



NTFP/EP



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Copyright © 2024

Non-Timber Forest Product - Exchange Programme Asia

All rights reserved. Published 2024.

2023 Annual Report. Quezon City, Philippines

Editors: Michelle Lapiz, Llana Domingo, Kate Galido, Femy Pinto

Contributors: Martin Ablola, Robin Bustamante, Ruth Canlas, Crissy Guerrero, Mila Hasianna, Hilder Husun, Dazzle Labapis, Tes Matibag, Myna Pomarin, Joy Quilantang, Madhu Ramnath, Diana San Jose, Ruth Siringan, Felix Tañedo, Sim Bunthoeun, Trinh Thi My Dung

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part in any form for educational and nonprofit purposes without special permission from the copyright holder, provided that acknowledgement of the source is made.

Cover photo: A girl collecting water-leech at Prey Kbal Bei Village, Tipp Commune, Santuk District, Kampong Thom province in Cambodia (*Photo courtesy of Set Sambath, NTFP-EP Cambodia*)

Layout and Design: Michelle Lapiz

TABLE OF CONTENTS



01	.....	Acronyms and Abbreviations
02	.....	Message from the Chairperson
04	.....	Incoming Board of Trustees 2024-2026
05	.....	NTFP-EP Declaration for Peoples and Forests
07	.....	Who we are / What we do
09	.....	About the report
11	.....	Regional Context
15	.....	Country Highlights
39	.....	Thematic Highlights
70	.....	Organizational Highlights
77	.....	Projects List
79	.....	Financial Highlights

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AFA	Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development
AFoCo	Asian Forest Cooperation Organization
AIPP	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASSERT-CBFM	Assessing, Engaging, and Recognizing Community-based Forest Management
AWG-SF	ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry
ACB	ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
CBC	Community-based conservation
CBET	Community-based ecotourism
CBO	Community-based organization
CBFM	Community-based forest management
CBNE	Community-based NTFP enterprises
CFR	Community Forest Rights Act of India
CLAPS	Community Livelihood Appraisal and Product Scanning
CLMV	Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam
CSO	Civil society organization
CT	Customary tenure
EHRDs	Environmental human rights defenders
FFF	Forest and Farm Facility
FPIC	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
FHCM	Forest Harvest Collective Mark
GAGGA	Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action
GCAV	Gender-equal community agency and voice
GLA	Green Livelihoods Alliance
ICCA	Indigenous Community Conserved Territories and Areas
IFH	Indigenous food and health
IKSP	Indigenous knowledge, systems & practices
ILED	Indigenous-led Education
IPs&LCs	Indigenous Peoples and local communities
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MRLG	Mekong Region Land Governance
NBSAPs	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
NAPs	National Adaptation Plans
NDCs	Nationally-determined contributions
NGO	Non-government organization
NTFP	Non-timber forest product
NTFP-EP	Non-Timber Forest Product - Exchange Programme
OECM	Other effective area-based conservation measure
PGS	Participatory Guarantee System
PHCC	Palni Hills Conservation Council
PO	Peoples' organization
PRSGF	Pastor Rice Small Grants Fund
SIE	Southern Institute for Ecology
SCAL	Sustainable climate adaptive community livelihoods
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SSNC	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
TRG	Tenure rights and governance
TEK	Traditional ecological knowledge
WEHRDs	Women environmental human rights defenders
WWF	World Wildlife Fund for Nature
YEE	Youth Engagement and Empowerment



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



NTFP-EP marked its 25th year with the theme of *“Deepening Roots, Strengthening Branches, Amplifying Our Collective Voice,”* as an association of NGOs and CBOs that is committed to healthy and protected forests for indigenous peoples and local communities. NTFP-EP has dedicated its work in linking forest peoples' culture, rights and wisdom regarding the protection, stewardship and sustainable development of forests in Asia.

On 17-18 October 2023, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, NTFP-EP members and staff produced a **Declaration for Peoples and Forests** that reiterates our shared belief and collective mission to support the empowerment of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and of women and youth, and the realization and full enjoyment of their secured rights, health and livelihoods in their conserved territories and community managed forests. The Declaration is an expression and renewal of commitment to the vision and values of NTFP-EP. You will read about them here in the next pages of this report.

Reflecting on the theme of our 25th year gathering, we affirm that NTFP-EP's roots are in and with forest dependent communities. As one of our founding Trustees remarked at the opening of Bersama – the network gathering - *“forest is life, and forests without people are not forests; without life there is no hope”*.

For 25 years, we remained connected to and rooted in our work in securing customary tenure and forest rights of Indigenous Peoples and customary communities in the Philippines, Indonesia and India. Through our membership in other alliances, we begin to establish roots in other countries such as Myanmar and Lao PDR, and continue with our work in Cambodia, Sarawak and Vietnam.

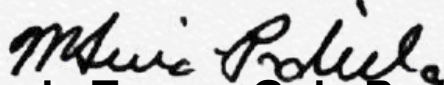
NTFP-EP's work strongly remains in communities, without which we will not be speaking with confidence and with full understanding of the pivotal role that forest peoples play in maintaining and protecting forest and natural ecosystems and critical biodiversity areas. NTFP-EP's country and thematic activities include those that safeguard and demonstrate sustainable use and management of NTFPs and in documenting customary and conserved areas.

NTFP-EP is strengthening its branches through capacity building activities, mentoring and facilitating learning exchanges, and knowledge production on different thematic areas – such as on gender equality, women, environmental human rights defenders, community conservation and NTFP enterprises. To date NTFP-EP has 30 members - 17 individuals and 13 organizations including NTFP-EP offices and country programs in 6 countries, with outreach and exchanges to at least 4 other countries in South, Southeast and Central Asia. We are also coordinating and serving secretariat roles in various networks and alliances.

Finally, we are amplifying collective voices from national to global levels for indigenous communities, for women and for youth. The Declaration for Peoples and Forests also expresses some of these important messages that we have taken at regional climate weeks, the intersessional meetings on climate and biodiversity and the Convention of Parties. Indigenous and local community forest youth and women have shown up in Johor Bahru, Bonn, and Dubai as speakers and advocates, and as delegates to the accredited platforms of youth, women and Indigenous Peoples.

We thank our past and current donors and partners: Both Ends, Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres (FCAM), Ministry of Foreign Affairs Netherlands, Milieudefensie Friends of the Earth Netherlands, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), WWF Sweden, Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA), Land Equity International, IUCN Netherlands, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCo), ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF), UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Royal Academy of Engineering UK, International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED), Forest Foundation Philippines and to donor Anonymous. Your support and partnership continue to help us achieve our mission.

We look forward to continued collaboration and more milestones towards 2030.


Maria Teresa Guia Padilla
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees



INCOMING BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR 2024-2026



Maria Teresa Guia Padilla
Chairperson, Executive Committee
Anthrowatch & Lilak (Purple Action for
Indigenous Women's Rights)
Philippines



Jeremy Wilson Ironside, PhD
Vice-Chairperson, Executive Committee
Sustainable Agriculture Adviser / Food
Sovereignty Advocate
New Zealand & Mekong



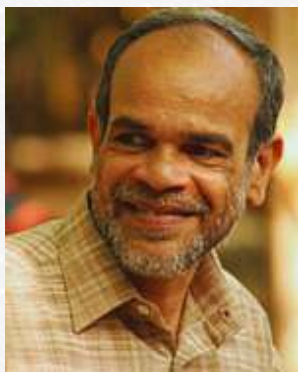
Ramon Razal, PhD
Treasurer, Executive Committee
Professor Emeritus, College of
Forestry and Natural Resources,
UPLB, Philippines



Atty. Tanya Lat
Secretary, Executive Committee
Chairperson, Board of Directors
(representing NTFP-EP Philippines)
Professor of Law, University of the
Philippines and Ateneo de Manila



Atty. Grizelda Mayo-Anda
Environmental Legal Assistance
Center (ELAC)
Palawan, Philippines



Pandurang Hedge
Save the Western Ghats Group
Karnataka, India



Sim Bunthooun
Country Program Manager
(representing NTFP-EP Cambodia)
Phnom Penh, Cambodia



Andrew Aeria
Chairperson, Board of Directors
(representing NTFP-EP Malaysia)
Sarawak, Malaysia



Trinh Thi My Dung
Country Coordinator
(representing NTFP-EP Vietnam)
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam



Femy Pinto
Ex-officio Member
(Executive Director, NTFP-EP Asia)
Philippines

THE NTFP-EP DECLARATION FOR PEOPLES AND FORESTS

We firmly believe that IPs&LCs, particularly with the inclusion of women, elders, and youth, possess invaluable knowledge and wisdom that could help overcome some of the current crises that humanity faces. This knowledge can guide the world towards positive local solutions for the global biodiversity and climate crises, drawing upon traditional ecological wisdom, institutions, and norms. Our world, as a whole, has been profoundly affected by global crises. Nevertheless, there is a wealth of wisdom and knowledge that NTFP-EP endeavors to highlight and emphasize.

Access the Declaration through scanning the QR Code or through the link below:

bit.ly/3AADp83



Mat processing

In the peaceful early morning at Prey Kbal Bei Village, Cambodia, a woman carefully gathers romchek leaves (pinleaf). Despite the modest prices, these leaves are in local demand and offer her a valuable source of income, allowing her to support herself without needing to leave the village.



Photo courtesy of Set Sambath, NTFP-EP Cambodia

WHO WE ARE



The Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) is a network of over 120 partner-NGOs and community-based organizations working across South and Southeast Asia to support forest-dependent communities, including Indigenous Peoples. These communities, reliant on non-timber forest products (NTFPs) like honey, herbal medicines, and handwoven fabrics, often face challenges due to limited access to resources and technology.

NTFP-EP emerged organically from the collaboration of groups dedicated to sustainable forest resource use and economic development. Over the years, it has evolved from being a catalyst to an enabler and facilitator, guiding partner communities in securing their rights and livelihoods.

For 25 years, NTFP-EP has taken a holistic approach, addressing issues related to Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and youth. The organization's 10-year regional strategy emphasizes collaboration, with country-level initiatives supported by regional and international advocacy. NTFP-EP Asia plays a central role in expanding these efforts, working closely with local communities to promote sustainable forest management and enhance food security, income generation, and land rights.

Through these initiatives, NTFP-EP continues to empower forest-based communities, ensuring that their traditional knowledge and practices are respected and integrated into broader conservation and development efforts.

WHAT WE DO



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

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.

NTFP-EP looks forward to 2030, envisioning a change that requires structural and cultural change. We aim to break away from traditional, singular processes and embrace diverse knowledge and methods. We believe in shifting from top-led governance to a collaborative approach, recognizing communities as equal, capable partners. In this vision, "resting" land and intact forests are valued for their richness and potential, not seen as unproductive.

ABOUT THE REPORT

The 2023 Annual Report marks the third year of progress within the 10-year Linking Peoples and Forests Regional Strategy (2021-2030) of the NTFP-EP in Asia. This strategy is centered on advancing Rights, Health, and Livelihoods for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

Our vision is to see resilient Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs&LCs), with women and youth in Asia, who are respected stewards of healthy forests and are living securely on their ancestral lands for generations to come. Each annual report, starting from 2021, provides a yearly synopsis of our achievements across four interconnected pathways. We believe these cumulative efforts will lead to significant, long-term impacts over time.

This report encompasses our work across the countries where NTFP-EP operates – Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam – and highlights the thematic programs to which we dedicate our resources.

The report shall consider how NTFP-EP influences and affects changes along these four pathways where:

First, the voice and agency of communities, including women and youth, have been enhanced, and land tenure and livelihoods have been secured. Efforts have been made by NTFP-EP to improve the conditions of these communities, strengthen their agency, amplify their visibility, voice, and participation, and provide support in securing their land tenure, food security, and livelihoods from their territories. Accounts have been taken of how community resilience has been strengthened in different countries to face accelerating and multiple threats, and how communities have been empowered to proactively secure and protect their rights, tenure, and culture for future generations. The key roles played by women and youth in securing community resilience have been highlighted.

Second, community-based forest conservation has demonstrated and recognized impacts in keeping IPs&LCs-managed forests intact. The condition of forests and natural resources has been safeguarded by facilitating the practice and recognition of community-based governance and conservation. Actions taken by communities and partners to influence policies, foster cooperation among stakeholders, and showcase good practices in traditional ecological knowledge and new techniques for sustainable resource management and forest health monitoring have been captured in the annual report.

Courtesy of Robin B...



ABOUT THE REPORT



Third, culture and indigenous knowledge have been sustained by communities and respected by all stakeholders in policies and practice. Stories of intergenerational transfer of culture and the enhancement of understanding and respect for indigenous knowledge systems and practices (IKSPs) and traditional ecological knowledge by other stakeholders have been captured. Community contributions to sustainable forest management, sustainable development, and climate action have also been highlighted.

Fourth, gender equality and women's rights have been respected, and women have been engaged as equal partners by communities and stakeholders. The capacity of women has been enhanced by NTFP-EP, and spaces have been created for their recognition as equal actors in their communities and society. Qualitative accounts of women's roles and contributions to the valorization and transmission of traditional knowledge and culture, as well as in livelihoods and sustainable resource management and conservation, have been provided.

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

- Community-based Conservation (CBC)
- Indigenous Food and Health (IFH)
- Sustainable Climate-Adaptive Community Livelihoods (SCAL)
- Tenure Rights and Governance (TRG)
- Gender-equal Community Agency and Voice (GCAV)
- Youth Engagement and Empowerment (YEE)

Each thematic program embeds gender focused outcomes and respect and recognition of culture and indigenous knowledge, systems and practices.

The report also features organizational highlights as part of the strategy for organizational strengthening, communications and knowledge management, and a summary of the organization's finances for 2023.

Finally, the Pastor Rice Small Grant Funds (PRSGF) accessed by multiple partners and the organization's financial highlights are also included in the report. It is also included in the GCAV thematic program section where PRSGF is managed.

REGIONAL CONTEXT

MEETING GLOBAL COMMITMENTS AND SUPPORTING LOCAL TO GLOBAL ACTIONS

The Glasgow forest pledge was considered a hopeful breakthrough at COP26 in 2021. 140 nations affirmed that forests are extremely important to meet the global climate goals. Following the declaration, up to \$12 billion from public sources and \$7.2 billion in private financing was pledged towards this goal. The total pledged also included \$1.7 billion for Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPs&LCs) in support of their role to halt deforestation, which is a major contributor to climate change. In the 15th Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) where the historic Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) was adopted, it was acknowledged that Indigenous Peoples protect 80% of the world's biodiversity. IPs&LCs' outsized role in biodiversity conservation and forest protection could no longer be denied.

And yet according to the 2023 Forest Declaration Assessment, the world is off track to meeting global goals to halt deforestation. Instead, deforestation continues to increase significantly, including loss of primary tropical forests. In fact, the loss in 2022 was 33 percent higher than the needed target to halt primary forest loss by 2030. Global gross deforestation reached 6.6 million hectares worldwide, and 4.1 million hectares of primary tropical forest loss. Extreme climate conditions have also been recorded in the region, globally the year 2023 was the hottest on record. In Southeast Asia, the El Nino phenomenon caused a prolonged dry season and an increased record of land and forest fires and higher incidence of toxic pollution. Indonesia reported a fourfold increase in forest fires in 10 provinces – North Sumatra, Riau, Jambi, South Sumatra, West Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan, South Kalimantan, East Kalimantan, North Kalimantan and Papua – a number of which overlap in target landscapes of NTFP-EP Indonesia. Forest fires and pollution from industry supply chains are critical concerns and form part of the crisis at hand.

Meanwhile, finance for forests and biodiversity remain inadequate. Estimated forest finance need is \$460 billion per year but in 2023 the recorded green finance flows were only \$2.2 billion per year. Notably only 3% of annual financing need to IPs&LCs for tenure reforms have so far been met.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Assembly had ratified and established the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) in August 2023, which promises to earmark 20% of its resources to IPLCs for their protection and conservation of biodiversity however the system for access and distribution remains to be set up. If the GEF is utilized as basis and prior experience of financing to IPs&LCs, the GBFF will require a transformative perspective for the financing to truly reach IPs&LCs according to their needs and priorities. Significant changes around access, delivery and role of intermediaries and accredited institutions will be necessary for such.

NTFP-EP with its network partners and allies are rallying around a key message of direct financing to IPs&LCs with some emerging opportunities such as the establishment of the Indigenous Peoples of Asia Solidarity Fund (IPAS), led by key allied indigenous leaders in the region. So far IPAS has garnered pledges of direct financing from philanthropists of up to \$1.6M, and the fund to start its grants delivery by 2025. NTFP-EP has also joined and was welcomed as its 13th and newest member of the Alliance of Socio-environmental Funds in the Global South (Alianza Socio-ambiental Fondos del Sur) by year-end. The Alianza – formed by leading local socio-environmental justice funds from South America, Brazil (Fundo Casa) and Venezuela (Fundacion Tierra Viva), and the Philippines (Samdhana). The Alianza believes that only and truly at the community level lies the most sustainable alternatives and actions to protect the world's ecosystem and for the protection of all.

The main call of the Alianza is especially for the philanthropic sector to recognize the necessity of channeling resources directly to local groups, communities and the vulnerable groups such as women, youth and people with disabilities.

RESTRICTIONS IN CIVIC SPACE, THREATS TO SAFETY AND SECURITY

In terms of civic space, safety and security issues for land, environmental human rights defenders continued to be highly problematic in many countries. The Philippines remained in the top 10 list of most dangerous States for environmental and human rights defenders according to the Global Witness. The Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) that NTFP-EP is a part of, commissioned a civic space survey in 2023 among GLA partners, and **found common issues:**

- CSOs experienced difficulties in all their civic freedoms, in particular access to information, (Women) Environmental Human Rights Defenders ((W)EHRDS) protection, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.
- GLA partners and communities experienced all types of retaliation, ranging from physical attacks to political repression. Some pressing issues include restrictive legislation (e.g. on foreign funding), red-tagging, negative framing, misinformation / fake news, cyber bullying and strategic lawsuit against public participation (SLAPPs) which was the case of Save Rivers [1] in Sarawak, Malaysia. SLAPPs are cases filed against individuals or organizations who speak out on issues of public interest or concern to intimidate them and inflict costs.
- GLA partners faced many types of restrictions, both formal (legal, regulative, administrative) and informal (e.g. intimidation, stigmatizing, loss of legitimacy)
- Many IP&LC leaders and (W)EHRDs were subject to arbitrary arrests and assault, retaliatory litigation and even death. The top three difficulties experienced by GLA partners are access to information, threats to (W)EHRDs and loss of legitimacy and criminalization.

To put in context, the civic space study was conducted among GLA partners who mainly worked or encountered such challenges in tropical forest landscapes; many threats faced related to resistance against corporate and state actors (e.g. mining and plantation companies, and dam and water projects) that are accountable for the deforestation, degradation, exacerbated disasters and displacement of people from their lands and numerous human rights violations.

While GLA in Asia covers only Southeast Asia – the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam, NTFP-EP India faces similar context for example on restrictions in civil society work through tight regulations imposed on receipt of foreign funds and transfers from CSO to CSO in-country.

