



CSO FORUM
ON SOCIAL
FORESTRY
IN ASEAN



From Global Commitments to Local Actions: Strengthening IPs&LCs and CSO Leadership in Climate and Biodiversity Governance in Southeast Asia

A TECHNICAL REPORT OF THE 10TH CSO FORUM
June 25-27, 2024 | Siem Reap, Cambodia

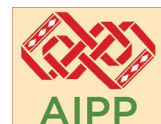
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June 25-27, 2024 | Siem Reap, Cambodia

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

2024



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Foreword

The world faces the interrelated crises of climate change and biodiversity decline. These pressing issues not only jeopardize our planet's ecological systems and their inhabitants but also pose grave risks to human welfare. The need for transformative change to address biodiversity loss was highlighted in the IPCC Global Assessment Report on Climate Change and the IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which define transformative change as a fundamental, system-wide realignment of technological, social, and economic structures to tackle both direct and indirect drivers of climate and biodiversity degradation. While various other influential reports have also advocated for transformative change, this concept for tackling both climate and biodiversity challenges has garnered increasing attention from policymakers, scholars, and the broader public.

Achieving such transformative change requires a comprehensive and coordinated effort across “a whole of government” and “a whole of society”, including governments, businesses, civil society, and individuals. It necessitates a shift towards more sustainable and equitable economic models, the adoption of clean technologies, and the protection and restoration of natural ecosystems. Only through a holistic and collaborative approach can we hope to overcome the intertwined crises of climate change and biodiversity loss and ensure a thriving and resilient future for our planet and its inhabitants.



The 10th CSO Forum focused its discussion on the pivotal roles of Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and Civil Society Organizations in legitimately supporting the transformative change agenda, while maintaining their credibility and driving robust social movement progress. This included emphasizing the importance of strengthening tenure security and establishing inclusive, equitable, and sustainable governance frameworks across the region. Furthermore, the CSO Forum discussion highlighted critical areas where the climate-biodiversity agenda's creation and implementation could be fundamentally transformed to enhance effective, bottom-up strategies for linking global goals with national and local realities. The discussion delved into the significance of empowering these key stakeholders to shape the transformative change agenda in a manner that aligns with their diverse perspectives, knowledge systems, and lived experiences. This, in turn, would ensure the legitimacy, relevance, and lasting impact of the transformative change efforts, fostering a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable transition towards a climate-resilient and biodiversity-rich future.

The CSO Forum produced a comprehensive statement, known as the Bangkoeunphal Declaration, which outlined policy and practice recommendations that were non-negotiable demands for policymakers in the region. This declaration served as the initial outcome of the forum's discussions.

All participants engaged in a field visit to the Romtom Commune in Rovieng District, Preah Vihear Province, where they interacted with the Kui people, who are responsible for protecting the Champen Nature Protected Area, a 3,422.74-hectare mixed forest. The participants observed a welcoming ritual, shared a meal, explored the forest landscape, and witnessed traditional dance performances.

After the field visit, the participants reconvened in Siem Reap to continue discussions on the relevance of the ASEAN Customary Guidelines and the Regional FPIC Handbook to climate and biodiversity commitments. They also received updates on the draft of the ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Rights, with the goal of transitioning from merely providing guidelines to actively monitoring policy implementation at both the national and regional levels.

Throughout the event, the organizers and participants emphasized the importance of Indigenous Peoples and Civil Society Organizations, stressing the need to demand government inclusion of Indigenous tenure rights in policy mandates. Participants were encouraged to share their insights from global platforms with their local communities, empowering them to advocate for change.

The event concluded with country reports and action plans focusing on Climate Change and Biodiversity, Customary Tenure, Environmental Rights, and other relevant issues from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Vietnam, and the broader Southeast Asian region. Potential cross-country joint activities, such as dialogue exchanges and partnerships for best practices, were also highlighted.

The organizers were optimistic that the discussions and agreements reached across regions had resulted in a strong statement to be presented at global events, such as the CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia and the UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. This was seen as an important opportunity to ensure that the voices of Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and Civil Society Organizations were heard and amplified on the international stage, strengthening their influence and impact on critical policy decisions.

Acronyms

AFA	Asian Farmers Association
AFoCo	Asian Forest Cooperation Organization
AICHR	ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
AIPP	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASFCC	ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change
CADT	Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title
CBE	Community-Based Enterprise
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBFM	Community-Based Forest Management
CEGORN	Center for Highland Natural Resource Governance Research
CEL	Community Economy and Livelihood
CLUP	Comprehensive Land Use Plan
COP	Conference of Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ECAN	Environmentally Critical Areas Network
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMB	Environmental Management Bureau
EPO	Environmental Protection Order
FPIC	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GLA	Green Livelihoods Alliance
GST	Global Stocktake
IPBSAP	Indigenous Peoples' Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
ICCA	Indigenous Communities Conserved Areas

IFM	Integrated Forest Management
IIFB	International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity
IIPFCC	International Indigenous People Forum on Climate Change
IIFYCC	International Indigenous Youth Forum on Climate Change
IK	Indigenous Knowledge
IKSP	Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices
IPBES	Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPs&LCs	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
IPRA	Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act
ISS	Indigenous-Regional Standards and Safeguards
ITT	Indigenous and Traditional Territories
KM-GBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
LCIP	Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
LDG	Loss and Damage Fund
MRLG	Mekong Region Land Governance
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan
NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
NSA	Non-state Actor
NCQG	New Collective Quantifiable Goal
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NGO	Non-Government Organizations
NRM	National Resource Management
NTFP-EP	Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme
OECM	Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures
PA	Protected Area
PBSAP	Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

PO	People's Organization
SBI	Subsidiary Body on Implementation
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SFWG	Social Forestry Working Group
TEPO	Temporary Environmental Protection Order
TRG	Tenure Rights and Governance
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
YOUNGO	Official Children and Youth constituency of the United Nations Climate Change Processes

CSO Forum on Social Forestry in ASEAN: Overview

NTPF-EP Asia organized its 10th Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Forum on Social Forestry in ASEAN at the Angkor Paradise Hotel in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The theme was “From Global Commitments to Local Actions: Strengthening IP&LCs and CSOs leadership in Climate and Biodiversity Governance.” The Mekong Region Land Governance (MRLG), Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA), Wyss Academy for Nature, and the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) supported this event technically and financially.

The return to Cambodia after a decade demonstrates the continuing commitment of the CSOs to regional collaboration. This convening focused on the crucial roles of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs&LCs) working together with Civil Society Organizations to promote strengthened tenure security and governance frameworks across the Southeast Asian region. It aimed to identify the issues and develop effective strategies for implementing national-level commitments to climate and biodiversity.

Thirty-one organizations, represented by 45 participants from community-based organizations, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs&LCs), and support partners from eight regional countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Nepal, Vietnam, and Thailand), participated in the forum. The forum emphasized the necessity of a transformative approach that fosters genuine inclusion and equitable, meaningful involvement of IPs&LCs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in local, global, regional, and national policy movements. The focus was on the climate and biodiversity well-being and their impact on the territories of life.

The 10th CSO Forum on Social Forestry had three key objectives:

- 1. Provide a safe space for CSO Forum members and partners** to discuss and learn about the progress and milestones of the network over the years.
- 2. Learn, exchange, and discuss specific thematic issues**, particularly on:
 - a. The current status, gaps, and enabling mechanisms to support effective implementation of the climate and biodiversity commitments at the country level.
 - b. How are IPs&LCs and CSOs involved in this process (approaches, interaction within the network, or policy environment) through securing tenure in climate and biodiversity governance across countries in the region?
 - c. Assess the state of partnership, including the role and gaps of IPs&LCs and CSOs, including women, youth participation in the climate and biodiversity governance to create an enabling environment (policy, capacity, financial) to be recognized and supported in which good practices of local-led actions highlighting the important and effective roles of the IPs&LCs and CSOs shall be elicited that may serve as a springboard for the calls for its institutionalization and support.
- 3. Develop a key statement as a network, with key messages and policy recommendations** that the members can use as important intervention/ advocacy reference in regional/ global events or platforms such as UNFCCC COP29 and UN CBD COP16.

DAY 1 | JUNE 25, 2024, TUESDAY

PART 1: WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

The first session of Day 1 was dedicated to orienting participants about the CSO Forum's strategies and milestones within a decade. The event began with the graceful presentation of the cultural dance performance of the Khmer Culture Training Arts Club, which portrays a Cambodian epic of a prince. A series of warm, welcoming messages from the host country's representatives and the organizers followed.



Figure 1. Khmer Culture Training Arts Club performers welcoming the 10th CSO Forum participants in Siem Reap, Cambodia. (Photo courtesy of Seth Sambath/ NTFP-EP Cambodia)

SIM Bunthoeun, NTFP-EP Cambodia

SIM Bunthoeun, the director of NTFP-EP Cambodia, explained the significance of the cultural presentation and his welcoming remarks. He noted that ceremonial events in Cambodia routinely feature this kind of performance to bless the occasion. The narrative of the mermaid and monkey's love story symbolizes the concept of connection. Bunthoeun further emphasizes that the event was held within the majestic confines of the Angkor Wat Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site. On behalf of the organizers, he passionately welcomed all the participants to Siem Reap.



Figure 2. SIM Bunthoeun delivered his welcome remarks. (Photo courtesy of Seth Sambath/ NTFP-EP Cambodia)

Femy Pinto, NTFP-EP ASIA (On behalf of GLA and NTFP-EP)

Ms. Femy Pinto, Executive Director of NTFP-EP Asia, was proud to say that she had been present for all of the 10 CSO forums. She found it relevant and appropriate to celebrate the decade, gathering the people who have been with the organization since its inception. This event has gathered 140 civil society organizations from more than eight countries. Femy then asked the people in the room if this had been their first time attending. Four participants raised their hands, claiming that they had also been dedicated to joining for 10 years. Eight participants shared that they had been attending more than once. More than half of the participants were first-timers.

Femy stated that it was fine if the number of participants fluctuates. It just indicates that every CSO forum, they are able to welcome old and new members alike. It is a testament to the good networking provided by the forum, which enables them to amplify the local voices working in forested landscapes and bring them to the ASEAN platform, and to ultimately engage with the ASEAN Body.

The CSO Forum on Social Forestry in ASEAN has been influential to the economic pillar and policies of ASEAN Social Forestry Working Group, together with other CSOs and stakeholders. Being part of

Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA), which has six operating organizations globally namely IUCN, Milieudefensie Friends of the Earth (FoE), SDI in Liberia Africa, NTFP-EP Asia, Tropenbos International, and Gaia Amazonas with partners in 12 countries, they aim to promote sustainable governance of forest landscapes together with Indigenous Peoples.

She also mentioned that this event also brings in the Southeast Asian platform, with honorary members from Nepal. They amplify their voices by putting together a statement that is globally connected at the ASEAN level. They have pushed the CSO Forum's platform with the messages and advocacies they have to a much higher platform, like the UNFCCC, and extended their network with the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), and other United Nations processes like human rights and SDGs.

She concluded her message by expressing satisfaction that the CSO Forum is ahead in its timeline of preparation for the upcoming United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties (UNFCCC COP). Through this avenue, they can also carry forward significant research and other products. Through this platform, they are able to strengthen alliances and amplify their impact. She encouraged the participants to bring their own knowledge, experiences, and expertise to the discussions.



Figure 3. Femy Pinto gave her welcome remarks. (Photo courtesy of Seth Sambath/ NTFP-EP Cambodia)

Nguyen Thi Hai Van, Wyss Academy for Nature

Dr. Nguyen Thi Hai Van has been a member of the CSO Forum since 2015 and shared that the last time she joined was during the 2017 CSO Forum in Thailand. She now holds a new position, working as a practitioner and researcher at People and Nature Reconciliation and Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern. In this role, she takes a transformative approach as a knowledge broker, working at the interface between experts, society, and decision-makers to support evidence-based decision making. Van's work has focused on Southeast Asia and has recently expanded to other Global South regions, such as East Africa and South America. She is currently based in Bern, Switzerland and her focus is on promoting transformative change in global biodiversity governance.

Van highlighted that despite over half a century of efforts by governments, civil society, and increasingly business to combat biodiversity loss, the worldwide deterioration of biodiversity continues. Past and ongoing efforts have not

effectively supported the conservation, sustainable, and equitable use of biodiversity, leading to a growing consensus that fundamental, transformative changes are needed to reverse these trends.

Dr. Nguyen emphasized the vital role of civil society organizations in bridging the gap between global biodiversity commitments and local-level implementation. She encouraged participants to harness the power of collective action through the CSO Forum to strengthen tenure security and governance frameworks in the region. Furthermore, she highlighted the unique expertise and innovative strategies of CSOs in navigating global resources and ideas to address local environmental challenges while aligning with global goals. Dr. Nguyen challenged the conventional view that distant, top-down actors solely shape local biodiversity outcomes, underscoring the importance of recognizing the agency and contributions of on-the-ground CSOs as "telecoupling brokers" who facilitate crucial linkages between global and local scales.



Figure 4. Nguyen Thi Hai Van delivered her welcome remarks. (Photo courtesy of Seth Sambath/ NTFP-EP Cambodia)

Pirawan Wongnithisathaporn, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

Pirawan Wongnithisathaporn, the Environment Programme Officer of AIPP, said that it is not just the CSO Forum platform growing, but also everyone who participates in it. She referenced the song "We are the World", by proclaiming in the room, "You are the World! Voice our rights—which is missing." She hopes that the cultural heritage of Indigenous Peoples is acknowledged so they will

be able to live with dignity. She reminded everyone that the reason for coming to the event is to work together.



Figure 5. Pirawan Wongnithisathaporn shared her welcome remarks. (Photo courtesy of Seth Sambath/ NTFP-EP Cambodia)

Dazzle Labapis, NTFP-EP Asia

NTFP-EP Asia's Programme Officer, Mr. Dazzle Labapis, who served as the lead organizer for the 10th CSO Forum, noted that the platform has been actively engaged and influential since its inception in 2011. The ASEAN Social Forestry Working Group subsequently invited the CSO Forum to become a part of their collaborative space. The inaugural

CSO Forum was held in Siem Reap, and the organizers have now returned to the same city and country to commemorate the forum's tenth anniversary. Over the years, the CSO Forum has established a loosely connected network focused on social forestry, climate, and biodiversity, providing a platform to exchange ideas and discuss thematic areas related to tenure rights and governance mechanisms.



Figure 6. Dazzle Labapis providing the overview of the agenda and expectations and brief background of the 10th ASEAN CSO Forum. (Photo courtesy of Seth Sambath/ NTFP-EP Cambodia)

The CSO Forum is also part of the larger ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC). Initially, they met in-person annually within the ASEAN region to discuss four thematic areas: Community Economy and Livelihood (CEL), International-Regional Standards and Safeguards (ISS), Tenure and Access Rights (TAR), and Governance Mechanisms.

These areas align with the 2020-2025 Theory of Change of the CSO Forum.

The organizers conducted a Mentimeter poll to gauge the participants' current understanding and expectations regarding the event's topic, with the aim of bridging the gap between their existing knowledge and the information to be presented.



