

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

A woman with dark hair, wearing a light-colored patterned shirt and dark pants, is sitting on the forest floor. She is leaning against a large tree trunk on her left and holding a long, thin plant stem with both hands, looking at it intently. The forest is lush with green foliage and many tall, thin trees in the background.

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

# ACRONYMS

<b>ADSDPP</b>	Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan (Philippines)
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of South East Asian Nations
<b>ASFCC</b>	ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change
<b>ASFN</b>	ASEAN Social Forestry Network
<b>CBD</b>	Center for Biodiversity and Development (Vietnam)
<b>CBHE</b>	Community-Based Honey Enterprises (Cambodia)
<b>CBO</b>	Community-Based Organization
<b>CMCC</b>	CustomMade Crafts Centre (Philippines)
<b>CNWG</b>	Cambodia NTFP Working Group
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>DENR</b>	Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Philippines)
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FPRDI</b>	Forest Products Research and Development Institute (Philippines)
<b>FRA</b>	Forest Rights Act (India)
<b>FSC</b>	Forest Stewardship Council
<b>GPS</b>	Global Positioning System
<b>HCVF</b>	High Conservation Value Forest
<b>ICCA</b>	Indigenous Communities Conserved Areas
<b>ICIMOD</b>	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IPs</b>	Indigenous People
<b>IUCN-NL</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature of the Netherlands
<b>NCIP</b>	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (Philippines)
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Government Organization
<b>NTFP</b>	Non-Timber Forest Products
<b>NTFP-EP</b>	Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme
<b>NTFP-TF</b>	Non-Timber Forest Products-Task Force (Philippines)
<b>PESA</b>	Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (India)
<b>PNRPS</b>	Philippine National REDD+ Strategy
<b>PRM</b>	Participatory Resource Monitoring
<b>Recoftc</b>	Center for People and Forests
<b>REDD+</b>	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
<b>SDC</b>	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
<b>SFC</b>	Sarawak Forestry Corporation
<b>SOM-AMAF</b>	Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers in Agriculture and Forestry
<b>SSNC</b>	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
<b>WWF</b>	World Wildlife Fund

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## Snehlata Nath

President of the  
Board of Trustees

Selamat and warm greetings from the hills in the Nilgiris!

A year at NTFP-EP, with its various dimensions, countries and cultures is as always, an attraction. 2011 began with its challenges in terms of finances and human resources, but also strategic thinking as a group. There were mounting expectations from the community, vagaries of the weather and the passion within to save tropical forests, biodiversity and way of life of indigenous peoples. To deal with these facets together needs commitment, tenacity and patience. These qualities were amply demonstrated by our team, board members, donors and supporters, which resulted in many targeted results achieved by NTFP-EP.

Early in 2011, we had the regional strategic planning meeting and this helped form a 3-year action plan with focused themes. All programs and country projects are now aligned with this.

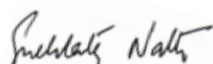
Institution building and representation increased. Amongst the communities, there were three (3) producer group organizations in India, official registration of the Cambodian honey federation, the creation of the Penan Youth Association in Sarawak and support to existing groups. NTFP-EP itself strengthened its plan to register as a foundation in Indonesia.

All our market outlets in India, Philippines, Indonesia and Cambodia saw a remarkable increase in sales during the year. The demand is growing . . . but is this a good sign? Can we cater to ever growing consumer needs? Locally, it becomes essential to balance this trend with sustainability of resources, with culture and ethics. Linking product development with research, participatory monitoring with communities and harvesting with overall forest health is the need for the future. We hope to address this at NTFP-EP by building more knowledge and action in the coming years.

Globally, threats of shattered economies, unemployment and resource partitioning loom large. In our areas of work: land sharks, mining companies, infrastructure developers and government policies of incessant growth promote the destruction of forests and displacement of indigenous people from their territories. Resistance to this trend, demanding fair-play and lobbying often takes most of the energy. In this scenario, the work of NTFP-EP provides pleasant examples of balanced solutions for people and the environment.

Wishing all its members success!

On behalf of the NTFP-EP team, I extend my thanks to all our supporters, donors, well wishers and hope that you will be with us in the future to experience positive 'green' change.