We see democracy threatened in many countries, the rise of ethnic and resource conflict and an upswing of right-wing politics across the world. While NTFP-EP serves as the secretariat and coordinator of the ICCA Consortium in Southeast Asia and with its active engagement in the ASEAN, we maintain program interest in Myanmar. Two years after the coup, Myanmar's state of human rights and civic space continue to regress. Alternative and creative civil society mobilizations and strengthening mostly take place outside of Myanmar or through virtual channels.

[1] In September 2023, two years after it filed a defamation lawsuit against Save Rivers, timber giant company called Samling withdrew its lawsuit against the indigenous forest defenders.

REGIONAL CONTEXT

SUSTAINABLE USE AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY FOREST ENTERPRISES

Global attention to address the drivers of deforestation, forest degradation and biodiversity loss is essential. The global biodiversity, climate and sustainable development goals (even adding the commitment to sustainable food systems) has been a significant enabler of policies and actions towards sustainable practices and alternatives for ecosystems use and protection, at the consumer level, of lifestyles and of consumption.

The 2023 global assessment has shown that there has been insufficient progress made to date: on financing, on industry shifts in practice, on private sector disclosures of meeting sustainability standards, etc. Commodity or industry-driven deforestation was staggering at 4.77 million hectares and company due diligence particularly in the mining and extractive sectors are quite limited and there are limited reports about such. It was also found that budgets for forest and biodiversity protection remain limited and of low priority by governments, in comparison to initiatives that look at them as investments such as carbon offset/ REDD+ projects, plantations and forest restoration projects. Initiatives to promote community-based adaptation, community-based forest management, and livelihoods including agroforestry, biodiversity-based products, participatory guarantee systems and meeting sustainable harvest protocols remain limited in scale and coverage.

The EU Regulation on Deforestation-free products was enforced in June 2023 and generally welcomed by many civil society organizations, while the more direct impact of the regulation on forest dependent communities and community micro forest enterprises versus small holders have yet to be fully documented and truly understood. In the meantime, civil society groups like NTFP-EP and its IP&LC partners continue to clamor for inclusive platforms and extensive opportunities to raise awareness and deeper understanding about the impact of the regulation on governance over their customary territories and natural resources and commodities, and on their livelihood.

Similarly, the globally trendy nature-based solutions, carbon and biodiversity credit projects and financing that purport to support community livelihoods require appropriate assessment, and exercise of meaningful FPIC (free and informed prior consent). Set against this backdrop of global policy developments, there is a greater demand and relevance to strengthen capacity development programs for IPs&LCs and CSOs to better understand and make strategic use of these policy developments in local actions.

NTFP-EP's country and thematic programs are strengthening their efforts to influence and engage in national/local policy and plan development and in capacitating local institutions to do so. In addition, NTFP-EP's area / landscape-based actions, documentation of good practice, collective action, network and alliance organizing, and knowledge sharing strategies become very crucial and relevant in this regard.

Read:

2023 Forest Declaration Assessment <https://www.forestdeclaration.org/resources/forest-declaration-assessment-2023>

Photo courtesy of Robin Bustamante



A delightful array of wines showcased at Madhu Duniya 2023 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

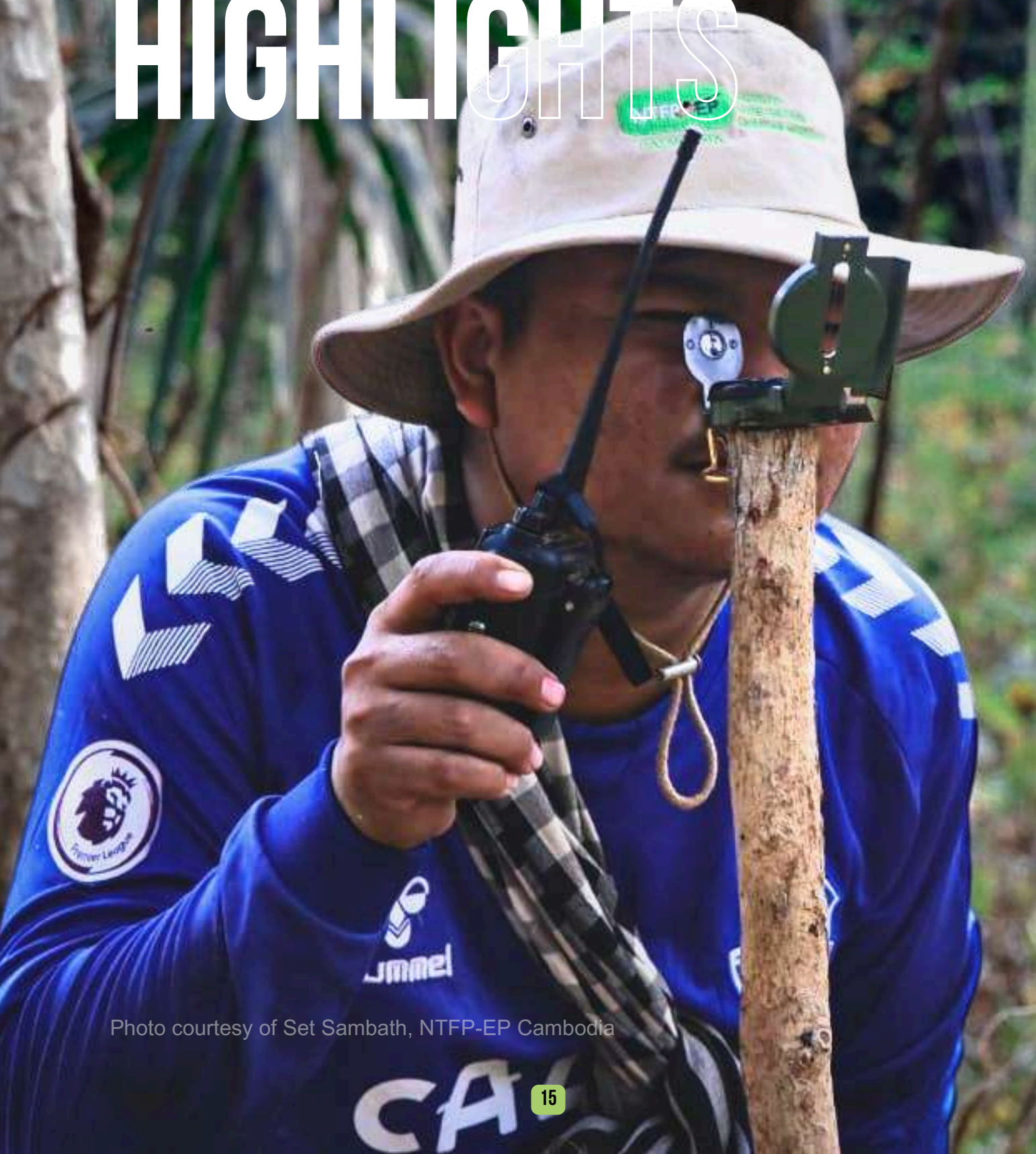



Photo courtesy of Set Sambath, NTFP-EP Cambodia




CAMBODIA

8  Partners in advocacy

8  Location of intervention

13  Target communities reached

2  Indigenous communities supported

309  Target households reached

39, 251 Hectares under community management (in ha)

NTFP-EP Cambodia, officially registered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, has been implementing activities since 2008. With technical support from the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) and Ministry of Environment, they align their work with the regional strategic direction and NCSD's strategic action plan. The program aims to improve the livelihoods of natural resource-dependent communities through community-based enterprises and eco-tourism, while actively participating in sustainable national resource protection and conservation.

The overall political situation in Cambodia remains stable. However, the government has introduced stricter policies for non-government organizations (NGOs), emphasizing project collaboration over traditional Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs). As a result, NGOs seeking MOUs with ministries must now adhere to the new Project Agreement Strategy.

In terms of funding, NTFP-EP Cambodia continues to face challenges in securing grant support. Donors in Cambodia are shifting their focus from NGOs to Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). This trend suggests that NGOs will increasingly take on roles as technical advisors and service providers to CBOs.

Photo courtesy of Ser Sambath, NTFP-EP Cambodia



Photo courtesy of Set Sambath, NTFP-EP Cambodia

From January to December, several key outcomes were achieved by NTFP-EP Cambodia. A community-based ecotourism (CBET) project was established in the Keo Siema Wildlife Sanctuary, Monduliri province, with support from the WCS/REDD+ Project. Six training courses were conducted for Community Forestry Livelihood and Community Forestry Enterprises in five provinces, reaching 200 participants from 10 Community Forestry groups, with 30% female participation.

The courses included Facilitation Skills, Conflict Resolution, Management and Leadership, Bookkeeping, Enterprise Development, Business Development Planning, and Digital Marketing.

Furthermore, a Learning Exchange visit to the Philippines was participated in by seven individuals, including four community representatives and three NTFP-EP Cambodia staff. In October 2023, progress was presented at the BERSAMA event in Indonesia.

NTFP-EP Cambodia was also appointed to the board of trustees. Additionally, recognition was received as a great guest speaker at the annual national ecotourism forum, with a certificate awarded by the Minister of Tourism.

Collaboration with the Ministry of Environment for the River Festival and Women's Day was also undertaken, with contributions made to the event budget and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) showcased.

Empowering Communities and Forests

NTFP-EP Cambodia has made significant strides in empowering tribal communities through various local initiatives, respecting cultural traditions while promoting sustainable forest resource management.

Currently, there are 15 operational Community-Based NTFP Enterprises (CBNEs), comprising six honey harvesting groups, two traing processing groups, four Community-Based Ecotourism (CBET) groups, and three rattan processing groups.


These enterprises collectively involve 285 households (HHs), including 43 female-headed households (FHHs) and 58 Indigenous People (IP) households, with five of these being female-headed IP households. Specifically, the six honey groups include 152 HHs, with 12 FHHs and 42 IP HHs; the four CBET groups include 84 HHs, with 31 FHHs and 16 IP HHs (including five IP FHHs); the two traing groups include 35 HHs, with seven FHHs and no IP HHs; and the three rattan groups include 47 HHs, with five FHHs.

The forest area utilized for these enterprises spans a total of 39,350.50 hectares across 28 Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) areas, including 22 Community Forests (CFs) covering 33,913.5 hectares, three Community Forestry Internationals (CFIs) covering 3,009 hectares, and one Community Protected Area (CPA) covering 2,428 hectares.

In terms of annual sales, the six honey groups generated \$25,059.29, the four CBET groups generated \$21,806.18, and the two traing groups generated \$3,713.25, totaling \$50,578.72.

The three rattan groups just started in 2023. Furthermore, 11 CBEs have contributed \$772.34 to CBNRM groups for natural resource management, while three CFEs have contributed \$325.76. The primary Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) used for these enterprises are honey, rattan, traing, and CBET.





Handcrafted rattan products created by the talented artisans supported by the AFoCo-CLMV Project

Photo courtesy of Set Sambath, NTFP-EP Cambodia



INDIA

NTFP-EP India collaborates with various tribal communities, creating and executing local projects that honor cultural traditions. The collective aim of NTFP-EP's partners is to empower forest-based communities to use and manage forest resources sustainably. The network is dedicated to engaging with more indigenous communities and addressing NTFP issues, working towards a comprehensive understanding of Indigenous Peoples and their relationship with forests.

The year has been marked by unrest in several parts of the world, with the ongoing Ukraine-Russia war and the disproportionate genocide in Gaza. These events have highlighted the role of other countries and underscored how geopolitics is market-driven and influenced by racial and ethnic prejudices. These circumstances have had ripple effects in many parts of Asia, leading to rising prices of essential goods, especially oil and gas.

Elections have taken place in many parts of the world, including the Netherlands (2023), Sweden (2022), Germany (2023), France, and Finland. The results in these countries will likely affect their development policies and grants to other countries in the global south.

COP28 was held in Dubai, where agreements to cut carbon emissions were reached, but no binding commitments have been made, which continues to be a cause for concern. Climate-related catastrophes have affected many parts of the world throughout the year, with forest fires, cyclones, and floods wreaking havoc.

In India, the increase in coal production, the expansion of palm oil cultivation to new regions such as the northeast, and the amendments to forest conservation policies have kept environmentalists vigilant.

Journalists and journalism in India have faced significant challenges, with the country slipping to the 161st position out of a total of 180, a regression of 11 places since 2022.

In this context, NTFP-EP India has continued to work in seven states on the various themes of Conservation, Advocacy, Livelihoods, and Culture.

Some aspects of each of these themes are detailed in the following pages:

Conservation

In Chhattisgarh's 12 districts, extensive conservation activities were carried out, including raising 60,230 native plants in 11 districts and 121,697 plants of 49 species in Bastar. Over 50,000 plants were planted in degraded areas during the monsoon, particularly in Arapur. These efforts, driven by community efforts, included protection measures like traditional Thengapalli and hiring personnels to safeguard saplings from grazing animals.

Conservation efforts were closely tied to Community Forest Rights lands under the Forest Rights Act, prompting conservation and plantation drives across NTFP-EP India's working areas. Plant diversity mapping identified declining species and trained local community workers. Seed banks were established to conserve traditional crops and indigenous strains, facilitating seed exchange among local farmers. Several NTFP species, including endangered ones, were collected and conserved.

In Tamil Nadu's Palni Hills, the Palni Hills Conservation Council (PHCC) focused on watershed protection and community engagement in villages. Activities included restoration of natural water bodies, health and hygiene awareness, and gender equality advancement. PHCC maintained marsh nurseries with aquatic flora and conducted a 3-day nursery training workshop in July 2023, sharing knowledge on nursery raising methods and propagation techniques.

PHCC also conducted research in montane areas, identifying endangered flora and facilitating tree planting programs. Over 50,000 trees of more than 40 species were planted, promoting wildlife and community empowerment. In the southern districts of Tamil Nadu, SEEDs Trust worked on mangrove and coastal conservation, planting 60,000 mangrove seedlings and improving sand dunes biodiversity to protect villages from natural calamities.



Photo courtesy of NTFP-EP India



Photo courtesy of NTFP-EP India

In Karnataka, Prakruti promoted beekeeping to protect honeybees from pesticides. Collaboration with horticultural departments helped understand pesticide impacts on bees and crop pollination. In Rajasthan, Sewa Mandir expanded vegetative cover and restored common lands, planting 3,78,380 saplings in 1275 ha, and removing invasive species with community labor.

In Odisha, Gram Swaraj focused on biodiversity conservation in the Similipal Biosphere Reserve, strengthening community institutions and empowering women in leadership roles. Village-level trainings and ecosystem-based approaches were implemented to integrate conservation and climate resilience.

In Andhra Pradesh, Velugu Foundation continued its campaign against granite quarrying, establishing nurseries with 56 species and planting hill broom to prevent erosion in podu lands.

Policy and Advocacy

The Community Forest Rights (CFR) Act in India has faced poor implementation, despite its potential to recognize the rights of around 150 million tribal and forest-dwelling communities over approximately 40 million hectares of forest land. Many organizations are engaged in the CFR process, moving from successful claim recognition to managing the areas.

Efforts include raising awareness and submitting claims, as seen in the work of Prakruti in Karnataka's Western Ghats, where campaigns have successfully stopped a railway line to protect the fragile Kali valley and supported Kunbi adivasi people in claiming their rights in the Anshi Tiger Reserve.

In Tamil Nadu, SEEDs Trust conducted training for 350 individuals across 30 villages on gender equality and gender issues, addressing problems like the denial of education and reproductive health rights for women.

They also provided training on Community Forest Rights and sustainable forest resource use. In Rajasthan, Sewa Mandir held 238 community training sessions with over 6,600 participants, focusing on site-specific restoration and active community engagement in conservation and long-term forest protection. They achieved recognition for 202 CFR claims and continued close follow-up on many applications.

In Maharashtra's Yavatmal district, GSMT focused on building community capacities for managing CFR areas, sustainable harvesting, and enhancing livelihoods through forest produce-based enterprises. They facilitated the development and execution of management plans in 117 villages, with significant financial investment. GSMT also worked on habitat rights for the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, assisting the Kolam communities in submitting their claims. They strengthened Gramsabhas and established federations at block and district levels to raise issues at appropriate forums.

LEAF in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district created awareness about native forest species and sustainable NTFP management, involving women's groups in seed collection and youth in assessing plant diversity. PRERAK in other districts mapped CFR areas with community members and trained them on GPS usage. They focused on identifying village boundaries, sustainable resource protection, and enhancing community capacities, especially for MGNREGA work. A district-level meeting highlighted the importance of traditional forest protection customs.

In Odisha, RCDC succeeded in converting seven un-surveyed villages and five old habitations into revenue villages, mobilizing community support against the relocation of Pitanaou village from a wildlife sanctuary. They strengthened CFR management committees and facilitated women's involvement in managing medicinal plant gardens and marketing NTFPs. Women's leadership also achieved the establishment of essential services and infrastructure in remote areas, significantly reducing travel distances and increasing involvement in community asset creation through MGNREGS work.

In Andhra Pradesh's Srikakulam district, Velugu campaigned against new granite quarries and raised awareness about preventing large-scale palm oil plantations on community lands. Their legal expertise and community meetings have been pivotal in protecting land from harmful developments.



Photo courtesy of NTFP-EP India



Livelihood and Enterprise

Livelihood and enterprise initiatives across the network focus heavily on Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs). In Rajasthan, Samarthak Samiti has improved incomes for 150 Adivasi women by training them in the safe harvesting, processing, and marketing of custard apples, increasing their earnings by 30-40%. They also support honey and jamun product development. Sewa Mandir's reforestation efforts provided long-term benefits to 14,849 families and generated immediate employment, with 69% of the 110,494 person-days of work earned by women.

In Tamil Nadu, SEEDS Trust facilitated socio-economic development through training programs for 150 women on processing and marketing turkey berries and tamarind, boosting incomes by 50%. They also engaged 550 women in honey production, which sold at Rs 800/kg.

SEEDS Trust planted 63,500 seedlings to support future honey production. In Odisha, Gram Swaraj advanced millet farming under the Odisha Millets Mission, working with 1,354 farmers across 152 villages to enhance millet productivity and market integration.

Gram Swaraj also implemented a cluster program under the SFURTI scheme, engaging 550 artisans in the production of goods from Sal leaf, Sabai grass, and bamboo. These artisans showcased their products in New Delhi and Mumbai expos. In Maharashtra, GSMT used the Forest Rights Act (FRA) to foster entrepreneurship among forest communities, establishing fishery, honey, and mahua processing units, increasing household incomes significantly. They also created revolving funds to support NTFP harvesters and entrepreneurs.

GSMT's initiatives included setting up mahua collection centers in 60 villages, involving 147 households in mahua seed collection, which generated substantial income. Additionally, 20 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) secured funds under various schemes, and the Disha Women Federation linked 1,200 women with development missions.

They also installed mahua banks and processing units for gum, bamboo, and chironji, further enhancing livelihood opportunities. These initiatives across different states highlight the focus on sustainable use and value addition of forest resources, skill training, and market integration, leading to increased incomes and better livelihoods for tribal and forest-dwelling communities. The combined efforts of various organizations have resulted in significant socio-economic improvements, demonstrating the impact of targeted livelihood support and enterprise development.

Culture and Forest Food

The subject of wild forest foods is one that many of the partners are working on with their Adivasi and rural communities. The work entails getting an overview of the foods available, the decline in some species (often due to market forces), their consumption levels in the community, and the knowledge of their identification, processing, etc. In central India's Chhattisgarh, Prerak conducted several sessions including field work, 'classroom' work, listing, etc., to map the available wild foods and their status in many communities.

