

# THE SAMDHANA INSTITUTE

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019



The  
Samdhana  
Institute

An Asian Center for Social and Environmental Renewal

## Cover story | Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM) Global Photo Contest Winner – Project in Action (2019)

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Mbah (Grandpa) Warno looks over the farmlands in Ngrandu Village, East Java. Warno and the “Bangun Jaya Makmur” farmers’ group had been struggling to get the certificate of ownership for the 67,5ha farmland. Although the farmers won the lawsuit against the private concession holder, they still have to lobby and campaign to be recognized as the legal owners of the land. They plan to grow moringa as subsistence vegetable and for production of herbal supplements.

This winning entry to the DGM Global Photo Contest is by Andhika Vega Praputra



*Biodiversity in Pikul Pengajid customary forest, Bengkayang, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. (SAMDHANA/Sandika)*



## Message from the Chairperson of the Board

Dear Fellows, Friends and Trusted Collaborators,

2019 marks the first year that Samdhana adopts and implements our 10-year strategic directions. We invested considerable time to pursue a reiterative process to understand how Samdhana has grown over the last decade. We had a lot of long and deep conversations to clarify who is Samdhana and what are we doing that is meaningful to the people we work with and those whom we only support from a distance. We looked at the relationships that we have nurtured, the trust and cooperation built with local organizations and communities, with individuals, and with the Institutions who trust in our work.

We re-affirm our commitment to supporting Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Southeast Asia, in their assertion of their rights to land, to territories and to identities. We re-affirm our commitment to working with local organizations and help build capacities from the ground. We are excited to work with the youth, ensuring the transfer of knowledge and wisdom between generations, and nurturing young activists, leaders, “millennial farmers” and dynamic entrepreneurs.

In this time when competition for land and resources grows ever more fierce, and structural issues mutate to other forms of challenges, we need to constantly rethink our strategies, and open this thinking process for more leadership from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) partners. We aim to be more inclusive in our work and support more Persons with Disabilities through the Disability Rights Fund of Global Greengrants so that they can participate more fully in the social and environmental movement. Samdhana has developed and adopted the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) framework in understanding the work for Living Spaces (tenure and access to resources) and Livelihoods. We support the call to “leave no one behind.”

Samdhana Institute has come quite a long way, in our more than one and a half decades of existence; and we look forward to continue supporting those who are in the frontlines, the rights-holders, the defenders and the future leaders of IPLCs.

Suraya A. Afiff

# Samdhana in 2019

In April 2019, the Board of Trustees approved Samdhana’s ten-year strategic direction (2019-2028)<sup>1</sup>. Samdhana is bringing its work in Southeast Asia towards addressing social and economic inequality by supporting indigenous peoples’ and local communities’ (IPLC) land rights, and building capacities of individuals, especially women, youth, next-generation leaders, and the local organizations. Samdhana continues to accompany communities in creating and improving their own models for climate adaptation, risk reduction, community-led conservation and local economies. We continue to facilitate learning exchanges, between and amongst communities, CSOs, and individuals, to share experiences and knowledge, so that together we can build a thriving future with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

In 2019, Samdhana organized its various projects and activities into four programs:

### Grants making

Presently, Samdhana’s grantsmaking supports IPLCs’ assertion of rights, especially in securing tenure and managing their territories, mostly in the Philippines and Indonesia. In the Mekong region, environmental awareness work by young people and developing resource-based livelihoods such as weaving are supported. Samdhana continues to provide grants for promoting community rights vis-à-vis REDD+ and conservation innovation in Indonesia. Samdhana also manages the Women Defenders Fund – Urgent Action Grant for Southeast Asia.

### Capacity development

Capacity development cuts across all that we do in Samdhana. We work with indigenous women and young peoples, supporting them to create and implement their plans and increasing their skills and capacities to participate more actively in the governance of their territories. We work with IPLC women in the creation of their livelihoods, and in community conservation, local climate adaptation and environmental protection. We also work with young people and non-

profit associations in increasing critical thinking skills. We work largely with partners in Indonesia, Philippines and Laos.

### Living Land and Seascape

In Northern Mindanao Region and Calamianes Group of Islands, north of Palawan in the Philippines, and in Papua and West Papua regions in Indonesia, we combine our approaches in working with the various communities, local institutions and stakeholders across these landscapes and seascapes. Currently, Samdhana implements five projects in these land- and seascapes, that address tenure security, livelihoods and local economy building, enabling policies for landscape governance, and women- and youth-led conservation within territories which include traditional foods, forest and agricultural assets.

### Policy development support

We support NGO and CSO partners in policy development and policy reform work to advance enabling laws and mechanisms for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities’ tenure security, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.samdhana.org/sites/default/files/publication/Samdhana%20Strategic\\_summary.pdf](https://www.samdhana.org/sites/default/files/publication/Samdhana%20Strategic_summary.pdf)

# Community Rights Recognition Secures Livelihoods & Enables Food Sovereignty

When communities' rights to land, water and natural resources are recognized, their sources of livelihoods will be secured.

