

# CLIMATE CHANGE PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Promoting Rights-based, Equitable and Pro-Poor  
REDD Strategies in South and Southeast Asia

Phase I – 2009/10

supported by  
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## PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT



## Climate Change Partnership with Indigenous Peoples

### Promoting Rights-based, Equitable and Pro-Poor REDD Strategies in South and Southeast Asia

#### Project Completion Report for Phase I (2009/10)

The project has been implemented successfully with local partners in four countries: Indonesia (with Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara – AMAN), Laos (with the Global Association for People and the Environment – GAPE), Nepal (with the Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities – NEFIN) and Viet Nam (with the Centre for Sustainable Development in Mountainous Areas – CSDM). As elaborated further below, the expected objectives and outcomes of the three main components of the project i.e. Awareness raising and capacity building; Advocacy for rights-based approach; and Promotion of community-based REDD partnership have been well achieved. Therefore, the project was also **able to achieve its stated overall Goal** “To contribute to the development and implementation of approaches in national REDD strategies that take both long-term forest conservation and the rights and concerns of indigenous peoples into account”. While in all four countries there is no doubt that the project has contributed to the development of approaches to national REDD strategies that take indigenous peoples’ rights into account, in none of the countries such national strategies have yet been finalized. Thus it is at this point of time not possible to fully assess whether the contributions made were sufficient to ensure that the national REDD strategies are based on a pro-poor and equitable approach respecting Human Rights and the rights of indigenous peoples in particular.

An indicator which allows us to assess the prospects of a full achievement of this ultimate aim is the level of involvement of indigenous peoples’ organisations and representatives in their respective government’s initiatives to develop national REDD strategies. In three out of the four countries involved in the project indigenous peoples’ organisations have to various degrees been involved in dialogues and discussions on, or even in formal bodies responsible for the development of national REDD strategies. In Nepal, the local partner NEFIN effectively participated in national level workshops and meetings organized by other national level REDD players and was invited to become member of the national task force (the so-called National REDD Cell). In Indonesia AMAN has cooperated with the Indonesian government at various levels (provincial and national) and in various ways in the development of a REDD strategy that respects indigenous peoples rights. And in Viet Nam our partner CSDM has established close cooperation with the national UN-REDD programme. Only in Laos, where the progress of developing a national REDD strategy has been slow and hasn’t reached far yet, indigenous peoples have not been involved yet. More details on the involvement of our partners in national REDD strategy discussions are provided further below.

Throughout the project period IWGIA and AIPP have, in addition to local partners, cooperated closely with Tebtebba and Forest Peoples Programme (FPP), above all in the joint production of information material. The modalities of cooperation and coordination (including pooling of financial resources) were discussed during a partners meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand on July 14 - 15, 2009. A total of 15 participants attended from Tebtebba, Rainforest Foundation Norway (RFN), FPP, IWGIA, AIPP and AMAN. This was followed by the start-up coordination meeting among the project partners from July 16-17, with 20 participants from the six partners (AIPP, AMAN, CSDM, GAPE, IWGIA, NEFIN).

#### Achievement of Objectives and expected Outcomes

The project pursued three main objectives, which in the project document are referred to as “purposes”. These defined the three components of the project. For each of the purposes, specific expected outcomes have been formulated. The table below provides an overview of the level of achievement of the stated objectives and expected outcomes as well as the outputs produced during the implementation of the project

