FUNDING CYCLE 2022

“Whenever an elder dies a library burns down”

“Covid-19 is a risk for all indigenous people globally” Amadou Hampate’ - Mali

While the planet waits to see whether there is a distinct end point to the COVID 19 pandemic, Rainforest Fund has been in close contact with the indigenous communities we help in order to support them and listen to their difficulties in the implementation of their programs.

Their work has been delayed by the impossibility to reach the communities and hold trainings and meetings in some cases, and also by the increase of invasions of the indigenous lands by loggers and miners. Furthermore the pandemic had an effect on the daily lives of our partners in Africa, Asia and the Americas which largely fall outside any formal social protection systems and few have access to medical support in time of crisis, also there are no records concerning the impact of Covid 19 among the indigenous communities, according to the UN, although we know that especially in Africa the rate of infections is high because the indigenous communities there have been severely impacted by logging and mining companies which infiltrated their territories. The result of all this pushed our communities further into poverty, higher rates of malnutrition, lack of access to clean water and sanitation as well as exclusion from medical services and no access to information in their own language which in turn renders them particularly vulnerable to the Covid -19 pandemic.

Rainforest Fund has done its best to respond to the needs of its partners and their requests. But the pandemic is not over and we will continue to monitor their situation.

Again, this year, the 2021 projects have experienced some delays in their implementation so we will conBnue supporBng them with one new addiBons. The projects are evaluated on their merit and how and to what extent they can be beneficial to the communities involved. It is not an easy task and it requires a lot of time, thorough analysis and a fair judgement.

THE PROJECTS

Before starting the description of the projects I would like to explain how the projects budgets are analyzed.

For each proposal and related budget, the context of the overall project, its location are prevalent especially when activities take place in the forest, travels and salaries are evaluated according to the location, international ones, national ones., cost of trips to the forest. The cost of living in each country is thoroughly studied and compared to the US costs and another element is the political context where the project takes place, Last imperative remain within the affordable funding amount for this cycle.

AFRICA

KENYA

CHEPKITALE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT – CIPDP –

This project is the continuation of last year and the description starts with this sentence, “We are lucky that no case has been reported in our community so far and that we have contributed to the fight against the pandemic through the support that Rainforest Fund has extended to us”.

In the midst of the pandemic the Kenya government used it as a cover to continue with land dispossession including through violent evictions. But our partners have made been aware that part of the reason that this has not been the case with CPDP it is because of the ongoing court cases and their forest being well protected. They need now to develop resources maps and document the resources in their lands for use in negotiations with powerful outsiders and to present in courts to protect all villages in Chepkitale in an overall spatial plan, and also document past human right violations including the killings of their land rights defenders collected thanks to the RFUND 2020 funding. Many actions are planned this year such as institute affirmative action against the Constituency Development Fund which was supposed to support the development of their community schools and never did. So it is also planned to extend internet access to local schools and improve solar power in each of the five schools, and also establish a pilot collaborative structure between the community and the neighboring ones for the use of shared resources.

UGANDA

REMEMBERING OUR CULTURE, RECLAIMING OUR VOICE -

UOBDU –

The vision is a Batwa community that is dignified, empowered, educated and recognized.

This is the follow up of last year project of which the main focus was to provide a space in which the Batwa can come together at the village, local, and national levels to discuss their situation and develop advocacy strategies. Unfortunately, COVID 19 has limited the goals of the project built on the foundation laid in 2021 towards establishing a sustained inter-generational platform to ensure that the rich histories and experiences of the Batwa elders can be shared with the energy and future that the youth provide. Unfortunately the Covid pandemic has limited the ability of the project to bring together large numbers of Batwa people.

This current proposal will build and expand by bringing in women to develop their own voice and platform, but also, in no small part due to the advocacy work engaged by UOBDU the State has begun to implement government programs like the Affirmative Action Plan which support the Batwa, and that empowers the Batwa to directly advocate for their own rights at the local, regional and national level through capacity building and information sharing. This underscores the need for informed Batwa

leaders men and women that can work with the government to clearly articulate their communities needs and aspirations.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

COMMUNITY FORESTS

RF UK -

Last year, this project achieved to secure the first community forest in the country, a historic achievement in areas where, previously forest people had no legal means to secure their traditional lands. Unfortunately only after one year the Forest Minister revoked the first and only community forest soon after he had approved it, bending to pressure from the logging lobby.

