



7<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
of the  
**CSO Forum  
on Social Forestry  
in ASEAN**

24-25 June 2018  
Danang, Vietnam

Organized by:



With support from:



## Brief Background the CSO Forum

Since its establishment in 2012, the Civil Society Organizations Forum on Social Forestry (CSO Forum) in ASEAN has served as a platform for local communities, indigenous people's organizations, and civil society organizations to communicate key messages to the ASEAN member states through the ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry (AWGSF). The Forum was also considered as a regular event prior to the AWGSF Conference and Annual Meetings. The platform has contributed to a more people-centered forestry in ASEAN particularly sharing policy lessons and field experiences on the themes of Community Economy and Livelihoods, Forest Tenure and Access Rights, Governance Mechanisms, and Safeguards. The Forum has been annually participated in by up to 40 organizations from 8 countries in Southeast Asia.

In 2016, during its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Palawan, Philippines, The Forum has affirmed its **vision** to have an *"Empowered and resilient indigenous peoples and forest-dependent local communities in ASEAN with secure 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 in forestry"*



CSO Forum Goals	
COMMUNITY ECONOMY AND LIVELIHOODS	Sustainable community forest based livelihoods in ASEAN secured and self-reliant community forest enterprises effectively engaging and equitably benefitting from trade through mainstreaming in ASEAN economic policies & programs.
FOREST TENURE AND ACCESS RIGHTS	Government 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.
GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS	Realization of self-mobilization of indigenous peoples and local communities and their organizations towards participatory and effective forest governance.
SAFEGUARDS	Recognition of customary forests and the adoption and implementation of FPIC in line with the UNDRIP as a minimum standard, as well as development of safeguard policies, measures, and mechanisms on social forestry.

## Highlights from the Previous CSO Forum Meeting

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the CSO Forum on Social Forestry in ASEAN last June 9-10, 2017 in Chiangmai, Thailand, gathered over 60 participants from 40 organizations in 8 ASEAN countries and developed its capacity on relevant social forestry implementation experiences in their respective countries, including community rights to forests and improving forest-based livelihoods.

Capacity building sessions on communications, engaging regional actor and institutions, policy research techniques, advocacy skills, communication, and messaging were conducted for the CSOs and IPOs and POs to sharpen their advocacy and communications agenda.

The Forum was also successful in developing country updates underscoring national and sub-national developments, and developing and elevating key recommendations to the AWGSF specifically on:

- providing secure access and tenure to indigenous and local communities
- simplifying the process of Social Forestry/Community Forestry (SF/CF) and tenure registration
- supporting calls beyond food security but to include also food sovereignty
- establishing regional process to protect intellectual property rights (IPR) and conflict resolution
- establishing value chain support and providing technical support and capacity building incentives for Micro Small, and Medium Enterprises in SF areas or Community Forest Enterprises; and
- adopting voluntary guidelines on business and human rights

The CSO Forum's collaborative, multi-sectoral engagements, has continuously been advocating and successful in pushing for recommendations at the regional level. Majority of these calls were adopted by the AWGSF in its annual conference and meeting, and subsequently elevated to the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF).

# The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the CSO Forum on Social Forestry in ASEAN

## Brief Background

Forests provides rural economies with variety of support in terms of economic growth, employment, food security, including climate change mitigation and adaptation. The World Bank estimates that more than 1.6 billion<sup>1</sup> people across the globe depend on forests for their livelihoods on varying degrees. From the overall estimates, researches and statistics suggest that indigenous peoples living in and around the forest account to a range of 200 million<sup>2</sup> to 370 million. Working and living closely within the forest, they are the key holders, purveyors and practitioners of traditional knowledge in the case of crafts, locators and protectors of resources such as food, medicinal plants, and other NTFPs that can be found in the forest.<sup>3</sup> They have the potential to contribute to the achievement of these plans with proper support, platform and recognition. There are rich experiences, innovations and lessons learned by CSOs, indigenous peoples and local communities that work together on sustainable forest management, promotion of traditional ecological knowledge, sustainable non-timber forest enterprises and safeguarding community, biodiversity and carbon in REDD+ implementation, including climate change<sup>4</sup>.

