

# Voices from the forest



[www.ntfp.org](http://www.ntfp.org)

NTFPs are important particularly to forest dwellers in Cambodia. NTFPs not only serve as a safety net in times of food shortage, but also as a valuable source of household materials and income. Women play key roles in NTFP harvesting, production and marketing. They gather fuelwood for their families and they are also involved in processing and marketing of NTFPs such as weaving and handicrafts.

## NETWORKING IN CAMBODIA

# creating spaces & connections for NTFP development

By FEMY PINTO, NTFP-EP FACILITATOR FOR CAMBODIA

### ALSO INSIDE:

FIRST STEP TO MOVE FORWARD  
A MEETING OF MINDS:  
NTFPs IN LATIN AMERICA  
EXCHANGE NEWS  
LEARNING HONEY MANAGEMENT  
IN KEYSTONE, INDIA  
MAKING BOTH ENDS MEET  
FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT  
CRAFTING A NEW COMMUNITY-  
BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT  
STRATEGIC PLAN

PHOTO: SARIM HEANG

NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS EXCHANGE PROGRAMME FOR SOUTH & SOUTHEAST ASIA





## NTFP networking in Cambodia {COVER STORY}

The NTFP-EP is pleased to welcome the Cambodia NTFP Working Group into the family! The NTFP Working Group is a loose network of local and international NGOs, including NTFP-EP, concerned with rural livelihoods and environmental conservation and are cooperating to develop initiatives around non-timber forest products (NTFP) livelihood and policy development in Cambodia.

Since May 2006, the NTFP Working Group has been informally meeting to develop initiatives around non-timber forest products livelihood and policy development in Cambodia. These informal talks finally bore fruit with their first initiative to organise the National NTFP Workshop and Seminar, held last 7-8 December 2006 in Phnom Penh. The main purpose of the event was to draw together data and experience related to NTFPs in Cambodia. The event was attended by nearly 100 representatives of government, academia, non-profit and private sector organisations, and local communities concerned with NTFP issues. The workshop and seminar was held in partnership with the Forestry Administration and the Ministry of

Environment of Cambodia.

NTFPs play a vital role in sustaining rural communities in Cambodia, particularly those living close to forest areas. NTFPs include a wide array of forest products, such as resins, mushrooms, malva nuts, bamboo, rattan, medicinal plants, wild fruits, and vegetables, as well as firewood and wildlife. NTFPs not only serve as a safety net in times of food shortage, but also as a valuable source of household materials and income. Despite the high dependence on NTFPs among forest users, there are still many barriers inhibiting the generation of greater benefits from these resources.

In Cambodia, such barriers include issues of tenure security, lack of processing skills and limited market access. In order to address these issues, numerous NGOs are working with communities to advocate for national laws and policies that would be supportive of community-based forest management and NTFP livelihood development, and develop skills in processing NTFPs and accessing markets. A number of researchers have carried out studies to try to gain a better understanding of NTFPs in Cambodia and their relevance to local people; NGOs have worked with communities to develop skills in processing NTFPs and accessing markets; and national laws and policies have been put in place, which relate to management of NTFPs.

However, like in Cambodia's neighbouring countries and elsewhere in the world, Cambodia faces an enormous challenge in developing NTFPs towards livelihood and forest conservation improvement.

Following the national workshop and seminar, the NTFP Working Group is committed to respond to a set of recommendations from NTFP livelihood-concerned groups in Cambodia (both in Phnom Penh and more especially from local communities) for NTFP development.

Quite loosely, the objectives of the working group are:

- ▶ To provide opportunities for a range of stakeholders to share their experiences, strategies and solutions related to NTFP development in Cambodia;
- ▶ To facilitate a mechanism of coordination and networking amongst the broad spectrum of stakeholders at every level (local, regional and

2

### ntfp-related issues in cambodia

#### Legal and Political Issues

- ▶ High tariffs and fees collected by the local authorities on NTFPs transported from the villages, eg., resin
- ▶ Cost of illegal fees collected by police officers from traders or middlemen at check points are passed on the community NTFP collectors by lowering the local buying prices of NTFPs
- ▶ Lack of support from the government on NTFP development
- ▶ Poor dissemination of the forestry law and community forestry sub-decree

#### Socio-economic Issues

- ▶ Increase in population in forest areas due to immigration
- ▶ Inaccessibility/roads in poor conditions in many forest areas
- ▶ Lack of research to support NTFP development
- ▶ Limited skills of community forestry communities and community based organisations
- ▶ Monopoly of traders and middlemen in NTFP marketing
- ▶ Low market prices of NTFPs
- ▶ Inadequate or lack of financial support for NTFP gatherers; limited access to credit and financial technical assistance
- ▶ Debt trap

#### Environmental Issues

- ▶ Depletion of forest resources and NTFPs
- ▶ Decline of wildlife
- ▶ Threats of land alienation and forest degradation caused by destructive developments and investments, eg. plantations, mining, logging concession, etc.

Some of the participants in the National NTFP Workshop and Seminar held on December 7-8, 2007 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia



international) for further exchange of knowledge, technical skills and more holistic responses to NTFP development in Cambodia;

- ▶ To keep abreast and take a more informed approach as development and conservation practitioners in addressing the issues and challenges of rural livelihood development and environmental conservation and protection in Cambodia; and
- ▶ To facilitate a dynamic and proactive environment of mutual learning and strategy development and implementation around sustainable NTFP livelihoods development in Cambodia.

The working group has agreed on a rotational coordination. Currently the working group is coordinated by Oxfam Great Britain with support from NTFP-EP. The other active organisations engaged in the working group are: Community Forestry International (CFI), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Cambodian NTFP Development Organisation (CAN-DO), Traidcraft, Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) and the CBNRM Learning Institute. The working group maintains close coordination with the Ministry of Environment and the Forestry Administration.



