

2018 Annual Report





non-timber
forest products -
exchange programme

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

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Acronyms

ACCSMES	ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	ICRAF	World Agroforestry Center
AMS	ASEAN Member States	IFH	Indigenous Food and Health
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	IPMR	Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative
ASFCC	ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change	LCIP	Local communities and indigenous peoples
AWG-SF	ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry	MSMEs	Micro, small and medium enterprises
CBNEs	Community-based NTFP Enterprises	NDCs	Nationally-determined contributions
CBC	Community-based conservation	NGOs	Non-government organizations
CBOs	Community-based organizations	NTFPs	Non-timber forest products
CSOs	Civil society organizations	NTFP-EP	Non-Timber Forest Products – Exchange Programme
EO	Executive order	PRSGF	Pastor Rice Small Grants Fund
EXCEED	Expanding Community Enterprises and Economic Development	RECOFTC	Center for People and Forests
GAGGA	Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action	REDD-plus	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation plus
ICCAs	Indigenous peoples' and community conserved territories and areas	SCL	Sustainable community livelihoods
		TRG	Tenure rights and governance
		UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



Message from the Chairperson



NTFP-EP celebrates 20 years of camaraderie and commitment to forests and peoples! In 1998, NTFP-EP started as a loose network of individuals who believed in a concept—that an effective way to protect and expand the forest will be to help forest-dependent communities make a good living from the forest by increasing the value of non-timber forest products. By 2004, NTFP-EP was formally established as a registered network organization in the Philippines. Since the time that I joined as a member in 2006, the network has grown to become a diverse group of organizations that work with different communities around South and Southeast Asia, and programs in 6 countries were established.

Maria Teresa Guia Padilla

Maria Teresa Guia Padilla
Chairperson
of the Board of Trustees

The year 2018, the third year of our current strategic direction, continued to present us with some challenges in maintaining a good balance between conservation and the sustainable use of forest resources. During NTFP-EP's 15th Regional Meeting held last October in Miri, Malaysia, participants recognized the ongoing transformation in the cultural and livelihood systems in different communities brought about by factors such as state laws and policies, and corporate capture of forest communities' customary lands, forests and natural resources. The network bemoaned the loss of important food and economic species, not to mention a decline in biodiversity. As we reflected back to 20 years of community-based work, a consensus was reached that NTFP-EP should take a few steps more beyond our catalyst and facilitative intermediary role to also build our capacities to analyze, advocate and engage visibly on key issues where opportunities and connections allow us to.

Around the world and not just in our region, there is a growing consciousness among consumers wanting more ethical and environmentally-friendly products. Nature-based or low-emission lifestyles are now “trending” in cities and even provincial towns and districts in bustling Asia. “Trending” is latest buzzword used in social media to mean catching attention or the ability to influence and shape opinions, views, as well as inspire action. NTFP-EP’s marketing arms continue to thrive in this more discerning market. Our partnership with FAO on a publication of case studies for specific NTFPs and their use in beauty and cosmetic products will be featured in the Asia Forest Sector outlook report in 2019. We are also excited to release by 2019, NTFP-EP’s compilation of wild foods in Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam. This has been a truly collaborative effort and borne of a couple of years of field studies and knowledge exchanges.

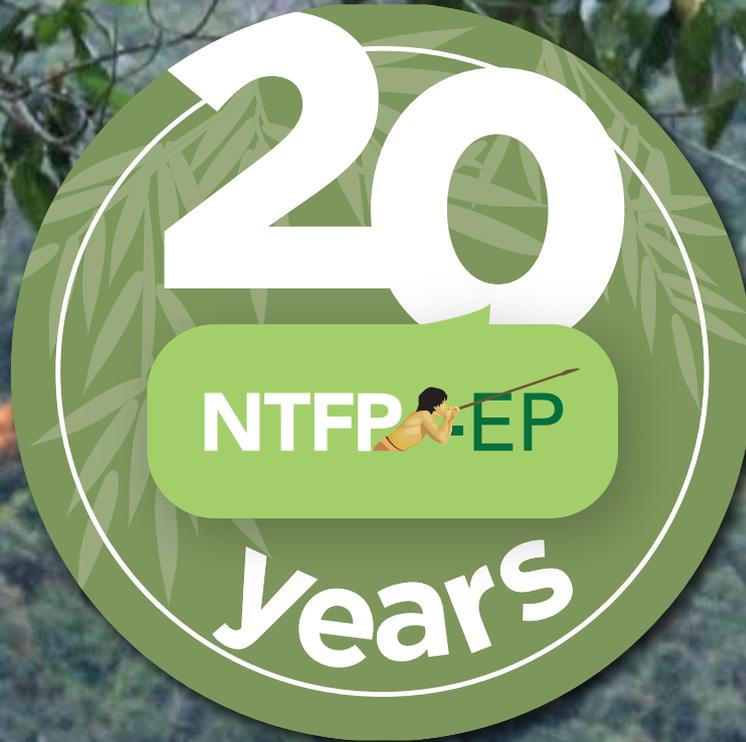
Our advocacy and capacity building activities continue to help bridge the gap between communities and national governments, as well as other international platforms. The CSO Forum on Social Forestry gives a grounded platform that provides inputs to different ongoing ASEAN programs. Beyond 2020 and after the ASEAN-Swiss partnership program that we participate in ends, the CSO Forum will carve its space as an independent advocacy platform that will continue to actively promote voices of local and indigenous communities and CSOs about social forestry, livelihood and food security in ASEAN. We will continue to carry key messages of equity and fair benefits for community livelihood and the environment, participatory governance of natural resources and forested landscapes. We believe that advocacies through networks demonstrate power in numbers and a united voice carries more weight in policy discussions. NTFP-EP also started to co-convene an emerging grassroots women and their support groups network called Women in Action on Mining in Asia (WAMA) and carry on as regional coordinator for the ICCA consortium in Southeast Asia (see www.iccaconsortium.org).

