

Non-Timber Forest Products  Exchange Programme for South and Southeast Asia

2010 ANNUAL REPORT



Snehlata Nath

President of the
Board of Trustees

Namaskar!

2010 has been a year of changes for NTFP – EP. A year also packed with activities, events and projects across the region. Often the work was so engrossing that changes were hard to register and respond to. Our large team has gone through several moments of elation and also been in low spirits given the different circumstances we faced. However, with 2010 behind us, we are looking ahead as a more mature, experienced team – having learnt from our mistakes and the ability to accept transition openly.

I would like to welcome our new Executive Director, Crissy, as the leader to steer NTFP-EP in its next phase of important work. She with her enthusiasm and capability will take forward this network in the coming years and guide her team successfully. Over 2010, we have seen the growth in the individual countries also, calling for registering NTFP-EP offices locally and enabling autonomy. This is necessary for strong networking and exchanges, while it leads to stronger national and regional advocacy.

Today, more than ever before, the message of NTFP-EP is important in the world. All across the region large scale threats to forests like mining, dams and commercial bio-fuel plantations exist and stand in the way to more sustainable alternatives like NTFP development. It is the goal of NTFP –EP to protect the rights of indigenous people over these forests and help develop a stronger linkage to conservation, livelihood and well being. This will have strong reflections on issues concerning climate change, community forestry and the role of indigenous people as guardians of the forest.

We at NTFP-EP, would like to thank all the friends, supporters, donors and collaborators who have stood by us during 2010. I end by thanking Jenne de Beer, who resigned as Executive Director of the network this year and who will remain an inspiration for us. His vision for the communities and a sensitive understanding of the intricate linkage between indigenous people and forests has been our driving force. The NTFP-EP team wishes him all the best for the future and hopes that he continues his work with indigenous communities.

Wishing all an inspiring and peaceful 2011


Snehlata Nath

Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme for South and Southeast Asia

WHO WE ARE

About a hundred million people living in and around forests in South and Southeast Asia depend on **non-timber forest products (NTFPs)** for their subsistence and cash income, while everyone else, including those in urban communities and big cities, rely on and use NTFPs and NTFP-derived products such as furniture, honey, varnish, beeswax candles, herbal medicine and many others are necessities in urban communities too. A handful of organizations saw this link between sustainable use of forest resources and economic development for indigenous peoples. However, communities often had no access to strategic information, practical technology, and financial support to make viable enterprises. The **Non-Timber Forest Products - Exchange Programme for South and Southeast Asia (NTFP-EP)** sprung from a need for these organizations working with forest communities to come together to push for and promote the NTFP concept for forest conservation and livelihood enhancement.

The NTFP-EP is a collaborative network of over **60 non-governmental organisations (NGOs)** and **community-based organisations (CBOs)** working with forest-based communities to strengthen their capacity in the sustainable management of natural resources in the Philippines, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Cambodia, with initial contacts made in Bangladesh.

WHAT WE DO

NTFP-EP aims to strengthen the capacity of forest-based communities and their support organizations through information exchange of appropriate resource management techniques and experiences, technical support and training, inputs in strategy discussions, documentation of best practices and success stories, mobilization of resources and contacts, advocacy support for local initiatives, and lobby for enabling policies.

Specifically, we work towards: **Forest Conservation** through forest management and sustainable harvesting of NTFPs, as we have a deep understanding that the forest is intrinsic to the culture and livelihood of indigenous peoples, and that a truly sustainable management scheme is community based; **Tenurial Security** and the recognition and enforcement of user rights through legal measures and policy advocacy; **Food & Health Security** through the enhancement of subsistence uses of NTFPs, and promotion of IP culture and traditional ecological knowledge; **Increased Income** from value addition and marketing of NTFPs, using the low volume, high value approach; and **Community Empowerment** through constituency building, ensuring enabling environments in which various sectors are in support of indigenous land rights and their NTFP enterprises.



2010 IN REVIEW

**Empowering
forest based
communities
to use and manage
forest resources
sustainably**

As of 2010, the NTFP-EP network has assisted civil society partners and communities in the active conservation of over 626,411 hectares of forest. In the last 3 years, a total of 551 villages covering 143 enterprises catering to 5,234 people have been supported by NTFP-EP and its partners.

Conservation efforts include **replanting of economically important forest species** in Indonesia, Malaysia, and India; **establishment of harvesting protocols and standards** by communities in Cambodia and the Philippines; and the beginnings of **co-management and benefit sharing schemes in park management** for the Raglai in Vietnam.

Proactive lobbying led to the acceptance of the Philippine government of the community and conservation-sensitive **National REDD+ Strategy** and approval of REDD+ readiness pilot projects in Palawan; and active **participation of the youth** in leadership and conservation issues in Sarawak.

Across the region, there were several breakthroughs in marketing, including the sensational launching of the high end brand **Borneo Chic**, which proved that good quality indigenous crafts are saleable if properly marketed; the success of the **NatureWild** venture in Cambodia and the new honey brand **Khmun Prey** owned by the honey federation; and the creation of a marketing arm of a Philippine indigenous peoples federation, the **Operasyon Negosyo Natripal** in the Philippines, which accessed greater working capital and was able to increase sales considerably to 11 tons in one year. Other noteworthy accomplishments include new NTFP value-added products in India and Cambodia; the establishment of the honey enterprise with a new community, the Agta, in Quezon, Philippines.