  
Snehlata Nath



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. NTFPs and NTFP-derived products such as furniture, honey, varnish, beeswax candles, herbal medicine and many others are necessities in urban communities and big cities, too. However, communities often have no access to strategic information, practical technology, and financial support to make viable enterprises. A handful of organizations saw this link between sustainable use of forest resources and economic development for indigenous peoples (IPs) and forest communities. 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.

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.



# 2011 IN REVIEW

*The Inaul is a hand-woven cloth by the  
Maguindanaon women in the Philippines  
photo courtesy of Beng Camba*



Institutionally, NTFP-EP embarked on its plans of decentralization with the formation of a diversified board of Indonesian NTFP practitioners to set the organic, home-grown direction of NTFP development in the country in the coming years. The Sarawak, Malaysia program is also assisting in the formation of the Sarawak NTFP advisory committee, due to be established in 2012.

In terms of programs, NTFP-EP expanded its community enterprise development work to 163 enterprises in 600 villages in catering to 7,400 individuals. Especially important to mention is the growth of the Nature Wild brand and marketing arm in Cambodia with an offering of new products and increased sales of over 51% since 2010. Similarly, in Indonesia, partners joined NTFP-EP to open the Borneo Chic shop in the arts center of Jakarta.

Eco-certification, an NTFP specific scheme for certification, also gained ground through a workshop in India with initial activities also occurring in Indonesia on products such as honey and rattan.

With limited funds to expand its conservation program, in 2011 NTFP-EP was able to plant over 74,000 seedlings of NTFP species for subsistence and commercial purposes. Participatory Resource Monitoring (PRM) was also implemented in the Philippines after harvest cycles of certain NTFPs but the slow permitting processes affects the involvement of community members. Reflection on the past three (3) years in NTFP-EP's history led to the realization that more focus on conservation and food security themes is needed.

Thus, NTFP-EP also strengthened its commitment to hunter-gatherer groups by supporting Penan festivals celebrating their symbiotic relationship with nature. This

year, NTFP-EP also assisted in the creation of the Penan Youth Association which already assists in many community development activities. In similar light, NTFP-EP assisted the first Aeta<sup>1</sup> Forest Foods Festival.

NTFP-EP has also been successful in promoting tenurial security of forest communities through increased literacy on the Forest Rights Act (FRA) in India and promotion of indigenous peoples rights in other parts of Asia. Network wide, NTFP-EP also facilitated regional exchanges on advocacy on indigenous people's economic, socio-cultural rights supported by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

With regards to the staple product supported by NTFP-EP, forest honey, this year showed bumper harvests for Palawan, Philippines and India which lead to increased sales for communities. Extreme weather changes are affecting honey flow elsewhere, however.

This year, forest honey advocates from six (6) countries met to discuss concerns regarding forest honey, nutrition and health with medical professionals. The Madhu Duniya Asian Forest Honey Conference also saw the exchange of knowledge and experiences of over 70 communities and NGO support groups from seven (7) countries and witnessed the signing of an agreement for increased access of honey gatherers in the locale.

NTFP-EP also played an expanded role with the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN) where it was able to organize a civil society organizations (CSO) open space in an intergovernmental panel on social forestry. Efforts at promoting community and conservation based REDD+ are also extending to support such models in four (4) countries in Southeast Asia.

<sup>1</sup> Negrito hunter gatherer groups in Central Luzon, Philippines.

***Smoke keeps the gatherer protected from  
bee stings during honey collection***  
*photo courtesy of Leonard Reyes*





A photograph of a man in a blue hat and khaki shirt, looking down in a forest. The background is filled with green trees and foliage. The text 'THEMATIC OBJECTIVES' is overlaid in large white letters at the bottom right.

# THEMATIC OBJECTIVES



# CONSERVATION



*Higaonon youth assist in the participatory resource monitoring activity in Bukidnon, Philippines*  
photo courtesy of Katherine Mana Galido

In 2011, 74,832 seedlings were planted in three (3) countries. Most of these seedlings are species of importance to indigenous communities, such as wild mango, gum karaya and fiber for India; sago and rubber for Malaysia; and bemban, natural dye plants and bee nectar species for Indonesia. India partners have also promoted the protection of sacred groves.


In India, NTFP-EP continued its work on community-based ecological monitoring and in the Philippines, it focused on Participatory Resource Monitoring (PRM). In Cambodia, it worked on resins, developing a sustainable harvest protocol for dipterocarp balsam.