About 1430 community members participated in these events, and the various foods were listed. Some of the endangered foods included tikur rhizomes, species of mushrooms and fish, and some foods that are also used as medicine. Most of the decline in the foods were traced to market forces and unsustainable harvest practices; awareness about these threats were also part of the discussions. In Bastar district, sessions with the youth on language have been conducted through LEAF.

In Tamil Nadu, the PHCC held two workshops with Adivasi communities at the foothills of the Palani ranges to revive their knowledge of wild foods, which has dwindled due to reliance on government rations and mainstream foods. In Dindigul district, SEEDs Trust addressed poor educational outcomes and early marriages among Adivasi girls by opening 10 Alternative Education Centres in forest fringe villages. These centres, staffed by part-time teachers and equipped with educational tablets featuring state board content, now educate 398 children.

In Sirkakulam, Velugu conducted community level meetings to identify wild forest foods in CFR areas and devised ways for their conservation.

The link between wild foods and health was also emphasized in these training programmes around wild forest foods.

Prerak has been instrumental in helping tribal communities access social security schemes like MGNREGA and Forest Department plantation programs. This support has benefited 736 community members, ensuring they received full wages for their work on farm ponds, land leveling, trench construction, and plantation programs, without delays, for both men and women. On World Environment Day, Prerak organized 12 events across project districts to promote community forest protection and management. These included community meetings, village rallies, and awareness camps involving Forest Rights Committees, CFR Management Committees, women, and youth.

In Maharashtra, GSMT initiated a community youth fellowship program in the 5th Schedule Area, identifying 40 local tribal youth through a screening process. These fellows will receive quarterly training over three years, with 10 adapted modules for capacity building. The aim is to have these trained fellows work in 200 villages, ensuring long-term community development.

An incident in Bastar, Chhattisgarh, highlighted community-police cooperation when a fence enclosing a planted area was stolen. Community workers reported the theft, and the police promptly apprehended the thieves and returned the fence, showing strong support for LEAF's reforestation activities.



INDONESIA

17		Partners in advocacy	4		Location of intervention
8		Target communities reached	5		Indigenous communities supported
7		Target communities reached	5,954		Hectares under community management (in ha)

The potential of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in Indonesia, a country known for its rich biodiversity, holds significant promise for economic and production gains.

NTFP-EP Indonesia envisions bridging scientific research with developmental approaches to enhance knowledge about NTFPs, forest ecosystems, and their impact on the livelihoods of forest-based communities. Operating as Yayasan Pengembangan Sumberdaya Hutan Indonesia since its establishment in 2012, NTFP-EP Indonesia collaborates with partner communities and organizations in Kalimantan, Sumatera, and Nusa Tenggara provinces. These partnerships extend to local and national government entities, non-government organizations, and academic institutions.

NTFP-EP Indonesia continues to foster a collaborative platform among various stakeholders, facilitating the integration of NTFPs into relevant issues, policies, agendas, institutions, and markets related to forests and communities.

Major changes in various aspects of life occurred after the COVID-19 transition period. Delayed or cancelled programs were resumed and implemented in 2023.

The implementation of these programs was made more open to the public, allowing for greater visibility.

The collaboration established with various organizations, governments, and community groups, supported by NTFP-EP Indonesia, has facilitated direct communication, including face-to-face meetings.

In 2023, several trainings, mentoring sessions, cultural festivals, and local product showcases were conducted directly after the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. NTFP-EP Indonesia has undertaken significant efforts to re-implement its thematic programs on a large scale.

Advancing Sustainable Practices through Digital Innovation

From April to December, in Namo Village, Central Sulawesi, and Pepas Eheng Village, East Kalimantan, the Frontier Project focused on experimental research to optimize digital tools for minimizing environmental degradation.

Data on the management of rattan using the PGS ROLES (Sustainable Rattan) scheme was collected through community interviews, revealing that PGS ROLES could be digitalized. Local champions were equipped with technology to lead community groups and disseminate results.

In June 2023, the Community-Based Monitoring Tools (CBMT) program was launched in the Lariang Landscape, Central Sulawesi, as part of a decade-long effort with the PGS ROLEs system. This program, in collaboration with local NGOs, government, and community groups, introduced a simplified web-based monitoring application adhering to PGS principles. In October, the National Council for the Van Der Sar Import Company accepted the PGS ROLEs audit, awarding a certificate that permits the use of the PGS ROLEs logo on their basket products. The audit, conducted in Ketab Village, Central Kalimantan, and PT. Indonex Deko Basket in Cirebon, identified deficiencies and confirmed that the Segregation-straight Model (SG-3) was used, ensuring that all rattan in certified products are sourced separately and traced to the plantation level. SG-3 represents the highest certification level in PGS ROLEs.

Sustainable Climate Adaptive Livelihoods

In 2023, significant progress was made in community engagement and cultural promotion. The Moa Village government approved the formation of a business group to manage their Customary Forest, allowing communities to conduct business activities utilizing natural resources such as coffee, rattan, pandanus leaf, and palm sugar.

In June, the Lore Festival was held in Besoa Valley, Central Sulawesi, showcasing local products, culture, ecotourism, and community initiatives in the Lore Valley. August saw a shared learning activity on "Business Models for Non-Timber Forest Products," conducted by Mrs. Nuning Barwa for local partners. In October, the Grand Archipelago Harvest Festival (PARARA) took place in Jakarta, initiated by 33 organizations to promote local, healthy, fair, and sustainable community products.

Finally, in December, NTFP-EP Indonesia led the Community Livelihoods Assessment and Product Scanning (CLAPS) training in Kuching, Sarawak, to document the potential of NTFPs in participants' areas.

Tenure Rights and Governance

In April, the online event NTFP Talk 1.0 focused on the Illipe Nut (Tengkawang), providing a platform for stakeholders from non-governmental organizations, government, academia, local communities, and other sectors to exchange information. Additionally, NTFP-EP Indonesia was involved in the Youth Engagement and Empowerment (YEEHA) program held from March 12 to 23, 2023, in Sabah, Malaysia. This initiative aimed to enhance youth capacity in social activities, cultural economic rights, and environmental and cultural conservation. Support was also provided to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) in synthesizing data from 63 Social Forestry Business Groups. For the upcoming implementation program, focus will be given to three commodities: Illipe Nuts/Tengkawang, Palm Sugar, and Coffee.



MALAYSIA

3		Partners in advocacy	3		Location of intervention
11		Target communities reached	3		Indigenous communities supported
120		Target households reached	unknown		Hectares under community management (in ha)

In 2022, NTFP-EP Malaysia underwent a significant transformation, changing its registration type and name to become the association now known as Persatuan Pemeliharaan dan Pemuliharaan Alam Sekitar Sarawak (PELIHARA). Despite these changes, the organization's commitment to its mission remained steadfast as the work continued into the following year.

Rehabilitation and reforestation activities in Malaysia are ongoing efforts. In 2023, NTFP-EP Malaysia focused on engaging youth to ensure knowledge transfer and to identify and train future leaders. This aligns with our targeted outcome of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Local Communities (LCs) collectively owning, governing, and sustainably managing their Native Customary Rights (NCR) Lands and Forests. In March, PACOS Trust organized a community organizing training for youth in Long Meraan, Sarawak.

This two-week training course, comprising one week of theoretical instruction and one week of practical sessions, was attended by nine youths from two villages and one partner (a youth from the Sarawak Dayak Iban Association or SADIA).

The goal of this training was to build and enhance the capacity of these nine youths to address various community issues.

They learned to analyze issues through social or community analysis and to ensure community involvement for capacity building. Recognizing that some youths were not fluent in writing and reading, trainers employed role play, quizzes, and group discussions to convey theories. During the one-week field activity in Long Meraan, the youths applied their knowledge by conducting social or community analyses and planning and organizing three short sessions based on identified issues or needs. The youths effectively assumed their roles as coordinators, and the sessions were conducted successfully.

Another significant activity took place in Long Jaik, Ulu Belaga, where a youth gardening group was initiated. Seventeen male youths, aged 13 to 22, participated in learning about gardening. It is crucial for the IPs to transmit traditional knowledge about land and forest stewardship and to build the confidence of the youth in Long Jaik, particularly those who left school at a young age. The youths learned how to clear land for gardening from a few elders and how to plant vegetables and fruit seedlings, fostering skills in sustainability and food security.

GLA Malaysia & the European Union Deforestation Regulations (EUDR)

In 2023, NTFP-EP Malaysia drafted a position paper on the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), representing the views of the Green Livelihoods Alliance Network (GLA) Malaysia.

GLA Malaysia strongly supports the EUDR, as its implementation will help halt the ongoing deforestation of indigenous community forests and the disruption of their livelihoods by large corporations favouring oil palm cash crops.

This position paper was presented to Ms. Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director-General of the European Commission Directorate General for Environment, on 28 June 2023, during her visit to Kuala Lumpur, where she met with Malaysian environmental civil society organizations.

Looking ahead, NTFP-EP Malaysia will lead follow-up dialogues on the EUDR between GLA Malaysia, the EU Delegation in Malaysia, and the Embassy of the Netherlands in Malaysia in 2024.

The Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)

Informed support was provided by NTFP-EP Malaysia and the GLA Malaysia Network to Persatuan Pemangkin Kesedaran Sosial (Pemangkin) for their participation as a member of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) Task Force, which was tasked with reviewing the RSPO Principles and

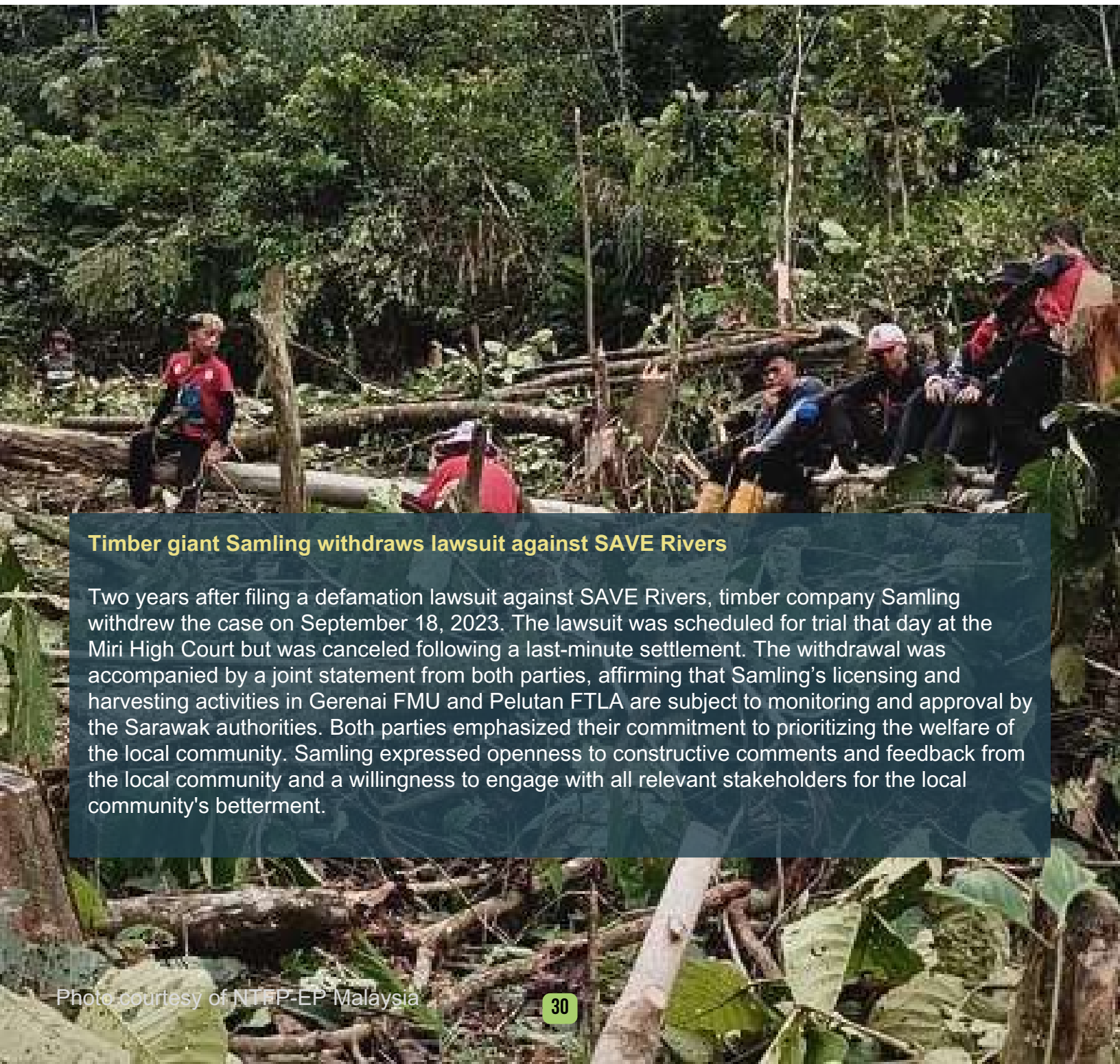
Criteria (P&C) for Sustainable Palm Oil. This intensive year-long process, which began in 2022, culminated in 2023.

Pemangkin, an ordinary social/development organization member of the RSPO, is a key Sarawak-based CSO that collaborates closely with NTFP-EP Malaysia and GLA Malaysia. The revised P&Cs for Sustainable Palm Oil are expected to be published by



the RSPO soon, with the aim of providing clarity on what constitutes sustainable palm oil. This information, along with other critical topics such as “supply chain analysis” and “free, prior and informed consent” (FPIC), will be disseminated to enhance the advocacy skills of our CSO partners and indigenous villagers.

Ultimately, it is hoped that increased knowledge about the RSPO and its global standards will empower organizations and communities to effectively address and resist the encroachment of companies on indigenous forests and lands.



Timber giant Samling withdraws lawsuit against SAVE Rivers

Two years after filing a defamation lawsuit against SAVE Rivers, timber company Samling withdrew the case on September 18, 2023. The lawsuit was scheduled for trial that day at the Miri High Court but was canceled following a last-minute settlement. The withdrawal was accompanied by a joint statement from both parties, affirming that Samling’s licensing and harvesting activities in Gerenai FMU and Pelutan FTLA are subject to monitoring and approval by the Sarawak authorities. Both parties emphasized their commitment to prioritizing the welfare of the local community. Samling expressed openness to constructive comments and feedback from the local community and a willingness to engage with all relevant stakeholders for the local community’s betterment.



PHILIPPINES

64		Partners in advocacy	9		Location of intervention
86		Target communities reached	7		Indigenous communities supported
2,478		Target households reached	550,845		Hectares under community management (in ha)

For NTFP-EP Philippines, 2023 was productive, a time for reflection, and *padayon*, meaning, to forge on. In the Philippines, the continued extractive and destructive projects – large dams, mining, land selling within ancestral domains – have resulted in polarisation and division among partner Indigenous Peoples (IPs). And while many partner IP leaders ran for positions in the local barangay elections, most did not win. To be able to push for pro-IP and pro-environment policies, there is a need to build good working relationships with those who won in the elections.

As one of world's deadliest regions for environmental defenders, security risks persist in the different landscapes. Dissenters and environmental defenders continue to bear the brunt of shrinking civic space in the country: from red-tagging, surveillance, intimidation, death threats and even illegal arrests. This directly impacts work in the country, and there is a growing need to strengthen security measures and implement security protocols, in the physical and even in the digital space.

Severe weather disturbances in 2023 triggered intense rains, floods, landslides in many partner landscapes. This caused loss of lives, properties, and disruption of livelihoods. The rise in prices of basic goods also severely affected all partner communities, even causing some to resort to unsustainable activities, such as overhunting of wild animals, charcoal making, and agar wood cutting.

Forest monitoring and enforcement activities are necessary, and additional livelihoods must be explored. On a positive note, some IPs have returned to planting more root crops and vegetables to ensure their food sovereignty amidst these uncertainties.

Emerging risks and threats in 2023 included a renewed call for charter change by the House of Representatives. Problematic amendments include granting foreign ownership to lands and businesses, which will directly affect partner communities' control of lands and resources. A bill has also been filed to transfer powers of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), including the conduct of the free and prior informed consent process (FPIC).

Campaigning with allied groups against charter change and transferring NCIP powers to DENR must be done, as well as information, education, and communication initiatives within partner communities. Lastly, tensions between China and the Philippines have escalated in the West Philippine Sea, and destruction of coral reefs have been reported in the Sabina Shoal. This is only 130 nautical miles from Palawan, alarming residents. There is a need to raise awareness of the issue among partners, and work with allied groups in fighting for the Philippines' rights in the West Philippine Sea.

NTFP-EP Philippines continued to work with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs&LCs) towards their sustainable governance and management of forest landscapes, through sustainable livelihoods, inclusive policies and programs, enhanced, transmitted culture, and the active, meaningful participation of women and youth.

Indigenous Peoples' organizations – including women and youth – continued to participate in local governance by gaining seats in local special bodies and local development councils, and champion advocacies and concerns. In Bukidnon, the local government created an Indigenous Peoples' development advisory body, where partner Higaunon leaders, youth, and women leaders are key members.

Network formation and strengthening continued in 2023. In Mindanao, the Higaunon Forest Corridor network was formed, which aims to ensure cultural integrity through inter-generational exchange and bridging traditional dialogues in seven (7) indigenous ancestral domains. The Mat-i Manibay Civoleg Langguyod (MAMACILA) Higaunon Tribal Community formed its youth organization in 2023. The Southern Palawan youth network was also formed, and key leaders elected. At the national level, the UGNAYIN National IP Youth Network crafted their youth agenda, the Diliman Declaration,

outlining their calls on culture, IP rights, climate and environment, education, and health during the National IP Youth Camp in November 2023. The UGNAYIN leaders also co-produced and hosted the Ugnayan Facebook show in 2023, a platform for sharing stories, advocacies and calls to action from IPs&LCs in the Philippines, especially youth.

With the rapid entry of extractives and destructive activities in ancestral domains, NTFP-EP Philippines continued to support IPs&LCs assertion of their rights.

The Agta-Dumagat IPs in the Southern Sierra Madre continue to stand firm against the Kaliwa Dam through legal and metalegal means – from the Alay Lakad, a 9-day walk to Malacañang, pushing for court cases, as well as international mechanisms and platforms like the United Nations Periodic Review.

In Palawan, the Pala'wan IPs stood firm against the entry of nickel mining in Brooke's Point. This was affirmed by a cease-and-desist order from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, and another by the local government, for the lack of permits of Celestial Nickel Exploration Corporation and its operator Ipilan Nickel Mining Corporation.



Photo courtesy of NTFP-EP Philippines

However, with constricting civic space comes the need to ensure that security protocols are in place and practiced.

Despite this, NTFP-EP Philippines worked towards greater recognition of Indigenous Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs) through documentation and mapping: in Northern Mindanao, three in Rizal, Palawan, and one in the Mt. Irid ICCA in Southern Sierra Madre. Rainforestation, or the practice of community-based forest restoration and NTFP-based livelihoods development, continued with partner communities in 2023. Combining traditional and scientific methodologies for forest management with communities is also key, and there is a need for more robust data. Traditional reflection sessions based on traditional cultural practices also enabled conflict resolution – especially due to the increasing polarisation among IPs.