The project will continue to engage with indigenous Bayaka and Bantu people in advancing their rights despite strong opposition from the logging companies which fiercely oppose devolving lands. The good news are that after tumultuous elections a new Parliament and a partially new government is in place and communities need to make their voices heard amongst decision makers so that concessions are reinstated or granted.

THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO

REINFORCING BAKA AND KWELE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY CAPACITY IN THE MESSOK DJA FOREST AREA

This is a new project presented by the Association Pour La Protection DES ECOSYSTEMES TROPICAUX ET LE DEVELOPMENT DE LA SANGHA (APETDS) BASED IN QUESSO, IN THE SANGHA DEPARTMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO.

This project seeks to support right-based approaches in development and conservation. APETDS staff is currently engaged in field work in the Messok Dja forest area in the Sangha department which aims to work with communities whose land would be affected by the Messok Dja protected area in the Sangha Department in order to reinforce their understanding of their human rights and build their capacities to

advocate for and defend their rights in relation to conservation projects, and support the emergence of stronger and more inclusive community governance.

According to the proponents this project would be complementary to the FPP project currently working there as it would add the support to direct engagement with companies and the administration as well as increased advocacy skills and leadership training in Baka communities.

REPUBLIC DEMOCRATIC DU CONGO – NORTH KIVU

TO SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN THE TRADITIONAL, CULTURAL AND MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE PYGMIES INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND THEIR RESILIENCE TO COVID 19 IN THE PROVINCE OF TSHOPO AND NORTH KIVU.

ANAPAC -

The PYGMY community is a minority of indigenous people who speak their own language and live deep into the forest. There are not many people who can have a dialogue with them because of lack of knowledge of their language.

Upon the requests of the communities this project intends to strengthen, broaden and value the traditional knowledge of the PYGMY communities in order to better fight against the pandemic COVID 19 and give predominance to their ancestral practices and the resources of their territories.

Their specific objectives are:

Strengthen their traditional knowledge for the resilience against COVID 19.

Help to reduce the negative impacts of COVID 19 on the health of the peoples and their traditional means of subsistence.

Strengthen the cultural and territorial rights in order to revitalize the traditional knowledges of the pygmies in the provinces of TSHOPO and NORTH KIVU.

These goals will be achieved through specific activities such as in each village to gather local knowledge through the participants including walks in the forest to gather medicinal plants and classify them in order to create a collection of ways and means and protect their knowledge as Intellectual property.

Organize local dialogues intergenerational ones on the traditional knowledge for the young generation.

Support and give value to the traditional Pharmaceutical heritage in order to teach the young generations about the importance of the intergenerational transmissions., especially at a time when COVID 19 is surging.

ANAPAC is the only organization – as far as I know – who has taken up the defense of the PYGMYS and constantly advance their rights. In their team some people know and understand the language and can interact with them. It is important to give the support asked also due to the difficulties and cost to reach the PYGMYs area deep into the forest. Two years ago, 2 Anapac workers were killed on their way to the location.

AMERICAS

BRAZIL

MONDE- KAWAIBA ETHNO -ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR – INDIGENOUS STRENGTHENING –

STATES OF RONDONIA AND AMAZONAS-

KANINDE AND THE INDIGENOUS ASSOCIATIONS OF THE PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS – WITH ECAM INPUT AND SUPERVISION.

The proposed project regions is one of the most impacted by deforestation pressures in the Brazilian Amazon and serve as a buffer between heavily deforested Mato Grosso and Southern Para State and the relatively intact regions of Amazonas state. The region is cut by the Amazon highway BR319 which connects Porto Velho to Manaus and which is undergoing renovations and being paved which will greatly increase the deforestation pressures of the indigenous areas along its route, and increase the danger of a surge of COVID19.

