



2020 Annual Report



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Non-Timber Forest Products -
Exchange Programme Asia

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Pulliyar women wild food gatherers in
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Acronyms and Abbreviations

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

Message from the Chairperson



Maria Teresa Guia Padilla

Maria Teresa Guia Padilla
Chairperson
of the Board of Trustees

We could not have anticipated the turbulent year that was 2020—the year a pandemic changed the course of our everyday lives.

NTFP-EP's role and programs saw even deeper relevance in this time of a global crisis in health, food, and climate, while also adapting to how we carried out our local to regional interventions. We had to adapt to travel restrictions to fulfill physical distancing protocols. For example, four new projects on 1) the intersection of wild foods, biodiversity and livelihoods; 2) customary forest tenure recognition and safeguarding the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities through free, prior and informed consent and related processes; 3) strengthening solidarity and capacity of women environmental human rights defenders; and 4) asserting community-based forest management in nationally determined contributions had to be shifted online and their project period extended because of the pandemic. Our notable regional exchanges and learning workshops also had to be moved online. We did the best we could to respond to a new operational context and still fulfill our expected role to strengthen capacities of indigenous peoples and local communities in the sustainable management of NTFPs and natural resources. In the process, we learned, thrived and celebrated a few milestones in the middle of all this change.

We carried on bridging traditional and indigenous knowledge with science, as well as bridging the gap between IPLCs and governments with the AMAF's adoption of

the ASEAN Guidelines for Sustainable Harvest and Resource Management for selected Non-Timber Forest Products. We capped off a decade of ASFCC, of which NTFP-EP was a part. The programme doubled the number of hectares managed by local communities under social forestry in ASEAN, which was lauded during the closing event held at the ASEAN Secretariat building in February 2020. This achievement was the result of new laws and policies passed, capacities built, and good practices in sustainable forest management and livelihood that were cultivated through the partnership programme.

We catalyzed awareness and interest about the importance of forests for food, biodiversity, and livelihood through the SIANI Expert Group and the Wild Foods, Biodiversity and Livelihoods Network. Faced with a crisis in the middle of a pandemic, the topic of food and food systems couldn't have been a more pressing matter. There were increased local actions around better management of forests for food, as well as on the importance of recognizing and protecting indigenous and traditional food systems. At least four dialogues were facilitated on the subject, which complemented other conversations and presentations hosted in different platforms. In the lead up to the UN Food Systems Summit and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, discussing food resilience and celebrating intact indigenous food systems in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, is as relevant as ever.

We continued to tap and make use of different opportunities to advocate for ICCAs, customary forests, cultural landscapes and for fair and equitable access of CBNEs to markets. We strengthened networks and supported the leadership and coordination of nexus organizations and networks such as the Southeast Asia ICCA Consortium. A Regional Council has been formed and is meeting regularly. It is now leading the process of strategic planning and expansion of the membership of IPLCs to the consortium.

We continued to support grassroot initiatives of women and IPLCs in organization building, resources management, livelihood improvement, and community-based enterprises around forest products and

local foods through small grants and access to networks. The Pastor Rice Small Grants Fund, which was evaluated after more than 10 years of support, has been a strong mechanism to channel vital support for these initiatives.

Finally, we carried out a virtual strategic direction setting in the next 10 years where we asserted and gave greater emphasis on resilience, the assertion of fundamental rights, and long-term stewardship of a more healthy and secure future for IPLCs. At the same time we gave due attention to the rights and vital roles of women and youth for the future of forests, biodiversity and sustainable development. In parallel, we have completed our Gender Strategy which embodies NTFP-EP's commitment to adopt a gender equity lens in its strategy, program interventions, and operations.

We will dedicate another report about NTFP-EP's next chapter, but here we close our final year in the 2016-2020 plan.

These are only a few, and you will read more in the next pages of what had transpired during the year in the different countries and in the thematic programs. We saw the vital role of staying connected within the network, among the staff, with country offices, and most importantly between us and local communities. Channeling stories of hope, of thriving community-based practices, and of resilience in forests and cultural landscapes have strengthened the bonds in the network.

We feel some trepidation about the health and livelihood of us and our partners. Yet we carry a firm hope that they are resilient peoples and local communities; that local community economies can cope through these times with able leadership, empowered women and youth, and strategic networks.

We welcome with much pride the opportunity to be elevated from partner to member of the Green Livelihoods Alliance in the next five years to 2025. That will take us to half of our new strategic direction to 2030. Being a member of the Alliance will further amplify the voices of IPLCs about their forests, territories, and natural resources towards a more just future.

We face the next few years with much uncertainty as complete recovery from the pandemic is still ways off. Still, we are emboldened by our newfound skills to keep connected with more friends and allies.

We thank our generous donors and program partners: SDC, MRLG, IUCN-NL, SSNC, Both Ends, SIDA through the SEI and SIANI, FCAM, Oxfam, the Forest Foundation, Milieu Defensie/Friends of the Earth, and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. While we closed a few projects and express our sincere gratitude and pride in our partnership over the past years, we will not bid farewell yet, but express a fervent wish of continued partnership and alliance in the years to come. We wish all our members, supporters, friends and partners a courageous year ahead.

Who we are

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

However, these forest communities often have no access to strategic information in terms of distributing these commodities, practical technology that will facilitate a smoother chain of production, and financial support that will make their enterprises viable and sustainable. A few

organizations then started to help by showing the link between the sustainable use of forest resources and economic development for the indigenous peoples and forest communities. Over time, the Non-Timber Forest Products – Exchange Programme organically emerged as the different groups worked together to respond to various issues and problems.

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

What we do

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

NTFP-EP employs a participatory strategy that helps strengthen the capacity of women and men living in forest-based communities and their support organizations. We serve as a platform for information and knowledge exchange of appropriate resource management and forest-based livelihood techniques and experiences. The network also provides technical support and training, assistance in strategy formulation, documentation of best practices and success stories, mobilization of resources, advocacy for

local initiatives, and lobbying efforts for enabling policies.

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



Regional Context

“COVID-19 is not a disease; it is a symptom of an exhausted planet.”

- James Maskalyk and Dave Courchene, The Globe and Mail

The year 2020 was unprecedented. The WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 11 March, and in the months that followed no one was spared from its impact. Apart from the existential threat of the disease itself, the resulting lockdowns, movement restrictions and curtailing of some civil liberties have resulted in a dire situation worldwide. Although vaccines were in rapid development by the end of the year, talks of building back better still seemed superficial and a distant reality. Health, food, climate, biodiversity, and the state of global to local economies during the pandemic were in their rightful places as priority agendas for all nations in the world for what seemed to be a turn for the worse for both people and planet.

The year 2020 was supposed to kick-off a decade of action to 2030 for the SDGs. Before the pandemic, the SDG reports have already shown uneven results. With the pandemic, any progress from previous years were undone with devastating results for food security, nutrition, and hunger. For climate and biodiversity, alarming rates of biodiversity loss, extreme weather, and the highest concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere were marked in 2020. The nature and biodiversity goals for the last decade, particularly targets for ecosystem protection, were only partially achieved. In fact, habitat loss and forest degradation have been found to contribute to the rise of zoonotic diseases.

On that note, COVID-19, as an “emerging infectious disease of probable animal origin”, spotlighted zoonotic diseases as an effect of both climate change and nature and biodiversity degradation. The importance of forests couldn’t

have been more pronounced and relevant for the 1.6 billion people in the world (including over 200 million of indigenous population in the Asia-Pacific) who are dependent on forests for food, medicines, shelter, and income. The importance of forests during the pandemic became pivotal during the crisis period, beyond its seasonal contribution.