Expected Outcomes	Assessment of achievement	Outputs produced	Beneficiaries
<p><b>1. Awareness Raising and Capacity Building</b>            Purpose: To increase awareness on climate change and REDD among indigenous peoples, and build their capacity to participate actively in the development of national REDD strategies  <b>Overall, this purpose has been well achieved, although, especially with respect to capacity building among leaders, there are considerable differences between the target countries (Indonesia and Nepal vs. Viet Nam and Laos) due to the prevailing local conditions.</b></p>			
<p><b>Expected outcome 1:</b>            Indigenous communities and their organisations have a thorough understanding of what REDD is, what kind of REDD-initiatives are taking place in their countries, and what the potential implications and opportunities are for indigenous peoples</p>	<p>The project's information dissemination by means of publications in local languages has been considered very effective. The publications have been well received and there is a high demand for more. An updated version was produced for re-printing right after the end of the project period and is currently being translated into Spanish and French for further dissemination in Africa and Latin America.</p> <p>While under the project awareness raising on REDD has reached a large number of communities, there is still a great need for further expansion to reach all communities in the countries involved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Information booklet</b> "What is REDD? A Guide for Indigenous Peoples" in English 1,300 copies; Nepali 1000, Bahasa Indonesia 2400, Vietnamese (Kinh) and Thai (Black Thai of Vietnam) 1000 copies each, Lao 1000 copies.</li> <li>• <b>Info-poster</b> on Indigenous Peoples, Climate Change and REDD: English 800 copies, Nepali and Tharu 1500, Bahasa Indonesia 1200, Vietnamese (Kinh) 1300, Thai (Thailand) 300 copies.</li> <li>• <b>Newsletter and position paper</b> in Nepali 2000 copies each;</li> <li>• <b>Pamphlets</b> on climate change and REDD for villagers in Lao: 1000 copies each;</li> <li>• <b>PowerPoint presentation</b> on Indigenous Peoples, Climate Change and REDD by IWGIA was translated into Lao;</li> <li>• Lao language <b>video</b> about REDD and indigenous peoples created with the help of the Champasak Province Television Station, also to be distributed in 500 copies.</li> <li>• In Laos, a <b>base-line study</b> on REDD in Lao PDR was done at the beginning of the project;</li> <li>• In Nepal an <b>inception meeting</b> was held at the beginning of the project with 100 Participants from IPOs, Media, NGO, CSO; and <b>community-level information meetings</b> were held in 9 districts.</li> </ul>	<p>Indigenous communities and organizations in Indonesia, Laos, Nepal and Viet Nam. The number of beneficiaries cannot be determined but will be at least 12,000 (the number of copies of the information material distributed), but most likely over 50,000 (assuming that the material produced are read or watched by more than 4 persons).</p>
<p><b>Expected outcome 2:</b>            Indigenous leaders have deepened their knowledge on climate change and REDD and increased their climate-change related negotiation skills</p>	<p>The project has achieved what was planned for this first, one-year project period. The training materials were produced and the training of trainers (ToT) at regional and national levels (except Laos, where this hasn't been planned from the beginning) were held. This will enable the local partners to conduct the actual leaders training (planned for the follow-up project period). The ToTs and pilot trainings received very positive feed-back from trainees and at least for those so far trained it can be said that the expected outcome has been fully achieved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Training manual</b> accompanied by DVD containing electronic copies and additional training material in English (manual 300, DVDs 350 copies), 200 copies in Bahasa Indonesia, 100 copies in Nepali, 200 copies in Vietnamese (Kinh) and 100 in Thai (Black Thai of Vietnam).</li> <li>• <b>Regional training of trainers (ToT)</b> in Chiang Mai, Thailand from the 5–9 February, 2010 with 33 participants from partner countries, plus Thailand.</li> <li>• <b>Indonesia:</b> National ToT held in Bogor, sub-national ToT in Central Sulawesi, Central Kalimantan and Maluku with a total of 73 trainees trained.</li> <li>• <b>Nepal:</b> National ToT with 50 leaders from all over the country,</li> </ul>	<p>A total of 230 indigenous leaders, government officials and NGO/PO staff were trained. 187 of them were trained as trainers and will</p>

