



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



non-timber
forest products -
exchange programme



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Non-Timber Forest Products -
Exchange Programme Asia

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2021 Annual Report. Quezon City,
Philippines.

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A Cambodian woman handweaves a mat made
from locally harvested palm fronds
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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFA	Asian Farmers Association	IFH	Indigenous food and health
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	IKSP	Indigenous knowledge, systems & practices
ASFCC	ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change	ILED	Indigenous-led Education
ASSERT-CBFM	Assessing, Engaging, and Recognizing Community Based Forest Management	IPLCs	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
AWG-SF	ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry	IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
ACB	ASEAN Center for Biodiversity	MRLG	Mekong Region Land Governance
CBNE	Community-based NTFP enterprises	NDC	Nationally-determined contribution
CBC	Community-based conservation	NGO	Non-government organization
CBET	Community-based ecotourism	NTFP	Non-timber forest product
CBO	Community-based organization	NTFP-EP	Non-Timber Forest Products – Exchange Programme
CBFM	Community-based forest management	PO	Peoples’ Organization
CBNE	Community-based NTFP enterprises	PGS	Participatory Guarantee System
CLAPS	Community Livelihood Appraisal and Product Scanning	PRSGF	Pastor Rice Small Grants Fund
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019	SIANI	Swedish International Agriculture Network Initiative
CSO	Civil society organization	SCAL	Sustainable climate adaptive community livelihoods
CT	Customary Tenure	SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
EXCEED	Expanding Community Enterprises and Economic Development	SSNC	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
FFF	Forest and Farm Facility	TRG	Tenure rights and governance
FPIC	Free, prior and informed consent	WEHRD	Women environmental human rights defenders
FHCM	Forest Harvest Collective Mark	WFBL	Wild foods, biodiversity and Livelihood
GAGGA	Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action	WHO	World Health Organization
GLA	Green Livelihoods Alliance		
ICCA	Territories and areas governed, managed and conserved by custodian indigenous peoples and local communities		

Message from The Chairperson



Maria Teresa Guia Padilla

Maria Teresa Guia Padilla
Chairperson
of the Board of Trustees

2021 was the first year of NTFP-EP's 10-year strategy "Linking Peoples and Forests: Rights, Health and Livelihood", with the COVID-19 pandemic as part of its operational context. Despite the continued restricted travel and field work and with meetings and communication mostly online, it was a productive year for new connections, and co-creations. All of our projects pivoted to the digital platform for the full year, including capacity building, learning and exchanges, network building and policy support work.

Following the success of the SIANI dialogue series on wild foods, biodiversity and livelihood in 2020 (and up to the early part of 2021), NTFP-EP mounted two successful week-long Forest Harvest Community-based NTFP Enterprise Forums in June and October 2021. We were pleased to work in close collaboration with strong organizations for the Forum particularly the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) – FAO, IUCN, IIED, Agricorn, the Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA) and others such as RECOFTC, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Division (FAFD) of the ASEAN Secretariat and the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA). The CBNE Forum fostered information exchange, capacity enhancement, market engagement and political action in support of Community based NTFP Enterprises (CBNEs), which are small to medium sized community collectives engaged in enterprise activities around non-timber food and non-food forest products. The Forum's programme consisted of different online sessions in different interactive formats such as round table discussions, master classes, coaching clinics, hackathon sessions and exciting contests. Participating CBNEs also presented videos and digital displays of their products and creative sales pitches. Over 800 individuals from multiple countries not only from South and Southeast Asia participated in the Forum. The Forum tackled

different aspects related to forest enterprises – from practical to technical concepts to policy matters associated with the development, growth and strengthening of sustainable CBNE models.

Apart from CBNEs, and consistent with NTFP-EP regional strategy to strengthen women and youth, NTFP-EP continued its grantmaking to support grassroots women initiatives across the region. Women in Action on Mining in Asia (WAMA) maintained their solidarity through online regular meetings and organized skill shares, including two sessions on women and water and the production of videos on grassroots women's ties and connection to water and bodies of water in their communities. This is to become a line of advocacy of WAMA – on impacts of extractives on women and water. We also launched this year a new category of grants – the quick response grants – to be able to respond to more urgent requests for legal defense, emergency response in cases of security threats or manmade or natural disasters. We are grateful to old and new donors who topped up funds to our Pastor Rice Small Grants Fund (PRSGF) for this new category of support to women environmental defenders specifically, and to grassroots and community based organizations.

We were quite pleased with the successful outcome of the approval of the ASEAN Guidelines for the Sustainable Harvest and Management for Selected NTFPs of Select NTFPs in 2020, and so we were quite optimistic to embark on a similar process in 2021. We began the consultation process for the proposed ASEAN Guidelines on the Recognition of Customary Tenure in Forested Landscapes, which is expected to be completed and endorsed by the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry by October 2022. This will be another hallmark achievement to look forward to. Alongside this is a critical inclusion and elevation of the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) concept as both

a fundamental right and safeguards for indigenous and local communities, within the framework of customary forest and land tenure recognition. In addition, our Tenure Rights and Governance program team conducted country studies on FPIC policy and practice in four Mekong countries - Lao PDR, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam. The team also conducted FPIC learning sessions in preparation next year for the development of an FPIC handbook for ASEAN stakeholders. Contributing to the security of customary tenure over lands, forests and territories of our partners in indigenous and local communities will be significant achievable milestones for NTFP-EP within the 10 year horizon.

We also proudly held our first regional forest youth camp, bringing future forest youth leaders online to meet each other, and encourage them to build links and a support network. This also marked the beginning of a new thematic programme of NTFP-EP to respond to our theory of change that it is for the future generations that we seek to contribute to save and protect the planet; at the same time to build a pool of future leaders who can inspire, take action, for example on forest and climate, indigenous peoples rights, or on biodiversity and environment issues, and for them to be strong advocates for a healthy planet and a just future.

We hope in the next year, restrictions are lifted and we can resume to meet all our partners and see each other face to face once more. In the meantime, our regional and country teams are active albeit online and in select field work across all our thematic priorities.

We thank you our partners, supporters, and allies in the movement to promote and support small-medium forest entrepreneurs and artisans, young budding forest activists, strong indigenous and local women's voices and environmental defenders, and grassroots and community based organizations to rally forward with their work and vision for healthy forests and resilient livelihood.



WHERE WE ARE



CIRCLES DENOTE PROJECT AREAS

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. People in these forests subsist from their incomes on products they produce with NTFPs such as furniture, honey, varnish, beeswax candles, and herbal medicines, with most of these sold in the urban city market. Indigenous women also benefit from NTFPs through their creation of NTFP-based products with cultural/traditional and practical uses. Such products include handwoven fabrics from abaca in the Philippines, bags made from bemban leaves in Indonesia, among others.

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 the sustainable use of forest resources and economic development for the indigenous peoples and forest communities.

Over time, the Non-Timber Forest Products – Exchange Programme 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 125 NGOs and CBOs that have been working in the field of indigenous peoples and forests for 23 years and has always taken a holistic approach in addressing issues relating to IPLCs, including women and youth, and forests. From being a catalyst, the organization now takes on the role of enabler, facilitator, and guide to its partner communities.



What we do

The NTFP-EP, as a regional network envisions that “Resilient IPLCs with the women and youth in Asia are respected stewards of healthy forests and living securely in their land for generations to come”.

NTFP-EP looks forward to 2030, envisioning a change that requires structural and cultural change, breaking down deeply ingrained culture of singular processes and way of thinking, where other knowledge and ways of doing are not trusted nor recognized, and top-led governance where communities are seen as dependents, weak and marginal, instead of people with equal rights and as competent partners; and where “resting” land and intact forests are seen as unproductive and wasted resources.

The network also provides technical support and training, assistance in strategy formulation,

documentation of best practices and success stories, mobilization of resources, advocacy for local initiatives, and lobbying efforts for enabling policies.

NTFP-EP’s work focuses on four (4) thematic areas: Community-Based Conservation, Indigenous Food and Health, Tenure Rights and Governance, and Sustainable Climate-adaptive Community Livelihoods. These work in tandem with the three (3) cross-cutting themes of Gender-Equal Community Agency and Voice, Culture & IKSP, and Youth Engagement & Empowerment.



About the Report

The 2021 Annual Report is the first year report against the 10-year Linking Peoples and Forest Regional Strategy 2021-2030 of the NTFP-EP in Asia towards Rights, Health and Livelihoods.

NTFP-EP's vision is to see "resilient indigenous peoples and local communities with women and youth in Asia who are respected stewards of healthy forests and who are living securely in their land for generations to come."

NTFP-EP's annual report from 2021 and each year thereafter is intended to provide a yearly synopsis of achievements across the four pathways that reinforce each other; we expect these ripples of results to accumulate and build up over time into meaningful and long-term impacts. These accounts shall be

shared from across countries where NTFP-EP works—Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam—and across the thematic programs for which NTFP-EP dedicates its resources.

The report shall take into account how NTFP-EP influences and effects changes along these four pathways where:

First, communities including women and youth have enhanced voice and agency, and secured land tenure and livelihoods. NTFP-EP endeavors to improve or enhance the condition of the communities, to strengthen their agency, to amplify their visibility, voice and participation, and to provide them with support in securing their land tenure, food security,

and livelihoods from their territories. We take account of how communities in the different countries, strengthen community resilience in order to face the accelerating and multiple threats that come their way, and empower them to proactively secure and protect their rights, tenure and culture for generations to come. The involvement of women and youth are highlighted for the key roles that they play in securing their communities' resilience.

Second, community-based forest conservation has demonstrated and recognized impacts in keeping IPLC-managed forests intact. NTFP-EP focuses on safeguarding the condition of the forests and natural resources by facilitating the practice and recognition of community-based governance and conservation. The annual report captures community and partners' actions to influence policies, cooperation among stakeholders, and accounts of good practice in traditional ecological knowledge as well as new techniques for community-based sustainable resource management and monitoring of forest health.

Third, culture and indigenous knowledge are sustained by communities and are respected by all stakeholders in policies and practice. The report captures stories of inter-generational transfer of culture and enhancing the understanding and respect of their rights, indigenous knowledge, systems and practices (IKSPs) and traditional ecological knowledge by other stakeholders. The report also captures community contributions to sustainable forest management, sustainable development and climate action.

Fourth, gender equality and women's rights are respected and women are engaged as equal partners by communities and stakeholders. The report accounts for how NTFP-EP enhances the capacity of women and creates the space for them to be recognized as equal actors in their communities and in society in general; in both private and public spheres. The report provides qualitative accounts of women's roles and contributions to the valorization and transmission of traditional knowledge and culture; and in livelihoods and sustainable resource management and conservation.

The annual report also highlights achievements and significant stories of change within each of the thematic programs of NTFP-EP:

- Community-based Conservation
- Indigenous Food and Health
- Sustainable Climate-Adaptive Community Livelihood
- Tenure Rights and Governance
- Youth Engagement and Empowerment

and the cross-cutting themes of:

- Gender-equal, Community Agency and Voice
- Culture and Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practice.

The report also features organizational highlights as part of the strategy for organizational strengthening, communications and knowledge management, and a summary of the finances of the organization for the year 2021.

Finally, the Pastor Rice Small Grant Fund accessed by multiple partners and the organization's financial highlights are also included in the report.

Regional Context

While the pandemic continued to spread and movement continued to be restricted, the year was layered with milestones at regional and global levels with relevance to NTFP-EP's program context.

COVID-19 vaccines were deployed throughout the region though not as quickly as hoped. During the middle of the year, a second wave of COVID-19 hit the region triggered by the Delta variant and the movement of populations that coincided with the resumption of economic activities and ease of lockdowns. The economic impact in terms of jobs lost and businesses shutting down as a result of the pandemic affected many industries such as tourism including NTFP-EP's network of community based small-medium forest enterprises. As a response, NTFP-EP pivoted to digital platforms and virtual fora through the Forest Harvest Community-Based NTFP Enterprises (CBNE)

Forum in order to support its numerous community-based enterprise partners to innovate during the pandemic, market community products online, share best coping practices and to learn from mentors and peers. The Forum provided a new networking platform for NTFP-EP's CBNE partners, with opportunities for dialogue with policy actors, for market support and knowledge exchange,

In the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) report of 2021, a reversal in progress was seen, exacerbated by the pandemic: from a global health crisis to a sustainable development crisis with significant lags in health and nutrition, access to education, food, and employment. As a matter of urgency, a Peoples Food Systems Summit was called in September 2021 preceded by numerous commissioned and independent multistakeholder dialogues. Action Tracks were created as spaces to formulate what were called

“game-changing” solutions to transform local to global food systems. The NTFP-EP network contributed a timely outlook of inclusive food systems in Asia to 2030 during the virtual multistakeholder dialogue in March called Linking Wild Foods, Biodiversity and Livelihoods.