Support for community-based enterprises continues, from community livelihoods appraisal, to enterprise management, product development, marketing and gaining public support. In Palawan, the Indigenous Women's organisation, the Samahan ng Katutubong Tagbanua sa Narra were given a display center by the local government, over other entrepreneurs.

Under its program to safeguard culture, NTFP-EP Philippines continued to support 14 Schools of Living Tradition (SLTs) in indigenous cultural communities across the country and established 1 SLT in Palawan in 2023. In Visayas, NTFP-EP Philippines continued to work with partner local communities in gaining recognition for Aklan Piña Handloom Weaving, which was finally declared part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage List of UNESCO in December 2023.

With more support (resources), successful strategies can be expanded or replicated in other areas. There is also a need to improve documentation and knowledge sharing approaches and maximize the use of social media to highlight success stories. Strengthening of federations is also seen as key to sustaining ancestral domain management, conservation, and inclusive governance.

Almaciga (*Agathis philippinensis*) harvester from Brooke's Point, Palawan brings down close to 50 kilos of Almaciga resin to Samahan ng mga Palawano sa Amas Brooke's Point (SPABP)

Photo courtesy of Norlita Coilli/NTFP-EP Philippines



Indigenous Palawano leaders offer *lutlut* in a ritual during a protest against mining. The destruction caused by mining threatens these very food and livelihood sources within their ancestral domain.





VIETNAM

5		Partners in advocacy	8		Location of intervention
13		Target communities reached	2		Indigenous communities supported
309		Target households reached	39, 250.50		Hectares under community management (in ha)

As a country rich in biodiversity, Vietnam proudly encompasses 14.86 million hectares of forest, home to thousands of species of wild flora and fauna. Among these, over 7,000 tree species contribute to non-timber forest products (NTFPs), while 5,117 species serve medicinal purposes (DARD, 2024).

The forests play a significant role in the cultural and spiritual practices of over 25 million indigenous peoples across 54 ethnic groups. In 2020, Vietnam was recognized as the 16th richest country in biodiversity by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

However, according to WWF, Vietnam is facing rapid biodiversity degradation due to climate change and human activities such as population growth, land use change, unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, and pollution. These changes negatively impact infrastructure, energy, economic development, transportation, and people's lives.

Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities is crucial in countering the impacts of biodiversity degradation. The UNDP Resident Representative in Vietnam emphasized that IPs are “the best guardians of forests and natural ecosystems, where successive generations call home.” Despite their critical role, these communities are vulnerable to climate change and biodiversity loss, necessitating extra efforts to ensure their well-being and involve them in natural resource management and forest protection.

In recent years, Vietnam has been preparing various climate change adaptation plans to cope with extreme weather. Specifically, 2023 concluded with an El Niño event lasting until April 2024.

The prolonged drought, followed by saline intrusion, freshwater shortage, and heatwaves, severely impacted agricultural production, household water consumption, and livestock. The Central Highland and Central Regions suffered the most, with thousands of hectares of rice fields, coffee and black pepper, durian, and forests lost to the drought. Even the irrigation systems, including canals and reservoirs, were insufficient, leading local governments to prioritize the remaining water for daily use rather than irrigation.

Regarding NTFP products and consumption trends in Vietnam, 86% of the population is willing to pay extra for organic products, according to a 2018 Nielsen report. After reopening the country and normalizing economic and social aspects in 2021 post-COVID-19 lockdown, 2022 and 2023 saw a recovery in economic life and increased demand for healthy, organic food and beverage products.

The COVID-19 pandemic shifted perspectives, highlighting the importance of good health. With 60% of the 100 million population being young people,

Vietnamese consumers increasingly care about the quality, origin, and environmental friendliness of their daily consumption. The technological era has transformed Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) into a new “playground” for Community-Based Natural Enterprises (CBNEs) in Vietnam. Communities no longer need to set up stores in big cities or rely on middlemen to reach their customers. However, ensuring product quality and quantity remains a challenge for small and medium enterprises competing with large corporations.

NTFP-EP Vietnam has high hopes that the years from 2023 onwards will be a thriving period for CBNEs, especially those owned by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs&LC). These enterprises can develop their livelihoods while addressing climate change impacts and countering biodiversity degradation in Vietnam.

Since 2017, efforts have been made by NTFP-EP Vietnam in the buffer zones of various protected areas across the country, mainly in the Southeast, South Central, and Central Highlands regions. The aim has been to restore local knowledge and enhance ecosystem-based livelihoods, promoting local-led initiatives and establishing community-based NTFP enterprises (CBNEs).

Strengthening the Network of Community-based NTFP Enterprises

A network of 29 CBNEs, led by local groups nationwide, has been successfully established and nurtured by NTFP-EP Vietnam. Each CBNE is at a different stage of maturity; while some young leaders require further support to meaningfully engage in resource management decision-making processes with other stakeholders, other CBNEs have already begun to thrive with their initiatives.

These CBNEs are acquiring additional experience in areas such as business management, product development, and accessing target markets. Additionally, local knowledge is being documented through practical activities related to education, livelihood development, and resource protection. The vision remains to diversify local products, promote indigenous cultures and traditional activities, and conserve NTFP resources by strengthening CBNE networks.



Providing Capacity Building for Community Leaders, Assisting in Gaining Product Certificates and Promotion Opportunities

Various activities were implemented in 2023, including capacity building for the network and its 14 youth-led members. The network has been expanded with new members from the Kon Tum and Gia Lai provinces. Moreover, new products were developed and received trademark certifications like the OCOP certificate, thanks to support from CSOs and local authorities in Gia Lai and Lam Dong Provinces. Digital marketing strategies and online marketing were conducted for four women and youth-led CBNEs from Lam Dong, Gia Lai, and Kon Tum Provinces. The promotion event of forest honey and native Asian bees, known as the 5th Madhu Duniya (Honey World), was successfully organized in Ho Chi Minh City, with field visits to Ben Tre and Ca Mau Provinces from November 6-10, 2023. The event saw participation from 128 individuals representing 74 organizations from 13 countries across Asia, Australia, America, and Europe. This major event for NTFP-EP Vietnam was an honor to host and learn from the global beekeeping community.

Continuing to Expand NTFP Products with Nurseries – NTFP Species Restoration

In the coming years, efforts will continue to assess and prioritize NTFPs with significant potential values and develop NTFP nurseries within the community. NTFP seedling nurseries have been established to provide seedlings for local communities, including dye trees in Dung K'No community, My Thanh Nursery Garden, Yang Mao Rattan Nursery, and Chum Moi Nursery in Kon Tum.

Despite the long drought this year causing a loss to a nursery garden, support will be provided to the community to dig a well, reducing dependence on natural groundwater sources or rains. Discussions will also take place to select seeds and types of trees that are resistant to drought-prone areas and climate changes. It is hoped that these efforts will yield positive outcomes.





Building Capacity and Supporting Young Leaders: The Kon Pne Community

Kon Pne, a traditional Bahnar village nestled in the Central Highlands of Vietnam, is home to 1,300 people living in three villages: Kon Hleng, Kon Ktonh, and Kon Kring. Surrounded by mountain ranges and tropical forests, Kon Pne was once accessible only by foot, preserving its cultural heritage and traditional practices. Despite the abundance of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) like bamboo shoots, honey, and herbs, 80% of the population lived in poverty. In 2022, NTFP-EP Vietnam began working with local authorities and the community to develop a collective NTFP brand, focusing on bamboo shoots as a key product. A Kol, a young Bahnar leader, was chosen to connect NTFP-EP Vietnam with the community. He helped build a bamboo shoot drying house, ensuring quality production and year-round availability. A Kol represented Vietnam at the YEEHA conference in Indonesia, where he exchanged knowledge with youth from Southeast Asia, gaining confidence and international experience. His journey exemplifies the potential of community-led economic development and the importance of supporting young leaders in preserving culture and improving livelihoods.

Photo courtesy of NTFP-EP Vietnam

Establishing a Comprehensive Database on NTFPs

A comprehensive and scientifically grounded database on non-timber forest products (NTFPs) utilization, management, and development has been established. Additionally, four workshops were conducted to promote the preservation of cultural beliefs related to biodiversity conservation and to share knowledge about sustainable NTFP collection. These workshops, with more than 25 IPs&LCs participating, took place in Binh Duong (NTFPs – Bamboo Village workshop), Lam Dong, and Binh Thuan between 2022 and 2023.

THEMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

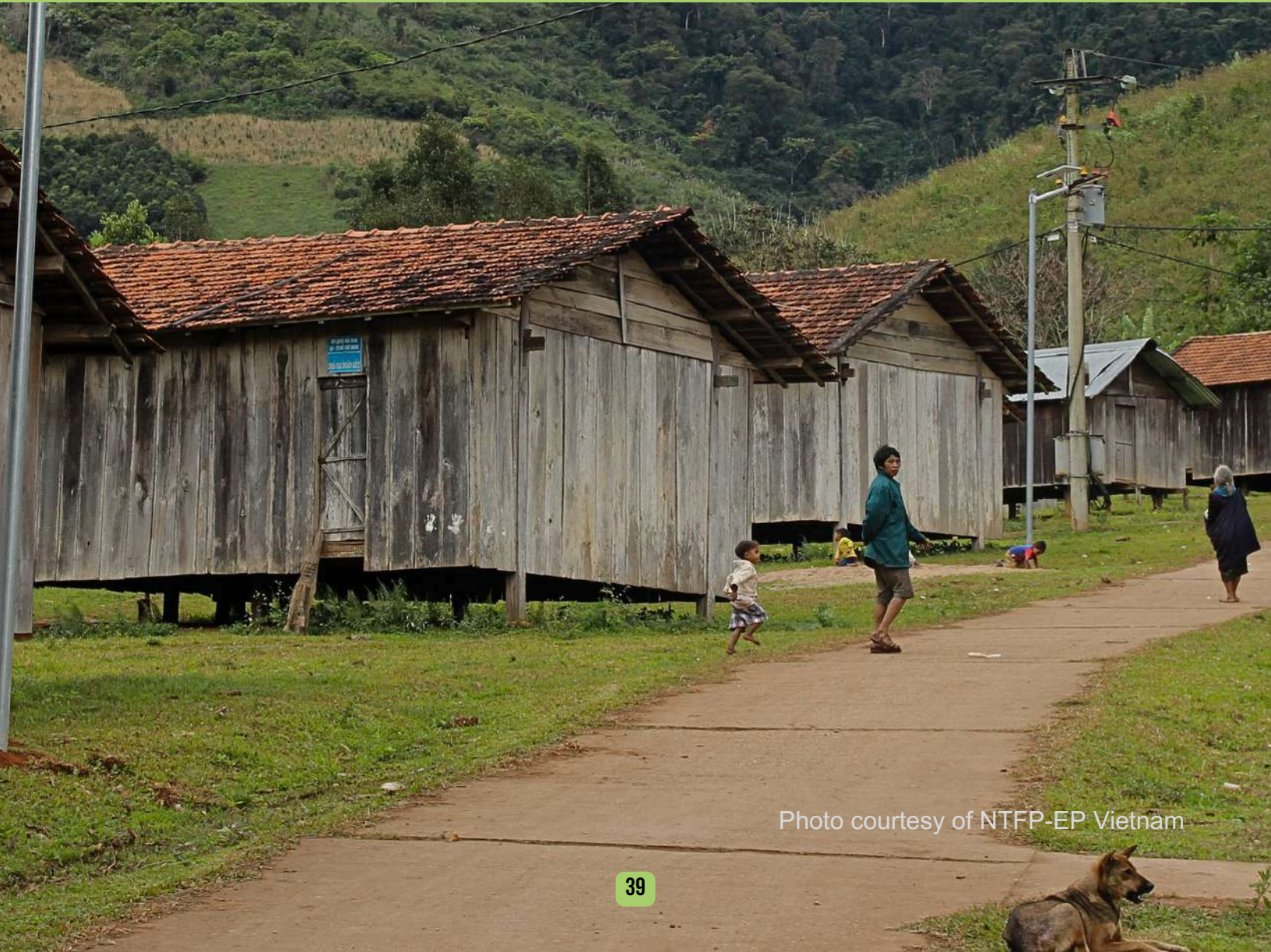


Photo courtesy of NTFP-EP Vietnam

COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION



In 2023, NTFP-EP's work on community-based conservation highlights initiatives undertaken by NTFP-EP and its networks, including the ICCA Southeast Asia (SEA) Consortium. Activities undertaken all underscore the importance of empowering Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs&LCs) in safeguarding their territories and livelihoods. Emphasis on capacity building and knowledge sharing can be seen in the various activities that were undertaken in 2023 aimed at strengthening community capacity and knowledge sharing.

Working closely with the Sustainable and Climate Adaptive Livelihoods (SCAL) thematic programme, a workshop on sustainable livelihoods assessment (SLA) was conducted among representatives of the ICCA SEA Consortium members. Online sessions were held on May 29 and June 5 and culminated in an in-person session in Banten, Lebak, Indonesia held last June 21-24, 2023. The workshop equipped participants with essential tools and frameworks to assess and address community challenges.

The training was attended by members and representatives of the

ICCA Southeast Asia Consortium coming from six countries, namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Vietnam.

The learning event introduced the concept of sustainable livelihoods and the sustainable livelihoods framework. There were discussions and analyses on various assets found in communities, livelihood goals, outcomes, vulnerability contexts, livelihoods strategies, as well as structures and processes that have influence on community livelihoods. The training also provided space for presenting case examples from various countries on different traditions, practices and interventions on livelihoods they are doing inside ICCAs across Southeast Asia.

The event was co-organized by NTFP-EP Asia, Working Group on ICCAs Indonesia (WGII) and Yayasan Rimbawan Muda Indonesia Bogor (RMI) – Indonesian Institute for Forest and Environment. It was made possible through the support of an anonymous donor.

Apart from this, knowledge transfer and peer learning exchanges were also evident during the 2023 Madhu Duniya conference held in Vietnam from 6-10 November 2023. The quadrennial gathering brought together over a hundred individuals from at least 13 countries in Asia exchanged discussions on sustainable forest honey production and practical applications of livelihood development within the context of conservation of forest honeybees. This contributed to an increase in their knowledge on sustainable forest honey harvesting, product development and marketing strategies.

NTFP-EP co-organized a virtual campfire celebrating World Indigenous Peoples Day last August 11, 2023, with WGII and the ICCA SEA Consortium. The virtual space provided a platform for Indigenous youth from ICCAs in the Philippines, Indonesia and Myanmar to share experiences and insights, fostering intergenerational learning and leadership development. The campfire provided a platform for storytelling, sharing of stories and lessons, along with an exchange of ideas to create positive outcomes in their communities. An article and recording of the event are available here. By investing in the capacity of community members, these initiatives contribute to building resilient and self-determined communities.

The SSNC project “Strong Stewards and Secure Forests for a Sustainable Future: Supporting the Rights, Livelihoods, and Cultures of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities with the women and youth (IPLC-WY) in Asia” also supported the thematic work on CBC significantly, particularly on NTFP-EP’s work on biodiversity conservation and restoration.

The SSNC project, with its focus on Almaciga resin livelihood and forest restoration in Palawan, Philippines, exemplifies the interconnectedness of conservation and economic development. The involvement of Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPOs) in the Philippines and the establishment of community nurseries in Indonesia and India demonstrate a ground-up approach to ecological restoration.

The mapping of plant diversity in India and the identification of endangered NTFPs highlight the importance of scientific knowledge in guiding conservation efforts to contribute to the protection of critical ecosystems and the rich biodiversity therein.



In Malaysia, the SSNC project supported strengthening of the Indigenous Peoples' organization's leadership. The Penan community's resistance to logging exemplify the agency and resilience of these communities but also highlight the importance of supporting local meetings for self-strengthening and solidarity. By supporting IPLCs in documenting their ICCAs, developing livelihood strategies, and engaging in decision-making processes, the projects contribute to the recognition and upholding of their rights and territories.

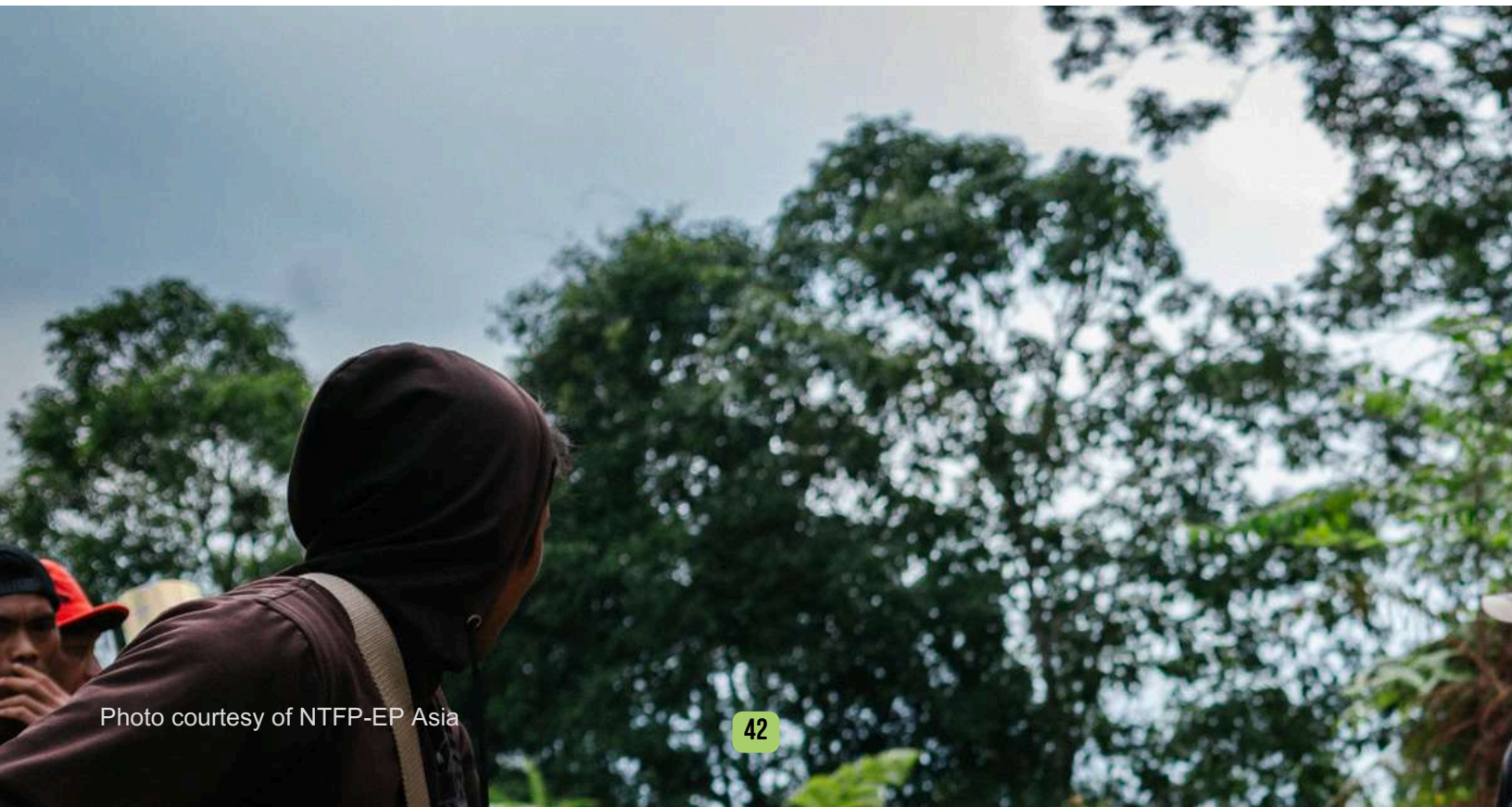
As the global community faces increasing environmental and social challenges, the lessons learned from our thematic work offer valuable insights for informing future conservation strategies. Furthermore, it also presents ideas for potential scaling up or replication of successful approaches in addressing common challenges and external pressures such as deforestation, climate change and internal issues of limited resources and capacity.

