MARIA CRISTINA SANCHEZ GUERRERO



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SUMMARY: Maria Cristina "Crissy" Sanchez Guerrero has worked on community forestry and indigenous peoples concerns over the greater part of the last three decades. Themes of focus have been community enterprise development, value chain analysis, non-timber forest products (NTFPs) development, NTFP policy advocacy, participatory guarantee system (PGS), heritage crafts promotion, traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), forest food and slow food. Her field experience is particularly on the islands of Palawan in the Philippines and on Indonesian Borneo. Her recent experience extends to different ASEAN countries such as Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia and Vietnam. Her key skills include project development and management, fundraising, networking, community enterprise development and organizational management. Her training is in Business Management and International Development. She was previously the Executive Director of the Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme for Asia (NTFP-EP) and stays on with the organization as Senior Adviser. NTFP-EP works to build community capacities on sustainable livelihoods. She also holds the position of Operational Director at PT PARARA Bumi Nusantara which is a WFTO Guaranteed Fair Trade Enterprise promoting local, healthy/safe, fair and sustainable products of Indonesia.

WORK EXPERIENCE

OPERATIONAL DIRECTOR 2020 to present
PT PARARA BUMI NUSANTARA
Provides strategic and operational support to the fair trade café and store, the PARARA Indonesian Ethical Store in Jakarta, Indonesia. Builds strategic partnerships, manages human resources and builds on opportunities for the business.

SENIOR ADVISER FOR Jan 2015 to present
STRATEGIC PROGRAMS/Sustainable Climate-Adaptive Livelihood
NTFP-EP
Provides strategic support to management, leads in fundraising activities and provides guidance in the fields of value chain development for select NTFPs (rattan, craft, sago, resin, forest honey, etc) ASEAN Social Forestry engagement, participatory certification, sustainable livelihoods development

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR April 2010 to December 2014
NTFP-EP
Managed an organization with over 50 staff and covering 6 countries in Asia. Functions include fund raising, networking, program development, institutional management. Managed an organizational budget of USD 1.8M annually.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR March 2005 to 2010
NTFP – EP Manila, Philippines
Coordinated a Southeast Asian network working to build the capacities of indigenous groups and other forest-dependent peoples in the sustainable management of forest resources, particularly NTFPs. Functions include: program facilitation, strategic planning, enterprise development program management and implementation, networking, advocacy, administrative, financial supervision and human resource mgt.

COORDINATOR August 2000 to March 2008
Philippine Non-timber Forest Product (NTFP) Task Force and Manila, Philippines
REGIONAL SUPPORT COORDINATOR
NTFP Exchange and Support Programme for South and Southeast Asia
Coordinated the NTFP Task Force working to assist communities in developing NTFPs, simultaneously coordinated the Asian network. Issues ranged from resource and land tenure, product development and research. Functions included linkaging, resource mobilization work, cross cross-cultural exchange

PROJECT MANAGER /ADVISER April 1994 to June 1998
NATRIPAL Palawan, Philippines
(Filipino acronym for United Tribes of Palawan Federation)
Managed projects on projects on the themes of integrated tenure, resource management, and livelihood development, and sustainable production and marketing of NTFPs for the indigenous communities of Palawan. Responsible in devolving management functions to an indigenous manager in line with the Federation's vision of self-determination.

EDUCATION

CORNELL UNIVERSITY 1998-2000
Masters in Professional Studies- International Development Ithaca, NY, USA
*Joint Japan / World Bank Graduate Scholar
Thesis topic: Agricultural Cooperatives in Mindanao, Philippines
Special Project: Rattan Fallow Management in East Kalimantan

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY 1989-1993
Bachelor of Science, Business Management (Hons) Manila, Philippines
- Cum Laude, Merit Scholar

OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES/ POSITIONS HELD

Co-Founder, Forest Harvest Association 2025

Co-Founder Slow Food Community
PARARA Harvest of the Archipelago 2020- to present

Vice President
Forum Fair Trade Indonesia (official network of the World Fair Trade Organization) 2025 to present

Operational Director
PT PARARA Ethical Business (Inclusive, Social Enterprise) 2019 to present

Co-Founder 2015
Forest Harvest Collective Mark

Member STEERING COMMITTEE 2015-to 2025
KONSORSIUM PARARA, Indonesia

FOUNDER/ COORDINATOR May 2014 to present
EXCEED – Community Enterprise Training Wing – NTFP-EP

ADVISORY BOARD 2017 to 2019
BRITISH COUNCIL – CRAFTING FUTURES PROGRAMME ASIA

ADVISOR 2009 to present
National Forest Honey Network Indonesia (JMHI)

COORDINATOR 2007, 2011, 2015, 2019, 2023
Madhu Duniya Asian Bees conference

COORDINATOR
MEET THE MAKERS – Indonesia, Singapore and USA indigenous crafts exhibition 2012 to 2024

FOUNDER/ CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD 2011 to present
CustomMade Crafts Center (Philippines)CMCC is an indigenous crafts marketing unit

FOUNDER/ ADVISOR 2010 to present
Borneo Chic Social Enterprise (Indonesia)

COACH / MENTOR August 2008 to 2022
Joke Waller-Hunter Initiative for leadership- Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (Netherlands)

NOMINATOR / RESOURCE PERSON 2009 to the present
Paul K Feyerabend Foundation (PKF) (Switzerland)

BOARD MEMBER December 2006 to 2009
Philippine Fair Trade Forum

BOARD MEMBER/EXECUTIVE SECRETARY May 2001- to 2005
EnterpriseWorks Foundation, Inc. (EWF)

BOARD MEMBER July 2001 to 2005
Jesuit Volunteers Philippines - Foundation, Inc.

