Where We are

In 2018, we worked with 117 Partners, supporting 201 Communities across Southeast Asia.
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*Photo front cover by Eka Tresnawan*  
*Photo back cover by Sandika Ariansyah*
Message from Executive Director

Dear friends and colleagues,

2018 was another exciting year for us, with many inspirations from our partners that give us the energy and hope to keep moving towards our vision and mission. Allow me to quickly share some of these achievements.

In Indonesia, the partnership between KPH Biak, and CSOs (Mnukwar and Rumsram) has been an exemplary model of how well community, government, and CSOs can work together. They managed to sustain an ecotourism programme in Sepse village to discourage arbitrary forest clearance. In parallel, KPH Biak has launched eucalyptus oil as a sustainable forest product there. Meanwhile in Northern Mindanao, Philippines, Samdhana has supported sessions to reflect on indigenous self-rule in the Higaonon community in the three ancestral domains. In short, the reflections have reinforced moves to re-assert the gender balance in community decision making.

Samdhana supported several important traditional celebrations by indigenous peoples in 2018, such as Tagbanwa Food Festival during the Town Fiesta of Coron, in Palawan in the Philippines; and annual festival of local culture and traditions by POKJA OAT in Nusa Tenggara Timor.

At landscape level, we have been able to encourage the piloting of ecosystems services’ payment in the Cagayan de Oro River Basin (Philippines) through the SHIELD project. In other case, the local government of Tamrauw in Indonesia’s West Papua province has passed two regulations acknowledging indigenous peoples and their territories, and the need to conserve the forests which still cover about 90% of the 1.2-million-hectare district. These regulations are milestones towards a sustainable district development model. The birdwatching ecotourism runs by the Miyah tribe in Ayapokiar village is an example of how these regulations applied.

In October at the Global Land Forum, the Indonesian government restated its commitment to agrarian reform and indigenous peoples land tenure. 4,786 social forestry licenses covering 1.9 million hectares granted, and 5 million hectares of land titled under the agrarian reform scheme were reported. Much remain to be done. Our partners in Sigi, Sulawesi (Indonesia) continue to support the work to secure land rights inside Lore Lindu National Park while dealing with the aftermath of the September tsunami. Samdhana has also provided supports for early responses through our CSO partners in Laos, the Philippines and Indonesia, following several natural disasters in the region in 2018.

Along with all aforementioned achievements, in this annual report you will also read stories from Samdhana Fellows on lesson-learning processes and about a successful dance campaign “Sayaw Walis” launched in November 2018 in Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines. There are also updates on several of our fellows. Dr. Hilly Roa Quiaoit, for instance, was awarded The Outstanding Filipino for Environmental Conservation in December 2018. While another fellow, Antonio (Tony) B Quizon was recognized for his outstanding work.

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1 In Indonesia, a KPH (Kesatuan Pengelolaan Hutan) is a unit of the Forestry Ministry in charge of managing a specific area of forest land.
2 In the words of Datu Tony, one of the group’s leaders: “Ito lang ang proyekto na pinahalagahan ang aming katutubong pamamahala bilang simula sa pag-implmenta ng programa, at ito ang katuparan ng aking pangalawang buhay” (This is the only project that has sincerely considered following our traditional governance processes as a starting point for project implementation and this project is the realization of my life).
3 This seems more relevant scale to manage natural resource, such as watershed area, instead of governmental boundaries, such as districts or townships, or private sector permits or licences.
4 Sustainable and Healthy Integrated Ecosystem through Lobby and Advocacy.
5 There are two short films on these in Indonesian and local languages with English subtitles, at, at https://youtu.be/bK1FDDliG2k and https://youtu.be/Oy7hth057ic
6 Tony describes his work in an interview availed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTgmBUPWi-l&t=15s
commitment as a development worker, land activist, education mentor for lands rights in the Philippines and Asia at the Global Land Forum in October 2018. Another Samdhana Fellow in the Mekong, Melody Kemp, continues to produce creative materials to foster children’s appreciation and awareness of elephants. Her book “Surfing the Hills” was published in 2017. The video format will hopefully be produced as well to engage a wider young audience. We would like to share more on the initiatives of Fellows in future as we work to improve our communications.

To conclude, we look forward for the interesting twist and turns in what future might bring. Certainly, we will continue the journey alongside with our partners, CSOs, Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and governments of the Philippines and Indonesia and Mekong into a better, more sustainable and equitable world in 2019.

Cristi Nozawa
Becoming a Learning Organization

As an organization we continue to reflect on our experiences as well as Partners. Learning and reflection help us to strengthen and transform our work, to harness emerging opportunities and be responsive to the many challenges.
Every interaction between Samdhana and Partners provides an opportunity for learning. Annual Partners’ Meetings are such opportunities. The Partners Meeting in Bandung on September 20 – 21, 2018, were attended by community and CSO members from Sumatra, Java, Kalimantan, Nusa Tenggara, Sulawesi, and Papua. Partners shared their insights on land tenure policy work, and reflected on what have been effective for the different contexts of each community. While there are accomplishments to date, such as obtaining customary recognition, the Village Forest in West Kalimantan for example, has so far only secured about 20% of the 1.2 million hectares forest area. In Papua and West Papua, the Special Autonomy Law (Otsus Law) and Sectoral Law have to be harmonized similar to the collaborative effort in Jayapura Regency, Papua, where a task force to accelerate indigenous people recognition (GTMA) was established and a roadmap was crafted. Today, GTMA is conducting mapping in 6 (six) indigenous territories out of 14 indigenous territories in Papua Regency and empowering their customary institutions. Samdhana Fellow Dr. Satyawan Sunito concluded that, whichever policy is chosen by a community: whether social forestry or agrarian reform, it should promote sustainable management of natural resources and equitable development of people’s welfare.

