

Voices from the forest



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VIETNAM

mountain medicine man

By Crissy Guerrero, NTFP-EP

Phong looked at his baby, Kim Ngoc, smiled and shared with us his story. Over a year ago, his wife, Tien, was complaining of pains in the lower abdomen. Phong decided to bring her to the doctor trained in Western medicine. To his dismay, the doctor pronounced that his wife had a grave illness in her kidney and she had to be operated on immediately or she would never be able to deliver another baby. Phong did not believe the doctor and instead bet with him that he would be able to heal his wife with medicines from forest plants. Kim Ngoc was proof enough that he had won that wager.
{continued on next page ...}

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COVER PHOTO: CRISSY GUERRERO

Luu Hong Truong of
CBD documenting
the various
medicinal plants of
Phong, among them
yellow ginger



Continued from the cover ...

Phong had used the plant, Thui Dich, to treat his wife over a year ago. Phong is a traditional healer from the ethnic Cham people of Southern Vietnam. The Kingdom of Champa flourished up to the 15th century in Central and Southern Vietnam. They are known not only for the temples that reflect the legacy of an ancient civilization but also for their healing tradition.

“We have at least 400 recipes of traditional medicines,” Phong said, as he leafed through the delicate pages of what he called the “Bible” of Cham traditional medicine written in an ancient script only a few can decipher. Because of his knowledge and his eagerness to keep the Cham healing tradition alive (Phong photocopied dozens of the “medicine-recipe-Bible” and distributed it free of charge to other Cham colleagues), Phong was made the Chairman of the 32 man-strong traditional healers association of his commune in the Village of Binh Nghia in Ninh Thuan province. Interest in conserving the healing tradition is so great that the provincial government offered to support a publication on traditional Cham medicines and medicinal plants.

Such interest was unheard of about three years ago. At this time, the Center for Biodiversity and Development (CBD), a group of young community-development minded, Saigon-based researchers, met Phong. Realizing his zeal and depth and breadth of knowledge, they supported his work with meager funds to start a traditional medicine garden. Lo and behold, after several months, the resourceful Phong, with hardly any space behind his small home (doubling up as his wife’s tailoring shop) had established a

flourishing 100 square meter garden with over 100 different plant species. Phong shared that the plants could provide relief to common colds, cure fever, and some plants could be used to treat liver disease and other ailments. Phong treats not only the locals; people come from far and wide seek him out for treatment.

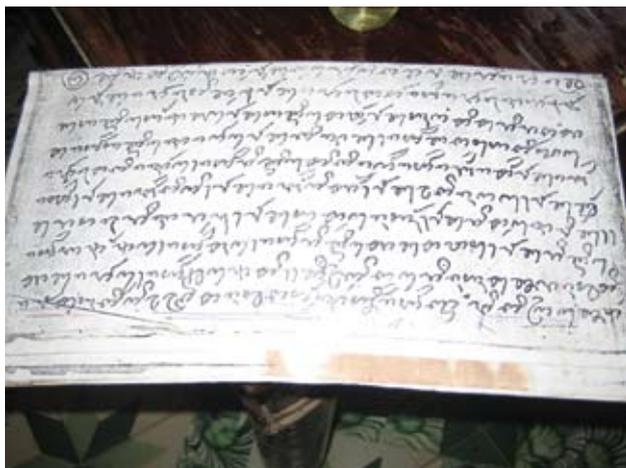
Phong is still experimenting with the cultivation of medicinal plants. He has had some success with some plants while for others he is still testing soil, light and water conditions. He tells us that “The forest is still the best medicine bank.” Unfortunately it is that same “bank” that is being “robbed” through illegal logging and poaching activities.

It is the hope of Phong and CBD that through awareness raising, medicinal garden development and further training of healers, more will understand the importance of forest-based medicine. His message is simple: The forest can cure, only if and when we also care for the forest. May the legacy of Cham medicine extend beyond the generation of Kim Ngoc.

As of presstime, we received the sad news that Phong’s medicinal garden and surrounding areas were destroyed by floods due to unusually heavy rains. We all are seeking the necessary support to rebuild this garden.

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LEFT: A photocopied page from the traditional medicine “Bible”
RIGHT: Phong shows off luxuriant aloe plants in his garden



exchange news

Around the region from Sept 2008 - Mar 2009

Forest Bees and Conservation, What is the Link?

A symposium last 21-22 October 2008 at the Forest Department in Jakarta brought together the Director General for Forest Conservation, Ir. Daruri, on behalf of the Minister of Forestry MS. Kaban of the Forest Department, JMHI members & other local organisations, scientists, national NGOs, companies such as Martha Tilaar and AMWAY, and from the region: WWF Cambodia and Keystone (India).

Keynote speakers Sumbawa Besar Regent, Drs. Lamaluddin Malik & Danau Sentarum National Park director Suwignyo both stressed how they actively encourage honey related activities among their respective constituencies, as these not only provide much needed additional cash income for the communities, but also give a very significant boost to the forest conservation effort.



The overall conclusion is that, yes, the link is definitely there, but putting more stress on the conservation aspect was, without reservation, welcomed by all present.

Read more in a richly illustrated symposium booklet, edited by Dian Niaga's

Bebek, which will soon be published in Bahasa Indonesia and in English. The talk of the Danau Sentarum National Park director will also be translated in Khmer for distribution among the management of Mondulkiri Protected Forest and Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary.

The event was organized by JMHI, in collaboration with SawitWatch, Telapak/Gekko, AMAN and NTFP-EP, with financial support from NC-IUCN/EGP. {Jenne de Beer}

Toyota Foundation visits project partners in East Kalimantan

Ms. Sujin Kwon of the Toyota Foundation visited Kalimantan rattan farmers and weavers in Kedang Pahu, West Kutai, East Kalimantan, Indonesia last 17-19 October 2008. Through the Toyota-funded project, Dayak communities have better hopes of strengthening their economic position and enhancing their sustainable forest management. Sujin met with the different stakeholders, namely:

- Members of the community crafts enterprise Bina Usaha Rotan and the P3R office of the credit union. They identified challenges in rattan trade including increasing rattan prices, lack of rattan stocks, and difficulty of stripping & refining rattan strips due to lack of technology;
- Ibu Hangin Donggo, businesswoman, designer and owner of the CV Matan showroom. She has helped the Kedang Pahu craft weavers in product development (value addition with beads and more functional bags for the expat community) for marketing in trade fairs in Balikpapan and other cities;
- The Nurani Perempuan ("Inner Women"), a women's NGO which can potentially support the community crafts enterprises in developing NTFPs as alternative livelihood, including assistance in product development and marketing of beadworks and rattan crafts; and
- The Department of Industry and Cooperatives of Kutai Barat for possible future collaboration in enterprise organizational strengthening and developing markets.

In Eheng village, Sujin saw how the weavers make and sell "anjat" (traditional rattan backpacks). Ibu Patmawaty demonstrated rattan harvesting in her own rattan garden. Sujin also went to the P3R rattan warehouse and the rattan training center; both facilities lack funding, making their sustainability and maintenance difficult. The visit also showed her the field realities: the threats faced by the rattan farmers and weavers as she traversed the vast oil palm plantations and mining sites from Balikpapan enroute to Kedang Pahu. {Peachy Ongleo}

Editor's Notes

It is a time for recognition, for celebration. More importantly, it is a time for reflection, and looking towards taking on new and even bigger challenges. Definitely not a time to rest on our laurels!