Expected Outcomes	Assessment of achievement	Outputs produced	Beneficiaries
		<p>and local community pilot training with 33 leaders from 3 districts; several small consultation meetings and workshops with indigenous leaders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Viet Nam:</b> National ToT with 31 trainees from 6 provinces (Lang Son, Thanh Hoa, Hoa Binh, Ha Giang, Nghe An, and Yen Bai); Training on “Roles of indigenous people in climate change adaptation and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation” with 36 participants from 7 provinces (Son La, Dien Bien, Hoa Binh, Yen Bai, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, and Lai Chau)</li> <li>• <b>Laos:</b> training of 14 GAPE staff members on REDD and climate change by IWGIA in February and the coordinators in May 2010.</li> <li>• Participation of 11 indigenous leaders (7 men, 4 women) in the 9<sup>th</sup> session of the AWG-KP and 7<sup>th</sup> session of AWG-LCA of the <b>UNFCCC</b> and side events organized by the project partners, in particular the Asia Indigenous Peoples’ Workshop on Climate Change. It was attended by about 50 participants.</li> </ul>	<p>pass on their knowledge in trainings to be organized during the second phase. This will multiply the number of beneficiaries.</p>
<p><b>Expected outcome 3:</b> Indigenous leaders have developed a common position on the national REDD strategies being developed in their countries, and made plans for how to influence them</p>	<p>This expected outcome did not apply to Laos due to the particular conditions in that country. In two of the three other countries (Indonesia and Nepal) the expected outcome was fully achieved: national strategy workshops were held, strategies and position papers were written. In Viet Nam it was partially achieved. There, the local partner has applied a bottom-up approach: it started with awareness raising and training at the provincial/district level and move on to the national level through engagement with UN-REDD and the holding of a national workshop toward the end of the one-year project period. Unlike in Nepal and Indonesia, where strong national indigenous peoples’ alliances exist, the indigenous peoples in Viet Nam are not organised at the national level. In fact, there no real indigenous peoples’ organisation exist (only an indigenous NGO) and developing a joint national strategy among indigenous leaders is therefore much more challenging.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Indonesia:</b> Indigenous Peoples’ <b>National Consultation and Strategy Workshop</b> in August 2009 attended by 250 participants (AMAN’s founders, National Council Members, Central Governing Body, Regional Chapters, Regional Council, Local Chapters and Local Councils); a joint statement known as <b>Sirna Resmi Declaration</b> was issued, reiterating their demands for recognition of Indigenous Peoples’ Rights as a pre-requirement of any REDD initiative; a <b>Working Group</b> on Indigenous Peoples, Climate Change and REDD was formed, consisting of 13 indigenous persons representing 7 Indigenous Regions in Indonesia; an <b>internal strategy briefing</b> for AMAN members was produced.</li> <li>• <b>Nepal:</b> A <b>national strategy meeting</b> with 58 indigenous leaders was held; NEFIN formulated a <b>3-year strategic plan</b> on climate change and REDD and a <b>position paper</b> on REDD.</li> <li>• <b>Viet Nam:</b> Three leaders’ coordination meetings were held during the project period, with between 16 and 19 participants.</li> </ul>	<p>A total of 327 indigenous leaders benefitted directly from the strategy meetings held.</p>

Expected Outcomes	Assessment of achievement	Outputs produced	Beneficiaries
<p><b>Expected outcome 4:</b> A region-wide Indigenous Peoples' Climate Change Monitoring Network has been established which ensures a continuing and smooth information flow on international processes and programs related to climate change to local indigenous organisations and communities, and, reverse, on local developments to the national and international level</p>	<p>The actual outcome of this component was not fully satisfying. The CCMIN has been established, with a regional coordinator and focal persons in all four partner countries, a web-site and listserv have been set up successfully and are regularly maintained. However, the information flow bottom-up, i.e. from local partners to the regional coordinator for wider dissemination regionally and globally has not worked well. The reason is mainly that the (part-time employed) local focal points give higher priority to local work over reaching out to the international level and therefore devote too little time to the latter.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start-up coordination meeting on 29 September 2009 in Bangkok with 14 participants from AIPP and the 4 local partners.</li> <li>• CCMIN focal persons employed in each of the four local partner organisations.</li> <li>• CCMIN website and listserv set up</li> </ul>	<p>Records show that there were 14,706 hits on the links for downloading articles uploaded on the CCMIN-web-site. Thus we can assume that this is the number of people who have benefited from the information made available on the web-site.</p>

## 2. Advocacy

**Purpose:** To increase awareness among governments on the need to include concerns of equity, social justice and poverty reduction in general, and the rights and needs of indigenous peoples in particular, in national REDD strategies

**In all four countries, though to varying degrees, the past years saw undoubtedly an increase in awareness among governments on indigenous peoples' rights issues in connection with REDD. The project, in addition to other factors, has certainly contributed to that. Indicators for this are found in the outcomes and outputs achieved as reported below.**