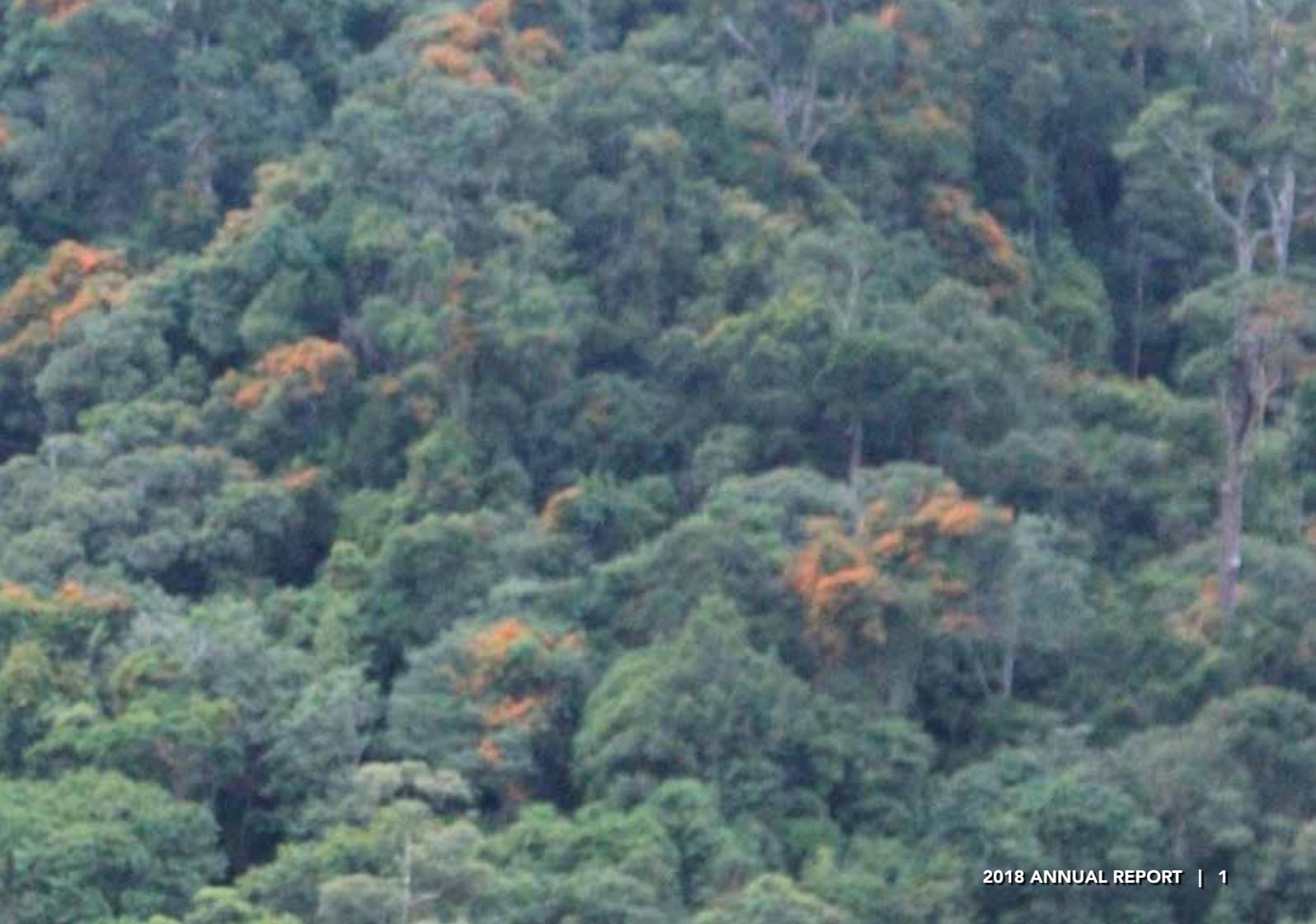
At the same time, we continue to support livelihoods by assisting communities in developing sustainable

enterprises through NTFP-EP's country-based enterprise support programs and the regional Expanding Community Enterprise and Economic Development (EXCEED) training and advisory program. This year, we embarked on an assessment of NTFP-EP's livelihood and enterprise interventions. The assessment confirmed the relevance of NTFP-EP's support programs but there is also need to scale-up and strengthen our impact measurements. The enterprises studied showed a marked improvement in terms of household income and on business performance, but measurement of environmental benefits will need more rigor. The complementary regional EXCEED training program is an important niche for NTFP-EP and deserves more attention in the coming year as it builds up demand from partners and local communities who are keen on strengthening their capacities in forest-based entrepreneurship.

As part of NTFP-EP's goal to live up to its vision, gender mainstreaming continues to be a critical component that cuts across all existing programs, as well as within the organization. The organization had dedicated sessions on gender during the Regional Staff Meeting at Siem Reap, Cambodia and the Regional Operations Meeting at Manila, Philippines. Our commitment to speak true to our vision of realizing equitable benefits for both men and women in forested landscapes is firm and we will endeavor to equip ourselves fully in this regard.

In terms of governance, consultations with the Trustees and the country offices regarding NTFP-EP's Membership Charter and Partnership Policy are ongoing. We thank all our partners, donors, supporters and friends, especially Both Ends, IUCN NL, Misereor, SDC and SSNC, for helping us make our vision and goals for the different communities a reality. And last but never the least, we are grateful for the continuing partnership with and inspiration from our local and community partners.





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, with most of these 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 the 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, the Philippines, and Vietnam. For centuries, communities in the region have been using traditional ecological systems, knowledge, and practices to protect forest lands, 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.

What we do

NTFP-EP employs a participatory strategy that helps strengthen the capacity of forest-based communities and their support organizations. It serves as a platform for information and knowledge exchange of appropriate resource management as well as forest-based livelihood techniques and experiences. Its network also provides technical support, training and 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. On its 20th year, NTFP-EP worked further to ensure the relevance of the inextricable link between people and forests. The context of global events that happened in the previous year has been a continuously changing one given the political, economic, and social fissures that emerged. Confronted by this dynamism, NTFP-EP takes a more introspective approach.

Regional Context

Politically, governance is shaped by contending strategic narratives that are emergent from local, national, and regional contexts. According to the World Economic Forum, these simultaneously unfolding political narratives across the region are often bereft of innovative inspiration that is essential for transformational change. There is a stark contrast between the growing populist politics and the shrinking democratic spaces, not just in Asia but around the world. This disparity only fuels the conflict and unrest in the areas where NTFP-EP works.