Yet these forests are being ravaged by threats fueled by an unsustainable and inequitable economic model, further aggravated by the already life-threatening circumstance of the pandemic. Forests and biodiversity figured as truly essential for the survival and sustainability of all peoples and our planet. The clamor for a shift to more sustainable lifestyles was no small outcry; it was a recurring message throughout the year. Furthermore, such agendas carried through to 2021 as the global talks on food for the United Nations Food Systems Summit, climate and biodiversity for the Conference of Parties, and the development goals for the SDGs continued.

Sadly with the global pandemic, we also saw some national governments taking advantage of

the situation by passing controversial laws such as the Omnibus law in Indonesia, the Anti-Terror Bill and the division of Palawan island into three provinces in the Philippines, and other policies which are being amended in the absence of transparency. In India, a farmer's protest against farm acts passed by parliament in September 2020 have been described as "anti-farmer" by unions.

Civic spaces continued to shrink and dissenting voices were either silenced or threatened with force and even extrajudicial means. Promoting ICCAs remained challenging, with the appreciation for these territories of life still yet to gain support from lawmakers. One strategy to overcome this is the active participation of the NTFP-EP in regional and international events on ICCAs and grabbing opportunities that allow for advocacy of ICCAs. In our strategic planning, NTFP-EP concurred with the global message that transformational change is extremely vital now and towards the next decade.

NTFP-EP sees the need for transformational change in the status of IPLCs, women and

youth in terms of recognition and defense of their rights, their livelihoods, well-being, and health. Their persistent invisibility in statistics and policies need to be directly addressed. The defense of threatened community forests, natural resources and ecosystems and working towards inclusive conservation, where the link between people and forests were emphasized as part of our key strategic actions in the next decade.

The global message of transformational change resonated well with NTFP-EP. IPLCs, women, youth, and civil society have vital roles and contributions to building a better future for all. We summed this up in our theory of change by enabling communities and elevating Community-based Forest Conservation, Indigenous Knowledge, Systems, Practices & Culture, Gender Equality and Women Rights through the enhancement of capacity and space for IPLC, women and youth leadership, building knowledge and evidence, catalyzing stakeholders' engagements, modeling and facilitating change, and stabilizing our foundation as we mainstream gender and strengthen the organization in the next 10 years.

To this end, NTFP-EP will continue to work towards realizing its vision: "Resilient Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, with women and youth in Asia, are respected stewards of healthy forests and living securely in their land for generations to come."



Thematic Highlights





Community-based Conservation

Strengthening the Southeast Asia ICCA Consortium

The 2nd ICCA Consortium Southeast Asia Regional Assembly was held virtually for the first time from 1-4 June 2020 via Zoom. The 44 participants who attended the assembly came from ten member organizations in five Southeast Asian countries. The assembly facilitated sharing of updates from the ICCA Global Consortium and among countries, including on how indigenous peoples and local communities are coping with the COVID crisis as well as identifying emerging issues and challenges in strengthening ICCAs. The regionalization process for Southeast Asia was discussed along with country and regional action plans and next steps.

The regional governance structure and process was approved and regional council members were selected during the members' meetings. The regional council is now composed of country representatives from Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Vietnam. Thematic focal points for Defending ICCAs, Sustaining ICCAs and Documenting ICCAs were also chosen along with the Regional Council Chairperson, Mr. Peter Kallang from SAVE Rivers in Sarawak, Malaysia. NTFP-EP Asia's role as Regional Coordinator for the ICCA Consortium in Southeast Asia was also reconfirmed.

In 2020, community-based forest conservation was identified as a distinct pathway in NTFP-EP's new strategic direction. By 2030, NTFP-EP hopes that CBC has demonstrated and recognized impacts in keeping IPLC-managed forests intact by strengthening its work in community-led conservation initiatives focused on the restoration, rehabilitation, reforestation and sustainable management of NTFPs.

With support from the SSNC project "Linking People and Forests", several community-based initiatives took place in the region. In the Philippines, rainforestation was conducted along with the establishment of nurseries for *Agathis philippinensis* and other native tree species in Brooke's Point, Palawan. Herbal gardens and NTFP reforestation areas for sago, rubber and other native tree species were established in two Penan villages in Sarawak, Malaysia. Forest protection advocacy and meetings on land rights awareness and community strengthening were also conducted.

Community conservation and resource management planning workshops and

monitoring took place in India, Malaysia and the Philippines. Land use plans in Malaysia and the Philippines were updated using 3D maps. In India, community meetings focused on the identification and planned restoration of threatened species. A resource center with wild food gardens and nurseries was developed as a space for conservation and learning. In these activities, all community members including women and youth were involved. In Indonesia, publications on sago and nutmeg were released after a series of consultations with experts. Its pioneering work on Participatory Guarantee Systems with rattan also reached a milestone with the simulations done in the year with two private sector partners. It has also been an effective means of communicating the importance of forests and NTFPs to the younger generations.

In Vietnam, Both ENDS and SSNC supported the project on biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvement of ethnic minorities in protected areas. Data-gathering and documentation of around 400 species of NTFPs in protected areas have been collected. Other highlights include the conduct of a Training

of Trainers workshop, a learning visit to Lam Dong province on eco-products and sustainable livelihoods, mapping of priority NTFP resources, the establishment of a database, and the development of honey protocols in the An Toan Nature Reserve.

NTFP-EP led a regional process on sustainable harvest protocols for bamboo, fruits, honey, rattan, and resin in 2019 and 2020. The AMAF adopted the ASEAN Guidelines for Sustainable Harvest and Resource Management Protocols for selected NTFPs during its 42nd annual meeting last October 21, 2020. Development of protocols for other NTFPs are already being explored.

NTFP-EP received a grant from WWF-Sweden through its “Voices for Diversity” programme. The project shall support regional ICCA work, particularly membership strengthening, documenting, defending, and sustaining territories of life. The GLA 1.0 IUCN-Netherlands “ICCA from local to global” project, which supported ICCAs in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Vietnam, concluded last November 2020. The project supported the documentation of

ICCA in Indonesia through our partner WGII, trainings on ICCA mapping and documentation in Vietnam through our partner PanNature, and youth engagement, lobbying and advocacy work led by NTFP-EP Philippines and the Philippine ICCA Consortium BUKLURAN. A GLA 2.0 program was secured in 2020 which shall continue to support thematic work on community-based conservation.

Through community-led action, forested areas and ICCAs are secured and traditional ecological knowledge is passed on and made more vibrant and alive in the culture of IPLCs. Such actions are a testimony of the empowerment of IPLCs in affirming their rights to their lands and natural resources.



An illustration of a person with dark hair, wearing a yellow shirt, looking towards the right. They are holding a basket containing green ferns and three round, light-colored items. To the right, a forest scene is depicted with several brown mushrooms growing on the ground. The background shows a sunset or sunrise over a landscape with hills and a body of water.

Indigenous Food and Health

An emerging network on wild foods, biodiversity and livelihoods

The Expert Group Wild Foods, Biodiversity and Livelihoods (WFBL) Network was launched at the start of 2020 with support from the Swedish International Agricultural Network Initiative. The network had to shift interactions to the digital space due to the onset of COVID-19 and as a result, an online dialogue series on wild foods was conducted from June-September 2020.

The online series/webinar featured discussions on the introduction to the subject of wild foods, wild foods in relation to tenure security and traditional knowledge, systems and practices, wild foods and biodiversity, and wild foods and sustainable community-based livelihoods. Moreover, the WFBL Network was also able to launch an online awareness campaign on wild foods, using infographics, visual summaries, stories and photos from solicited contributions to support the advocacy on the importance of wild foods and traditional food systems to food security and ultimately, food sovereignty.

In NTFP-EP's new strategic direction, two outcomes related to IFH were identified: (1) IPLCs, including women and youth are food secure and have good health; (2) IPLC women's role as primary forest food and health care providers is recognized and reflected by policies, and ecosystems governance practices. NTFP-EP will continue to build on its work and expand its actions on indigenous food and health.