NTFP-EP’s 2030 Outlook included the following principles, elements and recommendations:

- Revive and strengthen traditional food systems to sustain community livelihoods.
- Provide support for capacity building and enhancement of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), including entrepreneurial skills development.
- Build up local economies.
- Uphold community consensus and respect community’s aspirations about their development.
- Work towards more inclusivity; Let women and youth lead the change and solutions that will affect them.
- Promote inter-generational learning and increase youth interest in wild foods.
- Secure land tenure rights so as to secure biodiversity and indigenous food systems.
- Forge alliances among stakeholders: government, academe and communities.
- Create spaces for traditional knowledge about aspects of forests and indigenous foods and food systems to be passed on.
- Create alternative discourses and narratives that make wild food themes visible.
- Adopt a holistic approach to policy work on sustainable and inclusive food systems.
- Utilize the wild foods network to bridge communities, policy makers and the private sector.
- Safeguard IPLC’s sovereignty and exercise caution on how wild foods are promoted; understand the risk of too much promotion and hype.
- Explore linkages between wild foods, health, and well-being; put nutrition back in food systems and prioritize the protection of IPLCs right to food, health and environment.
- Mainstream biodiversity in the agriculture and food sector.

The world also acknowledged a biodiversity and climate crisis amidst the pandemic and the urgency needed to transform the global food system; the loss of forests and biodiversity continued unabated and greenhouse gas emissions still continued to rise. This twin crisis of climate change and biodiversity loss framed

the IUCN World Conservation Congress in September, where priority and ambitious actions were called to reverse and halt biodiversity loss, accelerate nature-based solutions for climate and biodiversity, give due attention to environmental impacts of economic recovery packages, and uphold human rights to access food, health, water and a safe and healthy environment.

The NTFP-EP network brought the intersectionality of indigenous youth and women’s voices in these issues to the Congress. For the first time, albeit virtually, NTFP-EP joined in its capacity as IUCN member. Customary tenure rights and recognition of indigenous peoples’ outsize role in biodiversity conservation were the main calls including the security and protection of indigenous peoples and women as environmental defenders.

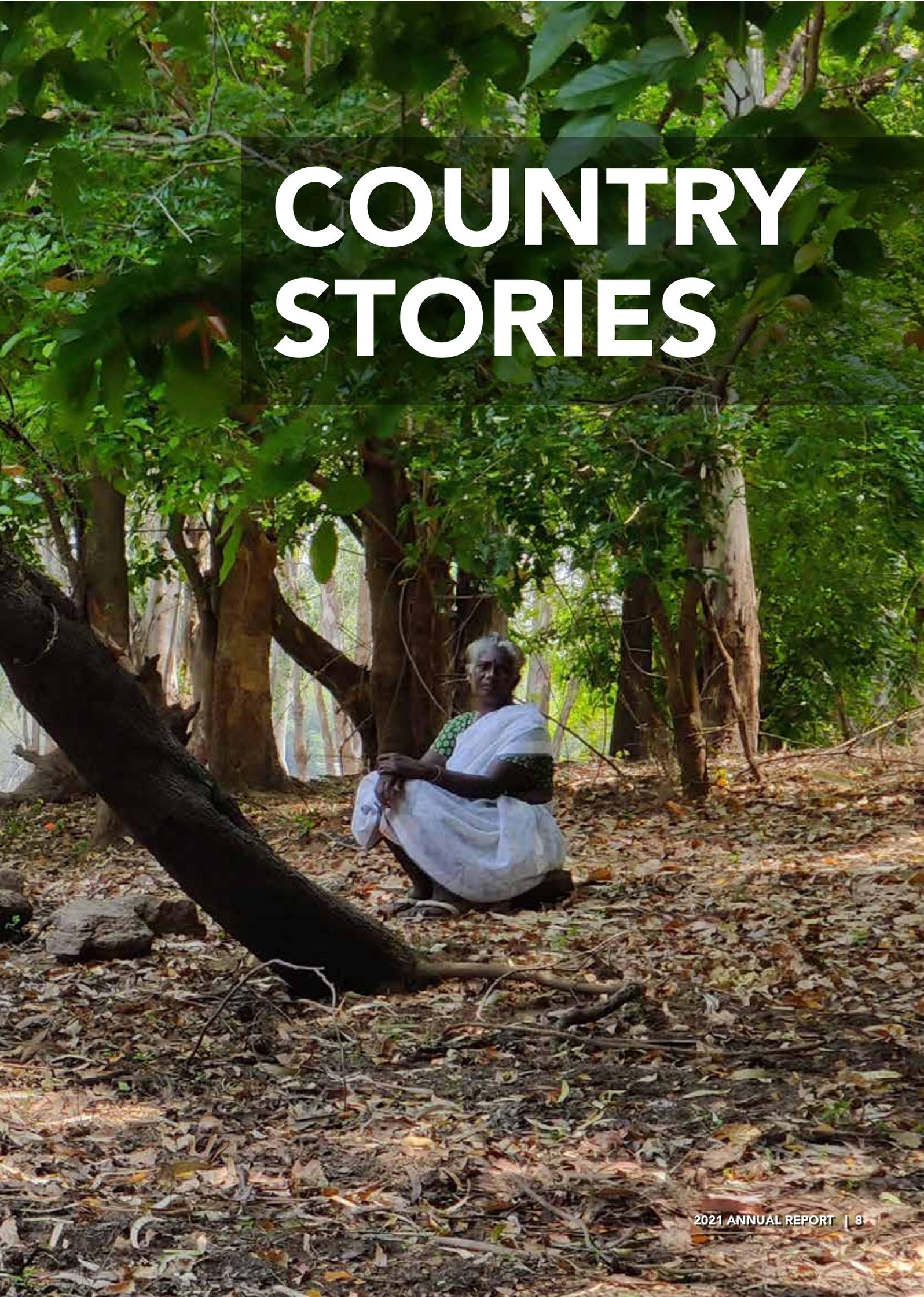
Towards the end of 2021, the UN Climate Change Conference was also a major event. The important Glasgow Climate Pact was delivered at the COP 26 including the Global Forest Finance Pledge in the amount of US\$12 billion towards the protection, restoration and sustainable management of forests. Direct access of indigenous peoples to this forest finance pledge among others will become an important call of NTFP-EP’s network partner – the Southeast Asia ICCA Consortium.

While the pandemic was raging and global discussions were ongoing about food, biodiversity and climate; conflict and security issues were also raging elsewhere. In Myanmar, a military coup took place in February unleashing a subsequent wave of violence and the suppression of civil society and democracy. An ICCA Consortium member – the Karen community of the Salween Peace Park - made a call to denounce the military and their violence and attacks on indigenous peoples. With resistance growing, the Civil Disobedience Movement still holds strong and remains the peaceful expression of community and civilian resistance in Myanmar. In solidarity with partners, NTFP-EP currently takes a no government engagement stance in the case of Myanmar.

Going into 2022, the world and our region still reads crisis and conflict for people and our planet. In response, NTFP-EP focuses on strengthening capacity and connectivity; building resilience and employing security and sustainability strategies.



COUNTRY STORIES





CAMBODIA

20 multi-stakeholder platforms used for advocacy

3 species documented

2,558 members of CBNEs

\$47,552 annual sales from enterprises

26 communities with secured permits

51,427 hectares under community management

NTFP-EP Cambodia worked closely with the provincial department of agriculture forestry and fisheries, especially with forestry administration and local authorities, to provide technical support in the establishment of six wild honey collection groups consisting of 225 households (including 47 women as heads of households) in Kratie, Stung Treng and Preah Vihear provinces. All members of the wild honey collection groups are the people who live in and near the community forests who benefit from the NTFPs and are actively involved in natural resource management.

The communities are happy with their wild honey products that have since become one of the primary sources of income apart from farming and livestock. From January to December, the total income from sales of wild honey is 35,277.55 USD. In order to sustain the natural resource management and conservation, the community contributed 634.49 USD for community forestry, patrolling and conservation. These 12 wild honey collection groups had been trained on the Sustainable Harvesting Protocol and have applied the Participatory Guarantee System.

NTFP-EP Cambodia also worked closely with local authorities such as the provincial departments on ecotourism, environment, agriculture, forestry and fisheries as well as supported the provincial governor and Ministry of Tourism to establish five Community-Based Ecotourism (CBET) sites along the upper Mekong River with the involvement of 79 households including 30 women heads of households. The five CBETs are: Koh Phdao, Koh Samseb in Kratie province, Samros Koh Han, Borie O'svay and Phnum Chumrok Stat in Stung Treng province. The community-based ecotourism sites earn 7,479.23 USD and contribute some of those income back to natural resource management.

NTFP-EP Cambodia provided technical support to establish two Traing processing groups consisting of 19 households, including one women head of household, in Chheb district, Preah Vihear province. The members of these processing groups are the most active in patrolling the forest and also contributing back to forest conservation and regeneration. They train to process products such as chopsticks, spoons, frying spoons, walking sticks, swords and spears. By selling their products, they have



earned up to 4,795.25 USD, while contributing 73.13 USD towards community forestry for patrolling and conservation.

With the Provincial Department of Ecotourism in both Kratie and Stung Treng and with strong support from the deputy provincial governor and Ministry of Ecotourism, NTFP-EP Cambodia has developed the Community-Based Ecotourism Voluntary Guideline for the upper Mekong River. The CBET voluntary guideline provides worthwhile information for community facilitators and contributes to the overall CBET policy. In addition, NTFP-EP has also developed three CBET five-year masterplans for the areas of Samros Koh Han, Borie O'svay in Stung Treng province and Koh Samseb in Sambo district, Kratie province.

The right selection of a CBE management committee is the most important aspect for sustainable CBE development. The people who have talent and concept of business are likely to take risks to invest for profit, and could collect shares from members to invest in the business operations.

NTFP-EP Cambodia still continues to support the community-based enterprises including existing community-based ecotourism projects and may be able to expand to more project sites depending on available funding. The other commitment for NTFP-EP Cambodia is to maintain good relationships and strong collaboration with government partners to support local communities toward contributing to the Royal Government of Cambodia's rectangular strategy.

Social media has played an important role in sharing the impacts of the Partnership for Forestry and Fisheries program beyond its target areas. For example, the Facebook page of Koh Samseb CBET received more than 10,000 likes, helping to disseminate information about CBET and raising awareness beyond the three communities in the area.



INDIA

14 network members across the country

9 states with project areas

1,162 villages supported

1,197 community forest rights claims submitted

124,309 direct beneficiaries

The COP26 held in Glasgow (Oct-Nov 21) was a major event that saw India bargaining hard for its rights to technology (and funds) before it begins to scale down in carbon emissions. Much of these promises and proposals have been put aside now with an increase in coal block allotments. In some way or the other these global or international events have influenced very local matters within India. The network has worked through this period against this rather grim backdrop.

During the pandemic, Keystone Foundation conducted a three-day workshop for the NTFP-EP partners on climate change. It included the discussions on the science of climate change, especially in the context of India and challenges in the field of climate change. The main purpose of the workshop was to introduce the topic of climate change and understand ways to integrate the climate actions in the works carried on by NTFP-EP partners.

This was followed by a three-day training on Barefoot Ecology with 30 partners participating at the event. Though the concept of Barefoot Ecology is not new to the partners, tailoring

and executing the method according to specific needs, was the focus of the workshop. Anita Varghese, Bhavya George and Asish M from Biodiversity Conservation Programme led the sessions. Both the workshops included gender and the participation of women in the ecological monitoring. Keystone Foundation's work on community-based mapping and awareness creation on human wildlife interactions is ongoing. This includes many stakeholders and lots of capacity building on rescue and response and can be the way forward for future trainings in the NTFP-EP network.

In Tamil Nadu, 50 women received training from Seeds Trust in value addition and marketing of NTFPs. The training was conducted over 2 days. The participants were also trained on sustainable and safe collection and value addition of NTFPs. The trained women were provided with tool kits for value addition; they now earn 50% more compared to the income before value addition.

Also, 25 women were trained on bee keeping over 2 days; this included honey bee rearing, safe collection of honey, honey processing, packing and marketing. The women were all provided with honey bee boxes and their earnings have increased by Rs.1000/- per month; as honey is produced it is expected that their incomes too will increase.

In Devla, the Samiti organized an NTFP value addition training. There, 25 community leaders were trained in value addition of custard apple, amla, honey and jamun. Support for this work was received from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Srujan India. Honey collectors were helped by the Samiti in gathering honey from their area and 7000 kg was procured and sold by the tribal people.

In the Udaipur region temperatures went up to 39 degree Celsius in March, which is quite unusual. According to the records of the Indian



Meteorological Department this was the hottest March in 120 years. Such heat waves were reported from many parts of the country. Many forest areas caught fire leading to widespread devastation of vegetation and wild life. Local communities and Forest Protection Committees (FPCs) played a critical role in mitigating these fires.