The highlights of accomplishments for 2010 there was a marked increase in visibility, networking and capacity building of the **Cambodia NTFP Working Group (CNWG)**, which is now headed by

a local facilitator. In India, the **establishment of hubs/desks** within EP partners focusing on specific NTFPs and on different themes such as enterprise, conservation and policy has enabled the network members to specialize and build its capacity for sharing technologies to other partners.

Through the **ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN)**, NTFP-EP was able to expand its reach with networks, finding another channel for championing community forestry. Initially invited as a discussant in a conference, NTFP was later tasked to enhance the civil society engagement of the ASFN, particularly with vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, to enhance social forestry policy and practice under the food security and climate change theme. This role has enabled NTFP-EP to raise the profile not just of the organization but also of its advocacy.

Another means of promoting community forestry is through support of **Indigenous Community and Conserved Areas (ICCAs)** as a model of community conservation practice. NTFP-EP was invited to join the ICCA consortium, which actively promotes community concerns and positions in the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Working primarily in 6 countries in South and Southeast Asia, NTFP-EP has also started reaching out to Latin America, where it has ties with **RedLANM**, the NTFP network there. RedLANM has prepared a strategic plan to involve producers, governments, NGOs, scientists and researchers of NTFPs in Central and South America into an effective network that can provide a useful exchange of information, build capacities and improve the value of NTFPs for local communities.

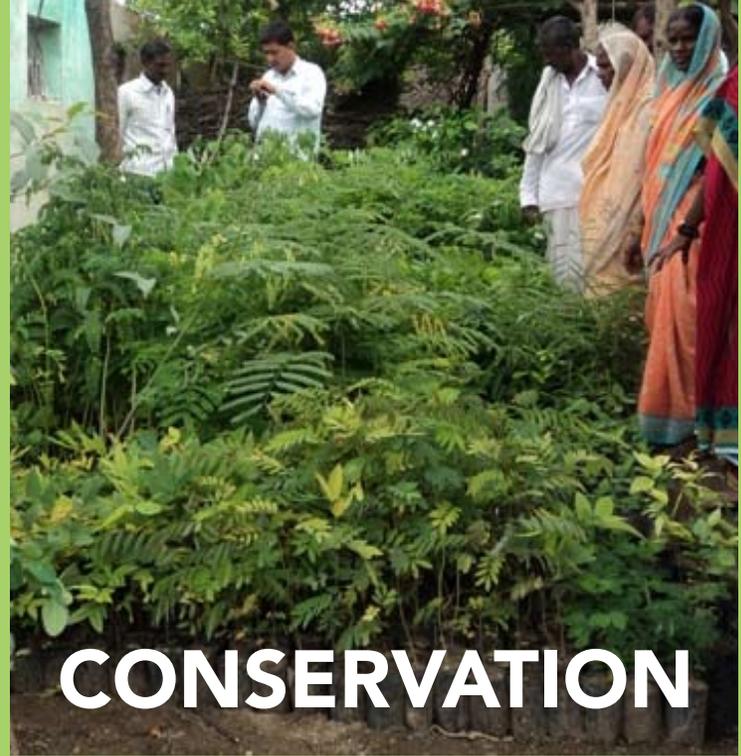


THEMATIC OBJECTIVES

saving sacred groves and restoring forest lands

In 2010, NTFP-EP through its partners and communities **planted over 170,000 seedlings** of NTFP species needed for **medicine**, food, fencing, and livelihood in India and Malaysia. These species include sago, rubber, gum karaya, mahua, native mango, and hill broom. Existing planted stock of gaharu in Indonesia were conserved and monitored. At least seven sacred forest groves were protected and enriched. Nine **big concession permits have been delayed** with the advocacy of partners in Kalimantan. Three **NTFP assessment trainings** and two actual assessments at a Community Forestry and Community Protected Area have been completed. **Harvest protocols** for NTFPs continue to be implemented and/or improved. **Community ecological monitoring practices** have been supported in 3 sites in the Philippines, and **co-management between national park and communities** residing in the park has been supported in Southern Vietnam.

Within the last three years, NTFP-EP's efforts has resulted in rehabilitation of almost **700 hectares** of forest in India, Malaysia and Indonesia, with over **250,000 seedlings** of diverse and culturally and economically important NTFP species planted from over **60 established nurseries**. With its partners, it has documented at least **80 sacred forest groves** and supported sustainable management practices for at least **33 NTFP species** such as forest bees, rattan, dye plants, and resin trees in Cambodia, India and the Philippines.



In forest rehabilitation efforts, the tree species being planted matters, as well as the method and the timing. Community knowledge and scientific expertise should be merged so as to ensure high survival growth. Inter-community cooperation particularly with seed exchanges is also a good way to ensure that rare species are conserved.

In India and Malaysia, the network has **educated forest communities of laws** relevant to them. In Sarawak, a large majority of target communities had representation in workshops pertaining to culture, law and forests, with increasing active **participation from the youth**. The facilitation of **inter village agreements** on customary land territories has strengthened the position of communities in their land claims. In India, partners have facilitated **literacy of the Forest Rights Act** in 5 districts, with 1,240 people attending these meetings. Through NTFP-EP assistance, 7 villages have applied or are in the process of securing prerequisites to land claims, and 700 adivasis have filed for **individual claims**. In the Philippines, support to communities continues in terms of **ancestral domain delineation** and **land management** plans in 4 provinces.

2010 has been a year of high visibility of NTFP-EP in policy advocacy. In Cambodia, Philippines, India, Malaysia, and Indonesia, it has forged **partnerships and coalitions** to lobby for land rights and enabling policies for NTFP livelihoods, resulting in the cessation of mining operations in Goa, India, and stronger ties with government entities in Cambodia, Philippines, and West and East Kalimantan in Indonesia. In Cambodia it has fostered a strong partnership with the Forestry Administration and placed policies and issues on NTFP enterprises such as resin and rattan in the national agenda. The network has also gained the support of lobby organizations and local governments in establishing a community and conservation-sensitive REDD+ agenda in the Philippines.