At the global level, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which highlights goals agreed by countries to end poverty, protecting the planet and ensure prosperity for all, emphasized the important contribution and role of CSOs, indigenous peoples and local communities in achieving its targets within the next 15 years. Relevant SDG targets were the work are being done are ending poverty (SDG1), zero-hunger (SDG2), climate action (SDG13), life on land (SDG15), and partnerships for goals (SDG17) among others. Further, indigenous peoples and local communities' platform was also recognized in the recently concluded 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. At the regional level, Social forestry provides significant contribution to global targets for climate change mitigation and adaptation and is one of the already proven mechanisms to achieve sustainable forest management, with national and sub-national gains and developments that are reported and documented.

Despite these, challenges and issues remain to be resolved, most especially at the local and grassroots level. Through the CSO Forum platform, critical bottlenecks in social forestry were identified at the regional level. For instance, absence or weak recognition of tenure of

<sup>1</sup>See [http://www.forestpeoples.org/sites/fpp/files/publication/2012/05/forest-peoples-numbers-across-world-final\\_0.pdf](http://www.forestpeoples.org/sites/fpp/files/publication/2012/05/forest-peoples-numbers-across-world-final_0.pdf) page 7

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.forestpeoples.org/sites/fpp/files/publication/2011/07/victoria-tauli-corpuz-tebtebba-speech-lombok-indonesia-july-2011.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> See <https://ntfp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Voices-from-the-Forest-Issue-No.-33-web.pdf> page 23

<sup>4</sup> <http://blogs.worldbank.org/publicsphere/how-civil-society-and-others-achieved-paris-climate-agreement>

indigenous peoples and local communities conserved areas and territories and their associated traditional knowledge, making forest dependent communities more vulnerable to conflicts due to public and private development projects, in most countries, there is still weak and unclear institutional cooperation and coordination among government bodies implementing and providing support for social forestry activities. Further, shifting cultivation as sustainable forest land management practice remains to be recognized despite documented evidence, among others.

As it enters its 7<sup>th</sup> annual meeting and the final year of ASFCC program support, the CSO Forum will be reviewing its accomplishments vis-à-vis its targets and plans particularly since the last three (3) years when the CSO Forum has begun more concrete messaging and engagement with the AWG-SF. Similarly, it will also try and review its affirmed recommendations and will reflect on what has been achieved and identify the gap areas at the country level.

More importantly, there is a need to come to a consensus about maintaining the CSO Forum as a platform and its forward agenda and coordination from 2019 onwards. In 2017, the Forum affirmed the value of the platform as link to the key regional bodies such as the AWGSF and the ASOF, and the need to maintain open, collaborative and innovative partnerships with ASEAN forestry stakeholders, in particular. It also saw the CSO Forum as a forum to link beyond AWGSF but also potentially to other relevant regional and international intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder bodies and fora. Through the CSO Forum, the platform may continue to advance social forestry as an effective mechanism and catalyst, to achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation, and finally to consolidate and elevate CSO calls to action on ASEAN level issues and concerns in connection with existing regional plans on forestry, and international commitments, such as the ASEAN Plan of Action on Social Forestry, ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on Forestry and ASEAN commitments and support to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda particularly on SDG 13 (Climate Action) and 15 (Life on Land) and linking to SDGs 1 (Ending Poverty), 2 (Zero-Hunger) and 17 (Partnership in SDGs).

## **Location and Theme**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the CSO Forum on Social Forestry in ASEAN will be held in Da Nang, Vietnam on 24-25 June 2018 with the theme "***Sustaining Collaborative and Innovative People-centered Actions and Contributions in NDCs and the Sustainable Development Goals.***" It is organized by the Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme Asia and the People and Nature Reconciliation (Pan Nature), in partnership with the CSO Forum on Social Forestry Country and Thematic Working Groups, Centre for Sustainable Development in the Mountainous Areas (CSDM), FORLAND, the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) with support from the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) through the ASFCC program, McKnight Foundation, and additional support from MRLG, V4MF Program of RECOFTC, and NORAD.