Table 1. Work Backgrounds, Experiences, and Challenges of Civil Society Organizations in Cambodia

CAMBODIA	
ORGANIZATION	WORK BACKGROUNDS, EXPERIENCES, AND CHALLENGES
1. Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have been registered with the government since 2008. • They conduct capacity building with the community by organizing staff from community to national level. • They have a youth teaching program on community forest. • They also provide opportunities for the youths of visiting countries to learn from their elders.
2. Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) Cambodia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are based in Phnom Penh and work in six provinces focusing on Community-Based Enterprises (CBEs) including honey and rattan. • They are active in climate change, human rights, and indigenous peoples rights. • Ecosystem-based development focused on livelihood enhancing under Association of Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) Project • They have a new project with UNESCO—an action research in gender involvement in NTFP and enterprises.
3. Indigenous Peoples for Agriculture in Development Cambodia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have been re-established by the ministry of interior. • They provide capacity-building activities on agriculture and improving IP livelihood with the aim of having food security. • They are challenged with forestry land law and environmental codes that affect other peoples' rights.
4. Danmission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have been registered with the government since 2014. • They support IPs for owning land, environmental management protection, customary land rights based on their national law and the UN Declaration of IP Customary Right. • They are pushing for the communities to produce participatory tree maps that involve cultural and ecological information such as burial and farming plants. • They document and produce videos on their knowledge on resource use management on how they use land in a sustainable way on collecting NTFPs. • They also do legal advocacy by analyzing laws with their legal team. • They face issues with the backward progress in Cambodia, as the environmental code in the country has removed the term 'IPs' and replaced it with a local community which restricts customary practices of the IP groups.



Table 2. Work Backgrounds, Experiences, and Challenges of Civil Society Organizations in Indonesia and Lao PDR

INDONESIA	
ORGANIZATION	WORK BACKGROUNDS, EXPERIENCES, AND CHALLENGES
1. Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are based in Bogor, West Java and work around policy development and NGO community forums supporting the government's three community forest schemes in social equality. • They are challenged by the gaps in tenure and knowledge on forest restoration focusing on landscape and lack of youth participation in related activities
LAO PDR	
ORGANIZATION	WORK BACKGROUNDS, EXPERIENCES, AND CHALLENGES
1. RECOFTC Lao PDR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They work on resilient communities, sustainable forest landscape, climate change mitigation and adaptation, social inclusion and governance. • They provide economic benefit with projects such as evidence-based research, fire management projects, land tenure, REDD+, and rice plantations.
2. Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Government Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They operate in four main areas in Laos for organic movement from production to market. • They set-up farmer organizations to create networks and cooperatives working on climate change adaptation, consumer education and protection, food security and quality, and NTFPs.



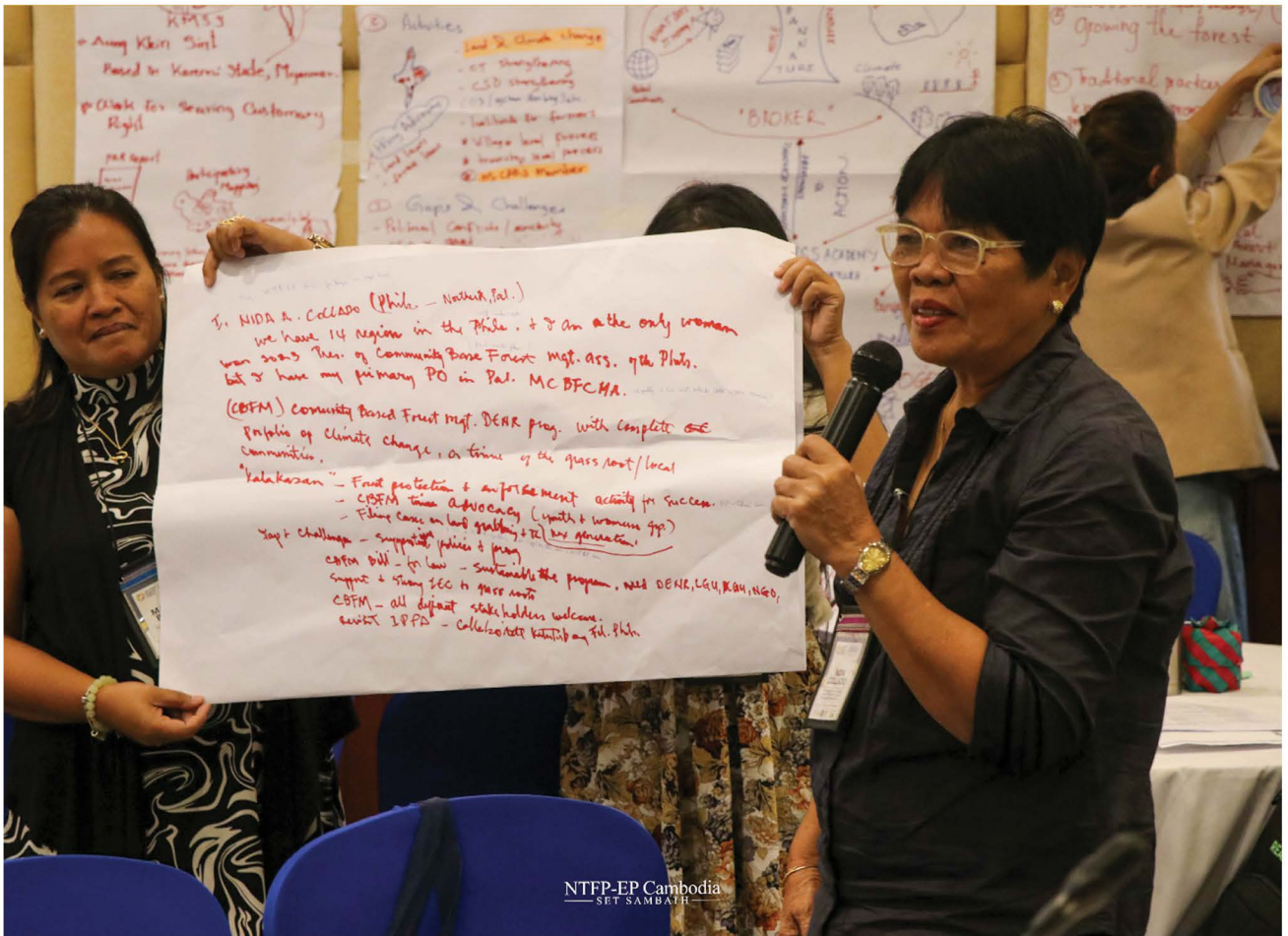
Table 3. Work Backgrounds, Experiences, and Challenges of Civil Society Organizations in Malaysia

MALAYSIA	
ORGANIZATION	WORK BACKGROUNDS, EXPERIENCES, AND CHALLENGES
1. Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They work on forest livelihood and restoration projects by involving mapping zones, having roundtable discussions, and carbon trading. • Their perception of community empowerment work is by basing it on the needs of the local community.
2. PACOS Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They work with three major groups of IPs as they call for land rights, socioeconomic improvement, and community organizing. • They envision an empowered and well-equipped IPs with secured land tenure and food security. • They document local knowledge on biodiversity and land tenure. • They work on strengthening their collaboration with other local and regional networks.
3. SAVE Rivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are focusing on Ulu Baram—a 300,000 hectare of land which is home to five IP groups of 10,000 people. • They work in support of the Indigenous Peoples through research, advocacy, and community engagement for forest conservation and restoration. • Their mission is to protect the last remaining forest in Ulu Baram.



Table 4. Work Backgrounds, Experiences, and Challenges of Civil Society Organizations in Myanmar

MYANMAR	
ORGANIZATION	WORK BACKGROUNDS, EXPERIENCES, AND CHALLENGES
1. Caritas Myanmar - KMSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They work on five areas in customary tenure through participatory mapping process and performing community network groups.
2. Mekong Region Land Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are working on four landscapes focusing on customary land tenure within Myanmar and Cambodia. • The key challenges they are facing in Cambodia are the several laws and the lack of integration of addressing environmental challenges involving smallholder farmers and Indigenous Peoples. They are also having challenges with customary land tenure in Myanmar in connection with their constitutional rights. They work with nuns and with their other alliance partners in natural resource management in that region on local land administration.
3. ICG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They work on land rights with NGOs, policymakers, and government officials. • Since the coup d'état happened in 2021, they focus on the communities with land and climate change projects in terms of national development. • They have helped create livelihood developments on village-level projects through working closely low-profile with partners.
4. POINT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They fight for Indigenous Peoples' and environmental rights. • They focus on food security.



NTFP-EP Cambodia
SET SAMBATH



NTFP-EP Cambodia
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Table 5. Work Backgrounds, Experiences, and Challenges of Civil Society Organizations in the Philippines

PHILIPPINES	
ORGANIZATION	WORK BACKGROUNDS, EXPERIENCES, AND CHALLENGES
1. National Community-Based Forest Management People's Organization/MCBFMA in Northern Palawan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are the primary people's organization (PO) with 1,850 hectares of timberland area. • They have 38 members and 35 associate members advocating for the Community-Based Development Program (CBFM)-the primary strategy of sustainable forest management in the country. • They prioritize women and youth for their programs. • They work on apprehending and citizen arrest of illegal loggers. • With the support of NTFP-EP Philippines, they filed cases for land grabbing of timberland arrest. • Their challenges require them to visit the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997
2. Environmental Legal Assistance Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organization, established in the 1990s, is a developmental legal assistance to help IP&LCs' rights to protect their natural resources. • They have the tagline: helping communities defend the Earth. • They have done policy advocacy campaigns against mining companies in Palawan through the launch of #SavePalawan campaign. • They conduct education and training programs in North to Southern Palawan
3. Mabuwaya Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are based in the largest PA in Northern Sierra Madre and Cagayan (Haven of Biodiversity) • They promote livelihood of communities using NTFP, climate adaptation with NBS via indigenous forests and fruit trees (Agroforestry), honeymaking, working with LGUs to protect threatened species like crocodiles, and with Communication, Education, and Advocacy campaign with the academe
4. IDEAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on formulation of management plans of communities to ensure conservation of natural ecosystems and farms (livelihood zones). We support livelihood activities. Overarching with tenure rights. Support institutional developments. Look into community dynamics (Internal conflicts) aside from external stakeholders (e.g. Mining companies).



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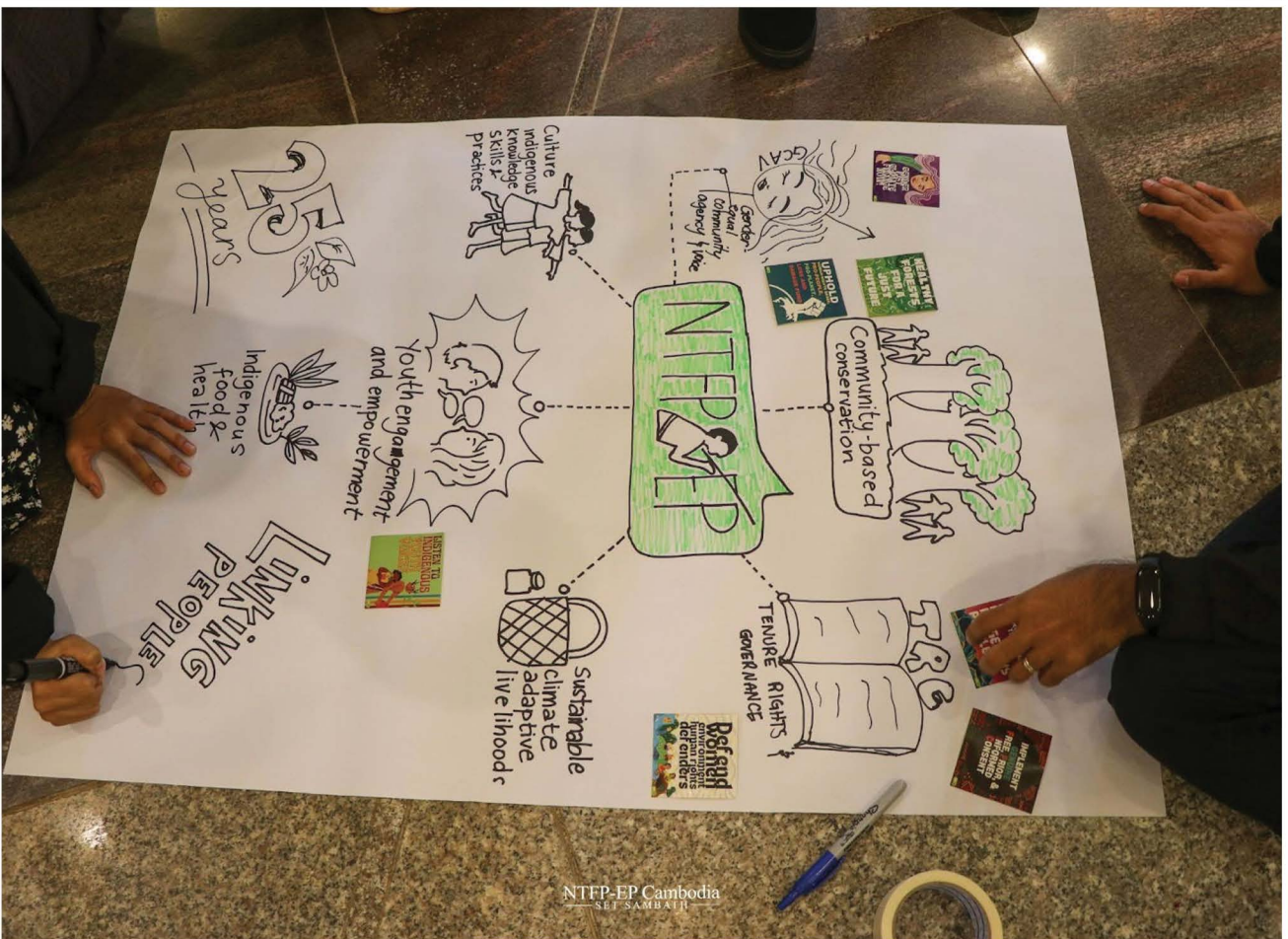
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Table 6. Work Backgrounds, Experiences, and Challenges of Civil Society Organizations in Thailand and Vietnam

THAILAND	
ORGANIZATION	WORK BACKGROUNDS, EXPERIENCES, AND CHALLENGES
1. Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They strengthen IPs by changing the mindset and narratives of being vulnerable and resilient communities to influence policymakers. • They transform stakeholders to right holders.
VIETNAM	
ORGANIZATION	WORK BACKGROUNDS, EXPERIENCES, AND CHALLENGES
1. Center for Highland Natural Resource Governance Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They strengthen evidence-based research led by and for Indigenous Peoples. • They transform the narratives of Indigenous Peoples from stakeholders to rights holders, from policy takers to policy makers, from vulnerable community to resilient community
2. Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They work in 25 locations, mostly in the southern part of the country. • They employ a bottom-up approach with sustainable livelihoods for communities by helping them secure materials of traditional herbs in areas by preserving forests to help their livelihoods. • They help in forging partnerships of communities to better manage natural resources of ethnic areas so that the government will recognize them.
3. PanNature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They work on reconciliation of nature and people for biodiversity and conservation of protected areas. • They have activities for planting and agriculture for green livelihood and climate smart agriculture, agroforestry on rice, and carbon emission reduction.



