



**FOREST CARBON PARTNERSHIP FACILITY CAPACITY BUILDING
ON REDD+ FOR FOREST-DEPENDENT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AND SOUTH ASIA REGIONS
PROJECT
(P153585, FCPF Grant No. TF0A3570)**

COMPLETION REPORT

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

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Acronyms

ACMA	Adaptive Collaborative Management Approach
AF	Additional Financing
CBP	Capacity Building Program
CERDA	Center for Research and Development
CFs	Community Forests
CFMGs	Community Forest Management Groups
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPC	Commune People's Committee
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DoA	Department of Agriculture
DoFPS	Department of Forest and Park Services
DPC	District People's Committee
EAP	East Asia and the Pacific
ERP	Emissions Reduction Program
ERPD	Emissions Reduction Program Document
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FMCs	Forest Management Councils
FMT	Facility Management Team
FPIC	Free Prior Informed Consent
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GTM	Grace Trifam Ministry
Hoa Binh	Hoa Binh Cooperative for Agro-Forestry and Environment
ICTHER	International Center for Tropical Highland Ecosystem Research
IPs	Indigenous Peoples
IPOs	Indigenous Peoples' Organization
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Products
PC	Participants Committee
PDO	Project Development Objective
PF	Parent Financing
PMT	Project Management Team
PMTL	Project Management Team Leader
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries
RSC	Regional Steering Committee
RSPN	Royal Society for Protection of Nature
SAR	South Asia Region
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SERNA	Socio-Economic and Environmental REDD+ Needs Assessment
SFED	Social Forestry Extension Division
SRETF	Small Recipient-Executed Trust Fund

SSGs	Self-Governing Groups
SSV	Soqosoqo Vakamarama iTaukei Trust Board
Tebtebba	Indigenous Peoples' International Center for Policy Research and Education
ToT	Training of Trainers
TTL	Task Team Leader
UN	United Nations
UNCBD	UN Convention on Biological Diversity
UNDRIP	UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UN- ECOSOC	UN Economic and Social Council
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNPFII	UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
VFA	Vanuatu Foresters Association
WB	World Bank
WBG	World Bank Group

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) was established in 2007. It is a global partnership of governments, donors, private sector, civil society, and indigenous peoples (IPs) focused on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, forest carbon stock conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+). It is managed by the World Bank (WB) with the following objectives: a) assist countries in their REDD+ efforts by providing them with financial and technical assistance in building their capacity to benefit from possible future systems of positive incentives for REDD+; b) pilot a performance-based payment system for REDD+ activities, with a view to ensuring equitable benefit sharing and promoting future large-scale positive incentives for REDD+; c) test ways to sustain or enhance livelihoods of local communities and to conserve biodiversity; and d) disseminate lessons learned. The FCPF has two separate but complementary funding mechanisms: the Readiness Fund and the Carbon Fund.

Among the social and environmental safeguards that were agreed under REDD+ is the right of IPs to participate fully and meaningfully in REDD+ related processes and to ensure that the collective rights of IPs as they relate to their lands and territories are safeguarded during REDD+ design and implementation. To facilitate this, IPs requested the FCPF for an allocation for capacity building activities specifically for IPs. This request was discussed in regional and global dialogues between the IPs and FCPF. As a result, the establishment of a capacity building program for IPs was agreed in Doha, Qatar after the 18th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP18) in 2012. This was then approved by the FCPF Participants Committee (PC) as the Capacity Building Program (CBP) of the Readiness Fund on REDD+ for forest-dependent IPs, Southern Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other forest dwellers. The objective of the CBP is to provide beneficiaries with information, knowledge, and awareness on REDD+ to enhance their understanding on REDD+, and to enable them to engage more meaningfully in the design and implementation of REDD+ readiness activities and emission reduction programs. The aim is to support activities that empower and enable these stakeholder groups, to enhance and influence REDD+ development outcomes, and also to strengthen mechanisms for inclusion, accountability, and participation.

The CBP has two components, one for IPs and another for Southern CSOs and local communities – each implemented in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific through projects. Phase 1 was implemented from 2008-2015 and Phase 2 from 2016-2020. For IPs in the East Asia-Pacific and South Asia regions, [Tebtebba Foundation](#) (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education), a non-government organization with consultative status to the UN-ECOSOC based in the Philippines, was chosen as the Recipient and implementer of the project under Phase 2.

RELEVANCE OF THE PROJECT DESIGN TO GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND CONVENTIONS

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 opened for signature two legally binding instruments: the UNFCCC and the **Convention on Biological Diversity**

(UNCBD). The objectives of the UNCBD include the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components. Article 8 (j) provide that Parties should respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices. The UNCBD's COP4 in 1998 established the Ad hoc Open-Ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions to implement the article's commitments.

The ultimate objective of the UNFCCC is to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.

A decision of UNFCCC COP16 on REDD+ in 2010 called for the full and effective participation of IPs and local communities and the need to respect their traditional knowledge and rights were the guiding principles of this project. The project affirmed the call on the United Nations (UN) system including its organs and specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNRIP) and International Labour Organization Convention 169 (ILO169) to contribute to the full realization of the provisions of the Declaration by mobilizing, among other things, financial and technical assistance. The UNDRIP recognizes the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of IPs to their lands, territories and resources and to determine their own development through their institutions. At its meeting in 2015 (*UNFCCC COP21*), the Parties established the Local Communities and IPs Platform (LCIPP) which recognizes the role of IPs and local communities in mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and in particular, the role of knowledge of IPs. This includes IPs' knowledge on forest management.

The project supports the call of IPs in the **Anchorage Declaration**, adapted at the IPs' Global Summit on Climate Change in 2009 for funding to enable IPs' full and effective participation in all climate processes, including adaptation, mitigation, monitoring and transfer of appropriate technologies to foster their empowerment, capacity building, and education; and urged relevant UN bodies to facilitate and fund the participation, education and capacity building of indigenous youth and women to ensure engagement in all international and national processes related to climate change.

The project is consistent with the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, particularly Goal 5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls through equal access to education and representation in political and economic decision-making processes by women and girls; Goal 13 to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; Goal 15 to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, and sustainably manage forests and halt biodiversity loss; and Goal 16 to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

The **FCPF**, which became operational in 2008, is a global partnership focused on REDD+. The project is a mechanism to fulfill this objective by assisting eligible countries to achieve emissions reduction from deforestation and/or forest degradation by providing financial and technical assistance to build their capacity to be able to benefit from possible financial incentives for REDD+. The project also fulfills another pillar of the FCPF-ensuring active participation of IPs in the design and implementation of REDD+.

The project is consistent with the **World Bank Group's (WBG) Strategy (2013)** that focuses on ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity in a sustainable manner taking into account climate change. The WBG works with all partners in ways that sustainably secure the future of the planet and its resources and promote social inclusion. The project addresses the strategy's premise of creating an inclusive society, not only in terms of economic development but also development of knowledge especially among those who are traditionally marginalized in decision making processes such as indigenous peoples, other forest dwellers and women. The *WBG's Environment Strategy 2012-2022* recognizes that while there has been notable progress in reducing global poverty, there has been significantly less progress in managing the environment sustainably. The WBG encourages low-emission development strategies and innovative financing and calls on all sectors to contribute financial resources towards this end. The FCPF is a financial mechanism of the *WBG's Forest Action Plan FY2016-2020* that aims to integrate sustainable forest management more fully in development decisions and the *Climate Change Action Plan (2016)* under the cross-cutting themes: climate change and resilience, and rights and participation.

The project is aligned with the **East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) region's strategic focus** on inclusion and empowerment, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk management. It is also aligned with the **South Asia region (SAR) strategy** promoting regional and global integration, enhancing social inclusion, and climate and environment management to prevent disasters and improve readiness in the countries. Project-funded activities are expected to strengthen the capacity of IPs to benefit from and participate in REDD+ processes, enhance regional integration and cooperation by sharing good practices and lessons learned.

Countries that implemented sub-projects:

Bhutan: Result area 3 of the WBG's Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) FY2015-2019 (Report 88597) focused on supporting green development which will contribute to the country's goal of achieving green and inclusive growth. Bhutan's green growth agenda focused on forestry, high-end/low-end impact tourism and agriculture as strategic sectors. The WBG supports the country to manage its natural capital to enhance its contribution to sustainable development.

Fiji: Theme 2 of the WBG's Country Engagement Note for FY15-FY17 (Report 93708) is Protecting Vulnerable Populations. The FCPF grant supported an analysis of the drivers of deforestation, forest governance and REDD+ strategy options, a potential grievance redress mechanism, and benefit monitoring. Focus 3 of the proposed Country Partnership Framework FY2020-2024 is Building Resilience- climate resilience and social protection.

Vanuatu: The Regional Partnership Framework for Kiribati, Republic of Nauru, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Independent State of Samoa, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu for the period FY17-FY21 (Report 100997-EAP)

includes a key area of Protecting Incomes and Livelihoods (Focus Area 3). The WBG will seek to address strengthening preparedness and resilience to natural disasters and climate change.

Vietnam: Under Outcome 2.1 (Improved natural resource management) of Pillar 2 (Sustainability) of the Country Partnership Strategy FY12 - FY16 (Report No. 65200), support will continue in selected areas related to forestry and biodiversity conservation, and Vietnam's readiness to participate in the Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) Program. Focus 3 of the Country Partnership Framework FY18–FY22 (Report No. 111771) is to Ensure Environment Sustainability and Resilience with the objective to strengthen natural resource management. The WBG will provide tools and support to build capacity of relevant stakeholders to improve management of environmental risks; and promote sustainable use of forests.

PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

Phase I of the CBP (2008-2015) funded 29 projects in Asia, Latin America and Africa supporting awareness-raising workshops, publication of training manuals and capacity building activities. Proposals for capacity building activities were processed through the WB's general corporate procurement system where IPOs and CSOs were selected and contracted as consultants to carry out specific capacity building activities. **Phase II** was implemented in accordance to the WB's Procedure for Small Recipient-Executed Trust Fund (SRETF) grants with six regional grants provided to recipient organizations. The selected Recipient Organization for this project is the Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education (Tebtebba), based in the Philippines.

The Facility Management Team (FMT) of the FCPF, housed at the WB, acts as the Secretariat of the FCPF, and as such it was responsible for the overall management of the CBP at the global level. It was also responsible for approving the allocation of funds and reported to the FCPF PC on the implementation of the Program. At the project level, the WB as the Trustee of the Readiness Fund, was represented by the Task Team Leader (TTL) and her team who provided direct supervision and advice to Tebtebba in achieving project objective, and ensured that grant proceeds were used solely for the purposes for which these were granted in conformity with the provisions of the Grant Agreement.