Meanwhile, stories of village cooperation in Laos were common during the Laos Partners Meeting in October 2018. Villagers encountered similar difficulties in implementing their grant projects, such as budget shortfalls, uncooperative local authorities, lack of support from some village members, and lack of technical skills and equipment. To respond to this situation, Villagers banked on working together to complete their community projects. One story that stood out was the active participation of the women in Ban Phonxay for the repair of their water supply system. They helped in hauling materials when it became difficult for the trucks to get on site because of the muddy roads. Gaining confidence from their experience of successfully implementing their small grant projects, Partners expressed that they wish to continue to have their own projects and activities to help their villages. The participants identified their need for skills and knowledge in crop diversification and marketing local products, as well as for strengthening key organizational skills including financial management, project management, monitoring and evaluation, and core skills such as good communication, collecting information and analyzing problems.

Trust-building between Indigenous Peoples communities and organizations is still a basic and crucial element to have effective working relationships that go beyond the project. Given the highly sensitive situation of communities, the Philippine Partners identified collaboration opportunities, namely paralegal capacity development, census of Indigenous Peoples’ population nationwide, and consolidation of various Indigenous communities and groups to sustain efforts of Indigenous Peoples rights and environmental defenders. On the aspect of economic improvement, other Partners expressed the need for skills enhancement and sharing among Indigenous women, and lastly, Indigenous products trade fair.
The idea of Affinity Groups emerged from a reflection session during an Annual Fellows Gathering in 2016. It rose from a common desire to have focused discussions among Fellows working in similar fields or interests and locations. The goal of an Affinity Gathering is to increase communication, share learning and explore potential collaboration among Fellows on thematic areas or topics that are central to Samdhana’s interests.

Fifteen Fellows joined the first Affinity Gathering held on September 22-23, 2018 in a quiet highland area called EcoCamp in Bandung, Indonesia. A welcoming tea ceremony and mindfulness exercises started the day, followed by discussions and agreements on the topic, “Land and Tenure Rights in Indonesia”.

From the discussions emerged two areas of work: (1) Opportunities offered by the Ministry of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning for indigenous communities to gain collective rights through the Communal Rights (Hak Komunal) policy framework; and (2) Integration of terrestrial and marine natural resource management on small islands. A number of fellows agreed to increase efforts to get collective claims of indigenous peoples which have already been mapped into the government registration system by coordinating with the Ministry of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning, and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Another group of Fellows agreed to substantially increase work on coastal and marine tenure challenges.

The Fellows who joined the initial discussion unanimously agreed that the Affinity Gathering proved valuable and productive, and should be sustained. The relaxed atmosphere during break time also enabled the Fellows to reconnect with each other or make new acquaintances.
Fifteen (15) Fellows joined the first Affinity Gathering. Photo by Samdhana
The struggle for secure land rights has pre-occupied many Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for years, even decades, and continues today. 2018 marked significant victories for recognition of customary territories and commendable partnerships with government agencies, civil society actors and local organizations. Self-governance and local conflict resolution are other expressions of asserting rights over traditional land and ancestral domain.
Those strong words were spoken by Jayapura Regent, Mathius Awoitauw, during the launching of Jayapura Indigenous Peoples Task Force (GTMA) in Jayapura City on September 6, 2018. The words embody the stance of the Regent and the indigenous people of Jayapura Regency, that they possess adat (i.e., customary laws and culture), cultural wealth, and abundant natural resources. These are the natural and social assets that underpin the economic strength of indigenous society.

The economic and social development plans of the Jayapura government are rooted in adat. Their vision and mission were interpreted in a program of “Adat Membangun dari Kampung” (Adat is the foundation for village-based development) while the methodological approach and involvement of stakeholders in Jayapura Regency are described in the “Guidelines for Sub-district [ind: kecamatan/distrik] Development.”

As explained by the Jayapura Regent, “Indigenous people do not demand much from the government; they only need recognition of their existence and resources, so they can be partners with the regional government, especially in education, economy and tourism.”

The Jayapura regional government has issued a regional regulation that recognizes indigenous people’s existence, and strengthens their identity. In order to accelerate its implementation, an Indigenous People Task Force (GTMA) was formed. The establishment of the task force was proposed in the “Road Map for the Acceleration of the Recognition, Protection, and Empowerment of Indigenous Peoples in Jayapura Regency.”

Three pillars are expounded in a three-year action plan (2018 – 2021), which is intended to achieve the following: (1) Jayapura Regency government cooperates with development partners for acceleration of recognition, protection, and empowerment of indigenous people; (2) Jayapura Regency government recognizes indigenous territories and customary villages based on participatory mapping; and (3) Jayapura Regency government integrates indigenous villages into the workplans of the Government Agencies (RKPD) of Jayapura Regency. To support the GTMA initiative, Samdhana supports Participatory Mapping Network (JKPP) and a number of individuals to work as technical assistants for the regency government.
September 24, 2018 was an important day for Petrus Kenedi, a Temenggung (indigenous community chief) of Tae Village, Sanggau Regency, Indonesia.

On this National Farmer’s Day, he was invited to the National Palace as a representative of his indigenous community to receive the Decree of the Minister of Environment and Forestry on Customary Forest Recognition. This is an important achievement after a long process that the Ketumenggungan Tae People had undergone in collaboration with Dayakology Institute, Bela Benua Talino Institution, Perkumpulan Pancur Kasih (PPK), and AMAN West Kalimantan.

The objective of the Ketumenggungan Tae People is to secure recognition of their village and its land as a customary village, enabling them to continue sustainable management of the forests which cover 86% of their lands and retain their local wisdom. Specifically, they are committed to protect and manage Tiong Kandang Hill as a sustainable water reserve.

Part of the long process was the village mapping in 2013, supported by Sanggau Local Government and PPK, which identified eight settlements inside the village area. In 2015, the mapping culminated in a ceremony where Tae Village was recognized as a Customary Village by the Sanggau Regent.

The Sanggau Local Government, its technical agencies and various civil society organizations responded positively to this recognition and formed the Task Force for Agrarian Reform and Social Forestry Acceleration (GTRAPS) of Sanggau Regency. The Executive Office of the President assisted at the national level. Finally the Minister of Environment and Forestry issued Decree No. 5770/MENLHK-PSKL/ PKTHA-PSL-1/9/2018 on Customary Forest Recognition for Ketemenggungan Tae of Sanggau Regency on September 7, 2018 covering the entire 2,189-hectare forest.