TRAININGS CONDUCTED

----------**"Training on NTFP Standards and Certification",** AFOCO CLMV project, October 2025, Jakarta Indonesia
----------**"Establishing a Business Guide for Community-Based NTFP Enterprises and Introducing Timor-Leste's Honey Products to the Market",** AFOCO Regional Project, Timor Leste August 2025
----------**Sustainable Community-based NTFP Management Training for 11 countries in Asia,** organized for AFOCO CLMV Project, Kampong Thom, Cambodia, July 2025
----------**Refresher Course Training on NTFPs** organized by AFOCO, Bangkok, June 2025
----------**NTFP-EP Road Map Development Training for 11 countries in Asia,** organized by AFOCO in Bali, November 2024
----------**Marketing and Sustainable Harvesting and Hygienic Processing of Forest Honey**, AFOCO Regional Project, Timor Leste, May 2024
----------**Sustainable Community-based NTFP Management Training for 11 countries in Asia,** organized by AFOCO, Hanoi, September 2023
----------**Community-based NTFP Enterprise Development Training for 11 countries in Asia,** organized by AFOCO, Bangkok January 2023
--------**"Community Livelihood Appraisal and Product Scanning (CLAPs): First Steps in Community NTFP Enterprise Development –,** August 2021, online event for NTFP-EP and Partners in Vietnam
---------**"Virtual Masterclass Economic Preparation to face the New Normal",** 28 August 2020 Inspirit and MFP4 (DFID Multi-stakeholder Forestry Programme 4
--------**"Community Livelihood Appraisal and Product Scanning (CLAPs): First Steps in Community NTFP Enterprise Development –** EXCEED training for community enterprise facilitators, October 2018, Sarawak, Malaysia
------**"Starting a Community-based NTFP business: Guaranteed Sustainable and Fair" – NTFP-EP in cooperation with POINT and WWF Myanmar,** March 2018, Bago, Myanmar
------**"Women Entrepreneurship in Rural Asia – NTFP-EP in cooperation with WWF Indonesia,**

Malaysia, Myanmar and Bhutan, promoting women enterprises including crafts enterprises, September 2017, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
------**"Managing Community Forestry Enterprise Growth and Effective Marketing Strategies: A 2 in 1 Training on Community Enterprise, Consolidation, Connectivity and Green Retailing" –** NTFP-EP in cooperation with Keystone Foundation, August 2016, Kotagiri, India
------**"Participatory NTFP Resource Management Training"** – NTFP-EP in cooperation with RECOFTC, October 2015, Palawan, Philippines.
------**"Community Livelihood Appraisal and Product Scanning (CLAPs): First Steps in Community NTFP Enterprise Development –** EXCEED training for community enterprise facilitators, May 18-22, 2015, Padang, West Sumatra, Indonesia.
------**"Upscaling Community Forestry Enterprise: Viability, Sustainability, Resilience"** EXCEED training for community enterprise facilitator, Bukidnon, Philippines, September 2014
------**"Business Plan Development and Production Planning"** Training for Association Supporting Women in Small Business (ASPPUK), Bogor, Indonesia, October 2013
------**"Value Chain Analysis and Community Enterprise Development"** Training for Association Supporting Women in Small Business (ASPPUK), Depok, Indonesia, March 2013
------**"Community Enterprise Development Training: Developing an Enterprise Development Guide and Marketing"** Training for the partners of the Crafts Kalimantan Network and the Indigenous Peoples Alliance of Indonesia (AMAN), Bogor, Sept 20-21, 2012
------**Knowledge and Empowerment: Processes and Mechanisms to Ensure Meaningful, Effective Community Participation in REDD+ programs**, Training for FFI staff and partners in 4 Asian countries, Palawan, Feb 2012
------**"Community Enterprise Development Training"** Training for the Dayak Bentian of Kutai Barat, East Kalimantan, Indonesia, November 2010
------**"An Introduction to Traditional Ecological Knowledge",** Orientation to Students and Faculty of the Pamulaan Center, University of Southeastern Philippines, Davao, July 9, 2009
------**"Participatory Resource Monitoring of NTFPs: Developing Criteria and Indicators",** Training and orientation conducted with Dr. Mary Stockdale (NTFP specialist) and NTFP-EP, April 18-22, 2009
------**" International Course on Non-Timber Forest Products",** in collaboration with Keystone Foundation Kotagiri, India, 2008