In Lamud, one of the many islands in the Calamianes (Palawan, Philippines), Tagbanwa women and youth document the traditional areas where they forage and collect part of their foods, such as rootcrops. By establishing that they and their ancestors have occupied and used these lands since time immemorial, they increase the validity of their claim over their ancestral territory, which is undergoing the formal, yet long, process of government certification to recognize their ownership of the island.

The work on securing tenure and improving territorial governance is done alongside improving or creating community livelihoods. In 2019, IPLCs and CSO Partners worked for tenure security of an estimated total area of 90,300ha in Indonesia and the Philippines.

# Grantsmaking



In 2019, we worked with 123 Partners, supporting 119 Communities across Southeast Asia

Samdhana Support 2019



Lamud Island, part of the territory claim of the Calamian Tagbanwa . (SAMDHANA/Shellane C Naguit)



More than 120 Indigenous youth from different Higaonon ancestral domains joined the Indigenous Youth Eco-Cultural Camp in Cagayan de Oro, Philippines.

Pak Gawe from Sahan village show their biodiversity in Pikul Pengajid customary forest, Bengkayang, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. (SAMDHANA/Sandika)

## Clear community rights maintain forests

Indigenous peoples and local communities are at the forefront of nature conservation. Their land, forest, and water are essential in sustaining our life. They help in regulating the earth's temperature and continuously provide us with a variety of goods and services. Local community rights are essential to ensure that communities continue to manage those resources sustainably.

With funding support from the Packard Foundation, Samdhana and partners

conducted a study to understand forest transitions over the last 30 years of community-based land management in Lampung (Sumatra), West Kalimantan, and West Papua. The results showed that most areas with clear tenure rights experienced lower deforestation rates, as it laid the groundwork for community-managed conservation and protection of important ecosystems.

## Engaging Indigenous Youths as Rightful Stewards of Their Generation

One of the first leadership and ecological-cultural camp for Indigenous Higaonon and Bukidnon youth in Northern Mindanao (Philippines) was convened by Samdhana, in cooperation with Kagduma ho mga Higaonon (KAGDUMA). Under the Indigenous Governance for Conservation Project (ICON) supported by the Forest Foundation Philippines, the capacity building program aimed to nurture the

next generation of rightful stewards of ancestral domains. The youth were involved in establishing their community nursery of indigenous tree species, in Indigenous Peoples' rights training, community documentation, rapid resource assessment, and peer organizing. With support from their Elders, the youth are challenged to rediscover their identity and exercise their leadership for the community and their tribe.

# Indigenous Knowledge and Sustainable Development

*Sumpay sa atong kinabuhi ang kinaiyahan. Dili ka tribo kung didto ka magpuyo sa wala na'y mga kahoy. Ang kalasangan ang naghatag og hangin nga makahupay sa kasingkasing nga masulob-on. (Our life is connected to nature. You are not indigenous if you live in a place without trees. The forest gives us air that can appease a sad heart.) – Datu Manpinuhan Norberto Pusan, Dulangan Unified Ancestral Domain*

Article 8(j) of the Convention of Biological Diversity stresses the importance of indigenous knowledge in the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources. Samdhana supports Indigenous communities in promoting, protecting and reviving their indigenous knowledge, systems and practices (IKSP), rooted in their harmonious relationship with the natural world.

Samdhana co-organized the **Southeast Asia Regional Forum on the Role of Indigenous Knowledge in Rights-based Sustainable Development** held in October 2019 (<http://regional-forum.samdhana.org/>). Indigenous communities, local organizations, representatives from the national human rights institutions and other sectors who participated in the Forum affirmed the need for Indigenous Peoples to have meaningful participation as rights-holders, in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. (<https://bit.ly/3hGud3q>)

*Datu Manpinuhan Norberto Pusan from the Philippines, one of the participants of the Regional Forum.*



*Youth from Sekolah Ekologi Leuser sharing her knowledge during Jamboree Nusantara 2019. (SAMDHANA/Anggit)*

## Bridging Smart Practices of Youth Leaders through Jamboree Nusantara

Jamboree Nusantara was a unique meeting for women and youth leaders from across Indonesia, for exchanging creative ideas and the practices in the diverse communities where they came from. The participants were Adat leaders from Papua, West Papua, North Maluku, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), West Nusa Tenggara (NTB), Bali, South Sulawesi, West Kalimantan, East Java, Central Java, West Java and Aceh. They shared stories on how they are addressing the impacts of climate change in their community and how they face environmental destruction from mining.