The focus of the project selected by 5 indigenous communities themselves is the Mondekwaiba Corridor with 33 protected areas with 11 indigenous ethnic groups and 13 different indigenous lands. The goal is to provide direct support to the communities in assisting them in protecting their lands and their rights by building on the previous work financed by Rainforest Fund for the Indigenous rights defenders and the work in Rondonia which was well targeted and appreciated by the communities.

PANAMA

PROTECTING THE NASO AND WOUNAAN TERRITORIES THROUGH STRENGTHENED INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY, TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE, AND MONITORING.

RAINFOREST FOUNDATION US -

The project will address multiple constituencies, the most important and immediate being the indigenous NASO people who are approximately 4,000 spread among eight communities within the newly established COMARCA. The second one being the WOUNAN, roughly 1.200, living in the Maje Cordilllera, who are facing similar threats from outside, illegal actors.

The NASO COMARCA represents the largest newly designated indigenous territory in Panama within a national Park, and the NASO COUNCIL has been officially recognized as the co-manager of the 160.000 hectares inside the new COMARCA.

The project would provide the technical and logistical support necessary to design an indigenous led vision for the Naso Comarca through a plan of work which will be integrated into the national management plan implemented by Geoindigena in partnership with the Naso General Council.

The second constituency The WOUNAN people are facing similar threats from outside illegal actors and the first priority and activity is ensuring the protection of the territory by developing their own assessment plans and vision and their own assessment of threats., ensuring that they will not be ignored. Similarly, the concern is that law enforcement will not act on evidence of illegal deforestation. Therefore, all complaints filed will be tracked and sent to the competent authorities, media and other allies.

By assessing the project it becomes clear that here we have two projects in one, for two communities distant from each other but the threats are similar.

COSTA RICA

DEFEND AND ADVANCE THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE BRIBRI, PROTECTING THEIR LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCES, THEIR RIGHTS.

CONCEJO DITSO IRIRIA AJKONUK WAKPA DEL TERRITORIO INDIGENA BRIBRI DE SALTIRE.

The Project has extended its reach to the whole territory including BriBri, Broran, and many other indigenous communities.

After the death of Sergio Rojas followed by also the murder of another Boran leader Jehi Rivera the whole indigenous communities experienced a tough year of land invasions by outsiders.

For both murders, there has not been any investigation from the concerned authorities. After these two murders the BRIBRI, who are the most known and active, experience daily threats and violent attacks. Furthermore, COVID19 pandemic is still raging there, and it is a national emergency which makes work and travels more complicated adding to this also opposition in the field from non- indigenous settlers. However, they plan many meetings in the field to involve everybody, which require long travels and have high costs. The decisional structure is heavy and costly as it involves many actors, too many committees, too many meetings to try to involve everybody, which makes even more difficult to reach agreements on one hand but it is very much part of their culture and the badly needed search for consensus. In their

plan there is also the hiring of a lawyer to respond to the constant violations of their rights within the legal system.

GUYANA

THE NORTH PAKARAIMAS PATAMONA-MACUSHI TERRITORIAL PROPOSAL –

NPDC – NORTH PAKARAIMAS DISTRIC COUNCIL –

The COVID Pandemic has negaBvely impacted the way in which the project could be implemented due to restrictions of movement within communities in an mountainous area, difficult to access, but after last year work the goal is to finalize strategy and present the territorial claim to the government, using maps and data collected to effectively advocate for the recognition of the Patamona and Macushi territory. For this to be achieved they are planning campaigns and seek legal support regarding their claim about recognition and respect of their rights to it.

For completing their work the question mark is whether delays due to COVID might prevent travels to the field which has also a difficult access according to weather conditions.

ASIA

The communities in ASIA are suffering of an increase of the COVID PANDEMIC.

SOUTH EAST ASIA

INDONESIA

TERRITORIAL SECURITY AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF DAYAK BAHAU IN MAHAKAM AND THE DAYAK MDANG LONG WAI IN LONG BENTUQ VILLAGE, KUTAI TIMUR-

PNP – PERKUMPULAN NURANI PEREMPUAN -

PNP is a women organization which lives with the community they protect and work for. Their mission is to ensure social justice and respect for human rights of the DAYAK people.

Through this project they attempt to obtain the recognition of Customary Law Community from the government.