The NTFP Forum solicited information from its partners about specific observations of NTFPs that they work with in their regions. Such information (of flowering, fruiting, leaf-fall) of particular species have been accumulated and this data will be used for analysis in the coming years.

In order to promote the health and well-being of the tribal communities, PRERAK encouraged the people to know the importance of wild foods, stressing on their nutritional values. Wild food festivals were organized in 13 villages in

10 districts where 44 varieties of foods were displayed, including tubers, fruit, seeds, pulses, millets, etc. Over some years people have been more aware and have been including more of wild tubers and greens in their diets.

The major challenge in the Community Forestry Rights advocacy has been the lukewarm response of the implementing structure of the state. The state Forest Department has never been cooperative and is constantly creating hurdles in the process of realization of the community forest rights.



INDONESIA

14 indigenous communities supported

23 forest areas under community management

18 NTFPs used for enterprises

27 operational CBNES

14,101 hectares of forest area used for enterprises

57 partner organizations in the country

In 2021, NTFP-EP Indonesia worked and focused on the themes of Sustainable Climate Adaptive Community Livelihoods, Community Based Conservation, and Indigenous Food and Health. The specific areas we worked on are Meranti Island District, Province of Riau; Kapuas Hulu District, Province of West Kalimantan; Poso District, Sigi District, Province of Central Sulawesi; and Katingan and Kapuas District, Central Kalimantan.

NTFP-EP Indonesia worked with at least 20 communities in each area or province. A baseline study for the Green Livelihoods Alliance has been conducted in the Sulawesi landscape. Four villages in two districts were actively involved in this study. Information was gathered on socio, economic, culture, livelihoods, village spatial planning, and NTFP commodities with our local partners consortia in Palu.

In Meranti Island District and Kapuas Hulu District, we focused on sharing our knowledge

on Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) to optimize sago, illipe nuts, and forest honey products. The long-term initiative of Sustainable Rattan (ROLES) in central Kalimantan gathered strength in the collaboration with a Dutch Company.

In the context of social forestry, we are helping the communities to strengthen their capacity on managing the area after they acquire permits. The village forest management unit of Sungai Tohor villages receive funds for their charcoal briquette startup as part of an alternative income scheme. The Moa Village in Central Sulawesi was granted customary forest recognition by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

Next year, we will strengthen our mission to support the communities near the forest, and collaborate with the government, local partners, and others.





MALAYSIA

7 communities partnered with

35 hectares of forests being rehabilitated

76 Penan members of CBNEs

6 multi-stakeholder platforms used for advocacy

NTFP-EP Malaysia works to empower forest-dependent communities via community conservation and resource management; indigenous foods and health; tenure rights and good governance; and sustainable community livelihood development.

NTFP-EP Malaysia was able to continue our work with the Penan community of Long Jaik, Ulu Baram with support from UNDP's GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP), albeit intermittently during the 2021 Movement Control Order lockdown. Conservation areas were identified by the villagers and 650 wild sago seedlings were planted in the area. With assistance from a nursery in Kuching, we added 300 native shorea macrophylla tree seedlings for reforestation into the community. We also began discussions and have got community buy-in to develop a native tree nursery in the village.

In 2021, Malaysia joined the Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) second phase together with three local partners - Sarawak Dayak Iban Association (SADIA), SAVE Rivers, and PACOS Trust. NTFP EP focused its project work primarily on the Belaga and Apoh-Tutoh regions of Sarawak. Here NTFP-EP will undertake reforestation and conservation along with securing food security in pursuit of reversing global climate change. SADIA is focused on developing an indigenous people's community-

led sustainable tourism project in the Simunjan region of Sarawak. SAVE Rivers is working with numerous IPLCs to secure the Upper Baram region of Sarawak as a social forestry and conservation area. And PACOS Trust is the gender and training lead group for all GLA Malaysia groups (and their IPLCs) working to enhance our lobbying and advocacy, training, and capacity-building skills.

NTFP-EP Malaysia's landscape, Long Meraan, like most villages in Malaysia imposed a "no outsiders" policy during the pandemic. Staff were able to have some consultation and identified project participants but had to do so while standing outside the village road gate. In this way, we organized an IPLC Youth group and women group to begin conservation, rehabilitation, and farming activities (vegetable garden). However, we were unable to undertake any subsequent follow-up.

Our project work situation deteriorated in May 2021 when the only bridge linking Long Meraan across the Tutoh river was washed away. Unusually heavy rainfall caused by climate change and deforestation led to massive floods. Logging debris clogged the bridge and the collective weight of the flood brought it down. This bridge collapse meant that we were hampered from visiting our Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) project site of Long Selulong and our GLA project site of Long Meraan after May 2021.

Nonetheless, NTFP-EP Malaysia managed to conduct a villager training workshop on Bud Grafting and Marcotting Techniques in late 2021 in Long Selulong. As all the participants were illiterate, the training was conducted using drawings, demonstrations, and practical training. The purpose of the training was to lessen the community's dependence on buying expensive fruit seedlings from the city and to equip the 19 participants with the knowledge to identify which fruit trees from their forests can be grafted. The aim remains to eventually undertake reforestation



and conservation while producing quality fruit in the future.

In April 2021, our GLA partner, SAVE Rivers was sued by a logging company for defamation over certification. SAVE Rivers regards this suit as a Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation (SLAPP) and is actively campaigning to overturn this legal suit. SAVE Rivers also actively participated in developing the People's Manifesto that will be presented to the Malaysian parliament in 2022. SAVE Rivers has lobbied for the inclusion of transparency and accountability measures in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Social Impact Assessment (SIA), and Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in the People's Manifesto.

SADIA set up a Local Project Management Committee (LPMC) of the Bukit Bediri and Stika Forest Reserve in Simunjan District in August 2021 to jointly manage their eco-tourism project. The Committee invited the Inland Fisheries Division under the Department of Agriculture Sarawak Fisheries Department to conduct water testing for the possibility of fish rearing at Bukit Sandong Mit River and Dadak River near

Kampung Sungai Ijok. The Sarawak Forestry Corporation was also invited to assist SADIA on reforestation and conservation. SADIA also conducted Community Mapping training for their volunteers, especially those involved directly with the project. To close the year 2021, SADIA began building a temporary shelter at Bukit Sadong Mit.

Towards the end of 2021, GLA partners in Malaysia identified their level of understanding of gender awareness in their respective organizations. All partners in Malaysia, given their small organizational size, presently do not have a gender committee or anti-sexual harassment policy. Consequently, we are working towards establishing formal mechanisms to ensure gender equality in all GLA Malaysia partner organisations led by the technical partner – PACOS Trust.

NTFP-EP Malaysia also continued to work closely with and in support of the Sabah Social Forestry (SaSOF) Network to advance the social forestry research in Sabah and to develop social forestry policy nationwide.



PHILIPPINES

572,297 hectares under community management supported

192 hectares of forest under rehabilitation

17 species conserved or restored

34 community-based enterprises sustained

€106,673 total sales generated from enterprises

NTFP-EP Philippines, in 2021, continued its work towards empowered indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) sustainably governing and managing forest landscapes through sustainable livelihoods, favorable policies and programs, enhanced, transmitted culture, and the active participation of women and youth. It continued to strengthen indigenous youth organizations as second-liners within indigenous communities. In Palawan, two Pala'wan and Tagbanua youth organizations were formed, and with another youth organization were registered and accredited by their respective local governments. In Northern Mindanao, two Higaunon youth organizations were also formally organized. In the midst of shifting lockdowns due to COVID-19, NTFP-EP continued its online capacity building and learning exchanges: on the Green Bills (including the indigenous community conserved area or ICCA Bill), intangible cultural heritage, and climate change, among others, with its IP youth partners. A National IP Youth core group was also selected, with representatives from 12 provinces.

NTFP-EP Philippines continued its work to reduce gender inequalities by strengthening women-led enterprises and women's role in resource management and decision-making

processes. It continued organizing women's groups in 2021, five of which were registered and accredited by local governments in Palawan. In Southern Sierra Madre, the Kababaihang Dumagat ng Sierra Madre (K-Gat) women's federation continued strengthening its ranks. While the chilling effect of the Anti-Terrorism Law persisted, K-Gat set up a dialogue with the Philippine Army to ease threats of red-tagging and intimidation in the area.

President Duterte also issued Executive Order 130 in 2021, lifting the nine-year ban on new mineral agreements in the guise of economic recovery. Palawan IPLCs and CSOs intensified the campaign to Save Palawan Forests - from large-scale mining – with barangay-level information campaigns, press conferences, motorcades and petitions. In Bukidnon, a Higaunon group also issued a resolution opposing a government-led small-scale mining site that will damage their forests and sacred grounds.

Resistance against the Kaliwa Dam construction in the Sierra Madre continued. The STOP Kaliwa Dam network, with IPLCs, and an urban coalition filed legal cases in 2021, protesting the free, prior, informed consent process, and the illegal construction of the dam access road. In Palawan, NTFP-EP Philippines intensified its support for the ONE Palawan campaign – winning, and rejecting the Palawan split. It also continued advocating for the ICCA Bill and the Green Bills with the Green Bills Network, with a series of online forums and lobbying in Congress. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) also issued new guidelines on resins, including almaciga resin, an important source of livelihood for Palawan and Sierra Madre IPLCs.

NTFP-EP Philippines continued its practice of reforestation—community-based forest restoration coupled with NTFP-based livelihood development. In 2021, with partner IPLCs in Aklan, Rizal, Quezon, Bukidnon, and Misamis



Oriental, it facilitated community-led wildling collection, established community nurseries, and outplanted a total of 47,285 native and fruit-bearing trees (11,512 native trees in Sierra Madre, 10,000 native trees and 10,000 abaca suckers in Aklan, and 15,773 native trees in Northern Mindanao) across 80 hectares within their ancestral domains. In Palawan, IPLCs, women and youth have led and expanded their reforestation initiatives within their ICCA. Higaunon women and youth also participated in a carbon and biodiversity study within their ICCA, in partnership with Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology.

NTFP-EP Philippines continued to monitor and support 28 Schools of Living Tradition (SLTs) in indigenous and Moro communities across the country. It joined the Terra Madre Salone del Gusto slow food festival in Italy, co-organized three online events, where IPLCs, especially women and youth, promoted traditional and

indigenous practices around food, indigenous ways of coping with COVID-19, and its impact on biodiversity.

Pandemic restrictions and shifts in product demand continued to hamper community based NTFP enterprises (CBNEs) in 2021. CBNEs explored new markets for its almaciga resin, honey, rattan, naturally-dyed products, fruit jams and wines, product development (virgin coconut oil), and new business to business partnerships for citronella oil products. CBNEs ventured into digital marketing through Facebook, and with CustomMade Crafts Center, are now on the e-commerce platform Lazada.

NTFP-EP Philippines also launched a new online space for IPLCs to share stories, advocacies, and culture – in a monthly Facebook show, Ugnayan: Komunidad+Kalikasan



VIETNAM

120 communities supported

11 indigenous peoples groups

140 hectares of forest under community conservation

15 community-based enterprises sustained

800 individuals benefited
(430 women, 370 men)

\$70,000 annual sales generated

NTFP-EP Vietnam, hosted by the Southern Institute of Ecology, developed substantially in the last year to become a reliable partner of community-based organizations, CSO networks and the local government on natural resource management and livelihood development for ethnic groups living in protected areas in Vietnam.

NTFP-EP Vietnam focused on forging linkages with communities, supporting CBNEs, promoting NTFP protocols and standards, collecting local knowledge, planting indigenous trees, developing nurseries, and promoting women & youth initiatives.

Supported by NTFP-EP Vietnam, 125 IPLCs living in 15 provinces both learned from experts and shared their local knowledge on conservation as well as local initiatives and experiences in development through different online platforms such as Zalo, Facebook, and Fanpage. Furthermore, it consolidated and developed the

NTFP network at different levels especially at the grassroots level (women and youth), with the aim to form a strong NTFP network with improved capacity and demonstrating the important role of women and youth in 2021. Some thematic topics were implemented such as digital marketing (September – November, 2021), CBNE forums, the hackathon, CLAPS, the Parara Festival 2021, and fairtrade practices in the local, regional and global levels. As a result of these events, IPLCs (especially women and youth) were able to increase their trading capacity and income generation.

Around 25 CBNEs along 12 provinces were supported by the Community Marketing & Technical Support Group (CSG). In the case of four CBNEs, youth and womens group in the Dung K'No community (representatives of 37 households) applied ASEAN protocol on the sustainable honey harvest that reduced the risk of forest fire (Environmental sustainability). They developed a CBNE product (brand name Po Kao) in which they contributed the land, equipment, and building funded by GLA partners and local NGOs (Technological sustainability). The CBNE created a 20% increase in bee hunters' income and was officially recognized by local authorities (Financial sustainability). The IPLCs will use CBNE's benefit to preserve their traditional culture and enhance capacity for IPLC as mentioned in IPLC's plan (Social sustainability).

