

Asia Regional Learning Exchange on Social Inclusiveness and Youth

Indonesia
May 29 – June 2
2023



Preamble

This report was put together from notes taken by several participants in the Learning Exchange. The event was the result of a collective planning and preparation process by the co-hosts, partners and members. Apologies for any misrepresentation of facts or views. We deeply thank everyone who contributed to the event and this report - no one mentioned, no one forgotten.

Photos were provided by participating organisations with permission to use them in this report.

Sincerely and warmly,
The Co-Hosts

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Introduction

The **Asia Regional Learning Exchange on Social Inclusiveness and Youth** was co-organized by the Coalition for Tenure Justice in Indonesia, the Tenure Facility, the International Land Coalition and Samdhana Institute. It took place in Indonesia from May 29 to June 2, 2023, and brought together selected partners, members and allies working to advance communities' tenure security. Over 120 people attended (including interpreters and organizers) from Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Philippines, Nepal, India, Myanmar, Thailand, Kyrgyzstan, East Timor and Indonesia (along with Sweden, Italy and the USA), of whom 50% were female and about 23% aged 30 years old and below.

The overall objective was to get together to listen, learn, be inspired, discuss and coordinate on how to best advance different aspects of tenure security in Asia, focusing on effective ways to enhance the inclusion of women, youth and marginalized groups in securing tenure rights.

For the **Coalition for Tenure Justice in Indonesia** (TC), this Learning Exchange (LE) was part of the preparation process for the National Tenure Conference organized under the theme "Realizing Socio-Ecologic Justice through Agrarian and Natural Resources Management Reform". This regional learning event will

contribute to enrich reflection and inform the process leading to the next Tenure Conference (October 2023).

For the **Tenure Facility** (TF), the main objective of the LE was to facilitate exchange and learning among TF partner organisations in Nepal, India and Indonesia. This event was one of three regional Learning Exchanges planned for 2023-2024 as an important part of TF's commitment to create opportunities for its partners to meet, exchange and learn from one another.

The **International Land Coalition** (ILC) Asia had a particular interest in strengthening youth leadership. Following on last year's ILC Global Land Forum held in 2002 in Jordan, when an Asian Youth Platform was formed by ILC members, this LE was aimed at building a youth perspective on some of the priorities identified by national TC members.

For **Samdhana Institute**, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2023, this event was an opportunity to broaden the scope of learning with its network of partner organisations in the Asia region through an emphasis on youth, women's inclusion, and use the opportunity of the 20th anniversary to listen and co-create.

Visit to communities

The programme started with a **two-day field visit** to local or indigenous communities either in Lombok, Bali or East Java. The visits were hosted by AMAN, AMAN Lombok Utara Branch, BRWA-WGII, KPA, Laskar Hijau Banyuwangi, Sajogyo Institute, Serikat Petani Buleleng and Yayasan Wisnu. They provided the opportunity to go deeper into selected thematic areas such as: community-specific dynamics around mapping and data for tenure rights recognition; locally anchored management plans of land/territories; community-based conservation; livelihood and local economic development; conflict resolution processes; as well as effective strategies for leadership regeneration and youth engagement in land movements. Participants gathered in smaller groups to visit one of the four community sites.

Visit to Adat Dalem Tamblingan Indigenous People in Alas Mertajati, Buleleng, Bali

This customary territory covers four villages. The Tamblingan Lake and the surrounding forest called Alas Mertajati provides water to the whole area. Tamblingan is also known as an ancient holy site with 17 temples scattered in the forest. In 1996, Tamblingan was designated by the government as a Natural Tourism Park covering over 1,300 ha. Today, the Alas Mertajati Forest is facing degradation due to illegal logging, construction and tourism activities.

The indigenous community, especially youth, carried out spatial mapping, socio-cultural research, identified flora and fauna, and submitted a request for the recognition of their indigenous land. But until now it has not been recognized as Adat Dalem Tamblingan IP's land,



consisting of four villages. Participants learnt about the local wisdom used to effectively protect the forest. They interacted with traditional leaders, and a youth organisation, BRASTI (Baga Raksa Alas Mertajati), which works in many ways to protect the forest: film-making for environmental education, maintaining traditional and spiritual knowledge, and creating economic opportunities that do not harm nature but help the youth stay in Tamblingan. Visiting vegetable and flower farms, trekking in the customary forest and taking a traditional boat on the Tamblingan Lake were on the programme as well.

Visit to Buleleng Peasant Union, Sumberklampok and Pemuteran villages, North Bali

In both villages, the local communities occupy disputed land. In Sumberklampok, there were former Balinese peasants who had been resettled to East Timor and then returned to Bali after the Timor Leste independence referendum in 1999. They had been relocated on state forest land next to the Bali Barat National Park. (The “Transmigration” was and is a government programme to resolve population density concentrated in Java and Bali and distribute the population to other islands. Thus, the Sumberklampok peasants were victimized twice.) Through a long struggle by this KPA member, in mid-2022 they got land ownership for their settlements but are still struggling for communal land tenure security for their farms. In Pemuteran, people are farming a former land concession.



The Buleleng peasant union supported by KPA has developed the DAMARA agrarian reform model (collective governance, integrated production for food sovereignty) on these lands claimed for redistribution (LPRA). Participants interacted with union leaders on strategies to voice peasants’ aspirations, with young people previously employed in the tourism sector forced to return because of Covid-19. They are now involved in supporting the land struggle, with women processing local products into soap, coconut oil, teas, among others. Productive occupation of the land, even before formal rights’ recognition, proves to be an effective strategy to resist local government attempts to use the land. Participants also helped sow sorghum seeds, feed cattle and harvest chilis.







Visit to Pancer Local Community in Sumberagung, Banyuwangi, East Java

This visit provided a first-hand look at the struggles faced by the Pancer community and their resilience. It provided insights into the complex dynamics surrounding tenure security, land-use changes, and community participation in the broader framework of development. The gold-mining operations at the Tumpang Pitu site, ongoing since 2012, have had profound and devastating effects on the very resources that sustain the people's lives and livelihoods. In response, initiatives such as community-led tourism, animal husbandry, and sale of products sourced from community forests create a local economy that does not depend upon mining

operations. But part of the community is in favour of the mine, which makes internal communication difficult and reinforces the imperative of promoting inclusive decision-making processes and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). Participants planted trees at a site granted for mining operation expansion. One unique and interesting insight from the Pancer community is that they initiated nature-based livelihoods (e.g., eco-tourism) as the primary strategy to consolidate and mobilise broader communities to defend rights to land, sustainable livelihoods and a healthy environment. They combine this strategy with the 'traditional approach' such as litigation and campaigns. Thus it is expected that such locally led nature-based livelihoods can be an alternative strategy for broader land rights movement, and to get inspiration from them.



Visit to Karang Bajo Indigenous People in North Lombok, West Nusatenggara

Karang Bajo are among the IPs in North Lombok in the process of getting recognition from the Regent, or district leader, following a local regulation issued in 2020. Mount Rinjani National Park was established on part of the Karang Bajo customary territory, without consulting Indigenous Peoples. In addition, land was titled in the name of government officials or third parties, hampering the people from carrying out some rituals. Karang Bajo people hunt, farm and raise livestock. Women and youth from the community were not actively involved in the interactions with the visitors. But women and youth play an important role in farming activities. Participants visited sacred sites, the indigenous school, the bamboo mosque and attended traditional stick

fighting in the evening. Participants also met with government representatives in the North Lombok Regent office to discuss the current work to identify and verify IP territories.

