under development. EXCEED, however, is moving ahead in small sure steps with a 4th regional training offering on Managing Community Forestry Enterprise Growth and Effective Marketing Strategies. Held at the Keystone Foundation campus in the chilly blue mountains of the Nilgiris in India, there were 32 participants composed of 17 women and 15 men, coming from 7 different countries, namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, and the Philippines. They came together to learn about the framework for sustainable community-based enterprises using case studies from the enterprises of some participants. They also visited a production center at Puthukkad, and took part in a sharing session with community members on honey, wax, nutmeg, etc. They then used this experience to apply the lessons learned on their own local situations. This was supplemented with learnings from topics that covered organizational development, human resource management, production and sustainability, and financial management.

Resource Mobilization

The Board of Trustees tasked the Fundraising Committee to not limit the fundraising strategy to proposal development and responding to calls for proposals by donor agencies. NTFP-EP started to expand its resource mobilization strategy to include project partnerships and joint fundraising, country based and regional fund sourcing, and also through communication and research consultancy and training activities. Core funding was approved from SSNC for 2017-2020 for a total of 4.6K Swedish Krona (479K Euros), GAGGA small grant fund granted through BothENDS at 250K Euros per year for 2016-2019 and SDC funding for Phase 3 of the ASFCC programme 2017-2020 at 709K CHF was also approved. Total fundraising target for NTFP-EP Asia for 2017-2019 was pegged at 2.8M Euros.



Pastor Rice
Small Grant Fund
 for Community-based Forest Ecosystem Initiatives

Pastor Rice Small Grant Fund

NTFP-EP Asia continued providing support to community-based initiatives through its Pastor Rice Small Grant Fund (PRSGF) facility, with funding from Both ENDS, the Samdhana Institute and Broderlijk Delen (BD) from previous years. A supported project by SIE Vietnam entitled, “Piloting conservation and development of the velvet tamarind (*Dialium cochinchinensis* Pierre) as a sustainable source of income for Raglai communities” was completed in September 2016. Through organized workshops, around 200 Raglai women and 110 men involved in the project gained additional knowledge and understanding on the conservation and biodiversity of resources, specifically on the protection and propagation of the velvet tamarind at the Nui Chua National Park. Another output was the development of nurseries planted in approximately 300 sq. meters of land in the Raglai village, with around 6,000 seedlings produced for transplanting. A 2nd phase of this project was approved through new funding under GAGGA-PRSGF.

Both ENDS facilitated the infusion of new funds into the grant facility in 2016 from the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA). The facility, now referred to as GAGGA-PRSGF, was launched and introduced to NTFP-EP country networks during the February 2016 Regional Staff Meeting. Call for proposals, guidelines and forms for grant applications were posted at the NTFP-EP website (www.ntfp.org). They were shared online to partners in NTFP-EP country networks and in expansion countries, Laos and Myanmar. Several applications were received, although these required some revisions to fine-tune the women's empowerment and environmental

justice targets, and to follow the budget ceiling per project. Funds were allocated to initiate various community projects in the priority countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, and secondary and extension countries in Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand. NTFP-EP awarded a total of 22 grants, 10 in travel grants and 12 for small grants to women and grassroots initiatives in Cambodia, Laos, Philippines and Indonesia. A total outreach to communities and organizations from these grants stand at 20 communities and organizations across Southeast Asia.

Left: Ms. Amphone Vanamahxay of Phosy Village

Right: EXCEED graduates

,Keystone Foundation



Communication & Knowledge Management

Knowledge exchanges have become more relevant in 2016 as NTFP-EP springboarded transnational lessons from the region.

NTFP-EP participated in the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week as a contributor to the streams and side events, under an umbrella brand #CommunitiesSpeak in partnership with AIPP and AFA. The pop-up Wild Bar and Forest Spa added a vibrant feel inside the Canopy Room as it featured traditional products from the forest to put on, eat and drink after a full day of work in the event.



A documentation of edible plants used by the Penan in Malaysia, Madhu Ramnath, NTFP-EP India

The completion of the redesign for the website in the second quarter of 2016 led to the gradual regaining of visitors and widening of reach. Country offices in Indonesia and India have also finished their country websites, while plans for Cambodia and Philippines are underway. The NTFP-EP Facebook page has also gained a wider audience reach as it finally reached the 1000+ organic page likers.

As advocacy becomes another strategic tool to strengthen forest peoples voice and empower community based organizations from local to regional (or at times global) levels, NTFP-EP increased its knowledge and advocacy products such as policy and information briefs mostly targeted for dissemination at the national and ASEAN level.