On the other hand, one data of 405 species of NTFPs in these protected areas have already been collected with native knowledge on usage, processing, harvesting sustainably in daily life as well as in important cultural events, and festivals. The target group and local communities continuously choose some priority species to develop their livelihood (ex. mushroom, pine tree (decorative), and shampoo (herb-based) in (Bidoup-Nui Ba NP (Lam Dong); bamboo shoot in Takou NR (Binh Thuan); Velvet tamarind in Nui



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Chua NP (Ninh Thuan); and honey in An Toan NR (Binh Dinh). Moreover, indigenous knowledge is well conserved and promoted through an online database with documentation being shared to CBNEs.

Lastly, improved preparation and implementation of community forest management protocols by using lessons from actual community forest management (CFM) are learned for better protocols and practicing a suitable CFM protocol. With the partners' collaboration, 70 IPLCs including 42 women and youth representatives have joined 79 sessions with different themes and focused on decisions regarding customs and cultural rights on natural resource management.

Although the directive on quarantine and social distancing in Covid 19 period limited access to the local communities including face-to-

face, exchange learning, and field trips in 2021, the partners gave potential strategies and intervened immediately to encourage IPLCs as well as different stakeholders to participate and follow the project by using online platforms (Zalo group, Zoom, forums, and Facebook), This allowed all knowledge and gathered information about the project to be disseminated, not only to members but also in e-commerce platforms (Shopee, Tiki) for local communities that sell their products online. NTFP-EP Vietnam was ably supported by the grassroots and local networks in project implementation, advocacy, capacity, and facilitation. We greatly appreciate the strong collaboration with partners, IPLCs, and network colleagues from the local to the international level.





THEMATIC HIGHLIGHTS



Developing youth leaders in Vietnam through NTFP conservation work

As part of NTFP-EP Asia's regional work on NTFP rehabilitation and conservation, we supported NTFP-EP Vietnam in their project "Conserving Biodiversity and Improving Livelihood of Ethnic Minorities in Protected Areas through the NTFP Exchange Program in Vietnam".

Before the project activity of Training of Trainers (TOT) in 2020, the young female leaders from the target native communities chosen have never been involved in any capacity building activities related to the NTFP resources in their native communities. This training workshop was the first ever to help them build the necessary capacity to deal with such issues. Through the activity, the role of the female members of the native communities has been recognized.

Post-training, the participants were able to establish amongst themselves a network to practice the learned knowledge and skills acquired in the TOT training.

These young leaders were the ones who led data collection, and along the way, were able to train more members from their respective communities in the process. These collected data were then integrated in a database. The data do not only consist of basic information on the species but also important cultural values like how they are processed and used traditionally by the native communities.

They also took the lead role in NTFPs and determining the most potential ones, and proposed possible models of income-improvement and cultivation of NTFPs specifically suitable for their own community. With knowledge and confidence gained from the TOT, they were able to come up with some models for bamboo shoot, velvet tamarind, honey, essential oil, ginseng and herbs. They have even delivered some batches of NTFPs for distribution to other provinces in Vietnam (mainly Ho Chi Minh City and Ha Noi). They now know how to recognize the challenges of one model and potential of another, and thus, suggest adjustments, such as shifting from one species of bamboo shoot to another.

Seeing the youth in action for conservation and NTFP-based livelihoods was definitely a major achievement in the exchange programme in Vietnam! We hope to engage more youth in taking interest in forests and linking science and traditional knowledge in conservation work.

Community-based Conservation

NTFP-EP's regional work on community-based conservation was supported by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) project called "Linking People and Forests: Empowering indigenous and forest-based communities to govern and conserve their customary forest landscapes and build sustainable livelihoods". The project ran from 2017-2020 and culminated in 2021 through bridge-funding support. While the pandemic still posed challenges in terms of implementation of activities, NTFP-EP put in its best effort to adapt and ensure project implementation.

In terms of regional work, key highlights include:

- Crafting the new 10-year strategic direction of NTFP-EP for 2021-2030
- Follow-up discussions and awareness raising on the ASEAN-approved guidelines on sustainable harvest protocols and resource management guidelines for key NTFPs (bamboo, fruits, honey, rattan, resins), including an expansion of the discussion to include medicinal plants and Apis cerana honey
- Multi-stakeholder follow-up meetings and sessions on conservation and livelihoods, through the platform of the CBNE forum
- Support to expert consultations, meetings and thematic webinars, such as in the CBNE Forum and in the upcoming webinars of the Philippine ICCA Consortium, BUKLURAN

- Production of training materials and videos on inclusive conservation and participatory resource monitoring

Highlights of country-specific actions in 2021 were:

- Cambodia – Fieldwork and research on indigenous food and conservation
- India - Development and expansion of nurseries, production of communications materials such as posters and manuals; product development and trials for NTFP livelihoods; workshops on wild foods and conservation; research and training on stingless bees and testing of honey for characterization.
- Indonesia – PGS Rattan hybrid audit carried out in partnership with private sector; PARARA hybrid-format festival held in December, featuring topics on Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) and Fair Trade
- Malaysia - Nurseries were established in Sarawak for the Penan communities. Research; Evaluation work is on-going
- Philippines – ICCA in Brooke's Point, Palawan is supported in its community meetings, reforestation work and documentation. Sustainable management plans for important resources such as honey and almaciga are being updated and developed.
- Vietnam - a project on conserving biodiversity and livelihoods is supported, with special focus

on women and youth. Data collection on local knowledge on NTFP usage and development is undertaken. Protocols for honey were also established.

Support for our programme is also received from WWF Sweden for the project “Strengthening Indigenous Peoples’ Participation towards Inclusive and Culturally Sensitive Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development” under WWF’s Voices for Diversity programme. This project started in January 2021 and will conclude by December 2022.

The project works along 4 themes – ICCA membership mobilization and strengthening, documenting, defending and sustaining territories of life. NTFP-EP plays the role of the secretariat for ICCA Southeast Asia. Amy Maling, who is a member of NTFP-EP, is ICCA Southeast Asia’s Regional Coordinator.

Highlights for the year include:

- The crafting of the ICCA SEA Theory of Change and strategy, the regular meetings of the Regional Council, and the 3rd virtual regional assembly held last October 6-8, which included webinars on the different themes
- Production of a regional publication and video on Celebrating Territories of Life in Southeast Asia

Apart from regional activities, NTFP-EP has also been actively participating in the ICCA Consortium Global Secretariat’s internal team meetings, reflection events and the ICCA General Assembly, including light moments such as social events. We also provide support to the ICCA Youth for Territories of Life.

In terms of funding, NTFP-EP has submitted proposals to a funder who wishes to remain anonymous to support ICCAs in Southeast Asia. Meanwhile, a proposal was also crafted for SSNC for the next project called Strong Stewards and Secure Forests for a Sustainable Future which is set to run from 2022-2026.

Community-based conservation, apart from being one of the organization’s thematic programmes, is also its own distinct pathway in the new strategy. The focus is on strengthening community practice and building evidence that community-based conservation matters and that IPLC-WY are important in ensuring healthy forests for generations to come.





Women, wild foods and livelihoods in India

The adivasi women we work with in India are fond of saying that “one does not return empty-handed from the forest”. For centuries indeed, the forest has always provided for the needs of indigenous peoples and local communities. Through the project, great support was channeled to adivasi women work on indigenous food, health and livelihoods.

Wild foods (e.g. amla, honey), as well as farm products (e.g. coffee, pepper, chillies) were used for value-addition and sold at the Palni Hills Conservation Council Centre at Genguvarpatty and Kodaikanal. The PHCC is part of the NTFP-EP India network. The pandemic affected momentum for this, although as restrictions ease, the women’s group are now geared for a small expansion after the lull in all activity due to the lockdowns. Women’s agency and voices are increased and developed as they lead in livelihoods development. Peer learning and mentoring also happen in these spaces. Mentors/good practitioners in the group are able to share their knowledge on plant use, including correct dosage and preparations. The medicinal plant nursery may also contribute to the income in the long run. This enterprise is essentially run by the women at the PHCC centre.

They are empowered and able to enjoy the space provided to them to explore livelihood models and create handicrafts and other value-added products from NTFPs.

A change observed was on how adivasi CBNE women’s groups have increased confidence in articulating their recommendations. Such recommendations are on product development marketing, and on factoring in climate change for NTFP livelihoods. This was based on personal observation that forest honey quantity is not constant, perhaps due to climate change. There is demand for good honey but customers cannot be assured of supply.

Indigenous Food and Health

Last 2021 saw the culmination of the Wild Foods, Biodiversity and Livelihoods Network expert group project supported by the Swedish International Agriculture Network Initiative (SIANI). All NTFP-EP country offices are dialogue partners in the expert group and some of our board of trustees and NTFP-EP members were also involved. Apart from individual experts from various sectors, we also linked up with the CSO Forum in ASEAN, the Southeast Asia ICCA Consortium, and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.

A week-long virtual forum with the theme of crafting an outlook to 2030 on the theme of wild and indigenous foods was held from March 8-12, 2021. The forum garnered participation from over 300 participants. In a way, the event marked the start of NTFP-EP's foray into organizing virtual forums that were relatively of scale. The WFBL forum featured 2 sessions per day – one side event and one main session - with interpretation services provided for selected languages and sessions.

Of note were collaborations with Slow Food partner communities, PASD Thailand, ICCA Youth in Southeast Asia, and the CSO Forum, among many others. We were also able to invite keynote speakers from Sida, ASEAN, SIANI, and the NTFP network.

Several communications and knowledge products were also produced out of this initiative:

- The animated video explainer we produced on wild foods was retweeted/shared by some UN agencies.
- SIANI reported an increase in their viewership from our region. Likewise, we were also able to amplify our reach through the partnership with SIANI.
- We produced infographics on wild foods, along with blog posts, video narratives, and an OpEd article on the impacts of COVID-19 to wild foods and indigenous peoples. Content was solicited from our partners in the ICCA SEA network.
- We also had an online campaign on wild foods awareness, using social media to post wild food stories solicited from contributors.
- We were also able to establish a website, www.wildfoodsasia.com, which started out first as an event page but has since transitioned into an online repository of resources on wild foods, biodiversity and livelihoods. At present, content is mostly from the materials during the event and of the network's previous work on forest and local foods. It is hoped that we are able further maximize its use.
- A set of publications are on the way, including policy and practice briefs on wild foods and

country papers from Cambodia, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

One can say that the SIANI project served as a kick-starter for the indigenous food and health programme of the regional office, in the sense that its funding allowed the group to explore the subject in depth and identify focus areas. The timing was also on-point, especially against the backdrop of the UN Food Systems Summit and the global call for sustainable food systems. The engagement also placed NTFP-EP/the WFBL network in the spotlight. We were invited to participate in various webinars and learning exchange sessions, such as on SIANI Annual meeting, the Lower Mekong Network, SDG Action Zone, Geneva Nature-based Solutions Dialogues, Land Dialogues, etc. We also had a side event during the 2021 IUCN Congress featuring stories from India, Indonesia, the Philippines.

Other highlights for the theme include:

- Publicity on Wild Tastes in Asia book through book reviews. We have shipped several copies of the book to India due to increased demand, and sales inquiries were also received through our website.
- We continue to be present in the GlobalGiving platform for the “Forest Food Field School”

project. We hope to further optimize this crowdfunding platform

- NTFP Academy concept note has been developed, and will be further discussed to possibly include a component on indigenous food and health research and/or training perhaps
- GLA thematic learning sessions have also included the topic of food sovereignty

In the 2021-2030 strategic plan, we articulated our desire for IPLC-WY to be food secure and have good health. To this end, we shall continue to work towards policy advocacy, communications and awareness-raising, and resource mobilization to support initiatives that ensure the availability and continuity of IPLC-WY's food and health practices.

Indeed, much work is to be done and we've only just begun. However, the journey so far, like in the case of most indigenous food, has been quite appetizing and delightful!





When “hacking” means helping forest communities

During the CBNE Forum 2021 teams from across Asia featured in a “hackathon” event. A hackathon is an event where individuals from different disciplines come together to solve a common problem theme over a short period of time. Hackathons are meant to quickly explore a problem space and to explore new, radical ideas in a safe environment. Diverse skills and perspectives are maximized while working with individuals from different backgrounds. Discussions and debates are encouraged, but with the short time constraint, innovators must come to an agreement and transform their insights into actionable solutions.

Multi-stakeholder teams were formed and participants were grouped together in a way that minimizes the language barrier and timezone difference. The teams were shown a set of problem statements and they picked one among themselves to tackle as a group.