Our cover story of Phong in Vietnam, highlights the wonders of medicinals in saving lives while ensuring the continuity of an ancient tradition. Phon's garden was recently wasted by flooding caused by unusually heavy rainfall. Phong is now faced with the challenge of rebuilding what nature has destroyed. NTFP-EP will be assist in any way possible to help in the rebuilding process.

On a more positive note, the past months have brought recognition to the network, bolstering spirits and further inspiring all. Keystone's outstanding work with indigenous honey collectors led their way to the finals in the prestigious World Challenge 2008 (p. 15). Likewise, NATRIPAL's own honey work was recognized in the academic realm. And last but not least, www.ntfp.org bagged a Philippine Website award (p. 7).

In Cambodia, Mondulkiri communities are reaping the benefits of sustainable wild honey collection in the continued collaboration between NTFP-EP and WWF. While last December, NTFPs were brought to national attention during a trade fair. In April, there are more opportunities for promoting NTFPs with it being NTFP Month in Cambodia!

In Kedang Pahu in Indonesia, rattan artisan Ibu Rujun shares her insights on a recent training aimed at further improving their rattan products while ensuring better saleability.

Some emerging and rather contentious issues are also pondered upon in this Voices. Climate change sets the backdrop for exploring possible incomes for forest communities from carbon trading (p.6). Gender, while a buzzword for some time now, continues to be misconceived by locals. Whether we like it or not, gender issues continue to influence any type of development work. - Aloisa Zamora-Santos

The NTFP-EP Secretariat: Jenne de Beer, Executive Director ▶ Maria Cristina S. Guerrero, Deputy Director ▶ Caroline Ongleo-Magbanua, Programme Manager ▶ Aloisa Zamora-Santos, Information Management Officer ▶ Vince Michael Docta, Resource Mobilisation Officer ▶ Sharon Padilla, Finance Officer ▶ Annielyn Paleracio, Administrative Officer ▶ Arnie C. Ocampo, Administrative Assistant **Field Staff:** Madhu Ramnath, Facilitator for India ▶ Joanna de Rozario, Facilitator for Malaysia ▶ Dominic Langat, Sarawak Community Development Organizer ▶ Panthom Priyandoko, Kalimantan Facilitator ▶ Margaretha Seting Beraan, Kalimantan Field Assistant ▶ Femy Pinto, Facilitator for Cambodia ▶ Sam Ly, Project Coordinator ▶ Uch Sophay, Marketing Officer ▶ Phan Channa, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

OOPS! Last issue's cover photo of the Palawan women with the tingkep was Norlita Colilli's photograph, not Jinky Alsa's. Our apologies for the error.

our readers...

Ibu Rujun, leader of the crafts group in Pepas Eheng, Kutai Barat, East Kalimantan finds out about Fair Trade in NTFP-EP's recently translated to Bahasa Indonesia Fair Trade Comics



PEACHY ONGLEO

exchange news

Around the region from Sept 2008 - Mar 2009

NIKO BORO



Prominently displayed signboards have proven to be effective deterrents to unlawful entry into community-managed forests in Malinau, Kalimantan

“Happy Pig” in Borneo

The Punan of Adiu (Malinau) have been busy rehabilitating depleted gaharu (eaglewood) stocks in their forest for quite some time now (see Voices 14). Soon the community reforestation initiative will be broadened and tackle hunger alleviation of the wild boar in the area. They go hungry, as earlier rampant logging targeted exactly the dipterocarp trees, the fruits of which constitute the preferred mast food of the pigs.

This ‘Babi Senang’ (Happy Pig) initiative aims at replanting illipe and other shoreas in designated areas in order to make the animals prosper, while simultaneously restoring a key component of the forest architecture. It cannot be excluded, of course, that when the pigs are plentiful and fat again, once in a while a few of them will end up in the cooking pot.

The initiative was presented at a large extension meeting organized by LP3M last November and hosted by the village of Setarap. The meeting was attended by representatives of several Dayak from NE Kalimantan as well as a delegation from Sarawak, Malaysia. All shared concerns with destructive developments – oil palm and acacia plantations, ongoing logging and open pit coal mining – as they are looking for ways to take matters in their own hands. In this respect, AMAN secretary Abdon reminded the audience to find strength in customary (adat) institutions and law.

Back to Happy Pig: the concept resonated well during the meeting, not in the least with the Penan participants from Sarawak. Forest rehabilitation there so far is focused on wild sago (*Eugeissona utilis*), the main staple food of the semi-nomadic Penan. Now Happy Pig, but also Happy Fish, Nice Rattan and so on, are also considered. {Jenne de Beer}

Participatory Resource Management MOA with Philippine Environment Department

Everybody is looking forward to the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between NTFP-EP and the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)! The MOA will kick off the pilot testing of Participatory Resource Monitoring (PRM) across the country.

Part of a three-year project entitled “Comparative Application of Existing and Alternative Resources Inventory and Monitoring Designs for a Simplified and Cost-Effective Approach in the Management of Non-Timber Forest Products,” PRM will be undertaken in Barangay Lindingan, Nagtipunan, Quirino; Barangays Maoyon, Babuyan, and San Rafael, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan; and Barangay Hagpa, Impasugong, Bukidnon.

Overall, the project aims to review the existing DENR NTFP inventory methodology and explore alternative inventory and monitoring approaches. These can then serve as effective tools in the sustainable management of NTFPs.

NTFP-EP will pilot test the PRM approach, a modification of existing methodologies, namely the Biodiversity Monitoring System and the Simplified NTFP Inventory System, as alternatives. This will be led by the Forestry Development Center of the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

Initial community and government consultations have been conducted since late 2008 and enormous support has been given to the project by concerned PO partners, local government units and the DENR at the local and national levels. Everyone is excited especially with how it could provide inputs to policy reform by project end. {Abi Aguilar}

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GUILLERMO RIVAS



Field practice with technicians of the National Forestry Commission CONAFOR in a Camedora palm agroforestry system, Veracruz, Mexico

Latin American NTFP Manual in the works

NTFP-EP Virtual Academy members Dr. Citlalli Lopez and Dr. Mary Stockdale along with other colleagues from Latin America, organized a series of NTFP Workshops/Writeshops in Mexico in December 2008. First in Xalapa giving an intensive course for forestry technicians of the National Forestry Commission, and the second one a closed-writing workshop in Oaxaca, Veracruz. The workshops continued previous discussions in early 2007 towards the adaptation of the manual for Latin America, with NTFP experiences and case material from Latin American countries, adapted illustrations and its translation into Spanish.

The manual entitled “Steps to Sustainable and Community-based NTFP Management: A Manual developed with special reference to South and Southeast Asia,” was based on the experiences with NTFPs in south and southeast Asia and authored by Stockdale. The much-awaited Latin American manual is foreseen to be completed within the year. A Bahasa Indonesia translation of the manual is also underway.

Engr. Homer Bueno, Executive Director of the Community Forestry Foundation of Quirino, Inc. (CFFQI) introduces the field testing project to the Bugkalot IP community in Brgy. Lindingan, Nagtipunan, Quirino during a consultation in February

ERWIN DILLOY



Big names lend their names in support of World Fair Trade Day

Annie Lennox, Paul McCartney, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, among others have made statements of support for the upcoming World Fair Trade Day on May 9. In the Philippines, activities will be held from May 8-10 at Eastwood Mall and will include a Fair Trade Fair. NTFP-EP is a board member of the Philippine Fair Trade Forum (PFTF) and is supporting the Fair Trade campaign. For more info, please visit: <http://www.worldfairtradeday09.org/>

DEEPAK PANI



Pioneers of forest conservation - Gorachand Mohanta and his team

Building strong community enterprises in Indonesia

As part of NTFP-EP's aim of strengthening community enterprises, Beng Camba of the NTFP Task Force and Crissy Guerrero conducted a series of trainings in Indonesia.

