

NURTURING CONNECTIONS FOR IPLC RIGHTS AND RESILIENCE

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



The
Samdhana
Institute

THE SAMDHANA INSTITUTE

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Cover story:

Indigenous youth and their traditional instrument during AMAN congress. AMAN congress was held at Jayapura, attended by thousands of Indigenous Peoples from the Indonesian archipelago for decision making, knowledge sharing and cultural exchange.

Collage photos of the participants of the national youth *menoken* in the Photo below. This event was attended by around 400 participants from Palawan, all the way to Southern Mindanao. Youth groups in the partner communities held simultaneous *menoken* in their area, and convened online for the national gathering.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD

Dear Friends,

We start 2023 with a combination of hope and concern.

Reflecting on Results of Two Decades of Work



We enter this year with tremendous hope as we reflect on what we supported our partners to achieve despite the restrictions and fear that the COVID 19 situation presented. In 2022, community partners harvested results of years of work and actions. We sustained support work through the pandemic years to enable Panah Papua, our partner working in Teluk Bintuni to support the Ogoney community towards securing the first *hutan adat* covering 16,299 hectares awarded in December 2022 at the AMAN Congress in Jayapura. Similarly, our sustained support to civil society groups in the Gugus Tugas Masyarakat Adat (GTMA) or Task Force on Indigenous Peoples alongside our partners in the PERMATA project have resulted in 23,613 hectares for six communities being issued *desa adat* certificates by the Ministry of Environment and Forest (KLHK).

However, even as partners in Teluk Bintuni and Jayapura secure their land in 2022, many of our partners remain to be on the long and sometimes rough road to reaching their aspirations for tenure security. We have partners that have been on this road for more than 20 years and we continue to support them in this journey. For partners like the Marga Ogoney and those indigenous communities in Jayapura, the big questions are, what next, and how do we develop our people, our territories and our livelihoods in these post COVID times?

Fellowship for Local Women Leaders

We remain to be concerned as civic space continues to shrink in the region reminding us of the need to support resiliency building to sustain our social and environmental movement.

In the Philippines, we started a Women Environmental Defenders programme to support women leaders that are being threatened or are facing legal cases for fighting for their rights. This initiative supported a cohort of women leaders and enabled them in the critical times of their struggles. This support is essential for encouraging women leaders to continue with their very important and multi-faceted work even as they face these challenges. Like one of the women leaders in Calamianes, who has been asserting their rights since 2019 against private companies that took over their ancestral lands, was charged with three legal cases. But she did not see it as a hindrance to increase her knowledge and skills, and encourage her fellow IPs to assert their rights and to see the importance of their culture and nature.

Having worked with partners (IPLCs, CSOs, donors, local governments) for the past two decades, Samdhana looks forward to transforming lessons learned to knowledge that could be shared more widely. This year also presents us an opportunity to synthesize past information and begin to generate wisdom that we can bring to bear as we face the challenges in the coming years as a part of the broader social-environmental movement.

We also recognize that the next 20 years will be different. Many of us may need to acknowledge the intergenerational transition that is inevitable and learn to take on new roles. We will need to advocate using digital as well as the usual face to face engagements. Online and offline meetings will be the new normal. We will work from home and the office. We will have to live with technology playing greater roles in society towards a just digital future. We should continue to be both open and critical to the challenges artificial intelligence may bring.

Many of the issues and concerns we have will persist or may even get worst. Many of the aspirations will remain – equity, climate and social justice, gender equality, disability rights and social inclusion, etc. It is yet a long road to the dream of leaving no one behind. But we persevere. Many more are beginning

to work in the intersection of these issues, emphasizing that the world is interlinked and that the issues we face are not isolated from each other. To ensure transformative and systemic change, we will need to sustain a culture that allows for critical thinking and engagement. Critical thinking must be part of the arsenal of tools that the next generation should have alongside the technological advancements in the world today. To nurture critical thinking, we will listen, debate and learn with you all. We will work alongside you in taking inter-generational actions that shapes and enables a just but kind future.

Listening, learning and co-creating our joint futures with our different partners will mark this 20th year of Samdhana Institute. Please celebrate with us as we enter the next 20 years of the social and environmental movement.

The future is with ALL OF US in this movement whatever generation we belong to; whichever group or organisation we are part of, whoever we are and wherever we may be.

In solidarity,

Suraya Afiff
Chair, Samdhana Institute



Yes They Can! Generating Evidence of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' Capacities to Manage Funding



Tanimbar weaver. Tanimbar is one of DGM-I beneficiaries (SAMDHANA)

Completion of the Dedicated Grant Mechanism – Indonesia (DGM-I)

The project on “Strengthening Rights and Economies of *Masyarakat Adat* and Local Communities” as supported by the DGM-I was completed in November 30, 2022. There are seven main regions where partners were supported: Papua, Maluku, Bali - Nusa Tenggara, Sulawesi, Kalimantan, Java, and Sumatra. Based on the completion evaluation, all project goals to strengthen the capacity of IPLCs to engage in tenure security processes and livelihood opportunities from sustainable management of forests and land were met. In fact, the project had exceeded in terms of outputs and results.

In total, 36 CSOs, 43 Peoples Organizations and 198 IPLCs were supported through the project.

The project results were found to be relevant to international policy discussions on supporting tenure rights of *Masyarakat Adat* and Local Communities, and increasing access to financial resources that they themselves can manage. It also resounded with the Government of Indonesia's commitment to the recognition of *Masyarakat Adat* customary territories.

In relation to government and policy support, a total of 52 documents that validated and lend strength to the land tenure security of Indigenous People and Local Communities, in the form of Regional Regulations, District Head Decrees, and Decrees from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry were attained.

One key result is the 12 Partner organizations supported were led by women, and subsequently, the number of supported projects that were being managed by women. Through their engagement, women's participation in livelihoods and community issues increased, as well as their access to information and capacity development opportunities. More community women said they increased their confidence and felt respected.



ORPA
Namblong

One such Partner is ORPA Namblong. This woman-led organization was established in 2017, and first received funds from DGM-I. After this support, the organization continues to thrive. Their experience gave them confidence that they are able to manage a project. ORPA Namblong is actively fund-raising for its program, applying for several calls for proposals, and have requested Samdhana to provide a reference for the application. Their proposal was approved and received funding.

The grant projects of Partners became vehicles for revitalizing culture. In North Lombok Regency, the Wet Bayan Indigenous Community was able to revitalize their indigenous community structure by reforming the *Gawe Alit* for them to strengthen their governance in their territory.

Other projects that are highly relevant are those located in small islands, and those that aimed to lessen greenhouse emissions. Biak is one of the small islands in West Papua. The organization Kainkain Karkara Byak got support from DGM-I to strengthen their livelihood by establishing five indigenous community organizations, namely Sasari, Anobo, Yeri, Padaidori, and Saribra. To improve their community income, they built a fresh fish shelter in Saribra. On the other hand, to lessen greenhouse gas emissions, the communities in the four other locations planted trees in former mining areas. They also planted in their sacred forests, social forestry areas, and mangrove areas. The communities who participated are the Lewu Tehang, Namblong, Kembang Langit, and Sopen.