The Indonesian Hackathon winners from Sungai Tohor, Riau province, developed technology to upcycle sago leftover waste. The waste from sago plants not used for food and other purposes can be made into eco-friendly charcoal briquettes. The briquettes will be used as alternative fuel, all the more important considering the islands geographic isolation. This waste conversion process will divert tons of bio-mass from sago plants into revenue earning ventures.

The group of farmers and students garnered 2nd place among the seven in the event, bringing home US\$4,000 for equipment and other resources needed to make their big idea a reality.

Sustainable, Climate Adaptive Community Livelihoods

The second year of the pandemic was difficult for community-based NTFP enterprises (CBNEs). The SCAL program tried to develop opportunities and mechanisms for CBNEs to continue learning and improving their strategies despite the restrictions.

In June and October 2021 respectively, two CBNE Fora were held where over 1,000 participants from over 30 countries participated in capacity building activities, policy development, sustainable management protocol development, innovative projects and marketing efforts.

These fora were made possible in partnership with global intergovernmental bodies such as the FAO Forest Farm Facility (FFF), with university professors and students from three ASEAN countries, namely the University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB), Binus University in Indonesia and Marketing – Finance University Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam, with the Regional Community Forestry Training Center (RECOFTC), with ASEAN bodies such as the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB), with regional farmer associations, the Asian Farmers Association (AFA), and with the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA).

Such topics covered during the events were: CBNE 101, Upscaling and CBNE Incubators, Marketing and Management of CBNEs, CBNEs in the times of COVID-19, Indigenous women entrepreneurs, Community Food Processing, Branding clinics, Value Chain support, Investments in Landscape Restoration, Participatory Certification, Climate-proofing CBNEs, Youth Encounter and the state of policies on NTFPs, among other topics.

In the time between the two fora, 18 CBNEs were provided online support on branding and digital marketing from business management and international marketing professors and students

from Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines. This resulted in improved presence and social media responses, as well as more sales and improved marketing strategies.

Across the two fora, eight CBNEs from six Asian countries also developed innovative, problem solving initiatives on poverty in mountain women areas, waste in peat swamps, synthetic personal care products, and on marketing dilemmas for forest fruit producers. Through a “hackathon” process, four of the initiatives were ultimate winners with three of them being women-led businesses.

Also, 2021 was the year that NTFP-EP Asia and colleagues made headway with the Forest Harvest Collective Mark, a regional community forestry labelling and certification program that would guarantee traceability, sustainability and quality of NTFP products coming from community-managed forests. Consultations and standards development and updating for priority categories: namely Rattan, Forest honey and hand-woven Eco-textiles were also underway. 2021 was also the year when the ASEAN guidelines on sustainable management protocols on five major NTFPs (forest honey, rattan, bamboo, resin and fruits) were released for public consumption. Sustainable management protocols are also being prepared for the medicinal plants category.

At the national level, the SCAL program also assisted in the online regional training on Community Livelihood Appraisal and Product Scanning (CLAPS) for Vietnamese participants. Similarly, the SCAL program also assisted in support to the PARARA Indonesian Ethical Store in festival preparation and execution, in strategy pivot process as well as in Fair Trade Certification with Forum Fair Trade Indonesia (FFTI).



NTFP-EP and regional partners cooperate towards CT recognition in ASEAN's forested landscapes

The Day 2 of the Technical Seminar and Knowledge Sharing on Customary Tenure (CT) and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) provided an opportunity for the ASEAN Member States of the ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry (AWG-SF) to reflect on the key messages and to learn from the 1st day (learning and exchange session) of the regional event. This day also provided a space for the member states to discuss key elements to be included in the outline of the proposed ASEAN Guidelines on CT Recognition in Forested Landscapes in ASEAN.

Atty. Edna Maguigad, NTFP-EP's CT and FPIC Regional Researcher, presented the discussion paper, draft outline, and draft zero of the guidelines during the first part of the discussion. The second part focused on the meeting of the salient sections and points of the proposed framework and guidelines on customary tenure recognition in forested landscapes—particularly setting the scope and objective, pinning down its nature, identifying its intended users, determining the process to be undertaken, and finally, the guiding principles on customary tenure recognition in forested landscapes.

With guidance from the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry and by their strategic plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Forestry 2016-2025, the AWG-SF affirmed to put the development of the ASEAN Guidelines for CT recognition as a priority in their plan of action for 2021-2025.

Dr. Dian Sukmajaya reiterated that the process has considered and ensured the ownership, seeing that ASEAN member states have actively participated and provided their significant and valuable input for developing the guidelines.

Tenure Rights and Governance

Under Tenure Rights and Governance, NTFP-EP carried on and made key progress for the year, supported by the Mekong Regional Land Governance (MRLG) Project, Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) for the implementation of the Regional CT Alliance Workstream Outcomes 2 and 3, and Forest Foundation Philippines for the Assessing, Engaging and Recognizing Community-Based Forest Management Towards Nationally Determined Contributions in the Philippines (ASSERT CBFM in NDCs) project.

- For the MRLG and GLA-supported activities. At the regional level, NTFP-EP sustained its engagement with the ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry (AWG-SF) and the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) Food, Agriculture and Forestry Division (FAFD) Team on the development of the ASEAN Guidelines on Customary Tenure Recognition in Forested Landscapes. NTFP-EP also collaborated with key partners from the Regional Alliance on CT, such as the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and the Asian Farmers Association (AFA), to facilitate and implement key activities on customary tenure recognition and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC).
- Customary Tenure Recognition is identified as a priority deliverable of the AWG-SF. NTFP-EP has successfully lobbied to include the development of a regional guideline on CT recognition as part of its priority deliverable for the AWG-SF for 2022 during their 15th AWG-SF Meeting last June 10, 2021, hosted in Indonesia via video conference. This vital signal led to a series of meetings with AWG-SF and the ASEC FAFD team and resulted

in the development and approval of the overall concept and guideline development framework.

- Two regional knowledge sharing and policy dialogues on Customary Tenure (CT) recognition were organized. A Regional Technical Seminar and Knowledge Sharing on CT and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) was also organized virtually on November 11-12, 2021, in collaboration with the CSO Forum on Social Forestry members, AWG-SF, ASEC FAFD, and the Green Livelihoods Alliance. This paved the way for a safe space and platform for key stakeholders to discuss challenges, opportunities, and policy recommendations to support an improved customary tenure recognition and application of FPIC in the region and the different countries. It also provided an opportunity for the AWG-SF member states to review and have a deep dive discussion of the Discussion Paper on CT and talk about the essential elements, scope, and guiding principles needed for customary tenure to be recognized in forested landscapes. Subsequently, a virtual Regional Learning Exchange and Policy Dialogue (RLEPD) on Linking CT in the Context of Food Security and Livelihoods was organized by AFA together with NTFP-EP in collaboration with ASEC FAFD and AWG-SF last 1-3 December 2021, which resulted in the presentation and sharing of the country-level case studies for inputs and recommendations of the participants, a space or platform to discuss the current situation, opportunities and policy recommendations on having secured CT for food security, and most importantly, allowed the participants (AWG-SF AMS, Smallholders, CSOs

and IP representatives, academe, etc.) to review and provide inputs and comments on the Draft Zero ASEAN Guidelines on CT Recognition in Forested Landscapes.

- One Regional Paper on CT developed and transformed into the Draft Outline and Draft Zero ASEAN Guidelines on CT Recognition in Forested Landscapes. A CT discussion paper was formulated as the reference document for the AWG-SF member states to brainstorm and discuss the proposed scope and guiding principles. After the comments and inputs of the AWG-SF and ASEC, this discussion paper was transformed into a Draft Zero ASEAN Guidelines on CT Recognition in Forested Landscapes. AWG-SF approved the draft outline of the ASEAN Guidelines by ad referendum last December 2021. The Draft Zero guideline was then subjected to an 8-week open call for all relevant stakeholders for their comments and inputs. The parallel review and inputs were also given to the AWG-SF member states.
- Country case studies streams drafted. At the country level, the focus was given to the conduct of the country case study research. During this period, the 1st draft of the four country-level case studies on (a) CT in the context of FPIC and other safeguards and (b) the intersection of CT and Food Security in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam were already developed.

Under the ASSERT CBFM on NDCs Project, NTFP-EP conducted a Validation Session and Dialogue with CBFM People's Organizations last September 2021. This is to validate the results and recommendations from the knowledge and capacity assessment conducted among 14 CBFM Peoples Organizations from the Sierra Madre and Palawan landscapes. This has also initiated the importance of establishing a landscape-level multistakeholder group to discuss CBFM.

A series of workshops and discussions were organized by NTFP-EP Asia in partnership with NTFP-EP Philippines and the DENR-Forest Management Bureau from February to December 2021. This resulted in the

development of the six learning modules on six priority learning areas identified in the Knowledge and Capacity Building Assessment of CBFM POs in Palawan and Sierra Madre Landscapes: Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (CCAM), Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Development (SFM-FD), Organizational Strengthening, Enterprise Development, and Financial Management. These learning modules will be used to develop the ASSERT CBFM Training Course.

NTFP-EP also participated actively in strategic events and activities at the regional and country-level of partners and networks:

- Organized two side events on CT recognition and FPIC in the 3rd Mekong Regional Land Forum last May 26-28, 2021, in partnership with AIPP and AFA
- Presented NTFP-EP's work on Customary Tenure Recognition during the Lower Mekong Network Meeting
- Co-organized and participated in the PARARA Festival X CSO Forum webinars on Fair Trade Practice and Participatory Guarantee Systems for Small Farmers last December 2021
- Supported the CSO Forum as it presented its statement and key messages during the WFBL virtual forum
- Presented updates and findings of the Knowledge and Capacity Assessment during the National Working Group on CBFM Meeting
- NTFP-EP, alongside AFA and AIPP, also has affirmed the acceptance of its joint submission of the side event concept for the World Forestry Congress for 2022

Apart from the case study research, NTFP-EP has partnered with a digital advertising agency to develop a short animation video on Customary Tenure Recognition and FPIC to convey important key messages from the regional events, case studies, and existing secondary research, from which a storyboard has already been developed. The actual video will be finalized and shared with partners in 2022.





Nurhayati & Nurjana: strong women in managing and utilizing NTFPs

The capacity of women in utilizing and developing nipah sticks as non-timber forest products (NTFPs) can be said to still be very minimal. Women are also limited in terms of access to and control over production factors such as equipment to manage NTFPs, machinery and capital needed to increase the added value of NTFPs. Previously, they have been selling nipa palm sticks to collectors/middlemen as raw materials in exchange for small income.

With these conditions, Srikandi Lestari Foundation responded to the needs of the women's group in Sei Siur and Pintu Air Villages through their project, "Strengthening Women in Mangrove Management in North Sumatra, Indonesia". They aim to increase the capacity of women in managing the abundant NTFPs on the east coast of Langkat District. Women work as forest managers in a sustainable manner and also carry out forest restoration by planting mangrove trees and fruit trees which are expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, this group also manages rebon shrimp as shrimp paste to increase marine products which have waste from the Pangkalan Susu Coal Power Plant.

Srikandi Lestari Foundation has supported women, such as Nurjanah and Nurhayati, as members of women's groups to survive and protect forests, through discussions in monthly meetings on the themes of forest destruction, climate crisis, food crisis and against women. Another role that women can also play is creating mangrove nurseries and distributing fruit tree seeds to the community to repair forest damage, and inviting the community to preserve the forest. Women realize that forest management and utilization of non-timber forest products are for climate resilience and food security. If the forest is damaged, then all living things will suffer, especially women and children.



Gender-Equal Community Agency and Voice + Culture & Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practice

Traversing this decade with the new strategic direction, NTFP-EP Asia strongly recognized GCAV and C/IKSP themes as cross-cutting and encompassing change pathways to reach our vision of healthy and resilient IPLCs, with women and youth. Efforts and initiatives under this theme are envisioned to increase visibility and recognition of communities and women's contributions to the SDGs, the economy and forest conservation. This opens up their participation space so that their rights, their culture and IKSP/TEK will be recognized and respected by other stakeholders, especially the government and the private sector in their policies and practice.

With such aim focused on recognizing gendered voice and participation in sustaining forested landscape, we continue facilitating support to communities through our small grants facility, and linking women's rights and environmental justice in the region. This year also saw us investing our efforts in building safe spaces and defending women environmental and human rights defenders (WEHRDs), as well as participating in a global network for indigenous-led education.

We continue with our support to activities that build up and strengthen the capacity of local organizations, with stronger focus on IPLCs, with women and youth in conservation, food security

and health, and sustainable resource use and livelihood. This year, while PRSGF increasingly strengthens its focus on women, we expanded the reach of the grant to include other relevant but marginalized sectors across generations in forested landscapes for a more holistic and grounded support to indigenous peoples and local communities. In addition to the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA), we now have a growing contribution to the pot from new partner Koningschool and renewed support from the Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA), and IUCN-NL. Aside from the support to women's rights and gender-just actions, we have diversified and opened two new categories this year for IPLCs and WEHRDs called IPLCs and Effective NTFP Management and our Quick Response Grant.