Khou Eang Hout from the Ministry of Environment/WWF Cambodia recommends to develop further research on NTFPs in Cambodia. The subject of NTFPs in Cambodia has been mainly included as part of general studies on rural livelihoods, natural resource use and indigenous knowledge. More scientific based research and economic studies about NTFPs in Cambodia may aid in achieving sustainable conservation and rural development in Cambodia and for future NTFP policy development.

Several opportunities are now surfacing for the working group to cultivate the connections built in recent months and to bridge information, expertise and skills that will be useful for NTFP development in the country. For a start, the working group is coordinating a series of NTFP-specific technical workshops and field trainings and exchanges to facilitate information and knowledge on sharing on sustainable harvesting techniques for honey, resin and malva nuts. Community-based assessments for the livelihood potential of these NTFPs will be conducted in select villages in the northeastern Cambodia provinces of Monduliri and Ratanikiri in 2007. A very promising start for our newest member!

Thank you to Community Forestry International in Cambodia for the photos and layout from the Proceedings of the NTFP Workshop and Seminar in Cambodia.

A PDF of the Proceedings of the NTFP Workshop and Seminar in Cambodia is available at [http://www.communityforestryinternational.org/publications/research\\_reports/Final%20NTFP%20Report.pdf](http://www.communityforestryinternational.org/publications/research_reports/Final%20NTFP%20Report.pdf)



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## editorial

Through networking, bigger and better things have come about for the NTFP-EP network.

There is renewed enthusiasm in Cambodia with the newly established Cambodia Working Group. It is only apt that this issue focuses on networking efforts in Cambodia and the resulting collaborations for NTFP development in Cambodia is on a roll ... it seems there is no stopping them! Femy Pinto shares heartening outcomes in our cover story.

Sarim Heang of Cambodian partner CAN-DO talks about taking their organisation's "first step" of promoting NTFP livelihoods, a critical step in helping disadvantaged communities in Ratanakiri province to address the basic issue of food security {p. 6}.

Wahyu Widhi, or Bebek, of Dian Niaga, Indonesia shares his "sweet" experiences on honey processing and marketing during his recent trip to Keystone, learnings which will be useful in his own marketing work in the Indonesian Forest Honey Network {p. 7}.

Meanwhile, the NTFP-EP made the Latin American connection. Discussions took place in Mexico and Brazil to undertake a Latin American adaptation of the NTFP-EP-published manual *Steps to Sustainable and Community-based NTFP Management: A manual developed with special reference to South and Southeast Asia*. An exciting development is how this triggered the formation of a Latin American NTFP network as shared in the article {p. 10} by Fred Machado of PESACRE, Brazil.

In Europe, Vince Docta joined in a celebration of a long collaboration with NTFP-EP European partner BothENDS {p. 10}. Meanwhile, Abi Aguilar of the NTFP Task Force recounts how networking at the local level is crucial in assessing and planning another 10 years using Community-based Forest Management as the Philippine strategy for forest conservation {p.11}.

I also take this opportunity to give a warm welcome to new faces in NTFP-EP: Ms. Femy Pinto (Regional Facilitator for Cambodia), Mr. Madhu Ramnath (Regional Facilitator for India) and Mr. Dominic Langat (Coordinator for the Sarawak Project).  
 - Aloisa Zamora-Santos ([aloi@ntfp.org](mailto:aloi@ntfp.org))

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our readers ...



The NTFP calendar poster spurs on discussions about NTFPs among members of the Khare Vokkals, an indigenous group in Medini, Uttara Kannada district, a remote place in Western Ghats, India

# exchange news

Around the region from december 2006-May 2007

CRISSY GUERRERO



Rootcrops are common NTFP, as explained by some men from the Apurina indigenous people

## Advocacy continues

Despite the postponement of the ASEAN Summit, the 2nd ASEAN Civil Society Conference (ACSC 2) pushed through from 10-12 December 2006 in Banilad, Cebu City. The postponement of ACSC2 was viewed as an opportunity for participants to refine the statement to be presented to ASEAN in January 2007. Some gains from the meeting included:

- ▶ Expanding the profile of environmental organisations engaging the ASEAN and the ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASOEN)
- ▶ Highlighting of the issue of the trans-boundary haze and forest conversion for plantations and its inclusion in the statement to ASEAN
- ▶ Forging of stronger links with groups engaging in ASEAN like Solidarity for Asian Peoples Advocacies (SAPA) and Southeast Asian Committee on Advocacy (SEACA)
- ▶ Forging of stronger links with environmental groups already engaging at the international level and willing to raise nature and poverty issues at that level (Sustainability Watch-Asia).

In January, ASEAN agreed to establish a permanent forum for civil society members.



## Sarawak project kicks off

There had been a strong response of Penan communities (Apoth Tutoh, Middle Baram, Sarawak, Malaysia) to NTFP-EP's initial efforts at increasing awareness and field efforts on developing alternative livelihoods to address the threats of expanding oil palm plantations and destructive logging. A recent project possible through the support of NC-IUCN takes a more holistic stance. The project, headed by community development coordinator Dominic Langat, is aimed at securing food supplies, establishing native customary rights and providing alternative NTFP livelihoods of the Penans. Started January this year, the strategy is also aimed at strengthening Penan community leaders so that they may develop their own platform to collectively address their issues.

KEYSTONE



Honeycombs hanging on the sides of the cliffs in India

## Coming together for the NTFPs of Latin America

NTFP-EP and Latin American organisations met at two workshops to discuss the Latin American adaptation of the manual *Steps to Sustainable and Community-based NTFP Management: A manual developed with special reference to South and Southeast Asia*, authored by Virtual Academy member Dr. Mary Stockdale. The first workshop hosted by the Universidad Veracruzana was held in Xalapa, Mexico (28 February-3 March) and the second in Rio Branco, Acre, Brazil (7-9 March).