PAPERS PRESENTED / ARTICLES / PUBLICATIONS/ EDUCATION MATERIALS /

------ **"Bees and Trees: Asian Giant Honey Bees, Flowering Trees and Forest Peoples",** NTFP-EP Publication, Bogor, Indonesia, 2026
-------**"ASEAN Regional Marketing Tools for Social Forestry Products"** – co-author, October 2023
------**"Piloting a regional Forest Harvest collective mark for NTFPs in Indonesia"** in Shared Labels publication, IIED, UK Sept 2022
------**"ASEAN Guidelines for Sustainable Harvest and Resource Management Protocols for Selected Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)'** lead-author, October 2020
-----**"GAP Analysis of ASEAN Standards for Non-Timber Forest Products" Commissioned by ASEAN:** authors Maria Cristina S. Guerrero, Emmanuelle Andaya, Jakarta 2020
----**"Forests and Beauty: a synthesis and compilation of case studies of non-timber forest products in the cosmetics and beauty industry in the Asia Pacific".** Commissioned by FAO editors, Snehlata Nath, Maria Cristina S. Guerrero, Tanya Conlu, Italy, 2020
----**"Business Plan and Business model preparation for PARARA Restaurant",** Maria Cristina Guerrero and Merry Christian Romauli Tobing, 2016
----**"Evaluating ecosystem services from an indigenous community perspective: A case study for Danau Sentarum National Park, West Kalimantan Indonesia"** paper submitted to the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, 2016. Aritta Suwarno[1], Rasmus Kløcker Larsen[2], Maria Cristina Guerrero[3], Jusupta Tarigan[4], Valentinus Heri[5]
----**"Impact of the ASEAN Economic Community on Social Forestry and Forest Products Trade",** report prepared within the context of the ASEAN- Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry in Climate Change, 2015, R. Razal, A Firmalino, MCS. Guerrero.

-----"How Certification Can Further Benefit Forest-Based Communities: The Case of Rattan Gardens and Forests and Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS), Technical paper at FAO World Forestry Congress 2015. Link to the paper: http://foris.fao.org/wfc2015/api/file/552e7c099e00c2f116f8ea55/contents/26b15036-fb5f-4e93-874d-cdeba9a888d8.pdf

----"Community Territories, CommunityTraditions, Nature Conservation", book published for the World Parks Congress 2014, Editors Muliandari, Conlu, Guerrero and Eghenter.

----"Scoping Study on Cutting-Edge Technology and Strategic Knowledge on NTFPs for the Green Economy", Study commissioned by NTFP-EP**,** Ramon Razal, Maria Cristina S. Guerrero, 2013

----"What Makes a REDD Country? Commentary: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) in the Philippines may deliver more than carbon", Global Environmental Change, 20:322-332, Jacob Phelps, Ma. Cristina S. Guerrero, Dante Dalabajan, E.L. Webb, June 2009.

----"**From Barter Trade to Brad Pitt's Bed: Non-Timber Forest Products and Ancestral Domains in the Philippines,** a chapter be published in Wild Product Governance, People and Plants Initiative series. By Yasmin D. Arquiza, Maria Cristina S. Guerrero, Augusto B. Gatmaytan & Arlynn C. Aquino, 2008

----"Product Scanning- Choosing Your Products Wisely" and **" Checking Sustainabiliy Potential"** chapters published in the the NTFP-EP Manual "From Seeds to Beads: Tales, Tips and Tools for Building a Community-based NTFP Enterprise", 2008.

----"Rattan For Life: The Rattan Cultivation Practices of the Dayak Benuaq of Kalimantan", a manual
published in Indonesian, Tagalog and English in cooperation with SHK-Kaltim, NTFP-Exchange Programme, Studio Driya Media (SDM) and Cornell University. August 2001.

----"Reclaiming Ancestral Domains in Palawan, Philippines: Community-based Strategies and Perspectives on Adaptive Collaborative Management". a chapter of the book Biological Diversity: Balancing Interests Through Adaptive Collaborative Management. L.E. Buck, C.G. Geisler, et al eds. CRC Press. NY, USA, 2001.

----"The Challenges of Implementation: Enforcing Indigenous Peoples Resource Rights within their Ancestral Domains, Experiences from the Philippines" article published in the online Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) bulletin Voices from the Forest, Utrecht, The Netherlands. August 2000.

---- "*No Apologies Necessary*: Traditional harvesting practices of Non-timber forest products in East Kalimantan, Indonesia" article published in the online Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) bulletin Voices from the Forest, Utrecht, The Netherlands. October 1999.

also printed in
Bandillo ng Palawan an environmental magazine promoting public education efforts on environmental concerns, Palawan, Philippines. October 1999.

----"Improving the Quality of Forest Honey in Palawan, Philippines" -article published in the online NTFP bulletin Voices from the Forest, Utrecht, The Netherlands. February 1999

----"Sustainable Harvesting of Wild Honey and Proper Wax Processing" - education materials prepared for indigenous honey harvesters, December 1996, presented at the Apimondia-International Apiculture Congress (Beekeeping for Rural Development Group), Antwerp, Belgium, September 1997