In the last 3 years, NTFP-EP has supported at least **1,132 land claims** in India, **9 villages** in Sarawak, and several islands in the Philippines covering at least **200,000 hectares**, where it supported a successful hunger strike and other advocacies which helped to **cease or delay destructive mining operations** in Indigenous Peoples (IP) lands in 2 provinces.

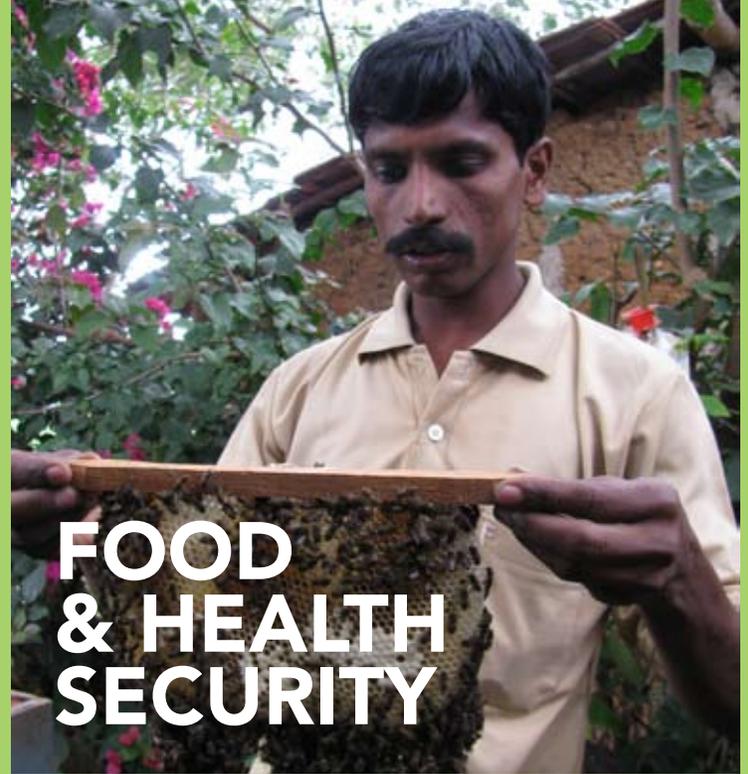


Integrating biodiversity, water supply, carbon sequestration and other benefits from the forest is important for communities to keep their conviction of protecting their forests against plantation and extractive industry expansions and other encroachments. Once this awareness has been raised, the communities then need to know how these payment mechanisms can benefit them while recognizing their tenure systems as well

delivering good health through forest foods

Many of the seedlings planted in degraded forests are species that are **inherent to forest communities'** culture, such as sago, the staple of the Penans in Sarawak; local spices for the Punans in Kalimantan; and local yams for communities in India and Vietnam. NTFP-EP partners in India promote **traditional conservation methods** such as paying attention to harvest time and harvest techniques. **Medicinal gardens** have also been supported in 55 villages in India and for 20 families in Indonesia. Cambodia has started approaching funders on wild food promotion, and across the region, **honey and forest food festivals** have been held. A "Food from the Forest" festival with the Negrito community in the Philippines has gotten the attention of media and the local government.

Over the last 3 years, **4 wild food festivals** have been organized to highlight the need for NTFPs not only for income generation but also for the basic need of food security and cultural survival. The variety of these food sources can build healthy communities not dependent on fast food and packaged ingredients of mainstream culture. A total of at least **29 villages** have been supported in planting of subsistence food species in at least **244 hectares** in India, Malaysia and Indonesia.



FOOD & HEALTH SECURITY

Activities that instill a sense of pride in indigenous communities in their forest-linked traditions and knowledge have valuable contribution to local livelihoods and conservation. Having wild food festivals is a great way to support food from the forest, for healthy, inexpensive meals.

While honey remains the most economically important product across the region, other NTFPs also sold very well in 2010. The **Crafts Kalimantan Network** launched a high end brand of handbags, Borneo Chic, proving that there is a market for **traditional weaving** in modern society. The network has engaged over 500 Dayak weavers and participated in 4 major trade fairs throughout the year. Participation in bazaars, workshop created visibility and boosted sales for the new brand of wild honey products in

Cambodia, Khmum Prey, which was launched by the **Community Based Wild Honey Enterprises (CBHE)**, a national business association facilitated by NTFP-EP. NatureWild, the network's marketing arm in the country, continued generating income for its partner communities continued generating income from 11 value added products from partner communities. Other enterprises including crafts, natural dyes, rattan and sleng seeds were also assisted, and a new project started for resin producers.

Support to communities in India led to **increased sales** of honey, beeswax, sabai grass, sal leaf plates, mahua, tamarind, hill broom, shikakkai, amla, and other NTFPs, with the direct involvement of over 1,000 individuals. In the Philippines, NATRIPAL launched its own marketing arm to focus on honey, crafts and food.

A **community crafts conference** was organized in Indonesia and attended by 50 participants from the Philippines and Malaysia, inspiring the latter to form its own crafts network. NTFP-EP also assisted a community in the Philippines and a partner in Vietnam to start envisioning their honey production initiatives by **facilitating trainings** from the Bee Research and Development Center in Hanoi.