<p><b>Expected outcome 1:</b> National governments, and in particular government agencies involved in developing national REDD strategies, know the position of indigenous organisations in their countries on REDD and the respective national strategies being developed</p>	<p>Awareness raising and advocacy among governments was done in various ways: informal discussions and "corridor talks" during large meetings, formal meetings (dialogue meetings reported on under outcome 2 below) as well as publications. Overall, the expected outcome was achieved. There is no doubt that the governments of all four countries involved know by now the position, demands and expectations of indigenous peoples with respect to REDD.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation of 11 indigenous leaders (7 men, 4 women) in the 9<sup>th</sup> session of the AWG-KP and 7<sup>th</sup> session of AWG-LCA of the <b>UNFCCC in Bangkok and side events</b> organized by the project partners.</li> <li>• An Asia <b>Indigenous Peoples' Workshop on Climate Change</b> in October during the UNFCCC meeting in Bangkok</li> <li>• 4 indigenous representatives were supported to attend the <b>UNFCCC negotiations in Barcelona</b> from November 2-6, 2009</li> <li>• 5 indigenous representatives were supported to attend <b>COP 15 in Copenhagen</b> in December 2009.</li> <li>• <b>Briefing Paper on REDD+ for Policy Makers:</b> English 1,000 copies, Nepali 1000, Vietnamese (Kinh) 800, Lao 1,000, Bahasa Indonesia 1,200 copies.</li> <li>• <b>Briefing papers</b> in English on: Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change: 2,000 copies; Indigenous Peoples, Shifting cultivation and Climate Change: 2,000; Indigenous Peoples in Asia: 500 copies (later reprinted with other financial sources)</li> </ul>	<p>The number of intended beneficiaries (government officials, politicians) actually reached by the project cannot be determined.</p>
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Expected Outcomes	Assessment of achievement	Outputs produced	Beneficiaries
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Viet Nam: Capacity building workshop</b> for local government cadres regarding climate change form 19-21 March 2010 with 38 representatives from six province (Yen Bai, Hoa Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Son La, Dien Bien)</li> <li>• <b>Laos: Workshop</b> on “REDD and Its Implications for Local People” with 120 participants, including Government officials from provincial and district offices (Champasak province), indigenous community members, local newspaper, television and radio, GAPE staff</li> </ul>	
<b>Expected outcome 2: not relevant for year 1 (no activities were planned)</b>			
<p><b>Expected outcome 3:</b> Government agencies involved in national REDD strategies are discussing with indigenous and other civil-society organisation concerns of equity, social justice and poverty reduction in general, and the rights and needs of indigenous peoples in particular, while developing national REDD strategies</p>	<p>All partner organisations engaged actively with governments, though to a varying degree and with different approaches. In Indonesia and Nepal the engagement was direct and resulted in intensive involvement and cooperation with government agencies. In Vietnam, the engagement was more subtle and with the bottom-up approach mentioned earlier. It has started at the national level toward the end of the one-year project period and will increase in the future. In Laos the engagement was largely confined to the local level, i.e. to Champasak province. National-level involvement has been only incipient but is expected to increase in the future. Thus, at least for Indonesia and Nepal it can be concluded that the expected outcome has already been well achieved; for the other two countries only the future will tell.</p>	<p><b>In Indonesia:</b> In 2010, dialogue meetings were held between AMAN members and local NGOs with <b>Central Sulawesi government</b> (40 participants), with <b>Central Kalimantan government</b> (22 participants), and the <b>government of Papua Province</b> (20 participants). AMAN has been actively involved in the <b>World Bank Processes</b> and the <b>UN-REDD</b>. AMAN has been appointed as observer to Policy Board Meetings of the UN-REDD, and the Forest Investment Program (FIP) and Forest Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank. AMAN is part of the Special Task Force in the FIP, to formulate the mechanism for its Dedicated Fund for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.</p> <p><b>In Nepal:</b> National <b>REDD Consultation Workshop</b>, with 58 participants from Govt. Agencies, NGOs, CSOs, Media; National <b>Consultation Meeting/ Debriefing on COP 15</b> with 56 participants. Both meetings were organized jointly by NEFIN and the National REDD Cell (led by Ministry of Forestry and Soil Conservation); several smaller meetings with National Forestry and Climate Change-REDD Cell.</p> <p><b>Viet Nam:</b> Four <b>dialogue meetings</b> with indigenous representatives from seven provinces and provincial and district government representatives from 4 provinces were held from August to October 2009, with a total of 96 participants.</p> <p><b>Laos: Workshop</b> on “REDD and its Implications for Local People” mentioned above, with 120 participants.</p>	<p>The total number of intended beneficiaries (government officials, politicians, leaders of indigenous and other civil-society organisations) actually reached in this activity is difficult to estimate since a lot of informal interaction took place. The number of people involved in the formal meetings is 412, so the estimated total may lie somewhere between 400 and 500 people.</p>