NTFP-EP was invited to various webinars and learning exchanges to present and share initiatives related to indigenous food and health. At the country-level, NTFP-EP Philippines and NTFP-EP Indonesia were part of Terra Madre Salone del Gusto events which featured various webinars on wild foods and forest foods from different slow food communities.

Country situation papers on the state of wild foods, biodiversity and livelihoods were conducted in Cambodia, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam. The final papers will be launched in 2021. Video narratives on IPLC's experiences during COVID-19 and how this has affected their food and health were also

shot in 2020 in collaboration with partners from BUKLURAN (Philippines), PanNature (Vietnam) and CIPL (Cambodia).

NTFP-EP was able to partner last September 2020 with GlobalGiving, a non-profit crowdfunding platform, in its project of establishing the first forest food field school in Addukam, India. The Forest Food Field School seeks to address the knowledge gap of youth and locals on wild foods through capacity building on relevant techniques on wild foods documentation, management, and preparation. The forest food gardens that will be expanded through the project shall serve as demonstration plots and a place for collection of lesser-known and newer edible plants. The initiative is envisaged to be a learning space as well as a living space or garden where wild food can be found and observed more closely.

The Madhu Duniya network continued its discussions towards a collaborative network-led pollen atlas research through meetings and an online webinar. Resource mobilization for the realization of this project is also being explored.

Sustainable Community Livelihoods



A home for everyone to eat, shop, gather, and learn responsibly

The PARARA Indonesian Ethical Store (PIES) is a fair-trade restaurant owned by 21 indigenous cooperatives, women fishers, farmer partners, civil society groups and activists found in the heart of Jakarta, Indonesia. Launched in late 2019, this innovative, inclusive enterprise offers healthy, safe, and sustainable food and artisanal products sourced from local partners from over 100 communities across the archipelago. The store also hosts interactive workshops, meetings and dialogues to inspire productive discussions, new learning, and collaboration.

The year 2020 started off well with PIES earning promising first quarter sales and hosting events from Japanese guests, civil society, environmental organizations, artisan workshops and even catering events in the ASEAN secretariat complex.

During the pandemic, PIES offered frozen food such as probiotic chicken and sustainable tuna meals, living by its core values but still responding to the needs of work-at-home consumers and mobility restrictions. A total of ten webinars were organized across the year providing inspirational and educational opportunities for partners and other stakeholders. PIES has also joined the Slow Food movement and is processing national fair trade membership.

NTFP-EP attended the AWG-SF planning meetings in February 2020 where it promoted a collective trademark, an alternative certification process, sustainable management protocols, community-based NTFP enterprise promotion and other important themes.

NTFP-EP Asia coordinated with the Asian Forestry Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) on the project proposal "Capacity Building on Enhancing Resilience to Forest Fire, and Local Livelihood and Market Linkages" building on earlier concepts to support small producers in the forestry sector. The proposal made significant progress towards approval in the project pipeline process with the ASEAN Korea Cooperation Fund being interested to support the project targeting Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. Along these lines, the design of a regional project on NTFPs was also initiated with AFoCO.

The EXCEED training on Community Livelihood Assessment and Product Scanning planned for February 2020 in Vietnam was postponed due to the pandemic. Support is being planned for

online mentoring in 2021.

In Indonesia, NTFP-EP Asia supported the Meet the Makers (MTM) artisan collective in organizing ten webinars in collaboration with the Indonesian Heritage Society, assisting in sales of over 20 local artisan groups in difficult circumstances. Innovative engagements were also brokered with a reputable auctioneer allowing for sales of certain naturally dyed textiles at premium prices. Efforts were also made to improve online presence through a new website and social media sales. Kalimantan weavers received online training on photography, social media and story telling with the help of the UNDP KALFOR project. Similar capacity building sessions were also offered to over 30 artisans in the MTM network.

Masterclasses to various government partners through the Multistakeholder Forestry Program 4 were provided and capacity inputs to youth initiatives of Climate Reality Indonesia and the Future Food Institute as well as to Eco Nusa environmental youth leaders program were delivered.

Tenure Rights and Governance

An illustration of a lush green forest landscape. In the foreground, a small settlement with several brown-roofed houses is situated on a yellowish-green field. Three small figures of people are working in the field. The background is filled with various types of trees in shades of green and brown, creating a dense forest scene.

Online launch of the Short Film on Karen Rotational Farming story

NTFP-EP, together with the CSO Forum and in partnership with the Pgakenyaw Association for Sustainable Development (PASD), virtually launched the short film entitled, "In A Different Light – The Karen Rotational Farming Story." The short film and the discussion space in the virtual launch provided new learnings, realizations, and a different light through stories and evidence of rotational farming's importance and contribution to food security, forest conservation, and preserving the cultural tradition and customary tenure of indigenous peoples. This event signals the beginning of continuing advocacy and discussion leading to the Food Systems Summit 2021 and the World Forestry Congress 2021.

The CSO Forum on Social Forestry in ASEAN organized a reflection, exchange, and planning workshop which resulted in developing a five-year Theory of Change with concrete priorities and action plans. The participating organizations reaffirmed commitments for continued collaboration beyond the funding support from the ASFCC. AWG-SF member states representatives adopted critical recommendations of the CSO Forum, including developing a guideline on customary tenure recognition to support national policy and legislation and mainstreaming FPIC in forestry decision-making processes into their Plan of Action for 2021–2025. This solidified our proposal to engage and be part of an MRLG alliance for a Regional Workstream on Customary Tenure Recognition in the Mekong Region. NTFP-EP officially signed the agreement last December 2020 after a series of face-to-face discussions, workshops, and planning.

The ASEAN Guidelines for Sustainable Harvest and Resource Management Protocols for Selected Non-Timber Forest Products was adopted during the 42nd meeting of the ASEAN

Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry. The guidelines serve as a primary reference for NTFP management protocols in the region and help guarantee the sustainable management of NTFP resources for markets and relevant stakeholders.

The Assessing, Engaging, and Recognizing Community Based Forest Management towards the country's Intended/Nationally Determined Contributions project in the Philippines officially started in 2020. Despite the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the project has established its Project Implementation Committee. An inception study on the role of CBFM in climate change was developed, and the results will serve as the baseline for the development of learning modules in 2021.

NTFP-EP launched seven essential knowledge products and NTFP policy research in its role to provide evidence-based policy support and recommendations as part of the ASFCC program. These knowledge products were officially launched in February 2020 during the ASFCC Knowledge Sharing & Closing Event in Jakarta.

Gender and Culture



Hope in Solidarity among Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders

From November 24-26, 2020, grassroots WEHRDs from India, Nepal, Cambodia, Philippines and West Papua virtually gathered together for the WEHRD Online Regional Retreat titled, “Grounding and Empowering: Nourishing the grassroots for transformative change.” The retreat aimed to contextualize the local struggles within the regional and global context; to provide space for reflection and sharing of good practices, skills and strategies, particularly on successful lobbying and advocacy in confronting unjust power structures and promoting gender equity; to celebrate their identity as WEHRDs, and share ways to do self-care; to inspire each other with the sharing of different movements and campaigns at the regional and international level; and to provide space for discussions on moving forward.

In collaboration with the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Asia, Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action, BothEnds, and Keystone Foundation, NTFP-EP Asia and the Purple Action for Indigenous Women’s Rights (LILAK) organized and facilitated the three-day online regional retreat which became a platform for grassroots women to strengthen their identities as WEHRD and gain new strategies and allies in their campaigns.

NTFP-EP Asia further enhanced its gender mainstreaming initiatives in 2020 in preparation for new programs and projects focused on women and the youth for 2021. Following the Gender Assessment and Recommendations Report from the project *Strengthening Institutional Gender Capacity in NTFP-EP* in 2018-2019, NTFP-EP Asia developed its gender strategy with technical support from gender consultant Ms. Margheritta Maffii. Staff in NTFP-EP Asia and country offices participated in the various activities such as the gender survey in August 2020 and the workshops and consultations from November to December 2020. In 2021, there will be continuing discussions on the gender strategy with country staff from Cambodia and Indonesia. There will also be a process to integrate gender into the Theory of Change for the NTFP-EP Strategic Direction 2021-2030 and into the overall monitoring and evaluation framework of NTFP-EP Asia.