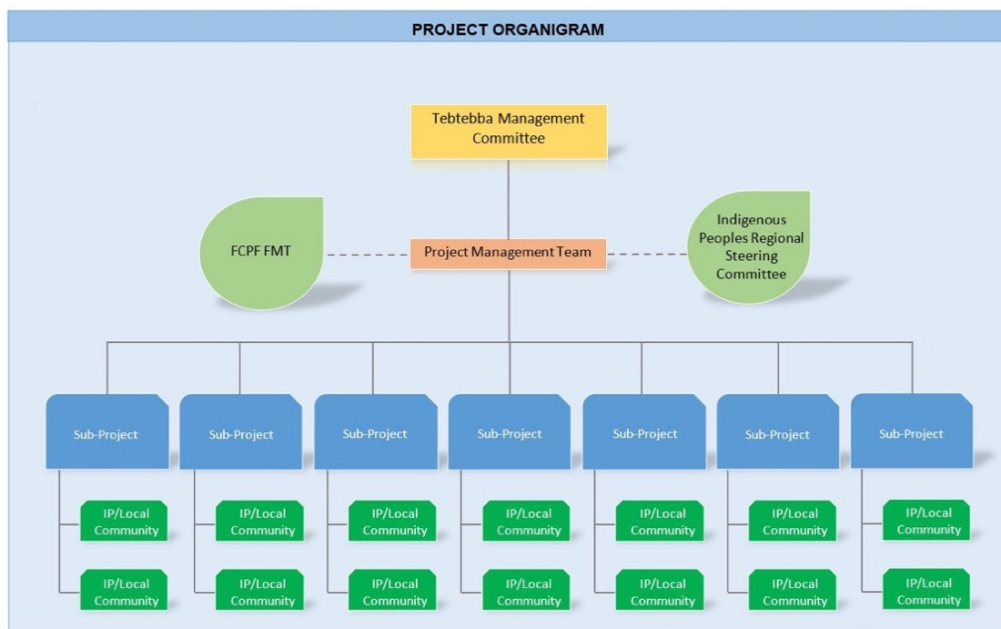
The **Regional Steering Committee (RSC)**, composed¹ of voluntary and self-selected IPs' representatives from FCPF countries in the region, was set-up to act as an external advisory body and ensured transparency. Its role was to prioritize national and regional needs; provide guidance as needed during supervision of national activities and implementation of activities; recommend organizations to be invited to submit sub-project proposals and review technical aspects of proposals and provide recommendations to Tebtebba; facilitate exchange of information among IP communities and other stakeholders; and support Tebtebba's grievance and redress mechanisms among others. The oversight function did not work and it was revisited during its first face-to-

¹ The RSC was composed of representatives of Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN) in Nepal (South Asia); Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN) in Indonesia, Center for Sustainable Development in Mountainous Areas (CSDM) in Vietnam and Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA) in Cambodia (South East Asia); Nature Fiji Mareqeti-Viti in Fiji and Vanuatu Association of NGOs in Vanuatu (Pacific); and Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) based in Thailand as the convener.

face meeting in October 2018. The members considered the roles were ambitious and financial resources were limited. As such, they agreed that their functions will be limited to advisory, monitoring assistance and other assistance (e.g. technical) whenever they could.

Tebtebba Foundation, as the recipient of this project, was responsible for the overall implementation, coordination, grievance management, M&E and reporting of project activities and abide by relevant procedures, policies, etc.

A *Project Management Team (PMT)* composed of a full time team leader and a finance staff and a part time procurement staff coordinated the day-to-day implementation of the project, carried out fiduciary tasks and conducted project M&E, safeguard compliance and reporting. It coordinated with the WB through the TTL; and provided semi-annual narrative progress reports and status of



funds to the WB and the RSC. Two (2) members of the Management Committee (ManCom) of Tebtebba supervised the work of the PMT; approved financial and narrative reports; and ensured the implementation of policies and agreed upon procedures.

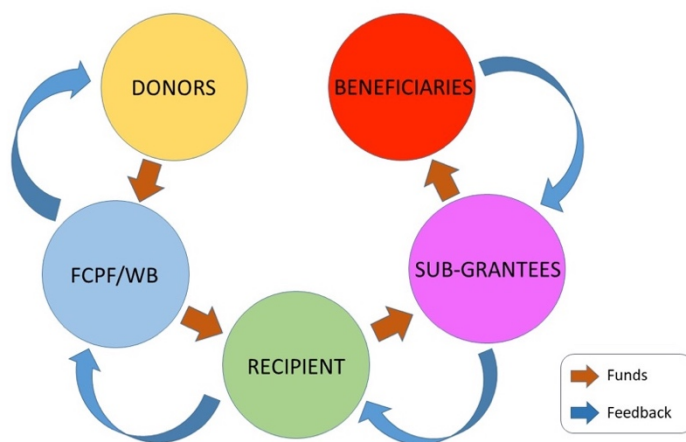
At the national level, the mechanisms used to support capacity building was through sub-grants or consultancies to eligible IP organizations (IPOs), selected through a transparent process elaborated in the [Operational Manual](#). The preferred implementation modality was through sub-grants but there was only one sub-project implemented under a consultancy. The experience does not suffice to conclude that this modality should be secondary.

Tebtebba transferred funds based on agreed procedures; provided general guidance to sub-grantees/consultant in the implementation of their CBPs; monitored sub-projects and identified gaps/challenges in sub-projects implementation and in reaching objectives; and assisted sub-grantees/consultant in enhancing their capacity related to the implementation of their sub-projects. The duties and responsibilities of the sub-grantees/consultant and Tebtebba were defined in the sub-grant/consultancy agreement. Their main obligation was to deliver the activities agreed and submit required reports. Monitoring by Tebtebba was done mostly by emails and at least five (5) sub-projects were visited.

The Publication, Information and Awareness Department of Tebtebba contributed to knowledge management by creating and managing a [project subpage](#) where it uploaded project reports, knowledge products and other project related documents.

It was observed that the delivery structure of Component 1 of the CBP seems to have worked and could be replicated: donor downloads funds to a capable recipient organization which in turn provides funds, guidance and capacity building to country organizations. These national organizations look at the local needs and situations and provide capacity building activities to local communities.

Feedback Mechanism



The structure recognized that national IPOs are in the best position to implement capacity building projects for IP communities given their familiarity of local situations, needs and culture, as well as their local involvement/presence and good command of local languages. In addition, proximity to governments especially the National REDD+ units made coordination easier,

enhanced and strengthened partnerships and networks. Further, knowledge of sub-grantees on prevailing national laws, policies and procedures, especially those related to forestry, REDD+ and climate change, have enriched contents of educational materials; and experience on tested community participatory approaches contributed to smooth delivery of activities.

The regional knowledge exchange platform (Component 2) provided venue for new knowledge to be shared widely, at the same time improved networking. National IPOs were linked to FCPP regional and global processes² which provided opportunities for them to share, learn and articulate their issues and concerns.

Similarly, Tebtebba benefited from the sub-grantees and from the WB. As a Recipient, it was provided access to financial resources and has improved its capacity to manage financial instruments to support country level initiatives. Adherence to WB policies and procedures contributed to the improvement of its finance and procurement procedures. At the same time, it was exposed to some of the realities of IPOs in other countries like Bhutan, Fiji and Vanuatu and has expanded its network.

During the course of project implementation, the **RSC** has limited their functions to advisory, monitoring assistance and other assistance (e.g. technical) whenever they could. The members participated actively in regional activities and contributed their ideas and experiences, including

² Examples: Regional Dialogue for Forest Dependent IPs, Other Forest Dwellers and Southern CSOs in Asia-Pacific; and Global Dialogue of IPs, Local Communities and Southern CSOs

engagement in country-level REDD+ processes and REDD+ capacity building projects, where appropriate.

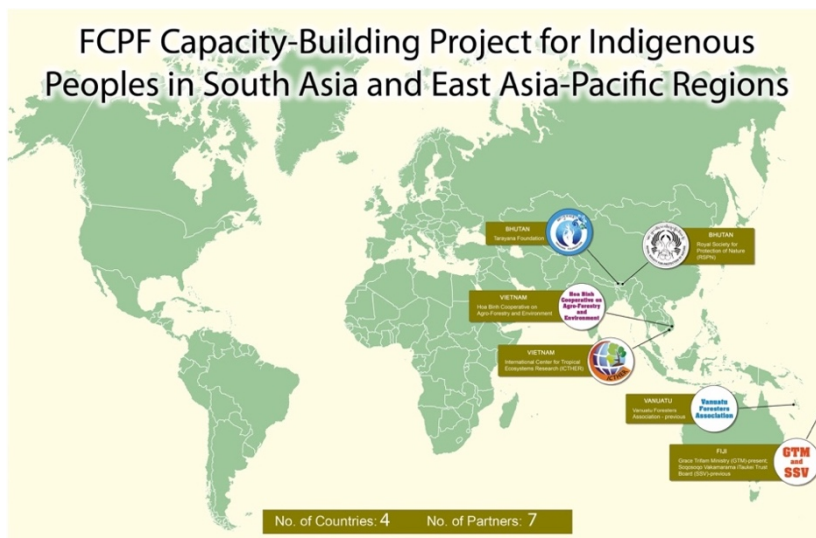
The fiduciary and administrative tasks of the **FMT** of the FCPF as well as the TTL's supervisory and compliance oversight may have been minimized with the steep reduction of grant recipients from 29 consultants to six (6) regional organizations. It is assumed that related costs declined as well. The project design and implementation arrangements provided feedback for the donors and informed the WB-FCPF how to do things better for IP communities. It is not just how to use the funds efficiently but the impact in the communities as a result of the money provided.

ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE AS MEASURED BY THE INDICATORS

This project was implemented from October 31, 2016 to September 30, 2020³ with a combined budget from the Parent Financing (PF) and the Additional Financing (AF) of US\$1,141,913.

The beneficiaries were IPs and other forest-dependent communities and their representative organizations and institutions in the 10 FCPF eligible⁴ countries in Asia and the Pacific, namely Kingdom of Bhutan, Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of Fiji, Republic of Indonesia, Nepal, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Kingdom of Thailand, Republic of Vanuatu and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam which are eligible to participate in regional learning and exchange activities (Component 2). Of these 10 countries, only six (6) countries were eligible to participate in national-level activities (Component 1) namely Kingdom of Bhutan, Republic of Fiji, Republic of Vanuatu and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam⁵.

Location of Sub-Projects



³ The PF was to be implemented from October 31, 2016 to October 31, 2018 but the project received a share from an AF approved by the 23rd PC in March 2017. To accommodate additional activities to be funded by the AF, the closing date was extended to December 31, 2019. A no cost extension (NCE) of the closing date to June 30, 2020 was approved to allow completion of project activities. An extension of the NCE to September 30, 2020 due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic was also agreed.

⁴ Eligibility criteria: Their respective governments have signed Readiness Grant Agreements with the FCPF, and started with the implementation of readiness (as confirmed by a WB mission), thereby allowing the project to reinforce their REDD+ Readiness efforts; They are not beneficiaries of the Global Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM) for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities project of the FIP; and They are not beneficiaries of FCPF Capacity Building Phase 1 funds.

⁵ Although the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea were eligible, no projects came forth and/or completed the selection process

The project development objective (PDO) was to strengthen: (i) the knowledge of targeted forest-dependent IPs on REDD+ Readiness at the national level and (ii) knowledge exchange at the regional level. The achievement of the PDO was measured using the following indicators:

Table 1: Indicators and Targets

No.	Description of the Indicators ⁶	Targets
1	Share of target beneficiaries with knowledge score of 3 or more on REDD+ and related issues	80%
2	National knowledge exchange products disseminated in appropriate languages	20
3	Regional knowledge exchange products disseminated in appropriate languages and accessible formats	6
4	Meetings held between IP representatives and national REDD+ decision making entities	16
5	Direct project beneficiaries/ percentage of female	600/50%

Indicators 1, 2 and 4 measured results under Component 1 (national capacity building) while the results of Component 2 (regional knowledge exchange) were measured by Indicator 3. Both components' beneficiaries were measured by indicator 5. The contribution of Component 2 to Indicator 5 included those who received physical copies of publications and those who accessed the knowledge products in the project webpage. The first publication, Customary Tenure Systems and REDD+, was the basis and the total number was divided equally between male and female. Beyond these indicators, the project compiled feedback from participants as additional evidence of outcomes.