INCOME GENERATION

NTFP-EP partnered with **Elevyn**, an online social enterprise outfit which has uploaded products from partners including Gerai Orang Asal (GOA) in Malaysia, NATRIPAL in the Philippines, and CANDO in Cambodia. In the last 3 years, a total of **551 villages** covering **143 enterprises** catering to **5,234 people** have been supported by NTFP-EP and its partners. Overall there has been an approximate 30-70% increase in prices for producers.

Exchange visits amongst communities and support organizations inspire others to take their experiences and new knowledge home. This has been the case for honey and crafts partners who have improved their enterprises after cross learning activities.

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF ENTERPRISES	NUMBER OF PERSONS INVOLVED	NUMBER OF VILLAGES	NTFPS USED	SALES
CAMBODIA	38	563	36	honey, wax, natural dyes, rattan, sleng	€ 31,280
INDIA	27	1,173	370	honey, wax, shikakkai, soapnut, millet, pepper, coffee, silk cotton, amla, jamun, sabai, sal, mahua, tamarind, hill broom, lac	€ 67,984
INDONESIA	16	1,533	54	honey, rattan, water reed, natural dyes, leaf fiber	€ 52,465
MALAYSIA	5	121	23	pandan, rattan, seeds	€ 5,852
PHILIPPINES	57	1,844	68	honey, abaca, rattan, fruits, nuts, seeds	€ 79,807
TOTAL	143	5,234	551		€237,388

supporting the voice of producers and the generations beyond

Collaboration among Sarawak NGOs has strengthened lobby efforts and facilitated for information exchange. The indigenous youth has emerged as having a key role in the conservation of their culture and forests. In India, a **unified NTFP-EP network** has given the Forest Department their recommendations and necessary policy changes so that primary collectors, cultivators and artisans can get maximum benefit. Issues on lac-based livelihoods and on the Minimum Support Price for NTFPs have been brought to the government, and further research is being done on tendu leaf management and governing policies. In Indonesia, the establishment of the **Rattan Monitoring Unit** lends a stronger voice to rattan harvesters and artisans. The Cambodia NTFP Working Group has expanded its reach in 12 provinces and has an official membership of 10 international and local NGOs. It has been able to leverage for funding and **elevated NTFP issues to the national agenda**. The pioneering IP College in the Philippines has been assisted in developing a course on **Traditional Ecological Knowledge** for indigenous youth. With the support for the capacity building of staff of Nui Chua National Park in Vietnam, a **community network in the national park** has been established. This organization will be the prime mover of community initiatives on conservation and sustainable development in the area.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

NTFP-EP empowers the youth and enterprise holders to voice out their opinions and needs and negotiate their positions in a modern, often fast-paced, world.



COUNTRY LEVEL INITIATIVES

CAMBODIA



In the face of competing large-scale, commercial interests, NTFP-EP continues to be among the civil society groups **supporting forest rights and IP rights to land and livelihood**. The Cambodia office's newly organized and rapidly growing CNWG is also engaging civil society networks and government programmes at the national level as a **knowledge intermediary** as an advocate for **community rights and community based approaches**, spreading its knowledge sharing reach to 12 provinces with project partnerships in 6 provinces. It convened a national workshop on Linking Sustainable and Participatory NTFP Management with Community based NTFP Enterprise Development, which gathered key stakeholders to share perspectives and experiences about the harmonization of community-based NTFP initiatives within the policy framework of the Cambodian government.

A case study **research on economic valuation of NTFPs** in a Community Forestry and a Community Protected Area in Kampong Thom province was published and has provided more attention to the concerns of communities on permits and fees. The CNWG secretariat participated in the WWF Rattan Policy pilot project, which seeks to **improve the rattan transport and trade** in Cambodia and make the laws and processes favorable to communities.

NTFP-EP Cambodia strengthened its social marketing under the banner NatureWild and **facilitated market research, package and design development** for honey and beeswax products, and for bags, crafts, and other accessories. Other services provided to partners include resources inventory, nursery development and management, sustainable harvesting practices, business planning, marketing needs assessment, and training on Enterprise Impact Monitoring.

The new business coalition CBHE, comprised of **16 community based honey enterprise groups with up to 650 members from 6**

provinces was officially registered under the Ministry of Commerce this year. NTFP-EP assisted in the publication and dissemination of the group's **wild honey protocols and standards**, set up of **internal control systems**, and **preparation of business plans** including costing and pricing. Through NatureWild, CBHE launched its national honey brand Khmum Prey and clinched its first supply contract with honey coming from 4 provinces.

NTFP-EP continues to support enterprises focusing on **natural dyes and sleng seeds**, and has started a project on value addition and commercialization of resin in 7 villages. Sustainable tapping and management protocols and guidelines were documented, and a team went on a learning and networking visit to the Philippines for sustainable tapping techniques, and teh characterization and analysis of resins and of their potential uses. Market research is ongoing for resin-based products such as varnish, adhesives and essential oil.

By the end of 2010, NTFP-EP with its partners has reached up to 8,400 individuals in Cambodia through capacity building activities. It has supported 38 enterprise groups in at least 36 villages, involving at least 563 members and covering at least 48,800 hectares of forest.

Harnessing strong local to national alliances and brokering common interests and vision between local producer groups and social enterprises helped in establishing the honey federation and setting up the national wild honey brand. A big part of the significant progress so far is the partnership.