Expected Outcomes	Assessment of achievement	Outputs produced	Beneficiaries
<b>3. Promotion of community-base REDD partnership</b>			
<b>Purpose:</b> To strengthen indigenous peoples' community-based forest conservation and to promote REDD partnership between national governments, bilateral and multilateral donors and private companies, and indigenous peoples, on the basis of community-based forest management and conservation.			
<b>During the project period only the preparatory steps towards this goal were taken, so the achievements of this components will have to be assessed at a later time.</b>			
<b>Expected outcome 1:</b> Already existing successful indigenous community-based forest conservation and management practices are documented and strengthened and REDD partnership with them promoted as models for national REDD strategies	As mentioned, the activities during this project period were only preparatory. The activities planned were however all fully implemented and the targeted outputs (a write-shop and the draft training manual) have been produced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three partner organizations participated in an exchange workshop "Understanding Forest Carbon Inventory and Monitoring : Sharing of Experiences by Communities and Assisting Organizations and Assisting Organizations" prior to the planned write-shop</li> <li>• A write-shop was conduct on 23 - 26, April 2010 at the office of the Kalahan Educational Foundation (KEF), Philippines for the development of the training manual. There were 3 participants from the project partner organizations, 2 from a local partner organization as consultant, and staff of KEF.</li> <li>• A first draft of the training manual was made. It will be finalized in January 2011, after the COP16 in Mexico.</li> </ul>	So far there are not direct beneficiaries that can be identified. In the future, these will be communities engaged in REDD schemes.
<b>Expected outcome 2, 3 and 4 are not relevant for year 1 (no activities were planned)</b>			

## **Risk Management**

The main internal risks which the project had to cope with were related to human resources: that the partners may not be able to recruit and keep committed and capable staff, and involve committed and capable community representatives and leaders. Finding staff however was not a problem, and the risk of drop-out was addressed through backstopping and support by the coordinators and other staff members. Close contact with communities and monitoring of local developments ensured that representatives sent to attend meetings and trainings were capable and committed to conduct follow-up actions. Monitoring by the project coordinator (IWGIA) and regional coordinator (AIPP) of project implementation was done by means of visits to all countries and regular communication through e-mail and phone. Thus advice and support could be given when needed.

The main external risk was the danger of government non-cooperation or even interference. In all countries this was addressed through an engagement with government agencies in persuasive manners instead of being confrontational, so that the room for dialogue could be opened, and through flexibility in arranging activities at sub-national level so that all relevant parties could be involved. The risk was highest in Laos, but was well managed and the project could proceed unimpeded.

## **Deviations in implementation**

Overall, the project could be implemented according to plan and the deviations are minor. From the beginning it was clear that activities in Viet Nam and above all in Laos could not be done at the same level and in the same way as in the other countries. The particular conditions in these countries were taken into account during project planning. While in Viet Nam the plan could be followed in Viet Nam, some of the activities planned for Laos proved to be unrealistic, like holding an initial inception meeting simply because GAPE operates under a MoU with the Lao government that is relatively restrictive. It was necessary to first find a partner who could facilitate closer interaction with the government. Eventually such a partner was found (LBA). Instead of the inception meeting a provincial-level information meeting was held in Champasak province. The training manual was translated but not yet printed since no trainings could be held yet. The unused funds were used for printing and distribution of an additional 300 copies of the information booklet and poster, and for the translation and printing of 300 copies of the poster in Thai. Leaders from Thailand were also invited to join the Training of Trainers held in Chiang Mai. It was decided to expand activities to Thailand, though at a very low level, after Thailand was included in the World Bank's FCPF and thus became an official "REDD country".

A minor deviation was that a DVD containing the e-copy of the training manual and other training material was added in the printed training manual for Indigenous Leaders on Climate Change REDD and Advocacy and Negotiation Skills.

Since holding the write-shop on developing a training manual on community-based forest management and REDD was considerably cheaper than planned the remaining funds were used for pilot trainings at community levels in Nepal and Viet Nam.

In Nepal, the only deviation was that the translation and publication of the info booklet was done in Nepali only and not into further 2 languages after getting the feedbacks from the local level consultation. Instead, more awareness programs at the community level and among Constituent Assembly members were conducted.