Socially, even with the call to build on a shared identity and collective purpose of inclusivity, there is a lack of responsive governmental leadership that addresses local and national concerns. While the numbers show a quaint picture of progress among many countries in the region, these figurative successes do not translate completely on the ground. There is

social unrest through waged wars, declining public services, and rampant corruption.

Economically, the world's two biggest drivers, China and the United States, are occupied in a trade war that has affected global economic relations. There is a growing call for openness and mutual benefits especially in the pursuit of maximizing the rewards of a singular global integration. However, the widening gap between economies across the globe puts into perspective the winners and losers of the emerging Fourth Industrial Revolution—the dawn of digital resources. Globally, entrepreneurial focus is directed towards digitalization. Thus, leaving out technologically challenged enterprises such as forest-based livelihoods. Given this, NTFP-EP took a closer look at the transnational and continental economic links that fuel the threats brought about by the rapid expansion of extractive industries in the region.

Environmentally, the climate change situation is unfolding into a climate crisis. The remotest of villages face direct observable impacts: changes in rainfall patterns, irregular flowering seasons, decreased bee activities, and increased frequency of inundation. Furthermore, we see a diminished biodiversity and the loss of key species used by forest-based communities. With the decline in natural resources, there is a consequent shrinking of hunting and foraging grounds and a decrease in areas for shifting cultivation.

While the context seems bleak, there is a glimmer of hope at the grassroots. It is through these backdrop that communities and civil society continue to thrive and innovate. During its 15th Regional Meeting, NTFP-EP mapped out the communities' coping mechanisms and strategies. It was found that there is a general perception that traditional knowledge systems are 'backward' or 'obsolete'. As a result, the youth of the communities have been observed migrating out of the villages and into the urban

landscape. There have also been numerous failed attempts to use non-traditional crops in farming. On the other hand, communities with strong traditions, secure tenure, and effective collective governance have been able to hold on to traditional and sustainable indigenous agricultural systems and practices, and natural resources management.

With these, NTFP-EP has defined its niche around its core strategies of being rooted in community based work, while also using various communication platforms and knowledge management strategies, promoting transformative changes, strengthening partnerships and alliances, and strengthening organizational governance.



Thematic Highlights

Community-based Conservation

In August 2018, members and honorary members of the ICCA Consortium in Southeast Asia and West Austronesia gathered for four days for a meeting in Palangkaraya, Indonesia to discuss strengthening the regional network through capacity building among others. One of the priorities brought forward by several countries was acquiring skills in ICCA mapping and documentation.

Based on country action plans, several mini-exchanges were prioritized as follow-up activities using the UNDP Small Grants Programme (SGP) ICCA Global Support Initiative (GSI). To have a better understanding of how ICCA documentation is done with communities, a few participants joined an immersion to have an in-depth learning of the tool, and also of approaches in working with communities.

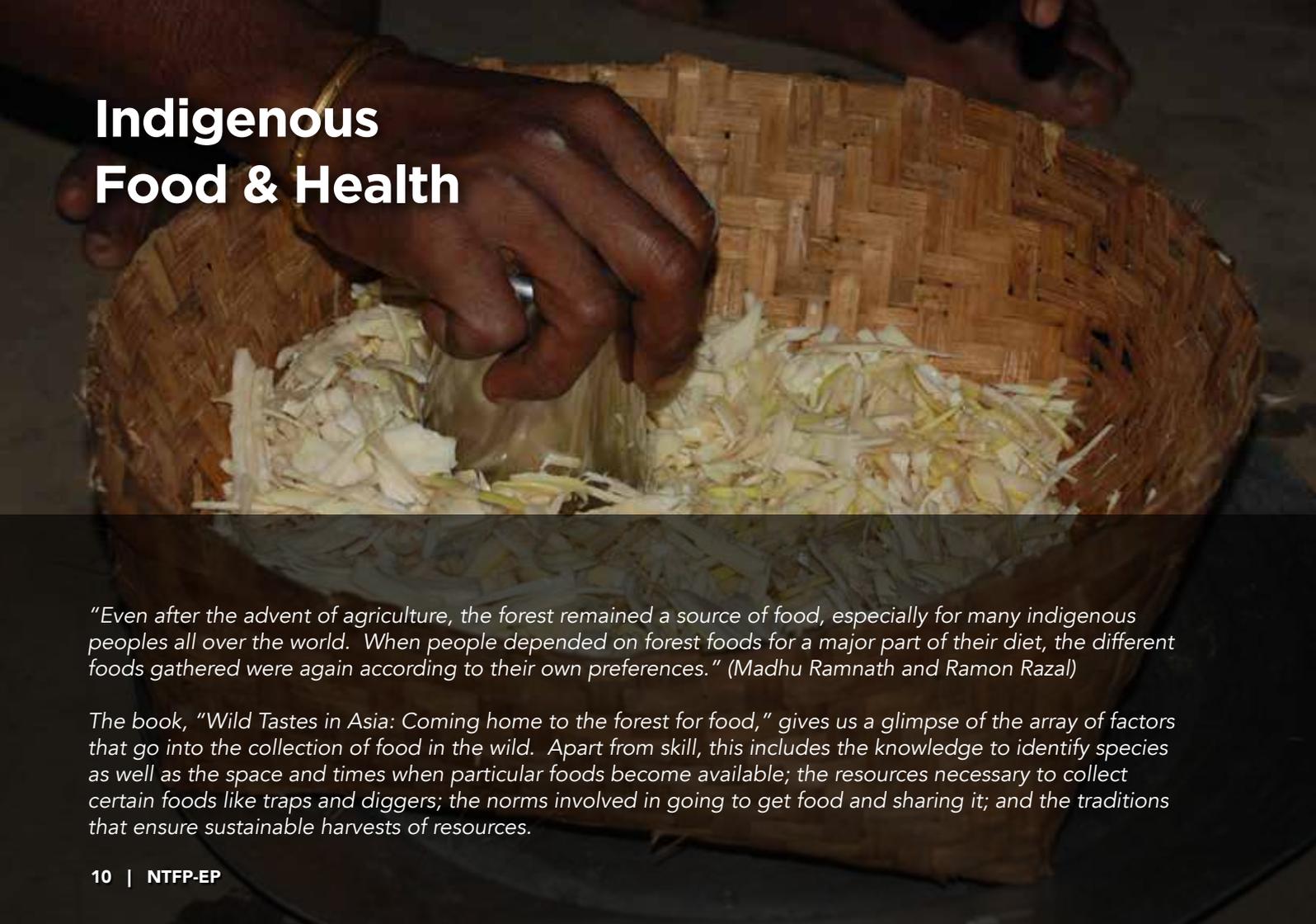
NTFP-EP has centered on community-based conservation as a call to include people in forestry frameworks. The focus on NTFPs highlights the need to recognize the intimate relationship of peoples and forests. To align their strategies on community-based conservation, NTFP-EP Asia facilitated a resource management refresher training course in Stung Treng province for staff of NTFP-EP Cambodia.