INDIA



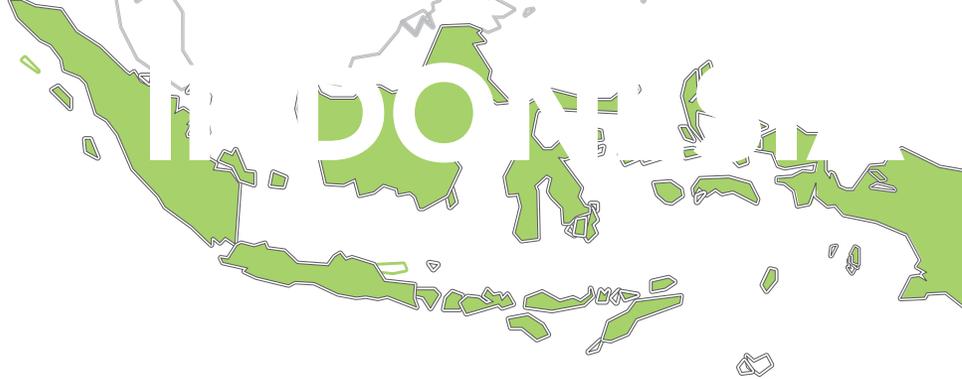
Finding more strength in being one voice, NTFP-EP partners in India are making headway in advocating issues regarding **land rights**. Although operations have been hampered by the tedious process of land claims applications and naxalism in certain areas, there have been several victories, notably the **stalled mining operations** in Orissa ordered by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the declaration of the government of Goa to have cease mining operations, and the stay order from the Supreme Court on the massive Polavaram dam in Andhra Pradesh which would have submerged a large forest tract rich in NTFPs and displaced 100,000 adivasis. Another result of collaboration with government was the formation of the **Western Ghats Experts Ecology Panel**, tasked to declare Ecological Sensitive Areas and other conservation measures. This was a direct result of the Save Western Ghats meeting which was spearheaded by partners Keystone and Prakruti. In the same year, the government started paying attention to the network's recommendations to the **Forest Rights Implementation Committee**.

Forest protection efforts from partners resulted in the planting of almost 25,000 seedlings of shola and tropical hardwoods, medicinal plants, fuel wood, and fruit yielding trees. In nurseries, almost 100,000 seedlings have been prepared for the next planting season, including important NTFP species. The seedlings include important NTFP species such as Gum Karaya, Mahua and Hill brooms. At least 6 sacred groves and a wetlands area have been enriched through planting. The NTFP-EP partners have started a **seed exchange program**, which has been helpful in procuring seeds of species that have become rare in particular areas. RCDC conducted specific **studies to update policies and programmes** dealing with NTFP management and trade within the context of the FRA, starting with the tendu leaf, which is one of the most lucrative NTFPs in the central Indian states.

Enterprise-wise, the partners have been focused on **processing products, improving market access, involving women in income generation**, and trying to get **better prices** for the primary gatherer. Training programmes were given for 1,929 primary collectors of NTFPs so that they can better store and process their produce. These included tamarind processing and value addition, honey and beeswax processing and packaging, sustainable harvesting of sabai grass and Amla, value addition of medicinal plants, and sustainable gum picking. Gram Swaraj promoted sal-leaf plates; ECONET revived the sustainable harvest and planting of hirda (*Terminalia chebula*); and RCDC experimented with new products of hill broom, tamarind and mahua, jaggery, and others. Kovel Foundation has added a new NTFP to be explored – palm fibre (*Borassus flabellifer*), of which 20 families have started extraction.

The partners have become conscious of each others' expertise and have taken advantage of **exchange visits** to learn new skills from each other. The hubs previously created to focus on conservation, advocacy and enterprise have increased and evolved into specific NTFP hubs. Prakruti specialized in fibre and held workshops and training programmes for other members of the network, while Keystone conducted several training sessions on sustainable honey hunting and processing, even coordinating a regional exchange with Vietnam, despite the overall low quantities of honey for the year. They also held a workshop for all accountants in the network.

Collaboration is important as not all partners are naturally inclined or able to focus on all the varied aspects of the larger programme of NTFP-EP. In India, desks or hubs have been assigned to different partners are assigned with expertise and good experiences in the fields of conservation, policy and advocacy, enterprise, and for specific NTFPs.



The successful launch of the handbag brand, **Borneo Chic**, made waves in the Indonesian high end market when it joined INACRAFT, the largest trade fair on handicrafts in Indonesia. Borneo Chic won the second prize for the handicraft category of the INACRAFT awards, and bagged the Femina Magazine Award. After the fair, attention focused more on production and on establishing the **Crafts Kalimantan Business Unit (CKBU)**, as the brand needed a marketing arm. At the same time, NTFP-EP's assistance in enterprise development continued in West Kalimantan and has expanded to new areas in East and Central Kalimantan. **Exchange visits** between Kapuas and Kedang Pahu in East Kalimantan were conducted, inspiring and catalyzing many **positive development** ties that by partners can act as trainers for



network-Indonesia or **JMHI** has spread around the country. Their 6th meeting was held in Borneo in November to discuss the role of NTFP partners at members under a position of

community-based forest management, NTFP-EP and Sawit Watch, intensified **Business Unit** this year. A major event was **"NTFP-EP 2010"** where government, private and civil society participants discussed the challenges and opportunities on helping the rattan industry through improved and coordinated mechanisms from local to national levels, discussed, as well as strategies to improve the quality of the champion product of Indonesia.

As expansion of oil palm plantations remains a big threat to forest communities in Indonesia, NTFP-EP supported isolated communities in their struggle against deforestation of their lands. NTFP-EP invited **BEBSIC, the Borneo Ecology and Biodiversity Conservation Institute**, to assist in awareness building for partner communities in different parts of Kalimantan. NTFP-EP also supported BEBSIC in conducting **research on oil palm expansion** in Berau, Malinau and Bulungan Districts.

