

Participation in international conferences: As a step towards creating awareness on the project and its objectives; building capacity and establishing new and strengthening old linkages, members of the project participated in various international events. Two such events are as follows:

International Conference of Indonesia Forestry Researchers III 2015 (3rd INAFOR 2015), Bogor, Indonesia

The third INAFOR Conference was held in Santika Hotel, Bogor, Indonesia from 21-22 October 2015. This conference was officially opened on behalf of the Minister by the Special Assistant to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Dr. Ida Bagus Putra Parthama. The conference was organized by the Research, Development and Innovation Agency Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of Indonesia and there were approximately 600 participants. FORIS Indonesia gave part of financial support and participated actively by presenting papers and displaying its activities in an exhibition booth which had a number of publications and of live samples of the target invasive alien species, viz., *Acacia nilotica*, *Merremia peltata* and *Acacia decurrens*. The Project was represented by Dr. A. Sivapragasam Annamalai (IPC, FORIS project), Dr. Edwin Tandiosa (from FORIS, the Philippines), Dr. Titiek Setyawati (NPC, FORIS Indonesia) and five participants from FORIS Vietnam.



13th International Conference on Ecosystem and Management of Alien Plant Invasion (EMAPI)

FORIS Indonesia and Vietnam sent a delegation of two staffs from each country to attend the 13th International Conference on Ecosystem and Management of Alien Plant Invasion (EMAPI). At EMAPI, Vietnam had a poster presentation to introduce the national management system on IAS as well as achievements under the FORIS project in Vietnam such as in areas of strengthening policy, legal system and management capacity, raising awareness. At EMAPI, the delegations were exposed to global interventional measures towards controlling alien invasive plants which provided valuable case-studies



for both countries in implementation of national program on controlling and eradication of alien invasive plant such as applying biocontrol and IPM for controlling IAS in their respective countries.

Cambodia

Habitat Restoration inside the Stung Sen Core Area

The habitat restoration activity was organized by the Cambodian FORIS Project in collaboration with the Department of Biodiversity of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and the Stung Sen Ranger Station on 26 March 2015. A total of 1300 seedlings of native tree (*Barringtonia acutangula*) species were planted on about 4 ha of the flooded and degraded forest land inside the Stung Sen Core Area with a purpose of increasing the native biodiversity and minimising the invasion of *Mimosa pigra*. A total of 129 participants from the MoE, FORIS Project, rangers and staff from the Kampong Thom Environmental Department, local communities, local authorities, Secondary School teachers and students participated in the event. H.E. Somaly Chan, the Deputy Secretary General of MoE, officially opened the activity. Somaly emphasized the importance of the native flooded forest in supporting biodiversity resources and encouraged stakeholders to be involved in protecting and restoring the flooded forest in order to promote and sustain local livelihood for all.



Local Stakeholders Training

The Local Stakeholder Training on IAS Understanding and Lessons on Best *Mimosa pigra* Management Practices were conducted at the Stung Sen Core Area (SSCA) Pilot Site between 17 and 18 September 2015. A total of 177 participants (with 73 Females) local stakeholders participated in the training inclusive of rangers, local competent authorities, local communities and local villagers from five villages in the SSCA. The purpose of the training is to create awareness and share experiences of the pilot site trials with the local stakeholders on IAS particularly that on the management of *Mimosa pigra*. The participants showed their interest to the topic discussed and requested for more trainings on IAS to further increase their understanding on IAS. The manager of Stung Sen and Chief of the Pathsanday commune requested the FORIS Project to continue supporting the local authority to increase the public awareness on habitat restoration by planting more native tree in the core zone of the Stung Sen next year.



Indonesia

Workshop on Socialization of Biological Diversity in Santika Hotel, Yogyakarta (7-8 October, 2015)

The agenda for this workshop was to disseminate information to stakeholders on various issues that have great impact to environment including biodiversity protection, IAS threats and zoonosis. The Workshop was organized by the Directorate of Natural Resource and Conservation and it was attended by at least 150 participants. The workshop was officially opened by the Director General of Natural Resource and Conservation, Dr. Thahir Fathoni. During the workshop, Ir. Adi Susmianto, MSc. delivered a presentation entitled Policy on IAS Management and Implementation, while Dr. Titiek Setyawati delivered her presentation on the Guide to the implementation of IAS terrestrial (plants) in Indonesia. The workshop covered three topics, viz., on Invasive Alien Species Management, Genetically Modified Organism and Biosecurity.