NTFP-EP Cambodia
SET SAMBATH



NTFP-EP Cambodia
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Table 7. Work Backgrounds, Experiences, and Challenges of Civil Society Organizations in Southeast Asia and Global level

REGIONAL	
ORGANIZATION	WORK BACKGROUNDS, EXPERIENCES, AND CHALLENGES
1. Southeast Asia Indigenous Communities Conserved Areas (ICCA) Consortium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are based in Southeast Asia connected with 22 organization of CSOs, IPs, and local communities involved in the recognition of territories of life • They work in three thematic areas: 1. Documenting through mapping, 2. Sustaining territories of life by highlighting Indigenous wisdom, and 3. Supporting saving the rivers. • They are engaged with the ASEAN, National Biodiversity Strategic Plan, UNFCCC, and UN CBD.
2. Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme (NTEP-EP) Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have a regional network of 25 members and 100 community-based organizations working on sustainable forest management. • They focus on the way of life and intimate relationship with the forest with thematic areas on tenure rights governance (securing land policies for IP and local communities), gender and equal community and voice (just climate finance and Pastor Rice Grants), sustainable climate adaptive livelihood, and culture
3. Asian Farmers Association (AFA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus in 16 countries in Asia; total 22 (plus the Pacific) • Operating on six points: a. Land Rights, Seeds, Forests b. Women and Youth farmers, c. Agrobiodiversity, d. Climate Resilient Actions by promoting through documentation, and e. Cooperative for smallholder farmers to ensure they are working in a mechanism so they can continue and sustain their work as resilient communities
4. Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen IP by changing mindset and narratives of being vulnerable and resilient communities to influence policymakers. • Transforming stakeholders to right holders. They push for them to be at the table in policymaking. • Promoting rights and tenures as solutions. • Hold roles and contributions in CBD and climate change for more than two decades in improving structural barriers. Mechanism with ADB to hold an annual conference before COP.

PART 2: LEARNING SESSIONS - BRIDGING GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS IN CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

The two first learning sessions are designed based on: (i) Climate and (ii) Biodiversity Governance following a similar format to ensure consistency and engagement. Each session begins by assessing participants' current awareness and expectations, allowing us to tailor the discussions to their needs and levels of understanding. Following this, experts share their knowledge and experiences on relevant issues, drawing from examples at the global, regional, and country levels. And the sessions ended with reflections from participation. This structure facilitates a comprehensive learning experience, blending theoretical insights with practical case studies, to deepen participants' understanding of the topics being covered.

LEARNING SESSION 1: Bridging global, regional and national levels in climate governance

The afternoon learning session focused on exploring the connections between global, regional, and national efforts to address climate change. This session was facilitated by Mr. Gordon John Thomas from PACOS Trust.

The pre-learning session posed three key questions (see more in Figure 9, 10 and 11). Mentimeter was employed to assess the participants' prior knowledge and identify areas requiring further exploration. This tool helped gauge the participants' current understanding and facilitated a seamless transition to the information being presented in the next section.

1. What is the participants' comprehension of Nationally Determined Contributions?

Twenty-one participants provided 26 responses. Some participants were learning about NDCs for the first time, while others described them as the global commitment of states to reduce carbon emissions.

2. What gaps and challenges exist in the development or implementation of NDCs in the participants' respective countries?

Eighteen participants provided 25 responses about the gaps and challenges of NDCs development or implementation in their respective countries. Some of the challenges mentioned included bureaucratic problems, lack of consultation, lack of policy coherence, lack of state capacity and resources, lack of quality enforcement, and limited participation by Indigenous Peoples and poor communities.

3. What is the significance of tenure and its linkage to achieving the participants' countries' NDCs?

Ten respondents provided 17 responses about the importance of tenure in achieving the NDC of their country. The reasons mentioned included community ownership, impact monitoring, food security, land rights, life, and resilience.

These questions aimed to establish a foundational understanding of the topic and highlight specific areas necessitating further discussion and analysis during the session.



Figure 9. Mentimeter result for the question: what is your understanding of Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)?



Figure 10. Mentimeter result for the question: what are the gaps and challenges of NDCs development or implementation in your country?



Figure 11. Mentimeter result for the question: why is tenure important and linked in achieving the NDC of your country?

COP28 & SB60 Updates and Decision

Presented and facilitated by Lakpa Nuri Sherpa (AIPP) and Dazzle Labapis (NTFP-EP Asia)

The Paris Agreement marked a significant breakthrough in the global effort to combat climate change and adapt to its impacts. This legally binding international treaty, adopted by 196 Parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris on December 12, 2015, set the overarching goal of limiting global temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, while pursuing efforts to further limit the increase to 1.5°C.

In their presentation, Lakpa Nuri Sherpa and

Dazzle Labapis summarized key outcomes from recent global climate discussions. They highlighted decisions made at the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP28)¹ in 2023 and the 60th Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) meeting in Bonn, Germany, in June-July 2024, as well as preparations for the upcoming COP29 in Baku by November 11-22, 2024.

The presenters emphasized the critical importance of secure land tenure rights for effective climate action, while also underscoring the need for meaningful engagement of rightsholders. Their presentation covered

¹ The 28th annual United Nations climate meeting, was the biggest international conference by far that tackles the concerns on mitigating the climate change crises. This was attended by 85,000 participants of more than 150 Heads of State and Government, who were among the representatives of national delegations, civil society, business, Indigenous Peoples, youth, philanthropy, and international organizations from November 30 to December 13, 2023. COP28 marked the conclusion of the first 'Global Stocktake' process. This resulted in countries responding with a decision on how to accelerate climate action across all areas by 2030 through rapidly transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources in their next round of climate commitments.

governance-related decisions, such as the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund and advancements within the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform. However, they noted that the UNFCCC parties failed to define the parameters of a new discussion on implementing the Global Stocktake, and that civil society and Indigenous representatives continued to face harassment and unauthorized filming during UNFCCC meetings. Furthermore, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice 60 (SB60)² did not make progress on defining the new collective quantified goal on climate finance, which was scheduled to be determined before 2025.

Additionally, they reflected on calls and recommendations from Indigenous Peoples and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the global climate discourse, especially in the Global Stocktake (GST). The GST, a key process that occurs every five years, serves as a mechanism for countries and stakeholders to evaluate their progress towards the goals of the Paris Agreement. It aims to guide nations in achieving their climate targets, identify gaps that need addressing, and strengthen climate policies and commitments for future Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).



Figure 12. Lakpa Nuri Sherpa presented the Global Stocktake (GST) and Nationally Determined Contributions. (Photo courtesy of Seth Sambath/ NTFP-EP Cambodia)

They also paid close attention to how the language used in the Paris Agreement, particularly how it addressed the rights and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs&LCs). He highlighted the specific wording that connects climate action with the recognition and protection of the rights and welfare of the IPs&LCs, emphasizing the importance of inclusive language in ensuring that their perspectives and contributions are adequately represented in international climate agreements (see Figure 13).

Rights and Knowledge in the Paris Agreement

Preamble: ...Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on **human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities** and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as **gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity,**

Article 7 Parties acknowledge that adaptation action should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, **traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems,** with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate.

Figure 13. Slide presentation on rights and knowledge in the Paris Agreement of Lakpa Nuri Sherpa

² The 60th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) is a crucial preparatory step for COP29, setting the stage for negotiations on key climate issues like finance and adaptation. SB60 happened last June 3-13 2024 in Bonn, Germany. It provided a platform for technical discussions, decision-making, and the development of common ground on key climate issues. The outcomes of SB60 will directly impact the negotiations and outcomes of COP29 and future climate action.

Table below highlighted the status, gaps and concerns related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs&LCs) and their meaningful involvement in Global Climate Discourses and Policies:

Table 8. Status, gaps and concerns related to IPs&LCs and their involvement in Global Climate Discourses and Policies

Discourses and policies at global level:

- IPs are usually featured as victims of climate change, or participants and/or beneficiaries of climate change plans, projects, and funds.
- Climate policies sometimes even contribute to the criminalization of traditional sustainable practices used by Indigenous Peoples, such as shifting cultivation or forest management techniques by defining them as drivers of deforestation.

This leads to:

- Climate policies almost exclusively fail to address land tenure insecurity and the related threats to traditional livelihoods faced by Indigenous Peoples.
- With a few exceptions, Indigenous Peoples are invisible as rights-holders, knowledge-holders, and agents of positive change in national climate policies.
- There is a lack of effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in climate policy processes, especially by Indigenous women, youth, and persons with disabilities.
- Even though the loss and damage funds were included in the GST, they were not properly recognized as the third pillar of climate action, alongside mitigation and adaptation and having the concrete assessment on the loss and damage for IPs&LCs

Discourses and policies at national level:

The National Determined Contributions (NDCs) by mentioning article 4 paragraph 2 of the Paris Agreement, countries' partners are required to “prepare, communicate, and maintain successive National Determined Contributions (NDCs)” setting out how the country intends to contribute to global emissions reductions. But:

- Minimal participation of Indigenous Peoples to influence government decision makers in the NDC design/development process.
- The ministry that joins the decision-making process is only the ministry of environment. The related ministries should join more.
- The Indigenous Women, Indigenous Youth and Persons with Disabilities receive very little attention in national climate change discourses and policies. For example, among 13 countries in Southeast Asia, only two countries mentioned Indigenous women, while other groups of Youth and Persons with disabilities are not mentioned explicitly. Or the broader categories of women, youth, and other “marginalized groups” feature more regularly—often in the context of their vulnerability to climate change.

Source: AIPP (2022). Nationally Determined Contributions in Asia: Are governments recognizing the rights, roles and contributions of Indigenous Peoples? See https://weadapt.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Nationally_Determined_Contributions_in_Asia_Overview_-_digital_-_Amended_03June-compressed.pdf

Concurrently, the analysis has also revealed some potential opportunities that are accompanied by calls for action, which warrant further implementation and support.

Table 9. Opportunities, food for thought, and call for action based on the COP28 and SB60 updates

OPPORTUNITIES	FOOD FOR THOUGHT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ USD 4.3 trillion per year needs to be invested in clean energy up until 2030. ◦ USD 5 trillion per year up until 2050 also needs to be invested in clean energy to reach net zero emission by 2050. ◦ Developed countries have the obligation to provide the financial resources to assist developing countries with respect to both mitigation and adaptation under the convention. • Capacity Building: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Recognize the roles of Local Communities (LCs) and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs&LCs) to engage them in the intergovernmental process under the Paris Agreement and call on parties to meaningfully engage Indigenous Peoples and local communities in their climate policies and action. • Loss and Damage Funds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The loss and damage fund established at COP28 was operationalized. ◦ Numerous countries contributed roughly \$700 million to fill the loss and damage fund. • Guidance and Way Forward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ In accordance with Article 3 and 4 of the Paris Agreement, parties are required to submit their NDCs to the secretariat at least 9 to 12 months in advance. ◦ Parties should ensure that each NDC represents a progression beyond their current NDC and reflects their highest possible ambition. ◦ Countries should encourage the implementation of climate policies and actions that are gender-responsive, fully respect human rights, and empower youth and children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we support and empower the IPs&LCs and CSOs, especially women and youth, to participate effectively in national decision-making processes that shape climate and biodiversity policies such as the NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs? • How can these engagements highlight the importance of forests and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities? • What actions can be explored and take to support direct access to a gender-just, predictable, and equitable climate finance for IPs&LCs, particularly through the New Collective Quantifiable Goal (NCQG) of climate finance, and the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, while ensuring the full and effective implementation of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in all climate policies that will be developed and formulated. <p>CALL FOR ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for the participation in the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP), as an open and inclusive space that brings together people and their knowledge systems to build a climate-resilient world for all. • Identify representatives from the CSO Forum to engage in the next NDC process. • Connect with individuals working in relevant government ministries. • Initiate consultations within organizations, networks, and at local and national levels. • Utilize research from the AIPP research on NDCs in Asia for policy advocacy. • Advocate for the inclusion of the protection of Environmental Human Rights defenders and the rights of Indigenous Peoples to land tenure rights in NDCs. • Plan a regional Assessment focusing on full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples. • Conduct research and documentation to highlight the importance of tenure recognition.



Figure 14. Dazzle Labapis presented the updates from the SB60. (Photo courtesy of Seth Sambath/ NTFP-EP Cambodia)

Experiences of Regional Indigenous Youth in the Global UNFCCC Discussion

Asami Segundo (ICCA SEA Consortium and a member of the International Indigenous Youth Forum on Climate Change)

Ms. Asami Segundo, the regional coordinator for ICCA SEA Consortium, shared her experiences on participating from an Indigenous Youth perspective at high level climate policy discussion, such as at SB58, COP28, and SB60.

Peoples to connect, network, self-organize, and engage in collective learning related to the UNFCCC processes.

In each of these events, Asami was involved in a packed schedule covering various topics. At COP28, she participated in the launch of the International Indigenous Youth Forum on Climate Change, engaged with the COP28 Youth Climate Champion, and was visible and engaged in COP Presidency events, as well as the establishment of

SB58 was an intersessional conference between the Conference of Parties to prepare for the upcoming COP. It focused on loss and damage and the global stocktake. COP28 was the 28th annual meeting of the United Nations climate conference, held in Dubai, where governments discussed limits and prepared for future climate change. SB60 was another intersessional session. Asami's participation was coordinated through the International Indigenous Youth Forum on Climate Change, which operates under the International Indigenous Peoples Platform on Climate Change. This platform serves as a space for Indigenous



Figure 15. Asami Segundo discussed her experiences participating at SB58, COP28, and SB60 as an Indigenous Youth representative. (Photo courtesy of Seth Sambath/ NTFP-EP Cambodia)

committees. During SB60, she ensured complete representation of the 7 socio-cultural regions, delivered messages that were recognized by the UNFCCC Secretariat and LCIPP Secretariat, and established partnerships with YOUNGO and met with the COP28 Youth Climate Champion.

Asami discussed the challenges faced by Indigenous youth engaging with the UNFCCC. She noted that Indigenous youth were misrepresented, and while a large number participated in SB 58, they were not well-organized. Additionally, the Asian Indigenous Peoples Caucus is not recognized. Asami highlighted several factors hindering Indigenous youth engagement, including the lack of a structured International Indigenous Youth Forum on Climate Change, limited representation from Asia and Southeast Asia, inadequate capacity building for meaningful UNFCCC participation, and barriers related to badge access, funding, and language translation. To improve Indigenous youth participation in the UNFCCC, Asami suggested strengthening the Asia Indigenous Peoples Caucus, increasing visibility through side events and interventions, providing more sharing and networking opportunities, facilitating bilateral meetings with YOUNGO, and translating legal documents into various indigenous languages for improved accessibility and understanding.

Insights from Sharers at country and local levels

Insights from the participants highlighted the need for increased support for Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and Civil Society Organizations (IP&LCs and CSOs) to effectively engage in national-level decision-making processes. They emphasized the importance of capacity building, access to climate finance, and the inclusion of Indigenous voices in climate policies.

To address these needs, it is recommended that we:

- **Support participation:** Provide funding to support representatives from IP&LCs and CSOs to participate in relevant forums, such as the Loss and Damage Fund in South Korea.
- **Simplify messaging:** Develop clear and concise statements that effectively convey the key messages and recommendations of these groups.

This session ended with another Mentimeter survey to assess the participants' understanding of the topics covered in the first learning session. The survey reiterated the pre-learning questions. For the first post-learning question, 13 participants provided a total of 17 responses. The participants' understanding of Nationally Determined Contributions still primarily reflected the commitment of governments under the Paris Agreement to reduce emissions. However, some participants demonstrated a more comprehensive understanding, recognizing the need for increased inclusion, legal integration, and a systems-oriented approach to climate action. The second post-learning question asked participants to identify the gaps and challenges in the development or implementation of NDCs in their respective countries. Seventeen participants provided a total of 22 responses, which echoed the issues raised in the pre-learning survey, such as a lack of consultation, engagement, funding, and implementation, as well as limited participation of Indigenous Peoples and weak enforcement at the local level. Additionally, new barriers emerged, including the need for more inclusive language for Indigenous Peoples and the creation of spaces for youth participation. For the final post-survey of learning session 1, the participants were asked again about the importance of tenure and its link in achieving the NDC of their respective countries. Twelve participants provided a total of 18 responses, which included themes such as harmony, humanity, impact monitoring, justice, land is life, legal recognition, no land no food, protect human rights, security, and sustainability. See more detailed in Figure 16, 17, and 18.