Last 26 February in Jakarta, Beng gave an overview of enterprise development to EP staff and Indonesian and Cambodian partners. Further discussions continued in the Impact Monitoring Training which tackled the economic, social and environmental aspects of community enterprises held from 27 February - 1 March.

Beng also headed the training on Production Planning and Quality Control Training held at the YDT training center in Toho, Pontianak last 3-4 March. This involved Indonesian Crafts Kalimantan partners (EP- East Kalimantan, YDT, RB) as well as community members from Kutai Barat, East Kal, Sanggau, West Kal and Kapuas Hulu, West Kalimantan. Partners expressed a better understanding of production capacity, quality and efficiency in community enterprise. {Crissy Guerrero}



A workshop group on production planning and quality control

Historic forest conservation movement needs to be replicated elsewhere

Deforestation in Orissa was so rampant in the 1960s that by the early 70s about half of the forests adjacent to nearby villages had vanished. This wreaked havoc both environmentally and socially. With this impetus, communities across the state took it upon themselves to participate in forest conservation efforts, giving rise to the innovative concept of "conservation of the natural forest." This is now popularly termed as Community Forest Management (CFM) with local communities demonstrating many successful models and Mayurbhanj district taking a pioneer role.

The success has been possible through the uncommon leadership over the last 20 years of the Budhikhamari JFPC, a federation of 95 Village Forest Protection Committees. A community-initiated and community-owned historical movement, it started in the remote villages of Hatikote, Ahari and Budhikhamari, and has since reached hundreds of villages. Today, 95 villages have remarkably joined hands to institute the federation that now guards and manages about 10,000 hectares of forest. Some remarkable aspects are:

- ▶ They have initiated a self-sustaining rotational mobile patrol team specifically to guard their forest.
- ▶ They have formulated their by-laws for forest management based on their own learning and experiences.
- ▶ Based on community estimates, each family earns about Rs. 17000 annually from the forest.

▶ As an expected effect of this unique conservation, new vegetation has grown up to flourishing forests rich with NTFPs. The ground water level has also risen. As per community opinion, rainfall has become normal and the sporadic presence of wild animals are also evidently marked giving rise to growth in biodiversity, soil fertility and the natural habitat. {Deepak Pani}

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NATRIPAL recognized for work with honey & IPs

NATRIPAL was recognized by the University of the Philippines Los Baños Bee Program for its commitment to bring "technologies for harvesting and processing of wild honey to indigenous people in Palawan and promoting production of organic honey." NATRIPAL's efforts have centered on building up NTFP-based enterprises for the past 13 years in numerous communities across Palawan.

Loreta Alsa of NATRIPAL received the award in awarding ceremonies last 27 February in UP Los Banos. The ceremonies coincided with the Bee Program's 20th Year Anniversary and the UPLB Centennial this 2009. The event was also a venue for the Beekeeper's Symposium, where plans for Bee Research and Technology Development for the next five years were drafted.

NATRIPAL is grateful for all the support of NGOs, businesses promoting wild honey products, and its community partners who have continually inspired NATRIPAL. Thank you also to Prof. Cleofas Cervancia and her staff of the Beekeeping Program for recognizing NATRIPAL's continued efforts to promote sustainable harvesting of wild honey in Palawan. {Loreta Alsa}

UPLB BEE PROGRAM



Loreta Alsa receiving the award from UPLB Chancellor Luis Rey I. Velasco

LP3M presents Happy Pig concept to university

In January, Professor M. A. Sardjono, director of the renowned Centre of Social Forestry at Muluwarman University, Samarinda, invited LP3M director Niko Boro to present the "happy pig concept of community reforestation" to a multi-stakeholder forum organized by the centre.

It was realized that LP3M's approach is highly relevant and not exactly 'run of the mill'. CSF, therefore, is planning to share the learning with other communities too. Several of the participants also expressed their willingness to assist with a lobby for the initiative, both at province and regency level. {Jenne de Beer}

REDD Hot Debates

By CRISSY GUERRERO, NTFP-EP

NTFP-EP has focused the last decade on promoting sustainable forest-based livelihoods and enterprises with local communities. Though successes in community-based NTFP enterprises are seen in different parts of Asia, the lure of revenues and promises of employment from large-scale industries, however, often make such initiatives less attractive to cash-strapped forest peoples.

Given this reality, the network is exploring other income streams for communities from sustainable ventures that would lessen impacts on forests. Thus, the network is exploring such approaches as payment for ecosystem services (PES) which would compensate communities actively conserving forests for the benefits that others derive from these ecosystems.

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Climate Change, Forest Carbon & the Kyoto Protocol

With the climate change phenomenon escalating and efforts to mitigate CO₂ emissions growing, more attention is being placed on the role of forests in providing the ecosystem service of carbon sequestration. The financial opportunities

of forests as carbon sinks grows as carbon markets are expanding and as there is a growing understanding and appreciation of the value of carbon sequestration from natural forests.

Under the Kyoto protocol, only carbon sequestration through afforestation and reforestation are recognized

methods for industrialized countries to gain credits from emission reductions. An emerging concept gaining ground, and with pilots in several developing countries^[1], is that of reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation or REDD. REDD is being proposed as a measure to provide positive incentives to developing countries to slow down their rates of deforestation and forest degradation to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. It has been estimated that approximately 20% of current greenhouse gases is due to land use change mostly deforestation in developing countries.^[2]

The author ponders how much carbon is stored in this century-old dao tree from Palawan



Industrial nations are seeing REDD as a potential opportunity to meet emission targets through financial payments to developing countries by conserving natural forests/standing forests. The interest to support REDD projects in developing countries would heighten if a positive decision is taken to recognize REDD methods in the post-Kyoto (2012) term. Such a decision for the recognition of REDD is expected in the next meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)^[3] in December 2009.

REDD Hot Debates

REDD brings with it a bundle of issues which are heavily being debated across the globe. Many organisations state that recognizing REDD towards emission targets would provide perverse incentives to industrialized nations to forego their targets to reduce emissions on home-ground. Environmental organisations insist as well that market-based mechanisms are unstable and could lead to the sale of cheap emission credits which would significantly undervalue forests in REDD programs.

Methodological concerns also dominate the REDD, including unresolved issues on estimation and monitoring of carbon stock as well as baseline reference levels of rates of deforestation.

The question of permanence of forests is also challenging in countries where forest governance is already very weak and where land tenure systems are still undefined, or skewed in favor of forest concession holders, plantation companies, rather than local community stewards.

The NTFP-EP REDD Project

NTFP-EP joins this discourse with the aim of further understanding the potentials and pitfalls of REDD for forest-based communities. Along with the environmental lawyers group Upholding Life And Nature and the local community forestry organisation Kalahan Educational Foundation, NTFP-EP are embarking on a project on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation, primarily for the Philippines but also involving other countries in Southeast Asia.

This 18-month project seeks to explore the hurdles to effective implementation of a pro-community REDD in the Philippine context and to consolidate recommendations for REDD policy definition within the UNFCCC framework. The project aims to identify geographic areas suitable for possible REDD application in the Philippines as well as build capacities of local forest peoples (especially indigenous peoples), and grassroots NGOs in carbon measurement and monitoring.

The REDD project is supported by the Natureandpoverty.net which is coordinated by IUCN-NL. The overall goal of Natureandpoverty.net is, through knowledge exchange and mutual learning, to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of project interventions and of participating organisations.