Conference Day 1

The field visits were followed by **three days of seminars, dialogues and workshops** combining various ways of learning: plenary sessions, experience fair, break-out sessions, open space and self-organized workshops.

The first conference day started with a blessing by Putu Ardana, one of the indigenous leaders of Adat Dalem Tamblingan Indigenous Peoples. This was followed by brief opening remarks by representatives of the organizing institutions. Each of the organizers welcomed the participants and emphasized to different degrees:

1. the challenges faced by local communities, particularly shrinking spaces for civil society, policy failures, threats from the outside (e.g., encroachment), and the government's neglect (and at times intimidation and harassment) of Indigenous Peoples;
2. the struggles and achievements of local communities, and what their organisations do to support them;
3. the need for learning (from one another, between countries and from the site visits) as well as more intensified networking, collaboration and co-creation among social movements and conference participants;
4. and the need for greater inclusion and empowerment of women and youth in communities and social movements in Asia.

They encouraged participants to “seize this present moment” to narrow the implementation gaps and accelerate the recognition of land rights for indigenous communities while growing in solidarity with one another.



Plenary Session 1: Report-back and reflections from the community visits

For each community, one of the visitors presented their observations and a representative of the community commented and provided complementary information. The reflections and reporting can be categorized into three key themes:



1. **Access to land:** A diverse range of local communities (including transmigrants and IPs) face similar challenges in the recognition of their land rights due to gaps in the implementation of the Agrarian Reform and overreach in the implementation of forest conservation. Because of Indonesia's complex legal and political tenurial system, even after decades of struggle, villagers remain precarious and vulnerable to encroachment by government and private interests; the desecration and degradation of their sacred spaces; as well as harassment, intimidation and criminalization. Communities are putting in place different strategies to secure their land rights, while maintaining their traditional ways of life.
2. **Environmental sustainability:** The lack of tenure rights recognition is greatly impacting the sustainability of biodiversity and natural resources, with direct consequences on the communities' economic and food security, and vulnerability to climate change.
3. **Women and youth:** They are actively engaging in social movements, lobbying for policy change and the implementation of land reform, participating in mapping activities, data collection and generation to inform their claims over traditional land and territories; they are getting organized in formal and informal groups to start up new economic activities, thus contributing to strengthening communities' resilience to external influences. However, their decision-making power in the community and organisations should be further increased.

Plenary Session 2: Learning from the tenure reform process in Indonesia

Indonesia remains one of the most land inequitable countries in the world, with a long history of customary land, forests and coastal areas being appropriated by state and large private

companies. The forest area under authority of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry covers 125 million ha (63.7% of land area), with important ecosystems (mangrove and peatland). Forest classified as Production Forest covers 68.8 million ha (57% of total forest area) and almost half of it, 30.7 million ha, is under the control of companies. One-third of the land area is under the authority of the Agrarian and

Spatial Planning Ministry/National Land Agency, while coastal and marine areas are under the authority of the Marine Affairs and Fisheries Ministry. Forests, lands and coastal areas have been traditionally managed/cultivated by communities, but they are vulnerable to land grabbing, environmental destruction, lawsuits by third parties, and violence when they want to protect their rights. There is an expansion of both land conflicts and the criminalization of land and human rights defenders.

This roundtable session brought together representatives of central and local governments, and key members of the land movement in Indonesia. The session was dedicated to introducing

106 years to complete the certification process. Under the Jokowi Presidency, 80 million land plots have been titled and the target of 126 million land plots will be achieved by 2025, said the Deputy Minister. According to him, this shows the government's commitment to provide land security to the people for their prosperity. It is about land titling to legalize assets.

The current engagement with KPA focuses on land redistribution. But obstacles remain:

A culture of bureaucracy which sees the civil society as the "enemy" of the state. "But democratization means that CSOs are part of the development process," said the Deputy Minister.



participants to the host country, reflecting on challenges and opportunities in tenure reform processes in Indonesia, and the role of CSOs.

For the Agrarian Affairs Deputy Minister, Raja Juli Antoni, the Agrarian Reform results achieved in recent years were not only in land redistribution, but in the administration of justice. Out of 126 million land plots, only 4 million had been titled under the previous presidents, meaning that at 500,000 per year, it would have taken

Regarding "sector-egoism" between ministries: redistribution of ex-concession land is progressing, and two lands will be redistributed this month. These are private companies' concessions, as it is more complicated to resolve cases involving state-owned enterprises. It is also difficult to get forest area redistributed, as in the case of Sumberklampok where only the housing land was granted to the people, but not the farming land located in the protected forest.

“Only structural reform will make it possible to realize the Agrarian Reform,” the Deputy Minister said.

Currently, many villages are in so-called forest areas, where there is no forest anymore, only housing and farmland. Poverty is high, as no governmental support is provided to people living in these “illegally occupied” areas. To make the best use of remaining time before the elections in 2024, closer cooperation with CSOs is needed to push for changes, the Deputy Minister added.

For Mathius Awoitauw, Indigenous Peoples Task Force in Jayapura (GTMA) and former Jayapura Regent, the collaboration between central and local governments is not easy. Here too, the sector egoism is a key challenge. It is necessary to address the gap in policy implementation and engagement with the local government, IPs and central institutions together. “Papua conflict is not a political conflict, but a land conflict” with big mining companies like Freeport, according to Mr Awoitauw.

Dewi Kartika, General Secretary of KPA, recalled that the Basic Agrarian Law of 1960 (UU PA) considers land as one, but then the territory was divided over the jurisdiction of different Ministries, making it complicated for communities and supporting CSOs to get tenure rights recognition. As the Presidential Regulation on Agrarian Reform (Perpres RA) is not strong, an Agrarian Reform Bill is necessary to cover conflict resolution and land redistribution. “Political will is needed for an effective implementation of the UUPA,” Dewi Kartika pointed out. KPA managed to have a joint task force with the Agrarian Affairs Ministry, but there has been no successful engagement with the state-owned Enterprise Ministry nor with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), even though MoEF is claiming that 1 million ha of forest has been put aside for redistribution. Most of conflicts are in forest area. “A consolidated civil society movement is necessary to engage with government, and support progressive governmental institutions,” Dewi Kartika added.

For Rukka Sombolinggi, AMAN’s achievements for IPs are limited to 20,000 ha of

Indigenous land recognized by the Agrarian Ministry and 157,000 ha of customary forest recognized by the MoEF. Out of 17 million ha of forest mapped by communities, only 1 million ha was integrated into the MoEF customary forest indicative map, while social forestry schemes detrimental to IPs have been granted. “This cannot be considered as an achievement by MoEF!” At the sub-national level, 163 local regulations were issued to recognize IPs, meaning that these areas should be registered by the Agrarian Ministry/ National Land Agency. “But so far, there are no significant results yet.”

Regarding the MoEF extended authority on forest areas, Rukka said that “the MoEF is a nightmare for many. If roots are rotten, the fruit is not good; pruning is not enough, you need to uproot it – meaning revoke the Forestry Law so we can start implementing real Agrarian Reform.”