One solution in Malinau, East Kalimantan, was to plant trees for forest animals and as protection against plantation expansion. This project took off well and is being replicated by the government in other parts.

Weavers have paid more attention to **regeneration of rattan and bamban (water reed) resources**. In Kapuas, rattan seedlings have been planted along the boundary of an oil palm company to limit its access to expansion. Research on raw materials including natural dyes was started.

Participation of local NTFP producers in national activities, as in the case of the Crafts Kalimantan partners, can provide a holistic grasp of their role in the trade chain. The high level of quality and the on-time delivery ethic that is necessary for bigger markets is also understood

MALAYSIA



The year 2010 sparked hope in indigenous communities in Sarawak as **positive judicial outcomes** continue protecting their native land rights. Despite these wins, however, logging permits, plantation concessions, dams and other mega infrastructure projects continue to increase. NTFP-EP supports the Penan communities in their land claims by facilitating **leadership meetings** to resolve border conflicts and to bring tribes together to address the encroachment of logging companies. NTFP-EP collaborated and supported CICOM (Communities' Information and Communication Centre), which documented and shared critical information with 43 villages in Baram, Limbang, Belaga and Kapit divisions in Sarawak to make them aware of the threats they are facing, the effects of these big projects on their communities, and the steps they can take. Workshops were organized for **awareness building**, and also for appreciation of the Penan's culture which is linked to their forest. The human rights commission has pledged support for efforts of indigenous people on this front.

In the meantime, **nursery establishment and planting activities** by the 7 settled Penan communities have been very successful with a survival rate of 71%. A total of **14,400 rubber and sago seedlings** were planted. The youth, who have been participating more in leadership meetings and workshops, were key in the nursery and planting activities. **A Penan Youth Workshop** brought awareness on the diminishing culture among Penan youth and its impact in the conservation of their forest ecosystems, their sustainable agriculture practices, and democracy in Sarawak in view of the upcoming state elections. This has ignited the youth's interest and resulted in their forming their own youth association, with the participation of at least 11 villages.

Since being online with Elevyn in October 2009, online sales for GOA has increased. The number of products uploaded during the period is **144 crafts** benefitting 48 artisans. A publication entitled **Anyam (Weave)** by the coordinator of GOA was published to educate buyers and producers on indigenous crafts, with stories behind the pandanus mats and baskets. A **crafts sharing and assessment trip** was jointly organized by NTFP-EP, Elevyn, GOA, Pacos Trust and JOAS (Network of Indigenous Peoples in Malaysia), involving 4 villages in Sabah. The participants were able to make a basic assessment of their crafts potential and were inspired by a sharing of experiences from the Philippines.

Advocacy is strengthened when several organizations with different expertise rally together on a common issue. Consistent presence and an ongoing consultative process with communities and partner NGOs are needed to re-assess interventions and provide the best possible support that meets immediate and long term issues. Tapping into the youth has also proven very effective in promoting leadership and community development.

PHILIPPINES



National elections were held in the Philippines in 2010, and the challenge for the new administration is to harmonize conflicting laws related to mining, forestry, and climate change. Amidst this backdrop, the country programme, NTFP Task Force, intensified its **advocacy against mining and agrofuels** in 3 provinces, working with partners in producing a video documentary and other information materials.

In Quezon province, the Agta community was assisted in coming up with their **Sustainable Management Plan** which includes policies for harvesting honey, honey season, and identification of areas where honey harvesting cannot be done.

NTFP-TF has been lobbying for a simplified, cost effective monitoring system of NTFPs, and in 2010 the organization tested the **Participatory Resource Monitoring (PRM)** method with its partners Forestry Development Center (FDC) of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) and the Forestry Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (FMB-DENR). Visitors from Cambodia shared their experiences especially on determining maturity of rattan species. Further efforts at laying the groundwork for the PRM method included improving the management plan and monitoring activities of a partner community in Palawan, and establishing 6 permanent plots in their ancestral domain.

In the REDD+ arena, 2010 was a triumphant year for the NTFP-EP-led coalition **CoDE REDD**, which has been championing the inclusion of community rights and biodiversity in REDD negotiations, as the DENR has approved the Philippine National REDD Plus Strategy and endorsed it to the Climate Change Commission. This is one of the few bottom-up, multistakeholder REDD+ strategy processes in the world.

Two community based REDD+ pilot projects were launched in Palawan and Quezon provinces.

Indigenous Peoples' Federation NATRIPAL, has also been doing well in their honey business with a **19% sales increase** from the previous year. The organization registered their enterprise arm, Operasyon Negosyo Natripal, as a separate legal entity and plans to focus on honey, crafts and food processing. In Oriental Mindoro province, partner **KPLN** was assisted in their honey enterprise through **Sustainable Honey Harvesting and Processing** trainings and the installation of business systems and processes. Training workshops were also given to the Agta community in Quezon province by NTFP-TF staff and by Dr. Phung Huu Chinh of the Vietnam Bee Research and Development Center. Due to the rainy weather, however, the Agta were only able to harvest a few kilos of honey as this could only be found in high altitude. To further increase NTFP-TF's capacity in **value addition**, 14 staff and partners attended workshops by the University of the Philippines Los Baños Bee Program on beeswax and bee pollen harvesting and processing.

To effectively engage government in the Philippines, there is a need to involve the academe, the science community and other relevant organizations in in-depth research and field studies to give scientific backing to community based approaches in monitoring NTFPs.