Figure 16. Mentimeter result for the question: What is your understanding of Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)?



Figure 17. Mentimeter result for the question: What are the gaps and challenges of NDCs development or implementation in your country?



Figure 18. Mentimeter result for the question: Why is tenure important and linked in achieving the NDC of your country?



Figure 19. CSO Participants engaged in sharing their insights to the first learning session resource speakers. (Photo courtesy of Seth Sambath/ NTFP-EP Cambodia)

LEARNING SESSION 2: INVOLVEMENT OF CSOS IN TRANSLATING GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY GOALS INTO LOCAL ACTIONS

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted in 2022, represents a critical milestone in addressing the global biodiversity crisis. The KMGBF not only sets the agenda for reversing biodiversity loss but also offers an opportunity for transformative change in global biodiversity governance. During the negotiations of the post-KMGBF conferences of the parties, a hybrid regime complex arrangement emerged, characterized by two distinct governance approaches: a whole-of-governance approach, defined by state-led action through parties' renewed National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and a whole-of-society approach, characterized by the efforts of non-state actors to orchestrate their biodiversity-related actions via the Action Agenda Platform.

In both cases, non-state actors, particularly Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and Civil Society Organizations, are intricately integrated into the implementation of the GBF, performing a range of diverse and increasingly significant functions. On one hand, they will serve as watchdogs of the NBSAP process, enhancing transparency, facilitating stocktakes, and pressuring for the ratcheting up of NBSAPs, as has been the role of non-state actors over the last three decades. Simultaneously, non-state actors will act as contributors and governing partners through orchestration, as they are encouraged by the Action Agenda Pledges to make their biodiversity actions visible and register them on the platform. These processes can serve not only as pathways for implementing but also as key elements in realizing the most ambitious outcomes of the KMGBF.

The Learning Session 2 was dedicated to understanding current KMGBF implementation, with a focus on the involvement of non-state actors, especially IPs&LCs and CSOs, identifying the entry points for the localization of the KM-GBF and strengthening the role of IPs&LCs and CSOs in the specific context of Southeast Asia, and outlining strategies to bring local issues and context to the mainstreaming of global biodiversity discourses and policies. This portion also shed light on the outcomes of COP15 and presented necessary actions that IPs&LCs and CSOs need to prepare and advocate for in COP16.

The pre-learning survey also utilized Mentimeter to gauge the participants' understanding of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, their organizational or individual steps to support achieving their aspirations for KM-GBF implementation, and the information they wish to learn further about the framework. Fourteen participants responded to the question about their prior knowledge of the KM-GBF, with eleven answering "yes" and three saying "no".

Regarding their aspirations for the implementation of the KM-GBF, eleven participants provided a total of sixteen responses, expressing hopes such as the recognition of Indigenous Communities Conserved Areas, the protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights, the acknowledgment of Customary Tenure, the establishment of achievable goals, the provision of resources for capacity building, and the allocation of funding to support implementation.

The survey also gathered fourteen responses from ten participants regarding their biggest fears about KM-GBF implementation, including human rights violations, lack of inclusion, a business-as-usual attitude, and the impact on Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods.

Additionally, fourteen responses were provided by eleven participants regarding their organizations' plans to overcome their biggest fears and achieve their aspirations for KM-GBF implementation. Participants shared that they plan to work on overcoming fortress conservation, loss of biodiversity and forests, unclear engagements, and weak enforcement, as well as focus on other effective area-based conservation measures to translate the KM-GBF implementation. Some participants, however, expressed uncertainty about their specific plans. See more in detail in Figure 20-23.

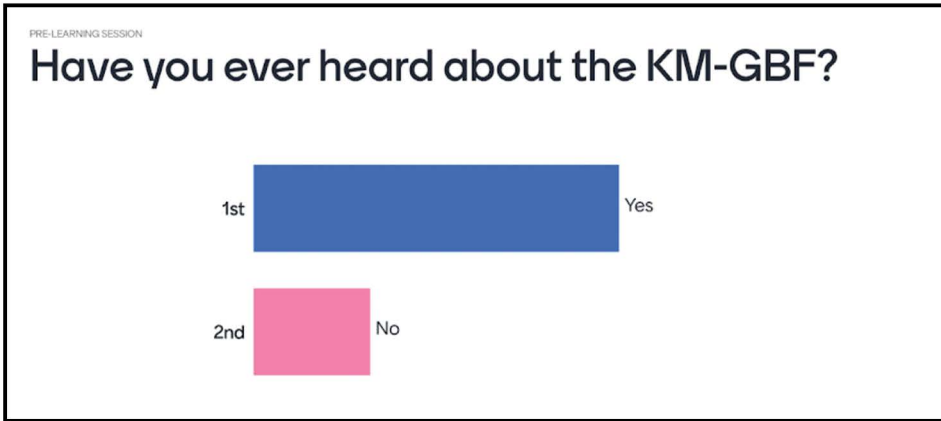


Figure 20. Mentimeter result for the question: have you heard about the KM-GBF?



Figure 21. Mentimeter results for the question: what is your big hope for the KM-GBF implementation?



Figure 22. Mentimeter result for the question: what is your biggest fear of the KM-GBF implementation?

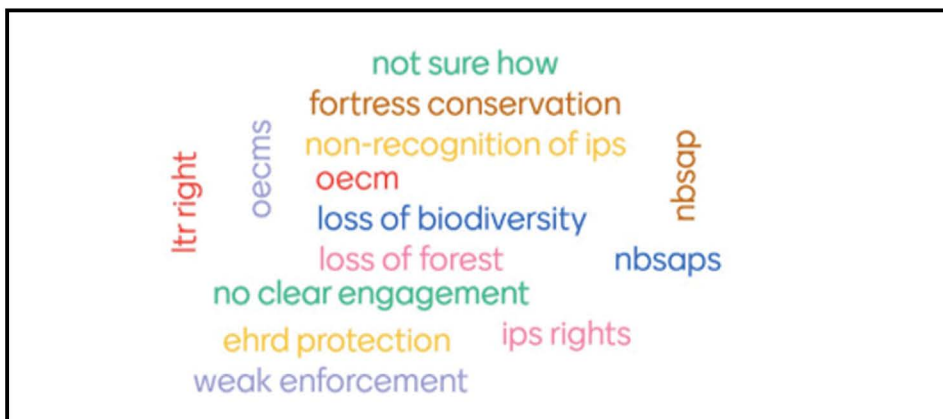


Figure 21. Mentimeter results for the question: what is your big hope for the KM-GBF implementation?

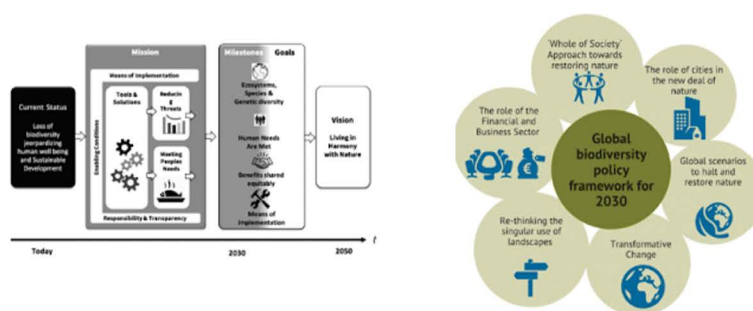
Local-Global Governance Landscape in Bending the Curve of Biodiversity Loss

Presented by Dr. Nguyen Thi Hai Van, Wyss Academy for Nature at University of Bern

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) represents a critical step in addressing the global biodiversity crisis. Scientific assessments indicate that biodiversity is facing unprecedented threats, with nature's critical benefits to people diminishing worldwide (IPBES 2019, CBD 2020, WWF 2020). For example, 20 Aichi targets set by the UN Convention of Biological Diversity to protect biodiversity by 2020, addressing issues such as habitat loss and sustainable fishing. However, after a decade, these targets were not met. Most Parties failed to align their national targets with the global goals, due to policy gaps, insufficient funding, and difficult-to-quantify targets.

The persistent failure of past and current efforts to halt biodiversity loss has led to a broad consensus that profound, transformative changes are necessary to reverse these trends and "bend the curve" on biodiversity decline. The KM-GBF, adopted in 2022, has its own theory of change or a transformative approach to deal with the biodiversity loss crisis. It is also known as "the Paris Agreement for Biodiversity". It outlines four ambitious goals for 2050 and 23 targets for 2030 to save existing biodiversity and ensure that 30% of degraded terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine ecosystems come under effective restoration. A whole-of-society approach is essential, requiring collective commitment to halt and reverse biodiversity loss as well making the efforts of actors visible towards biodiversity actions.

The KM Global Biodiversity Framework: Theory of Change



Source: CBD, 2022

Figure 24. The KM-GBF Framework: Theory of Change from CBD (2022)

Dr. Van highlighted the work that she and her colleagues at University of Bern doing as the first to empirically examine how the adoption of the whole of society approach has catalyzed transformative change of the KMGBF, as evidenced through the initial responses of diverse NSAs in terms of their evolving values, perceptions, and networking patterns aimed at effectively addressing biodiversity loss. She mentioned that the trajectory of global biodiversity governance leading to and from the 2022 KM-GBF reveals a significant shift in the nature of the mechanisms at play. Building a novel dataset from the CBD Action Agenda platform on non-state actor (NSA) involvement in global biodiversity commitments, with 718 pledges and 274 partnership initiatives, they have noticed three trends:

First, they found the distribution of actions and commitments around the world with the top 10 headquarters of these organizations located in the global north, raising concerns about the ability of developing countries, where most biodiversity hotspots are located, to take effective action. Europe is home to the leading organizations for the GBF, while Asia is a hub for organizing and community-based action.

Second, they have noticed that there is a move away from the monocentric regulations and dominant roles of intergovernmental organizations and large international NGOs. Many local NGOs, community-based organizations, grassroots organizations, environmental firms, businesses, local authorities and other public organizations such as universities and research centers are stepping up their efforts.

The third trend they have observed is on the governance structure of these actors's network. Employing the governance triangle framework and constellation analysis, they were able to depict the diverse array of ten different actor types and their collaborations across the three major vertices of public, private, and civil society entities to support biodiversity-related initiatives. In which, NGOs/CSOs are crucial in ensuring that biodiversity efforts are tailored to context-specific needs and challenges, while also holding a central role to connect and hold various actors accountable within the Action Agenda. They have a unique capacity and criticality for change due to their influence across the Action Agenda network and across levels of decision-making of the global biodiversity governance landscape. We argue that the existing literature on global biodiversity governance may misidentify the role of these actors, raising questions about their biodiversity conservation discourses, strategies, and power within the biodiversity governance landscape across levels.

The fourth significant trend they discovered from the data is the emerging areas that NSAs pay a lot of attention to. It includes the innovative policy solution to create the national action agenda to consolidate on-the-ground efforts to national progress, like in China and the Netherlands, they are also including the main trend to promote sustainable bio-related supply chain through due diligent or ethical sourcing approach, and sustainable wild species collection for future. Weaving traditional knowledge and respecting intercultural traditional knowledge for biodiversity, Biodiversity conservation and restoration as the green foundation for Sustainable Development, and last but not least, it is the goal of nature-positive outcomes through ecosystem-based approach and inclusive, circular economic models.

The trends in biodiversity SDG linkages and sustainable bio supply chains demonstrate the potential for inclusive economic models to have positive natural outcomes. Most current actions are tied to the first target (Values Natures) and target 7 (Sustainable Consumption and Productions). The current actions that contribute to SDGs are on SDG 15 (life on land) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for Goals). Now, two years after the adoption of KMGBF, there is also a focus on Goal 21 (Ensuring that knowledge is available and accessible to guide biodiversity action) by all actors.

Dr. Van then enumerated five issues to ponder on and motivate everyone to take urgent actions or support ensuring that we are on track in the GBF implementation.

- Most countries, with the exception of China and the Netherlands, lack centralized action plans, resulting in fragmented commitments and a disconnect between national and global efforts.
- Difficulty in measuring progress due to insufficient monitoring and reporting methods.
- Freshwater ecosystems receive less attention and funding for conservation and restoration efforts compared to land-based ecosystems.
- Risks on green/blue washing associated with land acquisition and business involvement.
- Limited time and capital resources for NSAs restrict their contribution to more urgent, short-term, donor-oriented projects than address local real issues.

To address these challenges, the following actions should be done:

- Increase and strengthen coordinating role of member states in GBF implementation issues
- Improve scientific based-tools and collaboration among academic-society.
- Diversify actions to address issues like freshwater and biodiversity conservation.
- Ensure transparency and ethical practices on land acquisition and business involvement.
- Provide adequate funding and support to NSAs to support long-term, local challenges.

To synthesize this discussion, Dr. Van stated that although the Action Agenda platform provides a valuable overview of current biodiversity actions, it does not capture the full extent of activities. A deeper understanding of NSAs' roles, power, and strategies within different socio-political contexts is essential for driving systemic change in biodiversity governance. This research aims to inspire further investigations at local and national levels to identify implementation gaps and promote visibility of bottom-up actions in global efforts.

Status on the Target 3, KMGBF and Indigenous and Traditional Tenure as conservation pathway, under Article 8(j) CBD

by Lakpa Nuri Sherpa (AIPP)

Lakpa Nuri Sherpa, a representative from the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, presented on the topic "Kunming-Montreal GBF: Indigenous and Traditional Territories as a Third Conservation Pathway." He posed the question of whether Target 3 of the KM-GBF could protect unprotected indigenous communities.

In his presentation, Sherpa discussed the status of KM-GBF Target 3 and Article 8 of the CBD as conservation approaches for indigenous and traditional territories. He stated that the most vulnerable populations are often those living within protected areas. Article 8 of the CBD is a critical provision that emphasizes respecting, preserving, and maintaining the traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous and local communities. Sherpa then referenced the case of the Hin Lad Nai Community, which he portrayed as a near-perfect example, with zero out-migration of youth and a community that innovates using traditional knowledge to develop sustainable livelihoods.

The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity is a prominent global platform that represents Indigenous Peoples. Established in 1996, it serves as a testament to the growing prominence of Indigenous Peoples in the Convention on Biological Diversity space. IIFB encompasses all seven UN socio-cultural regions, conducting regular preparatory meetings and virtual calls.

In the context of COP15, the IIFB issued a press release on December 7, 2022, asserting that any agreement to safeguard nature must include the participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. An analysis of the 23 targets within the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework reveals that Indigenous Peoples are mentioned 18 times, and traditional knowledge is referenced 8 times. Specific targets, such as Target 1, Target 3, Target 5, Target 9, Target 19, Target 21, and Target 22, explicitly acknowledge the role of Indigenous Peoples.

Furthermore, in their Closing Statement on December 19, 2022, the IIFB emphasized that the urgency of the environmental crisis extends beyond the signing of the KM-GBF, and that efficient and swift implementation is necessary.

Lhakpa highlighted the challenges Indigenous Peoples face regarding the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. They noted that the Aichi Biodiversity Targets lacked references to human rights, and that only the government of India & Sri Lanka from Asia appointed Article 8j focal points to address traditional knowledge, indicating a lack of prioritization of Indigenous Peoples' concerns. Lakpa warned that failure to learn from these lessons would result in the inability to succeed.

In contrast, Lakpa described the KM-GBF as the most progressive environmental framework, referencing its section C, which explicitly includes Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, and a human rights-based approach. The third target of the KM-GBF, which aims to protect at least 30% of terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine areas while respecting traditional territories, was highlighted as a key element.

The IIFB's proposal on Target 3 emphasized the importance of FPIC in accordance with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and international human rights law, the prohibition of involuntary resettlement, and the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' territories, customary lands, and waters as a third pathway.