The evaluation report cited these most likely impacts from the 5-year project:

- A more peaceful society because tensions and conflicts have subsided;
- Communities can live more prosperously because their land rights are legally recognized and their livelihoods increase; and
- Better management of natural resources

PT Serasi Kelola Alam (SEKALA) is currently preparing an analysis of forest cover changes in the DGM-I sites.

There are increased opportunities for sustaining the gains of Partners, as indicated by the policy regulations that were secured, the created network, funding commitment from the Village Fund for some of the Partners' projects, and through their improved capacities.

To sustain the gains of IPLC Partners for tenure security and livelihood improvement through forest and natural resources management, Samdhana became accredited to the Badan Pengelola Dana Lingkungan Hidup/ Indonesian Environment Fund (BPD LH). This provides more opportunities to access funding again that could address the broad needs of IPLCs. In Samdhana's experience with DGM-I, we were able to support only 10% of the total proposals that we had received. This means that there is so much more out there that needs this kind of support.

The National Steering Committee Members expressed that the DGM-I project should be evaluated if it actually works as a climate change funding mechanism for IPLCs. However, it is important to be consistent that the mechanism should enable funding to be given directly to IPLCs, whether this experience with the DGM-I implementation is well or not. They pointed out that the rigid World Bank procurement system used in the project does not align to the quality of the outcomes that the WB wanted to attain. Because of the strict requirements, it does not go in sync with the timeframe that IPLCs needs for their implementation. This issue forced Samdhana to provide the supplementary support from other funding.

Lessons and recommendations

Samdhana learned important lessons from executing the DGM-I: First is the great challenge of donor administrative and reporting requirements at the level of partners and at the level of Samdhana as executing agency. Developing simpler mechanisms and providing intense coaching and capacity development for Partners' project

management and financial reporting are needed to pull through a project as big as DGM-I, and at the same time keeping it accessible and responsive to IPLCs.

The one – three years period of projects is a short time to fully achieve the outcomes that the Partners and Samdhana envision. Thus, the contributing factors for sustainability mentioned above will remain important to continue what has been started. There is still need to understand better how *Masyarakat Adat* perceive and understand disabilities, to be able to better respond to this need. Partners received capacity development during the project implementation, and these need to continue, as learning is a life-long process. Another recommendation is to improve the identification of marginalized or more vulnerable groups, within the already marginalized groups of IPLCs.

[Visit the DGM-I website*](#) for more of the stories and project results.



Broadening Women Environmental Defense

Samdhana launched the first Women Environmental Defenders Cohorts and Fellows Program in February 2022 in the Philippines. This was part of the Women Environmental Defenders (WE-D) Project in consortium with The Asia Foundation (lead), Manila Observatory, Forest Foundation Philippines, Alternative Law Group, and LILAK Purple Action for Indigenous Women's Rights.

The first batch of Cohorts and Fellows were 24 IPLC women & LGBT, coming from 11 tribal groups in Mindanao and Calamianes Islands, Palawan. The profile of Cohorts and Fellows included two from the LGBTQiA community, solo parents, widows, persons with different abilities and elders.

Environmental defense is largely associated with conflicts of destructive activities, frontline work, and advocacy campaigns. We learned with this project that environmental defense can cover a

*<https://dgmindonesia.id>



Planting activities by women during WE-D program. (SAMDHANA)

broad range of work, as put forward by the first batch of Cohorts and Fellows. Some of their works that we supported were on resource-based livelihoods, forest and mangrove conservation, community organizing, cultural-spiritual protection of territories, and inter-generational sharing of traditional skills, such as weaving.

The inclusive intention of the WED program was also highlighted with the support to three elderly Bae¹ who banked the value of nature spirit guardians that contribute to the protection of forests and its rich flora and fauna, that enable the provision of vital ecosystem services.

We also supported a number WE-Ds who were under harassment due to their rights assertion. Two women also accessed support for the proceedings and fees of the legal court cases that were filed against them as a tactic to deter them from asserting their ownership of their ancestral domain. For most of the Cohorts and Fellows, it was the first time that they were able to access funding on their own and manage projects. This was one area where we all drew the most important lessons in terms of providing financial support to individual activists, and how to balance the interests and ensure sharing or complementation of resources vis-à-vis their community and organization.

Samdhana will continue WE-D 2.0 and will open the program to the rest of the partners across the Southeast Asia region. ###

¹Title given to a woman leader among Higaonon tribe

Addressing the Intersection of Poverty, Gender Equality and Climate Change – the ICONIQ Impact Co-Lab



Daily livelihoods. Seaweed farming is affected by rising temperature of seawater and severe typhoons (SAMDHANA)

Through the support of ICONIQ Impact Co Lab Project, we are increasing support and resources for IPLCs across SEA region to address poverty by securing their lands and livelihoods; increase gender equality and inclusion by capacitating women, young people, and diffables; and accelerate community efforts for climate change adaptation and improve sustainable environmental practices.

What is greatly appreciated with the support of ICONIQ is the milestones approach, which facilitated for us to spread the resources across the programmatic areas of work and to institutional capacity development.

In the first year, through collaboration and networking, we were able to reach the following:

Thirty-eight communities, mostly Indigenous, in Indonesia, Philippines, Laos and Thailand. This is in support of the processing for the formal recognition of their territories, community development planning, and assertion of right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). Majority of these communities are also developing their livelihoods, such as the development of the **“AgroECCu” or Agroecology and Cultural Community farms**, weaving, cotton planting, and forest management. Not only are these for income

generation, more importantly, their resource management approach ensures sustainability, protection of existing ecosystems and restoration of degraded areas. It is also another form of addressing climate change by protecting the important ecosystems that regulate climate.

Throughout the year, in the activities supported by the ICONIQ, we engaged with 62 organizations, 39% of which were all women community organizations. Among these are eight youth organizations involved in cultural advocacy, indigenous education, the promotion and documentation of indigenous knowledge practices and systems (IKSP), and conservation work. Through their engagement, the youth also increase their capacities for managing, facilitating, organizing, and improving their organization as a whole. Five of the youth organizations in Northern Mindanao, Philippines is recognized under their unified ancestral domain governance structure.

The women groups are developing their enterprises, such as weaving, crispy cassava, and *noken* making. Their active participation has led to more recognition of the equally important roles and contributions of women within their communities. At least nine of the women groups are mainstreaming GEDSI into their ways of work, in parallel with their efforts to increase their understanding and capacity to assert their rights.

These works were venues to provide direct capacity development to at least 755 individuals throughout the year, through Samdhana and those that were shared by the Partners themselves. ###



Improving the Way We Walk Our Talk

Institutional GEDSI Audit

Samdhana underwent its first leg of institutional audit on gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI). It aimed to assess how well we have integrated GEDSI into Samdhana's staffing, policies, programs, services, and budgets.