Explaining the processing of the 25 million ha of maps registered by the Ancestral Domains



Registration Agency (BRWA), Kasmita Widodo, BRWA, described the complex recognition procedure IPs have to go through, starting at sub-national level with the issuance of a local regulation, then going to the MoEF to register the customary forest, to the Agrarian Affairs for the registration of the indigenous land (outside of forest area), then to the Maritime Affairs for their coastal area. What is needed:



- Capacity-building of local institutions tasked with identification and verification of IP territory;
- Adequate budget allocation to carry out the identification and verification work;
- Build the political will within the land administration and find local champions.

“Empowering IPs to prepare quality data and maps is strategic, so there is no excuse by the government not to process these data,” said Kasmita Widodo from BRWA.

To conclude, Dema from HuMa stressed that the government still uses a top-down approach. Little was done to resolve conflicts, land grabbed for National Strategic Projects is much more than the land returned to the people, and policies to realize land justice are still missing. “Sector-egoism is not a problem for investors. It should not be a problem for IP&LC”.

International participants asked the government panel questions and community members had the opportunity to raise their issues. The Agrarian Affairs Deputy Minister offered to meet CSOs for regular mutual updates, and to engage with AMAN about IPs’ land registration. “We can plan joint work on the field”. He took the time to meet people after the session.

A community leader, Mr Sujitno, discussed mining operation impacts in his village with Deputy Agrarian Minister Antoni.





Experience Fair

The Experience Fair was the first group activity after returning from the community visits. It was organized as a “market”, where each organisation was assigned a table to showcase materials presenting their work (such as leaflets, publications and videos but also handi-crafts from their country of origin). In total, members of over 18 organisations from India, Nepal, Indonesia, the Philippines, Kyrgyzstan and Bangladesh joined the Fair. The remaining participants were free to circulate around the tables and engage in small group conversations with the host teams. The Experience Fair created an enabling environment for participants to know each other and to learn in an informal and enjoyable way.

Conference Day 2

On the second conference day, six breakout sessions were organized to deepen the discussions among participants, sharing their experiences on effective ways to enhance the inclusion of women, youth and marginalized groups in securing tenure rights. In each breakout session, a panel of speakers replied to a set of questions, which then were discussed with the full group.

Breakout session 1:

Bottom-up initiatives to increase land tenure equality at national and local levels / Organizer: KPA

PANEL OF SPEAKERS

Mr. Roni Septian, KPA, Indonesia

Ms. Rumduol Sen and Ms. Pisey Soy, NGO Forum Cambodia

Ms. Beyum Antonela Baru and Mr. Stanley Reynold Farie, Tambrauw women and youth, Southwest Papua, Indonesia

Mr. Imam Hanafi, Community Mapping Network (JKPP), Indonesia

Mr. Erasmus Cahyadi, AMAN, Indonesia

Mr. Siewakorn Odochao, Karen IPs, Thailand

Issues discussed covered inclusive approaches for the identification and mapping of Indigenous and community lands; successful strategies to advance conflict resolution of disputed lands by engaging with the government; opportunities and challenges in the writing of local tenure

regulations; and good practices in collective governance systems with emphasis on social inclusion.

In Tambrauw, Papua, youth are involved in mapping and gathering social data on clans. Due to a shortage of mapping tools and budget constraints, they use mobile mapping applications. In Sorong and Maibrat, without funding from other institutions, 18 customary areas were mapped this year. Women in Tambrauw provide non-formal education to children on their origins and their customary territories, so they can understand the connection between land and ancestors. Women's groups practice local seed cultivation, and handicrafts using local wisdom.

Participatory mapping is part of the bottom-up approach as only the community knows where the boundaries are. JKPP provides assistance but this mapping is carried out by the community themselves. Maps are used as advocacy tool to resolve conflicts, and push for their integration into the One-Map Policy to make the spatial overlapping visible.

Farmers' unions organized by KPA, without waiting for the government's land redistribution, are reclaiming and using the land based on collective decision-making. Building collective governance is important to ensure justice within the community. This includes ensuring land ownership for youth and women.

In Cambodia, Indigenous Peoples and youth are not seen as decision makers. Young people

are not involved because they are considered inexperienced. They can be prosecuted for criticizing the government. Solidarity within communities is a challenge and supporting youth and women to get organized into groups is an effective way to strengthen solidarity.

In Northern Thailand, the Karen people mobilized the community and protested their relocation outside of State Forest area. At the same time, they carried out mapping and strengthened customary forest and land management systems, including documentation of land use, to show their forest conservation system to the government and the public, and demonstrate that the Karen people are protectors of the forest. As a result, the Karen people as well as other indigenous groups in Northern Thailand were not relocated from their homeland.

For AMAN, mapping is a way to provide visibility to IPs, and AMAN has developed a management model for IPs based on local wisdom. One challenge is that younger generations want to go to the city. Therefore, young people developed a movement within AMAN to return home, learn more from their parents and do useful things in their villages.

Participants in this session recommended changes in laws and policies so they respect, recognize, protect and fulfil the rights of farmers and Indigenous Peoples in a comprehensive manner; encourage young cadres of farmers and Indigenous Peoples to enter the arena of policy-



making at various levels; and build networks to strengthen local, national and global solidarity regarding farmers and Indigenous Peoples. They also called for setting up a special state ministry to work on recognizing Indigenous Peoples as a policy solution.

Breakout session 2:

Hands-on tools to enhance inclusion and reduce conflict in indigenous ancestral lands and territories / Organizer: Tenure Facility

PANEL OF SPEAKERS

Ms. Pooja Chandran, Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), India

Mr. Sandip Chowdhury, Indian School of Business (ISB), India

Mr. Y. Giri Rao, Vasundhara, India

Ms. Devi Anggraini, PEREMPUAN AMAN, Indonesia

Mr. Syamsul Alam Agus, PPMAN, Indonesia

This session was aimed at exploring different hands-on tools and technologies that were successful in enhancing inclusion and reducing conflicts in indigenous lands and territories. The discussions focused on engendering participatory indigenous mapping for community empowerment, as well as technologies for forest inventories and community-based monitoring.

In India, FES has adopted research methodologies actively involving local communities, giving particular attention to women, youth and marginalized groups. Focusing on improving local ecology while increasing communities' livelihoods, the Foundation works in 12 states and over 14,000 communities in India. FES has been supporting participatory mapping processes for the recognition of traditional territories, providing capacity building to local institutions,

and helping in negotiations between the communities and local authorities. Restoration of natural resources by local communities is also being promoted to increase livelihood opportunities while achieving conservation goals. Through digital tools, the Foundation is helping to identify specific environmental aspects of the territory and selecting the best types of restorative practices according to the specificity of the land. In addition, participatory research methods have been successful in addressing cross-cutting issues such as gender relations.

Support for forest-based economies, forest inventories and documentation of community-based forest management initiatives is also at the core of the work of the Indian School of Business and Vasundhara. As the speakers pointed out, security of community tenure rights is crucial to build a sustainable forest economy and to provide IP&LC with opportunities to engage with formal markets. As part of its work, the IBS engages with private companies to support the establishment of traceable and environmentally responsible forest-based supply chains, linking local communities with markets, thus giving visibility to those actors – forest-dependent households – that often remain invisible in the industrial value chains. In this context, IBS has been working closely with women and youth, supporting women-led enterprises and increasing women's role in decision-making related to forest governance. Young people have been trained in using mobile applications to estimate the amount of bamboo in forests. Similarly, Vasundhara has been training youth to map forest resources in their traditional territories.