Table 2 below were the sub-projects⁷ funded but not all benefitted from both PF and AF.⁸

Table 2: List of Sub-projects

Organization	Sub-Project Title	Objective	Cost (US\$)
Kingdom of Bhutan			
Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN)	Capacity building on REDD+ readiness for forest dependent communities in Buli, Zhemgang district (up-scaled under the AF)	Raise awareness and build technical skills of forest dependent communities on REDD+ in Bhutan; and promote climate smart agriculture	143,384.24
Tarayana Foundation	Capacity building for REDD+ in rural Bhutan (up-scaled under the AF)	Enhance the knowledge and awareness of community members and Tarayana team on climate change and REDD+ issues and build their capacities to take active role in decision making processes related to REDD+ strategy implementation	90,543.02
Republic of Fiji			
Grace Trifam Ministry (GTM)	Capacity building on REDD+ for forest	Increase knowledge of iTaukei to fully participate in REDD+ and contribute to national level ERP discussion whenever possible	38,282.82

⁶ Description of the indicators and summary of results are found in Annex 1a

⁷ Detailed information on each sub-project are found in Annex 1b

⁸ RSPN, Tarayana, Hoa Binh and ICTHER were funded under both PF and AF, SSV and VFA under PF, and GTM under AF only.

Organization	Sub-Project Title	Objective	Cost (US\$)
	dependent indigenous (I Taukei) peoples in Fiji		
Soqosoqo Vakamarama iTaukei Trust Board (SSV)	Building capacity for Fiji's forest-dependent indigenous men and women to actively participate in the Fiji REDD+ Readiness Program	Build the capacity of forest dependent indigenous men & women from priority sites for active participation in the National ERP & the implementation of the National REDD+ Policy & support the National Sustainable Development Plan & the Green Growth Framework.	20,708.08
Republic of Vanuatu			
Vanuatu Foresters Association (VFA)	Building the capacity of Vanuatu indigenous forest dependent population to be aware of REDD+ and how they could adjust their socio-economic activities in order to enhance the carbon stocks and simultaneously adapt to impacts of climate change	Enhance knowledge of indigenous groups/local communities on REDD+ & climate change & potential REDD+ activity options; and strengthen the interaction between indigenous communities & REDD+ decision makers for a stronger voice of IPs in related decision making	40,314.87
Socialist Republic of Vietnam			
Hoa Binh Cooperative for Agro-Forestry and Environment (Hoa Binh) ⁹	Capacity building for ethnic communities to be ready to actively participate in REDD+ as an independent stakeholder through their legal entities (up-scaled under the AF)	Strengthen the knowledge of targeted ethnic minorities & forest dependent communities on REDD+ Readiness thereby allowing them to increase their active participation in REDD+ processes at the national & local levels; and strengthen knowledge exchange & promote policy advocacy at local & national levels	78,454.64
International Center for Tropical Highland Ecosystem Research (ICTHER)	Promoting collaborative approaches in forest management to reduce carbon emissions among forest dependent households and forest management enterprises in Northern Central Coastal Region of Vietnam (up-scaled under the AF)	Empower forest dependent communities via the FMCs to develop greater stewardship over forest resources that they historically managed; demonstrate to technical forestry experts in Vietnam that better management of forest resources is as much a social as a technical issue that indigenous knowledge accumulated over a millennium will add considerable value to existing knowledge on forest.	184,208.00
Expenses for technical review			1,560.00
Component 1 Total Expenses			597,455.67

At the close of the project, the achievement of the project towards the target is summarized in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Contributions to the Results Framework

Indicator	Component 1								Component 2	Project Total	Targets
	Bhutan		Fiji		Vanuatu	Vietnam		Gender Study (Fiji)			
	RSPN	Tarayana	GTM	SSV	VFA	Hoa Binh	ICTHER				

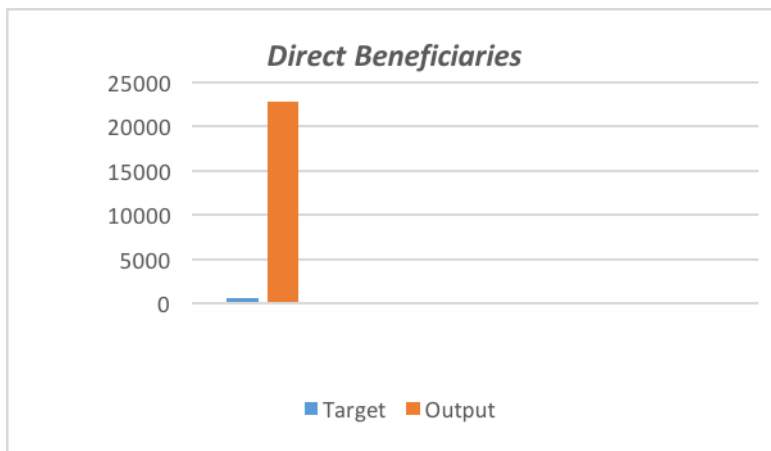
⁹ There was an agreed cost extension until May 31, 2020 but the activities were not implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic

1	60.87%	65.63 %	91.58 %	56.91 %	67.42%	92.89%	73.98%		76.52 %		76.52%	80%
2	78	56	7	8	21	110	17	1	298		298	20
3										7	7	6
4	8	4	1	2	2	9	6		32		32	16
5a	7,185*/	2,444/	305/	510/	663/	2,022/	563/		13,692/	9,105/	22,797/	600/
5b	54.38%	40.96 %	60.66 %	54.12 %	27.30%	32.10%	47.42%		47.22 %	49.94%	48.31%	50%

*with 5,090 students

Project Outreach (Indicator 5)

Total direct beneficiaries were 22,797 of which 48.31% (11,013) were women compared to a target of 600 with 50% women. The sub-projects (Component 1) reached 13,692 IPs and members of



other forest dependent communities with 47.22% women while 9,105 (49.94% women) benefited from regional knowledge products (Component 2). As mentioned earlier, this includes those who received physical copies and those who downloaded knowledge materials and the number is equally divided between male and female.

Across sub-projects, farmers and forest users were the direct

beneficiaries. Others were students (RSPN), government representatives (GTM, RSPN, Hoa Binh, ICTHER) and members of CSOs (SSV).

Outcome 1: Strengthened knowledge of targeted forest-dependent IPs on REDD+ Readiness at the national level is measured by Indicators 1, 2 and 4.

Indicator 1 (Share of target beneficiaries with knowledge score of 3 or more on REDD+ and related issues) had a target of 80% which was missed by 3.48%. While figures consolidated from evaluation forms were low, it was noted by facilitators that the overall feedback of beneficiaries was that the ‘trainings are useful, participants learned a lot and they requested for more trainings’. The low result of this indicator could be attributed to possible misunderstanding of the instructions on how to complete the feedback forms compounded by the low literacy level of community beneficiaries. This was evident in some evaluation forms where the values in the ‘before training’ were higher than those in the ‘after training’. The resulting value of 76.52% was also computed from only around 34% (4,643) of the 13,692 direct beneficiaries of Component 1 who completed the forms because of the difficulty in administering these. Hoa Binh (Vietnam) tried to remedy this and used a different form but the results cannot be aggregated with the prescribed format.

Indicator 2 (National knowledge exchange products disseminated in appropriate languages) had a target of 20. The sub-projects were able to develop and deliver a combined total of 298 knowledge products in English, Dzongkha (Bhutan), Fijian, Bislama (Vanuatu) and Vietnamese. Common

topics in the series of trainings were climate change and REDD+ while forest carbon accounting and benefit sharing were added focus in the AF.¹⁰ These were delivered face-to-face bilingually in both English and the appropriate national languages.

In Bhutan, RSPN included topics such as forest management, nursery development and management, forest/resource assessment and climate smart agro-ecological farming while Tarayana included watershed management and trainings on setting up and assessment of community forests (CFs). These were conducted with the technical assistance of the Department of Forest and Park Services (DoFPS) and Department of Agriculture (DoA) and their related agencies like the division/district offices and Social Forestry Extension Division (SFED). The objectives of the assessment of CFs were to know the achievements and failures, strengthen members' capacity in decision-making, create awareness on forest resource assessment and its importance, know availability of forest resources, and review/revise management plans.

To improve their effectiveness in the delivery of trainings, RSPN simplified and translated some materials to the national language (Dzongkha) like the facilitator's guide on forest carbon accounting and printed some posters on forest carbon accounting and REDD+ in English and [Dzongkha](#) (page 65). A Training of Trainers (ToT) on forest carbon accounting provided a multiplier effect on the capacity of RSPN to deliver more trainings. The trained forestry officials from six (6) divisions facilitated trainings including the conduct of forest carbon stock assessments in their respective divisions.

Both sub-grantees in Bhutan did documentation on [traditional knowledge](#) on resource management. A [baseline socio-economic study](#) in Buli and a [feasibility study of ecotourism](#) were prepared by RSPN. The purpose of the former was to come out with baseline information on agriculture yield, forest cover and its utilization, and socio-economic status of the village in the context of REDD+. It concluded that climate change is not a new thing in the village. The people were much aware of the changing climate and understood its negative impacts like drying of water sources, irregular weather patterns, drought and crop failure. The later assessed the possibility of eco-tourism as a livelihood option. The study outlined possible ecotourism products which are culturally and environmentally based like Buli Lake, cultural festivals and bird watching among others. It noted that accommodation is limited to homestay which is being developed but access to Buli village is shortened through two (2) nearby domestic airports.

GTM in Fiji translated and used the [Facilitators Guide on Forest Carbon Accounting](#) (page 105) which was developed and used during the training of trainers for IPs. The sessions always included a brief discussion on climate change and REDD+. While field work has been done, participants were not able to reach the level of computing forest carbon stocks which was very technical. A good foundation on REDD+ is required before moving to technical trainings like forest carbon accounting and REDD+ was new to almost all participants. Estimating forest carbon stock also requires basic computer literacy and the necessary equipment. Nevertheless, participants were introduced to the equipment used in carbon stock calculation.