The next task for the community is maintaining and utilizing the forest in accordance with customary wisdom, and with consideration to the needs of future generations. The Sanggau Regency through Task Force for Agrarian Reform and Social Forestry Acceleration (GTRAPS) has demonstrated the sort of government-community-NGO collaboration that could serve as an inspiration in handling land tenure problems in other regions. Samdhana, in collaboration with government and civil society organizations, continues to support this process.
Byak indigenous people of Papua, Indonesia, view the forests, seas and natural resources that have sustained them for generations as part of their territory.

Their perspective is affirmed with the recent agrarian reform policy of the government, which restructures land tenure, ownership and utilization to be more just and to give people more opportunities to govern their territorial assets.

In 2008, the Papua Governor issued Special Regional Regulation (Peraturan Daerah Khusus/Perdasus) No. 23 on Traditional Communal Rights and Individual Rights of Indigenous People over land. The implementation of this policy was pursued by the Rumsram Foundation and the people of Sup Fyor Awur, with support from Samdhana Institute. In a series of workshops and multi-stakeholder discussions, Rumsram facilitated the participatory mapping and recognition of the indigenous territory, with a pilot in the territory of the Bar Wamurem clan.

Mapping activities clarified boundaries of traditional communal rights over forest and land. They also conducted an inventory of natural resources (timber and non-timber forest products); social and cultural mapping; and revitalizing the Sup Fyor Awur customary council as the institution which would discuss and represent the people in agreements with other parties.

Mapping of the Sup Fyor Awur indigenous territory started in 2015 and was completed in 2018, covering 19,730 hectares. The mapping process involved, at various levels, the Byak customary council, Sup Masi people’s co-operative, traditional communal rights holders, the forest management agency (KPHL)7 of Biak Numfor and representatives of the Government of Biak Numfor Regency. The entire territory is now registered in the Indigenous Territory Registration Agency (BRWA) database.

The next steps toward recognition of the customary territory are to obtain a Regent’s Decree; strengthen the partnership with KPHL Biak Numfor on sustainable forest management; and to work with indigenous community members, including public figures and members of land-holding clans, to plan the management of the area. To this end, the communal rights holders of the villages of Sepse, Soon, Kajasbo, Sauri and Makmakerbo are being introduced to the value of planning the development of their indigenous territory and its natural resources.

7 KPH is a term which means an management area of forest in Indonesia based on the main function and use, which is an abbreviation of Kesatuan Pengelolaan Hutan. There are three types of the KPH, which are for the conservation forest, i.e. Kesatuan Pengelolaan Hutan Konservasi (KPHK), for the protection forest, i.e. Kesatuan Pengelolaan Hutan Lindung (KPHL), and for the production forest, i.e. Kesatuan Pengelolaan Hutan Produksi (KPHP).
On its tenth anniversary, October 29, 2018, the Tambrauw Regency Government declared the Regency an indigenous people-based conservation regency in West Papua.

On this occasion, Tambrauw Regent Gabriel Asem officially announced that two regional regulations had been completed as the legal basis for the recognition, namely: Regulation No. 05 of 2018 recognizing Tambrauw as a Conservation Regency, and Regulation No. 06 of 2018 on the Recognition and Protection of Traditional Communal Rights in Tambrauw Regency. The declaration marked a new development direction for the regency and an opportunity for indigenous people to demonstrate how respect and protection for traditional communal rights over land and other natural resources could lead to improved management aligned with sustainability principles.

Regulation No. 06 recognizes five original tribes and one Biak community that manage land and natural resources in Tambrauw. The policy is aligned with customary practices such as sasi, identification of pemali [taboo] places, and wuon customary education.

The regional government has actively and seriously supported strengthening customary institutions and clarifying rights over indigenous territory through customary courts. Over the last two years, local non-government organizations such as Aka Wuon and Marwas Nath have mapped four clan areas covering 45,522 hectares. Through their facilitation, these areas have now been put forward to be recognized by Government as Customary Forest.

Additionally, the regional government has promoted several priority green economy investments, such as micro-hydro power plants, local food-based agricultural industries, and ecotourism at Ayapokiar (Miyah District). In the agricultural sector, a coconut processing industry producing virgin coconut oil and white copra is being tested by Ye Iwa Cooperative at Hopmare village. This effort was also supported by the Urban Development Institute (URDI) and the Samdhana Institute, which facilitated the on-going development of a Road Map for Green Investment for the Tambrauw regional government.

Now that Tambrauw has declared itself a Conservation Regency, the Director General of Natural Resources and Ecosystems at the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Wiratno, has encouraged the preservation of its pristine forests and seas for sustainability and potential tourism development. He commended the communities for their willingness to work together with the regional government to make Tambrauw an attractive tourist destination.
At the core of the justice system of the Higaonon people is the simple principle of acting within an individual’s limits. Going beyond what an individual is entitled to could possibly affect another person, which is why each has to understand and follow his or her own boundaries.

The Higaonon communities of Mindanao, Philippines, have what they call gantangan or sukdanan. This is their instrument for measurement. When an individual or a group is accused of committing a crime, their act is weighed against the ‘gantangan’ to see if indeed, he or she went beyond what is just.

This traditional justice system is one of the many aspects of indigenous systems that the Indigenous Governance at the Forefront of Conservation (IGFC) project aims to strengthen.

In October 2018, under the IGFC Project, the Higaonon Community leaders of Cagayan de Oro City performed a Panliteb to resolve conflicts within their Ancestral Domain. Panliteb is one of the highest rituals of the Higaonon. It is a way to resolve historical conflicts that are burdening the new generation of community leaders. The ritual is also carried out with a gantangan as the reminder of the limits of the Higaonon communities and individuals — a reminder that after their conflict was resolved, they are not allowed to go against and beyond what has been agreed on by the parties.

