



BETWEEN ROOTS & CANOPY

Growing local involvement in forest governance & monitoring

Indonesia • Malaysia • Papua New Guinea • The Philippines

Project funded by



Project coordinated by





Nursery training with community groups in Flores. Photo Burung Indonesia



Mount Irid-Angelo, the Philippines. Photo Bjorn Olesen



Papua New Guinean culture and conservation. Photo Mark Hanlin/Tenkile Conservation Alliance



Local people from Belum-Terengor, Malaysia. Photo Bjorn Olesen

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Belum-Temengor forest landscape, Malaysia. Photo Bjorn Olesen

FORESTS BENEFIT ALL

From strong roots that bind the soil, to the fresh leaves in the canopy that create oxygen, and everything in between, forests benefit everyone. They clean the air we breathe and reliably provide the water we drink. Forests protect soil from which to grow food and commodities, whilst providing medicine, tourism, ecosystem services and sustainable livelihoods. By storing carbon, forests combat climate change; and they protect against natural disasters like floods and storms. They are also homes for people and unique wildlife, with many new species still being discovered each year.

FORESTS IN ASIA AND THE WESTERN PACIFIC ARE SPECIAL, WORTHY OF GLOBAL RECOGNITION AND PRIDE

The tropical forests of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines cover over 154 million hectares and are globally significant hotspots of plant and animal life¹, many recognised as “Key Biodiversity Areas” (KBAs)² by BirdLife International in partnership with many other leading conservation organisations.

HOWEVER HUMAN POPULATIONS ACROSS THE REGION ARE GROWING RAPIDLY AND THREATENING FORESTS

Driven by agricultural expansion, unsustainable harvesting of timber and illegal logging, forest degradation and deforestation remain perennial environmental problems for countries in Southeast Asia and the western Pacific.

WE NEED TO PROTECT OUR FORESTS

It has never been more essential that nations reduce illegal logging, strengthen sustainable and legal forest management, improve governance, and better account for the value of forests. The European Union aims to support this through its **Forest Law Enforcement, Governance & Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan**, and by supporting governments and communities to implement these better practices.

LOCAL PEOPLE ARE THE ANSWER

Local people have an important role to play in forest monitoring and decisions. They know the trails, they know the health of the forest first-hand; there is no substitute for local knowledge. Local community groups, indigenous peoples, and non-governmental organisations can be there to monitor, protect and report in real-time.

THROUGH THIS PROJECT WE CAN HELP MAKE THE LINK BETWEEN LOCAL PEOPLE AND DECISIONS ABOUT FORESTS

¹ www.cepf.net/resources/hotspots/Asia-Pacific/Pages/default.aspx

² www.keybiodiversityareas.org

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THE CURRENT SITUATION

National and state governments have implemented key measures to stem forest loss across the region. For instance, all four countries have or are in the process of developing national Reducing Emissions from Deforestation & Degradation (REDD+) strategies to monitor and tackle deforestation. Both the Philippines and Indonesia have passed moratoriums to tackle unsustainable agricultural expansion into primary forests and peat land, and logging activities.

Despite this and positive intentions, forest conservation across the region remains constrained by problems of weak governance. Limited enforcement, corruption and a lack of accountability has hampered government efforts to prevent illegal and unsustainable logging.

The current involvement of non-state actors (e.g. local communities, indigenous people) — critical stakeholders in forest conservation activities — is constrained by a lack of technical knowledge, experience and political influence.

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Official title *Strengthening non-state actor involvement in forest governance in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea*

Duration Five years (2017-2021)

Project lead BirdLife International

Funded by European Union

Aim *To empower and enhance the involvement of non-state actors in forest monitoring, nature conservation, and policy processes, at important forest landscapes in the region*



Project inception workshop. Photo BirdLife International

INVOLVING LOCAL PEOPLE IN FOREST GOVERNANCE MEANS BETTER OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE, NATURE AND THE ECONOMY

THIS IS ACHIEVED THROUGH:

- Involving local people and community groups in **decision-making processes**
- Increasing **knowledge and training** on forest monitoring
- Establishing forest **monitoring** programmes, using state of the art **remote sensing**
- Building well-informed **networks of local groups** and exchanging information
- Improving forest **conservation and restoration**, whilst improving local people's **livelihoods**
- Complementing **governmental law enforcement** efforts
- **Complementing existing** forest conservation and governance initiatives
- Improving the strength and appropriateness of **policies and laws**
- Ensuring local people and the nation are aware of, and **benefit from the full value** of forests (monetary, social, environmental)
- Delivering training for state and non-state actors on **forest governance, management and policy**
- Promoting regional **cross-border cooperation and information sharing** through exchange visits and a "Forest Governance Forum"