The session also discussed practices that improved women's leadership, and strategies to strengthen women's participation in spaces where they are traditionally excluded.

In Indonesia, PEREMPUAN AMAN, a women's wing organisation of AMAN, places women's empowerment at the core of its work. "Women have been left behind for too long," Devi Anggraini said. "We work to build indigenous women's confidence and strengthen their capacities so that they can be prepared to take leadership positions." The use of "engendered", participatory mapping has proven to be effective



in increasing inclusiveness and supporting women so they can share their knowledge and experience and to give visibility to indigenous women's priorities. "Indigenous Peoples' communities are often perceived as only one group," Devi continued, "as if there weren't any different groups with different needs, interests and knowledge." The main challenge was to create enabling environments for women to freely discuss sensitive topics, such as those revolving around cultural issues in patriarchal societies, or how women can better position themselves within customary institutions. In indigenous communities, women are traditionally not allowed to take part in decision-making processes. The work carried out so far provides the first results: indigenous women have been able to take strategic positions and today they represent 50% of AMAN's national assembly. Many women also play key roles in their villages, including as village heads. The training provided has made it possible for women to speak for their rights.

Providing legal support to indigenous communities and increasing awareness of their rights is what PPMAN knows best. The organisation is composed of lawyers and members of IP communities. So far, 27 indigenous youth have been

trained as legal experts, while 137 paralegals are currently working in Indonesia with IP communities. As a group of lawyers, PPMAN uses different strategies to defend IP land rights, such as increasing awareness about existing laws and policies amongst indigenous communities, but also educating police officers and local government officials on the rights of Indigenous Peoples. In their work, great attention is given to enable consultation processes with all members of the communities, involving not only women and youth but also persons with disabilities, providing them with direct and easy access to legal aid and support lines.

Breakout session 3:

Practices to ensure rights and inclusiveness in environmental conservation / Organizer: BRWA

PANEL OF SPEAKERS

Ms. Alina Zhenishbekova, Rural Development Fund (RDF), Kyrgyzstan

Ms. Cindy Julianty, BRWA WG-ICCAs, Indonesia

Mr. Dedek Hendry, LiVe Bengkulu, Indonesia

Ms. Shweta Tripathi & Mr. Alok Shukla, SRUTI (Society for Rural, Urban and Tribal Initiative) India

Mr. Timothy Salomon, National Land Coalition, Philippines

This session looked closer at how to ensure IP&LCs tenure rights and their contribution to environmental conservation, and how to strengthen inclusiveness in conservation initiatives. Participants shared community-driven conservation practices that proved to be effective in increasing inclusiveness, addressing biodiversity loss, and strengthening land rights for Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

In the Philippines, the Indigenous People's Rights Act of 1997 (IPRA) officially recognizes IPs

ownership rights over their ancestral domains, including in the protected areas. This implies that FPIC of the indigenous communities must be sought prior to any action within IP ancestral domains. The country has also drafted an Indigenous Community Protected Areas Law which contains method registration and procedure documentation. IPs organisations are increasing their advocacy work to acknowledge IP&LC rights in managing forests and conservation areas.

In India, during the last three decades, the people's movement has been key in influencing the development of several regulations on land and forest rights. The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 recognizes the rights of forest dwellers who have been residing in forests for generations. Under this Act, the Panchayat (local government) can convene the Gram Sabha (village assembly) to form a Forest Rights Committee and decide to file a claim for forest rights. In this context SRUTI, a not-for-profit organisation, is supporting communities in their struggle for the recognition of their Community Forest Rights (CFR), working with over 6,000 villages. The provisions of the FRA entrust the Gram Sabha with the rights and accountability for sustainable use of the natural resources and the conservation of biodiversity and wildlife, ensuring that internal and external factors do not destroy their community forests and for maintenance of ecological balance. This is recognition of the fact that the forest dwellers are integral to the very survival and sustainability of forest ecosystems. These provisions together strengthen the conservation regime while ensuring livelihoods, traditions and food security of the forest-dependent communities. One of SRUTI's successful strategies has been the building of a solidarity network at the national and international levels, bringing together a diverse range of communities and issues, such as water, forest, biodiversity, and connecting rural and urban spaces. Youth are playing a great role in sustaining those networks by managing social media platforms and acting as drivers of change.

In Kyrgyzstan, the Rural Development Fund (RDF) works with local and pastoralist communities, focusing on women, youth and traditional knowledge holders. Supporting local communi-

ties in the sustainable management of natural resources, forest conservation and agricultural development, the RDF strives to preserve traditional knowledge, such as Kyrgyz nomadic culture. It also provides training and economic opportunities to young people, to prevent urban migration.

In Indonesia, BRWA aims to enhance the understanding of community-based approaches to environmental conservation and related practices, which is based on their spiritual relationship with nature. The spiritual relationship between Indigenous Peoples and their forests is largely overlooked.

Breakout session 4:

Enhancing the role of women and girls in community-based land management and economic development / Organizer: Samdhana

PANEL OF SPEAKERS

Mr. Ghanshyam Pandey, Green Foundation Nepal (GFN)

Ms. Aarati Pathal, Yeen Foundation Nepal

Ms. Deepika, Community Self Reliance Centre, CSRC, Nepal

Ms. Bharati Pathak, Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN), Nepal

Mr. Y. Giri Rao, Vasundhara, India

Ms. Martha Doq, Perkumpulan Nurani Perempuan (PNP), East Kalimantan, Indonesia

Ms. Isnah Ayunda, PEREMPUAN AMAN (National Council from East Kalimantan)

The focus was on successful strategies to enhance the visibility, involvement and decision-making role of women and girls. Examples of approaches to connect local production with national and international supply chains and enhance inclusion were presented.



In Nepal, FECOCUN started to ask for women's participation at all levels, with 50% of representation to be secured. Land started to be registered in women's names and there was a progressive tax policy for land in their names. Joint land ownership is realized through combined land certificates in the name of the wife and husband, meaning that the latter cannot sell the land without his spouse's approval. This combined land certificate reduced the rate of divorce. Many youths have been involved in policy formulation and a Youth Council was established to identify their aspirations.

Vasundhara from India followed with a presentation on women's Forest Management Committees and traditional practices of guarding and managing forests. The organisation engages with local communities and insists on at least 30% representation of women in their projects.

In both presentations (Vasundhara and FECOFUN), they demonstrated how women could be involved in the scientific side of forest management through participatory mapping and other forms of documentation. They demonstrate women's key role in governing forests and in raising awareness of until now invisible yet crucial aspects of forest management

which – because they fall on women's shoulders – were not acknowledged nor considered. Vasundhara ended with a music video and the Nepalese group started dancing!

In Indonesia, indigenous women are still confused about their identity and are insecure about their own knowledge, value and role in the community. But they know how to manage the forest in a sustainable way. Indigenous women are encouraged to advocate to integrate their collective rights in various policies at the local up to the national levels. Inclusiveness of disabled people remains a challenge, starting at the community level.

