

# THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE & GOVERNANCE TRADITIONS

CLIMATE RESILIENT SOLUTIONS TO HYDRO MINI-GRIDS

Global Symposium on Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions

**UNDESA Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network** 

Paraguay/Brazil 13-15 June 2022

## **OVERVIEW**

### HPNET's knowledge-to-impact approach Social Enterprise for Energy, Ecological and Economic Development (SEEED)

Community-Scale Hydro for Climate Resilience
Water-Energy-Food Nexus

Inclusive Approaches to Hydro Mini-Grids Role of Indigenous & Women-Centric Approaches



# HYDRO EMPOWERMENT NETWORK (HPNET)

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#### **KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE**

Evidence building tools for multi-actors Capacity building events (online and in-person) South-South and peer-to-peer exchange





### STRATEGY ADVOCACY

Platform for local practitioner voices Coalition-building for advocacy to impact Advocacy products for thematic solutions

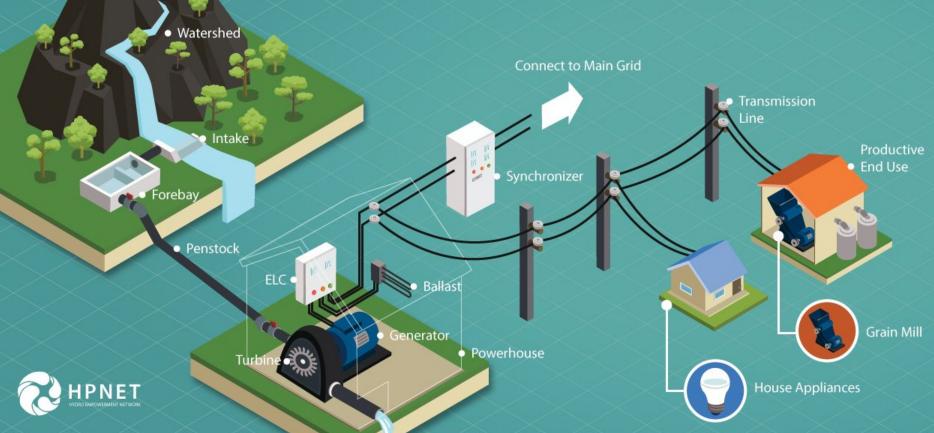


#### THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS

Technology and skills advancement Socio-environmental sustainability Enabling financing and policy for scalability



### TECHNICAL COMPONENTS OF SUSTAINABLE HYDRO MINI-GRIDS





Social Enterprise for Energy, Ecological and Economic Development



Hydro Mini-Grid Sustainability



Socio-Economic Impact of Hydro Mini-Grid



Empowerment Beyond Kilowatts



## CORE ELEMENTS OF SEEED

- Equitable local social enterprise models Socio-Economic Impact - Alignment with indigenous values **Community Empowerment** - Strengthened local social capital - Empowerment beyond mini-grid Hydro Mini-Grid run as - Access to appropriate finance **Local Social Enterprise** - Dynamic tariff & connection fee - Financial & HR management - Consumer service and grievance Livelihood-based - Value-add to agri-value chains Value-Add - Multi-village scale - Women-centric productive end use **Productive End Use**  Increased household income Reliable - Operates 24-7 Mini-Grid - Locally manufactured Technology - Baseline of indigenous practices - Reliable village technicians & for watershed management - Prompt technical maintenance & repair Sustainable - Solutions for eco-restoration and Watersheds climate resilience of micro hydro

watersheds, e.g. re-forestation, food

forests, and bio diversity.



## SEEED ACCELERATOR: E-COURSES



#### FUNDAMENTALS OF COMMUNITY HYDRO

6-WEEKS: FEB 7 - MAR 18 FORMAT: ONLINE REGISTRATIONS: 200 WOMEN: 15% TOPICS:

- HYDRO ORIENTATION
- SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
- DEMAND ASSESSMENT
- SITE ASSESSMENT
- POWER OUTPUT



CLIMATE RESILIENT SOLUTIONS TO COMMUNITY HYDRO

1-WEEK: MAR 21 - 27 FORMAT: ONLINE & FIELD-BASED REGISTRATION: STARTS SOON WOMEN: 50% (FIELD-BASED) TOPICS:

- CLIMATE RESILIENCE OF WATER-ENERGY-FORESTS
- LOCAL GOVERNANCE
- WATERSHED MANAGEMENT
- PHASES



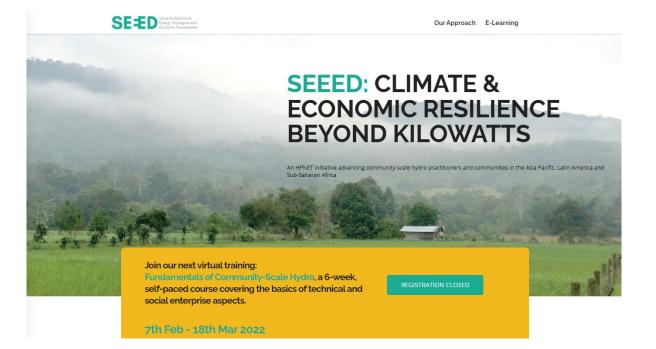
AGRI-PROCESSING BENEFITS TO COMMUNITY HYDRO