The audit result indicated that Samdhana is a highly sensitive² organization, moving towards responsiveness in its efforts to

²Based on the GEDSI mainstreaming continuum in five stages: blind, aware, sensitive, responsive, and transformative



The GEDSI audit in the Philippines-Mekong operation was conducted as part of the WE-D Consortium project with The Asia Foundation. (SAMDHANA/Xenia)

mainstream GEDSI. It scored highly responsive in its VMGOs, values and principles, programming, budgeting, project planning and implementation. Policies and strategies on Human Resource Management, communications, knowledge management, and MEL (Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning) were highly sensitive as well.

A GEDSI institutional Gender Action Plan captured the steps to implement the recommendations to move Samdhana to becoming a GEDSI-transformative organization. The audit covered the Philippines-Mekong operations, and similar steps will also be conducted for the Indonesia operations. Currently, a working group within Samdhana is reviewing our policies. A composite GEDSI team is also formed from the Programme staff to continue integrating GEDSI in the various projects and activities.

The GEDSI audit in the Philippines-Mekong operation was conducted as part of the WE-D Consortium project with The Asia Foundation. Two other consortium members – one working on climate science and the other one on legal and policy work also underwent the process.

In Indonesia, we continue to provide capacity development in adopting the GEDSI lens, with around 19 local CSOs and community organizations.

Tools for analysis of GEDSI is continuously being developed. One partner in Laos is using the Gender Action Learning System or GALS as an analysis tool for community awareness raising. ###



Emerging Areas of Work

Loss and Damage



Manila Observatory with at least 17 other CSOs, rights and environmental organizations lobbying at the COP27. (MANILA OBSERVATORY)

Samdhana partnered with the [Manila Observatory](https://www.observatory.ph)* (MO) in pursuit of regional discussions on Loss and Damage (L&D) and advancing it at the 26th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC. The Southeast Asia Regional Workshop on Loss and Damage 2022 was organized in partnership with MO, Samdhana, the Chiang Mai University School of Public Policy (CMU-SPP), and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). Conducted last 22-25 of August in Bohol, Philippines, it was attended by 39 representatives from indigenous and local communities' government, civil society, and academe, all coming from Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Timor Leste, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. Samdhana invited representatives from farmer groups, indigenous women, and legal groups to contribute their perspectives and experiences of loss and damage in the conversation. The regional consultation produced a statement calling for the creation of an L&D funding facility that is guided by the principle of climate justice, accessible and flexible for local and grassroots organizations, and equitable. It called for funding of capacity development of resource-dependent and vulnerable groups. [The statement can be read here](https://samdhana.org/sites/default/files/publication/Policy-brief_Loss-and-Damage_ManilaObservatory-.pdf)**.

*<https://www.observatory.ph>

**https://samdhana.org/sites/default/files/publication/Policy-brief_Loss-and-Damage_ManilaObservatory-.pdf

Samdhana participated in at least two research and consultation related to financing models that can possibly inform the design and mechanisms of the L&D funding facility.

Samdhana is continuing its partnership with Manila Observatory on loss and damage policy advocacy. We will also continue partnership with CMU-SPP especially in the area of increasing localized research and documentation capacities of indigenous and local communities.

Supporting Indigenous-owned Corporations



Socialization of Mitra BUMMA by facilitator to the community at Papua. (SAMDHANA)

The IP Corp Initiative is developing indigenous peoples's owned corporation at the tribal level. Samdhana helped to catalyze the creation of BUMMA or Indigenous Peoples corporations with two pilot partners: Namblong Tribe in Jayapura and Mare Tribe in Maybrat. The concept of the BUMMA is to be an enabling institution to manage the tribe's lifespaces of forest, agriculture and natural resources, both commodities and environmental services, including carbon sequestration. The BUMMA also builds on the framework of Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN) or the Indigenous Peoples' Alliance of the Archipelago.

The IP Corps Initiative in Mare and Namblong is also counted as an effort to protect customary rights. Developing the BUMMA is an expression of customary territorial ownership to manage their resources.

Mitra BUMMA, as a facilitating organization, aims to assist the tribes to develop business and governance structure, assess the economic potentials in the territory and develop business partnerships and investment. Some community resources that are

identified to date include vanilla, cacao, root crops and various farm produce, ecotourism, and carbon sequestration projects.

By the end of the year, Mitra BUMMA had reached 400+ community members: from women's groups, village heads, to the youth, to promote the concept of BUMMA and seek consent and partnership. Along with the organizational development of Mitra BUMMA, they also established partnerships with 6 institutions. For the Mare Tribe produce canvassing, they were able to engage 41 producers from nine villages, which introduced 28 endemic products into the local markets.

To signify the sacredness and commitment of the partnership for a BUMMA, the Namblong Tribe carried out a ritual and incorporated a traditional corn passing ceremony. This took place during the signing of a cooperation agreement with the Jayapura Regency Government to assist in supporting and developing their Indigenous-owned Corporation (BUMMA).

Taking from the reflection of Indonesia Lifescape Team, we learned that: 'In the life space of indigenous communities, we learned that securing tenurial rights, improving livelihood, and environmental conservation is not just legal, political, and economic, but more importantly it is spiritual and ritual. Not just land rights, but land rites.'

You can also visit [Mitra BUMMA website*](https://www.mitrabumma.com/home-english) for more stories and news.

Agro-ecology in the heart of the city

We formally launched Kebun Gandaria, or the agro-ecology model farm of Samdhana in Kota Bogor, West Java in December 2022.

Kebun Gandaria, with a land area of 1,400m², is located in the Tegal Gundil housing complex in Bogor City. Since 2014, Samdhana has been managing the farm and planting many local fruit trees. As such, the Kebun area remains to be the only green spot in this highly-built residential area in Bogor.

The "agro-eco" farming system is intended to be more energy efficient, maintain the biodiversity, and is able to achieve maximum production on a limited area, through product diversification and integrated farming. Bogor, being known as the 'Rain City', has

*<https://www.mitrabumma.com/home-english>



Opening Kebun Gandaria as Samdhana agroecology learning. (Tigor Lubis)

abundant rainfall which we harvest for the fish pond and stocking water for the plants.

There is a garden where we grow various spices such as chili, lemongrass, cardamom, and turmeric; crops and vegetables like corn, cassava, spinach, tomatoes; and fruit trees such as papaya, jackfruit, and others. Apart from a guaranteed source of good nutrition, these crops have economic value, that will be a source of income for the farm.

Tilapia is being grown in the “bio-floc” pond. Bio-floc technology makes use of recycled wastes for fish food. Since the beginning, the tilapia have been fed using vegetable and fruit waste from the garden.

Kebun Gandaria runs on solar power, through the solar panels generously provided by Stromnesia, an NGO that empowers communities and development through green energy conversion. The solar panels generate 500W of electrical power which fuels the bio-floc pond. It is also used to operate other equipment such as water sprayers and milling machines. Stromnesia provides alternative solutions for small-scale businesses through electrification, especially in remote areas. Samdhana and Stromnesia has established a partnership to help promote solar power.