With the new NTFP-EP strategic direction for 2016-2019, the organization is set to streamline its actions for communication and knowledge management through a communication toolkit. Improvements in organizational communication mediums are already underway. See list of publications produced for 2016 on the next page.

| PUBLICATION TITLE | TYPE | LOCATION |
|--|-----------------|-------------|
| A pictorial guide of some useful plants of Sarawak, Malaysia | Book | Malaysia |
| ICCA registration guidelines in Indonesia | Book | Indonesia |
| Community Forestry Statistics 2016 | Report | Cambodia |
| Complementary roles of programmes of PAFF and ASFCC towards sustainable forest management in Cambodia | Case study | Cambodia |
| Exploring Approaches and Mechanisms for REDD-Plus Benefit Sharing in the Philippines | Report | Philippines |
| Forest Tenure Policies in Cambodia: Status, Gaps and Way Forward | Case study | Cambodia |
| Forests and Beauty | Report | Asia |
| Free Prior, Informed Consent in the Philippines | Booklet | Philippines |
| Impact of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) on Social Forestry and Forest Products Trade (Khmer, Laos, Bahasa, Filipino, Vietnamese, English) | Report | Regional |
| Intended Nationally Determined Contributions from Forestry in ASEAN | Policy paper | Asia |
| Leaf Litter (5 issues) | Newsletter | India |
| Linking Climate Change and Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices | Booklet | Philippines |
| Looking beyond Forest Conservation and Protection: Social Forestry and its Role in planning and implementing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) | Synthesis Paper | Asia |
| Lose Land, Lose Identity | Film | Cambodia |
| MAMS | Newsletter | Philippines |
| NTFP-EP Philippines Indigenous Youth Festival | Film | Philippines |
| Supporting Community Forestry Enterprises (CFEs) with the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for Small and Medium Enterprises | Policy Paper | Asia |
| Voices from the Forest (2 issues - #30 August & #31 November) | Newsletter | Asia |
| CSO Forum on Social Forestry in ASEAN Proceedings | Report | Asia |

Projects completed

Below is a list of all projects that ended in 2016. Thank you to all our donors and partners who have made these possible.

| DONOR | PROJECT NAME | PERIOD | COVERAGE | AMOUNT |
|--|--|---------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| International Institute for Environment & Development | Forest Connect – successful business models – Cambodia & the Philippines | Mar 2015 - Feb 2016 | Cambodia; Philippines | € 29,999 |
| Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) | Regional assessment of 12 NWFPs related to the cosmetics and fragrances sector | Jul 2015 - May 2016 | Regional | \$ 50,000 |
| MacArthur Foundation | Indigenous Community Alliance for Rights & Resources and Culture & Biodiversity in Cambodia | Mar 2013 - Dec 2016 | Cambodia | \$250,000 |
| The Netherlands Committee for International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN NL) | Shared Resources, Joint Solutions workshop: Safeguarding Climate Resilience, Food Security & Water Provisioning | May - Jul 2016 | Cambodia | € 13,315 |
| The Netherlands Committee for International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN NL) | Shared Resources, Joint Solutions Cambodia: Safeguarding biodiversity, resilience, food security and water provisioning in the Mekong Landscape and in Cambodia; Inception phase | Jul - Sep 2016 | Cambodia | € 43,712 |
| Swiss Development Corporation | Communications Support of the NTFP-EP to the ASEAN Social Forestry Network Secretariat | Jan 2014 - Jul 2016 | Regional | \$ 50,000 |
| Swedish Society for Nature Conservation | Empowering Sarawak, Kalimantan and Sulawesi Indigenous Communities by Strengthening Forest Livelihood and Cultural Security & Tenurial Rights | Jan - Dec 2016 | Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines | SEK 635,000 |