The enthusiasm of the group was apparent throughout the discussions. The manual, when adapted to the realities of Latin America and highlighting relevant case studies, is seen as a valuable resource in understanding and better managing of NTFPs in the region. The meetings have resulted in the formation of a Latin American NTFP network, and even greater enthusiasm for further collaboration in the near future {see Frederico Machado's article on pp. 8-9}.

## More sweet exchanges

Last December 2006, Bebek of Dian Niaga, marketing arm of the Indonesia Forest Honey Network visited Keystone Foundation in India to learn especially from the Green Shop experience. You can read insights of this trip on p. 7.

Meanwhile, Dr. Phung Luu Chinh of the Bee Research and Development Center, Hanoi, Vietnam brought his *Apis dorsata* honey expertise to the tribal communities of Sen Monorom, Monduliri province, northeastern Cambodia last April. The training raised awareness on sustainable honey production and marketing from Monduliri experience on honey. The training was organised by WWF Cambodia in collaboration with the NTFP-EP.

## Looking 10 years ahead for CBFM

After ten years of implementing the Community-Based Forest Management as the Philippine strategy for forest management, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources actively involved the wide array of stakeholders – including other government agencies, non-government organisations, peoples' organisations, local government units and other partners in community forestry – in a series of workshop-consultations from January to March held across the country. Stakeholders are hopeful that the workshops translate into strategies with greater impact the local level {see article by Abi Aguilar on p. 11}.

ANNIE PALERACIO



Thelvanai Amarthalingan of SAM/ FOE-Malaysia, joins in the fun of papermaking during the field trip to Maasin, Quezon, Palawan. SAM is among the partners of the N&P Alliance.

# What is it?

**Sal tree** or *Shorea robusta* is a large evergreen tree belonging to the dipterocarpaceae family. Aside from its extremely durable timber, there are numerous uses for its parts. Sal leaf plates are widely used in India for festivals and weddings (see photo). Sal seeds and fruit are an important source of lamp oil and edible oil. Sal resin is burned as incense in Hindu ceremonies; it is also used in the indigenous systems of medicine as an astringent and detergent and is given in diarrhea and dysentery.



MADHU RAMNATH



GENEVIEVE LABADAN

## Going natural!

Last March, Higaonon weavers went to Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, the Philippines to join T'boli indigenous weavers to learn more about the use of natural dyes. This is a follow-up to their initial training held by the NTFP Task Force in February 2006.

The use of natural dyes is fast regaining popularity among women weavers of the Higaonon indigenous community in Barangay Hagpa, Impasugong. Having shunned natural dyes for the more convenient synthetic commercial dyes, they are now beginning to see the benefits of using natural dyes to color their *abaca* fibers (also known as Manila hemp), which they weave into their colorful *hinabol* or traditional

These aren't your ordinary bags! Naturally dyed kamuyot (or slingbags), sold at the local markets, promotes forest protection while increasing incomes of the weavers. Naturally dyed hinabol is now highly in demand.

Higaonon woven cloth.

The naturally dyed woven cloths fetch higher prices than those dyed synthetically. Moreover, the move has also promoted biological diversity. Ilalama, a tree dye source, is found to be getting scant in Barangay Hagpa. The women from Tugunganon village are now planting this species so they can have continuous source of orange to brown dye color. {For full article by Genevieve Jurolan-Labadan, see the latest *Not By Timber Alone*.}

## Making markets work for NTFPs

The work of NTFP-EP's partners was recently showcased last 16-20 April in back-to-back meetings at the Hague, the Netherlands. The event was hosted by CORDAID. Of particular interest was how the years of training, exploration and capacity building has borne fruit. Major issues discussed were:

- ▶ To what extent can small-scale extraction and processing of forest products help access stable markets and enhance local livelihoods?
- ▶ What is the potential of the emerging markets for forest based products in Asia, Europe and the Netherlands, apart from the Fair Trade stores?
- ▶ How can the private sector in Europe be further interested in such products?

A highlight was the public meeting – with close to 100 representatives of donor agencies, the private sector, and NGOs in attendance. Interest was generated of the organisations' experiences of working in the field of NTFPs, and on the specific NTFPs. This was complemented by a mini-display/store of products, and judging by the enthusiastic response, will gain orders in the future.

NTFP-EP also took the opportunity to discuss future collaboration with CORDAID and other donors, including HIVOS, DOEN, and IUCN-NL.

PEACHY ONGLEO



Johnny Utama of Dian Niaga, Indonesia, introducing some products, including handwoven rattan bags

## Synergy and exchange

Last 2-5 May, the NTFP-EP came together with contacts from the Nature and Poverty Southeast Asia and the Pacific Alliance for a regional planning, synergy and exchange in Palawan, the Philippines.

Discussions focused on how to maximize collaborative efforts on enhancing the knowledge and learning network on nature and poverty linkages (**natureandpoverty.net**). Also discussed were common issues such as oil palm expansion, watershed management, and logging campaign; as well as the evaluation of the first phase of N&P. SawitWatch was identified as the host organisation for liaison.

N&P, implemented by the IUCN-NL, is a collaborative program in three continents addressing conservation and poverty alleviation in marine and forest ecosystems. The meeting was sponsored by IUCN-NL and hosted by the NTFP-EP.

## 21 years of BothENDS

During its 21st anniversary, European partner BothENDS invited its partner NGOs to a week-long celebration last March. It also coincided with the launch of the Joke Waller-Hunter Initiative, which enables talented people who work at environmental organisations in the South to develop themselves further. Partners from NGOs and networks in Africa, Latin America and Asia joined in the celebration. {See Vince Docta's article on p. 10}

## New book on NTFPs

Last April 20 Madhu Ramnath's *Plants of Bastar: a Fieldguide* was launched in the Botanical Gardens of Amsterdam. It was a festive and very well-attended occasion at a location where the author earlier on found inspiration and encouragement

Madhu who is currently working as EP India field coordinator, has been working on this field guide over the last 15 years.