The panliteb was performed after the communities concluded that their efforts towards consolidation were not able to progress because of the enmity among themselves. This enmity had started with conflicts between their elders who are no longer with them. The term ‘liteb’ means ‘to bury’ in Higaonon, and through the Panliteb, the community ‘buries’ the conflict after an agreement has been negotiated. The ritual was performed by several baylan (spiritual leaders). Community leaders and elders were also present to witness and help in the pangapog and pandalawit (prayers and request) to Magbabaya (God the father) and Molin-olin (spirits).

The Samdhana Institute has worked with the Indigenous Peoples in Northern Mindanao for many years. The IGFC project aims to enable Higaonon communities to effectively govern and protect their ancestral domains and the forests within them. Its specific objectives are to a) strengthen the indigenous political structure, b) empower the indigenous women and youth, c) support the identification and delineation of forest and production/ livelihood zones within the Higaonon ancestral domains, and d) promote forest management, resource utilization and development which is informed by indigenous knowledge systems and practices and enhanced with science-based methods.

The project was conceived and is being implemented with the guidance of the Kagduma hu mga Higaonon Inc. (KAGDUMA). The partner Higaonon communities are the Unified Cagayan de Oro Ancestral Domain District 1 (formerly UNIHITRICO), Dulangan Ancestral Domain, and the Bukidnon Indigenous Cultural Communities Ancestral Domain.
Samdhana participated in at least 4 (four) major events that brought together various stakeholders and community partners for dialogue and vibrant exchanges. First, is the Global Land Forum (GLF) 2018 in Bandung, Indonesia on September 24-26, 2018. Secondly, is the International Conference on Biodiversity, Creative Economy and Ecotourism (ICBE) in Manokwari on October 8 – 10, 2018. Third, is the National Environmental Dialogue on Landscape Governance, entitled “Geography of Governance: Landscape and Resource Management”, convened by the Forest Foundation Philippines on July 10-11, 2018 in Manila, Philippines. Last but not least, is The Global Climate Forum (CoP 24th UNFCCC, Katowice). These events resulted in shared aspirations and directions for collaboration that address global interests on land security, biodiversity conservation and landscape governance.
The Samdhana Institute co-sponsored the Global Land Forum (GLF), which was jointly organized by the Ministry of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Office of the President and 12 civil society organizations, led by the Consortium for Agrarian Reform (KPA).

In our perspective, the Global Land Forum 2018 provided an opportunity to monitor on the progress of 9.000.000 ha (nine million hectares) for agrarian reform and 12.7 million hectares for social forestry, including the recognition of customary forest. This target is a breakthrough within the National Long-Term Development Plan (2014-2019) to reinforce agrarian reform and natural resource management.

The GLF is expected to push forward a more people-centered land governance at the national and global level. The event succeeds to formulate the 2018 Bandung Declaration; to push forward the Presidential Decree No. 86/2018 as an implementing guideline for Agrarian Reform processes at the central and village levels; and there was a special session dedicated for indigenous peoples’ movements and women’s movements at the global level. The participants also highlight the implementation of the new UN Declaration on the rights of small-scale farmers and other people working in rural areas.

Next, Samdhana Institute sponsored a session on “Recognition and Protection of Traditional Communal Rights and their Contribution in Sustainable Natural Resources Governance” at the International Conference on Biodiversity, Creative Economy and Ecotourism (ICBE). The session brought up challenges in on-going cases and stirred up discussions towards a more applicable solutions, such as in identifying natural products with markets and economic potential that could be developed sustainably for the indigenous community, such as coffee in Wamena, ecotourism at Samares Beach, Biak and at Aiapokiar in Tambrauw Regency, as well as coconut oil production in Hopemare village of Tambrauw.

Later in the National Environmental Dialogue on Landscape Governance (Manila), Samdhana hosted sessions on “Governing Forests Sustainably in the time of the ‘New Normal’” and on “Multi-stakeholder Management,” as well as co-hosting the session on “Ancestral Domain, Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Knowledge” with the Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Program (NTFP-EP). The government at that time were to adopt a federal model, and therefore all participants were challenged to consider all ongoing issues and potential impacts in forest and natural resource governance from the new perspective.

Lastly at the CoP 24th, Samdhana collaborated with Pak Nus Uku', an Indigenous Peoples’ leader from Maluku, Indonesia and Indigenous Peoples Caucus on the aspect of community rights and participation. The CoP agreed on the structure of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples (LCIP) Platform and further action to promote engagement of stewards of nature in global climate actions.

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8 Nus Uku’ is chair of the National Steering Committee for the Dedicated Grant Mechanism in Indonesia.
This year, Samdhana’s partners responded to a number of natural disasters in their localities. As local organizations, these Partners have the capacity and connections to reach out to families and individuals in the affected areas. Thus, they are positioned to be the early responders, often the first to reach the affected areas, and able to gather information and relay needs to other State and humanitarian responders. Local organizations are a vital link in fast-tracking emergency relief to affected families, and providing timely information.
Local Partners as Emergency Responders

**Attapeau Province, Laos**

On July 23, 2018, the Xepienxenamnoy hydropower dam in Sanamxay District, Attapeau Province, collapsed resulting in the flooding of seven villages along the Xepian River. The non-profit Green Community Development Association, a partner of Samdhana, was one of the local organizations which responded to the needs of displaced families, providing emergency equipment and water filters to around 200 families through the small grant.

**Lombok, Indonesia**

Lombok Island in West Nusa Tenggara suffered widespread damage from a series of earthquakes and aftershocks between 29 July 2018 and 19 August 2018. The earthquakes registered a scale of up to 6.5 magnitude. Thousands of people were injured, while almost half a million people were displaced. Eighty percent of the structures in Lombok, including houses, public buildings and social facilities were damaged. Samdhana supported the emergency response through its partner Santiri Foundation and WALHI in the city of Mataram. The total fund was $5,205 (in forms of equipment logistic such as tarpaulin, solar panel lamp, generator set, food and medicine, along with tools and utilities including supplies (props) for traumatic healing). Support was distributed in approximately 29 villages, in 3 districts (North Lombok, East Lombok and West Lombok).