In the Philippines, three Indigenous Peoples organizations (IPO) are collaborating with NTFP-EP Philippines in documenting their ICCAs in Palawan and in the process, are strengthening the leadership of these organizations.

These three IPOs also work together for the Almaciga resin livelihood. To sustain the momentum of the leaders, a total of 41 Indigenous leaders (19 women, 22 men) were trained and participated to define and delineate their roles and functions in their respective IPOs.

For work on restoration, the Iraan community organization out planted 1,000 Almaciga seedlings from its nursery to the restoration sites that the community have identified covering an area of 1.5 hectares. Additional native tree seedlings, around a thousand, are at the nursery for out planting this coming rainy season of 2024, to cover around 12 hectares of grassland in Iraan, Rizal. A list of mother trees and a community-drawn rainforest map were obtained. An ocular visit to the identified rainforestation site and expansion of nursery of IP Community in Bunog, Rizal was also done with the participation of 12 men & 4 women from Bunog.

In Indonesia, NTFP-EP Indonesia partnered with IMUNITAS to survey NTFPs in Namo Village. Representatives of the village government, village forest management unit, customary leaders, women, and youth agreed



on rehabilitating NTFPs in the area and an NTFP nursery has already been prepared. Namo Village is also part of PGS ROLES (sustainable rattan) and they have been working on documenting and updating their rattan harvesting plan and information on actual rattan harvests and actual rattan volumes sold to buyers.

In Malaysia, the project supported community meetings that helped the Penan hold discussions about the proposed Forest Management Unit (FMU) of Samling Timber. Nine (9) representatives within the FMU area were in attendance. Strategies were formed around opposing the upcoming logging operations within their ancestral territories.

The representatives also attended a conference in Miri on Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) regarding FMU operations.

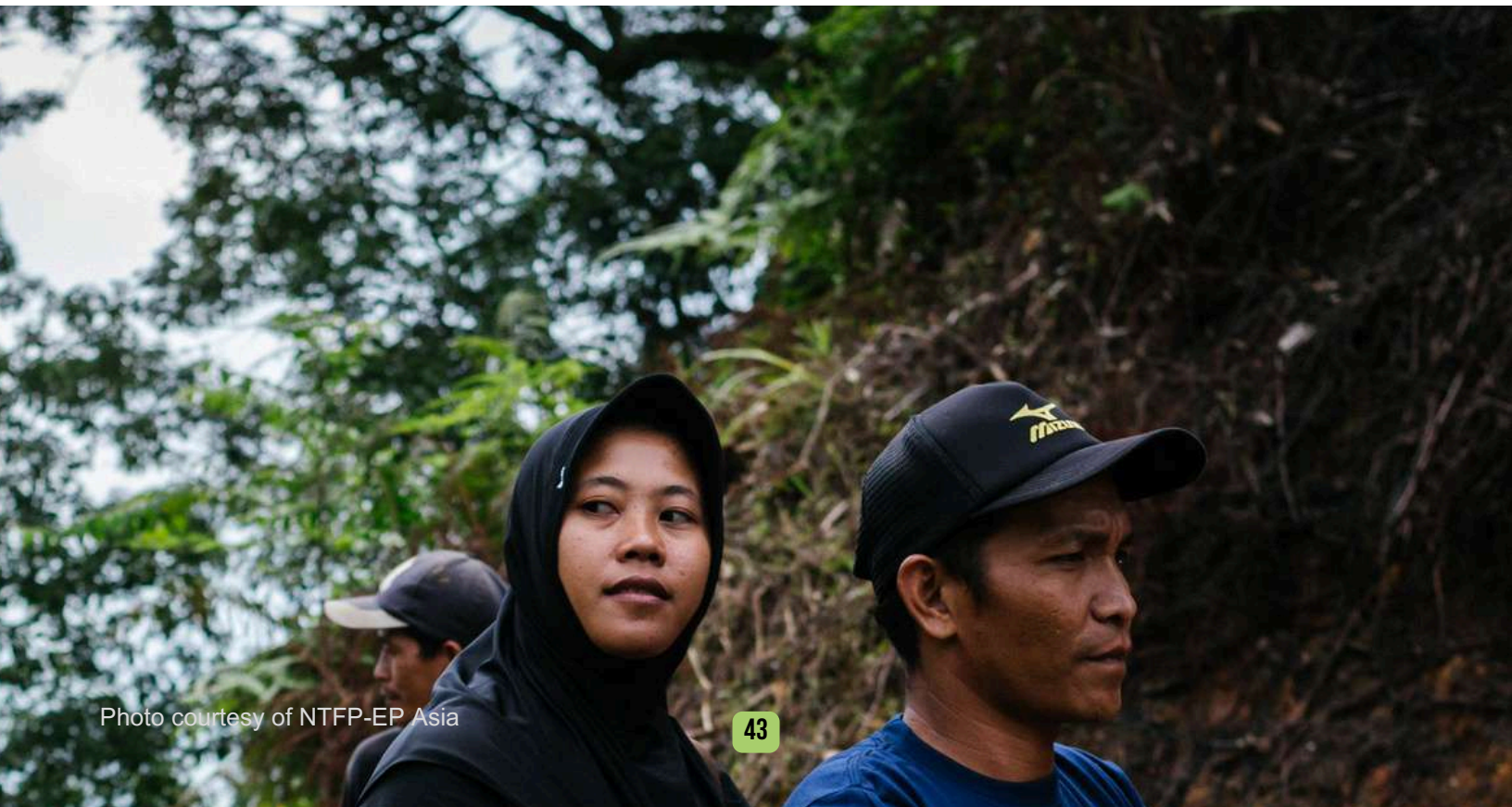
In India, activities in 2023 include seed collection and conservation, plant diversity mapping, and nursery development. For plant diversity mapping, the focus was on locating endangered NTFPs, such as Amla, now rarely found in community forests. 57 species were identified, and 12 maps were produced from the activity. Nursery management plans for endangered species

were devised based on the findings. So far, NTFP-EP India has prepared 60,230 plants, including 20 indigenous species. 17,236 plants have been distributed so far, with plantation programs on-going in project villages. The villagers themselves are the ones who chose the areas for forest and biodiversity protection.

Each Management Committee member is responsible for plant protection. 327 communities benefit financially from plantation programs, engaging in nursery development and planting activities.

Community conservation work in India also has become a mechanism for seed exchanges so that other villagers have seeds for their own nursery development. Visits to local market are conducted so staff can collect NTFP seeds.


We see these various developments as intermediate steps that contribute to the objective of enhancing the agency of IPs&LCs-WY in forest governance and ensuring intact and healthy forests.



FROM THE ICCA SEA AND ICCA YOUTH CO-ORGANIZED EVENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

"We see these various developments as intermediate steps that contribute to the objective of enhancing the agency of IP&LC-WY in forest governance and ensuring intact and healthy forests."

Asami Segundo
Indigenous Youth leader from Ikalahan ICCA in Nueva Vizcaya



“The involvement of the [Indigenous Youth] in decision-making fosters intergenerational transfer and empowers youth to contribute and participate [with] their perspectives and innovative ideas. It ensures holistic and sustainable biodiversity management.”

Eh Htee Wah
Indigenous Karen Youth leader



Photo courtesy of NTFP-EP Asia

Outcomes and Outputs for 2023

- Madhu Duniya 2023 saw a total of 123 participants - (59 male, 64 female) from 12 countries, 33 organizations. 37 participants were self-funded.
- The ASEAN guidelines (NTFP protocols) published in the ASEAN website
- LEAP SPIRAL, a member of the ICCA Consortium and part of ICCA Consortium in Southeast Asia, was able to conduct for the first time the 1st Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) Conference in Sabah with support from the Anonymous donor project managed by NTFP-EP Asia
- PanNature was able to develop an ICCA assessment criteria and data platform with support from the Anonymous donor project. The methodology and assessment forms to document information about ICCAs are being used to document information about other ICCAs in the Resource Management Community Network.
- NTFP-EP Asia and Working Group ICCAs Indonesia (WGII) co-organized a virtual youth camp and engaged 4 ICCA youth speakers from 3 countries (Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines) to celebrate World Indigenous Peoples' Day.



INDIGENOUS FOOD AND HEALTH

For 2023, NTFP-EP made progress in terms of documentation work on wild foods and on increasing knowledge and appreciation about indigenous food systems among indigenous and local communities, especially women and youth, policymakers, and the public.

Activities at the country level included research and documentation of indigenous food in Cambodia, India, Malaysia and Vietnam and were made possible with support from the SSNC project.

NTFP-EP Cambodia embarked on action research focusing on NTFPs and gender in Kampong Thom province. **In Vietnam**, a systematic and scientific database of NTFP use and management based on indigenous knowledge, with focus on forest foods and traditional foods systems and its benefit and values to culture, health, and livelihood. These country-level activities are a step towards achieving the objective of helping communities advance their interests to influence policy and practices as they contribute to the growing evidence-base of the roles of indigenous peoples, with the women and youth, in conservation and resources management.

In India, the Forest Food Field School activities continued with trainings on wild foods collection. Orientations were conducted in 67 project villages reaching 1,434 community members (630 male, 804 female). Different varieties of wild foods were collected and conserved in interventions in Bastar, Dantewada and Kondagaon district. An innovative approach towards planting and natural resource management was done by making “seed balls”. Around 42,630 seed balls were made in 369 project villages for plantation. 40% of these balls were thrown inside the forest area when the first rain came. Such forest management activities are effective in engaging women and youth in the process. The activities were implemented by NTFP-EP India through Prerak. Fundraising efforts through the GlobalGiving platform also continued for this year, with progress about the Forest Food Field School also being shared through the platform.

In Malaysia, vegetable gardens as demonstration plots were cultivated by youth and elders in the Penan village of Long Selulong.

Coffee is also being grown in the community. The harvest from these gardens is used for their own consumption. As part of their work on wild foods, community members in the village have agreed to produce a book on Forest Foods with NTFP-EP Malaysia. This documentation is seen as part of their efforts to rehabilitate and restore NTFPs in the village.

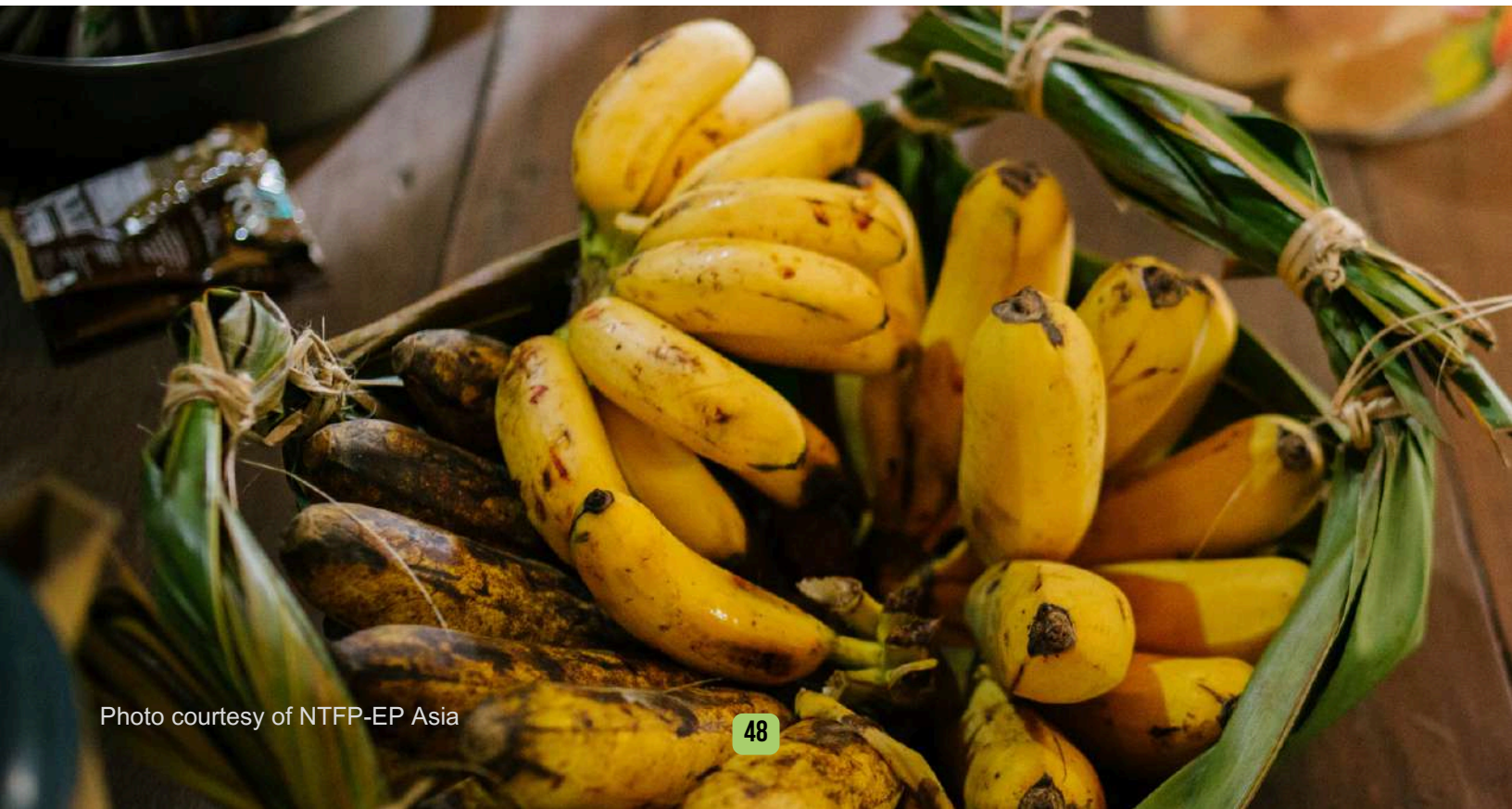
Related activities will continue in 2024. These outputs are seen as intermediate steps towards the achievement of the objective of IP&LC-WY having food security, good health and well-being.


Such activities contributed to the target outcomes of IFH on documenting the situation of wild foods, including importance, level of abundance, access, and use, as well as on the target of undertaking inventories and research work to make the knowledge and practices around agroforestry, biodiversity, forest foods and medicinal plants more visible and recognized.

At the regional level, NTFP-EP Asia was able to participate in the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)'s Consultation and Planning Workshop on Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Agriculture Towards Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods in the ASEAN last May 24-27, 2023.

NTFP-EP Asia's Executive Director, Femy Pinto, was invited as a speaker and she was able to share highlights from the recommendations and outlook developed by the Wild Foods, Biodiversity and Livelihoods (WFBL) Network. The WFBL network was an expert group established in 2020 with support from the SIANI expert group grant. NTFP-EP continues to maintain wildfoodsasia.com, an online repository of resources on wild foods, indigenous food ways and food systems from the initiatives of the Wild Foods, Biodiversity and Livelihoods network. Plans are being made to optimize the website to develop strategic content for increased engagement.

NTFP-EP Asia also participated in a virtual multi-country workshop organized by FAO on the topic of *"Forest food systems and their contribution to food security and nutrition Defining priorities for sustainable use in Asia Pacific."* A flash presentation about the Forest Harvest Collective Mark (FHCM) or honey was shared by Diana San Jose, Programme Officer, during the session. A presentation on prominent NTFP value chains in selected ASEAN countries³ (UNEP project) was also shared by Crissy Guerrero, NTFP-EP Asia's Senior Adviser for Strategic Programmes.





Finally, in terms of organizational strengthening and fundraising for the thematic programme, efforts were made to develop project proposals to support the thematic objectives for NTFP-EP's targeted outcomes related to indigenous food and health. Proposals were made to seek out funding support for the Wild Foods, Biodiversity and Livelihoods (WFBL) Network, the envisioned NTFP Academy and to support NTFP-EP Asia's indigenous food and health thematic programme in general.

Outcomes and Outputs for 2023

- The ACB invited NTFP-EP to share the learnings and recommendations of the WFBL network in the Mainstreaming agrobiodiversity last May 24-27, 2023.
- The FAO invited NTFP-EP Asia to present about our work on the “Forest Harvest Collective Mark for honey” in the virtual, multi-country workshop on the topic of “Forest Food Systems and their Contribution to Food Security and Nutrition” last May 22-24, 2023.
- NTFP-EP Asia was invited as an exhibitor to showcase IFH, WFBL work during the Agri4D conference (virtual)
- Two new donors made donations to the GlobalGiving platform for the Forest Food Field School.



SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE-ADAPTIVE COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS

The year 2023 marked significant strides in sustainable, climate-adaptive community livelihoods across various regions in Asia, particularly through the efforts of NTFP-EP and its partners. Key events, such as the Madhu Duniya conference on native Asian bees and forest honey, underscored the importance of sustainable practices in the face of climate change. This narrative report highlights the impact of these initiatives, from promoting forest honey to enhancing community-based enterprises, all contributing to resilient and adaptive livelihoods for forest-dependent communities. The report also details various programs and activities, including international market engagements, regional training sessions, and participatory guarantee systems, all aimed at fostering sustainable livelihoods. These initiatives have not only strengthened community resilience but have also enhanced regional collaboration and policy advocacy, ensuring that the benefits of sustainable practices are widely shared and implemented.

Kalimantan Art - IFAM

Abadi, a skilled weaver of doyo (*Curculigo latifolia*) textiles from Tanjung Isuy village in East Kalimantan, proudly represented her community at the 19th International Folk Art Market (IFAM) in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in July 2023. This prestigious event, attended by over 18,000 people, provided a unique opportunity for Abadi to showcase the rich cultural heritage of Kalimantan.

At the market, Abadi not only highlighted her village's handwoven textiles but also brought a variety of crafts from across Kalimantan, including rattan and bamboo baskets, ikat textiles, and rattan accessories. These products, crafted by over 50 artisans from eight different communities in Kalimantan, attracted significant attention, resulting in sales totalling USD 10,000.

Madhu Duniya

The largest gathering focused on native Asian bees and forest honey, was held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, from November 6-10, 2023. The event welcomed 123 participants from 13 countries, offering a platform to discuss and share knowledge on important topics related to bees and honey production. Sessions covered a range of subjects, including the impact of climate change on bees, the importance of pollination, and practical aspects like marketing, labelling, and the safe use of technology in honey production.

Alongside these discussions, participants enjoyed a lively bazaar featuring a variety of honey and bee products. The event concluded with field visits to local beekeeping sites in Tien Giang and U Minh Ha National Park, giving attendees a close-up view of sustainable beekeeping practices in Vietnam. Looking ahead, the focus will be on sharing the outcomes of Madhu Duniya 5 with a wider audience, trying out new approaches, and strengthening efforts to improve the credibility and marketability of forest honey through partnerships and labelling initiatives.