^[1] REDD pilots are being implemented in Aceh, Kalimantan and Papua in Indonesia.

^[2] Stern report in 2006 commissioned by the British government.

^[3] A policy directive was already agreed upon in the Bali conference of parties of the UNFCCC (2007) to consider policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to REDD, role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

www.ntfp.org bags Philippine Webby Award



A proud night at the Philippine Web Awards in RCBC Towers, Makati. Aloisa Zamora-Santos (3rd from right), Information Management Officer and Vince Docta (center), Resource Mobilization Officer receive the award with the i4Asia team, L-R: Andrew Bobiles, Anna Bernabe, Angela Pacho, Selwyn Uy and Genebee Gervacio.

NTFP-EP's website, www.ntfp.org, won in the Organizations Category (cause-oriented and non-profits) in the 11th Philippine Web Awards, which honors the individuals and teams behind the best Filipino-owned and developed websites. A huge thank you to the Philippine Web Awards!

Every year, hundreds of websites are nominated for all categories. This year, judges hailed from Yahoo, Multiply, Friendster and other well-known companies.

www.ntfp.org was nominated in October 2008, made it into the semi-finals with eight other entries, and finally was among the five finalists in December 2008. The big win culminated in award ceremonies held last 27 February (see more on www.philippinewebawards.com).

Our virtual home

Like everything we do in the network, the site is a collaboration.

We share the award with the entire network and the communities we work with. It is their voices we want heard and it is their stories that is the reason for the site's existence.

Congratulations to our web developers and web host, the i4Asia team, who has captured our vision and translated the technicalities of web development and design into our virtual home.

NTFP-EP has been working with i4Asia since 2005 when the website was first redesigned. In the next collaboration in 2006-2007, we worked together to develop various databases linked within the website. These include the NTFP profiles (accessible from the main webpage) and two databases for the exclusive use of the network, the experts database and the donor database.

The website has become crucial to NTFP-EP's information sharing and exchange strategy. It has opened up virtual exchanges throughout the region and broadened the reach of the network's publications. Moreover, the website is slowly becoming a virtual exchange platform and a community in itself.

Thank you to everyone for inspiring NTFP-EP's efforts. {Aloisa Zamora-Santos}

NTFP-EP is an excellent client to work with. We have worked with them from the very start. They are very articulate in what they want and they had vision and coordination which makes developing IT projects for them very pleasant. This award is as much our achievement as it is theirs. Their efforts in diligently providing updates and content has been a success factor.
- Selwyn Uy, i4Asia

Donor Roll



MISEREOR (or The German Catholic Bishops' Organisation for Development Cooperation) was founded in 1958 as an agency fighting hunger and disease in the world. In its capacity as the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Germany, it cooperates in a spirit of partnership with all people of goodwill to promote development, fight worldwide poverty, liberate people from injustice, exercise solidarity with the poor and the persecuted, and help create "One World."

MISEREOR is mandated to fight the causes of hardship and misery as manifested chiefly in countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America - in the forms of hunger, disease, poverty and other forms of human suffering - thus enabling the people affected to lead a life of human dignity.

Since 1959, it has succeeded in promoting over 80,000 development projects and assistance across Africa, Asia and Latin America where, majority goes to the poorest countries. The assistance that MISEREOR provides is designed to stimulate and support self-help and pave the way for sustainable improvement in the living conditions of the poor.

Development projects being supported by MISEREOR cover a wide variety of relevant sectors from basic education, primary health care, rural and urban development, human rights, and gender relations. Themes and issues being supported by MISEREOR that cut across sectors include: Participation, Climate change and Justice, Gender, HIV and AIDS, Food security and Agriculture, Microfinance, Appropriate technology, Vocational training, Energy for the poor, Resources and Energy, and Focus on Effects

Since 2005, MISEREOR has provided technical and financial support to the EP network and a number of its partners in undertaking initiatives to build sustainable livelihoods and empowering forest-dependent communities in South and Southeast Asia. {Vince Docta}

➔ www.misereor.org

now in Singapore!



CMCC products (red bag and "no plastic" bags at right) and NTFP-EP publications are now being sold at Nature's Niche Bookstore in Singapore. Above, Bee Choo of Nature's Niche. Check out their website <http://www.naturesniche.com/>

from the field

200 bird species, some migratory; aquatic fauna, and provides livelihood options for communities in the surrounding villages.

A colleague and I went to the wetland to take some pictures. We were warned off by uniformed security guards and, when we tried to explain our interest in birds, a goon out of a Bollywood movie, complete with a clipped beard, dark glasses and gold chain, came and warned us off. He said that even taking a picture of a bird within the land was forbidden. {Madhu Ramnath}

The Naupada swamps in Andhra Pradesh, a vast 20 km² wetland and declared an Important Bird Area, is where a thermal plant is proposed for construction. The East Energy Pvt Ltd is behind the project and has the backing of some members of the legislative assembly and politicians. The wetland hosts about

Mondulkiri honey going wild

By ASNARITH TEP, WWF Greater Mekong Cambodia Country Programme

Indigenous Phnong (also referred to as Bunong) communities in Krang Thes and Pou Chrey communes are operating a honey enterprise project, a non-timber forest product-based livelihood initiative which started in 2007 with support from WWF. The project currently covers 46 households, all honey collectors, and promotes sustainable harvesting practice that respects biodiversity and maintains the intimate relationship and harmony with the forests.

During their harvest period of March–May 2008, they achieved a honey collection of 1000 litres. Of this, 400 litres were packaged following hygienic practices, with support from Bethany Cares. In June 2008, the brand name ‘Mondulkiri Wild Honey’ kicked off its first promotions in ten shops and NGO-based selling outlets in both Mondulkiri province and Phnom Penh. Many

environmental and commercial events were opportunities to introduce this new product.

“At the Third Cambodian Nationwide Trade Fair held in December last year, the community sold around

US\$799 worth of

honey during the four-day event annually organised to promote Khmer products. This was good exposure for the community’s honey and a good opportunity to convey the message of linking forest conservation to the livelihoods of community,” said Amy Maling, Community Extension Technical Advisor with the WWF’s Eastern Plains Landscape Project (EPL).

Honey is one of the forest-based resources that has the potential to generate income among the Phnong indigenous communities in Mondulkiri. Properly handling and good honey harvesting practices does not only result in higher production, but maintains

the intimate relationship and harmony between people and the wilderness. Honey bees need the forest to survive and produce honey. Bees require large trees for nesting; they are important agents of pollination for many plants in the forests – bees fly from flower to flower and transfer pollen fertilizing flowers and producing seeds.

Besides improving honey productivity, the development of the honey enterprise also brings change to the local honey trade situation. Traditionally, fresh wild honey is sold only to Mondulkiri’s local buyers who offer a low and unstable price. In 2007, for example, honey was sold for 10,000 Riel (around US\$ 2.5) per litre. But with the increased market in the province and capital of Phnom Penh, the Phnong collectors sold an average of 18,000 Riel (around US\$ 4.5) per liter in 2008.

Pich Phony, a Phnong villager living in Pu Rapet village, Krong Teh commune, Pech Chrada district, has completed a series of trainings for proper honey collection techniques and reaped the good results that he witnessed himself throughout the past years.

“Rather than just collect one lot of honey from a nest, with the new technique I can collect up to three times more during a 25-day period. This is very important to me because it gives me more income to support my family,” he said. Before, he added, honey prices were unstable because prices were set solely by brokers. The selling price in the village was 10,000–12,000 Riel per liter, but if sold directly to tourists, the price could reach as high as between 18,000–20,000 Riel per liter.