Aside from the community trainings, SSV (also in Fiji) conducted a ToT on REDD+ and gender co-organized with the national REDD+ Unit. This covered land, free prior informed consent

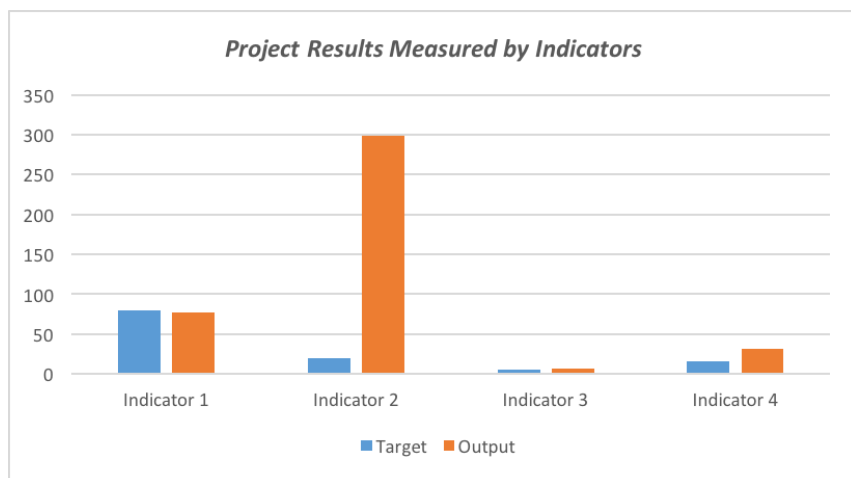
¹⁰ RSPN, Tarayana, GTM, Hoa Binh and ICTHER

(FPIC), gender and gender issues in REDD+ implementation aside from the mainstay climate change and REDD+. SSV undertook also a [baseline survey on public’s perception on REDD+](#). The findings revealed that 95% of respondents had no knowledge of REDD+ while 5% had little knowledge; the iTaukei in the study sites were heavily reliant on their forests for food, shelter and medicinal plants; they experienced dramatic weather changes like heavy rains causing landslides and floods and extreme dry spells causing heavy droughts, drying up of reliable water sources, and death of livestock including root crops and vegetables; and lack of technical knowledge to deal with such drastic changes to name a few. This sub-project was not completed because two (2) partners did not fulfill their commitments during implementation according to SSV.

A [Gender Mainstreaming into Fiji’s REDD+ and Emissions Reduction Program \(ERP\)](#) was undertaken by a consultant hired by the project. The main objective was to come out with a Gender Action Plan (GAP) which could inform the country’s REDD+ ERP. The study proposed 12 action points and identified possible sources of corresponding budgets which was submitted to the government of Fiji. The government included this in the Emissions Reduction Program Document (ERPD) submitted to the Carbon Fund where it was accepted in July 2019.

In Vanuatu, participants visited successful initiatives like agro-forestry or silvopasture after the classroom discussions. This allowed participants to observe first-hand practices and interact with farmers.

Hoa Binh in Vietnam implemented its sub-project with the assistance of the Center for Research and Development (CERDA). Other focus of the trainings included topics on cooperatives, citizenship, rights and obligations of forest owners, powers and responsibilities of government



officials (District People’s Committee, Commune People’s Committee and Forest Ranger Department), FPIC, monitoring reporting and verification (MRV), ERP, grievance mechanism, planning & proposal writing, and communication skills. The sub-project developed community trainers among the leaders of cooperatives and self-governing groups (SSGs) who in turn trained

their members. Hoa Binh was not able to implement a cost extension due to COVID-19.

For its part, ICTHER (also in Vietnam) included community development and indigenous knowledge, gender and composting in its trainings. It undertook and prepared Socio-Economic and Environmental REDD+ Needs Assessment (SERNA) that informed an [Adaptive Collaborative Management Approach \(ACMA\) Operation Manual](#) for Trung Ly Commune in Thanh Hoa province. The ACMA manual was used to set-up Forest Management Councils (FMCs) in the two (2) sub-project areas.

Indicator 4 (Meetings held between IP representatives and national REDD+ decision making entities) was 200% (32) of the target (16). Except for Vietnam, all the sub-grantees discussed their sub-project proposals with the National REDD+ units before submission to Tebtebba. Likewise, Tebtebba informed all the relevant National REDD+ units about the approved sub-projects. In Vietnam, meetings with government representatives were concentrated at the commune, district and province levels and ICTHER included meetings with the management boards of the nature reserves (Pu Hu and Da Krong) covered by the sub-project. RSPN (Bhutan) and Hoa Binh (Vietnam) shared the approved sub-project with local and district governments to coordinate activities and gain their support. GTM (Fiji) coordinated activities with district and provincial government offices while SSV (Fiji) coordinated with the national REDD+ unit. VFA together with the national REDD+ unit identified areas for implementation and the key players in those areas.

Hoa Binh shared sub-project outcomes and lessons learned at the commune and district levels while ICTHER and RSPN shared at both local and national levels with governments and other stakeholders. Tarayana shared at the national level only. VFA and SSV did not organize sharing activities but the National REDD+ units were co-facilitators of their activities and educational materials were shared. Fiji's REDD+ unit allowed the use of their vehicle in some activities and the Department of Forestry of Vanuatu which houses the REDD+ unit allocated a room used by VFA.

Outcome 2: Strengthened knowledge exchange at the regional level.

Indicator 3 (Regional knowledge exchange products disseminated in appropriate languages and accessible formats) under Component 2 had a target of 6 which was barely surpassed by one point. This component was managed directly by Tebtebba and consisted of regional researches and workshops, a training manual and a side event. These were all delivered in English with the help of interpreters for some languages as needed in the workshops and side event.

Customary Tenure Systems and REDD+: Ensuring Benefits for Indigenous Peoples, a regional research, focused on: a) Documentation of state laws and policies on land and forest tenure systems and how these enhance or weaken indigenous customary tenure systems; b) Description of the range of indigenous peoples' customary tenure systems that are practiced by indigenous peoples in their territories; c) Determining the extent of recognition and practice of indigenous women's rights in customary tenure systems; d) Determining how customary tenure systems facilitate the implementation of REDD+ and help secure benefits from REDD+ (carbon and non-carbon); and e) Documenting how indigenous peoples are using REDD+ to assert, seek recognition, and strengthen their customary land and forest tenure systems. It was conducted by hired country researchers in the Republic of Fiji, Nepal and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

It concluded, among other things, that “state laws and policies are slowly recognizing customary tenure systems; customary tenure systems continue to be practiced in the communities despite the implementation of the Western tenure system that encourages individual and private ownership; and indigenous and ethnic minority women, in general, do not have the same rights as the men have under customary tenure systems.” In addition and particular to REDD+, “REDD+ is starting

to make a difference in communities where it is being implementedis encountering some issues and problems in implementation. Expectations are also building up, and for IPs and ethnic minorities....., foremost is the protection of their rights to tenure and ownership over their lands and forests as well as recognition of their customary practices and knowledge systems.REDD+ is helping IPs and ethnic minorities assert their rights, encouraging governments to incorporate these in new laws and policies, and making local and national authorities aware and become more sensitive to their customary rights and practices.a key motivation for IPs and ethnic minorities to participate in REDD+ programs is the recognition of their customary tenure and knowledge systems especially on their lands and forests. REDD+ is better served if it continues to consider indigenous and ethnic minority peoples as critical and integral partners.”

The regional research on *Forest Policies and IPs’ Traditional Knowledge and Practices on Sustainable Forest Management*, was undertaken also by country researchers in the Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of Fiji and the Kingdom of Thailand. Its objectives were 1) Conduct in-depth study of distinct and existing traditional knowledge and practices on forest and forest management of IPs and the customary laws and institutions that govern these taking into account gender differentiated roles, access to resources, land, benefits and decision making; 2) Study government policies and programs that reinforce and/or hinder/weaken the practice and transfer of traditional forest management of IPs; and 3) Generate policy recommendations towards the strengthening of indigenous knowledge systems and traditional forest management practices in REDD+ implementation.

The research showed that “IPs have traditional practices that exist to the present, are sustainable, and have served the needs of people over time. IPs continue to build up their customary forest practices to keep with the times. Certain practices have evolved and have been responsive to current needs. There is a need for full official recognition of IPs’ forest tenure and forest management systems in environmental laws, policies and programs consistent with the UNDRIP. There are also cases of competing claims on forest between government conservation programs and indigenous communities where IPs are disadvantaged when state policies favor national goals. IPs’ struggles over their forests are sometimes downplayed due to wrong notions framed in an unequal rights platform that discredits indigenous knowledge and practices. IPs continue to defend their knowledge, systems and practices and continue their relationship with their forests because they believe their perspectives and practices are the best ways to conserve the forest for everyone’s benefit.”

*Amplifying Voices, Building Synergies: A regional workshop on the FCPF Capacity Building on REDD+ for Forest-Dependent IPs in East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) and South Asia Region (SAR) Project*¹¹ was held in October 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand. The objectives were to i) bring together representatives of governments, programmes and indigenous peoples and their organizations involved in REDD+ processes to share their experiences, good practices and lessons learned; ii) identify issues and concerns of indigenous peoples/forest-dependent communities in relation to REDD+ design and implementation; iii) unite on possible ways forward to address the issues and concerns; and iv) discuss briefly the approved Additional Financing. It brought together representatives from FCPF eligible countries in EAP and SAR from sub-grantees and governments, the WB, UNDP and members of the RSC.

¹¹ The workshop report is also attached as Annex 4a

A *Project Assessment Workshop*¹² was organized in September 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand that aimed to 1) Bring together representatives of indigenous peoples and their organizations involved in capacity building sub-projects to share their experiences and good practices in project implementation; 2) Identify facilitating and hindering factors in sub-project implementation; 3) Unite on possible ways to address hindering issues and concerns and maximize good practices; and 4) Discuss additional capacity building needs of IPs and other forest dwellers. The workshop gathered representatives of sub-grantee organizations, the RSC, ANSAB and the WB.

*Regional Training of Trainers on Carbon Accounting for Indigenous Peoples*¹³ was organized on March 2019 in the Philippines with the following objectives: i) To increase understanding of participants on the roles and contributions of IPs in sustainable forest management and REDD+; ii) Train representatives of IPs' organizations and forest dependent communities involved in the REDD+ readiness processes in participatory carbon monitoring to enable them to train their respective communities; and iii) IPs are able to actively engage in the monitoring aspects during ERPD implementation. Except for Bhutan, participants were from ERP countries such as Fiji, Indonesia, Nepal and Vietnam. Philippines, as the host country, was represented by Tebtebba partners and staff. A short [video](#) was compiled.

Forest Carbon Accounting Training for Indigenous Peoples and other Forest Dwellers: Manual for Facilitators aimed to improve the knowledge of IPs and forest communities on REDD+, introduce them to forest carbon measurement and monitoring and guide them to transfer the knowledge primarily to IPs and forest communities. It is a fine tuned version of the manual developed and used in the ToT above and is intended for community facilitators who are indigenous peoples and/or forest dwellers who have basic knowledge and understanding of climate change including REDD+. The manual can also serve as reference.

Enhancing Indigenous Peoples' Capacities to Engage in REDD+ was a side event co-organized



by Tebtebba with other FCPF CBP regional recipient organizations during the 18th session (April 2019) of the UNPFII in New York. The side event shared project achievements, lessons learned and ways forward. A representative of Hoa Binh, one of the sub-grantees in Vietnam, shared their experiences. Other speakers included IP representatives of organizations from the other regions implementing CBP for IPs, the German government (GIZ) and FCPF, and the UN Special

¹² The workshop report is also included as Annex 5 to this report

¹³ The workshop report is attached also as Annex 4b

Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It was able to gather around 45 people from various organizations who were attending the UNPFII. Global processes were cancelled upon the declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic thus three (3) planned side events were also cancelled.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACTS NOT MEASURED BY THE INDICATORS

Beyond the results framework, the project shares these results and feedback from participants as additional evidence of outcomes.