They expect to secure the rights of the Dayak Bahau and Dayak Modang Lang Wau people for their lands and territories and stop the illegal robbery in their lands. Like the previous year they continue to empower communities and develop traditional governance structures. Furthermore they encouraged indigenous people to improve local food for food security in facing the pandemic, providing assistance to women group in developing the creative economy.

Also this year PNP will continue to focus on providing assistance to the indigenous peoples of Long Isun, Datah Naha and Long Bentuq in their quest for the recognition of the CUSTOMARY LAW COMMUNITY, and continue paralegal training for traditional community leaders, women and youth while ensuring protection against the COVID 19 pandemic where external help is very much needed.

YMKL-

BORNEO – STRENGTHENING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITY'S RIGHTS TO LANDS ANS FORESTS THROUGH LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING TO SUSTAIN THEIR LIVELIHOODS.

The Dayak people have been at the forefront of he indigenous rights movement in Indonesia. Already in 2021 building from the precedent work they are well equipped to assert their wider rights for restitution of lands and forests.

The proposed project is a tool to provide assistance for target communities so that they have the capacity as a well-organized community to respond to development projects initiated by business corporations and by the State. It covers the capacity to mitigate real and potential impacts of oil-palm plantations through litigation and non-litigation process in collaboration with other NGOs and academics. A series of actions to equip the communities with their own chronology and reports to support their overall advocacy., training of reviewing permits, training on writing a Chronology of facts and conducting investigations, and training to increase the legal capacity of communities through the new developed paralegal training module developed by YMKL indigenous lawyers and ready to be used.

THE PHILIPPINES

DEALING WITH INTENSIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION, MINING RUSH AND SOCIAL DISRUPTION BEING AGGRAVATED BY COVID PANDEMIC –

CALG – GROUP COALITION AGAINST LAND GRABBING –

Like in the previous year the 2022 project overall objective will continue to be two-fold SECURE and SOS HEALTH.

Like in 2021 they will continue with their advocacy strategy trying to reach out to our communities before companies and corporations reach them informing them not to enter in any agreement and not to believe companies' promises. CALG's energies will continue to be invested in supporting the Indigenous communities of Rizal to counter LH company's efforts to acquire vast expanses of indigenous peoples' land for large scale coconut plantations.

Furthermore in the course of the Covid pandemic which is still raging, they are witnessing the increasing impoverishment of their communities as well as the Nation as a whole, therefore they will expand their livelihood component and continue last year program providing monthly allowances to sustain selected indigenous youth to complete their studies, such as providing them with decent internet connection to be able to attend online classes.

They have learnt how to cope with the pandemic and they managed to protect their communities.

They have learnt what works and what does not work in the course of last year and feel confident to be able to protect their communities with our help.

OCEANIA

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PREVENTING LARGE AREAS OF RAINFOREST IN COLLINGWOOD BAY FROM BEING LOGGED –

RAINFOREST FOUNDATION NORWAY SUPPORTING PARTNERS WITH MELANESIANS –

Papua New Guinea situated on the world's second largest island and containing some of the last intact rainforests on planet Earth, has become the world's largest exporter of tropical round wood and is heading the statistics on export of illegal timber. This forest crime is affecting populations and biodiversity all over the island, and amongst them the nine tribal groups in Collingwood Bay.

The goal of the project is to prevent large areas of rainforest from being logged. This is done through seeking permanent protection over large areas of pristine forests while organizing communities in ways and by means which help them protect and utilize local forest resources in a sustainable way. One such locally led strategy to defend the area is to work towards having Collingwood Bay declared as Conservation Area through a legal mechanism called Conservation Deed.

The last one and half year have given the people in Collingwood Bay additional worries as it has been difficult for outsiders such as RF Norway and the local supporting organization to come into the area because of COVID while the loggers have tighten the grip and continue to log as much as they can and as fast as they can as local authorities lack the resources needed to inspect the sites and prevent the logging ships from entering the area.

So while applying to get the ConservaBon Deed, the main goal is to ensure that the indigenous communities do not fall victims to illegal logging and lose control over their rightful resources through targeted actions.

Thank you,

Franca Sciuto