According to Maling, the honey collectors are now collecting information about the number of honeybee nests, a crucial step for the management of this important NTFP resource. Trees where they collect honey are being tagged and mapping of the collection areas is being carried out.

“The honey collectors will maintain a database of these trees with the following information: name of tree, number of honeycombs in each tree, and amount of honey collected, the number of honeycomb harvested, and the number of times they harvested from the same honeycomb. This information will be used in monitoring population of honeybees and the volume of honey available,” she said.

To promote sustainable use of forest resources, the EPL’s community extension team conducts regular awareness raising of the importance of forests among 16 local villages and encourages them to protect these



Honeybee trees are being tagged for mapping the honey areas

8



TANIA WETHEKAM

A beehive in Mondulkiri Protected Forest

natural resources which can sustain their livelihood and for generations to come. The primary target groups are communities living in and around WWF's protected areas of Mondulkiri Protected Forest and Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary, both of which are being managed in cooperation with the Cambodian government's Forestry Administration and Ministry of Environment.

"Increased awareness of local people about the environment and their involvement in livelihood activities, conservation and natural resources management are a crucial contribution to preserving Cambodia's unique wilderness of dry forest Eastern Plains, which harbour a number of globally important wildlife such as Tiger, Banteng, Gaur, Asian Elephant, Eld's Deer, Wild Water Buffalo and many significant waterbirds and aquatic life," said Craig Bruce, EPL Manager.

The benefits of using sustainable techniques for collecting honey has been recognized among villagers; they wait for honey combs to mature before harvesting and only collect the part that contains honey leaving bees to produce more. Local people wisely ensure that trees are maintained as food for bees, are more careful with not causing any fire while in the forests, and take part in reducing hunting pressures on wild animals.

For the community people, the joy of receiving concrete benefits from the honey project in which they are directly involved increases their ownership of the unique and globally irreplaceable natural resources in the Cambodia's dry forest Eastern Plains Landscape.

"While it is a livelihood success at this stage, there is much to do to maintain the level of commitment of the community people. The honey project being promoted among villagers of Pu Chrey and Krang Thes represents a social enterprise model that entrusts the community members with ownership opportunity, and I am very happy that the communities are so keen to take over this initiative and will depend less upon NGO assistance," Bruce said.

The Eastern Plains Project provides the communities with capacity building for techniques and knowledge related to planning and marketing. For instance, they are trained for key aspects when dealing with selling outlets in Mondulkiri and properly managing the honey product. WWF and its NGO partner, NTFP-EP, will continue supporting the deals with outlets in Phnom Penh.

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His Excellency Cham Prasidh, Cambodian Minister of Commerce (left) and his Excellency Khieu Kanharith, Minister of Information (right), visit the community NTFPs exhibit

foods, as its first product to enter the market. From Kamptot province, Prek Thnot community display bookshelves and chairs made from rattan harvested in community-managed rattan collection areas.

Since the community-owned production of honey and rattan handicrafts became operational last year, their work motivated by the commitment to sustainably use natural resources they depend on, is yet to reach awareness and recognition nationwide. This year's Cambodian products exhibition provides an opportunity to promote indigenous and forest-based community products – as also truly Cambodian made.

"What they bring to the trade fair are the achievements of their self-managed enterprises. Therefore we are very excited to help them gather greater public attention on the products as part of such an important event," said Amy Maling, WWF's Community Extension Technical Advisor.

"I hope this helps grow bigger market for Mondulkiri Wild honey," she continued.

"This represents an excellent opportunity not only for the Prek Thnot community to present their rattan handicrafts, but also for Cambodia to promote its rattan industry sector that is growing so fast and has great potential to enter regional and international market if Cambodia's rattan resources are sustainably managed," said Ou Ratanak, WWF's Rattan Project Manager.

In partnership with communities, government and the NTFP Working Group, WWF is implementing forest-based livelihood projects in the Mondulkiri's Eastern Plains Landscape and Kamptot province with the goals to maintain the forests ecosystem and reinforce the sustainable use of natural resources for Cambodia's next generations.

"The Cambodia NTFP Working Group and communities' participation in the trade fair promotes conservation and enterprise with a community perspective. Our efforts go importantly with a good working relationship among the supporting organizations with the communities and our government partners," said Femy Pinto, NTFP-EP Cambodia Facilitator and acting coordinator of the Working Group.

Communities take NTFPs to trade fair & draw nationwide attention

From 15-18 of December last year, forest based communities and their supporters participated in the annual 'One Village One Product' exhibition organized by the Ministry of Commerce in Phnom Penh's Mondial Trade Centre in Cambodia.

The Cambodia NTFP Working Group, an informal network of NTFP livelihood supporters, including WWF, NTFP Exchange Programme, CFI and CaNDO are joining the fair with communities from Mondulkiri, Kamptot, Ratanakiri and other provinces to promote sustainably harvested and community processed NTFPs. This includes forest products such as wild honey, resins and rattan.

From Mondulkiri province, Prey Rodang and Krung Ratuon community based enterprises of Bunong indigenous communities are proud to promote Mondulkiri Wild Honey, a community-owned brand for Mondulkiri forest

This is my first time to join a big event like this. There are so many people. At first we only sold a few (bottles). People asked me a lot about the quality of our honey, about the association and who helped us. As people learned more about our project they buy our honey.

I am very happy and proud to sell our product because I know the quality is good. I am also happy to have the opportunity to talk about our association. This helped me improve my skills especially in marketing. Now I feel more confident. I'd be happy to join again next year.

- Chanty, honey group member

Learning Process of Kedang Pahu Crafts Program



Sebuah Process Belajar; Program Kerajinan Kedang Pahu

RUPINA RUJUN atas wawancara informal dengan MARGARETHA SETING-BERAAN, Kedang Pahu Field Assistant, NTFP-EP

Rupina Rujun shares the many things the Kedang Pahu rattan artisans learned during an enterprise training in October 2008. Key learnings were in the fields of production, finance, organization and marketing. The training was facilitated by NTFP-EP Deputy Director Crissy Guerrero.

Pada tanggal 18-19 October 2008 kami kedatangan tamu istimewa dari philipina, yaitu Deputy Director NTFP-EP, orangnya sederhana tetapi menginspirasi kami dan menyemangati kami untuk terus berjuang dalam wadah bersama kami yaitu kelompok pengrajin rotan kedang pahu. Orang tersebut adalah Crissy Guerrero dan Manager Programnya Peachy Magbanua. Kedua orang ini dengan penuh semangat membimbing kami dan menyemarakkan suasana dengan permainan dan pengalaman baru mengenai bagaimana meningkatkan usaha kerajinan rotan yang selama ini telah kami geluti secara tradisional. Ibu Crissy mengajari kami bahwa usaha yang tradisional ini dapat kami kembangkan agar lebih mensejahterakan kami. Adapun pelajaran baru yang kami terima adalah mengenai alat-alat bantu sederhana yang dapat kami pelajari untuk mengelola usaha kerajinan kami termasuk didalamnya mengenai

“Fair Trade,” ini adalah ilmu yang benar-benar baru bagi kami. Selama ini kami hanya menganggap telah berhasil menjual produk kami berupa anjat, berangka, dan gawakng lengkakng dengan harga setinggi-tinggi mungkin sudah cukup bagi kami tetapi ternyata memberi label harga pada produk kami juga ada hitung-hitungannya termasuk didalamnya; juga harus mempertimbangkan kemampuan, kepentingan dan kebutuhan pembeli dan mitra usaha kami.