The participants performed traditional dances and other creative expressions of culture, and learned from one another. Through a road-mapping activity, they imagined their future in five to ten

years, and esp. on how to combat climate change. Yeni, from Nyambu Village said that they plan to address the interconnecting issues on plastic waste reduction, land usage conversion, and ecotourism sustainability. "Ecological tourism is not about how many tourists come. Its main objective is how the community can enjoy their village themselves, how they can manage their waste for a clean and sustainable tourism," said Yeni. Jamboree Nusantara was an inspiration for women and youth leaders. It is clear that the future belongs to them. The present is our chance to support them. The Jamboree was held on 23rd to 25th July 2019 in Ketambe Village, South East Aceh Regency, the province of Aceh.

*"We are proud that we met the incredible youth leaders from all over Indonesia. We have the same vision to strengthen communities and the youth. The jamboree recognized the important value of our efforts in each of our unique communities." Juniarti, Youth leader from Sekolah Ekologi Leuser*



# Embrace Differences

The Samdhana Partners Meeting 2019 in Pagerharjo, Jogja, was dedicated to recognizing, understanding, and respecting differences in ability, gender, age, and race, and gave a clear message not to discriminate anybody because of those differences.

For Samdhana, our learning during this meeting will guide us in how we design and implement our programs and how we relate with each other and our partners in an inclusive way. This means that in working with indigenous and local communities, we will pay special

attention to disability and social inclusion issues at village and community level. We shall adopt the principle of diffability, a term used in Indonesia to recognize that persons with physical limitations are not 'disabled' but 'differently able'. The first challenge will be to learn the language of others in society - the deaf, the blind, and those with different abilities. When we can listen and talk, we can have conversations; only then can we start participating and including all in our actions.

We will learn how to work with the differently-abled, the young and the women, for them to claim their rights and how we can support them, in policy and practice, and promote behaviours and conduct that are socially inclusive.

*Learning sign language during Samdhana Partners Meeting 2019. (SAMDHANA/Anggit)*



*Participants of the Southeast Asia Regional Forum on the Role of Indigenous Knowledge in Rights-based Sustainable Development*

## "Becoming a Learning Organization"

As Samdhana turns 16 as an institution, Samdhana bids to be a more accountable organization. Our grievance redress policy and mechanism are approved by the Board and made available through various channels, including on the website. We aim to integrate the grievance redress mechanism with subgrant partners as well.

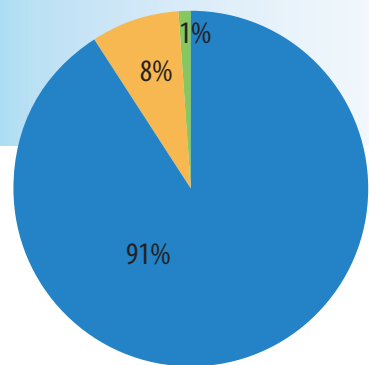
In this year, four cases related to subgrant projects were reported, and three of them were duly resolved.

Samdhana continues to build its capacities in communications and resource mobilization, and in improving a unified financial system for the regional organization.

# Finance 2019

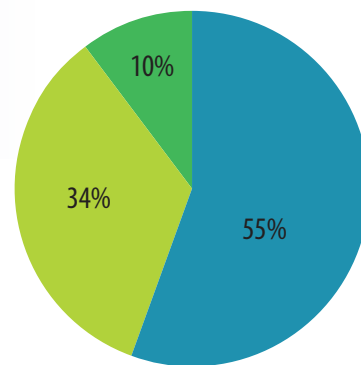
	FY 2019 (Audited)
Grants and Support	3,460,087
Expenses	
Grant Making	1,181,216
Programme Expenses	1,893,966
General and Administrative	352,876
Total Expenses	3,428,058
Total Assets	4,679,892
Liabilities	4,125,520
Unrestricted net Assets	221,016
Restricted net Assets	333,356
Net Assets	554,373
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	4,679,892

## GRANTS TO SAMDHANA: US \$ 3,460 MILLION



UNRESTRICTED RESTRICTED OTHER INCOME

## EXPENDITURES: US \$ 3,428 MILLION



GRANTS MAKING OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMMES: CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT, POLICY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT, LIVING LAND AND SEASCAPES

Back cover story | DGM Global Photo Contest Winner - Grand Prize Winner

“The local (indigenous) people of Papua, Indonesia are now trying to cultivate cocoa trees as the economic commodity in their area. They are now aware that deforestation is increasing, so that affects their daily lives, particularly their livelihood. In this picture, depicted is Mr. Wellem, one of the local people planting cocoa trees in their own land and protecting the forest.” – Bastian A. Saputra

(Photo courtesy of BASTIAN A. SAPUTRA)



Photo by Bastian AS | DGM Global Photo Contest Winner - Grand Prize Winner



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