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The Global Support Initiative to Indigenous Peoples and Community-Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCA-GSI)

Title of Workshop: The ICCA Knowledge Sharing & Capacity-building Event for Southeast Asia

Level: Regional

Place: Lombok, INDONESIA

Date: 17-22 August 2015



Background:

Southeast Asia is a cradle of ancient cultures, home to hundreds of millions of people and one of the world's biologically mega-diverse regions. Naturally, it includes a myriad of territories and areas that are customarily governed, managed and conserved by its indigenous peoples and communities, also known as ICCAs. In the recent decades, ICCA recognition have been increasing in the region and knowledge-sharing amongst ICCAs for various countries have been expanding. However, ICCAs in Southeast Asia still face challenges rooted from gaps in governance and policy support. In place of ruthless exploitation of natural resources and top-down conservation, many in the region call for strengthening local engagement in direct governance of natural resources, drawing from customary knowledge, wisdom and institutions and engaging in fair negotiations among partners. As such, the ICCA-GSI organized a regional workshop aimed at enhancing the capacities of multi-level stakeholders on ICCA-conservation opportunities in South-East Asia that are equitable and effective.

Workshop Participation and Activities:



The 5-day workshop was hosted by the Working Group ICCAs Indonesia (WGII) and co-organized by the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) and ICCA Consortium with additional financial assistance from World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Indonesia. Key actors from ICCA-GSI participating Southeast Asian countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam were joined by participants from Iran, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Taiwan, Timor Leste, and the United Kingdom to encourage a collective reflection on strengthening the support for ICCA recognition and effectiveness in the region - within and outside the framework of the ICCA-GSI initiative. Such key actors included indigenous peoples and local communities who govern and manage their ICCAs, relevant government agencies, civil society organizations and SGP National Coordinators.

The first half of the workshop focused on situational analysis of ICCAs in the four participating countries, knowledge exchange and training on



UNEP’s World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). It was followed by a field visit to East Lombok’s Awig Awig to join the Teluk Jor community for a participatory training on methods and tools (e.g. mapping). Subsequently, each country team developed regional and national action plans and presented them to each other to gather advice and recommendations from their peers. The peer-reviewed action plans became each country’s “Initiatives for ICCA learning & Action in Southeast Asia”, which were presented donors and ICCA-GSI key partners on the last day of the workshop and garnered further recommendations and action points for collaboration and support.

The workshop’s discussion points heavily focused on the situation analysis of ICCAs in each of the participating countries. Some examples include: in the **Philippines – one of the world’s biodiversity hotspots**, which along 17 other countries hosts 70% of the global biodiversity, there are progressive policies that respect the rights of indigenous peoples. The Indigenous People Rights Act of 1997 (IPRA) recognizes the rights of indigenous peoples to own their ancestral land, get a communal title, traditionally manage/control/use/protect their lands as well as their value in ensuring ecological balance. However, gains from IPRA and other pro-IP policies secured by indigenous communities have been equally held back by anti-IP policies such as the Mining Act of 1995, which

3. Current Situation of ICCA in Malaysia

- No tenure security on their Native Customary Right (NCR) lands:
 - Destruction of their water catchment, mangrove forest-livelihood.
 - Cut-off date on proving their NCR.
- Fast track project -Communal title and poverty eradication:
 - No grassroots level and customary aspiration
- Overlapped with state parks, forest reserve, estates and concessions
- Degradation of traditional knowledge- due to top bottom implementation

allows 100% foreign ownership of mining areas and thus, diluting the authority of IPs in governing their ancestral domains. Moreover, the historical low budgetary allocations to the IPRA have limited this policy to be put to practice. In **Malaysia**, the biggest challenge faced is the absence of land tenure for most ICCAs. As such, lands can be taken away at any time if the government wants to use the land, even for environmentally-destructive purposes such as mining. Since all ICCAs in Malaysia overlap with plantations, indigenous lands may be part of joint venture project expansions, but participation from indigenous people is absent. Moreover, there are no appropriate budgetary allocations except for mining purposes.

Outcomes:

As a result of the workshop, there is increased shared understanding on the following: (i.) the main ICCA types and characteristics in South East Asia; (ii.) the conditions (threats and opportunities) they commonly face and a range of appropriate responses to such conditions at different levels; (iii.) ICCAs as a form of governance for protected and conserved areas and its relevance in fulfilling national engagements to the Convention on Biological Diversity with particular correlation to Aichi Targets 11, 14 and 18; (iv.) the ICCA-GSI initiative and the specific roles of key partners including support to national strategic backing, technical advice, and procedures for proper national validation of ICCAs and submission to UNEP



WCMC's ICCA Registry; (v.) strengthened support and networking system for ICCAs focusing on the varied ICCA community capacities, self-recognition, analysis, monitoring and evaluation as well as ICCA communication via exchange visits, radio programs, social media, photo stories and videos to be developed by the ICCA communities themselves; (vi.) increased support on establishing national ICCA networks, coalitions and federations as well as identification and advocacy of specific legal, political and other types of measures to meet ICCA needs.

The [ICCA-GSI](#) is a multi-partnership initiative that is delivered by the UNDP-implemented Small Grants Programme ([SGP](#)) and funded by the Government of Germany, through its Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety ([BMUB](#)). Key partners include the United Nations Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre ([UNEP WCMC](#)), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Global Programme on Protected Areas ([IUCN GPAP](#)), the [ICCA Consortium](#) and the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity ([CBD](#)).



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