Selama ini kami meraba-raba bagaimana caranya meningkatkan usaha kami menjadi usaha terus menerus yang dapat mensejahterakan keluarga kami. Kami menjual pada turis-turis asing yang tidak selalu sering datang kekampung ataupun menerima pesanan dari pengumpul yang meminta produk kami dengan harga yang sangat rendah sekali... tidak terpikirkan kalau kami bisa bernegosiasi soal harga ini dan membuat perhitungan harga yang adil dan menguntungkan bagi semua pihak, terutama bagi kami pengrajin anyaman rotan ini.

Pada Learning Process yang dipandu oleh ibu Crissy kami mempelajari mengenai Produksi, Keuangan, Organisasi dan

TOP:
Para pengrajin rotan Desa Jenjang Danum sedang mempersiapkan bahan kerajinan

Pemasaran. Pelajaran ini membuat kami memahami bahwa dalam bidang “Produksi” kerajinan kami harus mempertimbangkan hal-hal seperti mengorganisir produksi dari pengrajin agar ada cadangan jika terjadi kegagalan memenuhi pesanan dari satu atau dua sumber yang ada, kami juga mempelajari mengenai tahap-tahap produksi dan mempelajari bagian mana yang memerlukan penanganan serius agar bisa cepat memenuhi pesanan dan mengefisienkan usaha kami agar kami bisa memperoleh keuntungan, dalam hal produksi ini kami juga mempelajari mengenai pengelolaan pengambilan bahan baku yang lestari, penggunaan bahan-bahan alami dalam produksi dan memperhatikan kualitas produk.

Dalam bidang keuangan kami belajar mengenai administrasi keuangan sederhana yang bisa membantu kami kelak dalam menghitung untung rugi dan agar adanya keterbukaan soal keuangan sehingga kecurangan ataupun kecurigaan anggota dapat di minimalisir. Alat-alat administrasi keuangan sederhana ini antara lain:

- ▶ Formulir Pemesaan
- ▶ Formulir pesanan kepada pengrajin
- ▶ Catatan Penerimaan dari Pengrajinan
- ▶ Nota pengiriman barang kepada pemesan
- ▶ Nota/Receipt
- ▶ Buku Kas

Dalam Hal Keuangan ini kami juga belajar menetapkan harga yang adil dengan pertama-tama menetapkan biaya tetap dan biaya variabel, serta menetapkan tingkat keuntungan yang ingin kami capai tanpa mengorbankan konsumen dan mitra kami.

Dalam Bidang Organisasi Kami belajar bagaimana agar organisasi pengrajin yang kami bentuk tidak rentan terhadap kegagalan, karena sebuah usaha tidak hanya tergantung pada satu orang saja. Kami mempelajari mengenai struktur organisasi yang benar, apa nama jabatan, fungsi-fungsi dan tugas orang yang menduduki jabatan-jabatan didalam struktur, kami juga membagi tugas orang-orang sesuai dengan tahapan produksi seperti contohnya ada orang yang bertanggungjawab terhadap pengadaan bahan baku, kontrol kualitas, bidang produksi dan bidang pemasaran. Kami juga menjadi paham mengenai bagaimana Menentukan Visi, Misi dan Tujuan Organisasi.

Hal terpenting didalam organisasi ini yaitu kami mempelajari mengenai hal-hal yang dapat menentukan sebuah usaha bersama bisa berhasil, diantaranya: menentukan target yang realistis dan berusaha mencapainya, Berpikir strategis untuk memaksimalkan peluang dan meminimalisir resiko, selalu menyiapkan pemimpin/penganyam pengganti/cadangan, selalu ada pertemuan anggota yang teratur untuk menentukan



TOP to BOTTOM:
Pertemuan bulanan pengrajin di Pepas Eheng mendiskusikan mengenai rencana kerja diantaranya rencana produksi dan perbaikan kualitas produk;
Ibu Dewi sedang membersihkan rotan; Ibu Loren dengan bangga memperlihatkan toko kerajinan anjatnya... dijual bersama sayuran! Sekali mampir, semua kebutuhan terpenuhi!



strategi, memproduksi barang sesuai pesanan konsument, saling percaya soal keuangan dan ada keterbukaan antar anggota kelompok, saling kerjasama antar anggota.

Setelah bisa menguasai semua bidang-bidang diatas maka pada bidang pemasaran, usaha kami akan mudah memenuhi pesanan yang lebih besar dari pembeli atau siapapun.

Pada intinya pertemuan kami pada October yang lalu sangat berkesan bagi kami para pengrajin, semua orang ingin mengikuti pelatihan sehingga tak kurang ada 32 orang pengrajin yang hadir dalam pertemuan ini. Semua mengikuti pelatihan dengan gembira dan pulang dengan kenangan indah mengenai kegiatan ini... Didalam hati kami semua berangan-angan... kapan lagi ada pelatihan semacam ini dengan ilmu-ilmu yang baru dan lebih menantang kami mengasah kemampuan wirausaha kami dan yang pastinya dapat meningkatkan kesejahteraan kami pengrajin rotan dari kedang pahu ini... Salam.

are you an NTFP gamer?

Remember the announcement in the last issue about our new game "Lost & Found in the the Rainforest"? Since then, the game has made its rounds in the network, making many NGOs and communities we work with "NTFP gamers" ... whoever thought that work could be so fun?

Inspiration for the game came from the traditional board game called Goose, which has some similarity to the childhood favorite Snakes and Ladders. The game of Goose is simple - it is a race of geese (the game pieces) to the center of the board which is "goose heaven". You throw the dice and encounter various obstacles (or goodies) along the way. The first one in the middle is the winner.

We gave the game a twist, NTFP-EP style. Instead of "goose heaven," it is our vision of a sustainable community-managed forest. The successes and obstacles are true-to-life. So you may encounter a run-in with a wild boar, tribal conflict or more seriously, have to face a mining concession threatening to bulldoze your forest. On the more positive side, you may finally acquire some much needed technology for your honey processing or push your products into a good marketing outlet.

The final product is a sturdy tarpaulin gameboard - all the better to bring to communities and set them on the floor (or anywhere else), unique game pieces, a game guide, all in a bamboo case.

We're very pleased that the game has been received very positively, triggering discussions on issues related to forest management including conversion to oil palm, encroachment of mining concessions in forestland, and many others. There are plans already for a Khmer adaptation and translation for Cambodian partners. NTFP-EP has a limited number of the bamboo case edition of the game for sale, in the hopes that funds generated would support further distribution and translation.

Please note that our board game was tested by two experts in Samarinda, my town!...They asked me to improve the game by replacing some parts with "anything what they want"... (in last testing, they replaced it with Fred Flintstone and Little tiger!)
- Panthom Priyando, EP's Kalimantan facilitator

(I) took it to play in Mexico - it was big hit!!
- Mary Stockdale

In Indonesia, during the Bees and Conservation workshop ▶ Bahasa Indonesia version, please! ▶ Fun! This game must play during many kind of workshop, especially on environment and natural resources issues. ▶ For all ages! ▶ More copies, please! ▶ Government officials should be play this game so that they can know what happens if they in our position (comment from a community member).



JOANVA DE ROZARIO



ARNIE OCAMPO

The game being pre-tested among colleagues in the Philippines, met with howls of laughter and setting off competitive streaks

Thank you to the very "game" collaborators for making the game possible:

▶ Zul M.S. of Riak Bumi in Pontianak, Indonesia for his fantastic illustrations, which were finalized virtually with the secretariat

▶ The communities of Lake Sebu and Palawan, Philippines for the playing pieces - featuring T'boli beading made into various animals, a mini shoe made from T'boli tinalak, and the tiny slipper and jug made from bamboo. {Aloisa Zamora-Santos}

For inquiries, please email us at publications@ntfp.org



ANNIE PALERAGIO

Things seem to be going well at this session played among Philippine partners during its annual crafts conference.