There were evaluations and surveys on specific projects implemented by NTFP-EP Asia for the year that documented its work on gender and culture. The evaluation of the Pastor Rice Small

Grants Program that Ms. Genela Buhia facilitated from September to October 2020 showed two strong outcomes areas: increased visibility and participation of women and created space for women-initiated and managed enterprises and advocacy. However, there is need to further strengthen the women's participation and leadership capacities.

NTFP-EP Asia participated in the gender perspectives in project work survey by one of its donors, the SSNC. It responded by highlighting its efforts in gender mainstreaming since 2009 and its continuing initiatives to integrate gender in its organizational and projects work every year. NTFP-EP Asia recognizes its need to systematize and integrate gender perspectives programmatically, institutionally and at personal levels for a more gender-transformative change.

Gender is one of the important components of the new program, GLA 2.0. Towards the latter half of 2020, GLA 2.0 formed coordination groups that included the Gender Hub to support the integration of gender in the final proposal for the five-year project that will start in 2021.

Country Stories





NTFP-EP Cambodia is currently implementing its country program known as the Enterprise Development Program 2017-2023 in alignment with the strategic direction of NTFP-EP for 2021-2030. The overall goal of the program is to see natural resource-dependent communities have improved livelihoods through community-based enterprises and community-based eco-tourism, while also actively participating in protecting and conserving natural resources for sustainable use. In this regard, NTFP-EP Cambodia fully aligns itself with the mission and vision of the regional office.

NTFP-EP Cambodia has been working closely with the Department of Green Economy under the Ministry of Environment's National Council for Sustainable Development since its official recognition. It is also working with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on the area of forestry and fisheries, and the Ministry of Tourism for the community-based ecotourism projects in both national and sub-national levels. NTFP-Cambodia has a partnership with national and international organizations mostly concerned on natural resources management, enhancing

local livelihood, biodiversity conservation and developing community-based enterprises. The project sites included Kratie, Stung Treng, Phreah Vihea, Siem Reap, Kampong Thom and Koh Kong provinces.

No national guideline for NTFPs harvesting protocol has been implemented yet to ensure sustainable harvesting of NTFPs types. Meanwhile, procedures are still unclear for formalizing community-based enterprises in terms of registration, export fee, marketing, certification and others. NTFP-EP introduced the sustainable harvesting protocol for honey and Traing and will share the experience to the relevant government departments for their consideration to develop the national guideline.

The COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, land encroachment, and unsustainable harvesting have led to negative impacts on local livelihoods as a whole. NTFP-EP Cambodia aims to facilitate and coordinate with media to shoot videos that will be broadcast in different channels to promote local products to more potential customers.

NTFP-EP Cambodia will continue to support community-based enterprises, including community-based ecotourism in the existing project sites and will expand to more sites depending on available funds. The other commitment for NTFP-EP Cambodia will be to keep good relationships and strong collaboration with government partners to support local communities and toward contributing to the Royal Government of Cambodia's Rectangular Strategy.

20 multi-stakeholder platforms
used for advocacy

3 species documented

2,558 members of CBNEs

\$59,077 annual sales from enterprises

26 communities with secured permits

51,427 hectares under community
management



INDIA



The COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating impact has made 2020 a year of misery for many of India's (and the world's) peoples. The wrong decisions and the state's bungling and complacency in handling the problem worsened the situation. In March 24, the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a lockdown across the country, forcing lakhs of migrants to leave cities (and other places of work) and return to their native villages, with many having to walk home.

Across the country, most NGOs and social workers functioned in an atmosphere of uncertainty and fear, in some cases even in circumstances of state apathy, to keep the morale of the rural and indigenous communities high. Several philanthropic institutions pooled in their resources to help, as did many donors who allowed the funds meant for specific projects to be channeled to more immediate necessities.

In September 2020, the three farm acts were tabled and passed in parliament. These were contested by farmers from Punjab and Haryana (and later by farmers in other states) who traveled

to Delhi by November to protest. Despite the peaceful protest and clear demands, there was little or no dialogue between the farmers and the state. The Acts were interpreted by the farmers as handing over the 'farming sector' to private players. Thousands of other farmers, also from other states, and other citizens sympathetic to their cause, joined in and created one of the largest peaceful protests across the world.

Meanwhile, the government also did not slow down any of its actions that have been questioned or scrutinized. Coal mining continued and 41 mines were auctioned anew, justified by the Modi government as it would bring in revenue during the lock down. In September, the parliament passed the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) in October 2020. This was a huge impediment for NGOs due to the extra scrutiny and unnecessary compliances. The way networks work have been disrupted. This is a shame as it was obvious that the pandemic would have affected marginalized communities much more if it had not been for the large civil society groups that function across the country.

Ultimately, this decision to amend the FCRA will affect the smaller community-based organizations and the marginalized communities in the hinterland. Fewer questions will be asked of the state, which will undermine democracy. In fact, India has slipped two ranks in the World Press Freedom Index, from 140 to 142 out of 180, in the years 2019-20; in 2015, India had ranked 136th.

Taken altogether, the overall trend in the country is the handing over of land and natural resources to the private sector whether through farm laws, coal auctions, revised forest policies, or the proposed revision of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The amendment to the last, the EIA, has been revoked after lakh citizens protested against the proposed changes. Most of these decisions have been unilaterally pushed by the government, with little or no consultations with the opposition or other stakeholders, the latter the common people of India. Dissent and questioning has been clearly unwelcome.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and its disastrous impacts on the livelihoods of many

indigenous communities across the country, and the restrictions imposed as part of the safety measures, there has been much to report from the ground. Most of the network partners responded to the COVID-19 crisis in its initial stages, providing dry rations to the communities they work with; creating an awareness about the pandemic and the required safety measures; and finding ways to keep at least some of the activities ongoing, such as seed collection and nurseries, kitchen gardens, and revival of traditional crops.

14 member organizations
across the country

17,050 hectares of forest covered

211 villages supported

435 community forest rights claims

26,077 direct beneficiaries



The COVID-19 pandemic affected almost all sectors of Indonesia throughout 2020. Despite this, agrarian conflicts and violence against activists still characterize many regions in Indonesia, with incidents in some places increasing despite the pandemic.

The plans and agendas of NTFP-EP Indonesia and its partners and key actors were put on hold, but not for those backing the *Omnibus Law of Job Creation* draft. The draft potentially opens the possibility of land conflict resolution mechanisms becoming one-sided and safeguards for environmental and human rights being removed as they are considered “obstacles” to attracting investment. Additionally, concession owners are no longer responsible for handling forest fires, only its “prevention.”

Throughout 2020, NTFP-EP Indonesia has continued to support and collaborate with partners (IPLCs, CSOs, and local government) in enhancing and promoting the importance of NTFPs in several areas in Indonesia. NTFP-EP Indonesia has taken the lead in managing the

PARARA Indonesian Ethical Store (PIES) together with 30 NGOs, indigenous and local community in its consortium. PIES continued to operate through the pandemic and is one of the biggest accomplishments of NTFP-EP Indonesia. Up to December 2020, PIES was able to generate sales amounting to IDR 225,000,000 (€ 14,062). The PARARA consortium also held webinar series engaging various sectors of the government, civil society, the youth, the private sector, consumers, to promote community livelihoods and their products.

NTFP-EP Indonesia was also successful in managing small grant funds related to WEHRDs in Indonesia and Myanmar with the support of IUCN-Netherlands. For 2020, the grants supported eight local NGOs in Indonesia and four community cases in Myanmar.

