



**CSO FORUM  
ON SOCIAL  
FORESTRY  
IN ASEAN**



Civil Society Forum on Social Forestry in ASEAN

# Sustaining Collaborative and Innovative People-Centred Actions:

Femy Pinto, NTFP-EP Asia  
7<sup>th</sup> Annual CSO Forum Meeting, 24-25 June 2018 Da Nang, Vietnam



Ensuring Community Rights, Safeguards, and Equitable Benefits in Livelihood and Environment Conservation in the Sector

## CSO FORUM ON SOCIAL FORESTRY IN ASEAN

- ✓ Participated in by civil society and community based organizations (CSOs) and indigenous peoples network and membership organizations present in ASEAN
- ✓ Organizations are all active in the forestry sector in the implementation of capacity building, awareness raising, and technical support in programs on forest and NTFP livelihood and marketing, forest rights and tenure, and traditional and indigenous knowledge systems on natural resources, and projects in REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus)





**CSO FORUM  
ON SOCIAL  
FORESTRY  
IN ASEAN**



## VISION

Empowered and resilient indigenous peoples and forest-dependent local communities in ASEAN with secured equal rights and well-being, through an institutionalized CSO platform working towards recognition and promotion of indigenous knowledge and wisdom, forest tenure and access rights, community economy, and livelihood, safeguards and inclusive governance mechanisms.



**CSO FORUM  
ON SOCIAL  
FORESTRY  
IN ASEAN**



Civil Society Forum on Social Forestry in ASEAN

## GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS

*Local and indigenous communities able to mobilize themselves and their support organizations towards their full and effective participation and representation in forest governance*



## TARGETS TO 2020



- Established official regular mechanisms for stakeholders and civil society engagement at the country and ASEAN level
- Supported local and provincial and national working groups with resources and capacity building programs
- Monitoring the achievement of national CF targets in ASEAN by reporting each country
- Established and expanded clearer definition of social forestry in protected areas/customary forest/land



## ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACT

## Engaging at Policy and Operational Levels in SF & CC at country and regional level



- Building and strengthening **multi-stakeholder community forestry partnerships** that would encompass supports in livelihood, tenure, an governance
- Institutionalizing the **inclusive structures and models of good forest governance with adequate safeguard measures**; provide adequate technical and financial resources
- **Accelerating community forestry awarding** to communities with adequate capacity- building, monitoring and learning programs; and
- Developing a **comprehensive value chain support** program and incentive program for priority community forestry enterprise sectors including capacity building, financing, etc.

## TARGET 1: Established official regular mechanisms for stakeholders and civil society engagement at the country and ASEAN level



- Majority of ASEAN countries have established official – national and sub-national SF multistakeholder working groups (Cambodia, Myanmar, Malaysia, Philippines), or specific sub-committees / task groups on related programs such as REDD+ (Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia), reforestation/ greening program (Philippines, Vietnam), FLEGT-VPA (Vietnam, Laos, Malaysia), NTFPs (Philippines, Lao PDR, Indonesia), and consultative or technical working groups that provide for representation of local and indigenous communities. Women representation however, is still lacking in these groups.
- The ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry (AWG-SF) upgraded from the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN), with a committed Plan of Action (POA) until 2020. Annual reporting towards the POA are undertaken and includes civil society contribution and examples of collaboration.

## TARGET 2: Supported local and provincial and national working groups with resources and capacity building programs



- Capacity-building support is available for social forestry and REDD-plus programs through external support and through general appropriation budgets (Cambodia, Philippines).
- The AWG-SF Strategic Response Fund (ASRF) has been channeled for a number of learning initiatives including on strengthening governance and stakeholder engagement to accelerate social forestry (Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia).
- Resources remain limited to be able to achieve fully the target for granting areas under social forestry. Social forestry programs still rely heavily on international and development funds to meet its targets.

## TARGET 3: Monitoring the achievement of national CF targets in ASEAN by reporting each country



- As of 2016, social forestry progress has reached at least 30% of the total target of around 30.2M hectares in ASEAN
- Remarkable leap taken by Indonesia with the recognition of hutan desa (village forests) and 18 customary forests of around 16,000 hectares within 2 years. Their target is now up to 12.7 million hectares.
- On the other hand, also in late 2016, Malaysia's federal court ruling defeated the bid of Dayaks to apply for native customary rights (NCR). This bid weakens the position for customary forest management even in States like Sarawak where NCR have been strongly pushed by indigenous people.
- Monitoring and accessibility of data of community forestry remains largely difficult – sometimes data is not even available, eg. Laos. Cambodia, on the other hand has maintained its annual reporting of CF statistics and collaborate with NGOs to produce the annual statistics. Thailand has a website where an update of registered CF can be found.
- A regional situation analysis produced by RECOFTC in coordination with the country CF departments, are available and accessible to CSOs.

## TARGET 4: Established and expanded clearer definition of social forestry in protected areas/customary forest/land



- There are variations of social forestry definitions across ASEAN but they all agree on the basic tenet of **engaging local people** in the sustainable management of forest resources. These typically include the **rights to utilize timber and non- timber products for domestic consumption or commercial purposes, the rights to participate in decision-making on forest use, and occasionally** the rights to lease, inherit, transfer or use the land as collateral (RECOFTC, 2017). In others, it extends to agroforestry activities but does not take a position about rotational farming / shifting cultivation.
- Where the definition is also commonly silent is of community managed forests definition also being located **within designated protected areas, nature reserves, national parks, and inclusive of local and indigenous community conserved areas (ICCAs)**, however under a different institutional mandate other than forestry. In Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, they maybe under the environment ministry or department rather than forestry. With these added scope of community forests, there are possible overlaps that need clear institutional arrangement. In some countries like Cambodia, comparable guidelines to CF, on process and procedures of establishing community protected areas have been developed, and collaborative management as another model of forest and protected area management of communities and local/state authorities are introduced in a new draft natural resources and environment code.

## CHALLENGES



- Sustaining social forestry without external forestry
- Limited capacity in governance functions, eg. monitoring and addressing conflicts
- Shifts in government resulting in movement of champions
- Rise in intra-ASEAN/FDI with its accompanying social and environmental costs; challenges in monitoring, resolving conflicts and reviewing ESIA's



## OPPORTUNITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS



- Operationalizing the multistakeholder platforms
- Strategic mobilization of resources
- Accessing funds under multistakeholder partnerships
- Continue CSO Forum engagement in policy monitoring
- Continue knowledge sharing and documentation of best practices
- Explore partnerships on key mechanisms : FLEGT, VPA, REDD+, PFES, Forest/NTFP certification, other
- Continue regional publication situational analysis of CF on a yearly basis – State of Social Forestry in ASEAN Report



7<sup>th</sup> Annual CSO Forum Meeting

**Communities hold the key to healthy and thriving forests!**