PARARA Events

Women's Day

From March 9-11, 2023, PARARA Women's Day brought together 23 organizations, primarily women's groups, for a three-day program focused on learning and advocacy at the PARARA Indonesian Ethical Store (PIES) in Jakarta Selatan. The event, designed and led by grassroots women's groups, featured 16 sessions held both online and offline. A total of 216 participants took part, with 84% being women, making the event a strong platform for empowering women and amplifying their voices in community development and advocacy.

World Fair Trade Day

In celebration of World Fair Trade Day from May 8-15, 2023, PARARA organized a series of events aimed at promoting fair trade principles. Activities included a media gathering, a talk show, workshops, and a two-day fair showcasing products from over 20 enterprises. Six media outlets, including MNC portal, Masak.TV, Yuk Makan, Femina, Kebaya Indonesia,



Photo courtesy of WTFP-EP Asia

and Antara News, covered the events. Additionally, a Fair-Trade training session was conducted in collaboration with the Forum Fair Trade Indonesia (FFTI). The talk show featured prominent speakers such as Mr. Riza Damanik from the Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs and Handoko Hendroyono, a key figure in Indonesia's retail industry.

Youth Day

PARARA Youth Day engaged more than 80 young people from both urban and rural areas in a series of sessions focused on critical topics such as food sovereignty, waste management, and healthy local food. These sessions, which also included food photography and capacity-building activities, helped to deepen participants' understanding of these issues. University Mercubuana played a significant role, with several classes participating and establishing an institutional partnership with PARARA to strengthen communication efforts and enhance students' knowledge of local food systems and heritage.

Over 40 students are now working on branding campaigns for local foods and drinks, and 15 civil society organizations (CSOs) contributed to the event, which emphasized how food choices can positively impact the planet. The event also inspired six new youth networks, which continue to collaborate with PARARA, demonstrating the lasting impact of the initiative.

Forest Harvest Collective Mark (FHCM)

The Forest Harvest Collective Mark, a community forestry labelling initiative is working towards institutionalization in 2023 while aligning honey and rattan pilots in Vietnam and Indonesia respectively. In both countries the national Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) systems are in process towards institutionalization.

In November 2023 FHCM held an online and offline general assembly meeting (Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam). 22 people and organizations have since registered as members of the Forest Harvest Association. In addition, 16 people were nominated to the board of trustees, and nine of them accepted it.



Social Forestry Enterprises

NTFP-EP was engaged by UNEP from 2022-2023 to assess NTFP Social Forestry Enterprises in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Indonesia contributing to Output 4 to *'promote and accelerate responsible investment in social forestry'* of the UNREDD project *'Climate change mitigation through social forestry actions in ASEAN countries'* funded by the Swiss Government. At the end of 2023, three value chains with commercial potential were chosen for further market engagement in each country. In 2024 the focus will be in Indonesia on the following products: Ilipe Nut (tengkawang), Coffee and Palm Sugar (gula aren).

Regional Community-Based NTFP Enterprise (CBNE) Development

During this period, NTFP-EP Asia was requested by AFoCo to provide training for the project entitled *'Improved local community livelihoods through increased income from non-timber forests products (NTFPs): Modeling scalable community-based enterprises in Asia'*.

NTFP-EP gave a training on Community based NTFP Enterprise (CBNE) Development January 16-19, 2024 to representatives of Forest Departments from 11 countries in South Asia (Bhutan), Southeast Asia (Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar and Timor Leste), Central Asia (Mongolia and Khazakstan). From September 4-8, a second training on Sustainable NTFP Resource Management was provided to the same countries with the addition of Kyrgystan.

Capacity-building to Enhance Resilience to Forest Fire and Local Livelihood and Market Linkages (AFoCo-CLMV Project)

In 2023, AFoCo successfully conducted Community Livelihood Appraisal and Product Scanning (CLAPS) training sessions in both Vietnam and Laos. These trainings were instrumental in identifying and selecting 63 potential community-based forest livelihoods and enterprises across the region—18 in Vietnam, 15 in Cambodia, and 30 in Lao PDR—that show promise for further product development and market intervention. For the implementation of the Forest Harvest



Collective Mark (FHCM) in 2024, consultants have been identified, and detailed implementation plans and budgets have been prepared. On August 16, 2023, the Project Steering Committee (PSC) held its first meeting to review the progress of these initiatives. Additionally, Memoranda of Agreements (MOUs) were signed with the governments of Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam on June 12, September 15, and December 29, 2023, respectively. To further support ASEAN's social forestry stakeholders, Regional Marketing Tools for Social Forestry Products were developed and adopted by the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) on October 4, 2023. These tools aim to enhance the marketing strategies of social forestry producers and improve their capacity to leverage digital technology in the market.

Outcomes and Outputs for 2023

- In October 2023, ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) accepted the regional publication on marketing of social forestry tools which will make inclusive, community-based marketing strategies of NTFP-EP and partners more widely distributed.
- On November 23, 2023, NTFP-EP was able to engage value chain players in Indonesia such as incubators, investors, buyers for further capacity building, investment and trade connectivity and synergy support for Ilipe nut and coffee value chains
- Last November 6-10, 2023, 130 participants from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos were able to attend the 5th Madhu Duniya and have increased their knowledge on sustainable forest honey harvesting, product development and marketing strategies for forest Honey.
- With the signing of the Mentoring and Training Project for AFoCo Regional Project on December 27, 2023/January 8, 2024, opportunities for expanding NTFP-EP's reach to more CBNEs grows including new countries in South, Southeast and Central Asia
- On October 23, 2023, and January 11, 2024, a large retail company, confirmed their interest to move forward with a pilot participatory certification audit with PGS ROLES (Sustainable Rattan) in Indonesia which paves the way for large corporations to embrace the inclusive and empowering participatory guarantee system and for communities to access markets and improve prices
- The ongoing CLAPS Process in Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos and Enterprise Development Interventions under the AFoCo-CLMV Project have increased commitment from NTFP-EP Asia partners for the establishment of Social Enterprises to benefit Forest Communities.

A photograph showing three individuals seated at a table covered with a red cloth. On the left, a man in a batik shirt looks at a laptop. In the center, a woman in a striped shirt looks forward. On the right, a man in a batik shirt and glasses holds a microphone, appearing to be speaking. There are two laptops on the table, one in front of the man on the left and one in front of the man on the right. A glass of water is also visible on the table.

TENURE RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs&LCs) throughout Southeast Asia bear the brunt of relentless commodity-driven development, which jeopardizes both their well-being and the ecological balance of their lands. The surge in global demand has spurred the overexploitation of forests, hastening biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, while IPs&LCs stand as frontline witnesses to the harsh impacts of climate change.

Addressing these pressing challenges mandates prioritizing the recognition of IPs&LCs' land rights, fostering active participation of IPs&LCs in decision-making processes, and amplifying their voices across diverse platforms to ensure their invaluable perspectives shape sustainable solutions for all.

In 2023, the Tenure Rights and Governance (TRG) team, with support from the Green Livelihood Alliance (GLA), Mekong Region Land Governance Project (MRLG), and other allies and partners, demonstrated impactful contributions to advocacy planning, knowledge dissemination, IP youth engagement, and international participation in advancing sustainable development and Indigenous Peoples' rights in the ASEAN region.

Some of the notable outcomes and output/highlights for TRG in 2023 include the approval and prioritization of the Regional FPIC Handbook by ASEAN member states and the successful launch of the ASEAN CT Guidelines. Increased engagement of Indigenous Peoples, particularly women and youth, in international platforms such as SB59, APCW, and COP28 demonstrates progress in amplifying IPs&LCs voices and policy recommendations. The development of the E-Sak Ka Ou Declaration further underscores commitments to Indigenous Peoples' rights, biodiversity, and climate change advocacy.

Facilitating Strategic Collaborations at the Regional Level with Key Reform Actors

Last May 25, 2023, AWGSF Member states approved the Concept note for the Regional FPIC handbook during the 17th AWGSF Meeting (hybrid meeting), and with support from the ASEAN Secretariat, AWGSF affirmed to continue the work on further development of the handbook,

and recommended the approval of the concept note to the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF). The ASOF then agreed in principle to the recommendation of the AWGSF to develop Regional Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) Handbook: Practicing FPIC in ASEAN Customary Tenure (CT) Systems in Forested Landscape as one of key deliverables for the ASEAN cooperation in forestry for 2024 during the ASOF Meeting last July 24, 2023.

Exploring ways and mechanisms for increasing knowledge and understanding of key stakeholders on the ASEAN CT Guidelines

2023 marked notable collaborations between NTFP-EP and the ASEAN Secretariat. The ASEAN Customary Tenure (CT) Guidelines were finalized and disseminated during the year. Focusing on enhancing advocacy and campaign efforts, NTFP-EP facilitated the development of knowledge products to mainstream the guidelines. These products, including bookmarks and briefing notes, facilitated discussions on priority

outcomes and activities for MRLG Phase 3. Last December 15, 2023, the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry officially launched the official publication of the ASEAN Customary Tenure Guidelines at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia, and expressed support and recommendations for finding opportunities to utilize the Guidelines in their countries at different levels

In the Philippines, NTFP-EP provided significant support to advocacy efforts, particularly in strengthening customary land tenure initiatives.

This included workshops and the development of advocacy action plans for Women Environment and Human Rights Defenders (WEHRDs) partner networks. One significant event was the Re-Echoing Workshop on "Advocacy Training on Strengthening the Customary Land Tenure Advocacy Initiatives," which empowered 25 members of Panika Ha Pusaka, a partner organization, in advocacy planning and action plan formulation.

Photo courtesy of NTFP-EP Asia



NTFP-EP TURNS OVER PUBLICATIONS ON CUSTOMARY TENURE, FPIC TO ASEAN

Dazzle Labapis, programme officer, v 56 ed the ASEAN Senior Officer of Food, Agriculture, and Forestry Division last 20 October 2023 to hand over

Fostering Indigenous Youth and Women Participation in Climate Processes


NTFP-EP also participated in relevant UNFCCC activities last year. In SB58 held in Bonn, Germany, where it supported an Indigenous Peoples (IPs) women representative, facilitating engagement of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) representatives and fostering networking opportunities. Bilateral meetings with relevant partners, such as the Climate Action Network – Southeast Asia, identified avenues for collaboration to strengthen participation in UNFCCC meetings.

Following the learning in Bonn, NTFP-EP emerged with larger participation in the Asia-Pacific Climate Week. Held in Johor Bahru, Malaysia, from 13-17 November, NTFP-EP supported twelve (12) participants. Mainly youth from different countries in Southeast Asia, this participation is focused on fostering inclusive and participatory climate change adaptation and landscape governance that resonates with the needs and contexts of Southeast Asian Indigenous Youth and communities. NTFP-EP co-organized two (2) events during the convention:

a side event with ILC Asia showcasing various youth-driven climate change solutions in Asia and an action hub co-organized with Indigenous youth aimed at highlighting challenges and opportunities from the perspective of Indigenous youth, especially young women and girls, in securing their land/territories.

The initiatives of the IP youth during the said event have contributed to the statement developed, delivered and published by the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change in Asia presented during the Asia-Pacific Climate Week in Johor Bahru, Malaysia, that included the recommendation of IP youth on the Inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and IP youth in decision making processes.

In COP28, held in Dubai from 29 November to 12 December, NTFP-EP co-organized five (5) side events. In collaboration with various network partners, NTFP-EP facilitated the involvement of seven (7) delegates, mostly coming from partners such as Civil Society Organizations and Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPs&LCs) in Southeast Asia.



Asami Segundo of the Kalahan Educational Foundation, representing the IP Youth, delivered the indigenous caucus' closing statement for the UNFCCC SB58 last June 2023 in Germany.

The background image shows the facade of the EXPO COP28 UAE building. At the top, the word "EXPO" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. Below it, a circular logo for COP28 UAE is displayed, featuring a globe with various symbols. Underneath the logo, the text "COP28 UAE" is written in white, sans-serif capital letters. The building's facade is composed of large, light-colored panels. In the foreground, there are people walking on a paved area, and a modern, curved structure with a glass and metal facade is visible on the right side. The sky is blue with some clouds.

EXPO

COP28 UAE

COP28 provided an opportunity for NTFP-EP and its partners to contribute meaningfully to the climate action dialogue. Central to the network's engagement was the inclusion of Indigenous Youth and Women leaders, ensuring their perspectives were heard and taken into account in the discourse on climate policy.

Looking ahead, NTFP-EP emphasizes the importance of internal capacity strengthening, particularly for Indigenous Peoples, Youth, and local communities nominated to participate in future COP sessions. As countries are expected to enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2025, it is imperative that grassroots concerns are incorporated into national climate agendas.

Increased knowledge and understanding of key reform actors on strengthening IPs&LCs' role and contribution to achieving NDCs

Last August 11, 2023, NTFP-EP hosted a post-UNFCCC SB58 informal learning and reflection session together with partners in the CSO Forum on Social Forestry in ASEAN. Lhakpa Nuri Sherpa of Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), Asami Segundo of Kalahan Educational Foundation, Dazzle Labapis of NTFP-EP Asia spoke in the engagement, sharing their key insights and reflections from the SB58.

One of the sharing's key highlights were noticeable increase in participation and visibility of Indigenous Peoples and Youth during the process and the optimism for more engagement from Indigenous Peoples in the upcoming COP28. The speakers emphasized the need to engage and prepare upcoming CSO and community events to maximize the space as a precursor to the COP28 so that the Indigenous People's caucus can bring together their experiences and learnings from the grassroots to international platforms/discussions.

Photo courtesy of Michelle Lapiz

Outcomes and Outputs for 2023

- On May 25, 2023, the ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry (AWGSF) approved the Concept Note for the Regional FPIC Handbook during their 17th meeting, with ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF) later agreeing to its development as a key 2024 deliverable. The ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) subsequently identified the handbook as a priority in their October 2023 Joint Press Statement.
- In June 2023, Asami Segundo of the Kalahan Educational Foundation, representing Indigenous youth, delivered the closing statement for the UNFCCC SB58 in Germany. During the Asia-Pacific Climate Week (APCW) in November, Indigenous youth voices, including those from the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change in Asia, were prominently featured, emphasizing their inclusion in decision-making processes.
- The ASEAN Secretariat officially launched the ASEAN Customary Tenure (CT) Guidelines in December 2023, committing to disseminate these knowledge products widely. The guidelines are now published on the ASEAN Secretariat's website, with the Secretariat expressing support for their use at different levels in member countries.
- Throughout November and December 2023, Indigenous Peoples' women and youth were given platforms at regional and global events like APCW and UNFCCC COP28 to share their experiences and policy recommendations. The E-Sak Ka Ou Declaration, developed during the Asia Regional Conference on Indigenous Peoples' Rights, Biodiversity, and Climate Change, was also published by the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and used for policy advocacy during COP28.
- Media coverage of APCW highlighted key messages from NTFP-EP and partner Indigenous youth, focusing on land rights, youth engagement, and climate governance.



Photo courtesy of Michelle Lapiz

GENDER-EQUAL COMMUNITY AGENCY AND VOICE

Last July 2-8, 2024, after almost four years of not meeting in-person due to the COVID-19 lockdowns around fifty women environment human rights defenders (WEHRDs) who are confronting extractive activities in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, and Thailand gathered together in Chiang Mai, Thailand to share their stories on traditional and nature-based knowledge and practices, and the effects of the energy transition in extractives and other climate action programmes to grassroots women. Through the skillshare, they also developed their strategies on how to confront the energy transition for women to benefit, as well as strategies on how to confront false conservation and reforestation solutions.

WAMA members also visited the mining affected-community in Mae Moh, Thailand who have been facing a long legal battle against the lignite mine and thermal power plant, who have displaced their community and have caused several respiratory illnesses such as lung cancer, as well as damaging their crops due to the deadly sulfur dioxide fumes of the plant. In the forefront of the legal battle,

women from Mae Moh village have taken the lead to defend their village and after 12 years they won the legal case and 131 people were compensated for the damage done by the thermal plant and mine, including paying for crop damages, providing a hospital for the communities, relocating the affected people away from the site.

But their long fight still remains, as the thermal power plant and mine are still operating in the area. The WAMA members exchanged strategies and stories with the women leaders from Mae Moh village, especially on developing a successful legal campaign against mining companies. By the end of the skillshare, **WAMA members also developed a statement denouncing indiscriminate extractivism and false global climate solutions.**

Access the statement through scanning the QR Code or through the link below:

bit.ly/3M0Lyp0



Two women environment human rights defenders (WEHRD) from Palawan, Philippines attended the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties 28 (UNFCCC COP28) in Dubai, UAE to share the gender-just climate solutions that they are implementing in their communities, and their grassroots campaign in reaction to extractive and destructive activities affecting their forest communities.

Nida Collado, President of Macatumbalen Community-based Forest and Coastal Management Association (MCBFCMA) and current president of the national Community-Based Forest Management federation of the Philippines, and Nolsita Siyang, indigenous Pala'wan leader and President of Mga Kalebonan Et BICAMM (MKE BICAMM) shared their experiences as WEHRDs, recommendations and call to action through speaking in various side events on climate finance as well as indigenous and community-led climate solutions.

Furthermore, their engagements did not end in those side events since they also actively spoke with various government officials, representatives of ministries and donor organizations from


different countries to share their experiences on the ground and gained new supporters to continue their gender-just climate solutions. They also actively attended meetings of Philippine Civil Society Organizations, together with the representatives of the Philippine Delegation to COP28 and became more engaged and aware of their country's stance in the climate change negotiations.

Moving forward, they expressed the importance of being able to share their stories to government officials and people from different countries, since this gives them more opportunities to gain support in their campaigns and funding for their gender-just climate solutions.

Finally, they emphasized that they should relay what they have learned to their communities and share to their fellow WEHRDs that they are not alone in their fight, that there are fellow Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities from different parts of the world who are also defending the environment and their communities.



Photo courtesy of Ruth Siringan



A woman skillfully creates the art of **Batik** during the Yogyakarta Fiber Arts Tour, part of the PRSGF Grantees Learning Exchange in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Photo courtesy of Ruth Siringan



Pastor Rice Small Grants Funds (PRSGF)

In 2023, NTFP-EP Asia's Pastor Rice Small Grants Fund (PRSGF) support to grassroots community-led initiatives from Asia continued to increase in terms of number of awarded grants and reach to various communities. We continued to prioritize grassroots women-led initiatives, as well as awarding grants to a broader range of indigenous peoples and local communities in countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. This year, most of the awarded grants were granted to grassroots communities in the Philippines, with a total of 29 grants, followed by Indonesia with a total of 11 grants.

This 2023, we awarded a total of 53 grants to grassroots community initiatives in South, Southeast Asia and beyond. Most of the initiatives are still centred on Women and Just-Climate Action with a total of 42 awarded grants, and 25 of these grants were travel grants awarded to grassroots women who represented and lobbied for their communities in national, regional and international advocacy platforms,

such as the Asia Pacific Environmental Human Rights Defenders Forum, the Global Thematic Social Forum on Mining and Extractivism, Madhu Duniya, as well as the International Folk Art Market Santa Fe. While PRSGF has gained other donors aside from GAGGA, PRSGF remains to primarily prioritize grassroots women and giving them direct access to funds, especially since environmental funds are still mostly inaccessible and are not directed to grassroots women. Most of the awarded grants are supported by the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) with 31 awarded grants in total for 2023.