Travel restrictions caused by the pandemic have postponed planned activities while other events were changed into virtual and online activities. Although these virtual meetings and events were relatively manageable with government and NGO partners, there was significant difficulty in

ensuring community partners in remote areas could connect and join. It was due to various issues such as the lack of telecommunication access, slow internet connection and the lack of devices for accessing the internet. Several methods and innovations have been developed to adjust with the situation, such as exploring and designing virtual events (trainings, festivals), creating video recordings, and other activities that engage the youth to participate online.

24 indigenous communities supported

17 forest areas under community management

18 NTFPs used for enterprises

27 operational CBNES

€14,062 annual sales from PARARA Indonesian Ethical Store

57 partner organizations in the country



MALAYSIA

© NTFP-EP Malaysia



For 2020, one of NTFP-EP Malaysia's objectives was to empower the local communities to affirm their rights and sustainably conserve, restore and manage their forest through strengthening of traditional knowledge and the development of ICCAs. One target group was the semi-nomadic Penans in the remote area of Apoh Tutoh, Baram District. Also included was a Penan community who lost their land and forest to oil palm plantations in the Belaga District in Sarawak, Malaysia. Both groups are all Penan by ethnicity and completely dependent on the forest resources for their livelihood.

From 2019 through 2020, there have been some positive signs towards the restoration of their forest and land. Aside from restoration of the forest, the women and youth in both communities enjoyed the benefits of this project through gardening, CBNE crafts and community work.

Challenges faced by the project coordinator include the distance between the two project sites (communities) and also the road and weather condition which are sometimes

quite challenging and dangerous. Another challenge is communication. Because there is no telecommunication coverage in the communities, it is difficult to communicate prior to visits which sometimes coincide with that of other agencies such as church groups and government agencies. Sometimes, the communities are also busy with routine work on their farms and foraging the forest in looking for food.

Planned activities were conducted as scheduled until the first quarter of 2020. From the second quarter, the federal government enforced the Movement Control Order throughout Malaysia in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. NTFP-EP Malaysia's planned activities came to a halt for several months, especially those that required engaging the communities directly.

In early 2020, our Field Assistant staff resigned in pursuit of a better income job. His departure has put pressure on our project coordinator especially in monitoring the daily work in the project sites.

Because of misinformation about the COVID-19

pandemic, all of the villagers left Long Jaik and built temporary huts in the forest in three groups. It was impossible to convince them to come together for a community meeting. Because of this, we only managed to have informal discussions with a small group. Certain issues like encroachment into their customary land and the election of their proposed village chief were discussed.

When the Movement Control Order was lifted in June 2020, visits and activities on rehabilitation in Long Selung focused on nurturing the coffee nursery which the community planted in late 2019 after a learning trip in Bakelalan and Long Semadoh. The coffee seedlings were transplanted to a field in a degraded part of the forest in the latter part of 2020.

In Long Jaik, the community and especially the youth led an activity to plant ginger in 2020 which they hoped would give them extra income. The ginger were harvested in late 2020 and the community has expressed interest in continuing the activity. However, a similar ginger planting effort by two women and youth groups in Long

Selung did not have a productive yield due to poor soil conditions.

Other activities planned for 2020, including formulating a resource management plan, organizing communities on indigenous rights, and participatory resource monitoring were not implemented due to the restrictions of the Movement Control Order and other safety concerns related to the pandemic.



7 communities partnered with
35 hectares of forests being rehabilitated
41 Penan members of CBNEs
6 species used for subsistence and medicinal purposes



PHILIPPINES



The Anti-Terrorism Law of 2020 (ATL) was passed this year, which proved challenging for indigenous peoples and local communities, and staff, with the constricting civic space and intensified red-tagging. NTFP-EP Philippines facilitated online learning sessions on ATL and operational security to mitigate risks to both staff and communities. Given the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting lockdowns, work in tenure and governance in 2020 shifted largely to online spaces. With the Philippine ICCA Working Group, and the Green Bills Network, NTFP Philippines continued lobbying for the passage of the ICCA Bill, and held a series of public information forums called Pagninilay (Reflections) on the role of indigenous governance in the new normal. With the Green Bills Network, a website and video on the four green bills (including the ICCA Bill) was launched.

In Palawan, the Pala'wan communities in Brooke's Point affirmed and validated the 3D map of their ICCA, covering an area of 6,181.08 hectares. The Higaonon communities in Misamis Oriental have decided to document and work for the registration of their conserved area called Pina to

the ICCA Global Registry. As for rainforestation, 6,000 wildings of almaciga raised in the nursery in Pawpanaw were distributed and planted in Pawpanaw, Lempisewyen (Mangkongon), and Mantalong Watershed. Participatory resource monitoring for select NTFPs including cinnamon, bamboo, honey, and the traditionally grown abaca were conducted in the different landscapes where NTFP EP Philippines works.

The sharp and deep drop in the demand for non-essential products due to the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted the sales and revenues of the CBNEs. The strict mobility and health protocols and longer containment also affected the communities' harvesting activities, transport of goods, provision of capacity building support and implementation of marketing strategies originally planned in the previous year. For many CBNEs, production activities slowed down if not totally halted. The CBNEs and the marketing intermediaries made adjustments and implemented strategies to adapt to the new normal, especially in learning how to use the various social media platforms to communicate and market products. CustomMade Crafts

Center also shifted from producing conference and corporate giveaways to producing face masks using traditional textiles. This enabled the continuous purchase of traditional textiles from partner communities.

NTFP-EP Philippines facilitated a series of conversations with its youth partners online, to equip them with tools to adapt to the new normal and refine digital communication skills: on fake news and disinformation, digital storytelling, and a photo contest and social media campaign on traditional food.

In Southern Sierra Madre, NTFP-EP focused on lobbying against Kaliwa Dam with local coalition ALMA! Dam, the national STOP Kaliwa Dam network, and a new alliance forged with an urban coalition to address downstream impacts and stakeholders of the dam.

NTFP-EP Philippines continued to monitor and provide assistance to the 28 Schools of Living Traditions in various indigenous and Moro communities in the country. It actively participated in the Terra Madre Salone del

Gusto event in Italy. For 2020, NTFP organized one local event, the Indigenous Festival of the Pala'wan Community featuring Pala'wan Indigenous Cuisines and Forest Foods, specifically lutlut and melmel. This festival has facilitated the interaction between the elders and the youth to learn about the importance of indigenous food and health.

NTFP-EP Philippines has long been working towards reducing gender inequalities in all the landscapes it operates. From the consistent and very evident leadership and participation of women in livelihoods, increasing the role of women in the lobby and advocacy on various issues related to the land and resources management and decision-making processes has been the focus of intervention. Women's groups were formed and strengthened in Sierra Madre and Palawan. In 2020, a gender awareness capacity building for male leaders in Sierra Madre resulted in recognition by the men that although women are recognized as leaders nowadays, there are still discriminating practices which should be addressed.

572,297.93 total hectares under community management supported

192 hectares of forest under rehabilitation

17 species conserved or restored

34 community-based enterprises sustained

€106,673 total sales generated from enterprises



NTFP-EP

VIETNAM

- 120** communities supported
- 11** indigenous peoples groups
- 140** hectares of forest under community conservation
- 15** community-based enterprises sustained
- 800** individuals benefited (430 women, 370 men)
- \$70,000** annual sales generated

NTFP-EP Vietnam continues to tackle issues related to natural resources and improving the livelihoods of ethnic minorities in Vietnam through the enhancement of the value of NTFPs and promoting traditional knowledge and culture.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many activities were affected and a shift to different approaches became necessary. To avoid violating the quarantine, NTFP-EP Vietnam adjusted strategies to cope with the situation. A peer learning trip for community members at the regional level could not push through due to restrictions on overseas travel, so instead the learning trip was held inside Vietnam. A Community Livelihoods Assessment and Products Scanning for enterprises training in Lam Dong province will instead be conducted in Binh Thuan province. Lastly, some activities such as community meetings have been postponed indefinitely or moved into online spaces until the situation improves and the state of emergency is lifted. Social media and online apps such as Zalo and Facebook were used to organize more than 30 online community meetings in order to facilitate learning, discussions and development.