Monitoring and Evaluation visit to Baluran National Park (12th - 17th August 2015)

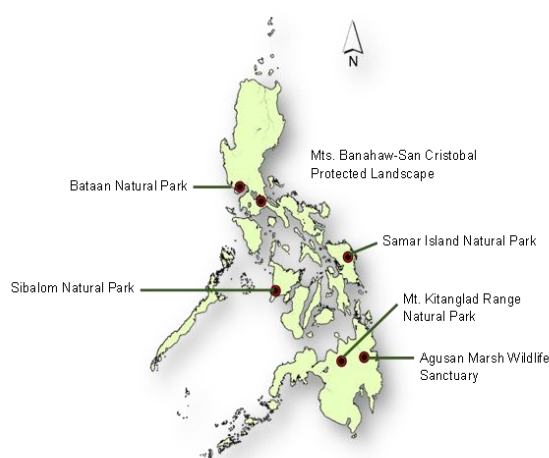
A Monitoring and evaluation program was set up to evaluate the project's progress, especially pilot trials on the control of *Acacia nilotica* in the Bekol savanna. During the visit, the new NPD, Ir. Djohan Utama Perbatasari, visited the pilot site and met with the Head of Baluran National Park. During the discussion, Ir. Djohan Perbatasari was pleasantly surprised by the efforts taken by the National Park to control *Acacia nilotica* since the 80's and based on the field trials he recommended that the National Park's management to immediately adopt the control technique on *Acacia* and also expand the research on restoration. He also recommended to take in more individual Banteng for captive breeding research in Bekol.



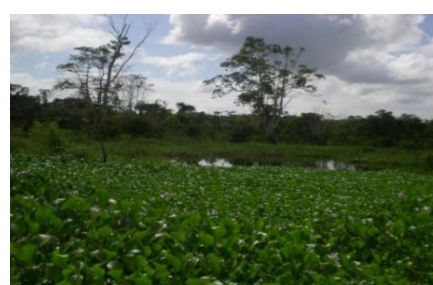
The Philippines

The Philippines' National IAS Survey

The National Museum of the Philippines (NMP) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) is spearheading the National IAS Survey in selected protected areas in the Philippines: Bataan National Park and Mts. Banahaw and San Cristobal Protected Landscape in Luzon; Sibalom Natural Park and Samar Island Natural Park in the Visayas; and Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary and Mt. Kitanglad Range National Park in Mindanao. The survey aims to validate and generate site-specific and consolidated IAS reports and analysis, including maps of the distribution of IAS in the Philippines, as inputs to better biodiversity and IAS management in the country.



During the survey, *Piper aduncum*, as part of the target invasive alien species for the project, has been documented within the Sibalom Natural Park in the Panay Island. This confirms that the *Piper aduncum* is spreading northward from where it was originally introduced. The surveys provided an opportunity to further IAS awareness to the different stakeholders; analysis of findings in all survey sites will not only provide the names of the species that the country should be alarmed about, but the surveys will be able to show a biogeographic picture of the spread and invasiveness of some of these species.



Announcement

The FORIS project welcomes

New NPCs for the Philippines and Vietnam

The Project welcomes Ms. Cynthia A. Layusa who has been appointed the NPC for the Philippines effective 1st June, 2015 to replace Ms. Marianne Saniano. Cynthia has a MSc. in Environmental Science and MPhil in Conservation Leadership (Distinction) was previously as Programme Manager, Babuyan Islands Conservation Program, Isla Biodiversity Conservation, Inc.

The project also welcomes Ms. Ta Thi Kieu Anh who has been appointed the new NPC for Vietnam effective 1st June, 2015 to replace Ms. Nguyen Luong Duyen. Kieu Anh has a Msc. in Ecology was previously as Department Head of Division of Species Conservation, Biodiversity Conservation Agency.

New NPD for Indonesia

The project welcomes Ir. Djohan Utama Perbatasari, M.M. who has been appointed as the NPD for Indonesia to replace Ir. Adi Susminato who has been assigned as the Secretary to the new Directorate General namely Social Forestry and Partnership.

Up coming events

Fourth International Steering Committee (4th ISC) Meeting to be held in Bali, Indonesia

The FORIS project will organise the Fourth International Steering Committee (ISC) Meeting of the Project in Bali, Indonesia from the 10-11 December 2015. The venue of the meeting is in Adhi Jaya Hotel, Kuta, Bali. A total of 16 participants including member of project management unit (PMU), ISC members and National Project Directors and Coordinators from the four project countries will be attending the meeting.

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