## **Sustainability**

Overall, the foundation for sustainability of the initiative consists of three pillars: human resources, financial resources and an enabling legal and policy environment. The project has begun to lay the foundation for the first, through awareness raising and capacity building of indigenous communities,

organisations and leaders. Since the project however lasted only a year capacity building has been incipient and will have to continue in order to ensure that indigenous peoples have committed leaders capable of representing them in negotiations on REDD with governments, private companies and civil society organisations. The training manual and other materials produced as well as the trainers trained so far represent valuable resources to ensure the successful continuation of trainings in the partner countries as well as the expansion to other countries. Ensuring sustainability of the project is particularly challenging in Laos, where it depends on handing over full ownership to the civil society in Laos and strengthening of their capacity. The local partner GAPE is working intensively on this by involving the Lao Biodiversity Association and the nascent Indigenous Peoples of Southern Laos Association in its REDD activities, and by building the capacities of both organizations.

The legal and policy environment for advocacy for a pro-poor and equitable REDD has so far proven not to be a major problem if a cautious approach is chosen. Furthermore, the presence and important role of multilateral and bilateral donors (UN-REDD, World Bank, Norwegian Government) has proven to be helpful in creating a more favorable environment for indigenous rights advocacy since they have explicit policies with respect to indigenous peoples and thus can have a considerable influence on governments of REDD countries. It is more likely that the legal and policy environment in all the countries involved will change for the better, rather than the worse in the new future. Again, Laos is the country where challenges in this respect are also the biggest.

Finally, with respect to financial sustainability it is clear that the initiative will continue to depend on external funding for the near future in order to firmly establish and consolidate the respective programs in each of the partner countries, which will be a precondition for seeking financial sustainability from local resources.

## Lessons learned

A number of concrete lessons learned have been identified by our local partners:

Climate change and REDD issue have proved to be quite a **powerful entry point to reiterate the demands of recognition of indigenous peoples' rights**. There is a window of opportunity at least in the next few years to pave the way for policy and legal reforms using climate change and REDD.

Some partners were affected by the **conflicting agenda between indigenous organizations** and non-indigenous civil-society organizations, resulting in difficulties to have a common strategy. There is a need to align strategy to avoid undermining of each other's work.

In Indonesia a large number of REDD-related projects are being planned and implemented by a large number of actors. Many of them remain out of radar of the government (particularly those under voluntary schemes). There is an urgent need to monitor these **"unregulated" REDD projects** and to prepare the communities that will be potentially affected by such projects.

**Information and training workshops** and materials have been useful to increase knowledge and provide advocacy tools for indigenous leaders and communities. However, since REDD is quite complex and still being developed, there is a need for ongoing education of indigenous communities, and also to transfer the knowledge in a simple way. Since climate change and REDD are new topics for most indigenous communities (and other people, like e.g. local government officials) and in some aspects are very technical it is necessary to introduce it step by step and in a form that is possible for local and sometimes illiterate people to grasp. At the same time decision makers need and demand more sophisticated and detailed information. Information therefore needs to be presented in different levels of complexity and in different formats.

There is a pronounced **lack of knowledge** on indigenous issues and climate change/REDD especially **at local government level**. While in some countries (Laos, Viet Nam) the project has worked a lot

with local governments, this was less the case in the two other countries. More work is needed to outreach to government agencies.

Particularly in Laos and Viet Nam it was found to be important to **involve sympathetic government officials and members of civil society** to take part in planning and implementation of activities in order to give these people and their organizations a sense of ownership and ensure sustainability, while at the same time foster the creation of a civil society. Most of the work done during the one-year project involved preparation. Pilot projects are still in the planning phase. Now should be a good time to engage the organizations planning these projects to promote inclusion of local peoples and observance of their rights.

### Key Issues and Challenges

As the experiences in Indonesia have shown, REDD design and development have so far been conducted with minimal consultation from non-state actors, particularly indigenous peoples. Even though the local partner AMAN has been actively involved in international REDD processes, its inputs at the national level have so far not been addressed adequately by government agencies in charge of REDD and climate change. Worse, AMAN's participation in the so-called consultation meetings is often used by the government to claim following a participatory approach and thus satisfy donor demands. The happens or is likely to happen in other countries. There is a need to be aware of such risks and to formulate better strategies to ensure meaningful consultation and participation of indigenous peoples in REDD decision making processes.