The book was published with financial support from NC-IUCN and the Van Tienhoven Foundation. {Further details and ordering info are in "Publications and Videos" on p. 12}



JENNE DE BEER





## first step to move forward

Bringing hope to the disadvantaged tribal communities in Ratanakiri province, Cambodia

SARIM HEANG/CAN-DO

By SARIM HEANG, CAN-DO, Cambodia

**T**he forest, especially non-timber forest products, play a crucial role in supporting forest-based livelihoods. Up to 90 percent of the 83 families in Kres and Kang Koy villages, Kreung indigenous communities lack rice for six months every year. They face food shortages due to low farming yields harvested from their farming fields and increasing population in the villages. Villagers thus have to earn income from some sources, for example, selling their cashew nuts, selling animals and some traditional handicrafts. Unfortunately the limited amount of income is insufficient for the needs of their families.

Increasing demand for cash has resulted in big changes to the traditional agricultural system. Most villagers continue to increase their *chamkar* (burned farming field) every year in order to plant cashew for cash. The traditional rotation of their *chamkar* is most likely not possible because their cashew will grow within 3-4 years, therefore they will never cut those cashew trees to grow rice. This practice encourages villagers to clear new *chamkar*, threatening protected forest areas in their Community Forest Area.

In addition, Community Forest Committee (CFC) members and villagers have been working

for already 10 years to protect their forest. Today, there remain pressures and barriers that can only be overcome in the long run. Some stated that they are not as committed as they were before because all that they can do is protection and conservation. Losing the commitment to protect and conserve their forest can cause a threat on their forest, natural resources, and the environment in the future. Villagers now mostly extract forest products, particularly non-timber forest products, for consumption in their families. Very little is for the market (selling some back baskets) because of the lack of technical skills in processing NTFPs and no support from outsiders to establish and coordinate focused NTFP groups in their villages. These two villages are rich in non-timber forest products, particularly bamboo and rattan; and these resources have the potential to contribute to improving their livelihoods and protecting the forest.

In order to bring hope to these Kreung marginalized people, Cambodian NTFP Development Organization (CAN-DO) has been helping them find better ways to make use of the local non-timber forest products for conserving their forest resources and improving their livelihood through the Community Handicraft Initiative Project (CHIP). Traditional arts and

crafts of Kreung indigenous people, which have almost disappeared, will be rehabilitated and preserved. More importantly, their traditional crafts will play an important role in providing supplementary employment and incomes to local producers.

We have gone ahead. CAN-DO has been supporting two Village NTFP Enterprises (VNE) in two villages, 30 km from Banlung town of Ratanakiri province since late 2006. There are up to 80 producers (40 women weavers) selected for the two VNEs. There are three main units integrated in the Village NTFP Enterprise (VNE). These three units are included: Indigenous Women Weaving Group (IWG), Bamboo and Rattan Handicraft Group (BRHG), and Savings for self-reliance group (SSG). Local authorities and elders joined the VNE as the advisory group. For the first year, VNE members will be producing indigenous textile, traditional clothing, traditional cottage and musical instruments, and back baskets (*kapha*) made of bamboo and rattan.

“I really appreciate the values of my traditional crafts and efforts of my wife. Income earned by my wife is very important for supporting my family, for instance, we spend the money on health care, clothes, rice and grocery.” Mr. Sapas Tal said, chief of Kress village.

Helping them help themselves is the core principle in which CAN-DO has been creating market access for their traditional handicrafts, providing basic business literacy, improving product quality and product development. In order to fulfill these roles, CAN-DO is working closely with the Non-Timber Forest Product- Exchange Programme for South and South East Asia, the National NTFP Working Group, and some handicrafts-based NGOs and enterprises in Cambodia. Good cooperation will enable this endeavor to move forward and bring hope for the disadvantaged tribal communities.

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A view from the Keystone campus in Kotagiri, India

By WAHYU WIDHI, Dian Niaga, Indonesia

Keystone Foundation is known as an organisation concerned with honey management and marketing for communities without compromising the sustainability of bee's community itself. The Bee Museum, the Green Shops and the honey hunter's prosperity are some proofs of Keystone achievement.

In order to learn more about honey management and marketing, Dian Niaga Jakarta, a member of the Indonesian Forest Honey Network sent me to learn from the honey expert in Keystone, India.

My training started on Tuesday, 12th December 2006 at the Keystone office in Kotagiri. After a trip around the Keystone office, Mr. Leo told me about Keystone enterprise, how they started working with the community, what obstacles they've faced and how they can survive them.

On the second day, we discussed how to handle honey from community; how to undertake inventory; about storing honey for long periods, bottling and packing in boxes to get ready to sell. Mr. Leo taught me a simple way to remove pollen from honey. After lunch, we discussed the Green Shop concept with Mr. Pratim. The Green Shop has become door that will lead to understanding about their community, a place for information exchange. Keystone has three Green Shops – in Kotagiri, Conoor and Ooty.

On the third day we spent time working with chemicals in laboratory to check honey quality. Ms.

Among the displays at the Bee Museum is a ladder made from vines (hanging over the door), used by the Kurumba tribe in their honey hunting

Shinny shared her knowledge on the honey testing method which is very useful when we are dealing with honey from a new supplier or when we're simply suspicious about honey quality. The method can be applied in the field with simple equipment. In the afternoon, I had the opportunity to visit the Green Shop in Kotagiri. Located at the main junction in Kotagiri, one can find a whole range of products from organic tea to cotton cloth. But the main product is honey; we can find pure honey, spiced honey, and bitter honey in different packages.