THIS SUPPORTS LOCAL INVOLVEMENT IN FOREST GOVERNANCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION MEASURES:

- **FLEGT-VPA** (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance & Trade – Voluntary Partnership Agreement): www.flegt.org
- **REDD+** (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation & Degradation): www.euredd.efi.int/redd

“ IF A TREE FALLS IN A FOREST AND NO ONE IS AROUND TO HEAR IT, DOES IT MAKE A SOUND? ”

“COMPLETE” FOREST MONITORING

As the eyes and ears on the forest floor, communities will document forest degradation thanks to local monitoring programmes; whilst, through remote satellite analysis, BirdLife International and the University of Papua New Guinea will be supporting from above the canopy.



Engaging with local communities in Papua New Guinea. Photo Mark Hanlin/Tenkile Conservation Alliance



PROJECT OUTCOMES

1. **Increased capacity** of local, provincial and national non-state actors to monitor forest resource use, forest condition and forest carbon stocks.
2. **Increased transparency**, access to information and accountability in relation to the conservation and management of forests, including Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA).
3. Viable, constructive, and sustainable **networks of well-informed non-state actors**, including cross-border cooperation and information exchanges.
4. **Informed, effective participation** of non-state actors in national and provincial forest policy processes, including FLEGT-VPA and REDD+.

Golden-mantled Tree Kangaroo *Dendrolagus pulcherrimus* (Critically Endangered), found in the Torricelli Mountains, Papua New Guinea. Photo Matt West/Tenkile Conservation Alliance

FORESTED LANDSCAPES IN THE PROJECT SCOPE

Implementation of the project is being carried out in seven key forested landscapes across Southeast Asia and the western Pacific. These landscapes are also recognised as KBAs. Significant human communities live within these areas and depend on resources harvested from the forests for their livelihoods.

1. Indonesia

Mbeliling landscape (Flores, East Nusa Tenggara)

2. Malaysia

Belum-Temengor landscape (Perak State) and other sites in the Central Forest Spine, Peninsular Malaysia; and the Heart of Borneo area (Sabah, Sarawak)

3. Papua New Guinea

Torricelli Mountain Range (Sandaun & East Sepik Provinces)

4. The Philippines

Mount Irid-Angelo (Luzon); Mount Siburan, Sablayan (Mindoro); and Mount Hilong-hilong (Mindanao)



COUNTRIES WHERE THE PROJECT IS BEING IMPLEMENTED.
YELLOW SPOTS INDICATE THE KEY FOREST LANDSCAPES WHERE PROJECT ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT.

CASE STUDY: MAKING THE LINK

In early 2017 in Gabaldon, the Philippines, the Haribon Foundation provided the crucial link between village leaders, other community members, forest wardens and local officials that catalysed a dialogue about mapping important habitat for nature conservation. As a result, over 8,000 hectares of forest at Mount Mingan is now one step closer to becoming a legal conservation and wildlife protection area (the area's first "Critical Habitat"), securing vital forest for the Philippine Eagle (Critically Endangered), and helping resolve illegal forest activity problems.

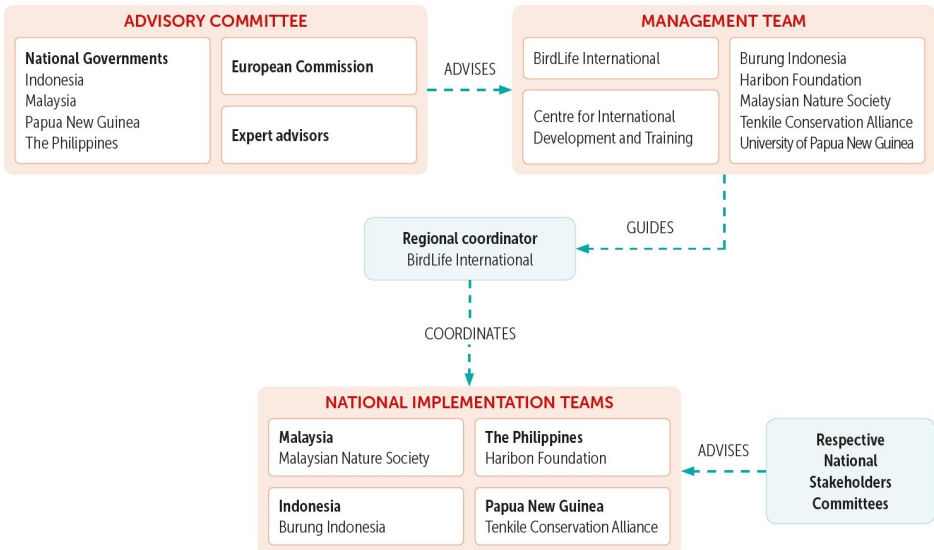
"I have never before had this kind of community dialogue where I got to understand the different programmes of our local government, and how we can take action together. Thank you for hearing us out", Dado Pagaragan, President of the Senior Citizen's Group in Barangay Ligaya.