Partners from Indonesia, Malaysia, NTFP-EP staff and other communities in the Philippines participated in a learning visit in Imugan, Nueva Vizcaya. The visit focused on sustainable forest management technologies and exchanges on successful practices and experiences

of participants in their own communities.

The network participated in, and two of its board members moderated, the e-conference on Sustainable Mountain Development in partnership with International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) to gain insights on trends, issues and challenges with mountains in Southeast Asia to contribute to the Rio+20 conference in 2012.

NTFP-EP became a member of the Indigenous Communities Conserved Areas (ICCA) Consortium, an international association dedicated to promote and support the critical role of indigenous peoples in conserving forests. It co-organized an international ICCA symposium in Indonesia which brought together over 50 participants around the world to discuss international policy on ICCAs and emerging legislation in Indonesian policy.



*Traditional forest food made of shells and  
palm heart cooked using firewood  
photo courtesy of Portia Villarante*

## FOOD & HEALTH SECURITY

The first Asian Forest Honey, Health and Nutrition Symposium was held in Bogor, Indonesia back to back with the Madhu Duniya to highlight the nutritional benefits of wild honey. Experts from two academic institutions in Malaysia and Thailand shared groundbreaking research on the health benefits of honey and its possibilities of curing diabetes and cancer.

Across NTFP-EP countries, forest communities have been encouraged to go back to using their traditional food and medicine. Punan communities in Malinau, Indonesia have also been protecting the areas they planted with food and medicine species. There has been no official recognition from the local government yet, but NTFP-EP is working on getting this through various forest management schemes. Similarly, in India, communities have started planting medicinal plants at their homesteads and communal areas.

Forest, Culture and Food Festivals were organized in three (3) NTFP-EP country networks - in Tarlac, Philippines; Apoh Tutoh in Malaysia; and three (3) sites in India. The festival in Malaysia made the youth appreciate the NTFPs which their elders depend on, such as medicinal plants, poison for blowpipe darts, utensils and instruments, among others. The Aeta, Forest Foods Festival presented a “gather, cooking and tasting” session. Rituals and recipes were also shared. These festivals celebrated the indigenous culture and made communities aware of the importance of wild foods to their diet, and of cultivating the species which are threatened. Efforts at documenting wild food are ongoing in India.

In Vietnam, NTFP-EP has started plans to set-up an NTFP museum to increase awareness on the forest-centric cultural heritage of ethnic communities.





*NTFP-EP has assisted in the formulation  
of ancestral domain management plans*

*photo courtesy of Earl Diaz*

## LAND RIGHTS, TENURE & POLICY

In Cambodia, NTFP-EP assisted the emerging indigenous peoples alliance to further define their work towards securing IPs' rights to land, territory and natural resources and the enjoyment of these rights in practice.

NTFP-EP in Cambodia is also in dialogue with the Forestry Administration on reviewing various NTFP policy concerns such as transport permit exemption for honey producers and the simplification of the Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP) process.

On land and resource rights work, NTFP-EP India focused on legal literacy trainings and facilitating community claims to forest. NTFP-EP Philippines, on the other hand, assisted in the formulation of an ancestral domain management plan in one of the largest indigenous territories in the Philippines.

NTFP-EP Indonesia is learning more about the community forestry scheme called "hutan desa" through engaging with

various divisions in the Forestry Department and other stakeholders. The office in Indonesia is also exploring and testing new, appropriate community tenurial instruments over community forests in Sintang and Malinau in Kalimantan.

In Malaysia, NTFP-EP and partners assisted in organizing a training workshop in Apoh Tutoh on mapping of native customary land using traditional knowledge of the area and a GPS system. On land rights issues for REDD+ and timber certification, it has stressed the importance of safeguards and community rights.

Towards the end of the year, NTFP-EP also organized an exchange visit on land tenure and advocacy in the Philippines with Malaysian and Cambodian IPs and support groups participating. Those that attended learned the essential role of government in ensuring the implementation of good laws such as the Philippine's Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA).

# CLIMATE CHANGE



**Measuring the size of the tree to determine the amount of carbon it can capture**  
*photo courtesy of Leonard Reyes*

2011 saw the expansion of NTFP-EP's climate change program.