Product Development and Marketing became topics on the fourth day. Mr. Samraj explained pricing, simple calculations for preparing stock, branding products and other marketing methods to help increase honey sales. Mr. Samraj's advice about Green Shop is: don't just sell honey, but all green products (organic, fair trade, ecological monitoring). Because if we just sell honey we can't cover our expenses, so we need to sell other green products to help cover monthly expenses.

After spending time studying in the class, it's time to visit the field. On Monday, 18th December 2006 we were guided by Mr Miller. Two members from Telapak, Nanang and Putra, joined us to take a documentary film about Semenarai village and production of the Kurumba community. Unfortunately we can't see the beeswax melting process because the heater machine needed to be prepared at least three hours to get the right temperature. But with the help of a local person, Mr. Miller demonstrated how to melt the beeswax and make candles and balm.

On the last day of training, we discussed Product Development and Marketing in more detail with Mr. Mathew. Mr. Mathew showed me the process for

Keystone honey product, starting with some ordinary labels, adding the green icon to the label, and then putting the "Last Forest" brand. After the discussion, I got a chance to go to Ooty to visit the Green Shop and Bee Museum. The Green Shop in Ooty is bigger and sells more products than in Kotagiri. Products are displayed in an attractive way, with honey being the bestseller in this shop. On the second floor is the Bee Museum. We can find tools and equipment for honey harvesting from other areas, including a smoker from Ueesi, Kendari that Mr. Leo brought to the Forest Honey Meeting last time. Information about honey, honey harvesting and honey quality can be read in the poster that is displayed next to rope that the Kurumba community uses to harvest honey. I hope someday we can develop a bee museum like this in Jakarta too.

It had been more than a week and the training was already finished. The highlight of my learning from Keystone, India is that everything starts from nothing and problems may lay ahead, but if we can endure and solve the obstacles, everything will fine.

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Putting theory into practice: the author removing pollen from the honey surface with paper



ALL PHOTOS FOR THIS ARTICLE BY WIDHI



LATIN AMERICAN WORKSHOPS, BRAZIL AND MEXICO 2007

## a meeting of minds: NTFPs in latin america

By FREDERICO MACHADO, PESACRE Translated by CONSUELO S. GUERRERO

The end of February and the beginning of March 2007 was a very beneficial period for the non-timber forest products (NTFP) sector of Latin America. In this period, there were two Latin American workshops on community-managed NTFPs, the first in Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico, from 28 February-3 March; and the second from 7-9 March in Rio Branco, Acre, Brazil. The participating organisations were: the Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP); the Grupo de Pesquisa e Extensao em Sistemas Agroflorestais do Acre (PESACRE) of Brazil; and the Universidad Veracruzana, Centro de Investigaciones Tropicales (CITRO) of Mexico.

### WHAT WERE THE WORKSHOPS ABOUT?

The workshops had, as their central objective, the discussion of the manual, *Steps to Sustainable and Community-based NTFP Management: A manual developed with special reference to South and Southeast Asia*. This manual was developed after experiences with NTFPs in South and Southeast Asia, that were the subjects of presentations in 2003 in Asia. In the workshops of Latin America, like what occurred in Asia, the discussions were conducted with the intention of summarizing information for the publication of a manual similar to that which was made for Asia, but in a version appropriate for Latin America.



Women of the Apurina indigenous people show off their colorful array of vegetable jewelry

#### HOW WERE THE DISCUSSIONS CONDUCTED?

In the Latin American workshops there were presentations of experiences in the management of NTFPs in different Latin

American countries. This was followed by a debate on the experiences presented, and plenary discussions participated in by technical people, investigators, representatives of communities, and students present at the meetings. In the workshops, there were also presentations specific to the manual, which gave information on its content and structure, with intervals for group exercises and reflections. During these intervals, suggestions were welcomed on how to adapt the manual to Latin America.

#### WHAT RESULTS WERE OBTAINED?

As a result of the workshops in Mexico and Brazil, there was a meeting of minds about the relevance of a Latin American version of the manual, taking into account potential collaboration. Also, the clarifications in this manual added to the possibility of success in the initiatives of NTFPs managed together with communities. With respect to the structure adopted by the manual published for Asia, which was written in step-by-step fashion, it was understood that this can be adjusted to the characteristics of Latin America and tailored to the experiences and conditions of Latin America.

Moreover, contents such as legal questions, public policies and commercialization were evaluated as subjects that needed to be tackled in a more extended and in depth manner in the future version of this manual.

In general, this manual was considered advantageous for the public to which it is directed – technical people with an academic background and with knowledge of methodologies, who are able to add information and collaborate in a decisive form in work conducted together with communities. For non-academic technical people or for people in communities, it is important to develop material to make access to this information easier for them – possibly through publications written in simple language and rich in illustrations, or by using videos and other non-written means of communication. Another point observed, is that the manual, in general, does not present the reality of each region or country. It is important, for this purpose, that the publication of manuals be more directed to the reality of a local place, and that it can be used as reference for Latin America, when it is published after the workshops.

Another result of the workshops is the formation of a network that would communicate through the internet. This network is called the NTFP Network in Latin America (Red Latinoamericana de PFMNs). The network communicates electronically through the [red\\_latinoamericana\\_de\\_pfnm@yahoo.com](mailto:red_latinoamericana_de_pfnm@yahoo.com). This network, among other things, is a way to exchange one's work and photos, and to feature discussions aimed at the subject of NTFPs. Doubtless, there will be opportunities for an exchange of ideas and information through the organization of future meetings.

At this time, even if the workshops have already ended, the collaboration of persons and institutions for the production of the manual continues. After the meetings ended this collaboration took place on the internet and they have as reference, questions by the

author of the manual, Mary Stockdale. The case studies should be useful as much for these general ideas which will be brought out in future version of the manual, as for being a sort of 'box' for presentations of actual experiences.