During the Communities, Conservation and Livelihoods Conference in Nova Scotia, Canada, community members from the Philippines and Indonesia shared their respective journeys in breaking free from the long and restrictive value chains that hinder them from getting their fair share in the trade of forest products such as resin, essential oils, and food.

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several countries was acquiring skills in ICCA mapping and documentation. To have a better understanding of how ICCA documentation is done with communities, a few participants visited the Higaonon community in Impasugong, Bukidnon in the Philippines.

A policy forum on NTFPs was jointly organized by NTFP-EP and the Forestry Development Center in the Philippines. This resulted in the discussion of practices in the development of NTFPs and an assessment of NTFP policies in the country.



Indigenous Food & Health

"Even after the advent of agriculture, the forest remained a source of food, especially for many indigenous peoples all over the world. When people depended on forest foods for a major part of their diet, the different foods gathered were again according to their own preferences." (Madhu Ramnath and Ramon Razal)

The book, "Wild Tastes in Asia: Coming home to the forest for food," gives us a glimpse of the array of factors that go into the collection of food in the wild. Apart from skill, this includes the knowledge to identify species as well as the space and times when particular foods become available; the resources necessary to collect certain foods like traps and diggers; the norms involved in going to get food and sharing it; and the traditions that ensure sustainable harvests of resources.

Natural products are becoming increasingly popular choices in modern markets, due in large part, to the growth of more ethically and environmentally-minded consumers. Various beauty products are now relying on NTFPs for ingredients. Through the FAO-commissioned research on Forests and Beauty, NTFP-EP partners presented case studies that demonstrate the sustainable use of NTFPs in the beauty and cosmetic sector during the 6th World Forestry Week in Rome, Italy.

There is continued documentation of NTFP species used for food and health purposes such as the development of the publication *Wild Tastes in Asia*, a compilation of NTFP-EP's experience in wild foods in Cambodia, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. This seminal publication has inspired similar initiatives in other countries, connecting with other market players and government institutions related to indigenous food and health.

NTFP-EP also supported the Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC) in their People and Forests 2018 event in Bangkok through a show-stopping slow food event. NTFP-EP partners from India, Indonesia, and the Philippines organized food demos and marketplaces for forest dishes.

Sustainable Community Livelihoods

Resin flowing from the almaciga tree tapping
© Earl Diaz, NTFP-EP Asia

Tapping almaciga is a traditional activity done by the Palaw'an community in the Philippines. As a high value commodity, harvesting resin from the almaciga tree was commercialized through traders who had created a trading relationship that left them with minimal benefits. In 1989, the Palaw'an community in Brooke's Point, Palawan decided to take charge of the business by forming the Samahan ng mga Palaw'ano sa Amas, Brooke's Point (SPABP), a community-owned cooperative that trades the resin collectively.

Rolito Landuan, the operations manager of SPABP shared their story during the Communities, Conservation, & Livelihoods Conference at Nova Scotia, Canada. In the conference, Rolito shared how the management of almaciga resin, a high value NTFP found in the Palawan forests, sustains not only the day-to-day financial needs of the community but also their traditional way of life.

The Regional Meeting in Miri, Malaysia highlighted NTFP-EP's niche in developing its work further around the changing context of community livelihoods. Onwards, there was a resounding recommendation for NTFP-EP to engage in multistakeholder, multidimensional programs on diversified, people, forest and traditional farm-based livelihoods (i.e. through continued practice and protection of shifting cultivation / rotational farming systems). Documentation and sharing of good practices around the nexus of traditional livelihoods and conservation remains a useful strategy for many community-based NTFP enterprises.

NTFP-EP's work over the years has linked NTFP-based enterprises to markets through its cultural, biodiversity, and rights perspective. In Sarawak, the process of documenting the Penan communities' traditional weaving and harvesting practices became a key activity to enrich the knowledge of tourists visiting the Mulu National Park. The documented information was simplified into posters and distributed in Long Iman and to partners from Mulu National Park.

Through its collaboration within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), community forest enterprises (CFEs) took center stage as the previous collaborative proposal development with the ASEAN Coordinating Council on Micro Small Medium Enterprises (ACCSMEs) on MSME capacity building and market linkaging has finally reached its final stages. The consultation process continued with ASEAN Member States (AMS) and other relevant stakeholders in ASEAN, while the concept note with specific activities has been developed and shared for comments and improvements.

Tenure Rights & Governance

As part of the Indigenous Peoples Day of the 24th Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNFCCC in Katowice, Poland, NTFP-EP teamed up with European Network for Community-Led Initiatives on Climate Change and Sustainability (ECOLISE) and Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC) in an effort to continue the discussion on the role and contribution of indigenous peoples, and local community initiatives for enhanced climate ambition and transformative change. The side event presented cases, research results and evidences of low carbon initiatives, mechanisms, platforms and practices that are already contributing to climate action and need to be supported from the ground up.

“Small is beautiful. Because many times, the real change starts small. It is more flexible to experiment, to change and to take risks. It is important to make changes when facing the challenges” Mr. Luca Jahier, the president of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) remarked. It is critical to protect and support local communities and indigenous peoples work on climate, to ensure that the transition leaves no one behind. They are important partners in achieving the Paris Agreement.

The CSO Forum on Social Forestry in ASEAN continues to forward the grounded perspective towards a people-centered forestry in the region. The CSO Forum inputs in the ASEAN Guidelines on Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture, and Forestry were adopted during the 40th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) in October. Furthermore, the CSO Forum provided inputs in ASEAN Agroforestry Guidelines developed by the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF).

The work towards the development of a common approach to FPIC in social forestry and climate change continues through a series of consultations and workshops that were organized with the ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry (AWG-SF) Secretariat.