In the Philippines, NTFP-EP continued support to the CoDe REDD network on community and conservation-based REDD+. This was primarily through the implementation of the Philippine National REDD+ Strategy (PNRPS) through policy support, capacity building and information dissemination. NTFP-EP was also involved in the implementation of two (2) field-based REDD+ demonstration sites.

It was also in this period that NTFP-EP's role as partner in the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN) was expanded. NTFP-EP was asked to coordinate civil society engagement within the ASFN focusing on social forestry and climate change. NTFP-EP would take on a more intensive role in the Philippines, Cambodia and Sarawak. NTFP-EP helped facilitate the first NGO open space

session within the ASFN meeting held in Brunei in June 2011. NGOs and communities for the first time were able to air their forestry concerns to the ASEAN. In October, NTFP-EP was also allowed to present in the high level meeting of the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers in Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF). The recommendations on improved cooperation, accelerated community forestry agreements, and REDD+ safeguards, among others, were well received and paved the way for the planning for a CSO 101 brown bag for the ASEAN secretariat and member states in early 2012.

In the second semester of 2011, the regional Fauna and Flora International (FFI) REDD project on community carbon pools was approved and NTFP-EP began its role as community forestry learning program facilitator. During this time, policy consultations were conducted in Indonesia and the Philippines and capacity building needs and policy directions were identified.



# INCOME GENERATION

**The tradition of basket weaving in Cambodia**

*photo courtesy of Leonard Reyes*

NTEP-EP's country offices had been busy with various initiatives that supported income generation projects of partner communities.

In Cambodia, a public sales agreement signing ceremony between Community-Based Honey Enterprises (CBHE) and the marketing arm, Sahakreas CEDAC, got strong local media coverage, providing a good promotional opportunity for both parties and their products.

In Indonesia, in addition to the launching of the Borneo Chic shop in Jakarta, high-end stores are now also carrying the brand and a selection of the bags were also sent to a premier affair in Harrod's, London. Malaysian partners are also learning from the Crafts Kalimantan network and setting up their own network.

In India, partner communities have been blessed with a bumper harvest yielding 12,000 kilos of honey. Breakthroughs for the local network are the development of a hand driven machine for amla<sup>2</sup> and a new processing center in Kotagiri.

The CustomMade Crafts Centre (CMCC), marketing arm of

NTEP-Task Force (NTEP-TF) in the Philippines, underwent a revamp and came up with a new strategy. Its total sales for 2011 registered at \$104,650, including a large order from the well known US home furnishings company, Crate and Barrel. NTEP-EP sits on the board of CMCC.

Ongoing work on oleoresin development has continued with the Philippine Forest Products Research and Development Institute (FPRDI) and a Europe based consultant looking at marketing prospects and coordinating the testing of resin-based essential oils in Paris.

By 2011, there was a 10% increase in the number of enterprises since 2010 and an increase in total enterprise participants by 40%. An additional 13 new products were added to the products being sold in 2010 and there was a total increase in sales of up to 72% with a total sales figure of €408,196.

In the last three (3) years, NTEP-EP and its partners supported a total of 600 villages covering 163 enterprises catering to 7,400 people. Overall there has been an approximate 30-70% increase in prices for producers.

<sup>2</sup> Indian gooseberry



COUNTRY	NUMBER OF ENTERPRISES	NUMBER OF PERSONS INVOLVED	NUMBER OF VILLAGES	NTFPS USED	SALES
<b>CAMBODIA</b>	38	1,649	81	honey, wax, natural dyes, rattan, bamboo, pandanus	€ 38,344.2
<b>INDIA</b>	27	2,232	370	Honey (2 types), wax, shikakkai, soapnut, millet, pepper, coffee, silk cotton, amla, jamun, sabai, sal, mahua, tamarind, hill broom, lac, banana fiber, phoenix broom, kokam rind, kokam butter, uppage butter, raldhoop, oils, bamboo, neem, char seeds, gum karaya, ragi, samai, spices, coffe rice	€181,596
<b>INDONESIA</b>	29	1,452	58	Honey, honey soap, rattan, water reed, natural dyes, leaf fiber,	€ 99,838
<b>MALAYSIA</b>	5	121	23	Pandan, rattan, seeds	No additional sales figures as monitoring not possible with no additional funding for crafts project
<b>PHILIPPINES</b>	64	1,946	68	Honey, abaca, rattan, vines, fruits, nuts, seeds, natural dyes	€ 88,417.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>7,400</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>Additional 13 new products from 2010</b>	<b>€408,196</b>