Another fruit of the discussions in the workshops was the development of a proposal to hold another Latin American meeting to deal with the theme of commercialization of NTFPs. The thinking is that this meeting should be held in the state of Amazonas in Brazil. The negotiations with the government of this state have already begun, and there are strong indications that in 2007 the state will host this meeting. The proposal to the government of Amazonas is being made by the Secretary of the Sustainable Development of Amazonas (SDS) with the support of PESACRE. Aside from the proposal to the government, other members of the network are working towards obtaining funds for this meeting.

In Brazil, there was another significant result after the visit to the Tierra Indigena Apurina, which happened on the third day of the workshop. Among the workshop participants who visited the indigenous land was an indigenous leader, a representative of the Federacion de los Pueblos Indigenos del Rio Negro (FOIRN). This leader evaluated the relevance and quality of the work of the NTFPs of the Apurinas; and pledged that in 2007 he would try to bring indigenous people of the Rio Negro region to get to know and exchange experiences with the Apurinas; and conversely, for the Apurinas to get to know and experience the region of the Rio Negro.

#### HOW WERE THE WORKSHOPS EVALUATED?

In the evaluation of the workshops, on the part of the public, one criticism was that the meetings were too short with not enough time for some discussions to be conducted in a more open and profound manner. In general, however, the rest of the evaluations were quite positive, with the public considering the discussions relevant not only for the development of the Latin American version of the manual, but also for getting together professionals and institutions from different countries. This also led to an exchange of experiences, contacts and knowledge, and the opening of possibilities between institutions indifferent regions of the continent.



Latin American participants at the NTFP workshop in Mexico discuss facilitating and hindering factors for NTFP development

The original Spanish version is available on [www.ntfp.org](http://www.ntfp.org)

➤ Frederico Machado, Grupo de Pesquisa e Extensao em Sistemas Agroflorestais do Acre (PESACRE) Email: [fredericosm@ufla.br](mailto:fredericosm@ufla.br)



ALL PHOTOS BY BOTHENDS

The “Marketplace” Activity: NGOs are invited to share which skills & expertise they could best offer and the needed capability that they require. This is aimed at identifying who can strategically collaborate towards the MFS goals.

Since its inception in 1986, Both ENDS (Environment and Development Service NGO) has been working towards strengthening environmental NGOs in developing countries. The core of Both ENDS’ activities is making connections – between South and North, environment and development, and between different sectors of society. Both ENDS plays an intermediate role in supporting individuals and social organisations all over the world that focus on ecological sustainability and social justice.

Both ENDS has a long history of collaboration with the NTFP Exchange Programme, providing advisory/guidance and supporting the network’s advocacy, lobby work and fundraising efforts. It has been instrumental in bringing the issues of the network to Northern players that may be able to influence economic and fiscal forces.

To date, Both ENDS has forged partnership arrangements with 16 NGOs and networks, mostly based in Africa, Latin America and Asia, and largely dealing on three thematic areas: integrated water management, sustainable land use and international capital flows. Both ENDS considers these organisations as “innovators” and have included them in the Encyclopedia of Sustainability, an ever expanding, online collection of innovative, people-oriented environment initiatives.

Recently, Both ENDS was conferred with a grant from the MFS (Co-financing) Programme of the Dutch government. This programme, to be implemented from 2008-2010, is envisioned to increase the capacities of NGOs to become more effective in combating poverty, generating sustainable livelihoods, and contributing to more sustainable policy and institutional frameworks.

Not only does Both ENDS support inspiring, people-oriented examples of sustainable development and viable alternatives to often harmful mainstream approaches, it also sponsors internships, on-the-job training, action research and related learning experiences. The late Joke Waller-Hunter, former head of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, bequeathed her estate with clear instructions to utilize it for “capacity development of environmental organisations in developing countries.” From it, Both ENDS developed the Joke Waller-Hunter Initiative, a philanthropic program geared towards leadership development of partner NGOs.

As an important milestone for their 21 years of existence, Both ENDS invited its partner NGOs to a week-long celebration, which served as a venue to familiarize partners with the main pillars of their work and the MFS programme as well as to initiate and plan

for convergent and synergistic efforts in the coming years. This was participated in by representatives from: South Africa - Forum for Environment (Ethiopia), Focarfe (Cameroon), Environmental Monitoring Group (South Africa), Southern and Eastern African Trade Information Negotiations Institute (Zimbabwe), Environmental Liaison Centre International (Kenya); from Central America - Fresh Water Action Network-Central America (Costa Rica), ECOA and Vitae Civilis (Brazil), Amichoco and Association for Responsible Mining (Colombia); from Asia - Gomukh (India), NGO Forum on ADB and NTFP-EP (Philippines), Telapak (Indonesia), BAPA (Bangladesh); and Poland - CEE Bankwatch.

From 6-8 March, workshops and brainstorming discussions led to identifying common working areas and priorities; defining activities, and generating ideas on how to strategically implement the MFS programme based on a shared agenda and a clear division of tasks based on skills, expertise, networks and target groups.

On 9 March was the culmination activity – the anniversary meeting at the Kompaszaal in Amsterdam.

The occasion convened various environmental and development organisations in Europe which interacted with the partner NGOs from the South. Aside from the usual meet-and-greet, we participated in a creative brainstorming activity where everyone had a chance to talk about global sustainability policies of the Dutch government and “dreaming sessions” on how to inspire a particular Ministry in pursuing sustainability policies.

The event also coincided with the launch of the Joke-Weller Hunter Initiative. Aimed at enabling talented people who work for environmental organisations in the South to develop themselves further, four of the seven fellows were present at the launch. Thabang Ngcozela of EMG from South Africa bagged the Public Choice Award, inspiring the crowd with notable endeavors in his country.