NTFP-EP continued its work on linking climate change, forestry and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) towards a socio-ecologically resilient social forestry in ASEAN. One of the venues that this thrust shared was the Asia Multi-Actor Dialogue Seminar to

Build Social-ecological Resilience through the Incorporation of Ecosystem-based Solutions in Nationally Determined Contributions which was organized by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity in October 2018.

Gender & Culture

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In 2012, Typhoon Sendong wreaked havoc in the province of Cagayan de Oro. This caused widespread inundation and destruction of properties. Among the many communities badly hit were Tumpagon, Pigsag-an, and Bayanga. Their livelihoods from agricultural practice were gravely destroyed. This unfortunate incident pushed the women from the community to organize themselves to protect their ancestral territory better through the preservation of their traditional way of life.

Through the help of NTFP-EP, the women leaders organized projects like creating nurseries to protect themselves from the possibility of another Sendong. According to Bai Mercy, the leader of Bgy. Bayanga, "Right now, the indigenous women feel more empowered to strengthen their environmental protection efforts to decrease the risks of climate and weather related hazards."

NTFP-EP integrated the cross-cutting thematic concerns on gender and culture in its gender mainstreaming processes in 2018. At the institution level, internal capacity building of staff on gender equality and women's empowerment were included in regional activities such as the Regional Staff Meeting (RSM) and the Regional Operations Meeting (ROM). At the program and partner level support, the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) has intensified NTFP-EP's work on strengthening the voice of women in the context of livelihoods and rights advocacy. Through the newly-formed Women in Action on Mining in Asia (WAMA) network, NTFP-EP has taken a more prominent role in the advocacy of women's rights and environmental justice. Members of WAMA

participated and conducted sessions at the 7th edition of the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights. It was the first opportunity for the alliance to use the platform and anticipate both a learning opportunity to engage, as well as, to provide critical contribution to raise issues of women.

NTFP-EP, along with some of its women partners, also joined the 2018 GAGGA Global Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa. The meeting elicited a solidified call for gender and environmental justice in the sustainable natural resources use and rights discourse.

Country Stories



Cambodia



2018 electoral preparations came early for Cambodia. Looming significant changes in the advocacy movement in the country has required the civil society movement to re-strategize. Despite the pressures, the civil society movement in Cambodia continues to be supportive of the indigenous peoples' alliance.

Youth volunteers continue to be the driving force behind the alliance. After several preparatory meetings, the alliance agreed to form a working group on ICCAs in Cambodia, starting with 10 areas in the country.

In terms of networking, NTFP-EP Cambodia was engaged in pushing for the environmental code approval in the country. The country programme is committed to working on sustainable livelihoods. The primary NTFPs used for enterprises are forest honey, talipot palm, and river fish. This year, NTFP-EP Cambodia has

focused more on providing specialized support based on the unique needs of the CBNEs. Additionally, the CBNEs are starting to reap the rewards of their hard work as they continue to innovate ways to become more independent.

Given this context, the NTFP-EP Cambodia network revival is gaining momentum. There is a strong positive interest to revive the network given the breadth and depth of its knowledge-base.

India



Nurseries and planting programs continued across many parts of the country, aiming to restore degraded zones, enrich sacred groves and increase the numbers of NTFPs available in forest tracts. NTFP-EP India worked more closely with traditional healers in Andhra Pradesh, which entailed nurseries of medicinal plants and sessions with traditional healers. Health-related work continued to be carried out in five villages.

Three workshops were conducted on barefoot ecology and community-based conservation in central and south India. In northeast India, the focus has been on providing training for high quality documentation. A publication on subsistence and health for peninsular India is being developed. At least 10 films were made to showcase conservation-related issues.

NTFP-EP India conducted a palm oil survey of six states that showcased the various dangers it poses to ecology and groundwater. The report was picked up by National Public Radio in the United States which further publicized this.

Among NTFP-EP India's partners, more than 30 claims were filed for community forest resource rights under the FRA; many groups have also formulated management plans for these claimed territories despite the claims not being recognized, or being in the process of recognition. Simultaneously, awareness programmes about the FRA and the various aspects around it are ongoing. In Srikakulam, the tenure rights through the FRA have been used to save community lands from granite mining. Currently, further management plans are being worked out to rejuvenate the forests.

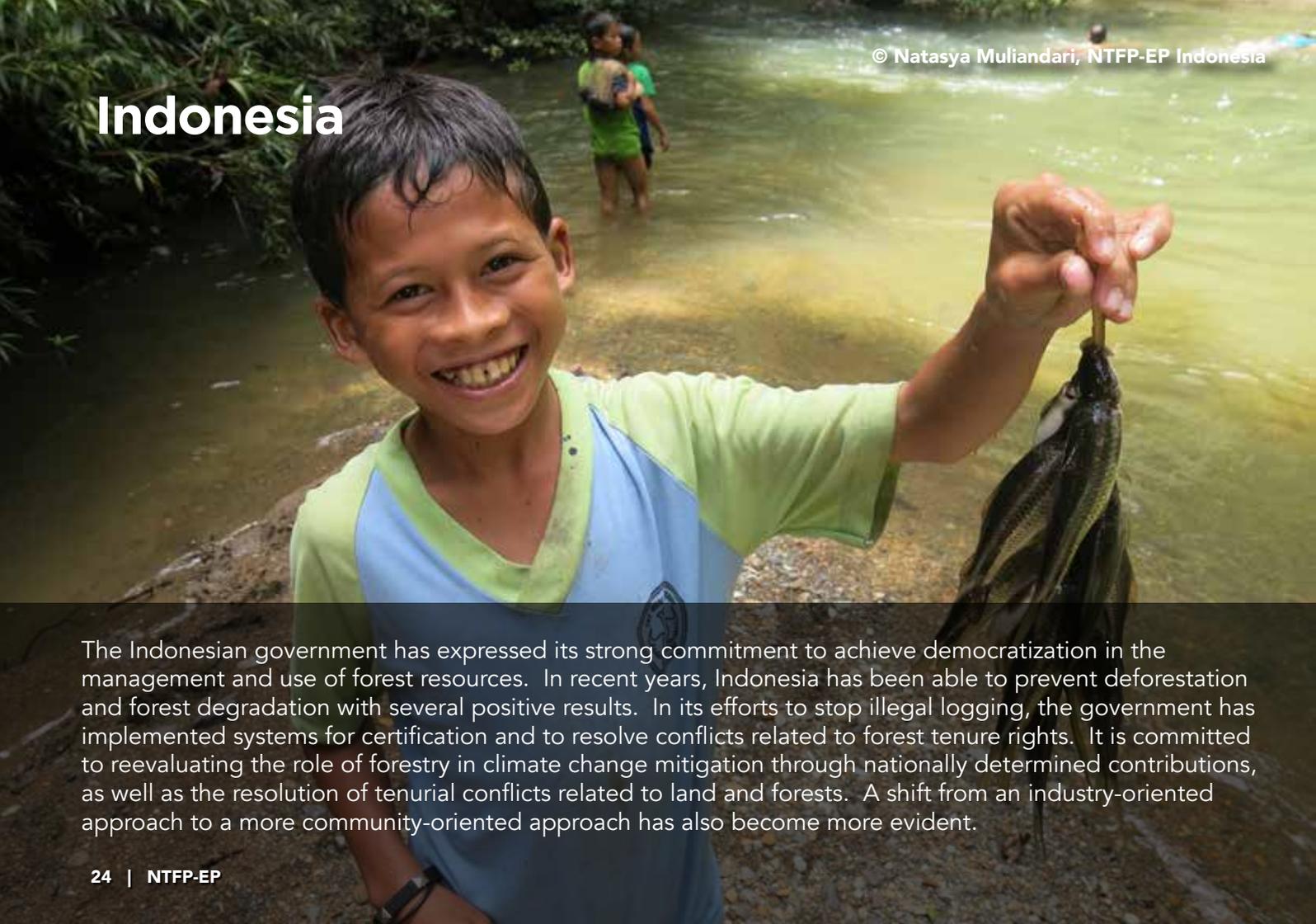
The collection of plants including wetlands, drylands and NTFP species currently number about 150,000.