We have also awarded grants to five community-led initiatives focused on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs&LCs) and Effective NTFP Management. This year, we awarded six Quick Response Grants for grassroots communities who experienced the onslaught of extreme weather events and environment human rights defenders needing legal support. In 2023, most of the grants addressed the themes of responding to threats and environmental defense, climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as livelihoods.



From January 2021 until 31 December 2023, a total of 102 grants have been awarded to grassroots initiatives that contribute to gender and ecological justice.

PRSGF grantee partners from Cambodia, Philippines, and Indonesia embarked on a Fiber Arts Tour and Learning Exchange in Yogyakarta, Indonesia last March 10-12, 2023, organized by one of the PRSGF grantees, Meet the Makers Indonesia (MTMI). The grantee partners who participated in the exchange were involved in NTFP enterprise development, weavers, community organizers, and culture bearers.

The tour exposed them to the different fiber arts artisans of Yogyakarta, such as batik artisans, shadow puppet carvers, and woven fabric artisans among others. In each “tour stop” the grantees were able to witness how the artisans make their craft, and actively asked questions that also resonated with their experiences from their own communities such as the transfer of knowledge to the younger generation, how they can continue these cultural practices despite various challenges, how are the artisans getting support to

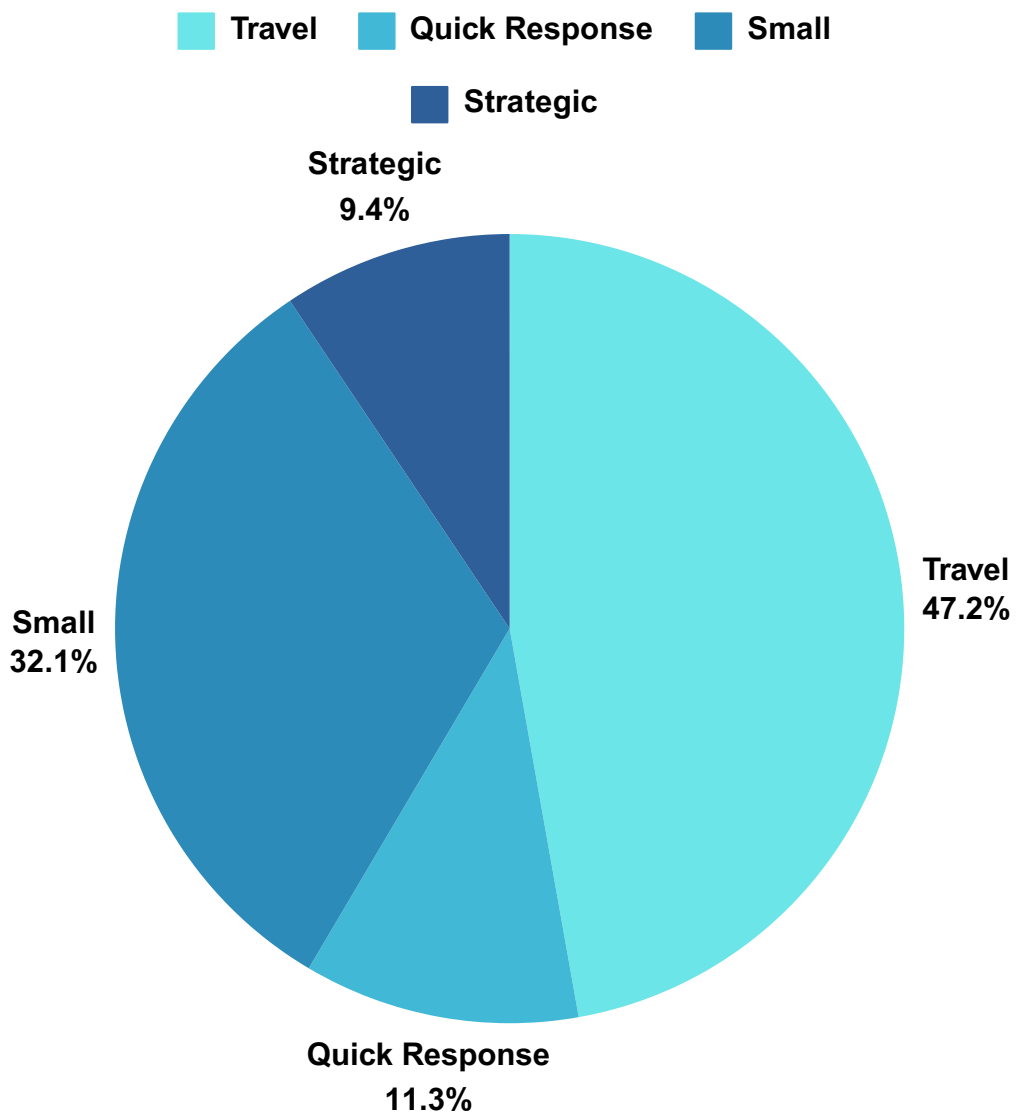
sustain doing these cultural traditions, as well as the best practices when it comes to enterprise development of fiber arts products.

Aside from learning from the artisans from Yogyakarta, the participants were also able to share their experiences as artisans themselves in their own communities. Finally, one of the major outcomes of this learning exchange, is the decision to collaborate between the PRSGF grantee partners and the Yogyakarta artisans, in which they are planning to participate in international platforms as joint exhibitions where they can showcase their works and raise awareness about their cultural traditions and practices to a wider audience.

Last October 5 to 9, more than 30 grassroots women grantee partners from all over the Philippines gathered in Brooke’s Point, Palawan to attend the Philippine PRSGF Grantees Gathering, also called as the Nanay Camp, translated as mother’s camp, but not exclusive to mothers, but to all women environment human rights defenders (WEHRDs), who serve as mother-figures and first-liners of their communities.

More than just being a venue to report their project accomplishments, it was meant to be a venue to build women’s solidarity and intergenerational exchange. One of the main activities of the Nanay camp was a workshop on psychological first aid and mental health support for WEHRDs, facilitated by one of the grantees. This session served as a safe space and venue for the women to find support and inspiration with fellow WEHRDs. A Nanay Camp pageant was also held, celebrating their creativity, resourcefulness and talents. The participants also went to the communities of some Palawan grantee partners in Narra and San Vicente. In Narra, the community exchanged experiences on NTFP livelihood development, and strengthening lobbying and advocacy work on the effects of coal mining (for Narra). In San Vicente, the community’s women leaders involved in Community-based Forest Management (CBFM) shared their experiences in organizing their women’s association, and the women’s role in forest protection (as forest guards) and livelihood development. They also shared the issues they are facing because of their work in forest protection, such as harassment, receiving threats from those doing illegal activities inside the CBFM area. It might have been a long journey for the participants, but through the Nanay Camp, they are coming back home with a new support system, renewed energy to continue what they are fighting for and a rediscovery of themselves.

2023 AWARDED GRANTS PER TYPE



Outcomes and Outputs for 2023

- From October 3-9, 2023, the Pastor Rice Small Grants Fund (PRSGF) Philippines Grantees Gathering, also known as Nanay Camp, brought together 40 women grantees in Brooke's Point, Palawan. The gathering fostered camaraderie, solidarity, and created a hub of experts among Women Environment and Human Rights Defenders (WEHRDs). Participants also gained valuable skills in psychosocial support and first aid, which they plan to implement in their communities.
- On November 1, 2024, the PRSGF Quick Response Grant supported Indigenous Peoples (IP) and Local Communities (LCs) in Palawan, enabling them to successfully defend against harassment and trespassing court cases.
- During COP28 in Dubai, six IPLCs-WY from the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia highlighted their gender-just climate initiatives on an international platform, directly reporting the challenges faced by their communities.
- By the end of 2023, the Georgia Women's Fund expressed interest in joining the Women in Action on Mining in Asia (WAMA) Alliance, reflecting the growing strength and empowerment of its members.
- In September 2023, WAMA members from the Philippines, Indonesia, India, and Mongolia conducted a fact-finding visit in the Gobi desert, fostering collaboration with Mongolian partners and creating opportunities for internships and learning exchanges on paralegal support and conservation practices.
- The WAMA Skillshare in July 2023, held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, brought together 62 participants from nine countries, enhancing their legal literacy and capacity to lead in their advocacies.
- Following an initial workshop in April 2023, the UGNAYIN Philippine Indigenous Youth Network Core Group held online discussions on SOGIESC, Gender, and Sexuality in late 2023, culminating in a local workshop in Infanta, Quezon in February 2024, empowering IPs&LCs youth to lead similar discussions in their communities.



Photo courtesy of Green Legacy Johor

Youth Engagement and Empowerment initiatives focused on fostering participation and leadership among Indigenous and Local Community (ILC) Youth. Regional youth activities, including online celebrations and youth camps, provided platforms for youth engagement and advocacy. Assistance provided to IP Youth to attend international conferences such as COP28 underscored efforts to amplify youth voices and promote intergenerational dialogue.

Support to youth-led action research

Two IP&LC youth organizations from Bali, Indonesia led participatory action research last February to document two resource management topics: 1) water conservation and 2) Jaka palm management.

SEA youth join the first Youth Engagement and Empowerment Hive in Asia: YEEHA!

In 2023, NTFP-EP Asia launched a HIVE that will focus on the needs of the IP&LC youth: Youth Engagement and Empowerment Hive in Asia or YEEHA.

Indigenous youth leaders from many countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, and the Philippines participated in the first [YEEHA regional youth camp in Sabah, Malaysia in March 2023](#). During this exchange program, youth leaders had the chance to share and learn about non-timber forest products (NTFPs), leadership skills, storytelling, burning issues on environment and indigenous people's rights. Youth leaders have expressed their common concerns about burning issues and how they can solve it by learning about best practices, capacity building, campaigns and regional collaboration.

As the YEEHA participants discussed and agreed on their youth agenda, selected youth leaders were able to bring their voices in the Asia Pacific Climate Week last November 2023 in Malaysia, and during the COP28 in UAE.

More than 30 participants, including 14 male and 18 female attendees, from five different countries

participated in interactive discussions and learning sessions during the Youth Engagement and Empowerment Hive in Asia (YEEHA) – 2nd Regional Youth Camp held last 13-19 March 2023, in the Lomunu Training Center of PACOS Trust in Penampang, Sabah, Malaysia.

The regional youth camp provided a platform to foster youth engagement, amplify youth voices, strengthen regional Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLC) youth solidarity, and support regional youth actions for forest conservation in Southeast Asia.

The youth engagement was made possible through a collaboration between the PACOS Trust and NTFP-EP Asia, with support from the NTFP-EP Philippines, NTFP-EP Malaysia, Green Livelihood Alliance, Pastor Rice Small Grants Fund, and Southeast Asia ICCA Consortium.

Amplifying indigenous youth voices of Asia and increasing their capacity in international discussion and decision-making processes:

Last November 14-17, eight (4 female, 4 male) Indigenous Youth leaders were able to participate in the week-long Asia Pacific Climate Week. Highlights of the youth participation included

participation in the discussion and presentation of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change in Asia, participation in different sessions and exchanges on climate solutions, barriers to overcome and opportunities, presentation of local and landscape campaigns participated by youth, and the organizing and conduct [of the indigenous youth-led action hub](#).

See video of the action hub:

[Beneath the Canopy: Voices from the Youth Engagement and Empowerment Hive in Asia for a Gender Responsive Climate Hope](#)

Two Indigenous Youth leaders from Asia including a female youth leader from Bali, Indonesia and a male youth leader from Philippines participated in the COP28 in Dubai, UAE. Support was provided for them to participate in the events and present their voices.



Photo courtesy of JV Colili

Outcomes and Outputs for 2023

- On November 15, 2023, the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change in Asia presented and published a statement during the Asia-Pacific Climate Week (APCW) in Johor Bahru, Malaysia, advocating for the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and IP youth in decision-making processes.
- 32 Indigenous Peoples (IP) and Local Communities (LC) youth from 5 Southeast Asian countries participated in a regional youth gathering.
- A youth-led online celebration of World Indigenous Peoples Day was successfully organized.
- Two videos produced by IP and LC youth were created, with one featured by ICCA and UNDP.
- The first youth camp was held in Da Lat, Vietnam, marking a significant milestone for youth engagement.
- During APCW, IP youth contributed to the development of the Indigenous Peoples Declaration.
- One IP youth was supported by UNDP to attend COP28.



ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Photo courtesy of NTFP-EP Vietnam

ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

GOVERNANCE/BOARD MATTERS

The Board of Trustees had proactively provided the needed support and guidance to NTFP-EP Asia management and staff in 2023. The results were shown in improved governance processes and operations support to programs.

In 2023, the Executive Committee (ExeCom), Trustees and Members met on a regular basis as planned for the year. To identify important agenda and endorse resolutions for approval by the Trustees, the ExeCom met prior to each of the Trustees meeting. The first ExeCom Meeting for the year on 27 February guided the agenda and discussion for the Trustees meeting on 22 and 29 May. The second ExeCom meeting on 29 September finalized preparations for the General Membership Meeting (GMM) on 19 October and board meeting on 20 October 2023.

The Trustees' decisions and approvals at those meetings further improved NTFP-EP's operations' support to program implementation. One important action was the Trustees' approval on increasing the authority of the Executive and Operations Directors to sign official and financial documents. It facilitated implementation of projects and programs on the ground with shorter time to approve, sign and process payments. Another important decision was approving the annual GMM instead of every 2 years that will enable members with more frequent updates on NTFP-EP Asia work and among themselves.

The GMM this year was organized as a hybrid session in Yogyakarta, Indonesia to enable participation of members who cannot join the meeting in person. A major highlight of the GMM was the welcome to the New Members and Election of a new set of Officers and Board of Trustees for the term 2024-2026, namely:

Maria Teresa "Miks" Padilla, re-elected as Chairperson (Chair since 2015, Trustee and Member since 2010), Jeremy Ironside, Vice Chairperson (Trustee and Member since 2014), Tanya Lat, Secretary representing NTFP-EP Philippines (Member since 2019), and Dr. Ramon Razal, Treasurer (Trustee and Member since 2011). The Board of Trustees for 2024-2026 are 10 as follows: Maria Teresa Guia-Padilla (Philippines), Jeremy Ironside (New Zealand), Tanya Lat, representing NTFP-EP Philippines, Dr. Ramon Razal (Philippines), Pandu Hegde (India), Gerthie Mayo-Anda (Philippines), Andrew Aeria, representing NTFP-EP Malaysia, Sim Bunthoeun, representing NTFP-EP Cambodia; Trinh Thi My Dung, representing NTFP-EP Vietnam, and Femy Pinto (Ex-Oficio).

We bid farewell and acknowledged the tremendous voluntary contributions of the outgoing Trustees over several terms, led by Mr. Paul Wolvekamp (founding Vice Chair since 2004), Benedicto "Boni" Sanchez (founding Trustee since 2004 and Secretary since 2010), Vitaliano Nanagas (member since 2013 and Treasurer from 2014-2021), Nuning Barwa (Trustee since 2016).

On network engagements in the region, NTFP-EP Asia continue to lead and convene several networks that included the ICCA consortium, the WAMA Alliance, among others.

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023, NTFP-EP Asia membership increased to 30 with 17 individual and 13 organizational members. At the GMM 2023, members and Trustees confirmed 2 new individual members (Jenne de Beer and Arlynn Aquino) and 4 organizational members (KEYSTONE India, KEF and SPNKK Philippines, PACOS Trust Malaysia).

Out of the 30 members, 43% or 13 were female individual or representatives of organizations. The Trustees and Execom have equal gender representation with a female Chairperson, Maria Teresa "Miks" Guia Padilla, who was voted for the position for several terms, the fifth term on a unanimous call for extension of term.

To expand organizational committees, the general membership was encouraged to volunteer or join in any of the five (5) committees. These committees were the Membership and Partnership Committee (MPC), Finance Committee, Fundraising, Program and Policy, and Research. Each committee has different functions of strategic importance to the work of NTFP-EP Asia such as the MPC role in membership expansion. The Program and Policy committee had been preparing for the upcoming mid-term review of the 10-year strategic direction of NTFP-EP Asia.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT (PLANNING, M&E AND LEARNING)

NTFP employs a multi-tiered PMEL system to monitor, evaluate, and learn from its programs. At the operational level, quarterly meetings were held to track progress on targets, budget utilization, and internal processes. These gatherings also provide a platform for discussing gender integration strategies and operational improvements.

Completing the PMEL cycle is the annual *Muni-muni*, a reflective gathering for staff to assess annual performance, identify challenges, and chart a course for future endeavors. Beyond program evaluation, Muni-muni also serves as a crucial opportunity for staff to pause, reflect on their well-being, and explore strategies for enhancing work-life balance.

Through this comprehensive PMEL framework, NTFP ensures that its programs are responsive, effective, and aligned with the broader goals of supporting forest-dependent communities while prioritizing the well-being of its staff. For 2023, the *Muni-muni* was held last November 11-13 in Vietnam.

OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The year began on a high note with Mary Joy Quilantang, Accountant of NTFP-EP Asia for over 8 years, stepping up to the role of Finance Coordinator. But it was also mostly a busy period for her and the rest of the finance team since it took the most part of the year to hire a new Accountant as well as a Project Assistant to handle finance and admin matters for one of the bigger projects for the year. NTFP-EP also participated in an Asia-Pacific NGO digital transformation online survey organized by TechSoup (a global non-profit that connects other non-profits with technological tools and services) to establish how NGOs use digital technologies, current challenges, and training priorities.

In February, the finance team participated in an online QuickBooks course equivalent to 18 hours, followed by an online certified payroll professional program that totalled 12 hours. In March, the Admin staff for their part underwent first aid training at the Philippine Red Cross and gave the rest of the staff a session on office safety as well as first aid basics in April. In April, there was a 5-hour virtual employers forum on Philhealth (government-initiated healthcare service for Filipinos) attended by both Admin and Finance staff.

In May, SSNC conducted a 3-part session on digital security via Zoom to a limited audience which included a few staff from NTFP-EP.

ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Around this time, TechSoup invited the organization to apply for a digital transformation program being organized by Infoxchange (Australian/New Zealand partner of TechSoup) with support from Google.org. The 10-month program for eligible participants will include a digital capability assessment, monthly webinar and online coaching, online peer communities, as well as participation in a digital transformation summit to be held in Singapore.

By July, NTFP-EP went through an interview process as Infoxchange reviewed all applications to the program. During the last week of the month, finance and operations participated in a 3-day out-of-town workshop entitled Budgeting, Accounting, Internal Control and Financial Statements Preparation for Non-Profit Entities. The workshop allowed us to gain a better appreciation of where we need to improve, especially along the lines of internal controls. Conversations with other participants also opened us to the idea of considering a shift in accounting software, specifically in the form of a grant from Oracle NetSuite.

As a result of the accounting and finance workshop, the admin and finance teams had a combined meeting in August to immediately apply some of the learnings and improve processes. It was also around this time that NTFP-EP was accepted into TechSoup's digital transformation program. This meant a series of steps to map out a specific digital transformation program for NTFP-EP. This included a survey among staff to establish baselines, weekly online meetings, as well as weekly participation in different webinars until the end of the year.