Women's leadership is important because they can understand about their issues and voice women's interest in parliament and decision-making processes. But a female leader is not a guarantee that she will side with women's interests. Female parliamentarians are in a position to advocate for adequate budget allocation to empower women. As one participant said, "In Papua, the way we consider nature reflects the way we consider ourselves, because we are part of nature. Nature is the mother, relates to women, not profit-oriented but to sustain the life of children."

Breakout session 5:

Effective strategies for leadership regeneration and youth engagement in land movement / Organizer: ILC

PANEL OF SPEAKERS

Ms. Aisah Mariano, Asia Young Indigenous Peoples Network (AYIPN/ Cordillera Peoples Organisation), Philippines

Ms. Sifu, Rimbawan Muda Indonesia (RMI), Indonesia

Ms. Apriliska Titahena, BPAN, the Indigenous Youth Organization, Indonesia

Ms. Siti Maryam, Yayasan Tanah Air Semesta, Garut, Indonesia

Ms. Jayanti Buruda and Mr Aviit Chaterjee, ISB, India

Ms. Mai Putri, Aryo Blitar Peasant Union/KPA, Indonesia

Mr. Anand Jaiswal, EKTA Parishad, India

This session discussed lessons, challenges and opportunities for young people in securing their land rights. It was attended by many young participants.

The session was structured as a roundtable of storytelling, where young IP&LC leaders related their personal story, first positioning themselves in the land rights' movement and then suggesting ways to promote intergenerational dialogue and leadership regeneration. Establishing networks and nurturing connections, strengthening solidarity amongst young women and men from IP&LC across countries, and shifting power back to communities are key learnings from this session.

Apriliska Titahena is a young leader from an indigenous community affected by mining in Indonesia: "Solidarity and interconnection amongst indigenous communities is key," she said. "We are proud of our identity. As the next generation of leaders, we have to connect and

count on each other. We have to return to our villages and build our own initiatives. Indigenous Peoples consider themselves as guardians of the Earth, we protect the natural environment, and young people have an important role to play in such a process."¹

Young people are greatly contributing to the land rights movement in several areas, taking leading roles in initiatives that go beyond land rights, from processing and marketing agricultural products to the use of digital tools and media, the promotion of culturally based education, and by engaging with policy and advocacy processes. Siti Maryam, for instance, assists an association of coffee producers. "We support 15 farmers groups to manage the forest. I have joined efforts against deforestation and to regenerate the forest area."

Many of the young leaders started to get involved in the land rights movements while they were at school. Aisah Mariano, from the Philippines, is the daughter of two activists. She



¹ AMAN started a Youth coming home project and shared the success of it at COP26. The activity contributed to the continued growth of the indigenous schools, more than 55 schools.

<https://www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/if-not-us-indigenous-youth-homecoming-movement-indonesia>



started joining a cultural organisation when she was still at school. At that time, she started providing educational training in indigenous communities. “I thought I was going to bring something to them, but actually I was the one learning from the indigenous youth. I could see the challenge they have to access education and employment. This is when my interest in the land rights movement started. Today, through our network, we can engage with other IP young people, building spaces across regions and become decision makers in those spaces. This is what keeps me moving on,” Aisah said.

Similarly, Sifu joined different organisations since high school. “When still in high school I visited rural communities and experienced the fact young people had no education and dropped school very young. I joined RMI and visited remote areas to support teaching in those communities. It is essential to provide young people with formal education and training, so that they can have employment opportunities in the future.”

Ms. Jayanti Buruda belongs to a tribal group in India. She was the first young woman

from her community to get a formal education and to become a journalist. Today, she is part of a network of young women addressing gender issues. She currently works as an ISB field worker in her region.

Educational strengthening is also at the core of the work promoted by KPA. Mai Putri, a young leader from KPA, Indonesia, recalls that at the beginning she could not understand what the land rights movement was all about, and why it was important. By joining KPA, she started understanding more about land issues. “I entered a cooperative as a supporting system for agrarian movement in East Java. The elders told me about their long fight for land rights. They told me that land was their life. We started to create a strategy together to claim back the land. Young generations still think that the land movement is something of elderly people, so today I motivate young people be part of this process. As the young generation, we have to support farmers, IPs and other rural and local communities. We are at the core of the struggle: if there is no regeneration of leadership there won’t be more struggle.”

Breakout session 6:

Role of Indigenous governance systems and traditional institutions in inclusive reform processes and in the sustainable management of collective lands / Organizer: AMAN

PANEL OF SPEAKERS

Mr. Eustobio, AMAN, Indonesia

Mr. Abner Mansai, FOKER-LSM, Papua, Indonesia

Mr. Febrianus Kori, IP Youth Organization, BPAN, Indonesia

Mr. Abdi Akbar, AMAN, Indonesia

Mr. Angnima Lama, Center for Indigenous People's Research and Development (CIPRED), Nepal

Ms. Romba Marannu Sombolinggi, AMAN Toraja, Indonesia

Indigenous cultures in Nepal are adapted to the many different ecosystems – agropastoral in the mountains, cattle and crops in the flat lands. “Every community is unique. Land is about much more than food. It is ancestors, spirits, culture,” Angnima Lama recalled. Youth migration is a big challenge: “Remittances are the major income in Nepal. The education system prepares us to leave, not to stay. Media is brainwashing youth.”

Indigenous Peoples in Indonesia have different governance systems, because of natural and historical conditions, but also because of pressure from society at large. There is an ongoing loss of knowledge and cultural identity. AMAN tries to revitalize IP governance through participatory models based on IPs’ concepts. It is important to build connections between IPs and the state, so they can honour the aspirations of IPs’ ancestors and respect their own development models. “Villages are the utter extension of the state, this means that IPs villages should be accepted as governance entities,” said Abdi Akbar, AMAN. So far, AMAN cadres have

become village heads in 222 villages. For BPAN, village decision-making requires involvement of youth from the start. Participatory mapping provides good opportunities to build bridges between youth and elders.

Historically, Papua was never controlled by the Dutch the same way as other parts of Indonesia, and therefore the notion of “state land” was never rooted. “Still until today, if you ask Papuans, they will say there is no state land in Papua.” Papua is very diverse land, and women’s role varies a lot. “Don’t use the term ‘Papuan women’ – each group is different. When it concerns land issues, there is no difference between women and men,” according to Abner. For Romba Sombolinggi, there are no problems with equality, although there are limitations. She encouraged women to educate themselves to show they are capable of leadership.

In the Philippines, there is a school on IP knowledge and cultural traditions “SIKA”, and indigenous education (weaving, grass crafting, different instruments...) is very popular. There is a thriving interest among youth.

The group recommended that women train women on leadership to build trust to lead; encourage Indigenous Peoples’ cadres to enter the arena of policymaking at various levels; involve young people (women and men) in decision-making and village governance; and get involved in IP schools, teaching indigenous knowledge, culture, practices, governance systems.