Lakpa further elaborated on the 30x30 target, or Target 3, of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. They noted that the third pathway was a distinct approach proposed by Indigenous Peoples, which involved the recognition of their customary lands and waters. With the overarching goal of effectively conserving at least 30% of terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine areas by 2030, the three pathways outlined are: protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures, and the recognition of Indigenous and traditional territories. Securing adequate capital resources will be crucial for the materialization of these pathways. The Civil Society Organizations are encouraged to prioritize this issue, by crafting key statements and continuously advocating for the alignment of these proposals at the national level.

He expounded on the 30X30 or Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework and how the third pathway was a separate pathway asked by the IPs with the recognition of customary lands and waters. With the goal of 30% effectively conserving land and sea by 2030, the three pathways are the

Protected Areas (PAs), Other effective area-based conservation measures' (OECMs), recognizing 'Indigenous traditional territories' (ITTs), that would be a lot of capital resources for materialization. This is something vital to be forwarded by the CSO Forum with the key statements along with continuous advocating and aligning proposals at national level.

The definitions of the three pathways outlined were as follows: Protected Areas refer to a geographically defined area designated, regulated, and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives. Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures denote a geographically defined area, other than a Protected Area, that is governed and managed in ways that deliver positive and sustained long-term conservation of biodiversity outcomes, along with associated ecosystem functions, services, and, where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values. Indigenous Traditional Territories encompass the lands, territories, and areas owned, occupied, and/or used by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities that have conservation outcomes relevant to Target 3.

The three pathways outlined - protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures, and recognition of Indigenous Traditional Territories - are not mutually exclusive. However, each approach faces challenges and raises important questions that need to be addressed:

For PAs, the creation of protected areas has often generated conflicts with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities when the processes do not recognize ITTs. The key question is whether PAs in Asia can effectively recognize the rights and conservation practices of IPs and LCs.

Regarding OECMs, as these can include Indigenous territories, the identification and recognition process needs to be clarified. Who will control this process?

For ITTs, which are the pre-existing territories of IPs or LCs where biodiversity is conserved through traditional ways of living, the challenge is how to persuade governments to recognize ITTs on the ground and include them in their reporting on the 30x30 target.

For Indigenous Peoples, the main action points to advance the KM-GBF include:

- Establishing a new program of work with general objectives and elements under Article 8(j)
- Developing guidelines and strengthening the legal and policy framework for voluntary guidelines as a first activity
- Pushing for the creation of subsidiary body on Article 8j instead of ad hoc working groups

For CSO Forum organizers and attendees, the next steps include:

- Engaging with key stakeholders and influential players at the global level for the NBSAP negotiations
- Closely monitoring the language used in Target 3, as there is a risk of elements such as rights being removed
- Participating in COPs to link global, national, and local commitments and actions.

Experience on how IPs&LCs engage with policymakers / CBD Focus Person and recommendation

Gordon John Thomas (PACOS Trust, Malaysia)

Gordon, a Dusun Tatana Indigenous representative from Sabah, Malaysia, shared his personal experiences. He explained that Indigenous Peoples in Sabah view their territories as providing ecosystem services, such as the forest's resources, cultural significance, and locations for agriculture and settlements, as well as the rivers' water and food. The IPs steward the land through their customary practices, emphasizing the importance of intergenerational transmission of these traditions. Malaysia recognizes various terms for IPs and their customary land-use patterns.

Gordon discussed the *Tagal* model as a successful example of community-based conservation. *Tagal* is a traditional practice of the indigenous Orang Asal of Sabah, involving the management and monitoring of key resources like forests, watersheds, rivers, fish, and other aquatic life. The term "Tagal" in the Kadazan language means "prohibition" and refers to the



Figure 25. Gordon John Thomas shared his experience on how IPs&LCs engage with policymakers/CBD Focus Person (Photo courtesy of Seth Sambath/ NTFP-EP Cambodia)

time-and-area-specific restrictions. This traditional practice was later incorporated into the 2003 Inland Fishery and Aquaculture enactment in Sections 36 and 37 to support customary-led conservation efforts.

Indigenous Peoples have faced challenges in the context of biodiversity conservation, including being evicted from their ancestral lands. The government's compartmentalized approach contrasts with the holistic perspective of IPs in protecting flora and fauna. In Malaysia, the recently released 2022-2030 National Policy on Biological Diversity raises concerns due to a lack of consultation with IPs, the risk of IPs being tokenized under the banner of conservation, and insufficient acknowledgment of IPs by the government.

Engagement between Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and policymakers in the development of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans is crucial to address these issues. This engagement aims to promote community-based conservation, respect traditional and customary territories, recognize customary practices in protection, sustainable use, and restoration, and establish the equal importance of Indigenous knowledge and wisdom alongside scientific knowledge. It also seeks to re-empower and ensure the self-determination of IPs&LCs, as well as their governance of land, territories, and resources. Additionally, it is essential to reclaim and acknowledge the contributions of IPs&LCs to conservation and ensure full and meaningful consultation and consent through Free, Prior, and Informed Consent for any established protected areas.

The next steps in this engagement process involve forwarding the strategies that IPs&LCs want to be supported, capturing their wisdom and aspirations while ensuring that the government's support does not dilute IP aspirations, facilitating mutual learning and solidarity through networking and partnerships, and promoting advocacy and lobbying that are precise, sharp, and impactful.

The final thoughts from Gordon's presentation emphasize the need for continuous support for Indigenous knowledge in policies and technical knowledge, support without diluting the communities' aspirations and visions, mutual learning and sharing from multiple levels, capacity building and empowerment of communities, and the importance of full and meaningful participation with FPIC.

Cambodia Country Experience and Challenges in Engaging on NBSAP work

Yun Mane (CIPO, Cambodia)

The Indigenous Peoples of Cambodia, numbering approximately 22 to 24 groups across 16 provinces, have long been an integral component of the country's diverse social fabric. Comprising roughly one-third of the population, these communities have faced a decline in their numbers over time, rendering land rights a critical issue. Their traditional lands form the foundation of their identity, economic livelihoods, and cultural practices. From the collection of forest products like resin and wild honey to the engagement in shifting cultivation, the Indigenous Peoples have played a pivotal role in Cambodia's environmental and economic development. Despite the government's recognition of their terms and rights, these distinct communities, who differ culturally and linguistically from the Khmer majority, continue to face unique challenges.



Figure 26. Yun Mane presented NBSAP work and experience of CIPO
(Photo courtesy of Seth Sambath/ NTFP-EP Cambodia)

While it's fortunate that the Cambodian government has recognized the terms and rights of Indigenous Peoples (IPs), these distinct groups, differing culturally and linguistically from the Khmer majority, continue to face unique challenges. Their lands serve as the bedrock of their identity, economic livelihoods, and cultural practices. From gathering forest products like resin and wild honey to engaging in shifting cultivation, IPs play a crucial role in the country's environmental and economic sustainability. Despite the existence of laws like the Forestry Law of 2002 and the Land Law of 2001, these communities often grapple with issues related to land rights and the criminalization of traditional agricultural practices like slash-and-burn, which is similar to the case of the Philippines.

Fish-bowl discussion: Country storylines

In this portion of the first day forum, representatives of countries were asked to describe the current status and KM-GBF progress in your country. Fish-pond was employed as a participatory methodology.

Table 10. Country representatives description of current status related to the KMGBF implementation

LAO PDR

Mr. Thongdam Phongphichith, Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association (SAEDA) and FG-RAI

Our country prioritizes the protection of 70% of its land area through national parks and state-conserved communities. Despite government land ownership, seventy-five percent of the people live in rural communities that play a vital role in conservation efforts. We focus on capacity-building for sustainable harvesting practices and benefit from strong government policies supporting community forests. Our commitment to equality among all ethnic groups and the active involvement of CSOs in policy discussions have fostered a collaborative approach to environmental protection. While land grabbing remains a concern, particularly in the context of China's influence, ongoing consultations and working groups ensure that diverse stakeholders can contribute to shaping conservation policies.

MYANMAR

Ye Min Paing, Land Core Group

The problem is the government does not recognize customary and forest tenure practices. They have the biggest land use policy in 2016. In reality, it is a problem since they do not acknowledge it. Community mapping and research is being done because the government has a different map. They have land related data but are not correct when cross referenced with the on the ground communities. No public conservation, lack of conservation, and no meeting with target beneficiaries, no EICs given by the government. Everyone has to register when they have to practice agricultural use in the land department system and with the ministry of environment and conservation. Otherwise, they will be arrested for any reason. Big challenge with CSOs as it is sensitive with the government's CSO Registration Law. They must be registered. It is difficult to organize meetings and forums.

PHILIPPINES

Asami Segundo, ICCA Southeast Asia

She reported that the KM-GBF in the country has made significant strides in terms of government conservation and setting up the PBSAP (Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan). They updated it this year in preparation for COP16. The EMB DENR delegate to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) invited IPs for setting up targets with CSOs. This established a loose network for a roundtable discussion of KM-GBF last November. After that, a regional event in Luzon to discuss Indigenous Peoples' Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (IPBSAP) happened last May. They have managed to submit a statement to DENR BM, including the second discussion to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) in Nairobi, Kenya. National targets were forwarded and were reviewed for a short time. After that, they merged two targets into one big target, which is to increase the engagement of IPs and local communities. Through regional events and targeted advocacy, IPs have successfully influenced the inclusion of their priorities in national biodiversity strategies. However, there is still a need for more ambitious targets and continued engagement to ensure that the aspirations of IPs are fully reflected in conservation efforts.

Marites Balbas, Mabuwaya Foundation

As a leading NGO in Northeast Luzon, dedicated to biodiversity conservation, we have been actively involved in the KM-GBF process. We participated in discussions on the 30% target for protected areas and secured USAID funding for 160 unprotected forests in seven Cagayan provinces. While establishing OECMs is a complex process, our credibility and expertise in the region have allowed us to influence local and national policies. Despite challenges in securing funding and policy support, we have made progress in advocating for IP rights, developing land use plans, and supporting community-based conservation initiatives.

THAILAND

Pirawan Wongnithisathaporn

We have engaged with prominent international organizations such as the United Nations and United Nations Development Programme to address concerns about leadership and management within biodiversity conservation efforts. Mirroring the situation in the Philippines, there is a need for greater clarity on who will assume a leadership role in expanding protected areas. Thailand continues to face challenges in accurately forecasting revenue generated from biodiversity and ensuring equitable benefit-sharing arrangements. Furthermore, the definition of Indigenous Peoples remains a contentious issue, with local communities often prioritized over Indigenous Peoples. Additionally, there is a lack of explicit inclusion of Indigenous Peoples' rights and human rights messaging within the targets and objectives of biodiversity conservation initiatives.

VIETNAM

Nguyen Duc To Luu, PanNature Business

We worked closely with Vietnam Rubber Cooperation to provide technical support in designing sustainable natural rubber plantations. We focus on designing restoration areas, and also conduct an assessment for biodiversity. We try to promote this model as one of OECM, following IUCN definition. However, everything has to follow laws while OECM is quite new in Vietnam. And at the moment, we do not know how to formulate it on the ground.

In previous water protection forums, it has become evident that support and investment for water conservation are insufficient. The Mekong River, flowing through multiple countries from Tibet to Vietnam, requires coordinated management efforts. Indigenous Knowledge plays a crucial role in understanding and addressing water-related challenges, particularly in the context of climate change. IPs, especially women, are heavily reliant on water for their families' livelihoods and are disproportionately affected by climate-induced changes in wetlands. To address these issues, we recently organized a gathering of over a hundred women to promote women's leadership, the value of Indigenous Knowledge, and solidarity among civil society organizations.

Dr. Van Nguyen, Wyss Academy

Implementing the GBF in Vietnam presents significant challenges for CSOs. The lack of funding, due to the absence of work commissions for the past two years, has severely limited their capacity to operate. Additionally, obtaining research permits can be a bureaucratic hurdle. To overcome these obstacles, CSOs must strategically identify key stakeholders and explore alternative funding sources. Building strong partnerships with government agencies, international organizations, and private sector entities can provide the necessary support to effectively contribute to biodiversity conservation efforts.

Femy Pinto, NTFP-EP Asia

Drawing on insights from the Netherlands, we must explore strategies to strengthen our alliance in the face of a growing far-right influence in Europe. This shift has the potential to significantly impact global governance and major international events like the COP. The Green Livelihood Alliance (GLA) program, which aims to empower CSOs in the Global South, is at risk of being discontinued due to funding cuts from the Netherlands. This disturbing trend highlights the urgent need to advocate for increased support for civil society organizations working on critical issues.

To address the challenges posed by the declining support for civil society organizations, it is essential to maintain dialogue with European governments and diversify partnerships with organizations from other regions. Urgent action is needed to deliver strong messages before the end of the year.

The Dutch Ministry of Agriculture has outlined five key areas for focus:

- Securing a prominent role in monitoring frameworks,
- Increasing funding levels,
- Mainstreaming CSO perspectives,
- Establishing a clear position on the connection between climate and biodiversity, and
- Preparing for the Digital Sequencing Initiative. To effectively navigate the current landscape.

It is crucial to understand emerging trends and approaches, bridge the gap between national and global experiences, and identify opportunities and challenges. By learning from international experiences and providing targeted support, we can strengthen the voices of Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and CSOs on the global biodiversity stage.

Synthesis and Closing of Learning Session 2 by Roger Garinga, IDEAS Palawan

The facilitator, Roger Garinga from IDEAS Palawan, synthesized and concluded the key outcomes of Learning Session 2. The discussion and expertise sharing among resource speakers and participants highlighted the importance of leveraging diverse data and entry points to effectively engage in the formulation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. The varying experiences across different countries within the region demonstrated diverse scenarios and challenges faced.

The evolving international and national political landscape has significantly impacted civil society organizations in multifaceted ways. While some countries have seen positive changes in terms of CSO participation, others have encountered the opposite situation. Recognizing these diverse local contexts of accomplishments and setbacks is crucial when advocating for enhanced engagement with local governments at higher levels. Despite these complexities, there remains optimism for the future decisions and outcomes of the upcoming COPs.



Figure 27. Participants involved in sharing for the fish-pond method session.
(Photo courtesy of Seth Sambath/ NTFP-EP Cambodia)



DAY 2 | JUNE 26, 2024, WEDNESDAY

PART 3: FIELD VISIT TO CHAMPEN COMMUNITY PROTECTED AREA

For the second day of the 10th CSO Forum, the participants left the hotel around five in the morning as they embarked on a field visit to the Champen Nature Protected Area in Bangkoeunphal Village, Romtom Commune, Rovieng District, Preah Vihear province, Cambodia. It is a rural village predominantly inhabited by the Kui people, who rely on natural resources and traditional farming practices which covers 3,422.74 hectares. This community protected area was formed in 2005 and registered by the Ministry of Environment. The village has a population of 874 people, with 452 women, making up 234 families. The village has 99.99% of Kui people living in this rural village. They are farmers that relied on natural resources, forest and collect products in traditional ways.

This immersion was an opportunity for the participants to witness their culture. The field visit began with the Kui's ritual ceremony and culminated with the cultural dance performances by the Indigenous youth. Then, they observed the managed forest and local tourism area. Through dialogues and open discussions, they gained a better understanding of the village elders, leaders, and locals. They learned that the Champen Nature Protected Area is not only a mixed forest but also home to the indigenous Kui people. The Kui people play a significant role in protecting the community forest and working closely with community members and organizations to conserve the area.