*A Cambodian honey gatherer  
reaches for a bee hive on top of a tree*  
photo courtesy of Leonard Reyes





# COUNTRY INITIATIVES





*A Cambodian resin collector in the forest*  
photo courtesy of Leonard Reyes

Work on resins advanced in Cambodia in 2011, with the Resin Sector Support Unit (RSSU) and NatureWild giving enterprise development and marketing assistance to Mondulkiri and Preah Vihear provinces. Field research was conducted on dipterocarp balsam collection, and on the domestic industry and market of resin-based products. The Cambodia NTFP Working Group (CNWG) produced a guide to sustainable resin collection and documented producer capacity, product uses, and resources and markets. They selected resin mask, oil extraction, varnish, and resin torches for product development. A stakeholder forum was held to identify key players, present sustainable harvesting practices, and discuss value added products. The Forest Products Research and Development Institute of the University of the Philippines in Los Banos presented their study on Cambodia resin characterization and its end-uses.

Market studies on wild honey and beeswax were also conducted, with product and packaging development for lip and dry skin balms, honey vinegar and honey wine. The local honey federation of Cambodia, CBHE, has secured legal status as a business association with the Ministry of

Commerce. It has also secured registration of its CBHE logo and trademark allowing it to secure protection of its identity and trademark.

A NatureWild partners' needs assessment was conducted in February to look at partners' specific marketing needs. This was capped by a NatureWild partners' meeting with over 20 participants from different partner NGOs/CBOs. This confirmed the need and specific role for NatureWild as a marketing support arm providing key services and support to partners in research and development, technical assistance, and sales and promotions. The partners recommended that NatureWild present a clearer proposal on the strategy and mechanism in which these services will be provided to partners. In 2011, NatureWild participated in nine (9) domestic trade fairs and exhibition events, increasing the total sales for existing community enterprises by 66% from the past year, with a total of \$47,250.

NTFP-EP and CNWG have advanced its policy support links particularly with the Forestry Administration and will take pilot opportunities in linking NTFP enterprises in ongoing community forestry developments.



**NTFP-EP India works on empowering partner Adivasi communities**  
photo courtesy of Madhu Ramnath

In India, work continues with the FRA, with the focus shifting to community claims and finding ways to explain what the FRA entails to the adivasi<sup>3</sup> people as well as to the authorities. Legal literacy workshops have been conducted in at least 25 villages in all the partner states. About nine (9) community claims to forests have been submitted and seven (7) are in the process of being completed.

A total of 26 nurseries have been established by EP partners, and about 70,000 saplings have been planted in village commons, degraded lands, homesteads, and sacred groves. Different partners concentrated on different NTFP species according to their importance to the communities, such as fiber and fruit species and medicinal plants. At least 15 sacred groves have been restored by enrichment planting with NTFP species, particularly wild mango in Bastar. Village committees take turns to patrol these areas while partners are working with village panchayats<sup>4</sup> to sustain their efforts. Resolutions over conflicts on boundaries, forest use, and rights between villages have been initiated. Gram Swaraj has been bringing together villages dependent on the Simlipal Tiger and Biosphere Reserve in Orissa to raise the problems faced by this pristine zone and its people, including rampant poaching over the last decade.

A Barefoot Ecology “course” was initiated in Tamil Nadu with adivasi groups to begin collecting data for an in-depth analysis and further work on the documentation of wild foods and harvest protocols for NTFPs. Suggestions have come forth for choosing indicators to determine the health of the forest. Seven (7) sessions on sustainable harvesting were conducted, and the harvest protocols publication has been translated into a local language for community use. Awareness on sustainable practices has helped prolong the harvest of wild mango in Bastar by over two weeks, allowing more seeds to mature.