Community organizations. Community organizations were set-up under the project: RSPN organized a local REDD+ group in Buli, Zhemgang district which could be a linked to the national REDD+ strategy during its implementation; Tarayana set-up four (4) new CFMGs in Samtse district that could be linked to the government's forest program; ICTHER organized Forest Management Councils/groups in each commune (Trung Ly commune, Muang Lat district, Thanh Hoa province and Ta Long commune, Da Krong district, Quang Tri province) that are required in the ERP implementation; and Hoa Binh formed 22 SGGs in Nhu Xuan district, Thanh Hoa province which were established into two (2) new cooperatives (Quyet Thang and Rung Xanh). These new cooperatives together with another two (2) formed the Nhu Xuan Alliance of Community Forest Owner Cooperatives¹⁴ (NACFO) in Thanh Hoa province. Cooperatives are legal organizations in Vietnam and these could become stakeholders in ERP implementation.

Institutional strengthening. Some sub-grantees claimed that the project built their capacities in project management, research, reporting, etc. (SSV, GTM). For Tebtebba, the project enhanced its finance and procurement procedures.

Community participation in government forest programs. The SGGs of the new cooperatives, assisted by the Hoa Binh and CERDA, signed in July 12, 2019 a 7-year (2019-2025) forest protection contract with the Nhu Xuan District People's Committee covering 1,031.43 hectares of forest. The same groups are preparing to apply for forest use rights over the same forest area.

Claiming land and forest use rights in Vietnam. In Na Canh village in Phuong Giao commune, Vo Nhai district, Thai Nguyen province, Mr. Do Van Vinh, a 54-year old farmer, married with 3 children applied for land use rights after participating in trainings organized by Hoa Binh. He received the certificate for 500 square meters in 2019 and has a pending application for 1,000 square meters of forested land. While his application for forest use rights is pending, he is allowed to keep and use the forest land pending the payment of required legal fees and the subsequent release of the certificate. This also dissuades other interested individuals/groups from applying for the same piece of forest land. In addition, the SSG members of Thanh Trung cooperative in Nhu Xuan district, organized under the FCPF Gender Fund through Tebtebba in 2017, were able to perfect their application for forest allocation over 1219 hectares of forest and awarded forest use rights certificates during the project.

¹⁴ Members of the alliance: the new cooperatives are Rung Xanh in Hoa Quy commune with 15 SGGs from 460 households and Quyet Thang in Xuan Quy commune with 7 SGGs from 263 households; and the other cooperatives are Thanh Son Lam with 10 SGGs from 236 households in Cat Van commune and Thanh Trung with 8 SGGs from 247 households in Thanh Lam commune.

Revival of traditional practices. At least two sub-projects showed some prospects of reviving traditional practices. According to RSPN, the government of Bhutan is encouraging the concept of farmers' groups or cooperatives and is gaining momentum across the country. Incidentally, it is not a new concept. *La Tshap*, which approximates labor exchange of IPs in other countries, has been practiced in remote villages in any sort of farm work and done in rotation for the entire village. During paddy cultivation, men do the ploughing and women transplant the seedlings. This practice that enhances rich social capital among the farmers could be strengthened and linked to the government's cooperative initiative at the same time revives and popularizes a traditional community practice. In Fiji, a traditional practice surfaced during the series of community trainings facilitated by GTM—*solesolevaki* or working/coming together (communalism). It is a practice which could be strengthened under REDD+ towards sustainable forest management. The elders share their knowledge on forests and the others their skills and time. By sharing their knowledge, the elders could gain the respect of the youth and the youth increase their knowledge. Working together could bridge fragmented communities.

Partnerships established/strengthened. Partnerships/networks were established between and among communities, sub-grantees and governments albeit at different levels: Bhutan – gewog/village, district and national; Vietnam - commune and district; and Fiji and Vanuatu - provincial and national levels. In Bhutan, Fiji (SSV) and Vanuatu, government representatives served as co-facilitators/trainers and governments shared their educational materials. For Vietnam and Fiji (GTM), local governments assisted in organizing/coordinating the activities. This relationships provided also space/opportunity for a better understanding of the IP context between and among stakeholders as IPs learned about REDD+, government policies and programs especially on forests.

Replication: On their own, the women of Kikhar in Zhemgang district, Bhutan after completing an agro-ecological farming training under the project leased 2 acres of land as their collective vegetable garden to contribute to the government's effort on securing food supplies. These women replicated the green house using improvised materials like bamboos and started commercial vegetable production. From an update shared by ICTHER, almost a year after the sub-project closed, it was learned that the farmers trained in composting in Ta Long commune, Da Krong district, Quang Tri province continued to train other village members who requested.

Khikhar Women



Vegetable gardening a wholesome activity. Practicing what they preach, some staff of RSPN initiated a vegetable garden within their main office campus. They were introduced to basic organic vegetable gardening and they planted around five vegetable varieties provided by the project. The purpose of this initiative is to promote organic vegetable production amongst the staff and the garden will serve as a demonstration for RSPN. While vegetable gardening is not a new

concept among the staff members, they shared that it was a refreshing experience in the wake of COVID-19 and is good for the health and the environment. With a garden within their reach, gardening could be an outdoor activity during their leisure time in the future.

Training participants' feedback. The project compiled feedbacks from training participants under Component 1. A few are shared below:

“Now I understand that a citizen has rights, if someone says, ‘you do not have rights’, I will respond and say that I have rights and will speak out to explain my rights to him or her.”
Nguyen Thi Nga of Thanh Hoa Province, Vietnam



Photo by Hoa Binh/CERDA

“Indigenous knowledge existed since our ancestors and was one of key factors that contributed to forest management. It should be kept and taught to the next generation.” La Huu Hai, 72, male, Quang Tri Province, Vietnam

“The VFA has taken the capacity building activities to remote villages and more islands which were not covered by the REDD+ programme implemented by the CSO platform. Capacity building activities implemented by the CSO platform were limited to the main provincial centers in the five (5) REDD+ islands. The engagement of government officers from the forestry and agriculture departments as facilitators provided a venue for them to touch base with the farmers.”
Government official in Vanuatu



Photo by RSPN

“This kind of awareness (raising) is very important to us. Since we are students, we need to learn new things and implement in our future. Moreover, we can teach to those who are unaware so that we can conserve our environment.”

“The things we have learned can be implemented in our community. We can further create awareness in our community to help farmers understand more about the importance of forest and its contribution to REDD+.”
Students in Bhutan

“I am enlightened and empowered to preserve and protect my forests. I live in a bamboo house, I thought that it look bad but after this workshop I am proud that I am using the forests better. Straight after this workshop, I am going to collect fruit seedlings with my husband and plant around our bamboo house so our 2 year old son will have all his fruits around the house.” Vika Marama (24) female, Namuavoivoi, Lekutu District, Bua Province, Fiji

“This is the kind of awareness that we need, the one that bridge us to our ecosystem, the link that God intends for all human to cherish, nurture and live by. I have been to many conservation workshops but none is as simple, clear, concise and real as this one. My people and my village would like to request that you come to Kanacea with your wealth of knowledge.” Ropate Vodo, 58, male, a former civil servant from Kanacea Village, Navakawau, Vuna, Taveuni, Fiji

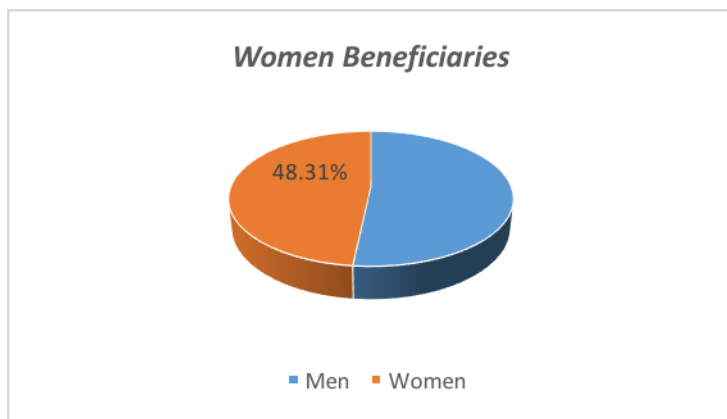
“The training upgrades mentality of people in the community about the provisions for life from the environment and the ecosystem.” Asenaca Rusawale, 18, female, Fiji

A short [video](#) on the project was prepared and an [article](#) on one of the WB’s supervision mission was written.

PROJECT GENDER ASPECTS

The project aimed for parity in terms of the number of men and women direct beneficiaries. However, only 48.31% (11,013) were women of 22,797 total direct beneficiaries missing the target by 1.69%. Some efforts were employed at sub-project and regional levels to improve women’s participation. Both men and women were encouraged and invited to participate in project activities and provided equal costs and benefits.

Engaging an indigenous women’s organization to implement a sub-project was a strategy to enhance women’s participation. This was the case in Fiji, where SSV—a women’s organization, was a sub-grantee. However, women’s multi-roles, thus, poverty of time, minimized their participation and poor access roads forced expectant mothers to move near safe birthing facilities. Incidentally, the president sits in the CSO platform that serves as an advisory body to the National REDD+ Steering Committee and in other working groups on matters relating to community concerns and aspirations where she has the opportunity to input on community women’s issues and concerns. While a women’s organization, it welcomed male participants.



At least four organizations¹⁵ were conscious and made efforts to increase women’s participation by engaging women facilitators in the team, providing time for women to finish household chores, not allowing women to prepare food for the trainings, directly encouraging women to participate, having women only focused group discussions, allowing them to take a seat of their choice and partnering with government women’s organization. Despite these extra efforts, four sub-projects (see Table 3) were below the target on number of women direct beneficiaries.

¹⁵ GTM, Hoa Binh, ICTHER and VFA

Hoa Binh in Vietnam claimed that addressing gender inequality takes time due to cultural and economic barriers. A high number of women and youth (70%) were income earners who work away from home so they have less time to participate in social work and when they participate, they have no voice. Hoa Binh went further and trained community trainers (called FPIC teams) who conducted trainings with groups of households/SGGs which women attended and where they were confident to speak. While this sub-project did not reach the desired number of women direct beneficiaries, membership in the SGGs (and ultimately the cooperatives and its alliance) that it organized is household based—thus benefits that accrued and/or will accrue to these formations will also benefit women. The sub-project also encouraged the women to take leadership positions in the same structures.

Likewise, ICTHER reported that women joined the activities and participated actively albeit at lower number than men due to their multiple roles including income generation like their counterparts above. They proved they could learn and train other villagers. Through participation in meetings and working as members of the FMC (at least 1 female from the community is required), female members were getting more confident and willing to share their ideas/make suggestions. Ethnic minority women improved their voice in forest protection planning to secure their forest use rights and preserve indigenous culture of their communities.

In Bhutan, women's participation differs in the two sub-projects. Tarayana had difficulty increasing women's participation in the forestry sector. It found out that women's engagement in CFs is negligible and needs special focus to address this gender issue. They claimed that it is still a concern mainly in the southern part where 3 beneficiary districts were located because of their traditional gender norms which limit women's engagement in activities outside the home. In the initial phase implemented in the eastern part, the sub-project saw almost equal participation which indicated that women in the eastern part were more active in their locality and surrounding. The sub-project encouraged women's participation in decision making in both areas.