Figure 28. CSO participants listening to the forest management strategies of Kui members of the Community Protected Area Committee (Photo courtesy of Seth Sambath/ NTFP-EP Cambodia)

According to Nhan Vorng, an elder of the community, this protected area has many places of belief as well as belief in ponds, lakes, streams, big trees, and mountains. The lives of indigenous peoples are deeply linked to spiritual mountains and forests. At the same time, community members have been collecting various non-timber forest products, including rubber plantations, honey, and other non-timber forest products. Every day, the elders in the community take turns patrolling the forest to protect natural resources. In particular, tourists should visit and taste the food of the Indigenous Peoples, as well as arrange the house, tent, and toilets to be clean and hygienic.

These stories highlighted their dedication to maintaining and protecting their customary tenure, natural resources, and Indigenous knowledge systems and practices amidst challenges. Their success lies in the solidarity of men, women, and youth members who patrol the area, safeguarding their ancestral lands and forests. The visit also brought to light their pressing concerns about losing their cultural identity and how they are finding ways to mobilize the youth to learn their traditions and take on leadership positions in managing and protecting the forest and the biodiversity, fostering a personal understanding and care for these resources.

Main challenges:

- People from outside the community are forced to clear land and forest of protected areas. Reservation land and farming land were cut to ELC private company named Green Chhoy in 2012. Nowadays, communities are in dialogue and claim their land from Provincial Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, PDoAFF and Local Authority.
- Young people are preoccupied with their studies and jobs. It is mostly the Kui elders who fight to preserve the land and natural resources. Elders are concerned that there's no youths to protect land and forest in the future.
- Uncertainty with the change of policies of Indigenous Peoples' ownership rights in Cambodia.
- Difficulty with rotational farming making it hard to generate income for intergenerational farmers.

This field visit provided in-depth realization and reflection on how Indigenous communities around the world have long been recognized as important guardians of forests and natural resources. Their traditional knowledge and practices contribute to the preservation of ecosystems, the sustainable use of resources, and a source of income. Indigenous peoples have a deep connection to their environments and have historically maintained ecological balance. Primarily concerned with land and forest tenure, they are collectively urging politicians to assist them in obtaining legal land titles.



NIFP-EP Cambodia
BY SAMBALEU



NIFP-EP Cambodia
BY SAMBALEU

DAY 3 | JUNE 27, 2024, THURSDAY

SYNTHESIS OF DAYS 1 AND 2, PROCESSING AND REFLECTION FROM THE FIELD VISIT

A recapitulation of what transpired over the first two days of the 10th CSO Forum on Social Forestry in the ASEAN was facilitated by Anang Setiawan, the executive director of NTFP-EP Indonesia. Being more ambitious in setting targets for the welfare of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' rights was highlighted. The participants as advocates and practitioners are challenged to pay more attention and increase support in following progress and actively engage with the targets that the authorities are setting up after every regional consultations. There was emphasis that there are different local contexts and there is a need to bring these in the higher platforms so they can build on dealing better with their own local governments. The CSO Forum remains optimistic for the future decisions and outcomes of the upcoming COPs.

LEARNING SESSION 3: THE ASEAN CT GUIDELINES AND THE REGIONAL FPIC HANDBOOK ITS POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY COMMITMENTS

By Mr. Dazzle Labapis, NTFP-EP Asia

Dazzle Labapis, Programme officer for Tenure Rights and Governance (TRG) of NTFP-EP Asia, shared his experiences and involvement with the development of the ASEAN CT Guidelines and Regional FPIC Handbook. NTFP-EP contributed to this progress in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry, with support from the CSO Forum on Social Forestry in ASEAN, MRLG Regional Alliance on Customary Tenure, and various networks and partners.

Under the ASEAN Economic Community pillar, the ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry (AWGSF), formerly ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN), is the regional body responsible for providing policy recommendations on social forestry and its impact on sustainable forest management. The AWGSF aims to enhance the welfare and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, forest dwellers and other forest-dependent communities.

He noted that while the ASEAN policy does not explicitly recognize Customary Tenure, his

organization collaborates with other CSOs in advocating for FPIC in forestry decision-making. During the pandemic, online technical seminars organized by Asia Farmers Association (AFA) and NTFP-EP Asia facilitated dialogue on these issues. In 2021, the ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry (AWGSF) proposed specific guidelines on tenure rights for forested landscapes during the 24th ASEAN Senior Officials meeting.

The guidelines defined Customary Tenure as the informal or de facto norms and rules established by communities for accessing natural resources. They emphasize the importance of IPs&LCs, including farmers, peasant, and forest-dependent communities who have customary practices. Recognition of CT in various forms, levels, and sources of law: formal recognition by state through a grant or a law; government documentation of customary tenure systems; and informal arrangements between communities and Indigenous Peoples with local authorities.

He noted that Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC) provisions under international and national laws, policies, and programs are being discussed more frequently in ASEAN in recent years. In 2022, NTFP-EP supported the development of country reports to determine the situation of FPIC in the context of customary tenure recognition. The aim was to investigate how FPIC and/ or other existing safeguards are used to secure customary tenure and how their implementation or non-implementation affects customary tenure recognition.

The guideline defines Customary Tenure (CT) as the informal or de facto norms and rules set established by communities for access to natural resources. The ASEAN Guidelines on Recognition of Customary Tenure in Forested Landscapes (ASEAN CT Guidelines) were adopted by representatives from the Ministries of Forestry of each ASEAN country and officially launched last December.

The objective of the guidelines include:

- Developing a gender-responsive and socially inclusive regional approach to recognize customary tenure.
- Establishing ASEAN standards for customary tenure to complement national policies, and

safeguard communities' livelihoods, food security, and sustainable forest management including gender equality and social inclusion.

- Facilitating a framework for engagement with Indigenous peoples and local communities at the national level while acknowledging the national circumstances of each ASEAN member state.

The Customary Tenure Guiding Principles include:

1. The right to customary tenure;
2. The right to local and cultural diversity in the customary tenure system;
3. The right to traditional livelihoods and livelihood development;
4. The right to equitable and sustainable involvement of women;
5. Secure legal recognition of customary tenure system.
6. The right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent;
7. Equitable involvement and meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in land and resources use planning and decision-making;
8. The right to equitably benefit from customary tenure systems;
9. The right to equitably benefit from customary tenure systems;
10. The right to resolve conflicts; and
11. The provision of institutional and operational support for protection, formalization, recognition, enforcement, and monitoring of customary tenure with adaptive and multi-stakeholder approaches.

ASEAN's current approach is voluntary and non-interference. The intended users of these guidelines include ASEAN member states working with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs&LCs) on customary tenure (CT) in natural territories, as well as domestic and foreign investors, NGOs, and academics seeking reference for engagement and support for IPs&LCs in advocating for CT recognition in their respective countries. Civil society groups and community-based organizations working in ASEAN can also use the handbook as a reference for policy engagement, advocacy, and knowledge-sharing.

In the ASEAN policy context, customary tenure is not recognized. Around 2020, the ASEAN started advocating for Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for forest decision-making efforts. This is a right to give or withhold consent to an activity that may affect Indigenous Peoples or their territories. Principle 6 of the CT guidelines also emphasizes FPIC.

The key elements of FPIC include:

- Free: Free from manipulation or coercion
- Prior: Occurs in advance of any activity associated with the decision being made and allows adequate time for the traditional decision-making process
- Informed: Facilitates the sharing of objective, accurate, and easily

The right to FPIC has the objectives of:

- Providing a reference for policymakers and government officials working in areas such as land, agriculture forestry, the environment, and other relevant sectors in ASEAN. It aims to assist them in engaging with IPs&LCs and in implementing activities, interventions, research, and development projects related to or involving customary lands, territories, and natural resources.
- Enhancing understanding, co-designing, and implementing the FPIC process with IPs&LCs customary land tenure rights holders appropriate to their local governance structures and decision-making processes to support customary tenure recognition, protection, and promotion in the region.
- Serves as a complementary resource document for implementing the ASEAN CT Guidelines.

The highlights of the handbook include:

- Section IV: Operational definitions of key terminologies that distinguish consent from consultation
- Section V: Legal basis at the global level - policy frameworks to support FPIC
- Section VI: The relevance of FPIC and the rights of IPs&LCs in the context of the ASEAN CT Guidelines, with a particular emphasis on FPIC in customary land tenure

Dazzle pointed out that the FPIC handbook is a complementary, living resource, not a static document.

Country level workshop

Guide questions per country:

1. What could be the potential added value/ value addition of the CT Guidelines in the work that you do at the country level?
2. What are possible entry points for utilizing the CT Guidelines in your country? e.g. as reference in policy improvements/revisions
3. What action/strategies can you suggest to promote and maximize the use and outreach of the ASEAN CT Guidelines?

Table 14. Country representatives responses for CT Guidelines workshop

<p>Cambodia</p>	<p>1. Potential added/value addition to the guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Interested ministries for example (REDD+). ◦ Aligned with government strategies (Circular strategies, green, clean, and sustainable). <p>2. Possible entry points to utilizing the CT guidelines in your country:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Policy dialog ◦ Policy consultation ◦ Awareness raising (To the LCs and IPs&LCs in the provinces – support community practices). <p>3. Action strategies can you suggest to promote and maximize the use and outreach of the ASEAN CT Guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Existing network: Strengthening the existing platform/secretariat of ASEAN ◦ National, regional, International, and global dialogue
<p>Indonesia</p>	<p>1. Potential added/value addition to the guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ At the national level, they need a degree in the recognition of their land, they can use this guideline as a reference. They can also promote the CT guideline to the government since they have an issue with the recognition of the national resources and land. ◦ The strategies are the discussion that focuses on Indigenous Peoples with CSO in Indonesia, especially in the Province, and promotes the CT guideline to the Indonesian government.
<p>Myanmar</p>	<p>1. Potential added/value addition to the guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Different Institutional contexts (state and Regional) ◦ Developing federal land use policy (Promote, protect, and recognize). <p>2. Possible entry points to utilizing the CT guidelines in your country:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Land governance-related projects ◦ Local land governance administration ◦ Engagement with interim government/protection measures. <p>3. Action strategies can you suggest to promote and maximize the use and outreach of the ASEAN CT Guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Leaning session by NTFP-EP/Collaboration with national alliance and dissemination ◦ Collective advocacy approach (2025).

<p>Vietnam</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Potential added/value addition to the guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Recognition of CT and IPs ◦ Local agency for IP (Ethnic department) ◦ Forest land alliance. 2. Possible entry points to utilizing the CT guidelines in your country: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CPA ◦ Community forest managed types ◦ Customary livelihood. 3. Action strategies can you suggest to promote and maximize the use and outreach of the ASEAN CT Guideline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Co-management and benefit sharing ◦ Customary installation in community forest management ◦ Maps and documentation of community forests.
<p>Malaysia</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Potential added/value addition to the guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It is a clear guideline for them when they need to engage the policymaker. There are 3 different landscapes in Malaysia. Asserting IPs rights on their CT. 2. Possible entry points to utilizing the CT guidelines in your country: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Even though they already have a policy (FPIC effective mechanism), they always change the law according to the benefit. With this guideline, they can use guidelines or tools to protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples can have self-determination on tenure land rights. In terms of the rights of the livelihood and the natural resources of the Indigenous Peoples, this guideline can be used to manage the resources that they have. 3. Action strategies can you suggest to promote and maximize the use and outreach of the ASEAN CT Guideline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Courtesy call to government (Advocacy). In Malaysia, they can use this law to protect Indigenous Peoples, and they can use these laws against the policymaker. For example in Sarawak, the case involved the Orang Asal. They can use this guideline as a reference to defend their case. ◦ Advocacy works with the government, they will try to work with the government agency. They also try to advocate and translate this guideline to teach the Indigenous Peoples. There can be groundworks awareness, workshops, and seminars. They can also voice out their concerns at the global level by using this guideline as a reference. They can also use the CT guidelines to empower the community leaders.
<p>Philippines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The Philippines already have a lot of policies to protect tenure rights, for example, the NIPAS Act, IPRA, E-NIPAS, and FPIC Guideline, (2017) implemented by 2 major government agencies, namely: Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). ◦ In the past law, there was no law to protect gender and youth. It is great that CT guidelines also include the protection of gender and youth lenses.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding the implementation, the question is do they know what the law is about. They recommend that they can also lobby government agencies and should also have a knowledge exchange on how they came up with this guideline and to show how they integrated the guideline. <p>More beneficiaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for policy review. • Review the institutional mechanism. • CT guidelines can be used to monitor and report loss.
Laos	<p>1. Potential added/value addition to the guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Mainstreaming ASEAN CT guideline to country action plan on recognition of land rights in forest area and procedures guideline, land use planning, and recognition of land rights in forest area. <p>2. Possible entry points to utilizing the CT guidelines in your country:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Gaps identification <p>3. Action strategies can you suggest to promote and maximize the use and outreach of the ASEAN CT Guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Recommendation to IG-CT rights in forest (Co-Chair by department of land MONRE & MRLG under SSWG-land).

LEARNING SESSION 4: UPDATES ON DRAFT ASEAN DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

AIPP's Updates on the ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Rights

This section was reported by Dazzle Labapis of NTFP-EP Asia together with Lhakpa Nuri Sherpa of AIPP. These are updates on the draft of ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Rights (ADER) and updates from the 4th ASEAN Environmental Rights (AER) Working Group Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia last May 6-8, 2024. Dazzle started by explaining how the ASEAN Summit works. It has three pillars: political security, economic community, and sociocultural community. Beneath these three umbrellas are 30 sub-sectoral bodies. NTFP-EP Asia solely engages with the ASEAN SF WG, which falls under the economic and sociocultural community. The ASEAN Intergovernmental Body Commission on Human Rights is leading the task of organizing an ASEAN environment working group on a different pillar. They work very little with the sociocultural community and only engage with one economic working group.

Dazzle highlighted that when working on the draft, cross-pillar and cross-sectoral approaches must be considered. The ASEAN Intergovernmental Body Commission on Human Rights does not recognize

the CT Guidelines because it works on a different working group. The ASEAN Environmental Rights WG was commissioned to be a consultant and develop regional environmental code from framework and downgraded to community level. This is led by AICHR with a vision of being comprehensive in manner. Its current development is in a declaration format.

They shared that the ASEAN Environmental Rights Working Group will meet in the week after the CSO Forum in Jakarta with the intention of adopting the declaration before the year ends. The Declaration of Environmental Rights does not have funding for the regional body to implement the Working Group. The working group will submit the draft to the AICHR for review in collaboration with MOFA.

Pirawan shared the updates of the work of Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP). They have been actively involved in advocating for the rights of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) within the ASEAN region. In late March, they were consulted by the Asia Pacific Sustainable Development Forum and they joined dialogues within the region involving WWF, NTFP-EP Asia, and the German Diamond Green Party to discuss the challenges faced by IPs and potential solutions. A regional consultation was initiated, inviting 13 IPs from Laos and Myanmar. Grassroots stories were highlighted.

The ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)'s leadership was acknowledged for pioneering its role in addressing human and environmental rights simultaneously. A particular highlight was made to the Siem Reap Declaration and the principle of FPIC. Positive remarks and non-negotiables were acknowledged which indicates a growing consensus among ASEAN states among IP Rights. There was a consensus that they must actively participate in the process to ensure IP involvement and engagement. A key concern with the lack of meaningful involvement of IPs in regional development processes. A statement with actual proposals was agreed upon.

However, it is crucial to carefully review the ASEAN states' adaptation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. When examining the draft, there must be a particular attention on the definition of Indigenous Peoples. It is crucial that this definition must explicitly and inclusively recognize and protect the rights of IP groups within the region. Recognizing that pressuring the ASEAN region alone is insufficient, AIPP raised global awareness about the situation. As Lhakpa Nuri Sherpa from AIPP stated, "It is not enough to pressure the ASEAN region; we must also inform the global community about the situation of Indigenous Peoples." They were able to collect endorsements from 91 individuals, demonstrating strong global support and solidarity for Indigenous Peoples.