Conference Day 3

Open space

The Open Space is a method for inclusive meetings where participants create and manage

their own agenda of parallel working sessions on topics they want to talk about. The last day of the LE was left open to the participants to suggest topics and organize interactions to discuss issues not yet covered, under the overarching theme of tenure and social inclusion. Eight topics were proposed:

- Emotive storytelling, photo content and production by Jason Taylor, independent film-maker
- KNPA Emergency Fund, a collective and inclusive system to address criminalization of land rights and environmental defenders by KPA, Indonesia
- Indigenous Women's Collective Rights, by Devi, PEREMPUAN AMAN, Indonesia
- Using back-casting to co-create shared visions for the future, by Le Anh Long, Samdhana
- Save Sangihe Island (SSI), with Jull Takaliuang
- Forest People Law in India by Mr. Giri, Vasundhara, India
- Movie session: Sound of Resilience, by SRUTI India
- Ideas for inclusive meetings, by Margareta, Tenure Facility



By Jayson Taylor, about Emotional storytelling: Find emotional ways to communicate and stimulating consciousness were at the core of the workshop held by Jayson Taylor on “Emotional Storytelling”. “We need to taste different ways to engage people on sensitive topics, find beautiful stories and vehiculate messages in a way which is appealing for those that are not usually interested in development or human rights issues,” Jayson pointed out.

There is the need to change the narrative to communicate with a larger audience, to find emotional ways to communicate and to stimulate an emotional response. This will allow people to connect with what they are seeing.

“Inspire people instead of confronting. Create connection with the people you would like to engage with. Find inspirational stories and document them. Find ways to reach out with those that are not already at your side,” he said.

Harvesting lessons: Takeaways from the Learning Exchange

Learning is happening everywhere. During this week, much of the learning happened outside the official programme, in the informal conversations between participants and community members while picking vegetables in their farms, walking on the beach or having a coffee together.

A central message from the whole week was that empowering women and youth requires a shift in the way our organisations work. Inclusiveness is not only about “increasing participation”: it is about sharing leadership, allowing those

that have been traditionally excluded from decision-making roles to take responsibility and to lead processes, and to be free to do it their own way.

This means providing opportunities and spaces for women and young people to act as agents of change in their community and organisation. Passing the legacy to the younger generations also implies strengthening the inter-generational transfer of knowledge and experiences between young people and the elders, including the documentation of traditional practices and knowledge.

As most of the participants emphasized, the sense of unity and solidarity in all the communities visited was truly inspiring. Strengthening and expanding networking and support amongst IP&LC organisations facing similar challenges is key to build new strategies for advocacy and conflict resolution, especially when national policies have not been successful to address agrarian reform and conflicts. In this context, another crucial need is to improve livelihoods and diversify economic opportunities in the communities as a strategy to retain youth in their villages and offer alternatives to jobs in extractive industries such as mining, which, in some cases, are perceived as the only source of income in the area.

Increasing awareness of tenure rights and environmental issues at the community level is also key. Sometimes people lack the information required to understand the threats they are facing and the rights they have and are therefore missing the reason for engaging themselves in the land rights movement. As reported by many young people, at the beginning they could



not understand their parents' struggle for land rights. As soon as they started joining local producers' associations, cooperatives and organisations, they learned about land issues and gradually started to get involved in land rights movement and to stimulate other young people to do so. Today, they ask for greater visibility and a louder voice in their organisations.

What the Learning Exchange has shown is that many IP&LCs in different countries face the same kinds of problems. While some of the strategies to tackle these issues may differ due to the specificity of the political contexts, experiences from other countries more advanced in their tenure reform process can show the way forward, successful practices that others can replicate and adapt, as well as mistakes that should be avoided. Learning from each other is key. However, as Dewi Kartika pointed out in her closing remarks, "change is a long-term process that requires a long-term commitment. If we want to see transformative changes, we need to engage in a long-term process with meaningful participation of all parties."

Young people at the forefront!

Young people contributed their views and their energy in every activity and discussion. They led the cultural evening and shared their talents. They easily established connection among themselves and encouraged other young people to speak out. They were eager to learn and to voice their aspirations. They not only witnessed but experimented other traditions. There is so much to learn from young people. Creating a space where young women and men feel comfortable to speak is a first step. Being serious about social inclusiveness and learning between generations requires each one of us to rethink how projects are designed, approved and implemented. It is important to integrate young people in the governance of our organisations because inclusiveness is about more than participation, it is about shared power and wisdom.

Unplanned Learning!

Learning is happening everywhere. Learning is a state of mind: be open to the new and unexpected!





Traditional Stick Fighting

Indian and Nepalese participants joined in to perform stick fighting, a traditional dance to call for rain.

Learning with women to make banana leaf plates

It was early in the morning and breakfast was in the making. Some gathered with women in the open kitchen behind the hall. And they shared their skills in preparing beautiful banana plates decorated with young coconut palm.



Learning to swim

Some participants volunteered as swimming instructors to build confidence and progressively tame the fear of water.





Although the main purpose of the event was discussion and exchange, rather than outreach, 11 different on-line media based in Indonesia published news articles about it.

Additionally, the film-maker Jason Taylor produced a seven-minute video in collaboration with participants and co-hosts: <https://youtu.be/cjV3DtC8Au8>

Participants' survey

Two months after the event, participants were sent an online survey about their experience, asking how they valued different parts of the learning exchange and whether it had inspired further action. Forty-one participants out of about 100 responded, showing a high level of satisfaction according to the ratings and comments given. (See annex)