Our continued engagement and facilitation of the Women in Action on Mining in Asia (WAMA) network ensures that knowledge and skillshares are continued at the regional level to continue and sustain the efforts of strengthening grassroots women's capacities, particularly in local mobilization, fact-finding and campaigning against mining and other extractives. This year, through the support of OXFAM (until July 2021), we were able to conduct 1 regional skillshare on Women and Water held last April 2021. We continue to represent WAMA in webinars and forum. Online meetings had also been done

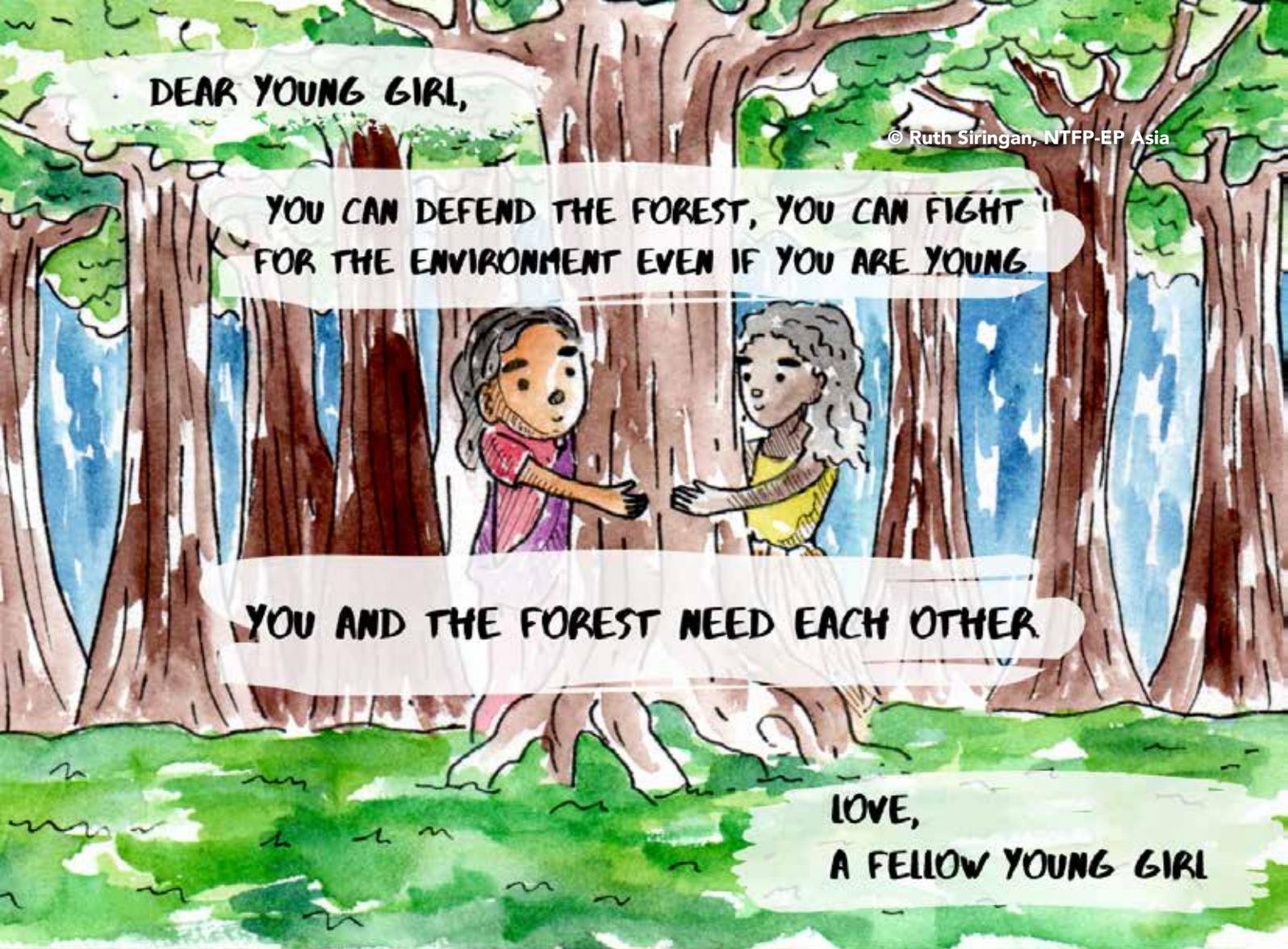
several times this year. We have also supported country activities of our partners through OXFAM, and GAGGA through BothENDS. We are gearing for another skillshare in 2022 and preparatory activities have been organized starting last June.

Defending defenders, self-care, web of care – these are catchphrases we are getting more familiar with now and as such consciously integrate into our work with forested communities, especially those facing challenges and threats, as they protect and defend their territories. Following the WEHRD online regional retreat entitled “Grounding and Empowering: Nourishing the Grassroots for Transformative Change” held last November 24-26, 2020, supported by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), NTFP-EP continues to embark on efforts aimed at providing a space for strategic convergence with grassroots women’s groups and their networks in Asia. In the course of this project that ran until April 2021, there were 3 main activities that were conducted, to include country consultations and case studies, online WEHRD retreat and the virtual roundtable among WEHRDs and development partners.

We continue to link and create venues for sharing and reflections, such as within WAMA, GLA, SEI and IUCN networks, to understand WEHRDs’ struggles, good practices, skills, strategies, and aspirations. Efforts to find support were also done with IUCN network, however, it has not yet come into fruition.

In 2020, a global network emerged to catalyze support on Indigenous-led education. This year, we continue engaging in the network as part of the organizing group, together with BothENDS, Rutu Foundation, Forest Peoples Programme, Keystone, Sentrong Pagpapalakas ng Negritong Kultura at Kalikasan (SPNKK), among others. Our engagement in the network includes participation in the discussions and webinars, learning exchanges on topics relevant for communities, sharing information and opportunities, like small grants. The network has allotted a small amount for Indigenous-led Education (ILED) network partners with small tangible projects that are tailor-made and amenable to the needs and absorbing capacities of local communities and their allies.





DEAR YOUNG GIRL,

© Ruth Siringan, NTFP-EP Asia

YOU CAN DEFEND THE FOREST, YOU CAN FIGHT
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT EVEN IF YOU ARE YOUNG.

YOU AND THE FOREST NEED EACH OTHER.

LOVE,
A FELLOW YOUNG GIRL

A reflection by Maica Saar, a Pala'wan youth from the Philippines

As a Pala'wan youth, I have observed that a large number of my fellow youth are more interested in modern activities. Some youth choose to work outside our communities, over learning and getting to know our traditions and culture. Most are aware of our culture, but do not practice it. I think that youth empowerment and strengthening indigenous youth is one of the things that NTFP-EP should include in its priorities.

I was also once a Pala'wan youth who did not care to learn about my identity, and this is something I am not proud of. I was once invited to a youth camp organized by NTFP-EP. It was an IP Food Festival for Youth in Rizal province, Philippines. After that activity, I was reflecting and was not proud of myself at that time, as I was invited to present our tradition food, yet at that time, we had no idea how to do it then. Back then, we had to call our Panglima (elder) via phone to be able to gain knowledge on cooking traditional cuisine. Even then, it turned out to be a success, and we were able to share our indigenous cuisine. My reflection during that time was that my elders had planted a seed in me, my being indigenous, a seed that will be a part of me forever. Eventually this seed planted by my parents was watered, bit by bit, with knowledge and I realized the value of being Pala'wan.

Meanwhile, I was also able to prune branches which no longer serve me, my being shy, not caring about my identity as indigenous until the seed grew into a plant which has borne fruit. And this fruit will not only benefit me, but many others too. I'm not sure if I have reached the fruiting stage- but it is a good start. And I think this is what NTFP-EP can prioritize when it comes to youth. And this is based on my own experience, with the help of NTFP-EP.

Youth Engagement and Empowerment

NTPP-EP Asia identified the Youth Engagement and Empowerment as a new theme to strengthen in the 2020-2030 Strategic Plan.

Learning from the success of different partner organizations and IPLCs in engaging the youth in different community activities, it was realized that engaging the youth now is the key to the future of the security of the conditions of forests and IPLC. In this time of generational transition, giving attention to the youth during this programmatic cycle will address cultural transfer gaps and anticipate future leadership needs in communities as well as transformation of future leaders of government agencies 5-10 years from now.

The cross-cutting thematic area targets to foster strong engagement of the youth in their communities' sustainable development through the different thematic areas. This includes cultivation of their consciousness and knowledge of their IKSP/TEK, sustainable livelihoods and gender equality.

During the first regional youth activity held last December 8, 2021 and January 11, 2022, youths from 6 countries joined the virtual forest camp. More than 60 participants shared the challenges, issues, and aspirations of IPLC youth. They affirmed that they also dream of a sustainable and just future for indigenous and local communities, where young people are collectively and actively involved with

support from both government, civil society organizations, and community elders. This could be attained through youth-led and supported initiatives on various themes, as follows:

1. Improve social services from both government and civil society organizations: transportation, educational opportunities, jobs for indigenous youth, information drive on indigenous rights;
2. Strengthen land ownership, secure land tenure, improve economic opportunities in ancestral domain, empower youth to be involved in the whole economic value chain processes;
3. Dialogue with elders in the community;
4. Strengthening of the IP Youth network, cultural/learning exchange;
5. Involvement in biodiversity conservation and management while nurturing and enhancing Indigenous Knowledge, Systems and Practices.

For the next ten years, NTPP-EP will provide support and opportunities for IPLC youth in at least six countries in building their own youth agency, actively engage in decision-making spaces, involvement in climate resilience and disaster preparedness, participate in sustainable community-based enterprises, and amplify youth voices in all policies and programs on customary tenure and forest governance, at the national, regional and international levels.



ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Governance and Membership

The continuing pandemic-related restrictions limited the face-to-face meetings of organizations in 2021. Despite those challenges, NTFP-EP Asia had successfully organized online meetings involving the general membership and the Trustees. The active support from the members and trustees guided NTFP-EP work especially after the approval of the organization's 10-year Gender-Integrated Regional Strategy 2030, "Linking Peoples and Forests: Rights, Health and Livelihoods."

The NTFP-EP membership expanded to 25 with 16 individual and 9 organizational members composed of 40% women and 60% men. The 3 new organizational members include Jaringan Orang Asal Se Malaysia, Sarawak Dayak Iban in Malaysia and the Southern Institute of Ecology in Vietnam. These new members were accepted at the general membership meeting held October 27 and 28. The members likewise recognized the executive director as a non-officio or non-voting member that increased individual membership to 16. The members also nominated a new set of nine trustees that added Mr. Pandu Hegde to the same eight trustees in previous years.

NTFP-EP Asia improved management of its financial assets and developed more efficient program planning. Those were results of the enhanced staff capacities and the continuing proactive guidance from its trustees, especially

the Executive Committee (Execom). The Execom met in May and in October to prepare for the meetings of the Board of Trustees and the General Membership organized within the year. They drafted agenda items for approval, for discussion among and/or for sharing or update to the members. In the May meeting, the Trustees endorsed the approval of NTFP-EP Asia's Gender-Integrated Regional Strategy 2030 that the general membership accepted and approved during its October meeting. The Trustees also voted on the new set of Execom members with Ms. Maria Teresa Guia Padilla as Chair, Mr. Paul Wolvekamp as Vice Chair, Mr. Vitaliano Nanagas as Treasurer and Atty. Grizelda Mayo Anda as the new Secretary. They also discussed immediate concerns related to expanding membership, financial controls, programming, among others.

The members of the six standing committees were re-confirmed at the last Trustees Meeting in October 2021. These committees include: (1) the Executive Committee (Execom); (2) Membership and Partnership; (3) Fundraising; (4) Program and Policy; (5) Research; (6) Finance and Audit. On the critical institutional strengthening functions needed by NTFP-EP, support from the various committees was noted.