A challenge arises when one member state expresses concerns due to the region's non-interference approach. Should we be less demanding? What are our priorities? Human rights of IPs, long-term aspirations for IPs, and why should we compromise on our strong calls to member states?

The current challenges include the following:

- Downgrading of the format from a framework to a declaration;
- Rushed intention to adopt the declaration before the year ends;
- Different stances among different working groups and countries;
- The ASEAN Environmental Rights Working Group (AER WG) does not recognize the 2022 Customary Tenure in Forested Landscapes Guidelines; and
- Lack of funding for implementing the stakeholder engagement strategy

Before the meeting, AIPP issued a press release

regarding the process. Indigenous Peoples from Southern Thailand highlighted the issue of bearing the brunt of policymakers' impacts, where the voices of people are not reflected. The ASEAN Youth Forum brought Indigenous Peoples from Kalimantan to the meeting and used to advocate for the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Despite the strong response from member states, the meeting in Jakarta lacked a structured process and systematic engagement of stakeholders. Despite receiving 105 submissions, none were presented at the meeting, indicating a lack of respect for public input. The joining of new countries like the Philippines and Cambodia to the AICHR did not lead to a balanced representation of perspectives, with a notable lack of human rights supporters. Their final meeting to negotiate the current draft was supposed to be on May 6-8, 2024.

As Mr. Dazzle said the original plan was to develop a legal binding framework, but it was later transformed into a weak and non-binding declaration of Environmental Rights. Southeast Asian governments such as Laos, Vietnam, and Myanmar do not recognize the IPs definition. Laos is particularly adamant about this, and they believe that "and/or" represents recognition for all countries. These changes should improve the clarity and conciseness of the text while maintaining its overall grammatical accuracy.

The ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) is making the text softer with the issues on:

- Different definition of 'Indigenous' term and the approaches along with the non-interference attitude within SEA culture
- No structured meeting and consideration to 105 public inputs received during the Jakarta Meeting
- Removal of (FPIC) and left it as 'free, prior, and informed consent'
- Removal of article on combating and preventing the Strategic Litigation against Public Participation (SLAPP) in the Public Participation in Environmental Matters section
- The way they define to healthy and sustainable environment is anchored on perspectives of AICHR members and not from Indigenous Peoples

To address these challenges, the AIPP has outlined a set of non-negotiables based on their regional consultation in Chiang Mai, Thailand:

- Explicit use of the term "Indigenous Peoples";
- Right to the land, territories, and resources of Indigenous Peoples;
- Right to FPIC of Indigenous Peoples;

- Full protection of Indigenous Peoples' Environmental Human Rights Defenders and Indigenous Women's Environmental Human Rights Defenders; and
- Rights to maintain, control, protect, and develop cultural heritage and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.

AIPP also encouraged the CSO attendees to engage directly with their AICHR representatives by fostering open dialogues and building relationships at the national level to express their concerns and advocate for a stronger framework. One of the critical areas highlighted by AIPP is the need to redefine the concept of a "healthy and sustainable environment" which is currently anchored on the perspectives of AICHR members, not Indigenous Peoples. To achieve this, CSOs must sharpen their ability to work with ASEAN's cross-pillar and cross-sectoral engagement.

The AICHR must be urged to discuss and consult with ASEAN sectoral bodies before adopting new policies or declarations. This is to ensure that the framework is informed by the perspectives of different stakeholders, including IPs&LCs. Furthermore, they emphasized that there is a need to engage SEA governments in whatever channels everyone can to influence the AICHR's plans to pass this declaration within the year.

ELAC's experience in Envi Advocacy in Palawan, Philippines by Belle Reyes, ELAC Palawan

Belle Reyes, represented Environmental Legal Assistance Center Inc. (ELAC) based in Palawan, shared about their organization's experience in doing advocacy work for the environment. She presented that Palawan is the Philippines' last ecological frontier with its lush and bountiful landscapes and biodiversity. However, its thin topsoil and delicate ecosystem make it vulnerable to environmental pressures. The island's name originated from the Palawan Indigenous Peoples tribe, who inhabit most of its southern region. Their ancestral domains, constituting 90% of the island, are protected through Indigenous Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs), locally known as CADPs. While ecotourism in Coron is managed solely by IPs, tourism itself poses a threat to Palawan's resources. Wildlife, such as the endangered pangolin, are frequently smuggled, highlighting the need for stronger enforcement of ecological waste management and environmental laws.

The FPIC process, intended to protect IPs rights, has been compromised by institutions supporting IPs, leading to non-compliance with Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and violations of relevant laws. Activism has been stifled by red-tagging, a practice that falsely associates individuals with rebel groups. Belle shared that they are in continuous communication and transparency to clarify they do not support rebels. They face issues like a lack of clear direction from the government and environmental injustices that are hindrances for them to work efficiently. To address these challenges, together with local communities and organizations, they pursue legal actions, such as working on the writ of mandamus, to protect their rights and safeguard the fragile ecosystems in Palawan.

The environmental issues in Palawan include monocrop palm oil plantations, without FPIC and EIA, have spread out in the Southern part of the island turning to the conversion of forests and agricultural land. Many of these plantations are abandoned, exacerbating environmental degradation. The resurgence of the mining industry with new renewal and exploration permits leads to an expansion from 900 hectares to 3000 hectares of mining operations. This threatens to destroy natural and old-growth forests.

On the social front, the farmers are facing legal challenges being sued due to unpaid loans, while the Local Autonomy Code has been misused to facilitate development projects. The Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN) zone status of restricted use zone of a 3,520.10 hectare areas located at Barangay Estrella Village, Taritien, Elvita, Poblacion, Malinao, Princess Urduja, Bato-Bato and Calategas, has downgraded to control use zones to allow mining and other projects to operate. Based on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), the elevation of these areas being within 50-700 meters make them areas within community-based forest management (CBFM) and Integrated Forest Management (IFM) areas.

Belle discussed Mt. Matalingahan Protected Landscape (MMPL) Watersheds. This is a protective area with 21 watersheds spanning 25 municipalities. The government has an initiative of changing some portions of protected landscape to utilize the area. Belle presented the study outlining the Total Economic Value (TEV) of the protected landscape. This shows the financial value of the total environmental services Mt. Mantalingahan provides, with a whopping total of 266.0 billion

pesos from the combination of 93.9 billion pesos with direct use of resources alone and a 172.1 billion pesos of indirect use with its carbon stock, soil, watershed and biodiversity functions, and protection of marine biodiversity.

The steps that the CSOs have been doing include the Writ of Kalikasan (Nature) with the use of single-use plastics, Writ of Continuing Mandamus as well as Environmental Protection Order (EPO) and Temporary EPO (TEPO) with the coal case in Palawan and mining in Brooke's Point. They have been involved with the cancellation or denial of mining applications and permits, pushing for

payment of compensation for damages to farmlands, and compelling government agencies to protect key biodiversity areas and proclaimed protected areas. Beyond efforts involving litigation, they are heavily involved with advocacy pushing for an Alternative Mining Bill and helping in preparation of local ordinances. They also do work that encompasses monitoring and enforcement, documenting conversion of forests and agricultural lands for plantations, education and awareness building, and working with alliances and networks such as the Save Palawan Movement, the forest campaign against mining in island ecosystems and key biodiversity areas and against the use of coal.

**Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape (MMPL)
Watersheds**



- 2 micro watersheds (<1000 hectares)**
- 21 small watersheds (1000 to 10,000 hectares)**
- 10 medium-sized watersheds (>10,000 to 50,000 has.):**
Pulot, Tigaplan, Mambalot-Pilantropia, Iwahig, Ilog, Malambunga, Iraan, Culasian, Lamikan, Panitian)

Figure 29. Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape (MMPL) Watersheds from Ms. Belle's PowerPoint Presentation.

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Open Discussion

This section was facilitated by Roger Garinga from IDEAS Palawan. He started the open discussion by questioning if there is some kind of a gatekeeper in participating in these kinds of activities. He said that there should be a lens to ensure we don't slide back from our actions. It is important that there are thresholds that ensure that any participation and new statement will somehow give us an insight that our participation gives additional, substantial value.

He posed the following prompts:

- Is/are there any interest from the group to engage at the country level?
- Any questions/clarifications to the speaker?

Table 15. Responses of CSO participants to the open discussion

Nikka Rivera from AFA

She asked if there is a systematic mapping happening in each country in terms of engagement in political actions. She shared that in the context of the Philippines, they happen to know the head of ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). During meetings, CSOs should be aware of people who are in the space who can lobby.

Annabelle Reyes from ELAC

She raised that they continue to push for the policy that they want by bringing community leaders in dialogue with governors regardless of if we agree with their actions.

Lakpa Nuri Sherpa from AIPP

He said that the first reason why everyone engages in this process is because regardless of what will happen, they bring their voices to identify non-negotiables. It is vital that the people who wear the government hat should be their partners. They try to map out which government is active in AICHR in their Chiang Mai meeting. However, their participants had the impression that the dialogue was organized just to meet a goal of having an event. In Thailand, politically speaking, it is changing in terms of their engagement with the parliament. However, in Cambodia, it is going backwards. He receives a lot of different information from different meetings. There will be a reevaluation during their Malaysia meeting if they are going to engage with AICHR on a national level with consultations with their stakeholders. He commented that the Philippines is a strong champion of IPs rights. Based on the environmental framework of Palawan. They have been exercising it before IPRA. It is stronger than the regional framework.

He reminded the participants that there is an issue with the ASEAN Declaration of Environmental Rights from a statement. They are shortening the text and indicating that the message will be diluted. Every participant is challenged to monitor and question if it will be a good declaration.

He shared their REDD+ engagements, an initiative to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, that has sparked diverse responses from Indigenous Peoples (IPs) across the different regions of the world. In Latin America, the IPs initially expressed opposition to REDD+. However, in Southeast Asia, they decided to not engage in the position of support or rejection, but in the interest of the welfare of IPs. They adopted a more nuanced approach and they recognize the inevitability of more REDD+ projects. Their objective is to empower communities and ask the right questions focusing on protecting their interests and the welfare of their communities in dialogues. They are deeply concerned with the question if the people they will be working with have the worldview that commodifies nature.

Nida Collado from MCBFCMA

She's interested to see ancestral domains figures in the context of CBFM in the Philippines. She also wants to have visible protection with CBFM areas.

Chaipheth Phommachanh from RECOFTC Laos

He stated that the government of Laos is developing carbon credits. In relation to the ASEAN level, they want to make sure the rights of IPs&LCs are also covered. They are working closely with the European Union (EU) on building the strategy of monitoring set-up and auditing system on REDD+.



NTFP-EP Cambodia
SET SAMBATH



NTFP-EP Cambodia
SET SAMBATH

PART 4: COUNTRY REPORT BACK AND PLAN OF ACTION SESSION

In this section, participants were tasked to develop a comprehensive plan of action to foster continued engagement and collaboration among members and participating organizations. This plan included identifying potential areas for collaboration, such as tenure rights, climate change, and biodiversity conservation; exploring project ideas and initiatives at both regional and country levels; and identifying potential funding sources to support these initiatives. Furthermore, participants were encouraged to reflect and strategize on how to effectively implement the key recommendations from the discussions, engage in dialogue about the status of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and explore opportunities for meaningful engagement between civil society organizations (CSOs), Indigenous Peoples, and Local Communities (IP&LCs) with relevant regional and national bodies.

Table 16. Country plan and report of action in the themes of climate change (COP29), biodiversity (GBF, COP16), customary tenure, environmental rights, and others

CAMBODIA		
THEMES	NATIONAL/LOCAL ACTIVITIES	CROSS-COUNTRY JOINT ACTIVITIES
Climate Change (COP29)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On a national level, engagement with community and dialogue with provincial gov't in relation to climate change. • Capacity-building with members. • Water governance - Cambodia Indigenous Women Association conducting case study affecting the IPs near border of Vietnam from funding with OXFAM and AIPP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USAID, Worldbank, National Development Council • Work with IDP • Producing statement on indigenous issues in partnership with AIPP
Biodiversity (GBF, COP16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Environment works on Strategy on Environment • Engage with community by awareness activities • disseminate and employ knowledge to farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaged with national review
Customary Tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community protected areas and also CT documentation • Related to forestry and CBE law and land law • Collaborate with MRLG network • Agroforestry with AIE UK Radar Sustainable Indigenous Knowledge on Customary Land Through Regeneration in Local Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Land Coalition (ILC)

Environmental Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Code • Fishery Land Law • Forestry Law • CBE • REDD+ • Benefit-sharings [a lot of consultation after having a national NTFP network and then Ministry of Environment developed the guideline (owned at country level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable projects • Evidence-based farming
INDONESIA		
THEMES	NATIONAL/LOCAL ACTIVITIES	CROSS-COUNTRY JOINT ACTIVITIES
Climate Change (COP29)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set NDCs by reducing emission until 29 • Ministry of Forestry plans forest and other land use will contribute 65% for NDCs • Social Forestry Business and Enterprise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with Asian Farmers Association (AFA) for studying land grabbing issues in Indonesia. Follow up with Asosiasi Petani Indonesia (API)
Biodiversity (GBF, COP16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory Mapping with proving local community awareness on area and biodiversity 	
Customary Tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill on Conservation of Biological Natural Resources and Ecosystems • Draft of Conservation on Natural Resources and Ecosystem • Strengthen network with working groups on ICCA building on CT • Policy review 	
Environmental Rights Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up with AMAN (Indigenous Peoples Alliance) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up with ASEAN Secretariat, AWG-SF on issues (IP&LCs, Tenure Rights, Policy, Guidelines, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-country activity with AFA [Land Matrix Initiatives] studying on land grabbing issues with farmers

LAO PDR		
THEMES	NATIONAL/LOCAL ACTIVITIES	CROSS-COUNTRY JOINT ACTIVITIES
Climate Change (COP29)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National/ local consultations on climate change adaptation in food security with Department of Agriculture • NDCs • Lacking of developing of consultation • Even government does not have proper implementation of NDCs • Instruction on Gender and Social Inclusion in Implementation of NDC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange on lessons learned on NDC implementation
Biodiversity (GBF, COP16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up with SSWS-Biodiversity (NAFRI-MAF) • SSCOG-AE ASEAN Agroecology (Dalammar and AFD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASEAN Agroecology & Sustainable Agriculture
Customary Tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FG-CT Forests (DOL and MRLG) • Focus group on CT forest not functioning well • Mainstreaming ASEAN guideline while country develops reclamation of land rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Land Coalition (ILC)
Environmental Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSO and NGO for development • Contribute to the amendment of Environmental Protection Law (Ongoing amendment of Environmental Protection Law) • Decree on carbon credits 	
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Resource and the Environment we formulate management plan specific on land • Focal groups under this one • More than 200 organizations • CSO sector SWG, SSWG, FG-RAI, and TG-CBPRAI (Committee Best Practices) 	