To help local communities achieve a stable source of income, NTFP-EP Vietnam assisted producers of herbal shampoos in acquiring the necessary product certifications and other legal requirements so that they can be sold in markets. Facebook and Zalo were used to sell the products directly to interested customers. The Cao Lam social enterprise supported the planting of ginseng seedlings and provided technical training for household planters. The enterprise will also buy the ginseng products for a fair price (USD 4 per kilogram) to ensure sustainable product output and income. Income-improving models were also implemented in four communities harvesting other NTFPs such as mushrooms, bamboo shoots, tamarind, honey, pine trees, coffee, essential oils and herbs. A protocol was also established for honey harvesting in An Toan Nature Reserve.

Beyond 2020, future plans include strengthening the country network, promoting product development initiatives, providing IPLC representatives with opportunities to join events, workshops and forums, and enhancing the network of distributors, wholesalers and retailers for NTFP products.

Organizational Highlights

NTFP-EP



INCOME

- Diversified income through diversified products and permits intervention (Philippines)
- At least 5% of income contributed annually to forest patrolling, CF management and conservation activities (Cambodia)



MARKETS

- Supported cultural industries through innovative events and collaborations (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines)
- Inclusive and participatory certification open markets for CF (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines)
- Launched the PARARA Festival and ethical store for local, sustainable CF products to support over 100 producer groups and 4,000 households (Indonesia)



PARTNERSHIPS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENTS

- Established CSO Forum for forest governance, community issues and women's rights to build community networks and enhance policy influence (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines)
- Collaborated with private sector leaders and representatives to establish the multi-stakeholder group on sustainable forest management (Philippines, Cambodia, Myanmar)
- Supported the establishment of a micro-entrepreneurial forest marketing group in Sabah and Philippines (AACEF and NTFP-EP)



CAPACITIES

- Trained over 120 participants from ASEAN organizations and partners through EXCEED courses
- Reached 10,000 farmers in 8 ASEAN Countries through the Madhu Duniya forest honey and bee conferences
- Enhanced capacity and knowledge of CSOs on community economy and livelihood; tenure and access rights; safeguards, and governance through discussions and learnings with the CSO Forum



EXPANDING SECTORS

- Catalyzed engagements and linkages of CSOs and relevant partners with other ASEAN bodies such as:
 - Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (ACCMSMEs),
 - Agricultural Cooperatives,
 - Communities,



POLICY SUPPORT

- Developed Gap Analysis on ASEAN Markets for NTFPs for NTFPs in ASEAN
- Conducted and designed NTFP Policy Studies (Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, and Cambodia)
- Secured 4 seats on the ASEAN NTFP Forum

The regional office began 2020 with a two-day annual review and planning session. This particular session included reviewing individual roles, clarifying aspects of the organizational structure, work flows, and looking at how the team could work together more cohesively. The staff also shared their individual and team workplans for the year, as well as mapped out planned activities for the year.

As with previous years, the dates and logistics involved with planning the annual Regional Staff Meeting started in December, with the different country offices confirming the availability and names of their representatives. For 2020, this had been decided for the third week of February in Palawan, Philippines, or one week after an EXCEED training to be held in Vietnam. But in January, the increasing uncertainty about the spread of COVID-19 around the world meant that both events had to be postponed indefinitely.

By March, the number of COVID-19 cases in the Philippines began growing, prompting the national government to encourage businesses to implement work-from-home (WFH) measures

to minimize risk. The regional office had just agreed in a staff meeting to only report for work three times a week from Tuesday to Thursday to lessen public exposure while traveling. By 15th of March, the national government announced a full lockdown for key cities beginning on the 16th. Like other organizations, the staff began their WFH arrangements, with the exception of the Administrative Assistant who already anticipated the closing of city borders and the need for someone on hand to access office files. With his help, the Finance Assistant/Cashier brought home her office desktop, the office printer, and all the documents she needed to work as usual. Businesses were closed, public transportation suspended, and people were told to stay at home, but virtually overnight the office had successfully transitioned to the five-day WFH arrangement.

The enforced lockdown had the benefit of families spending more time together, but remote working came with its own set of challenges. Different teams needed to explore more efficient ways to get things done remotely. With staff unable to report to the office for

work, online meetings via Zoom and Microsoft Teams became the norm for meetings, quarterly workplan reviews, and even staggered strategic planning for the next decade. However, dated office equipment or unreliable internet access did not always make for efficient collaboration.

Coupled with the uncertainty brought about by the pandemic and not having much control over what was happening, the lack of social interaction for some, or even the opportunity to step out of one's home as the weeks progressed into months, eventually took a toll on the mental health of some. Focusing on work and deliverables was getting more challenging. At the same time, others found a way to work with this extended WFH arrangement and considered this time to be their most productive time ever.

It was with relief that Fridays came along not only because it was the last day of the week, but also because it became the norm to set aside part of Friday afternoons for everyone to interact online and have some fun. Dubbed as Online Friday Fun or OFF for short, it became a venue to draw

creatively, share silly pictures, watch a limited run of a musical, or even exercise by dancing. By December, it seemed that there was no end in sight and the WFH arrangement would still carry on into 2021.

Human Resources and Capacity Development

By the second quarter of 2020, many Filipinos were feeling uncertain with the surge of COVID-19 cases in the country that led to continuous quarantine restrictions in NCR and various parts of the country. This situation affected the mental health of many people. To counter the effects of home confinement on the mental health of staff, NTFP-EP Asia management and HR team organized and/or supported regular staff activities through online platforms such as the weekly Online Friday Fun organized at 4:00 in the afternoon and the monthly staff learning brown bag sessions, T3 (Third Thursday of the month at Three PM). T3 is an online learning venue on topics of common

interest such as Effective Communications, Presentation Techniques, Canva Designs, First Aid, Understanding Personalities, Organizing Zoom webinars/meetings, Storytelling and Photography, among others. Sources of staff learning topics were the 2019 annual staff appraisals and the regular and quarterly staff meetings. In-house experts or staff who are knowledgeable about the topics facilitated most of the T3 learning sessions except for the clinical psychologist who facilitated Effective Communications session.

Venues for regular staff meetings took the form of monthly Operations Huddle attended by all staff and the monthly Program Huddle with participants from thematic and cross-cutting programs and projects. All staff also participated in quarterly staff meetings where they reviewed and updated the team and individual work plans and discussed various operations and programmatic concerns.

NTFP-EP Asia also employed new staff support in 2020 following the improved process and systems for online recruitment. NTFP-EP Asia hired Mr.

Yasser Gutierrez in February 2020 as the Project Officer for the project, "Assessing, Engaging, and Recognizing Community Based Forest Management towards Nationally Determined Contributions in the Philippines (ASSERT-CBFM). Two interns joined NTFP-EP Asia: Ms. Illana Kimani Barraquias and Ms. Ruth Siringan, to support the Community-Based Conservation and the Gender and Culture programs, respectively, during the last quarter of 2020. With the vacancy for the Finance Coordinator post by the end of December 2020, NTFP-EP Asia started its recruitment process in November 2020 for hiring in 2021.

The venues for staff bonding and learning for NTFP-EP Asia staff for the year resulted in better coordination, cooperation and working relationship among staff. NTFP-EP Asia will continue to organize OFF, T3, staff huddles, and meetings regularly in 2021 with the aim of building teams, strengthening coordination and cooperation among staff. Online staff hiring process will continue in 2021 as necessary, and with improved forms and systems.



Communication & Knowledge Management

During the ASFCC Knowledge Sharing & Closing Event in Jakarta, Indonesia in February 2020, NTFP-EP officially launched seven important knowledge products and policy research in its role in providing evidence-based policy support and recommendations as part of the ASFCC program. NTFP-EP also released the 36th issue of its newsletter Voices From the Forest in March 2020 with a focus on livelihoods, one of the network's core work.