Learning nature in Rumah Kebun

The Rumah Kebun is a 4x6-meter multi-purpose house. The Rumah is a result of the collaboration between Samdhana and Amerta, a company engaged in the construction of houses from second hand timber. The construction began in September 2022, and completed in November. Ali, CEO of Amerta, said the building was designed

together with young architects. “We got the wood from an old army warehouse in Cianjur,” Ali said. These are overhauled with several new material combinations that gave the building a unique look.

Rumah Kebun is ready to be used as a place to exchange ideas and hold various meetings. It is also used as a production house and farm kitchen. There will be learning sessions open for public on processing various agricultural products that are healthy and nutritious. It will promote using ingredients that are quite easy to find, like butterfly pea, roasted rice, moringa leaf milk, and nutmeg syrup.

In the future, we aim to make Kebun Gandaria a gathering place that will capacitate women groups in the surrounding areas, like KWT Ceger Asri to pursue their passion for farming their own food source. Currently the KWT Ceger Asri women groups has limited land available. The housing complex area used to be their farm, but it was converted. Agro-ecological farming will be a means to help them increase their produce and sustain their farms despite this limitation. We also envision that the Kebun will be a place for sharing knowledge in agro-ecology farming among the youth. It will also be opened in the near future as a co-working space for Samdhana Partners.

Please connect to our [social media](#)*.



Highlights of Progress towards Institutional Targets

Assertion of rights

This year, we saw community partners triumph in their unceasing struggle for assertion of their rights and recognition by government agencies. In the Kirenteken-Menuvu community of Sezukadang, in Bukidnon Province, Philippines, one of the indication that they are effective in asserting their rights are the visits of key national government officials and local agencies, and their continuous engagement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region 10 Office (DENR-10). Since our partnership with the Kirenteken-Menuvu community in 2016, we have accompanied them through their various struggles for recognition, reclaiming their ancestral lands and strengthening their indigenous governance, in

*<https://www.instagram.com/kebungandaria/>



Technical Conference at Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau Region 10 (DENR-EMB X) between Kirenteken-Menuvu community and Kennemer Foods, Inc./ Green Arrow Agriventure, Inc. (SAMDHANA)

parallel with the strengthening of the political structure of the unified ancestral domain wherein they are a part of (CADT 206). In 2022, a new problem emerged with the establishment of a banana plantation, literally right outside the doorstep of the community members. This plantation was established without the community's FPIC. The community, supported by the indigenous peoples organization of CADT 206 sent several letters to various government agencies and to the local government units to question the establishment of the plantation and demand resolution. The Chairperson of the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Allen Capuyan personally visited to Sezukadang to hold dialogues with them. The leaders of Sezukadang were also able to demand for a conflict mediation dialogue with the Environmental Management Bureau of DENR-10 and the company representatives, where it was resolved that there will be no further plantation infrastructure developments until an FPIC is secured.

Representatives from the provincial government and other agencies have also visited them in relation to other issues the community raised.

While this is still an ongoing issues, yet these gains at being able to get relatively timely response from government agencies have encouraged the community to continue pursuing the respect of their rights. It has also encouraged the other communities within CADT 206 to take action to bring their concerns to the proper agencies, with the inspiration brought about by their Sezukadang community's experience.

Another significant win of local communities and farmer groups to protect their natural resources is the experience of partner Convergence of Initiatives for Environmental Justice (CIEJ)³, which

³<https://www.rappler.com/nation/south-cotabato-open-pit-mining-ban-stays-governor-vetoes>
<https://www.mindanews.com/top-stories/2022/03/south-cotabato-governor-endorses>
<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1572709/s-cotabato-gov-keep-ban-on-open-pit-mining>

facilitated the campaign to retain their province's ban on open pit mining in South Cotabato, Philippines and successfully engaged the local farmers and irrigators associations. Farmers and communal irrigators occupy 1,200 hectares of rice farmland that generates billions of pesos annually and is a major source of income in the province, were divided about their position on the proposed revival and lifting of the prohibition of the open-pit copper and gold mining project, which would span 31,000 hectares of forestland and headwater source of four major watersheds in the region. Through the FGG programme, Samdhana supported the learning visits organised by CIEJ, together with the farmers and irrigators associations, to Surigao del Sur Province, in the mining capital of the country. There, they saw firsthand the environmental damages and its impact on the livelihoods of farmers and fisherfolks. As a result of these IEC campaigns and learning visits, 38 irrigator associations pledged their opposition to the open-pit mining project and are now considered as one of the strongest allies of the campaign.

IPLC Partners in the Calamianes Islands went through paralegal trainings, to reinforce assertion of their rightful ownership of their lands and ancestral waters against conflicting claims by private individuals. Samdhana also supported individuals that were charged in with legal cases related to the land conflict, and in legal strategizing.

Resilience building in the Lifescapes

At the Lifescapes⁴, Samdhana supported IPLC partners in improving some of the core elements essential to building community resilience, such as:

- Agro-biodiversity and agroecology for food security and sovereignty
- From three pioneering small island communities in Palawan, Philippines, five more indigenous communities embarked on documenting their traditional food systems in forest, forage and marine;
- Samdhana is promoting agroecology with the primary goal to address sustainable food systems based on their Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP), while retaining and

⁴For its 2019-2028 Strategic Plan, Samdhana identified the following geographical regions as priority areas of resilience building: West Papua and Papua Province in Indonesia, and the Calamianes Islands in Palawan, and Northern Mindanao region in the Philippines. Working to support IPLCs, not just for the management and development of the physical landscape-seascape continuum, but also including the customary governance, social, cultural, and spiritual aspects of the tribes and the people who live there. All these aspects are factors in building resilience and capacities of IPLCs in some of the most biologically diverse and important areas in both countries. Samdhana's approaches using direct grantsmaking, capacity development, direct implementation, and support for policy development converges in the priority lifescapes to provide complement IPLCs own efforts.

protecting the natural ecosystems. We partnered with Agroeco Philippines NorMin cluster in promoting agroecology among Indigenous communities in Northern Mindanao, and supported agroeco practitioners to visit, train and mentor community members in establishing their agroeco farms. Agroecology has gained new significance especially for communities who have very limited productive farming areas; or located in forest zones.

- Access to clean water and improving community water systems and sanitation is interlinked with community efforts to address food security; 16 IPLCs were supported in Indonesia and Philippines
- Traditional/ indigenous education in partnership with *sekolah adat* in Indonesia and indigenous knowledge learning center such as Balai Kinatakwanan in Calawit Island with the Calamian Tagbanwa tribe
- Livelihoods based on communities' natural resources. There are diverse livelihoods we have supported, distinct to each community's economic potential. Some livelihood activities are: *kalakat* production (bamboo wall weaving), traditional mat weaving, organic coffee, cultural crafts, coconut-based soaps and virgin coconut oil, turmeric tea production, and others.
- Conservation ranging from establishment of indigenous tree species nursery to year-long tree growing, mangrove rehabilitation, support for forest guardians and protection of sacred areas. In the Higaonon tribe community of Barangay Awang (Philippines), around 8,000 seedlings have been planted and are growing in a two-hectares area. This is an ongoing effort supported by volunteers and institutional partners.