To celebrate the 20th and 25th years of NTFP Asia and Keystone Foundation respectively, NTFP-EP India partners fulfilled their commitment to plant 25,000 seedlings of multiple species. The planting was done essentially in central India and led by LEAF; post planting protection of the plants was done by the village people, mostly by traditional patrolling by community members, known as *thengapalli*.

Five community-based conservation workshops were held (in Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh) which were intended for the field staff.

In many parts of Maharashtra, the 2 major NTFPs (bamboo and tendu leaves) have now been claimed by the gram sabha; the revenue from these NTFPs are shared by the community and used for village development.

Indonesia

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a blue and green shirt, is smiling broadly while holding a small fish in his right hand. He is standing on a rocky bank next to a river. In the background, other people are visible in the water, and the surrounding area is lush with greenery.

The Indonesian government has expressed its strong commitment to achieve democratization in the management and use of forest resources. In recent years, Indonesia has been able to prevent deforestation and forest degradation with several positive results. In its efforts to stop illegal logging, the government has implemented systems for certification and to resolve conflicts related to forest tenure rights. It is committed to reevaluating the role of forestry in climate change mitigation through nationally determined contributions, as well as the resolution of tenurial conflicts related to land and forests. A shift from an industry-oriented approach to a more community-oriented approach has also become more evident.

A strong earthquake of 7.4 magnitude struck the province of Central Sulawesi, Indonesia on 28 September 2018, leaving hundreds of people dead and thousands of family properties damaged. Together with local partners and support from international friends, NTFP-EP Indonesia mobilized money to support the immediate relief effort in three villages for the earthquake and tsunami in Central Sulawesi, particularly in Sigi and Poso districts through the local partners (IMUNITAS, YPAL, KARSA Institute).

NTFP-EP Indonesia has strengthened its work with the youth. Around 36 Punan Adiu students participated in the third installment of environmental education modules with particular focus on establishing a calendar of food from the forest.

Additionally, NTFP-EP Indonesia conducted its first ICCAs documentation in Rimba Perauh, Sintang, West Kalimantan. The types of plants that can be considered for planting in the Rimba Perauh area can refer to the ICCAs documentation. Included in the documentation

are the types of plants that have economic, cultural and ecological values.

NTFP-EP Indonesia, through its collaborative work with local partners in the GLA project, succeeded in documenting one of the traditional management areas managed by women called “pampa”. This management area is usually located on the edge of an area of 1 to 2 ha which is managed communally by village women’s groups. The “pampa” system has long been lost but is being revived by the NTFP-EP Indonesia together with its community partners (Immunity and Karsa Institute) in Namo Village and Lonca Village.

Malaysia



Wild sago, rubber, and medicinal plants, continue to be important NTFPs for most of NTFP-EP Malaysia's partners. This year however, women and youth groups have ventured into cultivating ginger, chili, and avocado. The documentation of wild foods and its harvesting techniques and consumption patterns is ongoing, intensifying their efforts with labeling and tagging of key medicinal plants. There isn't much significant increase in most of the areas covered by the gardens as they practice the "plan and use" method. For the Penan in Long Selulung however, there has been an expansion of their ginger and herb nurseries.

An amendment to the Sarawak Land code in July of 2018 created confusion in the communities, especially among those who lacked an educational background. One land rights workshop held in Long Meraan was attended by representatives from 9 villages, while several informal meetings and discussions on how to deter land threats were held. The Long Jaik community, through the help of their lawyers, was able to submit their native customary rights case in the native court in Belaga. Community

volunteers from Long Selulung marked their conservation areas, demarcated boundaries and resources to upgrade their land use map that supports their land claim rights.

NTFP-EP Malaysia engaged in collaborations with marketing entities like the Miri Jazz Festival, NTFP Carnival, Women Project o Gerai Orang Asal, Tanoti, and Mulu National Park that marketed products from the communities. Furthermore, NTFP-EP Malaysia continued conducting trainings and workshops on tagging, quality inspection and rehabilitation, inventory and sales recording, and rehabilitation and nurturing of rattan for women groups to support their livelihood activities--the Pengepemung Modoo Tana Ngan Bb' of Long Iman, Mulu (Preserving Forest and Rivers group), and the Peng Menaget Urip Asen of Long Jaik, Ulu Belaga (Sustaining Indigenous Way of Life group)

Philippines



The increasing expansion of destructive and extractive industries in various areas in the Philippines called for the intensification of NTFP-EP Philippines' networking and alliance-building strategies. Large scale and high impact development projects continue to threaten the tenurial rights of many NTFP-EP Philippines community partners: Kaliwa dam in the provinces of Rizal and Quezon, mining in Palawan province, the construction of roads in ICCAs in Bukidnon province, and the persistent pressure from land conversion due to oil palms and dams in other areas of the country.