Financial highlights

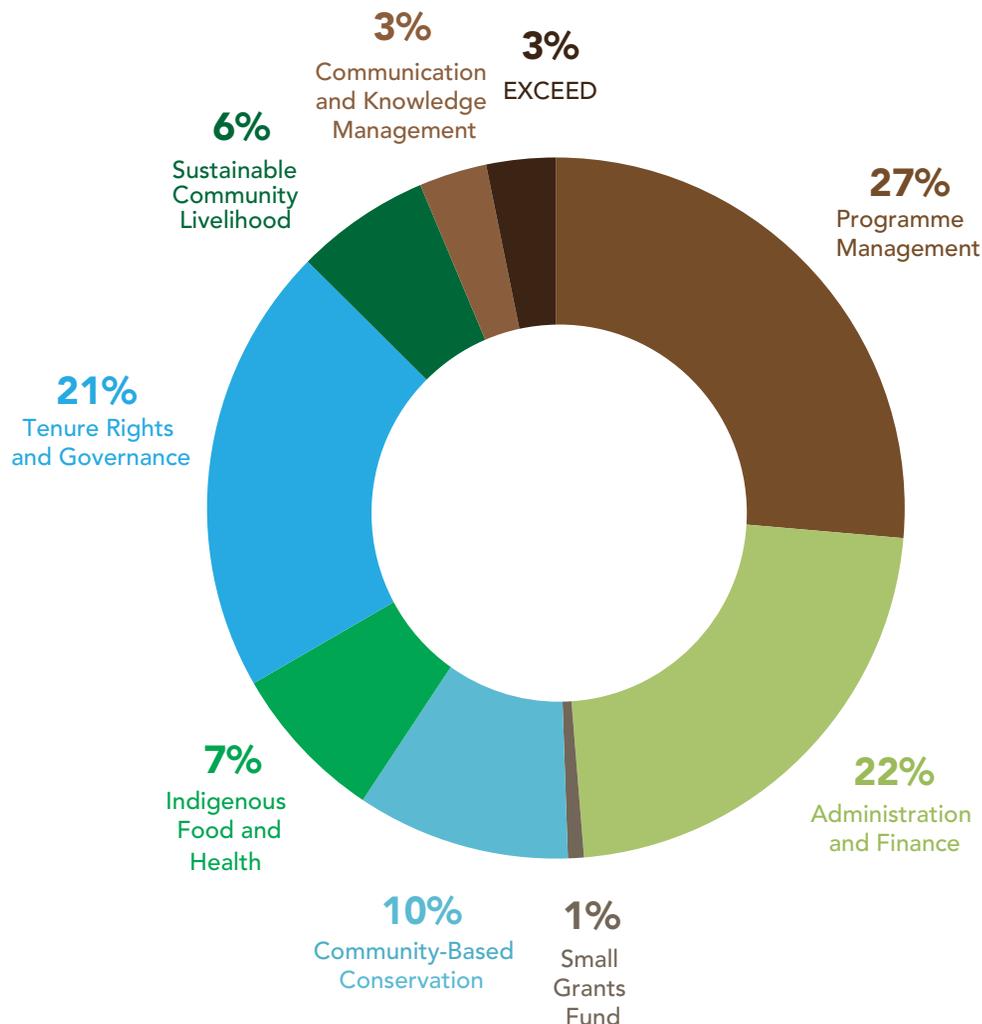
NTFP-EP Asia's statements of assets, liabilities and fund balance (in Peso)

| ASSETS | 2016 | 2015 |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Current Assets | | |
| Cash | 13,266,611 | 12,183,563 |
| Accounts and other receivables | 1,709,253 | 1,490,364 |
| Other current assets | 2,764,157 | 2,537,143 |
| Total Assets | 17,740,021 | 16,211,070 |
| | | |
| LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE | 2016 | 2015 |
| Current liabilities | | |
| Accounts and other payables | 4,468,191 | 6,068,884 |
| Advances from a related party | 2,698,518 | 5,897,495 |
| Total Current Liabilities | 7,166,709 | 11,966,379 |
| Fund Balance | | |
| Unrestricted | 3,338,287 | (672,186) |
| Restricted | 7,235,025 | 4,916,877 |
| Total Fund Balance | 10,573,312 | 4,244,691 |
| | 17,740,021 | 16,211,070 |

NTFP-EP Asia's statements of revenues and expenses (in Peso)

| | 2016 | 2015 | |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|---|
| REVENUES | | | |
| Grants | 36,773,837 | 32,850,241 | * NTFP-EP's financial statements were audited by Reyes, Tacandong & Co., an independent accounting and consulting firm. The full audited report can be made available upon request. |
| Interest income | 9,066 | 10,348 | |
| Others | 1,171,936 | 377,654 | |
| | 37,954,839 | 33,238,243 | |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Project costs | 21,586,864 | 31,411,156 | |
| Transfers to a related party | - | 16,766,637 | |
| Salaries | 5,808,289 | 6,138,652 | |
| Travel and transportation | 921,374 | 1,558,229 | |
| Meals and accommodation | 253,123 | 1,115,068 | |
| Grants | - | 213,259 | |
| Others | 3,056,568 | 2,117,353 | |
| | 31,626,218 | 59,320,354 | |
| EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES | 6,328,621 | -26,082,111 | |
| <hr/> | | | |
| <i>2016 spending in Euros</i> | <i>575,022.15</i> | <i>1,079,122.78</i> | |

EXPENDITURE DISTRIBUTION



* NTFP-EP total spending for 2016 amounted to 575,022 euros.

* Bulk of the spending came from Programme Management (27%), followed by Administration and Finance (22%), and by Tenure Rights and Governance (21%).

* The lowest spending came from Pastor Rice Small Grant Fund (1%), EXCEED (3%), and Communication and Knowledge Management (3%).

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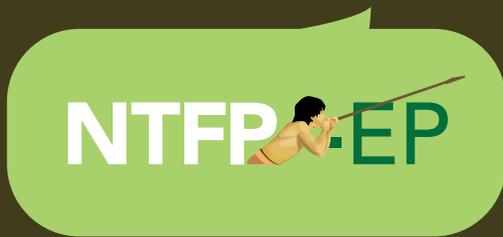
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the NTFP-EP, visit:

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