VIETNAM



While communities are still waiting for the policy on **co-management schemes and benefit sharing** for forest communities within national parks in Vietnam, NTFP-EP partner **Center for Biodiversity and Development (CBD)** started supporting communities in **Nui Chua National Park** for increased participation in forest management. Four community groups were established in Cau Gay Village for **forest protection and management** of 700 hectares. Six members from each group were trained on forest operations such as patrolling, noting, and reporting. Each group came up with their own regulations (benefits and obligations, fund expenses, fines on offenses) and elected their own officials. One common leader takes part in the meetings with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, where he can speak about their progress and issues. These patrols also watch out for the NTFP resources important to the community such as honey, velvet tamarind, toxic seeds for fishing and fruits.

In further support of CBD's efforts, NTFP-EP nominated two park officials from Nui Chua for a **leadership programme** under the Joke Waller-Hunter Initiative. The two interns spent six weeks in the Philippines to learn English and to experience management styles of national parks and the different habitat conservation strategies in the country. Then they spent another two weeks in India with Keystone, learning about community participation and enterprise development. The Bees Research and Development Center (BRDC) has also supported bee and honey initiatives across the region.

Investing in the capacity building of key people such as national park staff enables them to pick up important lessons to be applied in their work and secures their enthusiasm and commitment in sharing their experiences with their communities.

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

The background of the image shows several traditional woven baskets hanging from a horizontal wooden branch. The baskets are made of natural fibers, likely bamboo or reeds, and are arranged in a cluster. The colors of the baskets range from light beige to dark brown. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting with foliage.

2010 witnessed the turnover of NTFP-EP leadership from Jenne de Beer to the then Deputy Director, Crissy Guerrero.

During this year the Cambodia office grew, with 4 new positions including that of the CNWG facilitator, which was filled in by a Cambodian. A new **organizational structure** separating the operations from the programs unit to streamline movements and clarify chain of command was approved by the board. Three new **board members** were elected to replace those who are moving on to other commitments. **Country representatives** participated in the board meeting to integrate ideas and concerns from NTFP-EP's country partners. Other internal capacity building milestones include **gender awareness training** and re-echo-ing to regional staff and **learning visits** for Manila-based secretariat, to the Penan areas in Sarawak.

The secretariat continued to provide assistance to its partners and communities through **information provision, fund sourcing, and capacity development** in resource mobilization and enterprise development. In 2010 a total of 1,151 publications can be accessed through the **library**, and the network's Publications and films produced in the year on themes such as economic valuation, wild hone protocols, crafts weaving, resin products and REDD+ can be accessed on the NTFP-EP website.

The NTFP-EP website **www.ntfp.org** had a total of 13,486 hits, 8,710 of which were unique visitors. It has been searched and read in 144 countries, topping the search results list when "ntfp" is googled.

A **micro grants fund** set up and facilitated by NTFP-EP has succeeded in awarding 33 small grants amounting to a total of €148,529 to grassroots NGOs and POs in 6 countries. An external evaluation of the MGF was undertaken during the year, which proclaimed that the project had been able to support

local community organizations at a low cost and with impressive efficiency. The evaluation further said that achieved results are well documented and there is overwhelming support for the MGF administration because of its special relevance to small and local organizations. The secretariat also gave assistance to partners in developing proposals for funding. Late in the year, NTFP-EP tried to **widen its resource base** by engaging corporations such as technology suppliers, travel and accommodation providers and audit services.

The secretariat provided **enterprise development support** to Cambodia and Indonesia partners, including business plan development, mentoring support for marketing staff, and market research for Borneo Chic. Support continues for the **CustomMade Crafts Center** and other partners in the Philippines, while **crafts exchanges** have sparked the interest of partners in Sabah and Sarawak to create their own Malaysian crafts network.

Towards the end of the year, an **external evaluation** of NTFP-EP's accomplishments for the last 3 years was conducted. The evaluation showed that many of the organization's objectives had been met and many results were achieved. However, suggestions for improvement included hiring a senior resource management officer to give more attention to the conservation component in relation to NTFPs, more interrelations between resource management and enterprise development, and a clearer advocacy plan.

Small grants have enabled NTFP-EP to be responsive to threats and emerging initiatives at the community level. Knowledge management continues to be useful.



CHALLENGES

- With the pressing needs of communities on the ground, from staying off land encroachers to dealing with flooded raw material resources, NTFP-EP and its partners has had to be flexible in responding and providing support, which could be particularly difficult considering limited resources.
- While supportive policies may be in place, actual implementation could be a very slow, tedious, and often expensive process, such as in securing resource permits for harvesting of NTFPs in the Philippines, filing land claims in India, and asserting indigenous peoples rights over oil palm plantation expansions in Indonesia.
- REDD+ is a very hot topic under debate internationally and within the countries NTFP-EP works with. Under fire from differing opinions amongst civil society groups, the organization has had to work cautiously and consistently defend its position that safeguards be installed for indigenous peoples rights.
- It is not always easy to find good staff who are willing to work in remote areas in Kalimantan, who are familiar or are able to adapt to local conditions, and who can speak the local language. Often, new staff would need intensive training and mentoring to be able to do the job.
- As communities and collaborative efforts increase in visibility, NTFP-EP and its partners also become more vulnerable to competition, criticism and duplication of work without proper attribution, particularly with the market entry of the wild honey products from the communities in Cambodia.
- NTFP-based enterprises are very susceptible to climatic conditions, with good yields depending on good weather. This puts incomes of indigenous communities at risk, and also creates problems with meeting market demands.