- Communication, particularly increasing basic skills in documentation and reporting, access to communication technology, and orientation on social media use. Increasing communication capacities of deaf persons in seven communities, through support to sign language training, and improving their confidence through opportunities for engagement with the broader public is an especially important emerging work of Samdhana. This is in recognition of disability rights

Agroecology collaborative learning visit with seven IP communities from Bukinon and Misamis Oriental, focusing on women and youth at Malitbog, Bukidnon. (SAMDHANA)

and the need for full participation of diffables in the social and environmental justice movement. Three such partnerships are with the Komunitas Tuli Jayapura, and the Deaf Ministries of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OMPH) Parish and the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro. The youth are significantly active in communications related capacity development.

- Addressing climate change through community adaptation plans by six communities in Papua, namely Sarmi, Sentani, Namblong, Tambrau, Mare and Merauke. Education and information campaigns, waste management and recycling campaigns, and others are endeavors in addition to the conservation and environmental protection already being carried out by IPLC Partners, within and outside of the Lifescapes, agro-ecology farming in lieu of cash crops and monocropping, and developing sustainable livelihoods for greener economies.

We invested in community members as 'Local Facilitators' to drive their own organizing and consolidation, contribute or lead in planning the support or 'interventions', and to raise more community voices in the decision-making.

Lifescape/Site	Local Facilitators	Engagement
Tanah Papua	20	Engaging communities in Mamta, Domburai, and Anim Ha regions
Southern Bukidnon, Northern Mindanao	1	One unified ancestral domain (at least 270,000 hectares) and currently mobilizing with at least seven communities in 3 municipalities
Misamis Oriental, Northern Mindanao	1	One unified ancestral domain which covers eight barangays in two municipalities
Calamianes Islands, Palawan	2	Two ancestral domains

In Tanah Papua, we have worked and supported communities in Maybrat, Jayapura, and SARMI, with a total area around 115,000 hectares. This includes working to secure 53,556 ha of Namblong tribe Forests and 59,322 of Mare tribe forests. Also covering 34,505 ha in Tambrau under PERMATA.

Community-to-community exchanges and hands-on learning are still primary methods in capacity development, especially

at the Lifescapes, where we aim to help communities so that they improve towards a connected landscape-seascape or territory governance. Three learning centers and community meeting hubs are established in Hena in Jayapura-Papua, Faith Hill in Sorong, Southwest Papua, and Sekolah Alam Paradise in Merauke, South Papua.

In the Philippines, Samdhana continues to focus on strengthening the Indigenous governance and indigenous political structures (IPS). We are working with five ancestral domains in Northern Mindanao, and three ancestral domains and ancestral waters in Calamianes Islands, Palawan. This year, Samdhana facilitated trainings for 16 Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representatives (IPMR) to deepen their understanding of the processes in which they can influence the local government to lobby their respective IP agenda. With 308 community partners, we also facilitated their visioning and strategic planning, mapping and validation of territorial boundaries, conflict resolution, and organizational development.

Menoken goes regional in Southeast Asia

Since 2020, when we started nokening, there have been more than 20 distinct menoken that Samdhana supported and helped to organize in Indonesia, Philippines and in Laos. This year, around 800 people had participated in the various *menokens*, both face-to-face and online. The 20 menoken does not count the independently organized *menoken* type gatherings that participants and other organizations did. Such was the inspiration and enthusiasm that these *menoken* generated, that many of the participants want to continue the conversations, pursue the plans that had emerged, or simply sustain the connection.

The *menoken* topics ranged from forestry to local food processing, from intellectual property rights to indigenous or local language preservation, from exchange on culture and arts, to IP youth rights, environmental conservation to livelihoods.

In the Philippines, we had a [national youth menoken*](https://samdhana.org/stories/youth-noken-philippines-2022). This is the second year that such a youth *menoken* had been organized. Despite the Teduray youth having just come from a conflict driven emergency evacuation, followed by a catastrophic flash flood in their province that took many lives, they still showed up during the menoken as a solid show of solidarity with all other IP youth. Their persistence and firm stand for their rights to be recognized within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region was greatly appreciated by

*<https://samdhana.org/stories/youth-noken-philippines-2022>



'Menoken' regional in Southeast Asia was held in Lembata, Indonesia. (SAMDHANA/Bem Jamora)

the other Menoken participants, who also faced various challenges in their respective communities.

This year was also the first time for Laos Partners to conduct their *menoken*. Another first was the regional face-to-face youth noken happened in November 2022, where participants from the Philippines, Laos, and Myanmar travelled to Indonesia to meet their counterparts. The five days exchange and learning event generated the much needed solidarity and networking among the youth individuals and groups.

Capacity Development

Agroecology is taking off with IPLC Partners. This year, six communities in Northern Mindanao completed their agro-ecoscoping activities, plans and proposals for the establishment of the “**AgroECu**” or Agro-ecological and Cultural farms. At least six communities were also supported to further their organic farming.

Women and youth have especially benefitted from agroecology practices, as they start to diversify their crops and integrate poultry and livestock into their farms. This eases their responsibilities for family and community food needs. Women led in traditional food documentation or inventory, such as the Calamianes women and Higaonon women in the Philippines.

Agroecology also provides a strong reinforcement in efforts to revive traditional and local food systems of communities. Women have contributed largely to the preservation of local food seeds, herbs, spices, preservatives, and food coloring. Agroecology challenges the current practices that result to unhealthy food and food waste. Community partners are challenged to change their mindset and behavior towards a lifestyle that is more environmentally friendly and sustainable.

Beyond the farmlands and gardens, Samdhana is also supporting IPLCs to bring back their “food forests”, beginning with two community partners located near Mt. Kitanglad in Bukidnon, Philippines. The concept of food forests highlights the Indigenous Peoples local knowledge of edible fruits, plants, native vegetables and herbs in the forest, and tries to bring back the practice of diversifying natural food sources. Communities valuing food forests will also reinforce protection of the remaining forests in their land.

We supported the development or continuation of local institutions to contribute to capacitating grassroots groups.

One of these is the Mama Sorghum Maria Loretha Foundation in Nusa Tenggara Timur, which aims to provide a wider range of services to farmers to develop and process sorghum to increase food security, and as a value-added product.

Increasing channels for capacity development

In 2022, the podcast [SeCangkir Koppi*](#) has taken off. Within the first year, there were eight episodes that featured women and youth speakers. They tackled a broad range of topics such as traditional schools/*sekolah adat* and its important role in maintaining local wisdom; indigenous youth and their initiatives to protect their village and their ancestral heritage; and sustainable livelihoods, among others.