CRITICAL INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING FUNCTIONS	COMMITTEES SUPPORTING SUCH FUNCTIONS
1. Strategic planning and programme direction and coordination	Program & Policy Committee
2. Legal controls according to the country's laws	Executive Committee
3. Financial controls and budgets approval Investment possibilities, financing	Executive Committee Finance & Audit Committee Fundraising Committee
4. Membership and partnership development: review Membership Charter and propose appropriate revisions.	Membership and Partnership Committee
5. Networking, institutional relationships (local, national, international)	Membership & Partnership Committee
6. Resource Mobilization	Fundraising Committee
7. Providing directions for capacity building and training	Program & Policy Committee Research Committee
8. Communications strategy	Program & Policy Committee
9. Organizational management and staff welfare	Executive Committee



Human Resources and Capacity Development

In 2021, NTFP-EP Asia implemented new programs and projects that required specific skills sets for its staff. Under the thematic programs, one donor, Green Livelihoods Alliance, required a coordinator for learning, monitoring and evaluation project activities of the organization. This position was filled-up by Ms. Katherine Mana-Galido, who had previously worked with the NTFP-EP network as a staff member of NTFP-EP Philippines. Under the Operations unit, the Finance Coordinator post was vacated since end of 2020 thus the need to immediately hire a new staff member. A new coordinator came on board in April, but he stayed only until July. Another round of recruitment for the position had to be started again which resulted in the hiring of Ms. Mechico Manansala (or Mico as she is commonly called) as the new Finance Coordinator of NTFP-EP Asia since September 2021.

Interns also provided an important support role to NTFP-EP Asia programs and projects. Interns, with their expertise in various fields including on social media, supported the TRG, CBC, GCAV and SCAL thematic areas. Their skills sets were very much appropriate to the needs of the organization that time since most of the NTFP-EP Asia activities were on webinars, training, meetings, among others. The good experience with interns in 2020 encouraged NTFP-EP Asia

to engage more interns in 2021 that was also based on requests from program officers and/or coordinators.

To support and improve relationships among staff, regular meetings and learning sessions were organized online. These include the quarterly staff meetings, the regular T3 (Third Thursday of the month at Three PM) learning sessions and the Online Friday Fun (fondly referred to as OFF). T3 tackled various topics of common interest and as suggested by the staff. The OFF was organized every 4:00 in the afternoon of Fridays with staff taking turns facilitating various fun activities including games, exercises, among others.



Communication and Knowledge Management

The online transition that began in the 2020 pandemic was in full swing by the start of 2021. With vaccines still in short supply at the time and with new variants constantly popping up, optimistic hopes of an end to the pandemic by 2021 were quickly dashed and exacerbated by the Delta variant outbreaks which prompted new rounds of lockdowns around the world.

In February 2021, *Voices from the Forest 38* was released digitally and with a limited release on print. This was followed by the *Annual Report 2020* and the *Asia Regional Strategy 2021-2030* which also included a brief version.

The various projects within NTFP-EP saw fit to further enhance their online presence and output. Early in the year, a new website for Wild Foods Asia was launched which began as a simple events website and later converted to a knowledge repository for information related to wild foods. Later in the year, another larger website was created for the Forest Harvest CBNE Forum, which was complete with information resources, video repositories, galleries of CBNEs and more. The website of the Green Livelihoods Alliance was also utilized to further boost the reach of pertinent policy issues, such as with the issue of mining in Brooke's Point in Palawan, Philippines.

The Forest Harvest CBNE Forum was among the largest of the webinars hosted by NTFP-EP in 2021, necessitating the services of a dedicated events company to handle the immense logistics needed to successfully hold the event. The expansions for NTFP-EP's webinar hosting capabilities included upgrading the Zoom subscription to a higher-tier capacity and having

on-call interpreters ready to call on with the assistance of the Administrative Officer. These were utilized well in other major webinars held throughout the year including the Wild Foods Forum and the Southeast Asia ICCA Regional Assembly. NTFP-EP's webinar capabilities were also outsourced to organizational partners, such as with Meet the Makers Indonesia for their own Webinar series.

New methods were also explored by NTFP-EP in delivering its messages, such as with the launch of the #CommunitiesSpeak podcast on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Anchor.FM and other platforms.

On October 2021, the communications team was expanded with the hiring of Martin Advincula, a senior forestry student from the University of the Philippines, as a communications intern. Martin handled tasks such as assisting with layouting of publications, handling social media and acting as a backup for the CKMO in case of indisposition due to illness. Other thematic programs also recruited their own set of interns in 2021 which allowed menial communication tasks such as copywriting, webinar facilitation and simple graphics design to be offloaded.

For 2022, it is expected that much of the development sector will shift towards hybrid events wherein in-person gatherings will have components that allow other participants to join remotely. NTFP-EP is preparing for this by procuring equipments such as webcams, mixers, microphones and upgraded internet connections.



Operational Systems

The year 2021 saw majority of the staff in the regional office still working from home as the world continued to grapple with Covid-19. At the start of the year, there was no clear indication yet from the government of when vaccines would be made available to the general working population. Finally, from May until August, staff were able to get their first and second vaccination doses through different local government allocations.

As part of working more efficiently, the NTFP-EP Asia team improved their capacities in utilizing the various online platforms for operations and programme work. In operations, there were more online forms that were improved and used to replace the paper-based versions therefore saving on paper use. Such forms included the staff appraisal forms, the request for payment (RfPs) forms, the filing of leaves, the recruitment and exam forms, among others. The online RfPs allowed the finance team to track all submissions better with a single shared page, instead of having to track RfPs submitted via email at different times. Filing for leaves also shifted to online filing and approval. Staff also started to rely more on Microsoft Teams to hold meetings, have quick chat exchanges and even share documents.

Computer equipment for several of the staff started breaking down and/or were overdue for upgrades. With new funds that came in from a few projects, the office gradually upgraded individual units requiring replacement that made work more efficient.

To implement the previous agreement with the Board Treasurer, finance started consolidating bank accounts with the goal of maintaining a single peso account and a consolidated dollar and euro accounts, while still maintaining separate books of accounts to monitor all project-specific receipts and disbursements. Finance also worked with the bank to enable NTFP-EP to maximize online payments and minimize paper check transactions.

The 4th edition of the NTFP-EP Manual of Operations was submitted to the Board of Trustees and subsequently approved during the board meeting in May. Major changes to the manual comprised of inclusion of the NTFP-EP core values, the Code of Conduct, the whistleblower policy, improved disciplinary measures & grievance procedures, the creation of the integrity@ntfp.org email where a person or organization could write to file a complaint or grievance, as well as, an updated risk management procedure, and finance policies, among others.

NTFP-EP previously filed for registration of the forest harvest collective mark (FHCM) for honey, beeswax, and natural dyes at the Intellectual Property Office. The request was granted with the certificate of registration dated 10 January 2021 which is good for 10 years.

Pastor Rice Small Grants Fund

The year 2021 saw a growing support to NTFP-EP Asia's Pastor Rice Small Grants Fund (PRSGF), allowing us to diversify our support to more sectors in the grassroots communities. Our small grants are now open to different categories other than women's groups, which comprised most of the grantees in the previous years.

Starting in 2021, PRSGF offered support to 3 grant categories to grassroots organizations with local initiatives that promote gender equality and ecological justice, namely: Women and Just-Climate Actions, IPLCs and Effective NTFP Management, and Quick Response Grants.

As of December 2021, we have awarded grants to a total of 8 groups. The awards went into implementing initiatives and actions which correspond to gender-just climate actions/solutions to include NTFP-based sustainable community livelihoods, community-based conservation and protection, natural resources management, tenorial security, and advancing the rights and protecting women environmental defenders. Three (3) of these were awarded to individuals and organizations who are at risk for defending their territories.

One of the communities supported by our project is the indigenous Higaunon-Banwaon community of Ambuyad in Southern Philippines who are planting indigenous tree species to

expand their protected areas. They also plant fruit trees and other crops for their subsistence and additional income, as they continue to nurture their cultural beliefs and traditions. The group received around €4,500 to implement this project for 12 months.

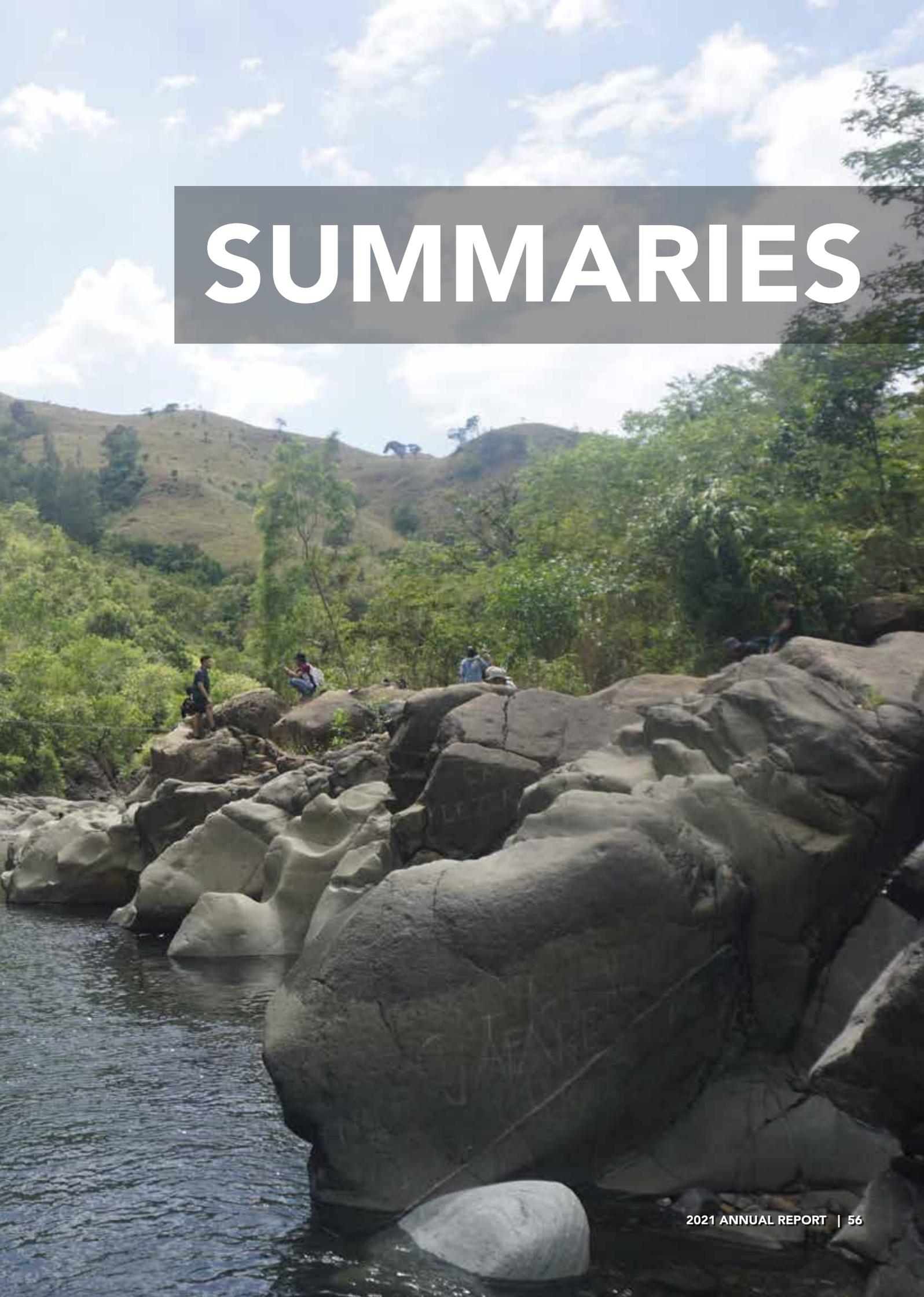
In many IPLCs, grassroots women are best positioned and in the forefront of action to protect the environment, yet their efforts are less recognized and are underfunded. Through NTFP-EP's small grants facility, we are bridging the gap and creating opportunities for women to participate and take up space in community-building, proposing solutions and alternatives to the problems they face. Earmarking funds for women's actions has evidently increased their agency and leadership determining their own pathways for development. We acknowledge as well the significant role of women as knowledge bearers offering local and climate resilient solutions.

Indeed, allocating resources for them is our way of recognizing, scaling-up and facilitating spaces for women's contributions to mitigate, adapt and reduce carbon emissions through their time-tested local and indigenous knowledge and practices on sustainable resource use, management and conservation.