**Sulawesi, Indonesia**

A 7.4-magnitude earthquake followed by a tsunami hit the west coast of the northern part of Sulawesi Island on September 28, 2018. The tsunami reached a maximum of 5 meters around the bay of Palu, while the earthquake caused major soil liquefaction, submerging buildings and causing deaths. The death toll reached 2,113 across the city of Palu, Donggala Regency, Sigi Regency, Parigi Moutong Regency and Pasangkayu Regency. An estimated 4,612 people were severely injured, while 223,751 were displaced. PB AMAN, a member of the Civil Society Coalition for Sul-Teng Bergerak, and Yayasan Merah Putih, were supported by Samdhana with the total fund of $7,673, along with hygiene kit, food and medicine, as well as water purifier.
When community members share a common regard for their natural and social assets, working together towards a common development goal is possible. Participatory processes to establish community-based and resource-based livelihoods result in more feasible and productive endeavors. Management plans for the utilization, protection, and promotion of these communal assets are important tools and provide a platform for the involvement of the community members, including women and youth.

Samdhana takes quiet pride in working with Indigenous and Local Communities who have invested in their own natural assets and harnessed their capacities to establish and develop sustainable enterprises. Not only do communities enjoy economic benefits from their initiatives, they also document and develop their traditional knowledge, with the aim that they can transfer this knowledge to the next generation, and leave behind a bountiful community that continues to reap the benefits from their natural and social assets.
Tagbanwa food culture is captured in essence in the term “silipeten.” It denotes the way of life of the Tagbanwa, who traverse the sea to search for their food, sourced from nature and created by God.

In August 2018, Calamian Tagbanwa women and youth from the ancestral domains of Calawit-Quezon, Panlaitan-San Isidro and Depelenged, set-up the “Lasa at Kwentong Calamian Tagbanwa” (Tastes and Stories of Calamian Tagbanwa) food festival event during the Coron town fiesta celebration.

The event promoted Tagbanwa traditional foods and the local food sources as assets in disaster risk reduction and preparedness. They brought food items such as “rimas” or breadfruit, banana blossoms, local varieties of oranges, other fruits used for flavouring, seashells, and others. They prepared traditional Tagbanwa delicacies such as “linupak” or ground breadfruit. Many of the visitors greatly appreciated the different foods and the unique taste of the Tagbanwa delicacies, especially the breadfruit. The community members eagerly shared information on the food preparation process and told stories about the food itself. They were very proud to share the food culture of the Tagbanwa.

An important part of Tagbanwa food culture is food safety. An example is a yam that they harvest, usually during the dry season. The yam is processed into flour or grains to remove the dioscorine toxin. The Tagbanwa women and youth aim to develop innovations in processing and preparing traditional root crops and other foods, so that these may serve as a food supply which is readily available during the monsoon or typhoon seasons and when natural disaster strikes. Through the project facilitated by Samdhana, community members ‘re-discovered’ and documented their various sources of food.

As a result, these traditional food sources have been included in the ancestral domain management plan of the Tagbanwa communities, for three purposes: ensuring preparedness during disasters, protecting and conserving traditional food sources, and re-kindling interest and promoting the food culture of the Tagbanwa. The project was supported by the TUKLAS Innovation Labs Philippines, with CARE International in the Philippines as the main partner.
Tourism is a leading sector in Indonesia. It is booming not only in big cities, but also in rural areas near savannas, forests and seas.

Samdhana Institute supports local partners in eastern Indonesia to develop a governance mechanism for new tourist attractions.

Naususu Mountain at Molo, South Central Timor Regency, East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia

Naususu marble mountain shines brighter today after the community of “Tiga Batu Tungku” succeeded in stopping the marble mining industry in the area. The community saw the potential of Naususu as a tourist attraction during the celebration to share the environmental struggle of the people. Although they had no experience of tourism, local communities were trained to become destination managers. The process of making Naususu a sustainable tourist area while protecting the local culture and preserving the natural beauty of the village took some time. Presently, the villages have started to welcome small groups of tourists.

Opersnondi Blue Lake and Samares Beach in Biak Numfor Regency, Papua Province, Indonesia

Ocean waves crash on the sand of Samares Beach in Biak Timur District, Biak Numfor Regency. Aside from its stunning beach, Samares has a hidden “treasure” — the Opersnondi blue lake, nestled in the midst of a lush forest. The clear blue water in this natural wonder glistens like a giant sapphire. The Samares area is one of several tourist destinations developed by Sepse Village Ecotourism Management Group, supported by Mnukwar Papua and Biak Numfor Protected Forest Management Unit (KPHL).

The tourism destination initiative started with a comparative study to a tourist location in Raja Ampat. The findings of the study helped communities appreciate the tourism potential of their own areas and to recognize that they have unique cultural interest, natural beauty and locally-made products.

The local government is quite active in supporting the tourism program in the area. They financed the construction of connecting roads, installation of potable water system, and other facilities for tourists. Sepse villagers and members of the ecotourism management group have also independently built facilities such as homestays.

In addressing its challenges and opportunities, the Samares tourism initiative has the potential to become a model of sustainable, community-based ecotourism. Samdhana will continue to support the Sepse Village Ecotourism Management Group in addressing:

- transparent administration in cash income from tourism;
- stakeholders need and aspirations;
- the Samares tourist area management based on its potential, carrying capacity and clan ownership.

The people of the island say, one who is mesmerized by the beauty of Biak will return, remembering (waswar ido Ruari wakaber).

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*This forum refer to three seats for three representatives in the community, which are the government, the religion and the local indigenous.
Moses Hongeare, a villager of Rimba Jaya, is skilled in distilling cajuput oil. Moses, together with ICS Ramberei farmers group and the KPHL Biak Numfor, ensures farmers in returning to logging activities but instead, generate sustainable income from eucalyptus cultivation and distillation. Rimba Jaya village is a eucalyptus (Melaleuca cajuputi) cultivation area in Biak Timur. It is managed by farmer groups assisted by KPHL Biak Numfor, in cooperation with Yogyakarta Research and Development Center of Forest Plants Biotechnology and Breeding, Maluku-Papua Social Forestry and Environmental Partnership Office (BPSKL-MP), and the agency for Control of Watershed and Protection Forest (PDASHL). In the last two years, the KOVARWIS farmers group was able to process cajuput oil using a distillation machine provided by BPSKL-MP. Distillation needs firewood, which is usually obtained from fallen or dead branches and twigs collected around the settlement. There has been almost no woodcutting or collection from the protection forest area since the villagers abandoned logging activities.