Partnerships

Samdhana works with other key institutions that lead in social, environmental, Indigenous and human rights movements in Southeast Asia.

We are working with at least 32 local organizations, NGOs and Federations/ Alliances to multiply the efforts to capacitate and increase capabilities of Indigenous and local communities.

Some of them, such as the RSBI Foundation and YASPENSEL in Indonesia work with IPLCs to develop young people and women leaders, and train on agroecology for improved food security. In Laos, Don't Stop Dream Team run leadership development workshops with the youth.

We inked our institutional partnership with Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), for collaborative work in the Mekong countries. AIPP

*<https://open.spotify.com/show/1soGaDhKP8HRSHd70iZxjF>

helps Samdhana broaden our reach to indigenous and grassroots organizations in the Mekong region. In turn, our support has enabled AIPP to continue its human rights programme, and indigenous governance course. With AIPP, we were able to collaborate on regional discussions and complementary capacity development.

Another key actor in the Mekong region is the Earthrights School. We embarked on discussions with the activists, in line with Samdhana's goal to be able to help nurture next generation activists, especially in areas where indigenous and ethnic groups' rights situations remain to be fragile.

We continue to give special attention to partners in Myanmar who continue to grapple with their political and civil crisis. We are engaging with new advisers to enhance the effectiveness of the grants making in the Mekong, and to support the Samdhana team in deepening their grasp of the social situation, that is unique in each country. This better understanding of the context will guide Samdhana in sharpening the particular direction for work in the Mekong region in the next five years.

Closer to the office base, we continue to be a member of the Cagayan de Oro River Basin Management Council (CDORBMC) and STR3AMS. This year we co-hosted the learning exchange organized by GIZ for its Ecosystem-based Adaptation in 2 Riverbasins (E2RB) Project. Government agency representatives and members of Peoples Organizations from two other riverbasins in Negros Occidental and in Davao de Oro provinces came to learn and witness how the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) were developed and lobbied at the local government units. This was an eye-opening exchange for them, especially in understanding the challenges of local policy advocacy, and ensuring broad participation especially of the Indigenous Peoples and other communities residing within the watershed areas.

Policy Development Support

Samdhana continues to collaborate with CSO and government stakeholders to support the formal recognition of indigenous groups and their territories. In 2022, we worked with 11 institutions, in particular: GTMA Jayapura Regency; GTMHA Sanggau Regency; Tambrau Regency Development Partners; Papua & West Papua Province Development Partners; GTRA Sigi Regency; Central GTRA; Coordinating Ministry for PMK; Ministry of Manpower (Model of Expansion of Job Opportunities Region Based); Ministry of Education and Culture (Field School), and KLHK (Task Force for the Acceleration of Social Forestry. Samdhana works with 82 local

governments for Indigenous Peoples' tenure rights, while we and Partners have engaged with 8 Ministries.

Several decrees and recognition were issued: such as the Decree of the Marga customary forest for the Ogoney clan in West Papua. They received an Indigenous Law Community Decree from the local government.

Collaborations in Sarmi

Throughout 2022, Samdhana continued to support the efforts of *Masyarakat Adat* (indigenous people) to secure government recognition of ulayat rights in Sarmi Regency. Community members and local organizations were involved in various activities, starting with a *menoken* with the local government, indigenous communities, and other stakeholders. In the Menoken, they exchanged thoughts and ideas to promote the district's abundant natural and historical potential, and more importantly, how customary their rights will be recognized.

Sarmi is characterized by vast forests, spanning 1,435,791 hectares. It is known for the sago forests, which are vital food sources. The protected forests are home to diverse wildlife, such as pigs, kangaroos, cassowaries, parrots, white-headed eagles, and Cenderawasih. Sarmi's coastal areas offer significant marine resources, utilized by locals for processed food production, like shredded mackerel.

The Indigenous People mostly reside in five areas: Sobey, Armati, Rumbuai, Manirem, and Isirawa, commonly referred to also as SARMI.

These communities have managed their territories using local wisdom passed down through generations. However, due to existing laws that grant the government control over land in Indonesia, the mechanisms to formally recognize their customary rights and registering their land are not clear. This has affected their access to healthy food, water, and other essential resources.

We supported Partner communities to access the government programs on agrarian reform and social forestry to secure their land rights. Achieving this requires strong synergy between the Central Government and Regional Governments, particularly at the district/city level as well as the local communities. The Task Force of Agrarian Reform (GTRA) serves as a platform for collaboration, coordination, and synergy among various government agencies, ministries, institutions, NGOs, and CSOs, all working towards accelerating



Coordination meeting of Gugus Tugas Reforma Agraria (GTRA) Sarmi. A agrarian reform task force in Sarmi, Papua. (SAMDHANA/Roki Aloisius)

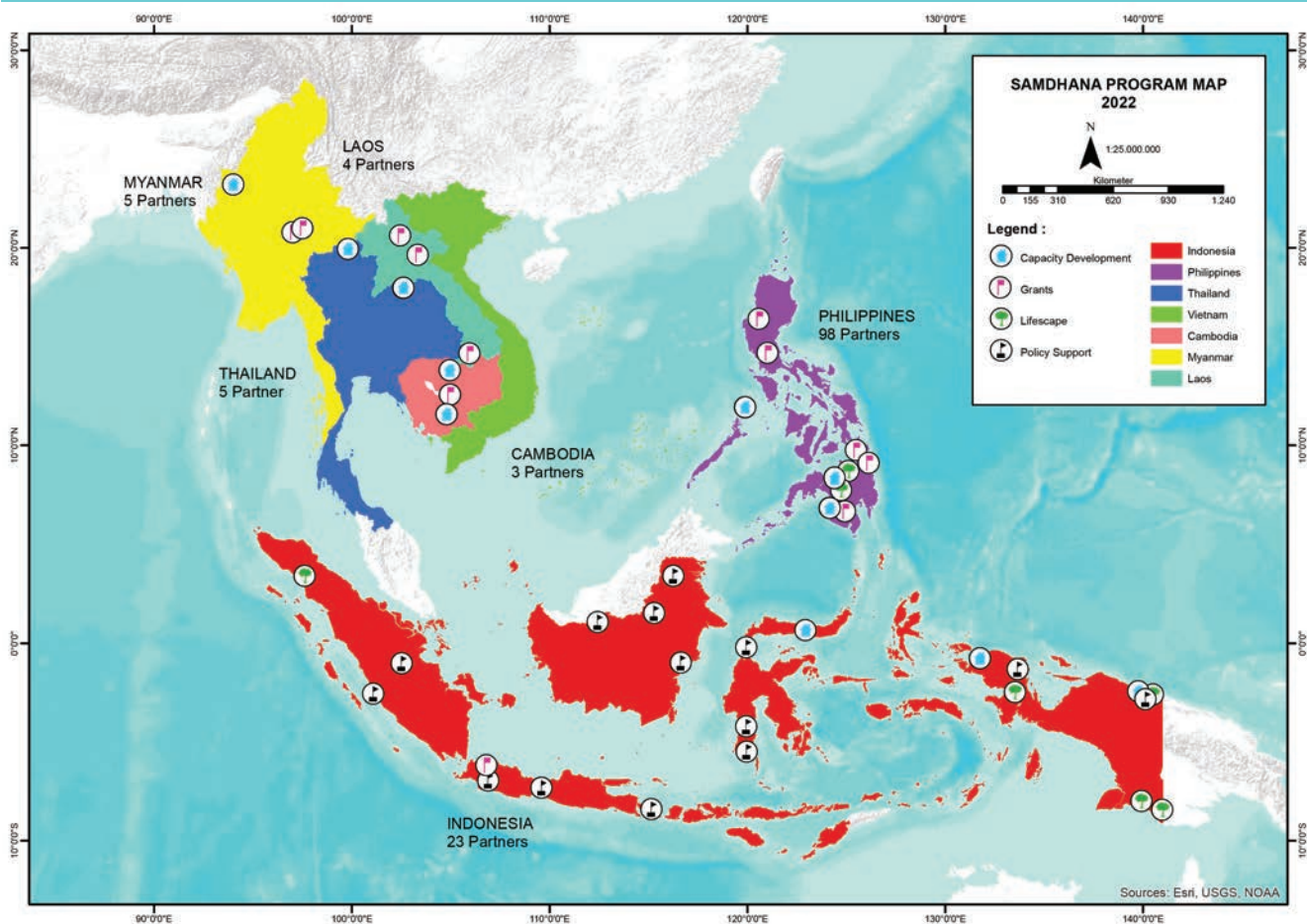
rights and welfare development in Sarmi Regency.