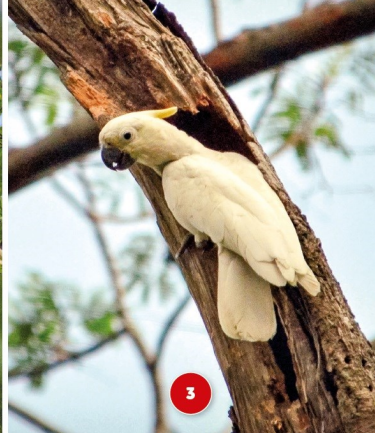
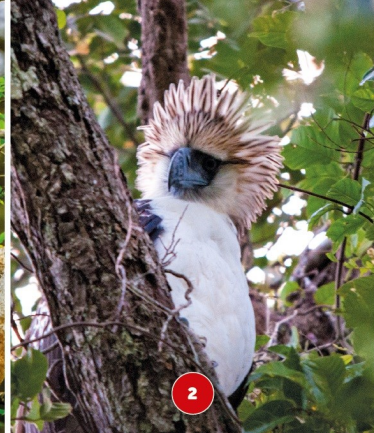
"By protecting Mount Mingan, we are also protecting the future of Gabaldon and its people", Noel Resurreccion, Haribon Foundation Project Manager.



Local community members and government staff draw maps together. Photo Haribon Foundation

PROJECT MANAGEMENT





CRITICALLY ENDANGERED FOREST SPECIES THAT WILL BENEFIT

1. **Helmeted Hornbill** *Rhinoplax vigil*, Malaysia, photo Bjorn Olesen
 2. **Philippine Eagle** *Pithecophaga jefferyi*, the Philippines, photo J. Kahlil Panopio/Haribon Foundation
 3. **Yellow-crested Cockatoo** *Cacatua sulphurea*, Indonesia, photo Tri Susanti/Burung Indonesia
- are among many animal and plant species that will benefit from forest conservation initiatives under this project.

WHO WE ARE

Funded by



The European Union

The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

Lead Partner



BirdLife International

The world's largest nature conservation partnership, consisting of 122 independent, national, non-governmental nature conservation organisations. Through our unique local-to-global approach, we deliver high impact and long-term conservation for the benefit of nature and people.

www.birdlife.org

National Partners



Burung Indonesia

Burung Indonesia (BirdLife in Indonesia) is a guardian of Indonesia's wild birds and their habitats, working with people for sustainable development.

www.burung.org



Haribon Foundation

The Haribon Foundation (BirdLife in the Philippines) is the Philippines' pioneer environmental organization, with over 40 years of committed biodiversity conservation and community work.

www.haribon.org.ph



Malaysian Nature Society

MNS (BirdLife in Malaysia) promotes the conservation of Malaysia's natural heritage, and is Malaysia's oldest, membership-based environmental non-profit organisation.

www.mns.my



Tenkile Conservation Alliance

TCA works with local communities in Papua New Guinea to protect biodiversity for future generations, focusing on research, development, education and sustainable livelihoods.

www.tenkile.com

Training and Technical Partners



University of Papua New Guinea

A leading teaching and research University in Papua New Guinea, based in Port Moresby, founded on 50 years of experience.

www.upng.ac.pg



Centre for International Development & Training

As part of the University of Wolverhampton, CIDT provides capacity strengthening for development.

www.cidt.org.uk

SYNERGIES WITH OTHER FOREST INITIATIVES

The project will complement and support existing FLEGT-VPA and REDD+ initiatives in Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines. Through the synergies developed between the different initiatives and the sharing of best practices and technical knowledge with similar projects in the region, such as RECOFTC's "Voices for Mekong Forests", the project aims to strengthen forest conservation outcomes delivered at the national, regional and global level.

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