A systematic internal control system (ICS) was introduced to farmers in 2018 and is used to maintain their consistency in practicing organic farming. The farmer’s payment is done through the ICS registration system. The cajuput oil from Rimba Jaya is sold in Biak and Manokwari under the brand name “Farkin.” It is available in various pharmacies at Rp25,000 per 30 ml bottle. This achievement benefits the economy of families in Rimba Jaya and demonstrates that management coaching using local customary insights on the environment can work. It is also a testament to the successful cooperation of KPHL Biak Numfor, KOVARWIS and ICS Ramberei, who are working together to ensure all processes for the enterprise are running well.
Rattan Products from Kapuas Hulu Forest Out in the Market

Forty-year old Ratih listened intently as Ms. Nikmah and Ms. Susilawati explained wicker designs and the techniques for perfecting them.

Ratih was interested in honing her rattan weaving skills so she could produce quality products that are more marketable. She used to only weave rattan for her household needs, but now she is eager to innovate her craft using different raw materials. In April 2018, the People Resources and Conservation Foundation (PRCF) Indonesia and Samdhana Institute facilitated a training on rattan weaving for women including Ratih. The participants learned to improve their craftsmanship, and about sustainable rattan harvesting and utilization. The training was facilitated to support biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization of non-timber forest products like rattan.

The program covered three villages around the forest areas of Kapuas Hulu Regency, West Kalimantan: Nanga Lauk, Sungai Uluk Palin and Sungai Utik in Batu Lintang. The situation of the villages in relation to the forest is sensitive. Nanga Lauk’s management area is inside a limited production forest area and is managed under a Village Forest license. Part of Sungai Uluk Palin is in a Protected Forest area bordering Betung Kerihun National Park, while the management area of Sungai Utik is in a Production Forest area under a Customary Forest mechanism.

Although still at its infancy, the PRCF program was able to assist craftspeople to develop partnerships with the Office of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives and Small and medium-sized enterprises or UMKM (Usaha Mikro Kecil dan Menengah) of Kapuas Hulu Regency, Department of Industry and Commerce of West Kalimantan Province, and State-Owned Enterprises (BUMN (Badan Usaha Milik Negara)).

The village weavers have also participated in various exhibitions to promote wicker products at the local, national, and international levels. As the program progresses, it is essential to build the entrepreneurial spirit and ability of the village artisans to produce more interesting designs and quality products. There are challenges ahead, such as tough competition with plastic materials, irregular production, and relatively high cost of rattan products. However, there are also market opportunities available to seize and maintain, including online shops and special-interest tourism that attracts both domestic and foreign tourists to visit customary villages.
In the 100-hectare Pikul (Pengajid) customary forest in West Kalimantan, tengkawang trees, internationally known as illipe nuts, stand tall among various trees and orchards.

In this government-recognized forest, there are 1,500 tengkawang trees that produce 35 tons of fruits annually. Even more tengkawang fruits could be harvested from the Tembawang forest (a family forest), based on a survey conducted by Institut Riset Teknologi Hasil Hutan (INTAN), which recorded around 350 tons per harvest.

Villagers used to ignore tengkawang fruit because they thought it lacked economic value. A few villagers processed the fruits into buttery “oil” on a small scale, for traditional events and treatment needs. The Samdhana Institute, through INTAN, supported the communities in Pikul, particularly the Bekatik indigenous people at Melayang Hamlet of Sahan Village, Bengkayang Regency, to develop products from tengkawang fruits.

A modest processing center was constructed, equipped with a dryer, a 50 tons capacity fruit storeroom, a butter storeroom, and warehouses for flour-making and butter-making. There is also a hydraulic press from a college in Pontianak.

A management group has been trained on internal control systems to ensure food standard and quality. As a result, buyers from the local, national and international markets now recognize the potential of indigenous-produced butter. Visitors at the processing center also buy the butter.

A partnership with the Forestry Department of Tanjungpura University educates the youth of Sahan Village, who are heirs to the customary forest, on issues such as product diversification. At present, face masks and creams from tengkawang fruit butter are being produced in Paris by Oleo Green brand. On top of these developments, the State recognized Pikul customary forest through a decree given on March 28, 2018. The indigenous peoples of Melayang have become more certain that protecting their customary forest for their products is a way of protecting their own lives.
Project Update

A snapshot of ongoing initiatives in Samdhana
STR3AMS (Sustainable Ridge-River-Reef Advocacy and Management Society) is a culture-sensitive coalition of civil society organizations committed to a sustainable and healthy environment in Northern Mindanao, Philippines.

The Coalition advocates for enhanced governance transparency and community empowerment. Among its members are CSOs from the Tagoloan – Cagayan de Oro river basins, Macajalar Bay, and the Agusan-Cugman Cluster of Watersheds in Cagayan de Oro City.

STR3AMS Coalition was formally created on August 17-18, 2017 as part of a five-year project of the Green Livelihood Alliance (IUCN-Netherlands, Tropenbos International & Milieu Defensie), called SHIELD (Sustainable and Healthy Integrated Ecosystems through Lobby and Advocacy). Although project-initiated, the Coalition was created with the intention to continue the efforts beyond the project’s lifespan.

In Cagayan de Oro City, as well as in other provinces in Region 10, multi-stakeholder coalitions are not uncommon. The forerunner of the STR3AMS is the Cagayan de Oro River Basin Management Council (CDORBMC), which engages the local government units and other institutions towards better and coordinated governance of the river basin landscapes. At the outset of the coalition building process, the viability of a project-initiated coalition was questioned. The challenge lies in the different interests and contexts of each coalition member, which changes at varying points in time and may not always align with the overall direction of the coalition itself. Several meetings, exercises and planning activities have supported the STR3AMS coalition members to ensure that the growth of the Coalition goes beyond project activities. The attendance of the coalition members is not always consistent, and every once in a while, a new representative is sent, which can disrupt the continuation of a series of activities of the coalition. However, the coalition itself sees an opportunity in new ideas being contributed by new faces among its members.