As a response, NTFP-EP Philippines responded to these pressures through information and education campaigns. NTFP-EP Philippines supported communities in securing tenurial instruments, and then drafting and implementing the ancestral domain plans of its community partners.

Additionally, NTFP-EP Philippines participated in the crafting of policies that will promote community and NTFP-based forest management. This was made possible

through NTFP-EP Philippines' membership in the Technical Working Groups for ICCAs and Executive Order (EO) 318 (Sustainable Forest Management). Through NTFP-EP's work, there has been an observable inclusion of indigenous peoples in various governance processes: Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR) trainings and lobbying; access to gender and development budget; exploring share in benefits from ecotourism projects; formation of indigenous women federation in Sierra Madre and Palawan; and REDD-plus awareness in Mindanao.

Sustainable community livelihoods as a NTFP-EP Philippines thematic focus continues to expand, accommodating more households from various parts of the country. Aside from the expansion of Assistance to Artisans— a project in partnership with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), more communities continue to benefit from the country office's livelihood and product development programmes. Furthermore, livelihood efforts persist as powerful platforms for the engagement of indigenous women and youth.

Vietnam



Many community partners in Vietnam have yet to introduce the concept of sustainability into their harvesting practices. This is largely linked to the generally undervalued perception of NTFPs' role in rural livelihood, as well as conservation of biodiversity and indigenous culture. Due to this, there is an observable decrease of wild population of NTFPs in the forests and an increase in monoculture farms. Poor enforcement in national parks and nature reserves, as well as in environmental services protection, tend to worsen this situation.

Because of the livelihood situation assessment and scanning of NTFPs in 2010, efforts to pilot conservation and livelihood development of velvet tamarind among the Raglay people are slowly coming to fruition through the support of NTFP-EP Vietnam.

Bana community partners have become more engaged in the documentation of their local knowledge on conservation. It was through this commitment that they were able to develop sustainability plans for the management of their honey products. Around 250 more C'Ho

households in the Bi Dup Nui Ba National Park have also been involved in the documentation of useful plants for medicine and subsistence. Collected information will be used for the ecological cultura NTFP museum that Southern Institute of Ecology (SIE) has been planning since 2011. The S'tieng people in Bu Gia Map National Park have also strengthened the promotion of their bee products due to their intensified documentation commitments.

There is a need to strengthen efforts to increase awareness among community partners to improve the management of natural resources, NTFPs and biodiversity in the country. Through and through, the link between sustainable management of forests and the preservation of local culture is becoming more apparent.

Organizational Highlights

There were 2 staff-level regional events organized for the year, the annual Regional Staff Meeting (RSM) and the Regional Operations Meeting (ROM). The RSM, held in Siem Reap, Cambodia during the first quarter of the year, was attended by 34 participants, with 70% women. Participants who came from different NTFP-EP country offices exchanged key developments at the country level and their impact on NTFP, as well as any external development of global magnitude. There were also discussions on policy, tenure rights & governance, indigenous food & health, and operations including updates on the NTFP-EP

Membership Charter and Partnership policy. The last session on gender analysis included a field visit to the Koh Han community in Stung Treng province, where staff learned how gender mainstreaming was implemented in the community and the opportunities given to both women and men in their eco-tourism enterprise.

The ROM, organized in August 2018 in Manila, was attended by 19 staff, with 73% women, from the finance and administrative units of NTFP-EP offices in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and the regional office. Participants shared their current practices and challenges on



finance, admin and other operational matters. The result of the discussions included a decision of some offices to adopt certain practices of other country offices, and agreement as a group to observe specific dates for reporting deadlines. At the gender learning session conducted on the last day of the workshop, participants learned the various gender assessment tools they can use to integrate gender in their respective work. During the board meeting last October, the trustees discussed the need to build up new NTFP-EP members, where the future trustees can come from. It was agreed that the membership charter needs further review and scrutiny, along with the constitutional documents of NTFP-EP. Engaging a corporate lawyer will help in the organization's corporate housekeeping and in the appropriate compliance of its legal documents.

The audit committee noted improvements in the financial position of NTFP-EP based on a review of 2017 financial statements, but they encouraged continued attention to strengthening financial monitoring system and compliance. The Treasurer also recommended to place in the organizational agenda the need

to build NTFP-EP's reserves. NTFP-EP's net worth is small and yet it is doing a lot of work in helping the environment on a large scale. In reviewing the budget for 2019, the Board noted the need for and the ongoing challenges of fundraising. Better management of overhead costs is important, and consideration of the Asia office's role and support vis-a-vis country offices and regional projects.

The discussion also involved ongoing operational oversight of the Cambodia office by the regional office, its transaction cost, and considerations about strengthening country level organizational governance as a whole. Turnover of finance staff of the Cambodia office towards the end of the year was a key concern and the Asia office had to step in for financial management backstopping. The Board through the Asia management team strongly recommended that the Cambodia country office activate the network steering committee (in the absence of a country level Board) that will take charge of overseeing content and actions on the ground by ongoing projects, but as well to look strongly into strengthening financial oversight of the country program.



Communication & Knowledge Management

To celebrate its 20th anniversary, NTFP-EP revived an old slogan called “I’m anything but ordinary” to reconnect with its roots and also recognize its founding members and partners. It also marked the process to consult this as a new identity brand for NTFP-EP. In the meantime, the key slogan was confirmed as a solidarity message across the region during the 20th year milestone of NTFP-EP.

The 34th issue of Voices from the Forest was produced and was dedicated to sustainable livelihoods. NTFP-EP’s biannual newsletter showcased how the issue of sustainable community livelihoods intersects by and large with other key issues that communities are facing: peace and conflict, gender and cultural identities, and security of tenure. A dedicated issue on tenure rights and governance is underway.

Strategic communication support was provided to network events. This meant more content produced this year to support NTFP-EP’s work under its thematic programmes. Social media continued to be the major driver of traffic

to the NTFP-EP website. The streamlined correspondence of content generation for the website and the network’s social media account accounts for the 48% increase in engagement of the website, 52% increase in users, and 18.27% increase in page visits.