## **Objectives**

The overall objective of the Forum is to discuss, distill, consolidate, and elevate messages and learnings of CSOs, IPOs, POs, and smallholders on Social Forestry and climate change, analyze and review and assess the status of social/community forestry in the different countries, and evaluate the progress of the CSO Forum and the AWGSF vis-à-vis targets and plans, and affirmed recommendations

The 7<sup>th</sup> CSO Forum on Social Forestry specifically aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Provide a platform for knowledge sharing and exchange among CSO Forum participating organizations on:
  - a. Status of the Community/Social Forestry at the country level - review and develop a country community forestry 'report card' on milestones, targets vs. achievements, progress, gaps, and responses to challenges, and areas that needed support;
  - b. Assess the progress of the countries in linking Social Forestry into their NDC
  - c. Thematic working group updates – consolidate status and plans on the CSO forum thematic focus;
2. Increase the knowledge and skills of participating organizations on selected CSO Forum thematic priority learning areas;
3. Agree on a consensus on the future plans and role of the CSO Forum platform beyond 2018 and;
4. Develop and formulate key messages and recommendations for endorsement to the AWG-SF on its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and other relevant bodies in ASEAN.

## **Expected Outputs**

At the end of the Forum's meeting, the following outputs are expected to be achieved:

1. Developed a country and thematic level CSO Forum 'report card' on the status and contribution of the Forum to Community/Social Forestry and the status of AWGSF-affirmed CSO forum recommendations at the regional level handed over and reported to the AWGSF;
2. Developed concrete actions, roles and succeeding steps in sustaining the CSO Forum platform
3. Increased and enhanced knowledge of participating organizations on identified capacity building/skills sharing;
4. Formulated and endorsed key recommendations on four major themes at the regional level to the AWG-SF are accepted and major recommendations/inputs are elevated to the ASOF, SOM-AMAF and other relevant ASEAN working groups and bodies

## Expected Participants

An estimated 50 - 70 CSO, NGO, IPOs and POs country-based representatives and CSO Forum participating organizations coming from the 8 ASEAN countries are expected to attend the Forum. They will be joined by their respective country coordinator and thematic leads of the Forum. Tentative list of participating organizations includes the following:

Country	Tentative List of Participating Organizations
Philippines	NTFP-EP Philippines, National CBFM PO Federation, IDEAS, SPABP and other indigenous organization or NGO endorsed by the Philippine participating organizations (working group if active)
Indonesia	NTFP-EP Indonesia, WARSI, HuMa and other indigenous organization or NGO endorsed by the Indonesian participating organizations (working group if active)
Malaysia	NTFP-EP Malaysia, JOAS, PACOS Trust, and other NGO/ PO to be endorsed by the Malaysian participating organizations (working group if active)
Thailand	IPF, IMPECT, IWNT or SDF or Indigenous Peoples Foundation for Education and Environment and other NGO or indigenous organization endorsed by the Thai participating organizations (working group if active)
Cambodia	NTFP-EP Cambodia, NGO Forum, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) – Cambodia, Indigenous Peoples Working Group on REDD+, and other NGO or indigenous organization endorsed by the Cambodian participating organizations (working group if active)
Myanmar	POINT, MERN, AFFM and other NGOs and people's organizations endorsed by the Myanmar participating organizations (working group if active)
Vietnam	CSDM, Pan Nature, VTIK, FORLAND, and other NGO or indigenous organizations endorsed by the Vietnam participating organizations (working group if active)
Laos	GDA and GCA or CKSA and other NGO/ PO to be chosen by the Laos constituency
Regional	NTFP-EP Asia, AIPP, AFA, RECOFTC, MRLG, and others

## Forum Design

The 2-day Forum will be sub-divided into **facilitated Country presentations, thematic learning seminar, a report card and assessment of progress against the AWG-SF plan, commitments, and foregoing recommendations, policy development discussions, and lastly capacity building/skills sharing.** SF/CF products and knowledge materials will also be showcased from participating organizations through establishment of knowledge and partners' products corner.

**Day 1** will focus on country and thematic updates, CSO Forum report card, capacity building sessions and developing the CSO Forum key statement. **Day 2** will be a thematic dialogue-seminar and shall have a broader participation to include AWG SF members, ASFCC partners and other stakeholders. Short country exchanges/meetings among the CSO hosts/participating organizations and AWG focal points will be organized preceding the 24-25 June CSO Forum/seminar.

The CSO Forum shall also contribute to the 1-day ASFCC organized conference on  
**“Harnessing the Potential of Agroforestry for a Prosperous and Resilient ASEAN”** on  
June 26, 2018 in Danang, Vietnam.