

**CSO FORUM
ON SOCIAL
FORESTRY
IN ASEAN**

Civil Society Forum on Social Forestry in ASEAN

Forest Tenure and Access Rights

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Background



- Tenure refers to a bundle of rights that includes: access, use or withdrawal, management, exclusion and alienation (FAO 2006; RRI 2014 from Yasmi et. al., 2017).
- Several studies have already affirmed that having a secured tenure reduces risk and attracts sustainable forest management investments (RRI, various publications).

Background



Since 2012, a number of priority issues affecting indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities have already been identified by the CSO Forum:

- Land right conflicts between, governments (two governments) local peoples and investors (on boundaries), IPs and outside invests
- Rapid development in indigenous peoples' and forest dependent communities' territories
- Tedious process of recognition of IPs certificates and processing their tenure
- Overlapping management responsibility of government agencies boundaries
- Absence or weak recognition of tenure of indigenous peoples and local communities conserved areas and territories and their associated traditional knowledge
- Slow pace in terms of SF/CF implementation against national AMS targets

Thematic goal of forest tenure and access rights



- The CSO Forum under this theme envisions to see governments in ASEAN region **establishing and enforcing laws and regulations that ensure and protect indigenous peoples and local communities' access and tenure rights to their community-managed forest and customary lands.**

Targets until 2020



- **Target 1:** Establishing a lobby platform in ASEAN/AWG-SF on sustained dialogue on rights and access of indigenous and forest-based communities
- **Target 2:** Establishing a knowledge sharing/learning mechanism on tenure and forest access to promote awareness raising and advocacy and strategy development
- **Target 3:** Contributing to securing community land titles and community forest agreements

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACTS – Target 1



- Participating organizations have built good relationships and strategic engagements with development partners and key government institutions at the national and sub-national level
- Sustaining and strengthening a dialogue/platform in ASEAN/AWG-SF (through the CSO Forum) on rights and access of indigenous peoples and local communities

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACTS – Target 2



- Development of an Indigenous Community Conserved Areas (ICCA) Regional Learning Network across 5 countries to exchange information, tools and strategies on supporting territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities'
- Existence and sustained networks that pushes for awareness raising and strategy development - TWG on forestry (Cambodia) that is multi-stakeholder in nature; Sabah Social Forestry Network (SASOF) Malaysia, FORLAND (Vietnam)
- Advocacy efforts led to inclusion of communal land

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACTS – Target 3



- On-going revisions of key policies (Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam Indonesia) on customary land tenure management and Community Forestry/SF
- Social forestry integration in their national climate plans (e.g. NDCs of Indonesia)
- Expansion of community forestry areas and awarding of customary titles, and increase in SF area targets (Indonesia, Cambodia)
- Sustained policy advocacy and lobbying for the passage of key policies (e.g. ICCA bill in the Philippines, Environmental Code in Cambodia, Vietnam Forestry law, Thailand) that strengthens support for securing tenure rights and promotion of other sustainable management practices

Opportunities for action, collaboration with the AWG-SF and adopted strategies for forest tenure and access rights



1. Development, improvement of relevant policies, mechanisms

- Encourage AWG-SF stakeholders simplifying the process of Social Forestry/Community Forestry (SF/CF) and tenure processing registration
- Supporting the establishment of co-management areas, indigenous peoples and local communities' conserved areas and territories, and other proven management and governance arrangements in forested landscapes

2. Securing funds to support policy advocacy campaigns

- Support (financial, technical) on campaigns of indigenous peoples, local communities, and CBFM Peoples Organizations to effectively promote tenure and access rights
- Co-develop programs that assist communities to secure

3. Capacity building

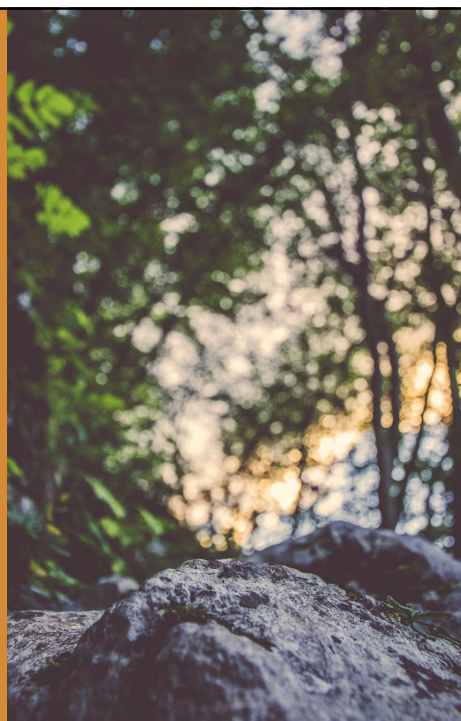
- Allocate funds for capacity building for CSOs for advocacy and lobbying



7th Annual CSO Forum Meeting

THANK YOU!

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACTS



- Recognition of the rights Customary ownership recognized in Vietnam
- Existence of TWG on forestry (Cambodia) that is multi-stakeholder in nature
- In 2016, prohibition of shifting cultivation was lifted (Myanmar) under the ministry of MONERCS but prefer rotational farming
- Clearer management: Community Protection Areas is under ministry of environment; Community Forestry – Ministry of agriculture, fishery, and forestry; approved funding for CPA 1,000 USD/year for 1 community but need to be applied by 2019

Thailand

- livelihood and culture, IPs and communities are allowed to managed their land, for e.g. community-based livelihood
- There is on-going land reform on developing a communal land, to allow people in living in protected area

Role of the AWG-SF/Recommendations



- Expanding rights of local communities, submit a recommendation to regional level
- Lobby to Simplify the process of tenure recognition of local communities and indigenous
- Encourage AMS to amend their laws based on current international agreements
- Allocate funds for capacity building for CSOs for advocacy and lobbying – e.g develop a program and encourage fund mobilization for this
- AWG-SF to participate more on other regional discussion related to Ips
- More IP representation in ASEAN related meeting particularly on tenure
- Promote gender responsive framework on tenure
- Encourage government to allocate funds for IPs and local communities – for traditional forest protection and management