The saying “to make both ends meet” means to “live within one’s means.” Linguists say that the real etymology of the idiomatic expression comes from accountancy where “meet” used to be an adjective, meaning “equal” or “balanced.” The “end” was the end of the financial year in which both profit and loss accounts had to be balanced: the ends had to be

met. During this event, I witnessed how connecting the literal both ends – North and South, rich and underprivileged, powerful and powerless can lead to equal opportunities to meet, greet, share ideas and plan for another 21 years (and more) with Both ENDS.

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## Making both ends meet for a better environment

A glimpse at the MFS Partner Meeting & launch of the Joke Waller-Hunter Initiative during the 21st anniversary of Both ENDS

By VINCE DOCTA, NTFP-EP



Thabang Ngcozela from EMG-South Africa receiving the Public Choice Award for his candid ‘people skills’ & his valuable work in bringing communities to talk about issues such as MDGs.

## Towards crafting a new Community-Based Forest Management strategic plan

By ABI AGUILAR, NTFP Task Force, The Philippines

After ten years of implementing the Community-Based Forest Management Strategy, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, together with non-government organisations (NGOs), peoples' organisations (POs), local government units (LGUs) and other partners in community forestry have conducted a series of workshop-consultations to assess the gains and failures of CBFM as a national strategy in forest management.

CBFMS was adopted by the Philippine government as its national strategy for forest management in 1995 to achieve sustainable forestry and social justice. To implement it, the DENR formulated the Strategic Action Plan adopted in 1997.

The year 2007 is a crucial year in CBFM as it is time for assessing the past decade as well as to map out plans for the next ten years (2008-2018). This series of workshop-consultations was conducted from January to

ABIAGUILAR



March in five key cities/towns in the Philippines – Baguio City (29 January - 1 February), Bacolod City (6-9 February), Cagayan de Oro City (19-22 February), Davao City (25-28 February) and Los Baños, Laguna (11-14 March). A total of 116 POs, 52 LGUs, 48 NGOs and 87 DENR participants nationwide have joined in these consultations.

These consultations were crafted in order to gather better outputs from the different stakeholders. Earlier, from 20-22 September 2006, a national workshop on

strategic planning for CBFM was conducted. But it lacked the substantial participation of the intended partners such as POs, NGOs and the LGUs. Thus, a series of more participatory workshops was identified to address more specific CBFM concerns coming from the direct players.

The output from the series of workshops is also expected to enhance the output of the first workshop and more importantly, translate strategies into activities at the local level.

In addition, NGO CBFM support groups have recognised the need to institutionalize a systematic, sustained and mutually supportive collaboration in the hopes of moving CBFM forward.

With the crafting of the new strategic plan 2008-2018, it is expected that the outputs given by these players will be highlighted and given its necessary response. Despite frustrations, a diminished level of confidence and unmet expectations, every stakeholder remains hopeful that this strategic plan will move CBFM to greater heights in the next ten years.

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## donor roll

This is the maiden column of our occasional "Donor Roll" where we feature various groups and organisations who have been instrumental in "keeping the ball rolling" by generously supporting the EP network's cause. Through this, we hope that our partners can become acquainted with these and eventually create opportunities which may then lead to fruitful partnerships.

### DOEN FOUNDATION: Enhancing Sustainable NTFP Livelihood for South and Southeast Asia

This year, the EP network has been fortunate to receive funding support from DOEN Foundation in promoting sustainable NTFP livelihoods for its regional partners. Though this initiative, more than 5,000 households are expected to benefit from engaging in product and market development of NTFPs. Specifically, it provides revolving capital which is often a bottleneck for community-level, start-up enterprises.



This covers five countries: India for health, beauty and honey products; Philippines for honey, jams, jellies, organic glucose, mineral water and various NTFPs;

Malaysia for crafts; Indonesia for handicrafts, gaharu (eaglewood) and related NTFPs; and Cambodia for handicrafts. At the same time, this initiative promotes the sustainable production of selected NTFPs, shifting the paradigm from destructive towards the sustainable management of forest resources.

Since its establishment in 1991, DOEN Foundation has been promoting a liveable world in which everyone can play a part by supporting initiatives that are both enterprising and sustainable through subsidies, loans, guarantees or participations in the areas of sustainable development, culture and welfare.

DOEN Foundation is the fund of the Goede Doelen Loterijen (Charity Lotteries) based in the Netherlands. The foundation focuses mainly on projects that have a strong business base and a clear social component. It puts premium on sustainability and innovativeness by supporting both small and large projects, programmes and organisations, and strongly emphasises the self-activation and independence of the people and organisations steering the initiatives. DOEN Foundation prefers to support those initiatives that seek to preserve as much as possible the social freedom, dynamism and cultural identity of those involved. {Vince Docta}

► www.doen.nl



Among the health and beauty products is bees wax balm made by the Keystone Foundation in India

## highly clickable

[www.modiphilippines.com](http://www.modiphilippines.com)

The Philippine's CustomMade Crafts Center put up a website for its upscale brand MODI Modern Indigenous. MODI 2006-2007 highlights the connection and dependence of the indigenous people to nature through the use of natural materials and dyes, organic shapes, flora and fauna patterns.



[www.maduhutan.com](http://www.maduhutan.com)

The website of the Indonesian Forest Honey Network (Jaringan Madu Hutan Indonesia - JMHI), a network of honey gatherers groups. The website functions as a communication forum for the sharing of knowledge in harvesting and conservation of wild forest bees across Indonesia. It also features the product catalogue, including high-quality *Apis dorsata* honey.