With international travel heavily restricted throughout 2020, all meetings, forums, conferences and other activities shifted to an online setup. Webinars, once considered a novel concept for hosting entire events, soon became the norm for organizations worldwide. For its part, NTFP-EP mobilized its HIVE e-learning platform which has been its primary method of hosting and facilitating events. HIVE's first major hosting responsibility came with the 2nd ICCA Southeast Asia Regional Assembly in June

2020 where NTFP-EP assumed technical hosting duties. This was soon followed up with hosting duties for the SIANI Expert Group Discussion Series held from June to September 2020. Steps to increase the social media presence of NTFP-EP Asia were also taken while the ntfp.org website received an upgrade in bandwidth capacity to accommodate the increase in online interaction. Likewise, NTFP-EP's Zoom accounts also received upgraded plans to accommodate the significant increase in use, participant capacity, and the need for language interpretation.

A planned documentary shoot in Sarawak documenting the wild food practices of the Penan scheduled in the second quarter of 2020 was also cancelled. The funds earmarked for this shoot were instead diverted to other initiatives such as animated video projects and infographics explaining the importance of wild foods and other videos under the CBC and IFH programmes.

In late 2020, the short film "In a Different Light: The Karen Rotational Farming Story" was launched online in the NTFP-EP Asia



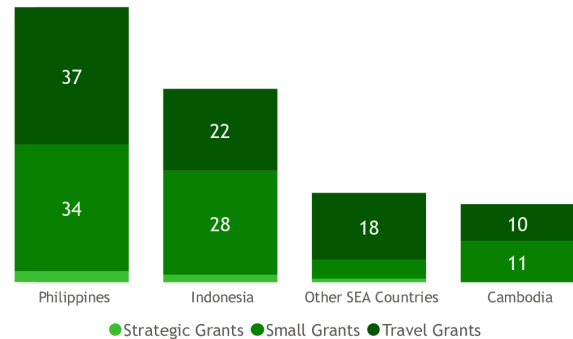
Facebook and YouTube channels through a film launch event featuring a lecture by Dr. Prasert Trakansuphakon and insights by Pirawan Wongnithisathaporn and Mai Thin Yu Mon. A co-production with PASD Thailand, the short film features an overview on the practice, misconceptions and challenges faced by practitioners of rotational farming (shifting cultivation) in Northern Thailand.

Pastor Rice Small Grants Fund

Between 2016 to 2020 under the GAGGA programme, the Pastor Rice Small Grants Fund has awarded 171 grants to around 100 women's groups in the priority countries of GAGGA, particularly in Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines, as well as other countries in Southeast Asia. These supported women on food security, water and natural resources management, sustainable livelihoods, response to threats, security of tenure and many women empowerment initiatives.



Total grant distribution per country (2016-2020)





In 2020 alone, PRSGF-GAGGA supported 23 groups. The grants directly supported grassroots organizations of women and other groups with initiatives contributing to women empowerment and environmental justice.

The first phase of the GAGGA programme ended in 2020. PRSGF has strengthened the capacity of women to build up their knowledge, increase their representation and voice out their concerns, while actively responding and finding solutions to help improve their current situation, socially, economically, culturally, even personally.

Grants also contributed to empowering young women and girls through various leadership skills honing, and apprenticeship to learn (or re-learn) their culture and tradition on caring for their environment, nurturing the resources within, among others.

At the time of the pandemic, PRSGF continued to support local initiatives to assert women's rights and ecological justice, such as strengthening support to WEHRDs, and responding to solidarity calls on women's rights and strengthening their voices. For instance,

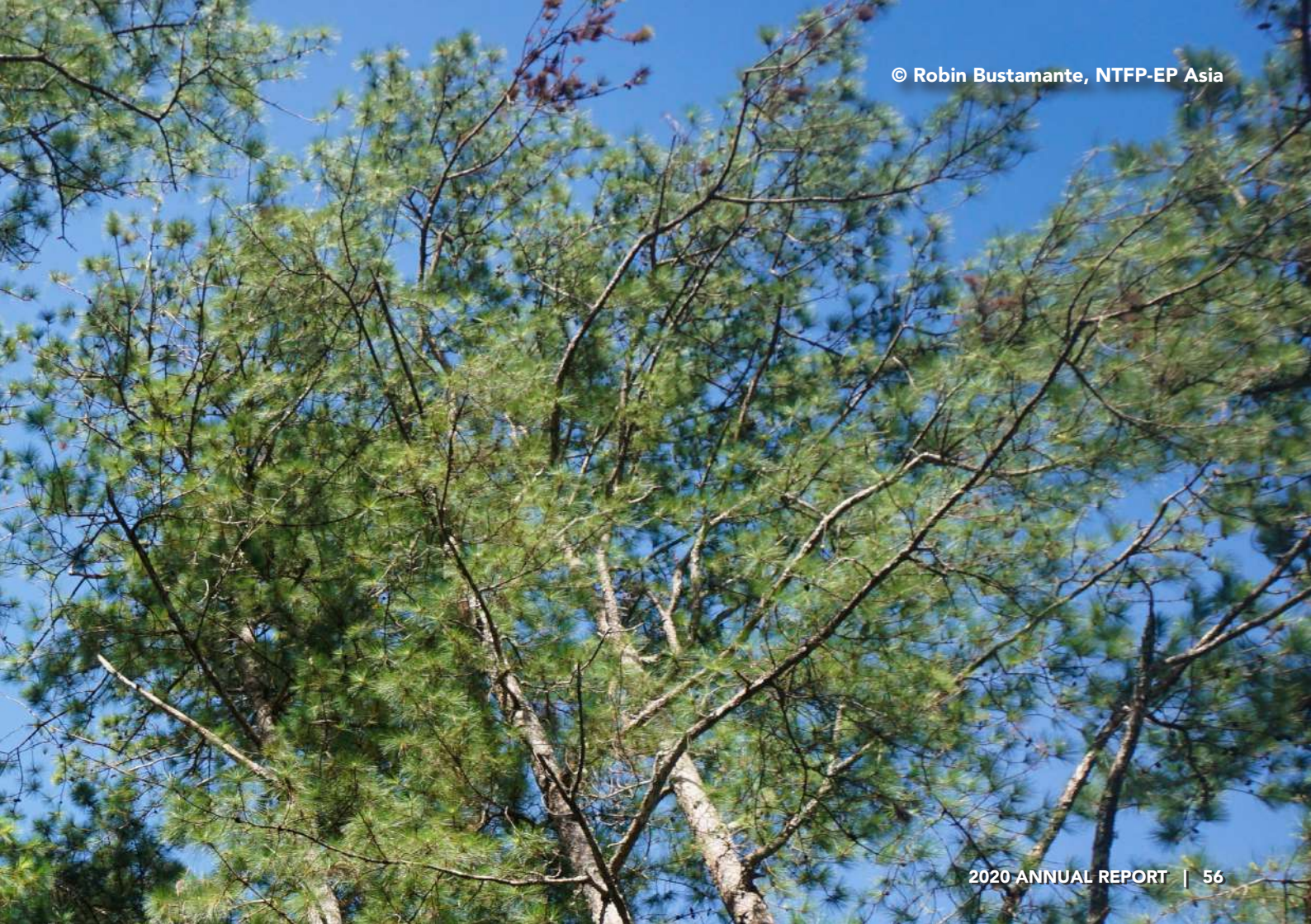
we supported the launch of a provincial alliance of women's groups and CSOs in Bengkulu, Indonesia called BRAGGA (Bengkulu Regional Alliance for Green and Gender Action) in August 2020 that pushed for women's rights and ecological justice. One of its calls to action is for their local government to recognize women's situation and voice.