4-DAYS: MAR 28 - 31 FORMAT: ONLINE & FIELD-BASED REGISTRATION: STARTS SOON WOMEN: 50% (FIELD-BASED) TOPICS:

- CLIMATE RESILIENCE OF WATER-ENERGY-FOOD
- SOCIAL ASPECTS
- FOOD FORESTS
- AGRI-PROCESSING

## **E-LEARNING PLATFORM**

### Learning Management System (LMS) at https://seeedlearning.org/





**NEXUS OF** 

WATER

ENERGY

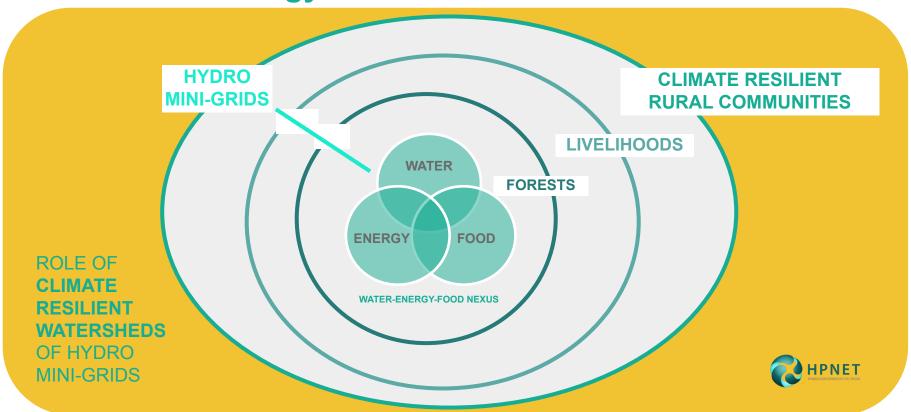
FOOD

LIVELIHOODS

FORESTS

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

## WATERSHEDS & CLIMATE RESILIENCE What is the role of watersheds in the forests-water-energy-food-livelihoods nexus?





What is the role of indigenous knowledge and governance traditions? in Cordillera Administrative Region, Philippines

Climate Resilient Solutions to Hydro Mini-Grids

#### Nabuangan River, Apayao Province, Philippines Credit: J. Angngalao

### Lapat System in the Cordillera Administrative Region, Philippines

•"Lapat system" is one example of an indigenous governance mechanism which refers to the customary law for environmental and natural resources management in the Cordillera Administrative Region, Philippines.

Lapat is strong practice of some indigenous tribal communities in the **Provinces of Abra, Apayao, and Kalinga.** 

•The local term, "Lapat " means to "prohibit" or "regulate" the excessive use of natural resources, that include the protection, management and preservation of the environment, particularly forest, mineral ,wildlife, and water resources. This is spearheaded by the council of elders and tribal leaders.



Ancestral Domain within Lapat

The **indigenous communities see forestland as sacred** because this is the major source of timber, rattan, nito, tiger grass, medicinal /ornamental plants, and wildlife habitat.

Lapat applied to prohibit and regulate the use of these natural resources that are communally owned by the tribe that has settled a given ancestral domain and are managed through customary laws and traditions passed on through generations.

View deck in Nappugawan, Apayao Province, Philippines, Credit: J. Angngalao

#### **Examples of Lapat Customary Law**

- Old timber is only harvested for local household construction and furniture needs. Logging is strictly prohibited or well regulated.
- Swidden farms are supposedly not permitted to be established near watershed areas. Neighboring residents must seek permission from the council of elders and tribal leaders before gathering resources within the territorial jurisdiction of the locality.
- The tribal council of elders and leaders considers the use of environmentally hazardous methods in fishing and indiscriminate hunting as heinous crimes.

Mountain ranges of Tubo, Abra, Province, Philippines Credit: J. Angngalao



# Lapat Sanctions

Any violation of these prescribed customary laws has appropriate penalties or punishments prescribed by the council of elders & leaders.

## **Indigenous Belief**

The indigenous has also this belief that forest is sacred and protected by the spirit,

and excessive use of forest natural resources for one's own benefit that causes ecological destruction will make one's family suffer because the forest spirit is watching and can cast curses.

The beliefs have remained strong and contribute to sustainable watershed protection.

Community rice harvest in Buaya,Kalinga, Province, Philippines Credit: J. Angngalao

Construction of hydro mini-grid power canal in Apayao Province, Philippines Credit: J. Angngalao

Women-centric Approach to Hydro Mini-Grid Development

### Enable rural women to

- Provide more than just labor
- Govern implementation & management
- Become financial shareholders

## Economic Benefits of Hydro Mini-grids for Women

- Alleviation of post harvest workload
- Increased farm production
- Poverty alleviation





Credit: Carol M High, rawpixel.com

Kalinga Communities at Risk: Small, Medium, Large, and Mega Dams

**Five mega dams** in the pipeline for Balbalan Municipality for power evacuation:

- $\rightarrow$  Balabalan micro hydro projects will become defunct
- → Ancestral land will be taken away form communities and submerged
- $\rightarrow$  Many Indigenous communities will be displaced
- $\rightarrow$  Methane emissions from submerged forests

**Equitable solution:** Community-scale hydropower, owned by Indigneous communities



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# www.hpnet.org