It's good to discuss issues, like oil palm! ▶ There are so many problems to be overcome before any success! ▶ The game will be good for introducing concepts to the youth.



Western Ghats: A Hotspot for NTFPs

By PANDURANG HEGDE, APPIKO/Prakruti

There are few regions in the world which are as unique as Western Ghats, locally known as Sahyadri, the mountain with resilience. The tropical forests in south India are mainly found in the mountain ranges of Western Ghats that run parallel to the west coast, with a distance of 1400 kms. The diversity of flora and fauna has attracted the attention of world scientists, as it is one of the 18 biodiversity hotspots.

The history of NTFP collection dates back to two thousand years, when the abundance of pepper in the forests attracted the Arab traders to this mountain range. Pepper (*Piper nigrum*) was collected from the wild and shipped from the west coast to Europe by Arab traders. Thus this region in Sharavati valley was known as "Pepper Queen."

The region is also famous for numerous endemic species which are high-end NTFPs. Some of them are Uppage (*Garcinia gummigatta*), Kokum (*Garcinia indica*), Dhoop (*Canarium strictum*), Ram Patre (*Myristica malbarica*) and Halmaddi (*Ailanthus triphysa*). These products are collected by the indigenous communities who live in midst of the forests and are part of the Ayurveda, traditional Indian medicine. These NTFPs end up in the market of US and Europe as medicines. There is increased demand from the urban elites of both developed as well

as developing countries for the products from the forests of Western Ghats, increasing the pressure leading to depletion of the resources.

It is not only the unique ecosystem of Western Ghats, but the diversity of cultural groups like, Siddis (Negroid tribes), Jenu Kurubas (honey hunting tribes) and Soligas who inhabit the forest regions and earn their livelihood mainly through collection of NTFPs. Some of these groups have very special technical skills in sustainable harvesting practices like the collection of wild honey from *Apis dorsata* as well as collection of gums and resins.

The EP India has been working in this region for several years and has reached out to thousands of honey hunters in sustainable collection and marketing of honey. EP partners are also involved in building the capacities of indigenous communities in assessing the availability of NTFPs and sustainable harvesting of the produce. Similarly, there are attempts to influence the NTFP policies at regional level, working with government forest departments.

In recent years, the natural forests in Western Ghat region are under threat from huge infrastructural projects like hydro dams, thermal power plants, river linking and mono culture plantations. The "Pepper Queen" has been converted into "Timber Queen". The livelihood security of the indigenous groups in this region is threatened by developmental projects.

To address these issues an important meeting of activists, policy makers, and civil society organisations, media persons, lawyers and research organizations was held in Goa, in midst of Western Ghats from last 8-10 February. About 150 people participated in this consultation in which partners of EP India played a major role. Keystone Foundation and Appiko/Prakruti were the main organizers of this event. The consultation suggested measures to address the major problems and helped to evolve the strategies for future actions.

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www.savewesternghats.net

Paradise Lost ... almost



1955

Falls



1980

Fell



2006

Fallen ...

Jog Falls in Uttara Kannada, Karnataka, India

It shouldn't be a battle

By MIKS GUIA-PADILLA, Anthrowatch

It is March, and it is Women's Month. I'm reminded of a memorable trip I took 20 years ago at around this time of the year, when I was hiking up in the beautiful mountains of Surigao del Sur in the southern Philippines to a community of the Manobo, an indigenous group. For a city person like me, the walk to the village of some 60 households took 8 hours, as we clambered over slippery river rocks and trudged through the muddy mountain trails. I was working for a donor agency at the time, and I was on my way

to the village for a project monitoring visit, one of my regular tasks. For travel like this, it meant being away for a week or more from my home in Manila some 450 kilometers north of these mountains, where my two young children waited. On this trip, as in many other similar trips, the village women, and sometimes men, would ask

me: "You mean you leave your young kids behind? Who will take care of them? How can you bear being parted from them?"

It was difficult to explain to them that I worked not only because I needed a salary but also because it afforded me a sense of fulfillment, that I enjoyed traveling for its own sake, that such fulfillment and enjoyment in no way detracted from my love for my family, and that I didn't think I should feel guilty.

I had the opportunity to go back to this community ten years later. This time, my purpose was to find out how development projects had carried out a gender mainstreaming objective and what were the effects on the community. And so there it was: the G word. At that time, only a few years had passed since the Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing,

where a Declaration and Platform for Action had been forged to pursue gender equality and women's rights. "Gender" was then the buzzword of the development world.

Resistance to the word "gender" was marked. Why? Here are some of the reasons the Manobo gave: Taking on gender-related projects was blamed for taking away precious resources from the more urgent and vital problems like hunger and armed conflicts. Accepting gender as a development concern signified acceptance of a value of foreign origin, indicating a grave disrespect for the integrity of indigenous cultures. Undertaking gender work sowed division in the community because it was seen to encourage women to defy their husband, father or brother, especially traumatic for indigenous communities where consensus-building was highly valued.

And most community members had certain ideas about what a gender advocate was like, and to them I didn't seem like one because, as they said: "You're still married." "You don't look like a tomboy." "You don't sound bitter and angry." "You're not pushy." "You like flowery hairclips."

So much so that when in rural communities I had visited, "gender" was frequently mispronounced as "denjer" almost sounding like "danger." Sadly, it seemed rather fitting. They felt that becoming gender-responsive was not worth the trouble it caused.

After all, indigenous peoples communities are said to be generally more egalitarian than mainstream societies. But ask the men to trace the participation of women and men in food preparation – from growing the food in the swidden farms to tidying up after the evening meal – they would start out with proudly relating how women were their partners throughout the planting to the harvesting seasons. As the tasks drew nearer to home, they would reluctantly start to realize that as the tasks shifted from productive (producing the food and other basic needs) to reproductive (preparing and serving the food and other basic needs), the men took on less tasks and the responsibilities rested more on the women. Further probe them as to who attended and spoke up in community assemblies, they would acknowledge that one could hear mainly men's voices while women stayed in the fringes of the crowd carrying young children or were busy in the cooking area.

And then there was the matter of how the organisations providing support services to indigenous groups like the Manobo brought to the communities their own views on gender. Women said that they would have liked to hone their agricultural skills but that only the men were invited to the appropriate rural technology trainings. And among the men were skilled

Gender isn't and shouldn't be about the battle of the sexes. Becoming "equal" does not mean becoming "the same..."



Miks during a training session, stressing that gender issues permeate all aspects of development projects.

healers including traditional birth attendants, but only women were asked to go to the health workshops. When women were offered participation in socio-economic projects, which they greatly appreciated, their productive roles took on more of their time, though there was no corresponding lessening of time for the reproductive tasks. And yet men could not be seen taking on more reproductive roles.

But why care about all these? For me, the answers lie in talking with the village women. In public they would staunchly declare that they felt that they were equals, that they trusted the men to make the right decisions for the household in public assemblies, that they were content with their roles and their life. But in more intimate conversations, they would share their aspirations about being able to explore the world beyond their mountains and their forests, about wanting to complete formal education and acquiring a job if only they were not yet tied to the care of the children and the home, about their own ideas for a better community which were never taken into consideration because these differed from the ideas of their men.