Higaonon Indigenous Peoples are among the members of STR3AMS. One Higaonon leader said that the opportunity to engage other stakeholders and discuss about inclusive governance, and the important role of Indigenous Peoples in collaborating and managing their ancestral domain areas within the river basin, has rekindled his optimism that there will be increased recognition of their traditional territories.

Currently, the Coalition is focused on lobbying for the passing of an ordinance in Cagayan de Oro for Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES). This proposed ordinance will institutionalize small fees into water consumption bills to pay for environmental services. It also proposes to require industries and factories in the city to pay environmental fees or adopt other schemes such as “adoption of reforestation area”. The Coalition has started to engage in policy audit pertinent to environmental management in the river basins encompassed by STR3AMS.
Samdhana’s work with indigenous women in local communities aims to promote gender equity and social inclusion. This is a commitment integrated into the strategic direction of the Institute.

In August 2018, a first Gender Responsive Activities Planning Workshop was conducted for a group of Partners. It was attended by 15 women and 4 men with varied experiences and knowledge on gender equity. This was followed by an assessment of livelihoods and landscapes using the Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) perspective.

The process was replicated in several locations where Samdhana has partners, Papua, West Papua, NTT and West Kalimantan. The assessment involved women champions and individuals who understand GESI problems specific to their local context.

The assessment using GESI perspective is a process that reveals the way that men, women and marginalized groups attach meaning to livelihoods and landscapes. It aims to understand the various components and processes, and the roles they play at the individual, core family, extended family, or community level. The assessment framework is a seven-stage analysis, which looks at the landscape, livelihood resources and strategies and social relations to institutions and organizations. It also considers the context, trends and policies, impact of activities within the landscape and livelihood arrangement strategies and sustainable analysis.

The training enabled the participants to use the tool for their own planning, and the outcome of the regional assessments will be used to produce a Guide to Landscape and Livelihood Management using a GESI Perspective. Eventually, the guidance will be developed into a training module for CSOs working on gender and social development. As a result of the success of the approach, Samdhana aims to adopt the GESI as a framework of analysis and implementation to help mainstream gender equity and social inclusion in its programs and projects.

The Gender Equity and Social Inclusion tool assesses the landscape, livelihood resources, social relations, institutions, and organizations, livelihood strategies, trends, regulations and policies, impacts and sustainability.
Mama Aleta Fund (MAF) is a philanthropic institution founded by Aleta Bo’un, an environmental hero and a Goldman Environmental Prize recipient in 2013. Aleta set aside most of the prize money as an endowment for the MAF. The fund supports women and youth in protecting nature and livelihoods in eastern Indonesia.

The Mama Aleta Fund supports work related to developing or protecting water sources, food security, health and the capacity of women.

In 2018, Nausus (the local name for women environmental defenders) Mery Liem from Bon’Leu Village and Maria Sanam from Fatumnasi Village received funds for the movement they lead in their respective communities. They gained access to wider networks and capacity building through the MAF. Mery and Maria were selected from six applicants in a selection process that included interviews and field visits by a MAF team.

Samdhana supported a Visioning Workshop for the Nausus, facilitated by Perkumpulan PIKUL, Mery and Maria and their teams were able to sharpen their strategies and interventions for social change. Mery aims to help empower the women’s weaver groups as her entry point, while Maria aims to help strengthening local communities to address issues related to livestock. Mery and Maria will also join learning visits to other communities to learn from the experiences of other activists and communities.

The Mama Aleta Fund engaged in a number of promotional activities in 2018. An outreach event in Jakarta entitled “Tenun & Para Penjaga Identitas” (Weaving and the Guardians of (Mollo) Identity) was run on 28 August 2018, and a book of the same title, written by Siti Maimunah, was also launched during the event. The outreach was done in collaboration with Global Environmental Facility – Small Grants Program Indonesia, Teras Mitra, Weaving for Life, and Tim Kerja Perempuan Tambang (TKPT). It was attended by 80 participants and raised Rp. 9,000,000 (about USD 625) in donations.

MAF also participated in events such as the Global Land Forum in Bandung; Meet the Makers and Wallacea Week event at the National Library, Jakarta; Nusa Gastronomy in Kemang, Jakarta; and the Philanthropy Festival 2018 at Jakarta Convention Center.
The First Sayawalis Choreography Competition held on December 3, 2018 was a big success. But its biggest accomplishment was to validate that a simple mass motivational approach can catalyse response to address a complex social problem.

The strategy is rooted in fostering a rebirth of the value of respect within the core of every individual.

“Sayawalis” is a multi-tiered initiative jointly developed by the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro and the St Francis Xavier Chaplaincy of Pueblo in Cagayan de Oro City. Johnny “Ding” Cabreira, Samdhana Fellow, is one of the prime movers of the initiative. It is targeted at the basic education levels in the public and private schools and uses multimedia to educate pupils about spiritual and physical cleanliness to address social and environmental ends.

The program starts with a slogan making contest followed by a poster making competition depicting the concept of the winning slogan. The next stage is a song writing competition which is followed by music video production and photography competitions, together providing audio visual projections of the musical compositions. The program culminates with the “Sayawalis” Choreography Competition, where the winning song entry is played.

The winning entry becomes the theme song of the “Sayawalis” campaign. This year, the Department of Education Region 10 was a partner, and in August 2018, the campaign was implemented in ten public elementary and secondary schools in Cagayan de Oro City. Sayawalis is a coined word using the Tagalog root words: “saya” means happiness, “Sayaw” translates as “dance”. and “Walis” has two meanings, “broom” or the act of “sweeping” with a broom. In summary, Sayawalis depicts the joys of wielding the icon of cleanliness while dancing to music.