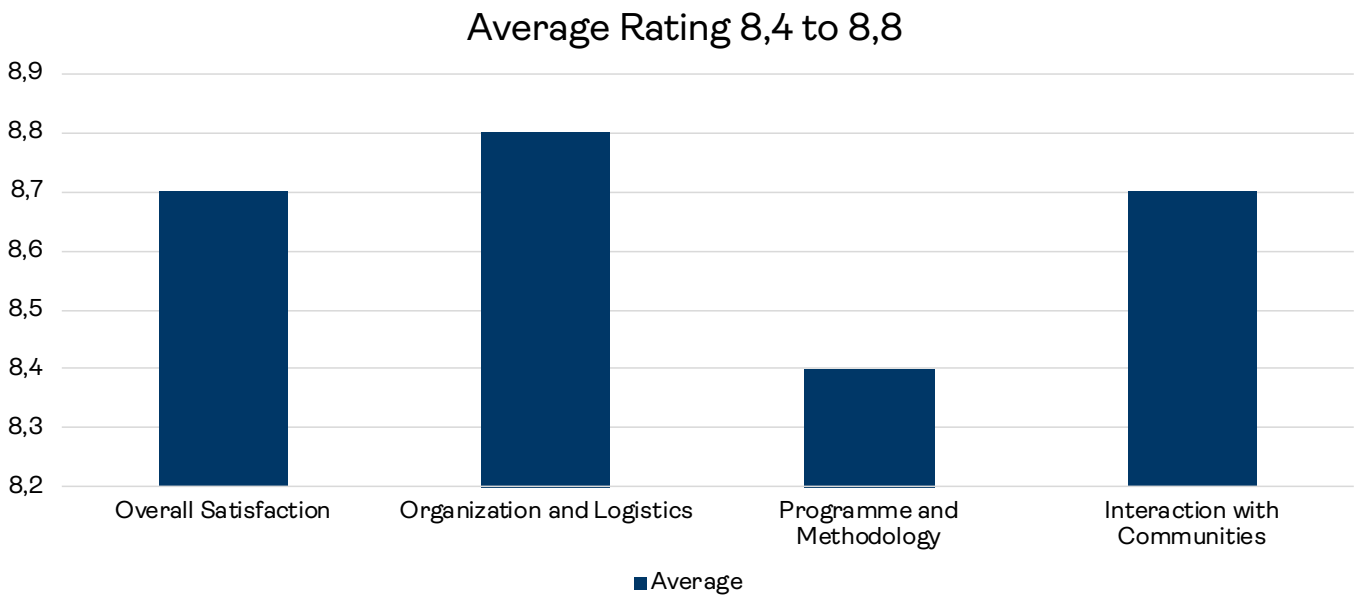
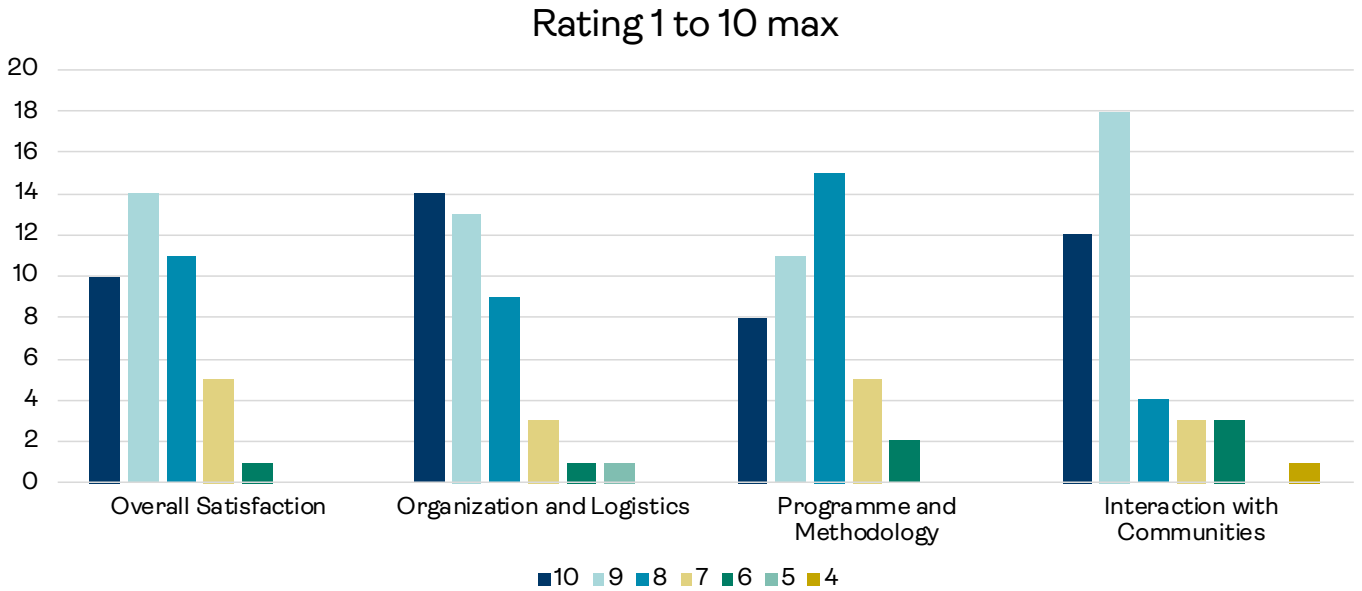


Annex

Asia Learning Exchange

Overview of the Survey Results

Rating of the Asia Learning Exchange by 41 respondents



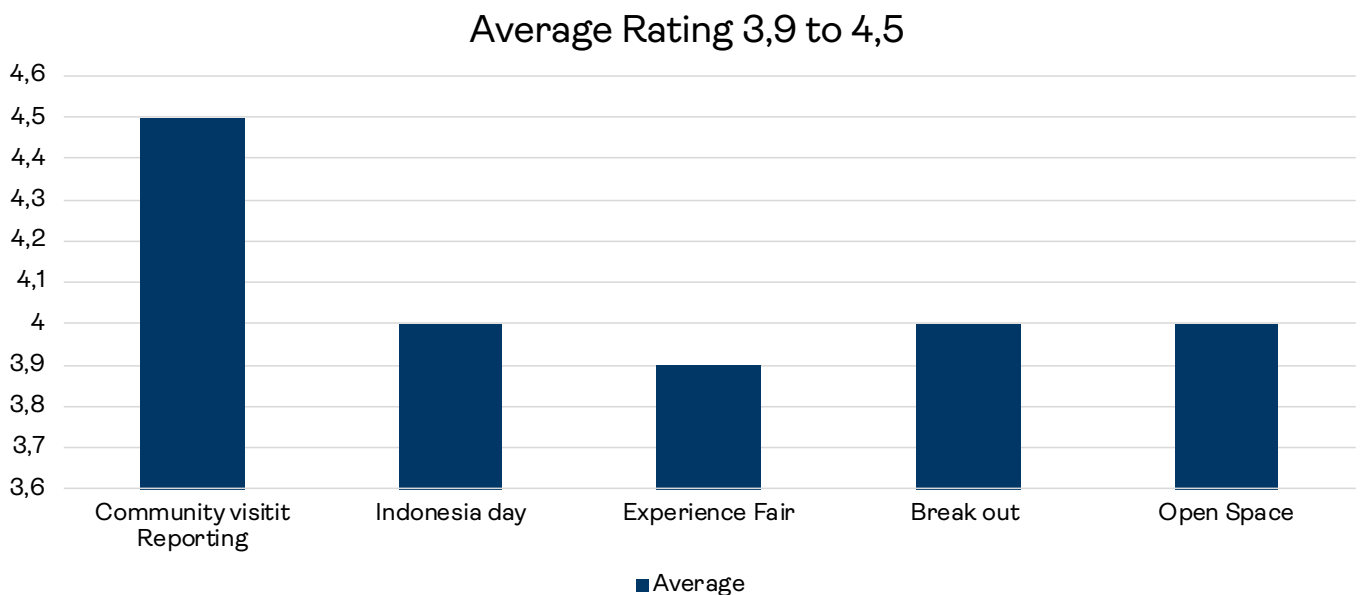
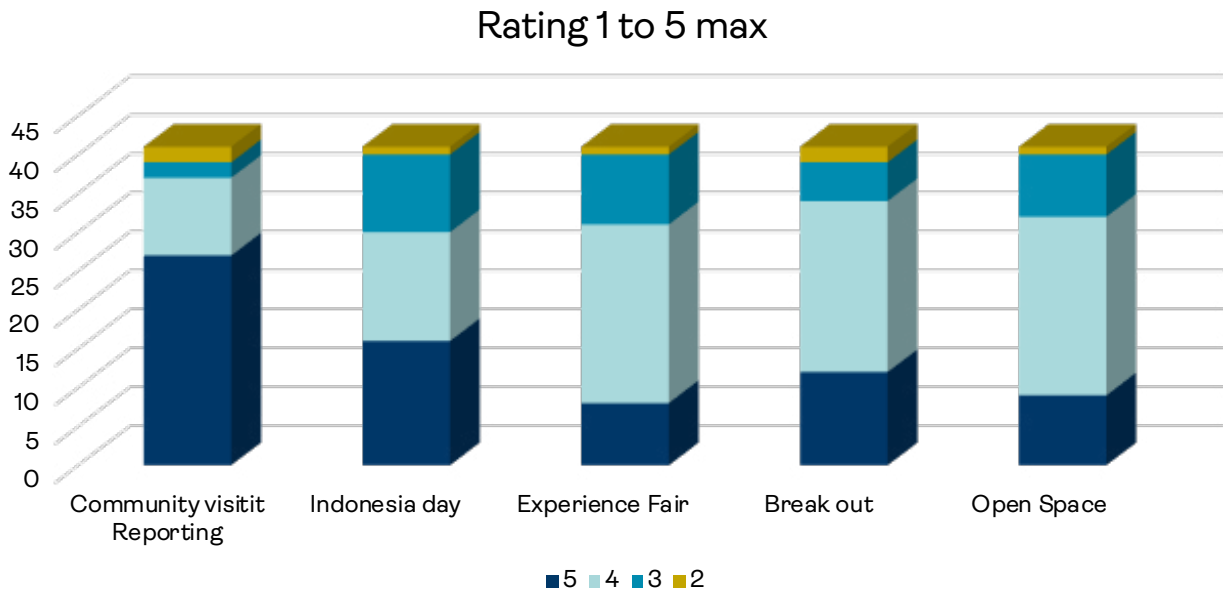
Positive Comments by the Participants

