



FACT SHEET

Photovoices International is an innovative organization that provides cameras and photography training for people to document important issues in their lives like the state of the natural environment, what they value about traditional culture and to record community strengths and challenges.

Photovoices photographers live in some of the most remote regions of the world, and rarely, if ever, have had the opportunity to tell their own story. By using simple cameras, photographs and stories, people gain a visual voice at the table and a process to communicate local knowledge from remote parts of the world to scientists, conservation organizations, government officials and other making plans for the future.

Photovoices also provides a powerful visual art form for exhibitions to educate people around the globe about the importance of biological and cultural diversity in a rapidly changing world.

“Photovoices is a way to get community participation in conservation and for people to have a voice through their photographs and stories to help conservation planners do a better job ~Lida Pet, PhD Marine Biologist, WWF Team Leader, Coral Triangle Initiative

How the Photovoices Process Works:

Photovoices brings local voices into conservation decisions through a specific methodology in partnership with organizations that seek local knowledge to make better decisions.

Length of Projects: Each project lasts for one year with each photographer taking 30-50 digital pictures each month.

Training: The local photographers receive training in how to use the camera.

Taking Pictures: Local Photographers take pictures about nature, culture, and village life and other issues of concern such as agriculture, health care and water resources.

Stories about the Pictures: Local Facilitators each month talk with the photographers --along with others in the village --and write down the stories behind the pictures.

Providing Local information to decision makers: The photographs and information from the stories are provided to scientists, government officials, NGOs and others to help insure that local voices and indigenous knowledge are included in conservation decisions.

Meetings between Local Photographers and Experts: .Public exhibitions --coupled with meetings between the villager photographers and government officials-- provide a good forum for direct discussion of the issues raised in the photographs.

“Before, people from outside came to take pictures and we didn't know what they were for. But now we take our own pictures, and through them we learn much about our nature, culture and also created important information that we will leave for our next generation.” ~Fransiskus Use Bataona Clan Leader from Lamalera Village.