In our attempt to be creative and innovative, we have also developed advocacy materials for the use of our grassroots partners to continue their learning and capacity building in their respective communities, while the current situation has limited face to face learning visits and exchanges. This included videos on finance management, digital storytelling, and writing for advocacy in Filipino and Indonesian contexts.

At present, PRSGF increasingly strengthens its focus on women and aims to expand the reach of the grant facility to also include other marginalized sectors across generations in forested landscapes for a more holistic and grounded support to indigenous peoples and local communities.

Summaries





Publications Produced

TITLE	TYPE	LOCATION
ASEAN adoption of the guidelines for sustainable harvest and resource management protocols for selected non-timber forest products (honey, resin, fruits, bamboo and rattan)	Document	Asia
Assessment of policies of NTFPs in Southeast Asia towards enabling community forestry enterprises – Regional Summary	Report	Asia
Assessment of policies of NTFPs – Country Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambodia • Indonesia • Malaysia • The Philippines 	Report	Asia
Birds of Koh Samseeb	Booklet	Cambodia
Challenges to Wild Foods	Infographic	Asia
DamDamin	Video	Philippines
Developing guidelines for sustainable harvest and resource management protocols for non-timber forest products	Brochure	Asia

Forest Plants of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve: A Pictorial Field Guide	Book	India
Forest Food Field School in Addukam - Resource Centre and Wild Food Gardens	Video	India
Gap analysis of ASEAN standards for NTFPs	Report	Asia
Girivani	Newsletter	India
In a Different Light: The Karen Rotational Farming Story	Film	Asia
Leaf Litter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Equinox issue • Summer Solstice issue • Autumn Equinox issue • Winter Solstice issue 	Newsletter	India
Madhu Duniya: Initial Results of Pollen Analysis	Webinar/Presentation	Asia
Membangun Masa Depan Pala di Fakfak	Book	Indonesia
Not By Timber Alone - January/July 2020 issue	Newsletter	Philippines
Pembangunan Agroindustri Sagu di Indonesia	Book	Indonesia

Role of Wild Foods for the Food Security of Kreung's Indigenous people	Report	Cambodia
Sustaining Wild Foods	Infographic	Asia
Traing harvesting guideline	Leaflet	Cambodia
Voices From The Forest March 2020 issue	Newsletter	Asia
WEHRD - Katutubong Kababaihan, May Say Ka!	Webinar/Presentation	Philippines
What are Wild Foods?	Video	Asia

Projects Completed

DONOR	PROJECT NAME	COVERAGE	AMOUNT
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change	Regional	CHF 709,000
WWF Myanmar	Community based sustainable livelihood support for ICCAs and Local Communities Dawna Temasserim Landscape, Myanmar	Myanmar	USD 46,576
Both ENDS	Global Alliance for Green & Gender Action	Regional	EUR 250,000
Foundation Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres	Regional Exchange Programme for Strengthening the Voices of Women Affected by Extractives in Asia	Regional	USD 46,037
	Autonomy & Resilience Fund	Regional	EUR 6,000
IUCN NL	Shared Resources, Joint Solutions	Cambodia	USD 298,450
	Green Livelihoods Alliance 1.0	Regional	EUR 70,614
ICCA Consortium	Regional Hub for the Southeast Asia region for the ICCA Consortium	Regional	USD 6,000

Financial Highlights*

ASSETS	2020	2019
Current Assets		
Cash	P 13,638,142	P 19,929,317
Accounts and other receivables	1,657,706	563,560
Other current assets	808,944	4,652,303
Total Current Assets	P 16,104,792	P 25,145,180
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts and other payables	P 3,063,275	P 2,660,511
Advances from a related party	2,065,479	2,065,963
Total Current Liabilities	P 5,101,754	P 4,726,474
Fund Balance		
Restricted	P 9,734,264	P 19,066,695
Unrestricted	1,268,774	1,352,011
Total Fund Balance	11,003,038	20,418,706
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	P 16,104,792	P 25,145,180

REVENUES	2020	2019
Grants	P 32,429,766	P 54,932,303
Interest income	10,099	17,687
Others	1,716,598	675,415
Total Revenues	34,156,463	55,625,405
EXPENSES		
Project costs	25,205,660	36,127,725
Other program costs	9,553,832	15,475,816
Administrative costs	6,085,683	4,997,327
Communications and knowledge management	1,256,717	518,190
Program Activities	468,087	1,681,612
Sub-total Expenses	42,569,979	58,800,670
Foreign exchange loss	1,002,152	858,447
Total Expenses	43,572,131	59,659,117
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	P -9,415,668	P -4,033,712
2020 Spending in Euros**	€ 742,406	€ 1,016,506

Notes:

- 1 Project costs refer to the different themes: tenure rights and governance, community-based conservation, sustainable community livelihoods, indigenous food & health, and gender & culture.
- 2 Other program costs refer to country offices salaries and overhead costs and other staff operating costs.
- 3 Program activities refer to regional meetings and travel, monitoring & evaluation activities.

* NTFP-EP's financial statements were audited by Reyes, Tacandong & Co., an independent accounting and consulting firm. The full audited report can be made available upon request.

** Based on PHP to Euro exchange rate as of December 29, 2020

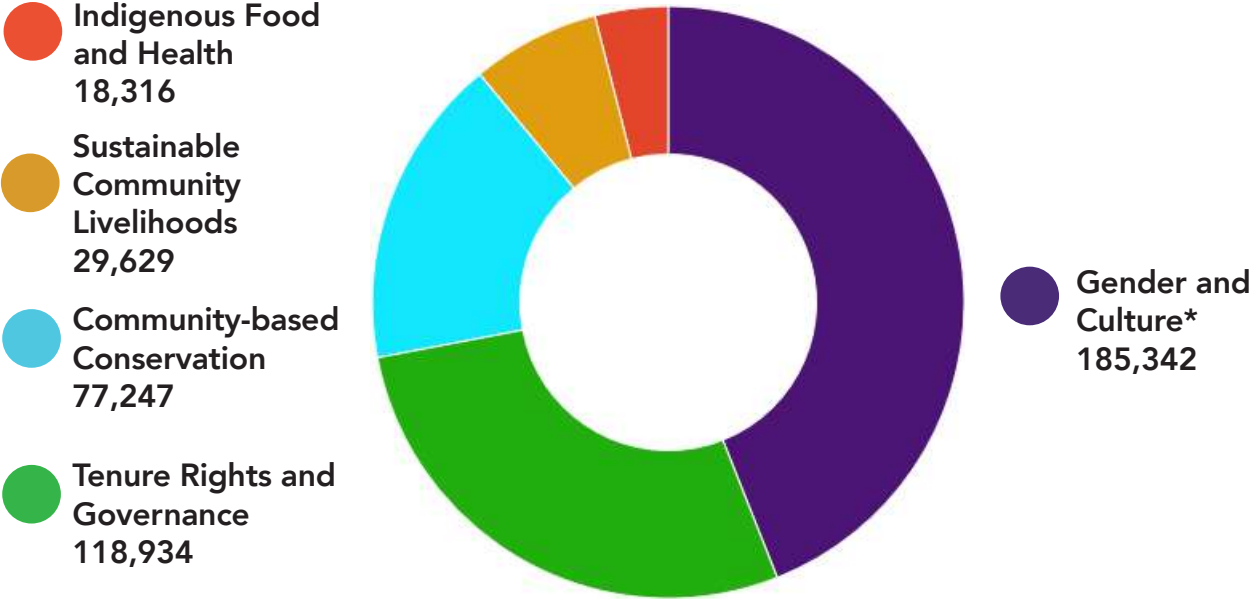
Expenditure Distribution in Euros



* Project costs are broken down in the next chart.

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

Thematic Distribution of Project Costs in Euros



* Gender and Culture includes small grant fund focused on grassroots women.

Php to Euro exchange rate is Php 58.6904 = 1.0 Euro as of December 29, 2020.





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India

NTFP-EP Indonesia

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