- General:** Most valuable learning, extremely enlightening, incredibly insightful and enriching, a great learning in my life, an eye opening experience, very interactive.
- Community visits:** Provided valuable first hand knowledge and perspectives, really appreciated the direct contact with communities, learned about various community strategies to advance agrarian reform, stay in community houses must be a feature of each learning exchange.
- Inclusiveness:** Inspired by young people engagement, learned a lot about trans-generational struggle, women and youth engagement, valuable learning to be applied in communities we are supporting.

Critical Comments by the Participants

- General:** General: More preparatory work or maybe general PPT can help understand better.
- Community visits:** Community visits: 2 days is not enough time, not enough interaction with the community (Lombok), too limited time (Pancer), the Pancer community is left alone we should do more to follow up, because learning without action is not sufficient.
- Inclusiveness:** Inclusiveness: participation by women was limited (Pancer), lacked participation from women and youth, no youth or women speaking of the issue (Lombok).

Rating of the ALE different Sessions by 41 respondents



Follow-up Action Already Taken

- > Have shared my experiences with my team on the best practice of field visits in communities and on work from different perspectives in Asian countries.
- > As soon as I got back from the learning exchange, I organised an online sharing meeting with grassroots organisations working in over 10 states of the country. The meeting was organised to share various initiatives being taken in different countries on similar issues.
- > I reported back to my organization in Asia Young Indigenous Peoples Network (AYIPN) on activities we can implement further about land rights.
- > I have shared into my community the strategies used by other organizations to cope up into the mainstream, being able to participate in the municipal, provincial and national level, and things that need to be strengthened in the community.

Follow-up Action being Planned about Engaging with Youth

- > Youth and youth movement engagement in future projects, activities at rural level, in local economy development (4x)
- > Plan to increase our engagement with the rural & urban youth in India
- > Empower young people to be more involved in protecting the indigenous territory
- > Resource mobilization for youth and land programs
- > I plan to establish and strengthen partnerships with other young leaders, organizations, and institutions working on similar issues.
- > Use the customary school model (2x), inspired to develop Customary Schools in India
- > Subscribe to ILC youth group
- > Conduct learning exchange among the community in South East Asia such as youth summit (Youth Jamboree) on tenure rights.

Follow-up Action being Planned about Women Empowerment

- > Engage more with women within their community
- > Deepen learning about policies in Nepal to provide more space to women
- > Build capacities of women groups to actively engage in natural resources management
- > Make a land rights campaign on the role of youth and women
- > Open a learning group for women on local wisdom
- > Continue mapping of indigenous territories and support Indigenous women attending traditional school in my village

Follow-up Action being Planned about Women and Youth

- > Organize youth and strengthen women organizations on tenure issues
- > Youth and women must be engaged meaningfully and be involved in the incubation, design and implementation of any tenure projects (it must be in the checklist).
- > Further strengthen youth and women in KPA member organizations

Other Follow-up Actions

- > Engage and develop communication with local government for the recognition of IP tenure rights (3x)
- > Engage to protect IP defenders

Follow-up Action being Planned about Engaging with Youth

- > Initiate collaborative projects with local communities, farmers, and herders to implement sustainable livestock practices and integrating traditional knowledge with modern approaches to enhance resilience to climate change.
- > Organize capacity-building workshops and training sessions related to sustainable livestock management, climate adaptation, and conservation techniques.
- > Deepen my understanding of the complex challenges facing the livestock sector and biodiversity conservation, I will continue to engage in learning opportunities and research activities.
- > I will advocate for policy changes and support initiatives that promote climate-smart agriculture and biodiversity conservation in my region.
- > Support organic cultivation system in Bangladesh.
- > Take action to work with youth about land rights and sustainable agriculture in Guajrat, India.
- > Do more advocacy on Indigenous territory management post recognition.

Further Sharing being Planned

- > Will share the major learning with my organization team
- > I plan to actively share the insights and lessons learned from the event with my local community, colleagues, and relevant stakeholders.
- > Cascading of the learning exchange at the country-level (National Land Coalition - Philippines)
- > In India too we are planning for a learning exchange to provide a shared platform to grassroots leaders and representatives of community organizations to connect, engage and enrich each other with multiple initiatives and learnings on the similar issues.

Organizations to continue exchanges

- > KPA (7x), on innovative working plan (from Bangladesh); because KPA is fighting to protect the fundamental rights of rural people, work with marginalized communities, help to provide livelihood, support women, youth and IP as well. KPA is challenging health systems and unlawful pollution for the sustainable world.
- > BRWA (4x) on IPs work and ICCAs
- > AMAN (2x)
- > BRASTI (2x) on their appropriate approach blending the modern with traditional.
- > EKTA Parishad (2x), KPA can exchange learning with Ekta Parishad India and make a collaboration related to Go Rurban with Lets Get Connected KPA youth program
- > Philippines organizations (2x) on their methodology to tackle the issues of land and forest governance issues; with Philippines youth movement
- > BPAN, Indigenous Youth Organization
- > Asia Region Youth Network
- > LiVE on strengthening women tenure rights in forest area
- > CDA on community support and organizing
- > CIPRED on the challenges faced by customary institutions to manage their natural resources
- > Indian organizations
- > Indonesian organizations on their advocacy on land recognition
- > SRUTI
- > Bali Indigenous Youth Group
- > Rede Ba Rai, East Timor (interest from KPA)
- > RMI
- > RDF

Organizations to continue exchanges

- > ILC (5x), with co-ILC members, community partners, event co-organizers as they share the same advocacies and programs like the AR Now! / KAISAHAN. KPA wants to share experience regarding KPA ARAS Education with community friends assisted by ILC members. To strengthen international networking in defending IPs rights. With ILC youth Asia as we want to link more youth and organizations to the work of land rights.
- > TF (5x) to deepen understanding on tenure issues, more learning exchanges
- > Samdhana (4x)
- > The Tenure Coalition (2x) for more strategies and linkages, more learning exchanges

There are several participating organizations and fellow youth participants I would like to stay in touch to continue the exchange.

The ALE was a unique opportunity to connect with like-minded young leaders from diverse backgrounds, all working towards sustainable development and positive change in their communities.

Language barrier for some who would like to connect with other organizations