**ECO-TOURISM UPSIDE DOWN**

Logging giant Samling, in a little brochure on "the eco-tourism potential of Ravenscourt Camp," is advising nature lovers to "take a break from their hectic lives and relax" in a logging camp operated by the company in the Kelabit highlands of Sarawak, Malaysia. How much further can one stretch the eco-thing? {Jenne de Beer}

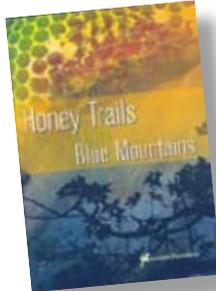
publications and videos



**Basic Upland Ecology.** This book describes how the various environmental systems work. It also presents several of the present problems with the environment and possible solutions. Accurately presenting environmental science in simple language,

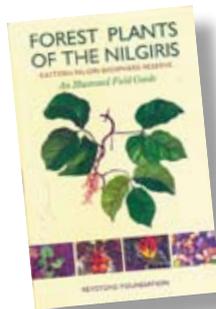
this is an invaluable resource for planners and farmers. Written by Delbert Rice. Published by New Day Publishers. 2007. Please contact the publishers directly at sales@newdaypublishers.com.

**The Plants of Bastar, Chhattisgarh: A Fieldguide.** 2007. The book deals with the common plants of the region. In particular, the plant description emphasizes the vegetative characteristics of the plants in order to make it useful in the field. A vernacular index of plant names and photographs, along with a vegetative key, caters to the amateur botanist or curious lay person. The use of plants in adivasi tradition – especially linking customary harvesting techniques to conservation – could serve as a starting point for forest management plans, and could encourage research in similar areas of indigenous peoples. By Madhu Ramnath. For copies, contact the author at madelly@gmail.com



**Honey Trails in the Blue Mountains.** Ecology, People and Livelihoods in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, India. The close link of bees to adivasis is synonymous to linking ecology with livelihoods. The book attempts to put into focus the interlaying

complexities involving bees, forests and stakeholders dependent upon and contributing to the diversity of resources, forests provide. Published by Keystone Foundation. 2007. For copies, please contact kf@keystone-foundation.org



**Forest Plants of the Nilgiris. Eastern Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. An Illustrated Field Guide.** The book covers the dominant plant species in the forest areas of the Kotagiri and Coonoor region, India. Is particularly useful

for field workers, students and naturalists, not only in the region, but in other similar forests of the Eastern and Western Ghats. Containing the primary work of adivasis or indigenous people – including local uses, and myths and legends – the field guide is useful especially for the younger generation, to remind them of their intricate forest knowledge. Published by Keystone Foundation. 2006. For copies, contact kf@keystone-foundation.org



**Some useful plants on Mt. Ta Kou, Ta Kou Nature Reserve.** This English-Vietnamese booklet introduces 20 common plants found on Mt. Ta Kou in southern Vietnam. The mountain is famous as a source of high quality medicinal plants.

Species are described by botanical characteristics, distribution on the mountain and economic importance. By Luu Hong Truong et al, Center for Biodiversity and Development. 2007. For copies, please email hongtruongluu@yahoo.com.

on our calendar:

**MAY**  
2-7: Dr. Hong Truong Luu, forestry and NTFP specialist from the Centre for Biodiversity and Development, Ho Chi Minh City, will assist CAN-DO in Ratanikiri, Cambodia on an exploration and assessment of impact of current malva nut harvesting practices and provide advice on its sustainable resource management

8-11: Technical discussion & meeting on liquid resin harvesting and management in Cambodia and Vietnam, to be held in Phnom Penh. Dr. Luu Hong Truong and Dr. Khou Eanghourt (Ministry of Environment/WWF Cambodia) will lead the discussions. To be followed by a field visit and community exchange on good practices of liquid resin harvesting in Preah Vihear, Cambodia

17-20: Dr. Phung Luu Chinh of the Bee Research and Development Centre, Vietnam will facilitate a training session in honey harvesting and handling for collectors cooperatives on the island of Sumbawa, Indonesia. The training and subsequent meetings have been organised through the Indonesian Honey Network (JMHI) and are supported by the local government

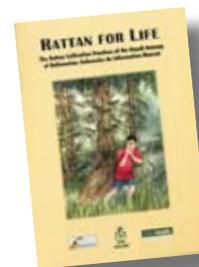
29: Next meeting of the Cambodia NTFP Working Group to be hosted by Community Forestry International. Expected to be a bigger group with updates on NTFP network activities coordinated by the different sub-groups (especially on malva nuts, resin, honey, crafts)

**JUNE**  
4-6: A Pandanus Master Class Workshop, will be held in Rumah Adat SPNS, Kg, Chang Lama, Bidor, Perak, Malaysia. Participants are 25 weavers from Orang Asli ethnic groups who will participate in an exchange of ideas on production, designs and dyeing knowledge and techniques.

**SEPTEMBER**  
30-31: The annual regional NTFP meeting will gather the NTFP-EP network partners at Danau Sentarum, Kalimantan, Indonesia

**NOVEMBER**  
5-6: A multi-stakeholder meeting for CORDAID Kalimantan partners will be held in Pontianak, Indonesia to discuss concerns on NTFP development and other issues

Last week: Madu Dunia Conference, Ooty, India. Aimed at promoting and building a strong network of honey practitioners in Asia



The reprint for **Rattan for Life: The Rattan Cultivation Practices of the Dayak Benuaq of Kalimantan, Indonesia** (English only) is now available! Please email us at publications@ntfp.org for details.

Publications and videos are distributed free of charge to our partners and contacts as far as stocks allow. For queries or to purchase, please contact us at publications@ntfp.org. For those purchasing books/videos at the full prices, rest assured that proceeds go directly to distribution costs for those who otherwise could not afford to acquire these materials.

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The NTFP-EP is a collaborative network of about 40 non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations in South and Southeast Asia. We work with forest-based communities to strengthen their capacity in sustainable management of natural resources.

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