**LOOKING
FORWARD
TO 2011**



With the triumphs and challenges encountered in 2010, NTFP-EP is gearing up to strengthen its advocacies, community services, and internal systems for 2011. A regional strategic planning workshop is scheduled at the beginning of the year to decide on the future directions, focal themes, and activities of the network for the next 3 years, in light of the recommendations from the external evaluation of the last 3 years.

Across the region, the country initiatives plan to upscale lobbying efforts; strengthen collaborative ties with governments and civil society; increase sales through marketing staff, new shops and outlets, and new products; and expand the network's resource base. Regional level resource management and lobby staff will be hired to place balance and emphasis on these themes. NTFP-EP will register as a local NGO and set up offices in Indonesia and Malaysia to address issues of legality and further embed programs at country level. Cambodia and India will continue fostering linkages with policy makers that has been started in 2010.

The **Cambodia** office will scale up its marketing and value addition initiatives, including product development on other honey and wax products such as balm, vinegar, wine, soap and candles. It will also focus on resin enterprise development with the support of the Forest Products Research Development Institute (FPRDI) in the Philippines. CANDO will open its crafts shop in Phnom Penh, and NatureWild will continue marketing for its community enterprises.

Borneo Chic will also open shop in Kemang, the arts center of Jakarta, **Indonesia**. A regional honey meeting will take place in Banten, where 7 countries will participate

In **India**, the Last Forest Honey brand is planning to take off as a separate enterprise. The focal desks and hubs within the NTFP-EP India, network will be strengthened. Among the major activities planned is an eco-certification meeting modeled after Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS). Partners in Indonesia will also explore eco-certification processes for rattan to obtain premium prices for farmers and harvesters.

The focus on **Malaysia** for 2011 will be on the youth, particularly in the rehabilitation of NTFPs. Land delineation and mapping are also being planned in collaboration with other NGOs to enable tribes to come together to file court cases. NTFP-EP will also support the development of a Malaysia crafts network.

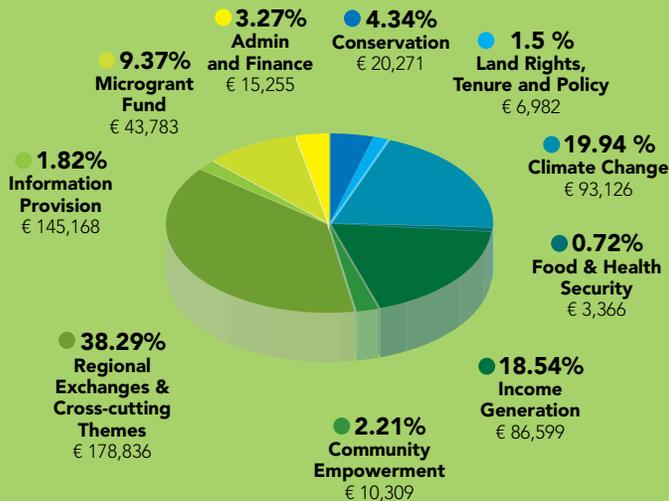
New community-based REDD+ projects will be implemented in two sites in the **Philippines**, with a training on forest carbon measurement already scheduled early in the year. PRM methodologies will be evaluated in 2011, and a cultural revival and food from the forest festival will be organized for a new community.

NTFP-EP also plans to support two national parks in **Vietnam** into developing a honey enterprise and a yam project, and will assist CBD in developing the idea of an eco-museum, which will pay main attention to NTFPs and indigenous knowledge.

With its strategic role in the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN), NTFP-EP will expand its role as civil society facilitator under Social Forestry and Climate Change themes.



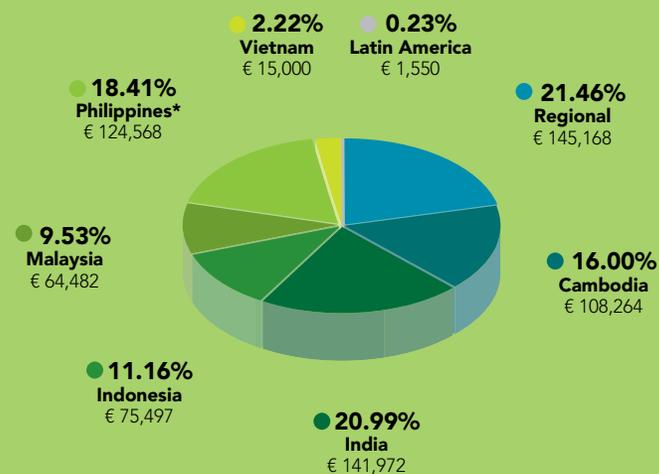
FINANCIAL REPORT



Thematic Distribution of NTFP-EP Fund (2010)

In 2010, NTFP-EP mobilized funds amounting to €804,886, including funds directly sourced and leveraged by country programmes in Cambodia, India, and Vietnam. Regional funds include MicroGrant Funds, coordination costs among countries, monitoring and evaluation, board and staff meetings, cost of publications and website maintenance, salaries of Manila-based secretariat, and other costs such as external evaluation and travels of consultants and regional staff.

New trends in financing support are emerging such as that for the climate change program. Conservation and Subsistence (Food and Health Security)



* this does not include the funds managed separately by the NTFP Task Force

Geographic Distribution of NTFP-EP Fund (2010)

themes have received the least attention. More focus will be placed on these themes in the future.

NTFP-EP is currently supported by Dutch, German, Belgian and Japanese donors. It also receives support directly from the European Union.

Such support is on a project basis and as future years have not yet been guaranteed, NTFP-E always actively searches for programmes, projects and partners (including donor partners) with similar approaches and a zeal for catalyzing forest community conservation and development processes,



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