Meanwhile, the organization also filled out requirements from Oracle NetSuite and joined a demonstration meeting for them to gauge NTFP-EP's suitability for the social impact grant of NetSuite.

Meanwhile, the organization also filled out requirements from Oracle NetSuite and joined a demonstration meeting for them to gauge NTFP-EP's suitability for the social impact grant of NetSuite.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The successful hires during the last quarter of the year enabled NTFP-EP Asia to provide more manpower support to big regional activities and events. The three (3) new staff helped in providing logistical, technical and financial support to regional activities such as the Bersama Regional Network meeting in Indonesia in October and the Madhu Duniya in Vietnam in November, among others.

The recruitment process at the start of the year was quite challenging for several positions required by NTFP-EP Asia even if the process started during the last quarter of 2022. A Technical Officer for the AFoCo-CLMV project was hired during the first quarter but, unfortunately, she did not pass the 6-month probation period. A new Technical Officer, Martin Ablola, was hired in September 2023 for the same project and had been performing with good results. He will be appraised for his probation status in April 2024.

There were also challenges finding the right person for Finance Coordinator until the Accountant, Maryjoy Quilantang, who had been with NTFP-EP Asia for more than eight (8) years, was promoted to the position. Other finance job positions were also advertised but the successful applicants were hired only during the last quarter of the year - Accountant for regional accounts, Zairamie Segundo, and Admin/Finance Project Assistant, Paula Nicolette Javier, for the AFoCo-CLMV project.

COMMUNICATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

In 2023, the Communications and Knowledge Management (CKM) team spearheaded a range of initiatives to elevate NTFP-EP's visibility and engagement across multiple platforms. The year began with the successful launch of the 25th-anniversary celebration, marked by the release of a commemorative logo and theme. The team produced thematic CKM products, initiated the recruitment of a communications intern, and laid the groundwork for the 2022 Annual Report by securing content from country offices. These efforts led to a substantial increase in social media engagement, including a 36% rise on Facebook, a 500% boost on Instagram, and a 164.1% improvement in Twitter impressions. NTFP-EP also achieved a notable milestone by establishing a Wikipedia page that passed the platform's notability criteria.

As the year progressed, the CKM team focused on expanding NTFP-EP's digital presence and reinforcing its branding efforts. This included the production and distribution of 25th-anniversary merchandise, the revamp of the organization's website, and the creation of content for thematic CKM products. The team also took a leading role in producing a historical video documentary and exploring an e-learning course with Assist CreativeLab. The CT-FPIC explainer video campaign was a highlight, achieving over 100,000 views on Facebook and further enhancing NTFP-EP's visibility.

Toward the end of the year, the CKM team continued to build on its momentum by producing social media materials for key events, including COP28, which led to the highest day-to-day social media reach and engagement of the year. The team also provided press and media support for APCW 2023, with press releases republished by major outlets like Philstar.com.

NTFP-EP's communications efforts during Madhu Duniya 2023 were well-received, with several Indonesian news articles highlighting the event. Additionally, the layout for the GLA Annual Plan 2024 was completed, fulfilling alliance obligations. The production of 25th-year materials was finalized, making them available for distribution.

These strategic communications activities throughout the year have significantly enhanced NTFP-EP's visibility, knowledge dissemination, and stakeholder engagement. The outcomes achieved underscore the CKM team's pivotal role in driving the organization's mission forward and ensuring its presence is felt across various global platforms.

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

Title	Type	Location
Birds of the Upper Mekong River	Book	Cambodia
Case Study on Benefit Sharing of 11 Community-based Enterprises (CBEs)	Document	Cambodia
Documentation on Best Practices of Community-based Enterprises (CBEs)	Document	Cambodia
Updated Upper Mekong River Trail Map	Document	Cambodia
UNEP 7 Value Change Commodity on Social Forestry Area	Document	Indonesia
Web Database Community Based Monitoring Tools	Document	Indonesia
Life: Process of Making Sago Starch, the Machete and the Blowpipe – Long Jaik, Ulu Belaga, Sarawak	Document	Malaysia
Not By Timber Alone	Newsletter	Philippines
NTFP-EP Philippines Organizational Introduction (in Tagalog)	Video	Philippines
Ugnayan: Komunidad + Kalikasan episode 3.1	Webcast	Philippines
Ugnayan: Komunidad + Kalikasan episode 3.2	Webcast	Philippines
Ugnayan: Komunidad + Kalikasan episode 3.3	Webcast	Philippines
Ugnayan: Komunidad + Kalikasan episode 3.4	Webcast	Philippines
ASEAN Guidelines on Recognition of Customary Tenure in Forested Landscapes	Policy document/ Publication	Asia/Regional
What is Customary Forest Tenure and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)?	Animated Explainer Video	Asia/Regional

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

Title	Type	Location
Vietnam Country Report: Customary Tenure in relation to Free, Prior and Informed Consent and Existing Safeguards for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities	Publication	Asia/Regional
Myanmar Country Report: Customary Tenure in relation to Free, Prior and Informed Consent and Existing Safeguards for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities	Publication	Asia/Regional
Lao PDR Country Report: Customary Tenure in relation to Free, Prior and Informed Consent and Existing Safeguards for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities	Publication	Asia/Regional
Cambodia Country Report: Customary Tenure in relation to Free, Prior and Informed Consent and Existing Safeguards for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities	Publication	Asia/Regional
UNFCCC SB58 Reflection Videos for Weeks 1 and 2	Videos	Asia/Regional
ASEAN CT Guidelines Poster	Poster	Asia/Regional
COP28 Side Event: Climate finance for forests, biodiversity, & food security with IP&LCs: what can we do better?	Video/Livestream	Asia/Regional
COP28 Side Event: Gender-just climate policy and finance: from barriers to actionable solutions	Video/Livestream	Asia/Regional
The Importance of Customary Tenure Recognition for Food Security and Sustainable Livelihood Generation in the Mekong Region	Report/Publication	Asia/Regional
Case Study on Food Security, Livelihoods, and Customary Tenure Recognition in Laos	Report/Publication	Asia/Regional
Case Study on Food Security, Livelihoods, and Customary Tenure Recognition in Myanmar	Report/Publication	Asia/Regional
Case Study on Food Security, Livelihoods, and Customary Tenure Recognition in Vietnam	Report/Publication	Asia/Regional
Case Study on Food Security, Livelihoods, and Customary Tenure Recognition in Cambodia	Report/Publication	Asia/Regional

PROJECTS LIST

Asia Projects Completed 2023

Donor	Project Name	Coverage	Amount
Both ENDS	Mining & Women's Rights in the Municipal Herders of Mongolia	Mongolia	USD 18,055
Both ENDS	PRSGF Leading Women for Transformative Climate Actions	Regional	EUR 187,500
Both ENDS	Enhancing grassroots organizations that work at the intersection of natural resources, defense of territories and gender-based violence II	Regional	EUR 14,500
Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres	Weaving Webs of Care for Women, Climate, Food and Water	Regional	EUR 30,000
ICCA Consortium	Regional Hub for the Southeast Asia region for the ICCA Consortium	Regional	USD 86,120
IUCN NL	GLA Quick Response Funds: Forests for a Just Future	Regional	EUR 30,000
Anonymous	Supporting Territories of Life in SE Asia	Regional	USD 250,000

PROJECTS LIST

Asia Projects New & Ongoing in 2023

Donor	Project Name	Coverage	Amount
Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCo)	Capacity building on enhancing resilience to forest fire, and local livelihood and market linkage in CLMV countries	Regional	USD 2,134,286
Both ENDS	PRSGF Leading Women for Transformative Climate Actions	Regional	EUR 173,000
Both ENDS	Supporting community-driven systems of resilience and autonomy led by Women Environmental Defenders	Regional	EUR 37,500
Both ENDS	Dare to Trust: Decolonizing the process of finance	Regional	EUR 26,667
Forest Foundation Philippines	ASSERT CBFM in NDCs II: Learnings from CBFM EbA Projects and Enterprises	Philippines	PHP 500,000
Land Equity International Pt Limited	Mekong Region Land Governance Phase 3 Project	Regional	USD 140,855
Milieudefensie	Green Livelihoods Alliance: Forests for a Just Future	Regional	EUR 3,809,900
Royal Academy of Engineering	Frontiers Seed Funding: Scoping Research to develop a digitally-facilitated community-led Product Guarantee System	Regional	GBP 20,000
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)	Strong Stewards and Secure Forests for a Sustainable Future: Supporting the Rights, Livelihoods, and Cultures of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities with the women and youth (IPLC-WY) in Asia	Regional	SEK 5,600,000
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Small Scale Funding Agreement: Outcome 4 of the UN-REDD Technical Assistance Initiative "Climate change mitigation through social forestry actions" in ASEAN countries	Regional	USD 111,950
WWF Sweden	Voices for Diversity - safeguarding ecosystems for nature and people	Regional	SEK 2,361,548

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Balance Sheet

ASSETS	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Current Assets		
Cash	₱25,084,812	₱44,077,281
Accounts and other receivables	3,478,232	691,112
Other current assets	19,616,849	7,924,258
Total Assets	₱48,179,893	₱52,692,651

LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Current Liabilities		
Accounts and other payables	₱11,903,203	₱7,308,229
Noncurrent Liabilities		
Retirement Benefit Liability	₱833,486	₱399,129
Total Liabilities	₱12,736,689	₱7,707,358

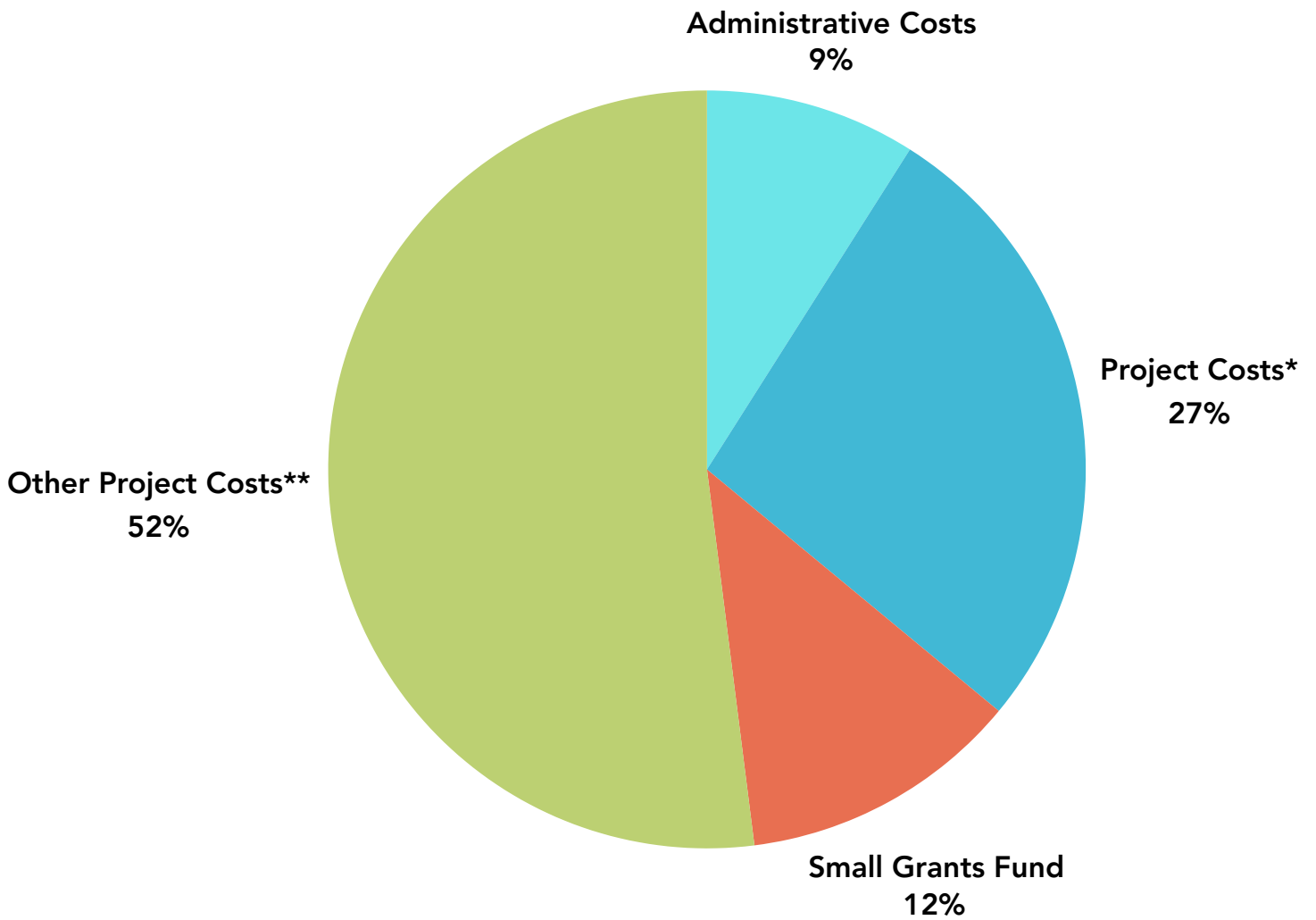
Fund Balance	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Restricted	₱33,067,874	₱43,137,405
Unrestricted	2,375,330	1,847,888
Total Fund Balance	35,443,204	44,985,293
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	₱48,179,893	₱52,692,651

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Revenue & Expense Statement

Revenues	2023	2022
Grants	₱84,626,151	₱106,845,820
Interest income	16,174	13,153
Others	1,725,026	135,057
Total Revenues	86,367,351	106,994,030
Expenses	2023	2022
Project costs	34,351,409	33,660,471
Other program costs	48,323,539	40,495,097
Administrative costs	7,525,653	6,830,324
Program activities	3,959,011	2,270,925
Communications and knowledge management	1,051,746	1,410,028
Sub-total Expenses	95,211,358	84,666,845
Foreign exchange gain or (loss)	(698,082)	650,421
Total Expenses	95,909,440	84,016,424
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenses	₱ (9,542,089)	₱22,977,606
**Total Spending in Euros	€ 1,560,168	€ 1,431,519

EXPENDITURE DISTRIBUTION IN EUROS

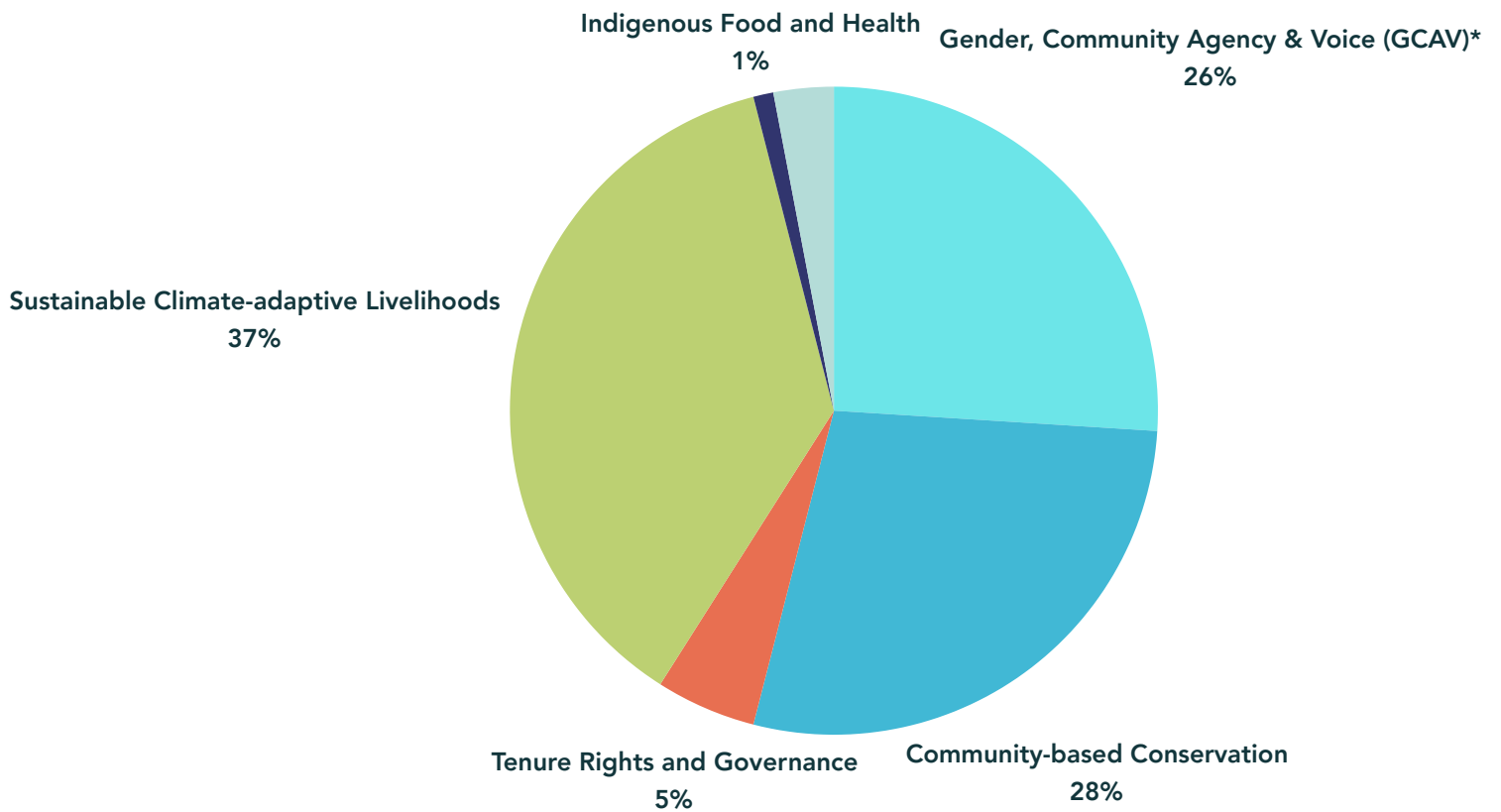


**Project costs are broken down in the next chart.*

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

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

THEMATIC DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECT COSTS IN EUROS



**GCAV includes small grants focused on grassroots women*

PHP to Euro exchange rate is PHP 61.4738= 1.0 Euro as at December 29, 2023.



For more information
about us, visit:



www.ntfp.org



[ntfpep](https://www.facebook.com/ntfpep)



[ntfpep](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ntfpep)



[@ntfp_ep](https://twitter.com/ntfp_ep)



[@ntfp_ep](https://www.instagram.com/ntfp_ep)



[@NTFP-EPAsia](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

NTFP-EP Asia

48 Mahinhin Street, Teachers Village
West, Diliman, Quezon City, 1101
Philippines

NTFP-EP Cambodia

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

NTFP-EP India

c/o Keystone Foundation, Grove Hill
Road, PB No. 35, Kotagiri, Tamil Nadu
India

NTFP-EP Indonesia

Jl. Puspa Sari Blok W6 No 1/i RT
4/RW 9. Kel. Kedung Waringin, Kec.
Tana Sareal, Bogor, 16163
Indonesia

NTFP-EP Malaysia

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

NTFP-EP Philippines

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

NTFP-EP Vietnam

No. 1A, TL 29 Street, Than Loc Ward,
District 12, Ho Chi Minh City,
Vietnam