In its commitment to knowledge exchange and capacity building of the network, NTFP-EP sustained its e-learning platform under HIVE by launching a 2-part webinar series. The series “Operationalizing the Paris Agreement: Key issues for forests, local communities and indigenous peoples” became a learning tool for the CSO Forum on using the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples’ (LCIP) Platform within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

EXCEED Trainings



Two EXCEED trainings were held in 2018:

1. The training “Starting a community-based NTFP business: Guaranteed Sustainable and Fair” was held in Bago Region, Myanmar. The training provided guidance on understanding the socio-cultural contexts of community forest enterprises and using this crucial information to ensure that they are starting off on the right foot: grounded on fairness and sustainability.
2. Sarawak, Malaysia hosted the “Community Livelihood Assessment and Product Scanning (CLAPS) – First Steps to Community Based NTFP Enterprise Development.” The training focused on the crucial steps of establishing an enterprise: from starting an assessment of the livelihood situation and scanning potential products, to the evaluation of resources, assessing community readiness, and prioritizing and mapping key NTFPs.





Small Grants Fund

In 2018, around 30 grassroots organizations received grants to implement projects on women's empowerment and environmental justice through the Small Grants Program under the Pastor Rice Small Grants Fund (PRSGF) and the Global Alliance on Green and Gender Action (GAGGA). This is the third year of implementation of NTFP-EP's PRSGF with support from the Global Alliance on Green and Gender Action (GAGGA), which has distributed a total of 123 grants to individuals and indigenous and grassroots women's organizations. Comprising these are 72 travel grants to individuals endorsed by their respective grassroots organizations, 46 small grants and 5 strategic grants mostly given to priority countries in Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines, and other countries in Southeast Asia.

Most of these programmes and initiatives of the women fall under the theme of natural resources management. Project activities included protection and sustainable management of ecosystems, notably forests and watersheds; mainstreaming and integrating NTFP based sustainable forest and watershed management;

and participating in community development planning that espouses the kind of development that women in the community want. Interestingly, this year, NTFP-EP received and approved a number of initiatives related to the sustainability and protection of cultural integrity, including traditional knowledge, skills, performances, among others.

Women's stories of change are currently being gathered. NTFP-EP Asia has organized 3 writing workshops in the Philippines and Indonesia that enrich women's skill in expressing their feelings, perceptions and aspirations in writing, video-making and digital storytelling.

Summaries



Publications Produced

TITLE	TYPE	LOCATION
Social Forestry in ASEAN: Sustaining Collaborative and Innovative People-Centered Action	Report	Asia
Voices from the Forest Issue No. 34	Newsletter/ Magazine	Asia
Keeping the Flow	Film	Asia / Philippines
Voices from the Forest Issue No. 33	Newsletter/ Magazine	Asia
Forest in a Gist (May 2018)	e-Newsletter	Asia
Leaf Litter (October 2018)	e-Newsletter	India
Stories of the Inspiring Local Change Agents	Report	Cambodia
PaFF Phase1 Program In Review	Report	Cambodia
Forest and Beauty Calendar	Poster	Asia
Starting a community-based NTFP business: Guaranteed Sustainable and Fair Workbook (English)	Book	Asia
Starting a community-based NTFP business: Guaranteed Sustainable and Fair Workbook (Burmese)	Book	Asia
Mining the Philippines' Last Frontier	Brief	Asia
Impact stories of the ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC)	Articles	Asia

Projects Completed

Below is a list of all projects completed in 2018 with support from donors and partners who collaborated with NTFP-EP in realizing its thrust of empowering women and men in upland and indigenous communities towards forest conservation and protection.

DONOR	PROJECT NAME	COVERAGE	AMOUNT
Misereor	Empowering Indigenous Communities in Defending Their Rights to Land and Resources in South and Southeast Asia (August 2015 – Oct 2018)	Regional	E 105,000
Both ENDS	Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action: Engendering Women in Forest Livelihoods and Conservation Year 2 (March 2017 – August 2018)	Regional	E 250,000
Foundation Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres	Regional Exchange Programme for Strengthening the Voices of Women Affected by Extractives in Asia	Regional	E 71,636

Financial Highlights*

ASSETS	2018	2017
Current Assets		
Cash	P 27,544,180	P 24,451,364
Accounts and other receivables	653,292	843,941
Other current assets	3,678,161	4,621,300
Total Current Assets	P 31,875,633	P 29,916,605
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts and other payables	P 5,357,252	P 8,588,914
Advances from a related party	2,065,963	2,188,062
Total Current Liabilities	P 7,423,215	P 10,776,976
Restricted	23,164,543	18,334,318
Unrestricted	1,287,875	805,311
Total Fund Balance	P 24,452,418	P 19,139,629
	P 31,875,633	P 29,916,605

REVENUES	2018	2017
Grants	P 65,343,328	P 58,565,441
Interest income	14,100	13,811
Others	1,057,287	1,448,677
	P 66,414,715	P 60,027,929
EXPENSES		
Project costs	P 35,103,988	P 37,003,235
Other program costs	17,179,014	9,663,705
Program activities	1,699,630	3,400,037
Communications and knowledge management	716,109	734,341
Administrative costs	6,229,757	294,346
	P 60,928,498	P 51,095,664
Forex loss (gain) - net	P 173,428	P 365,948
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	P 5,312,789	P 8,566,317
2018 Spending in Euros**	1,010,382.64	821,204.36

* 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.

** Based on PHP to Euro exchange rate as at December 28, 2018.

Expenditure Distribution in Euros



* Programme Costs are broken down in the next pie chart.

Thematic Distribution of Costs in Euros



** In 2018, NTFP-EP had 3 major regional meetings and exchanges--the Regional Staff Meeting in Siem Reap, Cambodia, the 15th Regional Meeting in Miri, Malaysia, and the Regional Operations Meeting in Manila, Philippines. Other costs include communication and knowledge management, management and technical support, as well as planning and M&E activities.

NTFP-EP total spending for 2018 amounted to 1,010,382.64 Euros. Significant spending went into Tenure Rights and Governance. Program Management was a far second, followed by Admin and Finance and Sustainable Community Livelihoods. The lowest spending was from EXCEED training (less than 1%).





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