SUMMARIES



Financial Highlights*

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	2021	2020
Current Assets		
Cash	Php 22,518,012	Php 13,638,142
Accounts and other receivables	88,675	1,657,706
Other current assets	4,700,664	808,944
Total Current Assets	Php 27,307,351	Php 16,104,792
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts and other payables	Php 3,034,151	Php 3,036,275
Advances from a related party	1,866,383	2,065,479
Total Current Liabilities	Php 4,900,534	Php 5,101,754
Non-current Liabilities		
Retirement Benefit Liability	Php 399,129	-
Total Non-current Liabilities	Php 399,129	-
Total Liabilities	Php 5,299,663	Php 5,101,754
Fund Balance		
Restricted	Php 20,289,604	Php 9,734,264
Unrestricted	1,718,083	1,268,774
Total Fund Balance	22,007,687	11,003,038
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	Php 27,307,350	Php 16,104,792

REVENUE & EXPENSE STATEMENT

REVENUES	2021	2020
Grants	Php 71,637,065	Php 32,429,766
Interest income	8,453	10,099
Others	2,157,529	1,716,598
Total Revenues	73,803,047	34,156,463
EXPENSES		
Project costs	17,383,832	25,205,660
Other program costs	36,254,905	9,553,832
Administrative costs	7,141,185	6,085,683
Program activities	1,123,184	468,087
Communications and knowledge management	711,500	1,256,717
Sub-total Expenses	62,614,606	42,569,979
Foreign exchange (gain) or loss	183,792	1,002,152
Total Expenses	62,798,398	43,572,131
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	Php 11,004,649	(Php 9,415,668)
2021 Spending in Euros**	€ 1,091,924	€ 742,406

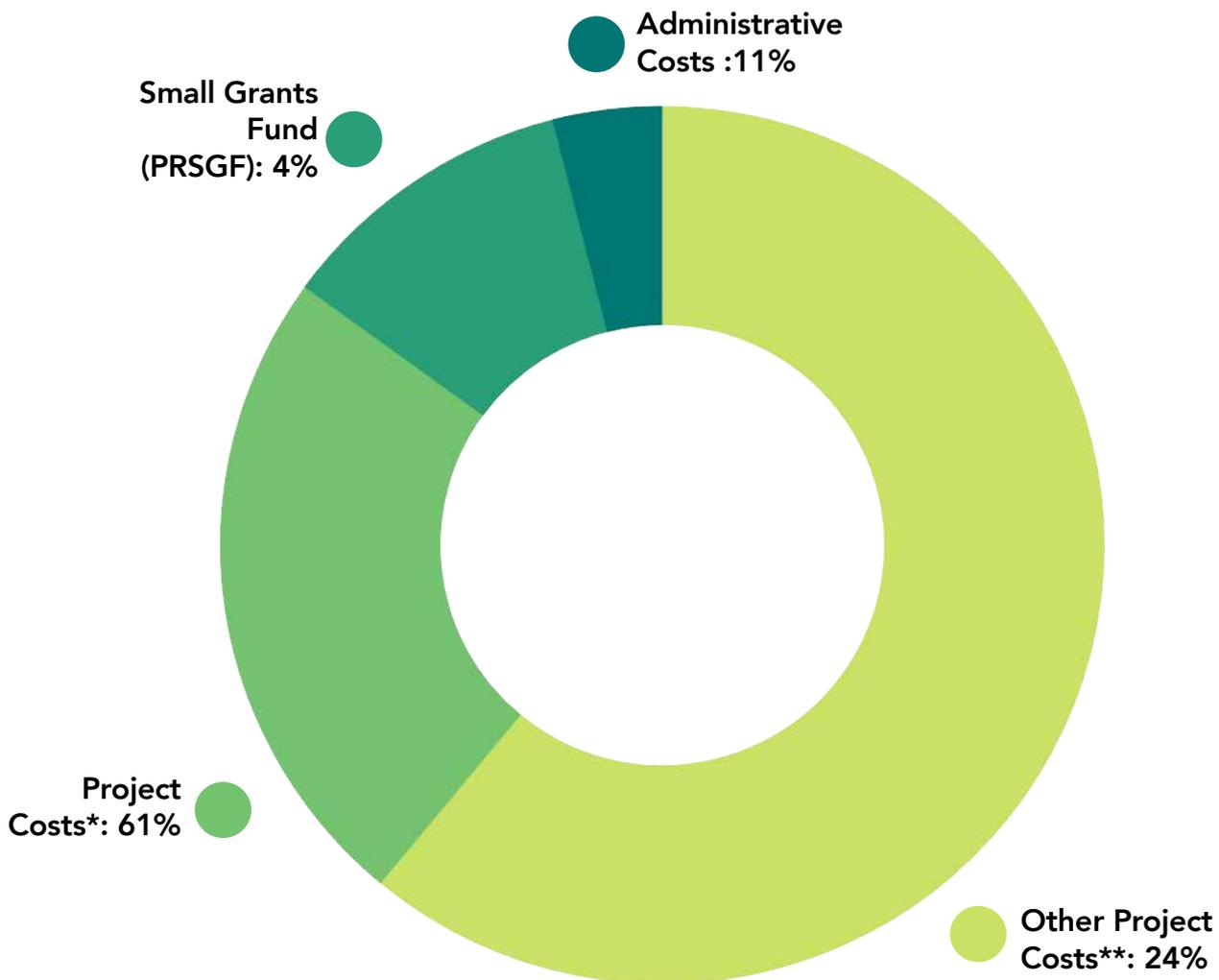
Notes:

- 1 Project costs refer to the different thematic areas: CBC, IFH, SCAL, TRG, GCAV, C/IKSP and YEE
- 2 Other program costs refer to management & technical support, country office salaries and overhead costs, and other staff operating costs
- 3 Program activities refer to regional meetings and travel, monitoring and evaluation activities.

* 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 of December 31, 2021

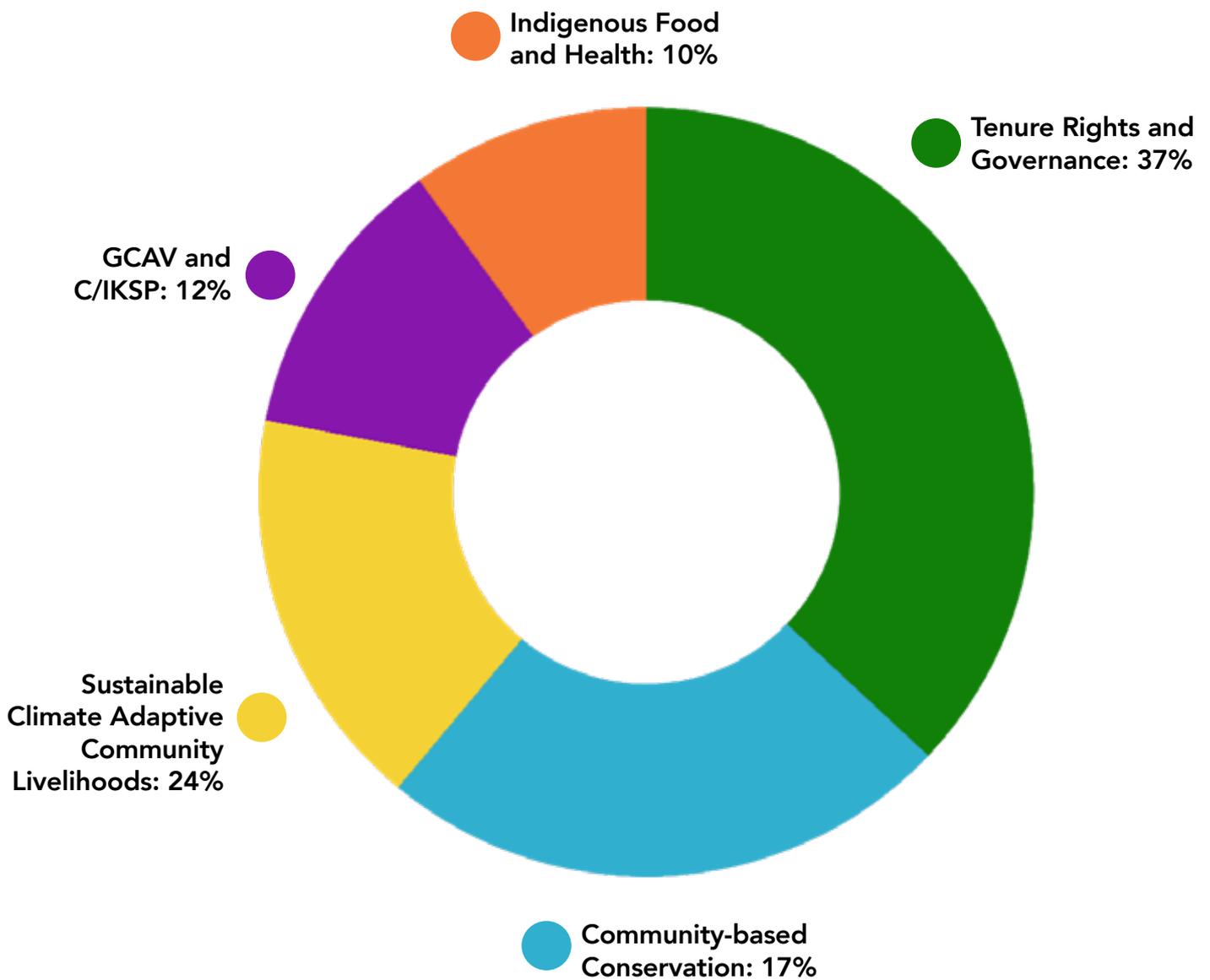
Expenditure Distribution



* Project costs are broken down in the next chart.

** Other project costs include management and technical support, communications and knowledge management, as well as planning, monitoring and evaluation activities.

Thematic Distribution of Project Costs



* GCAV and C/IKSP includes small grant fund focused on grassroots women.
PhP to Euro exchange rate is PhP 57.5117 = 1.0 Euro as of December 31, 2021.

Knowledge Products

TITLE	TYPE	LOCATION
Asia Regional Strategy 2021-2030	Strategy document	Asia
Assessing study on ELC along MFF	Report	Cambodia
#CommunitiesSpeak Podcast	Podcast	Asia
Community Survey on NRM	Report	Cambodia
Food security and the pandemic: Reflections from Cambodia	Video	Asia
foresthavestforum.com	Website	Asia
Guidelines for Lifecycle Cycle Assessment (LCA) for Pangan Bijak	Document	Indonesia
Guidelines for PGS Pangan Bijak	Document	Indonesia
Kwentong Komunidad, Kwentong Kalikasan	Video series	Philippines
Leaf Litter	Newsletter	India
Not By Timber Alone	Newsletter	Philippines
NTFP Sustainable Harvesting and Resource Management Protocol: Bamboo/Fruits/Honey/Rattan/Resin	Protocol	Asia
On the vitality of indigenous languages	Article	India
Pangalap Video (with Confederation of Indigenous Peoples in Southern Negros Occidental)	Video	Philippines

PGS Standards for Sago, Illipe nut, Forest Honey	Brochure	Indonesia
Ranso Video (with Confederation of Indigenous Peoples in Southern Negros Occidental)	Video	Philippines
REDD+ in KKSP Mountain Range	Video	Philippines
SRJS Strategic Communications Plan	Document	Cambodia
Tips for Successful CBNEs	Video series	Asia
The Forest Harvest Collective Mark	Video	Asia
Ugnayan	Online show	Philippines
Voices from the Forest	Newsletter	Asia
What is PGS Rattan?	Video	Asia
wildfoodsasia.com	Website	Asia

Projects Completed

DONOR	PROJECT NAME	COVERAGE	AMOUNT
ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity	Promoting sustainability and market values of biodiversity-based products (BBPs) through sustainable protocols and participatory certification process	Regional	PHP 450,240
ICCA Consortium	Regional Hub for the Southeast Asia region for the ICCA Consortium	Regional	USD 8,000
Oxfam America	Regional Exchange Programme for Strengthening Women's Voices Affected by Extractives	Regional	USD 82,364
Swedish Environmental Institute	SIANI The Wild Foods, Biodiversity and Livelihood Network	Regional	SEK 527,300
Swedish Environmental Institute	Strategic Collaborative Fund Phase 2 Grounding & Empowering: nourishing the grassroots for transformative change	Regional	SEK 370,083
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation	Linking People and Forests: Empowering indigenous and forest-based communities to govern and conserve their customary forest landscapes & builds sustainable livelihoods	Regional	SEK 6,023,000

New/Ongoing Projects

DONOR	PROJECT NAME	COVERAGE	AMOUNT
Both ENDS	PRSGF Leading Women for Transformative Climate Action	Regional	EUR 175,000
Both ENDS	Women in Action on Mining in Asia Bridge Fund	Regional	EUR 10,000
Forest Foundation Philippines	Assessing, Engaging and Recognizing Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) towards Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in the Philippines	Philippines	PHP 11,366,001
IUCN Netherlands	GLA Quick Response Funds: Forests for the Just Future	Regional	EUR 30,000
Land Equity International Pty	Mekong Region Land Governance Phase 2 project	Regional	EUR250,000
Koningsschool Fund	KS Fund to promote sustainable forestry and knowledge about forests	Regional	EUR 64,000
Milieudefensie	Green Livelihoods Alliance: Forests for a Just Future	Regional	EUR 3,809,900
WWF Sweden	Voices for Diversity - safeguarding ecosystems for nature and people	Regional	SEK 948,438



For more information about NTFP-EP, visit:

-  ntfp.org
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-  [@ntfp_ep](https://twitter.com/ntfp_ep)
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-  [NTFP-EP Asia](https://www.youtube.com/NTFP-EP Asia)
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