In Laos a big challenge faced by our partner is getting the government to listen to the concerns of indigenous peoples and to include them in decision-making processes. Strategic planning is typically done in a top-down manner with lower levels of administration acting as implementers. The government is suspicious of outside interference and intolerant of anything that may be construed as opposition to its policies. Despite the fact that government planning is typically top-down, there are individuals in the government and private sectors who wish to see the voices of the people heard. Over the years the local partner GAPE has developed relationships with such individuals and has tried to stimulate their interest in the REDD program and involving them in implementation of the project. Such individuals and organizations can open doors and obtain permission to carry out activities that it would be impossible to do In Viet Nam, the situation is quite similar, although there is more openness. The local partner CSDM has worked in a very similar way as GAPE in addressing the challenges and risks.

The project has tried to do address the challenge of information dissemination in a multi-lingual region where English is spoken and read only by the highly educated few by translating information and training material into local languages and localizing the contents. However, while updated information on REDD is abundant in English, the challenge is to swiftly forward the information to indigenous communities and trigger discussion on the issues. More resources must be allocated to ensure that the provision of information in local languages can be done timely.

### Main achievements

One of the main achievements of this project is that **partners have gained capacity to engage meaningfully in the REDD processes** in their respective countries as well as internationally and that most of the **governments in these countries have opened up to dialogues** on the issues of indigenous peoples' rights in connection with REDD. In all countries some forms of dialogues have already taken place: In **Nepal**, NEFIN effectively participated in a range of national level workshops, has been invited to be part of the National REDD Cell and to contribute to the drafting of a presentation for COP 15. In **Indonesia** AMAN has a MoU with the Ministry of Environment and was invited to discuss the new environment law. It was also invited by the Ministry of Forestry to discuss the revision of the National Forestry Law. The Forestry Office of Central Sulawesi province has an agreement with AMAN Central Sulawesi to work together toward recognition and protection of

indigenous peoples' rights in the form of provincial regulations and to continue dialogue and consultation on REDD. A MoU was drawn up between AMAN Central Kalimantan and the Environmental Bureau of Central Kalimantan on cooperation in the inventory of indigenous peoples' rights, customary law, traditional knowledge and mapping of indigenous territories. In Papua province, a formal multi-stakeholder working group on REDD including indigenous peoples' representatives has been established. AMAN gave recommendation to the President of Indonesia on indigenous peoples' issues addressed in the Letter of Intent on a joint REDD initiative signed at the recent Oslo Climate Change Conference by Indonesia and Norway. In **Vietnam**, the director of our partner CSDM was a member of the team evaluating the FPIC process in the UN-REDD pilot area in Lam Dong province. The results of the assessment were reported in the UN-REDD consultation workshop on FPIC in Hanoi and used as lesson learnt for UN-REDD program in general. In **Laos**, the holding of the meeting "REDD and Its Implications for Local People" in Champasak province, which brought together villagers, local government officials, representatives from education institutes, the media and NGOs, was a major achievement. The meeting was the first of its kind in Laos.

Another major achievement of the project was the **contribution to the successful lobbying and negotiations at the international level**. The regional partner AIPP has been a key player in the indigenous peoples' caucus at the UNFCCC meetings, which succeeded in ensuring the inclusion, in the final text of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) in Copenhagen, of a reference to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Another further achievement is the **increased understanding of REDD and indigenous peoples' rights issues at the grassroots level** since thousands of community members have been reached by the information dissemination activities of the project.

Finally, the project has **trained a large number of indigenous leaders** who now have the capacity to become community trainers on the issue of climate change, REDD and indigenous peoples' rights.

#### Summary of use of funds

Item no.	Activity	Budget NOK	Actual Expenses
1.	AWARENESS RAISING AND CAPACITY BUILDING	1,579,988	1,636,369
2.	ADVOCACY	618,118	548,571
3.	PROMOTING COMMUNITY-BASED REDD PARTNERSHIP	83,200	81,949
4.	EQUIPMENT	63,700	87,715
5.	HUMAN RESOURCES	821,210	862,203
6.	COORDINATION COSTS	241,800	212,953
7.	INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS + CONSUMABLES	226,200	235,223
	<b>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS</b>	<b>3,634,215</b>	<b>3,664,982</b>
7.1	ADMINISTRATIVE OVERHEADS 10%	363,422	366,498
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3,997,637</b>	<b>4,031,480</b>

The accounts show an overspending of 33,843 NOK, which are covered by IWGIA's own resources.