Even the men of indigenous communities had less opportunities – when compared with mainstream societies – to explore the world, to go school, to get a regular job, to have a voice in public, and the like. But it was very evident that the indigenous women had much, much less opportunities. If we say that we are engaging in development work to help bring about a better society, then the opportunities should be made available for both the women and the men – it should be a better society for both the men and the women.

Many months and many treks later to other rural communities, I was to realize that the situation in this Manobo community in relation to gender was not unique.

Gender isn't and shouldn't be about the battle of the sexes. Becoming "equal" does not mean becoming "the same," a frequently pointed out fear. Being gender-responsive should be about helping both women and men to shape their personhood and to develop their full human potential, without being constrained by societal expectations of what a man or a woman should be and can only be.

But I hope for another chance to go back to this particular community. I hope that when I do, I will find that the women's secret dreams are no longer secret. More than that, I hope that these dreams are on their way to being realized. For if we want to hear the voices from the forests, the united chorus of both women and men will certainly be heard more than the lonelier sound of only half the community, if only the men or only the women were allowed to have a voice.

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Keystone makes finals of prestigious World Challenge 2008

With great pride, we congratulate NTFP-EP partner Keystone Foundation, a finalist in the recently concluded World Challenge 2008, a global competition aimed at finding projects or small businesses from around the world that have shown enterprise and innovation at a grassroots level.

Highlighted was Keystone's work in wild honey, particularly its efforts in keeping this ancient and sustainable tradition alive by creating markets for wild honey. A short film entitled "Cliffhangers" was broadcast worldwide on BBC last October 2008. A portion of the film can be viewed at:

<http://www.theworldchallenge.co.uk/2008-finalists-project01.php>

From the World Challenge site:

"For generations the Adivasi people of Southern India have specialised in collecting honey from wild bee colonies on cliffs. The hunters are lowered by ropes towards the colonies, where they waft smoke to calm the bees before breaking off a chunk of comb. Even in times of hunger, the hunters are always careful to leave enough of the nest for the bees to recover. "They have been able to come up with systems that respect the bees and the environment," explains Keystone's Matthew John. "There are certain areas where they do not touch the combs at all, because they feel they are holy cliffs. But for us they are gene pools that they are preserving."



Keystone's work featured in Newsweek



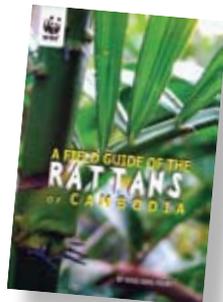
Congratulations to Ms. Dioning Banua for the successful completion of her MS in Environmental Management under the International Fellowships Program of the Ford Foundation! Dioning is NTFP-EP Board Member and past NATRIPAL Executive Director.

my goodness!

Fight fat and global warming: Walk! Obesity and global warming may seem not have much in common. But health experts suggest people can attack both by cutting calories and carbon dioxide at the same time. How? By walking or biking at least half an hour a day instead of driving; and eating less red meat. In the US, this translates to a reduction its annual US emissions of carbon dioxide by 64 million tons, and saving 6.5 billion gallons of gasoline. Americans would also shed more than 3 billion pounds overall.

[Source, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 13 November 2008]

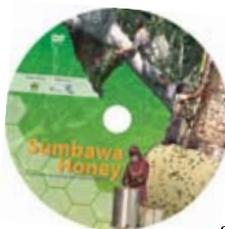
recommended books and films



A Field Guide of the Rattans of Cambodia. Many know what rattans look like as finished products (such as chairs and tables) but very few know what they look like in the forest. This publication fills that gap by showing the diversity of rattan species in Cambodia, and assisting in their identification.

This easy-to-use field guide is divided into three sections: (1) general rattan information, (2) overall rattan characteristics, and (3) detailed accounts for 18 species of the currently known 20 species in Cambodia.

By Khou Eang Hout. 2008. 64 pages, paperback, with full color photos. For your copy or more information, contact the publisher: WWF Greater Mekong Cambodia Country Programme, No. 54, Street 352, Boeung Keng Kang 1, Cambodia. Tel: (855) 23-218-034, Fax: (855) 23-211-909, Email: wwfcambodia@wwfgreatermekong.org



Sumbawa Honey: sustainable Harvesting and Hygienic Filtering. The majority of Sumbawa forest dwelling peoples are dependent on forest honey for their

livelihoods. From tall trees on slopes or in the forest valley, these people climb and risk their lives to harvest honey.

Communities hand-in-hand with the Sumbawa Forest Honey Network (Jaringan Madu Hutan Sumbawa-JMHS), with assistance from the Indonesian Forest Honey Network (Jaringan Madu Hutan Indonesia-JMHI), have changed their methods of honey processing from a squeezing method to a filtering method to maintain the quality of the honey. On the harvesting side, they are practicing sustainable harvesting methods.

Since then, buyers now recognize JMHS as a trusted source of high quality forest honey. At the regency level, the Regent proudly supports this effort to make forest honey as the icon for Sumbawa and Honey Day initiatives.

The film was first shown during the Bees and Conservation seminar in Jakarta last year.

See more at JMHI (www.ntfp.or.id), JMHS (www.kesuaning.blogspot.com), and Gekko Studio (www.gekkovoices.com)

Available in English and Bahasa Indonesia. For further information on this film, please email Gekko Studio at info@gekkovoices.com

CUT!

► We've translated **Voices from the Forest SEA** and **Voices from the Forest India** into Bahasa Indonesia. For inquiries, please email: publications@ntfp.org (in the Philippines) or panthom.priyandoko@gmail.com (in Indonesia).

► From Gekko Studios, a new film **Hutan Lestari, Rakyat Menari** (Dancing Along in a Healthy Forest) will be launched in April 2009. The film is a follow up to the earlier **Eaglewood** film, and was shot during and after the Happy Pig Meeting in Malinau (see p. 3).



TARUN CHHABRA

Trichoglottis tenera - a striking Nilgiri orchid

"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one most adaptable to change."

Beyond Subsistence: Trade Chain Analysis of Resin Products in Cambodia.

Tree resins are important products in the rural economy and many indigenous collectors in the region.

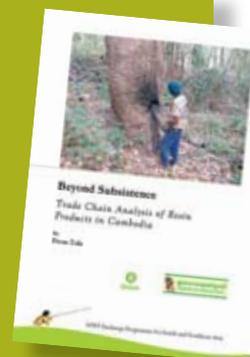
In Cambodia, over 17,000 households depend on resin tapping as a primary source of cash income, averaging US\$350 per household/year.

Some 3,500 tonnes of the total annual harvest is used domestically where it provides key inputs to the vital and crisis-resistant fishing industry. Meanwhile, some 11,000 tonnes of unprocessed resin per year is exported to Vietnam with an estimated value of US\$4.7-7.6 million.

The fishing industry relies heavily on resins. About 350,000 wooden fishing boats ply the inland waters of Cambodia. Tree resins are used in the regular caulking of these boats. Fishing crews are increasingly using resin torches for lighting at night, as a substitute for kerosene lamps or battery-fueled torches. Lower grade resins, which otherwise be considered waste material, are used for lighting.

This study is part of the CORDAID-funded project "Promotion of Sustainable Harvested Tree Resins as Raw Material for Ecological Paints and Varnishes" which promotes sustainably harvested tree resins as a raw material for ecological end products.

By Prom Tola. Published by the NTFP-EP. 2009. For queries, please email Femy Pinto, NTFP-EP Cambodia facilitator at femypinto@online.com.kh



colophon

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The NTFP-EP is a collaborative network of over 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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