MALAYSIA		
THEMES	NATIONAL/LOCAL ACTIVITIES	CROSS-COUNTRY JOINT ACTIVITIES
Climate Change (COP29)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IP Awareness on NDCs and NBSAPs, GBF, etc • Equip CSOs on Climate Change mechanism • Roundtable discussions biodiversity, climate change, and • Environmental rights with Friends of the Earth Malaysia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint partnership and networking with regional partners • Discussions on Carbon e.g. trading and storage • In Sarawak, agreements are already being signed with companies. In the news, their government has already issued certifications to companies without community consultation. Last two months, the community said that the carbon cowboys are encouraging them with the jargon of protecting nature. • It is difficult to communicate the conservation work with communities. The company is the same company that is a culprit of deforestation with timber logging. • Sarawak and Sabah have different policies. Sabah is where IP kills IP itself. FPIC is disregarded since they are mostly IPs so they speak on behalf of the whole group. • Nature Conservancy Agreement based in Singapore with a carbon market owned by IP leaders in Sabah. Stopped in the meantime.
Biodiversity (GBF, COP16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputized by DENR • Promote community best initiative • Equip young women champion • Represent • Lobbying international mechanism (EUDR, IUCN, RSPO, ITTO) • Be a part of national reporting, reviewing, and revision related to GBF, COP16, and lobbying international mechanism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASEAN Agroecology & Sustainable Agriculture

Customary Tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer review of policies and COP decisions • In their country it is an ongoing fight • Awareness on ASEAN CT guidelines and communicate it to the communities 	
Environmental Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of national reporting and reviewing theme • Empowering IPs, CSOs, CBOs, and Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government less intimidating and coercive
MYANMAR		
THEMES	NATIONAL/LOCAL ACTIVITIES	CROSS-COUNTRY JOINT ACTIVITIES
Climate Change (COP29)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDC Awareness of Community Level • Organizational working saturation hence they are not informed about updates • Strengthening Local Governance System • M-CAN: NDC awareness raising and information sharing of who are engaging with COPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange visit/ exposure trip
Customary Tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize ASEAN CT Guideline • CT documentation • Awareness and strengthening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Natural Resource Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic Study
Environmental Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Protocol Development • Strengthening on its capacity and local land management 	
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar • Learning and Sharing 	

PHILIPPINES		
THEMES	NATIONAL/LOCAL ACTIVITIES	CROSS-COUNTRY JOINT ACTIVITIES
Climate Change (COP29)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation and Adaptation • Projects and activities with secured funding from GLA and on Agroforestry and Reforestation using indigenous tree species • CLUP and Ancestral Domains Land Use Plans, Protected Areas Land Use Plan (without duplicating of activities) • Forest protection enforcement in our CADT and CBFM areas • GHG inventory with government and CSO engagements (bit of knowledge of how to do it) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSO Forum • Knowledge dissemination • Participation • International/ Global work Congress • Share our work and learn from others • Publishing of good practices
Biodiversity (GBF, COP16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under KM-GBF, use OECMs such as declaration of ICCAs and critical habitats • MABUWAYA foundation is working on this including biodiversity assessment, community meetings, management planning workshops • Once declared OECMS, they should have management plans and management boards • Policymakers should adapt these measures • Management of AD include IP, outside of AD include sanctuary management board and wildlife resource deputized by DENR 	
Customary Tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CADT still on process • Northeast Luzon have been assisting IPs but still lagging 7 years because of the ever changing guidelines • How do we manage CBFM • ADSDPP workshop management • Strengthen structure • Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative • Never forget advocacy especially CADT CBFM on awareness on the ground 	

Environmental Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with CSRs and CSOs are still not prevalent in Northern Luzon in comparison with the Palawan landscape • Needs more dialogue and sharing of position papers 	
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need landscape governance • Look at how to sustain engagement with different agencies • “In” with different stakeholders we work with e.g. dialogues, forums, meetings • Capacity-building of youth like IPs&LCs Youth Camps • Resource mobilization and complementation (e.g. ELAC and IDEAS collaboration) • National Anti-Poverty Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government less intimidating and coercive

VIETNAM

THEMES	NATIONAL/LOCAL ACTIVITIES	CROSS-COUNTRY JOINT ACTIVITIES
Climate Change (COP29)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest growing and PES, Carbon Credit • NDC at district level/ CSA • Restore local plants • REDD+ implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works with Lao and Cambodia, because they share a border with them • Experience learning and sharing
Biodiversity (GBF, COP16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECM development with communities, private companies • ICCA establishment, documentation (maps) • Indigenous territories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange visit for knowledge and experience
Customary Tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support government for customary tenure to ethnic community • Co-management in natural resources/ land (customary representatives) • Benefit-sharings from the forest • Documenting good practices and scale-up models 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic Study
Environmental Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FPIC in local socio-economic plans, CT right, stakeholder dialogue engagement in forestry management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning from the ASEAN region

REGIONAL	
THEMES	CROSS-COUNTRY JOINT ACTIVITIES
Climate Change (COP29)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous participation to different COPs • Joint organizing of side events to utilize existing pavilions of partners such as country pavilions, donor pavilions, and different intergovernmental pavilions i.e. IFAD
Biodiversity (GBF, COP16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication strategy: step up from generic messages for IPs&LCs; a lot of discussions: THIS IS YOUR CALL so how do you flesh this prompt • Encapsulate in creating your message = transformative approach from the bottom-up packaging it with evidences to donors that it will be impactful to communities
Customary Tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement at the National level (governments) for the NDCs, NBSAPs, FSS • It really secures investment/ project on the ground. Insurance of some kind that it is doable to enact projects since no issues with land ownership.
Environmental Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping evidence and finding evidence gaps • Discussion on national level which needs recommendation for governments: NBSAPS, COP, Food Security
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on market-based approaches like voluntary carbon markets, biodiversity credits, REDD+ • Collect data leases on the impacts of just energy transition • Capacity-building for market-based approaches - webinars, risk assessment case studies • As different organizations, with diversity, start on collection of data and cases of just data transitions. • Webinars and risk assessment case studies. Agreement of regional organizations.



PART 5: DEVELOPMENT AND AFFIRMATION OF THE CSO FORUM KEY STATEMENT

To summarize the agenda of the event and conclude the forum, a draft for a key statement identifying policy recommendations was developed by the working group. Michelle Lapiz of NTFP-EP Asia, who was the statement lead writer, presented the draft to the participants for review and affirmation. This statement can be used as an advocacy resource material and a reference for elevating and advocating to regional and global bodies and different platforms, including the ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry, UNFCCC, and UN CBD.

The statement was finalized and published on September 16, 2024. It is called the Bangkoeunphal Declaration Developed by CSO Forum on Social Forestry in ASEAN in the NTFP-EP website (See: https://ntfp.org/publication_post/bangkoeunphal-declaration-developed-by-cso-forum-on-social-forestry-in-asean-during-its-10th-meeting/), named in honor of the Bangkoeunphal Community, the people visited and gained knowledge from during the second day of the forum. This reflects their deep-rooted connection to the environment and their significant contributions to forest conservation.

This declaration calls for several key actions aimed at enhancing the role of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs&LCs) in biodiversity governance and climate action. It outlined their demands in the position areas of (1) increase funding and establishing mechanisms for direct access to funding for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, (2) governance capacity of IPs&LCs and CSOs in delivering efforts successfully on integrating Indigenous knowledge and action in climate and biodiversity governance, (3) the disconnect between global commitments on climate and biodiversity with national progress and local efforts, (4) integrating Indigenous traditional territories into the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), and (5) safe spaces for Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs) to deliver meaningful contributions to national progress and global commitments.



Figure 30. Michelle Lapiz presented the CSO Forum Key Statement draft to the participants
(Photo courtesy of Seth Sambath/ NTFP-EP Cambodia)

CLOSING SESSION AND WAYS FORWARD

To conclude the gathering, Ms. Femy Pinto, in her closing remarks, emphasized the evolution of NTFP-EP Asia from a social forestry-focused NGO to a unifying force for grassroots plans and coordinated efforts. Combining alliances is a key strategy for moving forward and achieving our goals. She highlighted the importance of reflecting on the foundational elements for future activities. The 10th CSO Forum covered a wide range of thematic areas. She is excited about the opportunity to disseminate information, foster collaborations, and engage in various capacities, including technical, political, and economic aspects.



Figure 31. Closing ceremony of the 10th CSO Forum on Social Forestry with NTFP-EP Cambodia as the host country organizers (Photo courtesy of Seth Sambath/ NTFP-EP Cambodia)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Message, Nguyen Thi Hai Van, Wyss Academy for Nature • Message, Pirawan Wongnithisathaporn, Environment Programme Officer, AIPP <p>Overview of the agenda and Expectation setting and brief background on the ASEAN CSO Forum: Overview and Achievements, <i>Dazzle Labapis, NTFP-EP Asia</i></p> <p>Organize and activate a Statement drafting team</p>		<p>(5-7 mins)</p> <p>(5-7 mins)</p> <p>20 mins</p> <p>10 mins</p>
8:00 – 8:30	Registration		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat to set a table near the entrance for registration • Prepare in advance the meeting kits e.g. IDs, copies of the program/agenda, reimbursement forms for organizer-funded participants
10:00 – 10:15	Photo Session		
10:15 – 10:30	Health break + snacks		
10:30 – 12:00	Short exercise: Getting to know the CSO Forum participants + Country Updates	<p>At least 30-40 CSOs (with 50% female) with increased knowledge of the importance of tenure in climate and biodiversity</p> <p>Self-strengthening and mutual learning and sharing between CSO Forum members, networks, and partners on global, regional, and country-level updates on climate change and biodiversity to better link to tenure rights</p>	<p>Facilitator: Dazzle Labapis, NTFP-EP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each participant will need to get a marker and flip chart and will be given 25-30 minutes to work on their poster, introducing themselves, what their organization does, in terms of climate, tenure, and biodiversity, and share your main experience, gaps/challenges in these themes in your country

		work and advocacy using interactive and participatory methodologies (e.g., fishbowl method, poster presentation, focus group discussion, fireside chat, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants will be given 1 minute each to share their work with the plenary, and post their work in a gallery
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch break		
13:15 – 15:15	<p>Part 2: Learning Sessions – Global, Regional, and Country level <i>In each learning session, country-level feedback and exchange (through the fishpond method) will be facilitated to answer specific guiding questions that will be shared before the meeting.</i></p> <p>Learning Session 1: Highlights from the UNFCCC COP28 and Preparing for UNFCCC COP29 - Why secured tenure rights is crucial, and what are the opportunities for engagement?</p>	<p>Participants identify the current status, gaps, challenges, and enabling mechanisms to support the effective involvement and leadership of CSOs IP&LCs in implementing the climate and biodiversity commitments at the country level, including the support needed to translate the global commitments to local actions successfully.</p>	<p>Facilitator/Emcee: Gordon John Thomas, PACOS Trust Notetaker: Vi Tech support: Ruth Siringan</p>
15:15 – 15:30	Health break + snacks		
15:30 - 17:30	<p>Learning Session 2: Involvement of CSOs in shaping the KM-GBF Implementation pathways: Overview of the Outcomes of COP15, necessary actions that IP&LCs and CSOs need to prepare and advocate for in COP16</p>		<p>Facilitator/Emcee: Roger Garinga, IDEAS Palawan Notetaker: Airi Tech support: Ruth Siringan</p>
17:30 – 17:40	<p>Short orientation about the field visit, Yun Mane, CIPO</p>		
15:15 – 15:30	Health break + snacks		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Message, Nguyen Thi Hai Van, Wyss Academy for Nature • Message, Pirawan Wongnithisathaporn, Environment Programme Officer, AIPP <p>Overview of the agenda and Expectation setting and brief background on the ASEAN CSO Forum: Overview and Achievements, <i>Dazzle Labapis, NTFP-EP Asia</i></p> <p>Organize and activate a Statement drafting team</p>		<p>(5-7 mins)</p> <p>(5-7 mins)</p> <p>20 mins</p> <p>10 mins</p>
8:00 – 8:30	Registration		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat to set a table near the entrance for registration • Prepare in advance the meeting kits e.g. IDs, copies of the program/agenda, reimbursement forms for organizer-funded participants
10:00 – 10:15	Photo Session		
10:15 – 10:30	Health break + snacks		
10:30 – 12:00	Short exercise: Getting to know the CSO Forum participants + Country Updates	<p>At least 30-40 CSOs (with 50% female) with increased knowledge of the importance of tenure in climate and biodiversity</p> <p>Self-strengthening and mutual learning and sharing between CSO Forum members, networks, and partners on global, regional, and country-level updates on climate change and biodiversity to better link to tenure rights</p>	<p>Facilitator: Dazzle Labapis, NTFP-EP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each participant will need to get a marker and flip chart and will be given 25-30 minutes to work on their poster, introducing themselves, what their organization does, in terms of climate, tenure, and biodiversity, and share your main experience, gaps/challenges in these themes in your country

Day 2 (June 26, 2024)			
<p>05:00 (Assembly time at the hotel lobby)</p> <p>Estimated return time in the hotel: 18:30</p>	<p>Part 3: Field Visit to Champen Community Protected Area, in Bangkoeunphal Village, Romtom Commune, Rovieng District, Preah Vihear Province</p> <p><i>After dinner: Short statement Drafting team meeting</i></p>	<p>Participants with increased understanding and knowledge of the Kui people's significant role in managing their customary forest and tenure, using their Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices</p>	<p>Photo Documentation: Sambath</p>
Day 3 (June 27, 2024)			
<p>8:00 – 9:00</p>	<p>Synthesis of Days 1 and 2, Processing and reflection from the field visit</p>	<p>Participants with increased understanding and knowledge of the Kui people's significant role in managing their customary forest and tenure, using their Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices</p>	<p>Facilitator/Emcee: Anang Setiawan Notetaker: Mich Tech support:</p>
<p>9:00 – 10:30</p>	<p>Learning Session 3: The ASEAN CT Guidelines and the Regional FPIC Handbook its potential contribution to climate and biodiversity commitments</p>	<p>Participants engaged in an interactive dialogue with government representatives</p>	<p>Facilitator/Emcee: Myna Pomarin Notetaker: Vi Tech support: Ruth Siringan</p>
<p>10:30 - 10:45</p>	<p>Health break + snacks</p>		
<p>10:45 – 12:15</p>	<p>Learning Session 4: Updates on Draft ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Rights</p>		<p>Facilitator/Emcee: Kate Galido Notetaker: Airi Tech support: Ruth</p>
<p>12:15 – 13:30</p>	<p>Lunch Break</p>		
<p>13:30 – 15:00</p>	<p>Part 4: Country Report Back and Plan of Action Session</p>	<p>Participants developed a plan of action that identified potential joint activities to be carried out by members and participating organizations for further engagement, particularly in tenure, climate, and</p>	<p>Facilitator/Emcee: Dazzle Labapis Notetaker: Mich Tech support: Ruth</p>

		<p>biodiversity; identified project ideas/regional and country-level initiatives and potential funders.</p> <p>Participants to reflect and strategize on how to deliver key recommendations from the discussion, discuss and learn about the status of NDCs and NBSAPs, and identify entry points for meaningful CSO and IP&LC engagement to relevant regional and national bodies</p>	
15:00 – 17:00	Part 5: Development and Affirmation of the CSO Forum Key Statement	<p>Participants formulate and affirm a key statement identifying policy recommendations that they can use as an advocacy resource material/reference to elevate and advocate to regional and global bodies/platforms such as the ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry, UNFCCC, and UN CBD</p> <p>Participants developed advocacy knowledge products, e.g., briefing papers/background</p>	<p>Facilitator/Emcee: Michelle Lapiz Notetaker: Airi and Vi Tech support: Ruth</p> <p>Importance of linking our Key statement to the global agenda e.g., UNFCCC, UN CBD targets and messages</p>
17:00 – 17:30	Closing session and ways forward, NTFP-EP Asia		
18:30 onwards	Solidarity Dinner		
Day 4 (June 28, 2024)			
	Participants traveling back home. Some participants continue with the GLA Partners Meeting.		

ANNEX II. CSO FORUM PARTICIPANTS LIST

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