“Sayawalis” is the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro’s response to the call in the encyclical of Pope Francis Laudato Si, which calls for the integrity of creation and the environment. Other Partners are Alpha Omega Homeschool, Faith and Light Ministries of the St Francis Xavier Chaplaincy of Pueblo, civic and corporate partners.
Tambrauw Regency, a district in West Papua Province, has high cultural diversity and biodiversity value. The expanse of its natural forest ecosystem is 10,819 km² or 90% of the total area of the regency.

The protection of local culture and biodiversity is in the agenda of the Tambrauw Regent along with his commitment towards advancing the region’s economy.

Samdhana’s long-standing investment in Tambrauw is concentrated towards strengthening the bargaining position of indigenous peoples in their management areas or indigenous territories. In collaboration with the University of Papua (UNIPA), Samdhana has assisted the Regent in drafting a Special Local Regulation (Peraturan Daerah Khusus or PERDASUS) on Conservation Regency, and Recognition and Protection of Indigenous Peoples.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (KLHS) of Tambrauw by the Urban and Regional Development Institute (URDI) highlighted the need for a safeguard framework for the policies, plans and programs (PPP) of Tambrauw Regency, to align its economic development goals with social, cultural and ecological sustainability. Once legalised by the forthcoming PERDASUS, the safeguard framework will serve as a foundation for sustainable investments as articulated in the Tambrauw Regency’s Medium-term Development Plan or RPJMD (2017–2022).

Tambrauw District still faces fundamental issues related to public investment. The regency needs to boost its economy to catch up with other regencies in West Papua Province and to make it less dependent on the Central Government for income. The aim of development is to increase wealth while reducing economic and social disparities in the community. The main focus is economic development through expansion of cultivation areas and development of strategic economic growth areas.

Samdhana is collaborating with URDI on a policy study on public investment in Tambrauw which is examining the intentions and priorities of the central government towards the regency. The study will explore the need to develop the capacity of the Tambrauw’s Government agencies (Organisasi Perangkat Daerah or OPD) as an enabling condition for sustainable investments.

The challenge for the future in Tambrauw is to consolidate all the outcomes of work supported by Samdhana, including mapping indigenous peoples’ territories, the local regulations on conservation regency and recognition and protection of indigenous peoples, and capacity to enable Tambrauw Regency to gain more from sustainable investments.
Training activities start off in a quite awkward manner. The participants – young Lao women and men - enter the room timidly. Some are jittery, others are downright nervous, while others are not sure what they can possibly contribute.

However, after the introductory session, usually done through an opening game that engages each one in a physical and mental exercise, the mood becomes more relaxed and open. The participants are now eager to learn.

2018 was the third year of the Learning and Media Network (LMN) Project in Laos. This year, almost 100 young people have been reached and trained in personal development and various skills basic to working with youth and communities. The trainees are young training staff from non-profit associations in Laos and young volunteers from secondary and tertiary schools. Participants learn facilitation and training skills and undergo exercises that enhance their personal self-confidence and ability to make a presentation in front of an audience, to analyse situations and make decisions. The training is designed to be hands-on, experiential and creative. The learning activities are fun, and can include singing songs, playing games, story-telling, and role-play. 18 local organizations have participated in the training, with 2 of them taking a leading role in developing modules for the toolkit. The organisations have a range of aims, including environmental advocacy, work with young people with disabilities and work on health, gender and education.

The Network partners have affirmed the usefulness of the LMN Toolkit. The process of mutual and open learning, in an atmosphere of play, discovery, and trust enhances the effectiveness of learning. The organizations which send staff to participate say they have noticed “a change in the way of doing” of their staff: they can communicate better, and have a number of exercises and games to stimulate the participation of the people that they go on to train. The partners gain through the training, as their junior training staff are now more competent to lead the training activities of their respective organizations.

As partners test out the Toolkit independently and innovate the tools and training processes to apply to their respective areas of focus, there is an increasing sense of ownership of the process. The Learning and Media Network Project looks forward to further improving the Toolkit and increasing the topics which the Partners can contribute to. One example is the topic of gender sensitivity, where the LMN Partner with expertise on gender has led the development of the module. The Project also looks forward to introducing training specifically for non-profit association staff and facilitators who need a specialized set of skills in capacity development; as well as bringing the training to a broader audience, specifically rural village community members who can also benefit from enhancing their basic skills in group facilitation, planning and communication.
During 2018, DGM Indonesia\(^\text{11}\) completed the selection of the first sub-projects for implementation. After the National Steering Committee (NSC) promoted the opportunity to communities in the project’s seven regions, 208 proposals were received. The proposals went through a series of review stages, including an analysis of gender considerations. A first short list of 69 proposals was finally reduced to 31 proposals for the NSC’s consideration. The NSC approved three proposals from each region, and the 21 approved sub-projects began implementation in August 2018.

\(^{11}\) The Direct Grants Mechanism (DGM) is a World Bank funded program associated with the Forest Investment Program. It aims to enable local and indigenous communities to be fully involved in securing their rights and access to forest and land as well as to access opportunities for an enhanced and sustainable livelihood. The DGM is managed by Samdhana Institute in Indonesia under the guidance of the National Steering Committee.
Finance

Grants US$ 2,437 million

- 93 % Restricted grants
- 1,19 % Unrestricted grants
- 0,92 % Donation
- 5,20 % Others

Expenses US$ 2,316 million

- 63,54 % Program Expenses
- 3,61 % General and Administrative
- 27,87 % Grants Making to Partners

NOTE: Figures presented are from the unaudited year-end financial report, as of the date of publication. The detailed financial audited report can be made available on request. Please contact info@samdhana.org
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Yunus Yumte-Project Leader for Papua - Living Land and Seas Program
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Warwin Sabasaje-Technical Assistant, SHIELD Project

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Arcadia Shri Krisna Indra Kirana-Head of HRA, Regional & Personal Assistant to ED
Cristi Marie C Nozawa-Executive Director

Board of Samdhana

Anny Andaryati, Antonio Gabriel La Viña, Cristi Marie C Nozawa (ex-officio), Damayanti Buchori, Filomeno Sta. Ana III, Hilly Ann Roa Quiaoiit, Ros Bandos, Suraya Afif, Yvan Biot

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