Support for Indigenous Peoples extends to integrating mapping and agrarian reform within the Papuan context. This includes asset management, conceptual and community mapping, planning and capacity development so that communities are able to generate evidence of their land rights. Despite the lack of legal and binding force of formal recognition, Indigenous peoples continue to manage their territories considering it as hereditary land, and living out their customary traditions.

Policy development support in partnership with local CSOs and other stakeholders is a continuing work in Papua, to integrate the status and rights of indigenous peoples into state policy mechanisms.



Partners across Southeast Asia region FY 2021-2022



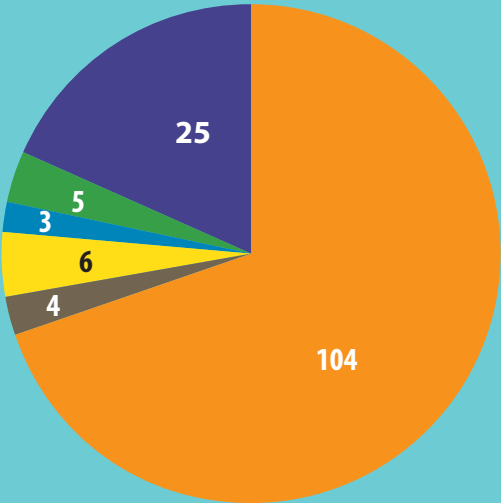
Flexible grantsmaking continues to be Samdhana's flagship program that enables us to direct financial and technical support to direct to IPLCs, grassroots organizations, CSOs and even individuals who are working to assert their rights and build community resilience.

A total of 147 grants were processed, totaling to US \$1,156,612. From across the region, 138 partners accessed this support.

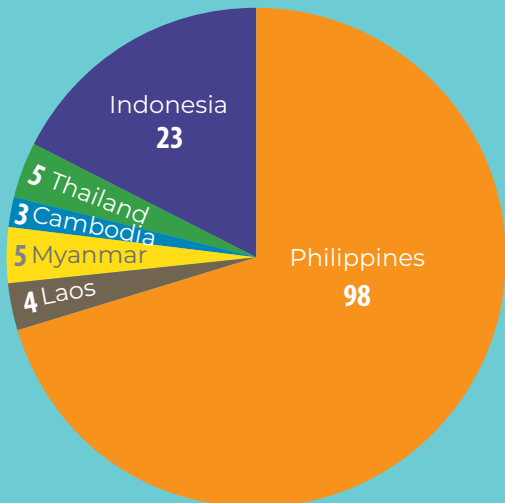
Through the Ford Social Bond Fund, we supported eight local organizations and institutions for recovery from the economic and civic decline during the COVID-19 pandemic. Four of these are in Indonesia, while the other half are in the Philippines. These Partners received a total of US\$82,577 for organizational development, strategic planning, and a combination of on-the-ground implementation and public policy forums on agroecology. The latter is very relevant in the wake of the food insecurity situations that resulted from the pandemic lockdown.

Here are the highlights for the year in 2022:

GRANTS APPROVED IN 2022 ONLY

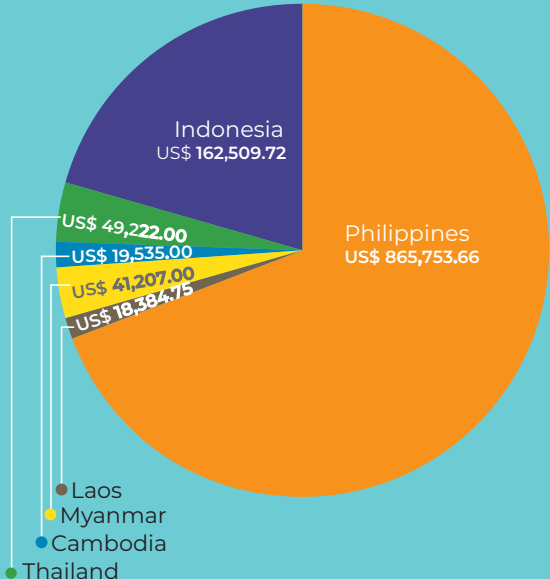


NUMBER OF PARTNERS PER COUNTRY, BASED ON GRANTS CONTRACTS APPROVED IN 2022



- Philippines
- Laos
- Thailand
- Indonesia
- Myanmar
- Cambodia

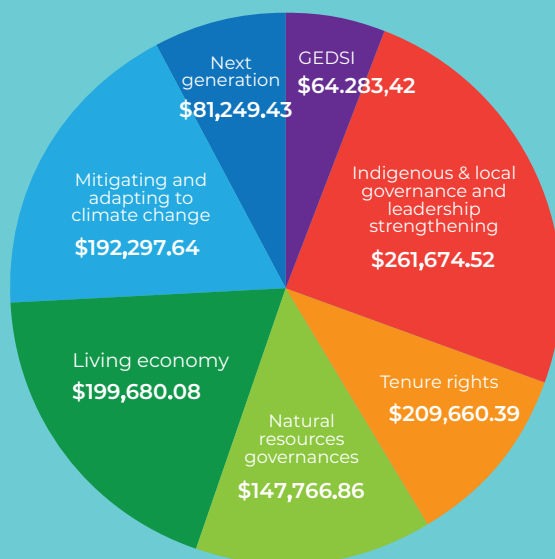
GRANTS AMOUNT, US\$



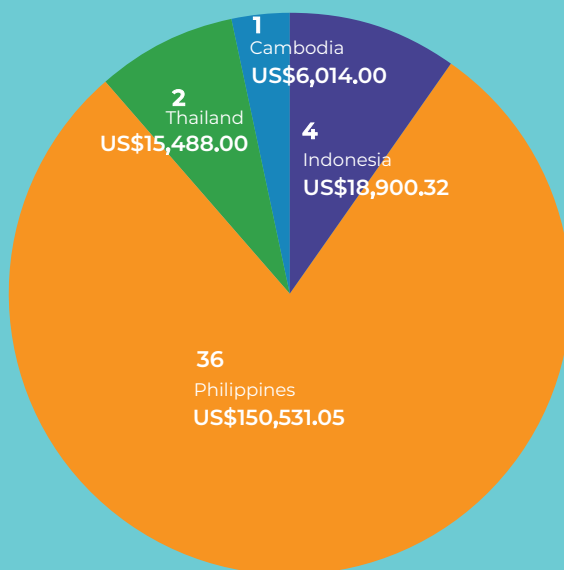
Grantee - Partners worked in various areas and initiatives that revolved around tenure, natural resources management, livelihoods, and environmental protection or conservation. More importantly, many Partners were also increasing their community and organizational capacities to better govern their territories and sustain their community initiatives.

While many Partner initiatives address more than one concern, we cluster the areas of work in the following general themes:

SUPPORT FOR THEMATIC AREA, BASED ON GRANTS CONTRACTS APPROVED



TOTAL AMOUNT AND NUMBERS OF WOMEN LED GRANTS



While in the previous table, grants that focus on mainstreaming/promoting and applying GEDSI is only eight, total of 43 or 29% of the total grants projects this year were women led in terms of planning, implementation and main participants who benefited from the grant. This amounted to \$190,933 or 15% of the total grant funds in 2022.

In the grantsmaking process, Samdhana helps to ensure that there is equal attention given to participation of women, youth and the diffables.

Grantsmaking 2022			
Country	Grants	Amount (US\$)	Total Partners*
Indonesia	25	\$162,509.72	23
Philippines	104	\$865,753.66	98
Cambodia	3	\$19,535.00	3
Laos	4	\$18,384.75	4
Myanmar	6	\$41,207.00	5
Thailand	5	\$49,222.00	5
TOTAL	147	\$1,156,612.13	138
*IPLC Organizations, grassroots groups, CSOs, Individuals			

Indonesia Highlights - Multi-year Grants

Year	Total amount approved for multi-year grant projects
2022	41,574
2021	787,581
2020	1,579,698
2019	245,885

Total grants managed in 2022, including multi-year contracts	US\$ 3,080,282
Total contract amount disbursed ^[1] in 2022	US\$ 576,676
Total multi-year grant contracts	US\$ 4,630,313
Total grants managed in 2022	79
Total grants approved in 2022	23

¹Disbursed is equal to amount paid in 2022.

Reigniting the Fellowship



Fellow meeting at Prana Dewi Resort in Bali. (SAMDHANA)

In 2022, another highlight was the Fellows meeting at Prana Dewi Resort in Bali. After some hiatus, Fellows were able to meet in person again. Twenty-two Samdhana Fellows joined, and an additional four went online. Set in the open space of Prana Dewi, with fresh air and beautiful scenery, it created a friendly and laid-back atmosphere.

Over two days, Fellows engaged in constructive discussions. On the first day, they explored more deeply the fundamental duties and responsibilities as Fellows. Emphasis was on the importance of mentoring and sharing valuable experiences, both positive and negative, with the next generation. The Fellows reflected on how to effectively interact with new forces and uphold Samdhana's core values.

A tribute was paid to Lafcadio, a beloved Fellow who recently passed away. In honor of his work and passion, Patrick Anderson and Chip Fay presented a proposal to establish a fund that would continue supporting Lafcadio's endeavors, particularly in Indonesia. They also discussed the possible role of Samdhana, such as supporting internships, facilitating mediation processes within communities, and mentoring the next generation of activists.

Cristi Nozawa, as Executive Director of Samdhana provided updates and insights into the organization's programs and work around tenure, resource management, gender equality,

disability rights and social inclusion (GEDSI), and support to the next generation such as the education grants.

The Fellows shared their observations on Samdhana's projects, such as the opportunities and challenges associated with partnering with donors like the World Bank. They recognize the complexities of navigating such relationships while remaining true to Samdhana's mission and supportive of IPLC partners.

Thematic conversations around democratic resilience, widening wealth disparities, disinformation, state of civic space, and tenure rights were organized. Some Fellows shared the opportunities for expanding work in Timor Leste. A couple of guests provided inputs on their own initiatives related to community product development and marketing online, and on agro-ecological practices. Given the rapid changing contexts, Fellows agreed that Samdhana needs to continue to be innovative and responsive.

Evenings were allotted for self-reflection and sharing on how Fellows perceive their needs and roles in the organization. They stressed the need for continuous improvement as activists. Some suggestions were on having a structured learning program, pro-active communications, and thematic or affinity meetings. Effective communication and clarity were identified as crucial elements for fostering understanding and cohesion among fellow members. A working committee was created to provide recommendations for a Fellows' programme, including the issues on recruiting or accepting new Fellows.

On the incoming 20th year of Samdhana, Fellows suggested various objectives, including enhancing local fundraising efforts, increasing youth involvement, and nurturing intergenerational interactions. They discussed about documenting Samdhana's history, and further developing its legacy. The meeting concluded with a reminder of Samdhana's core purpose: to provide a safe space where people can connect with both the modern and traditional worlds while working towards positive change.

Backcover story:

Handing over the wisdom to the next generation.

Johhny is one of the elders in Ban Nong Tao Village in Mae Wang District of Chiang Mai, who provides a learning space for younger generations to get deeper knowledge of Pgak'yau indigenous theory and practice.

Photo by SAMDHANA/Joan Jamisolamin

NURTURING CONNECTIONS FOR IPLC RIGHTS AND RESILIENCE

ANNUAL REPORT 2022





INDONESIA, Jalan Tampomas No. 33, Bogor 16128, Jawa Barat, Phone +62 251 7546173

PHILIPPINES, #91 Tomas Saco - 1st St., Brgy. Nazareth, 9000 Cagayan de Oro City, Phone +63 88 851 9238

Quezon City Office: Unit 2A La Residencia Bldg., 114 Maginhawa Street, Teachers Village East, District 4, 1101 Quezon City

 samdhana.org

 [samdhana.institute](https://www.facebook.com/samdhana.institute)

 [samdhana](https://www.instagram.com/samdhana)

 [samdhana_inst](https://twitter.com/samdhana_inst)