On the other hand, RSPN did not have any plan or strategy on gender-specific inclusion because they did not encounter any barriers to women's participation and women were represented in fora both at national and local levels. Bhutan respects equal rights of men and women according to RSPN. Despite these, RSPN still encouraged women's participation in all its programs and indeed observed that in many of the community level activities, female participants outnumbered the male. Participation in the activities was by household and the head represents the household by tradition. It was gathered that southern society is patriarchal while the eastern is matriarchal. The focus of RSPN's sub-project was the eastern part where it surpassed the target for women beneficiaries. Towards the completion of the sub-project, a women's group was assisted in vegetable production using climate smart techniques.

GTM in Fiji shared that there was an increased involvement of rural women. The prejudiced view that women are always reserved in rural communities was not there. They found that women were inspired and receptive to learning, especially observed in the field work exercises. Such situation would be a welcome factor when the country implements its ERP.

Foreseeing the near completion of the country's ERPD, a Mainstreaming Gender into Fiji's REDD+ and Emissions Reduction Program (ERP) was undertaken by a consultant hired by the

project. The main objective was to come out with a Gender Action Plan (GAP) which could inform the country’s REDD+ ERP. The study proposed 12 action points identifying possible sources of budgets which was forwarded to the government of Fiji. The government included this in the ERPD submitted to the Carbon Fund where it was accepted in July 2019.

The two regional studies undertaken in Component 2: Customary tenure systems and REDD+: Ensuring benefits for IPs; and Forest Policies and IPs’ TK and practices on sustainable forest management tried to surface women’s issues and concerns. The former tried to determine the extent of recognition and practice of indigenous women's rights in customary tenure systems and concluded that “Indigenous and ethnic minority women, in general, do not have the same rights as the men have under customary tenure systems. They do not get to participate in decision-making processes especially on issues about land. Interestingly, State laws and policies are becoming more sensitive to rights and issues of indigenous and ethnic minority women, with the inclusion of some provisions that are deemed pro-women.”

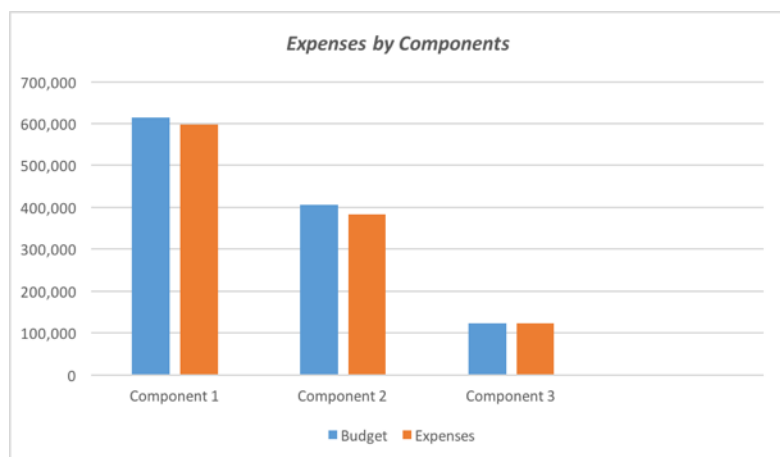
The latter found out that “Women have distinct roles in indigenous forest management. Such roles are governed by customary principles that guide sustainable use of forest products. Among Fiji’s Itaukei, Tarabe (2019) wrote that women forage wild vegetables, gather firewood and medicines, and men dig for yams and cut trees to build houses. Among the Karen people in Thailand, women are known to be experts in gathering non-timber forest products and knowledge holders of seeds, plants and food (Trakansuphakon, 2019). Additionally, women lead the work in the management of fire breaks that ensure an effective protection of forests from fires.”

The outputs of Component 2 affirmed the issues particular to women raised in Component 1 and highlighted that indigenous women still struggle to participate not only in REDD+ related activities but in decision-making processes in general.

PROJECT EFFICIENCY

The project was financed by a SRETF grant from the FPCF Readiness Fund through the WB with a total approved budget of US\$1,141,913. The amount was allocated to Category 1 (Component 1 - Sub-grants) - US\$614,513 (53.81%) and Category 2 – 527,400 (46.19%). Category 2 covers Component 2 (Regional exchange and sharing of lessons learned) and Component 3 (Grant administration and project management including audit) with allocations of US\$405,303 (35%); and US\$122,097 (11%) of total budget, respectively. Total expenses of US\$1,103,308.96 (96.62%) was shared by the Category 1 (54.15%) and Category 2 (45.85%).

Component 1: National Capacity Building and Awareness Raising



For a total US\$597,455.67 expenses under Component 1 (Tables 2 and 3 and Annex 1b), the project conducted a total of 298 national knowledge exchange products disseminated in appropriate languages (Indicator 2) against a target of 20. These knowledge products reached 13,692 direct beneficiaries of which 47.22% were women and 37.17 % were students way above the target of 600 under Indicator 5 of the results framework. In addition, the sub-projects were able to double the 16 targeted for Indicator 4 (meetings held between IP representatives and national REDD+ decision making entities). However, the project missed its target for share of target beneficiaries with knowledge score of 3 or more on REDD+ related issues (Indicator 1) by 3.48% (see earlier section on Achievement of the PDO as measured by the Indicators). Women direct beneficiaries for this Component was also below target by 2.78% (see Component 2 below).

RSPN ranked second highest in terms of expenses (Table 2) but was able to reach the highest number of direct beneficiaries (Indicator 5) inclusive of 5,090 students (Table 3). The contribution of volunteer government facilitators was a big factor. Likewise, Hoa Binh was the fourth in terms of expenses but delivered the highest number of trainings (Indicator 2). The multiplier effect of trained community trainers (FPIC teams) enabled the project to conduct these trainings. The number of direct beneficiaries, however, was a bit low because most of the trainings came in 3 modules, hence many repeat participants.

A sub-grant agreement was signed between Tebtebba and the IPO implementing partner. This agreement stipulated, among others, the time frame, amount of the sub-grant, conditions for suspension or termination, roles of the parties including reporting requirements, and monitoring and evaluation. The roles of Tebtebba was to download the funds and provide assistance during implementation. The sub-grantee on the other hand, was to implement the sub-project in accordance to the agreement including using funds efficiently and providing counterpart contributions, maintaining a designated account and sub-project staff, submitting timely and accurate reports, and allowing face-to-face monitoring.

To assist the sub-grantees, the PMT developed and provided templates such as request for disbursement, acknowledgement receipt, agreement with service providers, evaluation/feedback forms for the trainings, and reporting for both expenses and activities. Reports on expenses including supporting documents were evaluated. When there are discrepancies, the sub-grantee is informed. In the same manner, activity reports were reviewed and comments were provided if needed. This system worked but the level of institutional capacity among sub-grantees varies, consequently more time and efforts were required for those who needed further assistance. Relevant recommendations and/or suggestions of external auditors were also shared and inquiries/requests were responded as best as the PMT can and at the soonest time possible. To some extent, the project contributed to finance management capacity of sub-grantees.

Counterpart contributions of sub-grantees to implementation costs, based on audit reports, were mostly support for staff salaries and administrative expenses. Across sub-projects, in kind contributions were in the form of free use of office space, voluntary services of facilitators, and use of equipment like computers. Governments contributed also like free use of their meeting

rooms/halls and sharing available educational and other materials, free facilitation services while some beneficiaries shared food, extra time and others¹⁶.

Component 2: Regional Exchange and Sharing of Lessons Learned

Spending US\$ 383,530.27 for Component 2, the project completed 7 regional knowledge exchange products disseminated in appropriate languages and accessible formats (Indicator 3) compared to a target of six (6). The main sub-components were publication of two (2) regional researches and a facilitators' manual, three (3) workshops, and a side event. This component contributed 9,105 to Indicator 5 with 49.94% women. This Component improved the overall number of women direct beneficiaries to 48.31%. A small amount was spent for the shipment of hard copies especially the Forest Policies and IPs' Traditional Knowledge and Practices on Sustainable Forest Management which came out during the health pandemic when travels were curtailed.

Component 3: Grant Management, M&E and Reporting

Component 3 expenses amounted to US\$122,323.02 which consisted of cost of meetings with the RSC, face-to-face monitoring of sub-projects, completion of three (3) external audits¹⁷, communications, office supplies, and salaries of two (2) full time staff. The services of the other members of the PMT and other operating costs like use office space were counterpart contributions of the recipient.

The underutilization of funds was due mainly to the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in cancellation of activities: the cost extension of Hoa Binh (Component 1), global processes where three (3) side events were planned (Component 2), and face-to-face monitoring in Vietnam (Component 3). A sum of US\$ 38,604.04 (3.38%) of the total budget was not spent. The depreciation¹⁸ of local currencies in Asia against the US dollar was a minor factor.

KEY FACTORS THAT AFFECTED IMPLEMENTATION

The selection process using a targeted call for selection of sub-projects (Component 1) did not work well because of very limited recommendees from RSC members to be invited to submit sub-project proposals. This was supplemented by reaching out to country based NGOs, FCPF national focal points and online call. Prioritization of proposals by the RSC took some time and also the due diligence because proponents had to fine tune their proposals. In addition, perfection of two (2) sub-grant agreements in one country required clearance from the country's Ministry of Finance as required by the WB. In both cases, the WB intervened.

Geographic locations of beneficiary communities was a major challenge/hindrance to all sub-grantees in project implementation. Access to these communities was difficult especially during unfavorable weather conditions resulting to road blocks due to landslides, floods and lack of

¹⁶ Example: Solar electric fencing and vegetable garden preparations provided by the District Agriculture Office for the Kikhar women's collective garden in Bhutan; the Kikhar women contributed to food expenses during land preparation for the vegetable demonstration garden and setting-up of the green house, and purchase of a water tank. In Vietnam, community leaders do the mobilization of participants.

¹⁷ One external audit still to be undertaken as an extension of the 2nd service contract so no further cost is involved

¹⁸ Exchange rates to the US\$ at the inception and closing of the project were around: Vietnamese dong – 22,695 to 23,200; Bhutanese ngultrum – 64 to 75; and Philippine peso – 46.50 to 50

transportation services. Road blocks were frequent in Bhutan, floods in Vietnam and cancelled transportation services in Fiji and Vanuatu.

Low level of literacy among direct beneficiaries exacerbated by limited appropriate awareness materials and the technical nature of REDD+ were also a challenge to implementation in the communities. Translating educational materials was difficult because in most beneficiary countries there are no exact equivalents of concepts and terms in the different local and national languages. The experiences and expertise of some sub-grantees attenuated the situation. Almost all the members of VFA are professionals in the field of forestry and environment hence implementing REDD+ related activities came with ease while RSPN's previous interventions in the same communities and experiences in past climate change projects contributed technically in the implementation.

It should be recalled that the funding was downloaded to the recipient organization in two (2) tranches: PF and AF. Similarly, Tebtebba agreed for an extension of sub-grant agreements, based on performance, with sub-grantees only after the AF was formalized. This in effect created two short timeframes for sub-projects implementation. Government support, however, was very instrumental in the completion of activities. In Bhutan, for example, representatives of the DoFPS and its related divisions/offices facilitated and/or co-facilitated some of the activities of the two sub-projects. Trained community leaders assisted in facilitating some of the trainings of Hoa Binh (Vietnam) allowing simultaneous conduct of activities.

Other constraints particular to each sub-project were: election ban on gatherings in Bhutan (RSPN and Tarayana); non-inclusion of staff compensation in the budget/no full time staff hence services were voluntary and dependent on availability of their members (Pacific); training fatigue, and confusing REDD+ messages from earlier activities and no tangible outputs (GTM and VFA); non-delivery of commitments by two partners and administrative matters (SSV). In Vietnam, poor quality of previous village meetings, cultural practices and the agricultural cycle affected number of participants and/or postponement (Hoa Binh); and misunderstanding on sub-project's objectives (capacity building vis livelihood) and how to sustain the practice of indigenous knowledge on natural resource management alongside "modern knowledge" and still respond to community needs (ICTHER).

Despite these hindrances, having national IPOs as direct implementers at community levels was a remarkable model. Activities were delivered in culturally appropriate forms and languages that IPs easily understand and schedules respected community events. IPOs knowledge on local situations and practices including laws, policies and procedures especially those related to forestry, REDD+ and climate change enriched training contents and materials. Close coordination with governments and communities strengthened partnerships and sub-grantees' local presence and experiences on tested community participatory approaches contributed to completion of activities.

One of the researches under Component 2 took longer than planned due to the difficulty in looking for qualified country researchers. Another was the COVID-19 pandemic that led governments to issue stringent measures to contain the spread of SARS-CoV-2 or the virus that causes COVID-19. As a consequence, the cost extension of Hoa Binh was not implemented while that of RSPN

has to be extended, side events and face-to-face monitoring were cancelled. The printing of knowledge products¹⁹ was not spared due the difficulty in transporting needed materials.

The recipient provided technical and implementation support to sub-grantees throughout the implementation. Tebtebba, has been working for the respect, protection and fulfillment of indigenous peoples' rights since 1996. It has worked at various levels with different IPOs, NGOs and networks, provided inputs to and lobbied for the adoption of UNDRIP, has actively engaged in UNFCCC and other UN processes, and manages projects with sub-granting components²⁰. These experiences improved its capacity to work in various country contexts towards project completion. A PMT, composed of staff with appropriate skills on project and finance management and M&E, was in place throughout the duration of the project. The PMT was supported by the Departments of Finance and Administration; Publication, Information and Awareness; and the gender focal person; and was supervised by the Management Committee. Language barrier remains a challenge for Tebtebba which it continues to address by engaging the services of interpreters.

WORLD BANK PERFORMANCE DURING IMPLEMENTATION

The WB's Team composed of a TTL, finance management, procurement and operations specialists provided quality advice/guidance throughout the duration of the project. The TTL is experienced on working with IPs and proved an asset to the project. The finance and procurement specialists were Philippine nationals based in the WB Office in the country and while the operations specialist was located in a different time zone, the whole team was very professional, accommodating and dedicated in their work. Their concerted efforts contributed to a great extent in the successful completion of the project.

Supervision missions were adequate including launch, supervisions and midterm. A closing mission in March 2020 was done on line due to the health pandemic. In all these, the PMT participated. They were introduced to WB's fiduciary and procurement policies and procedures during the launch mission and together with the WB Team reviewed project progress towards the achievement of targets and agreed on necessary actions towards improvement of finance and project management and procurement. Related trainings were also provided: WB procurement regulations and client connection account management system. Aside from the WB Team assigned to the project, other WB staff members provided assistance like in securing a required clearance from a country's Ministry of Finance and advice on fiduciary requirements. To keep the WB Team abreast on project developments, the PMT provided regular semi-annual progress reports. Support and advice from the TTL and her team were continuous through emails.

¹⁹ Forest Policies and IPs' Traditional Knowledge and Practices in Sustainable Forest Management; and Forest Carbon Accounting Training for Indigenous Peoples and other Forest Dwellers: Manual for Facilitators

²⁰ Indigenous Peoples' Assistance Facility (3 cycles); Tamalpais Trust, SwedBio, Swift Foundation, Climate Justice Resilience Fund, European Commission/IWGIA

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (SAFEGUARDS) COMPLIANCE

The project triggered the WB safeguard policy OP/BP 4.10 on IPs because majority of direct beneficiaries were IPs. Compliance measures were incorporated in the project's Operational Manual detailing eligibility criteria and procedures for the selection of the capacity building activities to ensure consistency with WB's Safeguards Policies. The following were the procedures for consulting with concerned IPOs and communities in the selection and implementation of activities at the national level: i) ensure broad community support and implementation of sub-grant proposals submitted to Tebtebba; ii) ensure active participation of key stakeholders; and iii) access to grievance redress mechanisms discussed in the next section. The project adhered to these measures. Selected sub-grantees had diverse expertise and focus like education/capacity building, research, sustainable livelihoods, community organizing/development, women's empowerment among others. Beneficiaries of all activities were inclusive of government, other NGOs/CSOs, IPs and other forest dwellers and the community at large. The project did not fund physical infrastructure or other activities that could have adverse social and environmental impacts.

The project complied with legal covenants. It maintained a RSC, Management Committee, PMT, and downloaded funds and provided advice to seven (7) sub-grantees. A project web-page was developed and maintained for transparency and the PMT submitted periodic status and progress reports. Project funds were received and disbursed from designated accounts (US\$ and local currency) and regular external audits were undertaken.

PROJECT'S GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

IPs and other interested stakeholders may raise some feedback or complaints on the sub-grants/consultancies' award decisions, governance of the project and other issues specific to the project.

Feedbacks and/or complaints must be sent to the PMT in writing, duly signed by the complainant/s, including contact details through email (cbp-grievance@tebtebba.org), fax (+63 74 4439459) or courier (please address email to Ms. Helen Valdez, PMTL-FCPF CBP, Tebtebba, No. 1 Roman Ayson Rd., Baguio City 2600, Philippines). The PMT will be fully responsible for recording, referring and tracking the complaint. It should acknowledge receipt of the complaint within 5 working days upon receipt.

The PMT undertakes an initial discussion with the complainant and propose a response within 15 working days upon receipt of the complaint. If the complainant agrees, the proposed action is implemented. In case the complainant does not agree on the proposed action of the PMT, the PMT will compose a Grievance Committee composed of two (2) representatives of the Management Committee of Tebtebba and two (2) members of the RSC. When applicable, one of the members of the RSC to sit in the Grievance Committee shall be from the same country where the feedback/complaint originated. Resolutions or outcomes of complaints received shall be properly documented.

The project did not receive any complaint through the process discussed above. However, there were issues raised by two (2) sub-grantees. One, during the project assessment workshop where a sub-grantee claimed that the money refunded to Tebtebba was paid erroneously to a consultant preferred by the recipient and did not return the money. Another claimed they were entitled to the remaining budget even if this was not spent. Both were resolved.

At least three (3) sub-grantees claimed they did not receive any form of complaints but there were questions raised²¹. According to Tarayana Foundation, there was an issue raised by forestry officials in relation to their mandates—“They were surprised with the sub-project activities and they felt that we were doing their work but it was clarified.” In Vanuatu (VFA), a couple of communities got the REDD+ messages wrong from previous interventions in terms of benefits and complained that the program was taking too long to materialize. This was corrected during the capacity building activities in communities concerned. Similarly, in Vietnam communities covered by ICTHER, there were issues raised like how long will it take before the carbon fund program starts in their area. Hoa Binh (Vietnam) claimed that the cooperatives have their own complaint and resolution system while RSPN did not receive neither a complaint nor question on their sub-project.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

There were no clearly defined exit strategies after the project ends. Across sub-projects, the continuity of enjoying the benefits and future benefits accruing from the project is linked/connected to sub-grantees’ other existing initiatives, government’s, other initiatives accessible to them or funding.

For Bhutan, the direct beneficiaries are students, government representatives and members of CFMGs who are also farmers. RSPN accepts there is no sustainability mechanism in place but strongly believes that the project has immensely contributed to forest-dependent peoples’ understanding and knowledge, complementing government’s dissemination program under the readiness phase, on the concept of REDD+ which they can maximize and share continuously. They considered it essential for citizens to understand the concept before any national program is implemented. The application of skills gained on climate smart agro-ecological farming will contribute to the government’s effort on improving domestic food security, as the women started replicating the green house using improvised materials such as bamboos and started commercial vegetable production albeit on a limited scale. The project contributed to RSPN’s other work on climate change, conservation and agro-ecological agriculture that are seen to go a long way. The local REDD+ group organized in Buli could assist, using the knowledge from the project, in the implementation of future projects/programs on forestry. The capacity building provided to local governments like forestry officials has also increased their knowledge towards planning and execution of forest management programs.

According to Tarayana, also in Bhutan, the capacity building activities directly benefited individuals which empowered them to participate in future undertakings. The leverage has been very large, not only in terms of skills and confidence building, but also in securing additional

²¹ For details, kindly refer to the sub-projects completion reports found in Annex 3

support. The activities that were carried out will be scaled-up in the “Securing ecological connectivity of high conservation value area in Bhutan” project funded by WWF-Germany. All the lessons learned and the experiences from the FCPF CBP initiative have been built into the new project that will benefit more villages in eight districts.

For both sub-grantees, the knowledge and skills acquired will come handy in the national REDD+ strategy (launched July 31, 2020) implementation and will unarguably contribute to better outcomes. The strategy seeks to address REDD+ and its implementation will contribute to preservation of forest biodiversity, enhance livelihoods and uphold carbon neutrality pledge of the country.

In Fiji, SSV will bring the knowledge in its engagements in REDD+, climate change, blue economy and feminist advocacy, and promoting women’s empowerment through entrepreneurship while the gains that GTM achieved will be further utilized with faith-based organizations and by being part of Fiji’s REDD+ CSO Forum. The baseline study undertaken by SSV informed a gender in REDD+ and FPIC guidelines they prepared, and the forest carbon accounting manual translated by GTM could be an input when the country implements its ERP. The Gender Action Plan prepared under the project formed part of Fiji’s ERP and will hopefully be implemented to benefit indigenous women in the communities. The knowledge among direct beneficiaries on the impacts of climate change will not be forgotten perhaps in Fiji and Vanuatu, countries battered by natural disasters.

In Vietnam, all the beneficiaries of the sub-project implemented by Hoa Binh were members of SSGs who are also members of cooperatives which are legal entities that can exist for 50 years. Having working licenses and enhanced knowledge on climate change and REDD+, they can participate in government forest protection programs including in ERP implementation. Bearing in mind sustainable use of forest resources and forest policies, the members can continue to earn income from the collection of NTFPs from the forest allocated to them and from payments of forest protection contracts. The community trainers could continue sharing their knowledge even informally. On the other hand, ICTHER is hopeful that those trained will continue to empower ethnic minorities or indigenous peoples, local communities and other forest dependent groups with the support of government from local to national levels. The established forest management councils/groups are vital component in ERP implementation and the capacitated members can continue enhancing community capacity. It was learned, after the sub-project closed, that the farmers trained in composting in Ta Long commune, Da Krong district, Quang Tri province trained other village members who requested.

For Tebtebba, while it is a special project, it is under the [Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Program](#) (CCAMP). The program is engaged in various activities such as researches related to ecosystems, tenure and resource rights and their relationship to climate change adaptation and mitigation; and facilitates effective engagement and advocacy of indigenous representatives in key climate change processes at global, regional, national and local levels among others. The experience and lessons learned from the project will be invaluable inputs in most of its work.

Capacity building in this project is seen as a ‘two way street’ in partnerships, wherein the capacity of the national IPOs was being developed not just that of the direct beneficiaries.

LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Selection process. The selection of sub-projects took longer time than planned. The project initially relied on the RSC to recommend IPOs in eligible countries to be invited to submit proposals but due to very limited number of recommendees, the timeframe had to be extended and Tebtebba had to reach out to national REDD+ focal points and NGOs in the respective countries. Review of sub-project proposals by RSC members and due diligence also took some time. Soliciting proposals from select IPOs provides an assurance to some extent on the eligibility of proponent organizations and could be the first screening in itself as the method shortens the list of applicants. The related cost could be lower with few proposals to be reviewed and organizations to undergo due diligence. This method, however, excludes other qualified organizations. Selection should follow a hybrid approach (both an open call and targeted call) and reviewers should not be limited to the RSC.

Geographic coverage. The project and other donors/funders lumped portions of Asia and countries of the Pacific into a single beneficiary region. The geographic specificities and cultural particularities and access to these countries should be considered for better coordination and project facilitation. A recipient organization based in a country in the Pacific is better informed on the issues and concerns of IPs in that part of the world and is therefore expected to be in the best position to guide beneficiary organizations in project implementation. Further, the financial cost for field monitoring and evaluation for a recipient organization based in Asia is high without even factoring in person days spent for travel. Tebtebba joins the call of Pacific countries for two separate recipients, one for Asia and another for the Pacific as most appropriate.

Eligible activities. The sub-grantees who have been in indigenous communities to deliver capacity building activities concluded that these IPs cultivate some food items, gather forest products for domestic consumption and a few are employed in urban centers. While the target beneficiaries appreciated the knowledge and skills they gained, they requested for non-carbon benefits in the form of support for alternative livelihood/enterprise development in areas like community nature based eco-tourism, enterprise development/cottage industries on non-timber forest products and access to markets; and climate change adaptation and mitigation like clean energy (wind and solar) and wood efficient technologies (like cooking stoves). These could also increase women’s participation.

Project design and implementation arrangements. During the course of project implementation, the RSC limited their functions to advisory, monitoring assistance and other assistance (e.g. technical) whenever they could. It might be good to explore what added value the members can contribute to sub-projects to achieve their project objectives in their respective countries. If this is feasible, financial resources should be considered.

Project timeframe. The project was funded in two (2) tranches: the PF effective October 31, 2016 with October 31, 2018 as closing date and the AF effective November 1, 2018 that closed

September 30, 2020 inclusive of extensions. This has divided the implementation of sub-projects into two (2) short terms exacerbated by the long selection process with the first sub-grant agreement under the PF signed only in May 31, 2017 and the latest in February the following year and most were completed in July 31, 2018. The upscaling of the sub-projects under the AF started between January and March 2019 and were completed August 31 of the same year. As such, there was a gap of around five (5) months. Indeed some sub-projects had only around 6 months in the initial and upscaling for implementation. Across sub-projects, the request is for longer timeframe.

Sustained gender-responsive capacity building. Several capacity building initiatives have been completed, researches undertaken and workshops conducted under the project. Consequently, targeted forest-dependent IPs have been demonstrating increased understanding of the subjects and their visibility and participation in various country level dialogues have increased. However, it should be recognized by the FCPF and other donors that there is still much work to be done and needed on a wider scale to reach more IPs/forest dwellers including women. With the technical nature of REDD+, IPOs should also be provided opportunities to increase their knowledge and skills to deliver higher quality capacity building to IP communities including making women more visible and participate effectively in decision making. Capacity of recipient organizations on management of financial instruments should also continue to be enhanced.

Dedicated funds for indigenous women. The researches and workshops highlighted the vast knowledge and big roles and contributions women have and perform in natural resource management including forests which are key to the success of REDD+ programs. However, their rights to identity, land and forest are still not recognized and indigenous women's assets remain untapped. Indigenous women reiterate that they should take part in governance-related processes, specifically in terms of participation, monitoring, and benefit sharing. Towards the fruition of these recommendations, they call on the FCPF and other donors for more dedicated funds for indigenous women to enhance their capacities, not only on REDD+, but in claiming their rights as well.

Recognition and respect of IPs' rights. The project recognized the need to provide IPs with information, knowledge, and awareness on REDD+ to enhance their understanding, and enable them to engage more meaningfully in the design and implementation of REDD+ readiness activities and ERPs. IPs are thankful and welcomed this initiative. The outputs under Component 2 reiterated the deeper aspirations of IPs—respect, recognition and fulfillment of their rights to land, resources, FPIC, identity and traditional knowledge. IPs' traditional knowledge remains undervalued, IPs continue to suffer from the impacts of big hydropower projects and other forms of development implemented without their consent, their customary tenure to land and forests are still not recognized to name a few. IPs call again on their governments to recognize and protect IPs' rights and ensure that policies uphold and implement international agreements they signed, address IP concerns in national legislations and disseminate these in appropriate languages understood by IPs among others; and for donors, including the FPCF, to respect IPs' rights to FPIC in projects/programs they finance.

Strong partnerships. The successful implementation of the project was made possible through the collaboration among stakeholders such as the recipient organization, national IPOs, governments and beneficiaries. The national IPOs partnered with governments at different levels to deliver

capacity building activities to the targeted beneficiaries. Governments have either provided venues and/or logistical support, shared educational materials or co-facilitated activities. The beneficiary communities allowed free use of their centers, cooperated by allotting time for the activities and sharing worthwhile information especially in the researches/documentations undertaken. The recipient organization provided timely project and financial management assistance and supervision. Thus, these partnerships should be sustained and strengthened and others established/developed to support planning and implementation, not only in REDD+ projects/programs, but in other undertakings towards the recognition, respect and fulfillment of IPs' rights. The partnerships developed could be a leverage to donors like the FCPF, after all, P in FCPF stands for partnership.

ANNEXES

Annex 1a) Summary Results Framework

Project Development Objective (PDO): Strengthen: (i) the knowledge of targeted forest-dependent indigenous peoples of REDD+ Readiness at the national level; and (ii) knowledge exchange at the regional level.									
Results Indicators	Core	Unit of Measure	Baseline	Target Values			Frequency	Results as of September 30, 2020	Description
				Parent Project	Additional Financing	End Target			
1. Beneficiary ²² feedback: Share of target beneficiaries with knowledge score of 3 or more on REDD+ and related issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Percentage	0	80	80	80	Annually	Overall: 76.52% RSPN, Bhutan – 60.87% Tarayana, Bhutan – 65.63% Grace Trifam Ministry or GTM (AF only), Fiji – 91.58% Soqosoqo Vakamarama or SSV (PF only), Fiji – 56.91% Vanuatu Foresters Association or VFA (PF only) – 67.42% Hoa Binh coop, Vietnam – 92.89% ICTHER, Vietnam – 73.98%	This indicator's purpose is two fold: (i) to measure impact and (ii) to gather beneficiary feedback. All defined direct beneficiaries, including sub-grant recipient IP organizations/institutions and workshop/training participants, will receive a pre-defined short questionnaire (a half pager) that will record their perceptions of their level of knowledge on a defined list of subjects. The forms will be filled by the beneficiaries after a training workshop/program. All the forms will be collected and analyzed by Tebtebba with support from the World Bank.
2. National ²³ knowledge exchange products	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	0	6	14	20	Annually	Total – 298 RSPN, Bhutan – 78	Knowledge exchange products are capacity building and/or awareness raising training

²² All values are based on feedback of participants who completed the trainings and the forms.

²³ Most activities are conducted/implemented at the local level (community and district).

disseminated in appropriate languages									Tarayana, Bhutan – 56 GTM (AF only), Fiji – 7 SSV, Fiji (PF only)– 8 VFA, Vanuatu (PF only) – 21 Hoa Binh, Vietnam – 110 ICTHER, Vietnam – 17 Gender Mainstreaming Fiji – 1	sessions and/or workshops Knowledge products will be produced in English and translated to local languages as appropriate by sub-grantees/consultants..
3. Regional knowledge exchange products disseminated in appropriate languages and accessible formats	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	0	2	4	6	Annually	7 (customary land tenure systems & REDD+; regional workshop; side event at UNPFII in 2019; trainers’ training on carbon accounting; project assessment; forest policies on forest & TK on forest; and forest carbon accounting facilitators’ manual)	Knowledge exchange products include: regional workshops; and new lessons learned and/or best practices products	
4. Meetings held ²⁴ between IP representatives and national REDD+ decision making entities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	0	12	4	16	Annually	Total – 32 RSPN, Bhutan – 8 Tarayana, Bhutan - 4 GTM (AF only), Fiji – 1 SSV (PF only), Fiji – 2 VFA (PF only), Vanuatu – 2	Meeting are held within the 6 Component 1 eligible countries between recipient IP organizations and national REDD+ decision makers.	

²⁴ Most of the activities/meetings were held with REDD+ national focal points to present and consult on the project proposals for national capacity building activities to be financed by the project to make sure there is alignment with the national REDD+ Readiness activities; some served as kick-off activities and before closing dates to share sub-project results. In Vietnam, meetings with the district and provincial government representatives were necessary to present the sub-project and secure permit to work.

								Hoa Binh, Vietnam – 9 ICTHER, Vietnam – 6	
5. Direct project beneficiaries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Number	0	400	200	600	Annually	Total – 22,797 (M – 11,784; F – 11,013 or 48.31%) RSPN, Bhutan: 7,185 (M – 3,278, F – 3,907 or 54.38%) Tarayana, Bhutan: 2,444 (M – 1,443, F – 1,001 or 40.96%) GTM (AF only), Fiji: 305 (M – 120, F – 185 or 60.66%) SSV (PF only), Fiji: 510 (M – 234, F – 276 or 54.12%) VFA (PF only), Vanuatu: 663 (M – 482, F – 181 or 27.30%) Hoa Binh, Vietnam: 2,022 (M – 1,373, F – 649 or 32.10%) ICTHER, Vietnam: 563 (M – 296, F – 267 or 47.42%) Component 2: 9,105 (M -4,558, F – 4,547 or 49.93%)	Direct project beneficiaries are forest-dependent IP community members participating in capacity building and awareness raising activities under sub-component 1.1; members of IP organizations and institutions which participate in meetings and workshops under sub-components 1.2 and 2.1; and recipients of national and regional knowledge products.
Of which female		Percent	0	50	50	50			

Kindly see separate files for the following Annexes:

1b) Details of Implementation and Calculation of Indicators

2) Disbursement per Component

3) Sub-projects' completion reports

4a) Amplifying Voices, Building Synergies: A regional workshop on the FCP CBP on REDD+ for Forest-Dependent IPs in EAP and SAR Project, October 2018; **and 4b) Regional Training of Trainers on Forest Carbon Accounting for IPs,** March 2019

5) Project assessment workshop report