An eco-certification workshop was held in Keystone, wherein a participant from Indonesia learned of the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS). Trainings on management, stocks and accounting were given to adivasi women working at the production center. Trainings on tapping gum and palm wine and on weaving fiber were held, and a hand driven machine for amla was developed. Following a dry spell in 2010, the communities have been blessed this year with an extremely good honey season, yielding 12,000 kilos of honey. The growing supply and market for honey, wax, coffee and other organic produce led to the inauguration of another processing center in Kotagiri.

3 An IP group in India

4 Assemblies



Nowhere to go but up, during the 2nd  
Madhu Duniya Festival held in Indonesia

photo courtesy of Wahyu Widhi



The highlight of NTFP-EP efforts in Indonesia in 2011 was the launch of the high-end retail shop for the brand “Borneo Chic” in the arts center of Kemang, Jakarta. With its central presence, the brand has also been able to draw in the support of magazines, designers, foreign nationals and bag the coveted FEMINA award for the second year in a row. Sales for 2011, more than doubled sales from the previous year totalling E21,334. The Crafts Kalimantan network is now working actively with 351 artisans, in 23 communities in three (3) provinces. It has recently expanded to the province of Central Kalimantan. Learning visits of Indonesian staff and partners to the CustomMade Crafts Center (CMCC) in the Philippines provided increased skill and knowledge of new tools in production and sales.

The forest honey network, JMHI, is also expanding its network, particularly in Flores island. JMHI has also assisted in the legalization of forest honey collection in several districts to allow for more access by communities for sustainable harvesting. It further supported four (4) honey groups with various processing equipment and labeling. Women’s groups are using beeswax to make candles and figurines, though support in design, quality and packaging is still needed. Extreme weather conditions, prolonged

heavy rains and then drought, have heavily affected honey production especially in Kalimantan.

NTFP-EP in Indonesia has recently launched its program to support the exploration for ecological and culturally appropriate tenure instruments for the Dayak Desa in Sintang, West Kalimantan and the Punan of Malinau, East Kalimantan. It has prepared plans for the application of PGS standards and procedures for rattan products as an alternative certification system in 2012.

Furthermore, NTFP-EP in Indonesia assisted in organizing the two (2) large international events this year -- the Forest Honey Health and Nutrition Symposium back to back with the Asian Forest Honey conference, Madhu Duniya.

NTFP-EP was also one of the organizers of the ICCAs symposium in Bogor, Indonesia. The symposium and follow up meetings identified future activities in support of ICCA development in Indonesia.

To provide grounded future programs, local NTFP advocates are establishing the NTFP-EP Foundation Indonesia set for registration in the new year.



**Apo Tutoh youth together with  
Ricardo, an Agta from the  
Philippines**

*photo courtesy of Earl Diaz*



This year saw the formation and establishment of the Apoh Tutoh Community Youth Association. Through this association, the Penan youth now feel that they have a formal and credible platform and position to voice their views and concerns. The youth have been instrumental in the rehabilitation (nursery and seedling development) and mapping processes of their communities. Their support led to the increase in survival rate of the seedlings.

In addition to mapping trainings, NTFP-EP has supported workshops on culture and forest issues which included plant identification exercises and discussion of uses and importance in local culture. Focus of discussions was on threats to Penan culture, and ways to overcome cultural decline in the school, in the work place, and in the village.

The Penan Cultural Festival in late 2011, had huge participation of 112 Penan community members from twelve villages and guests from the Bunong tribe in Cambodia and the Agta tribe in the Philippines. The Penans proudly performed more than a dozen songs, dances and organized games and competitions in the two day event, including the fire making demonstration and the popular blow pipe competition. The Cambodian

participant also shared his knowledge on medicinal plants.

Inspired by the Crafts Kalimantan weavers meeting in Indonesia in 2010. Partners in Malaysia are establishing a similar crafts network in Malaysia. The Jaringan Orang Asal Semenanjung (JOAS), the Malaysian indigenous people's network, is leading this initiative. NTFP-EP has assisted them in developing a proposal and has had initial visits to community members. The Borneo Chic shop in Jakarta has also become a new marketing channel for some Malaysian Borneo communities.

Finally, NTFP-EP in Malaysia has begun to engage the Department of Forestry, Sabah and Sarawak and the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment on social forestry and NTFP development within the Asean Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC) project. NTFP-EP with other NGOs has also begun discussions with Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-Sarawak, Malaysia in relation to the High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) assessment for a timber concession towards FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certification. NTFP-EP's interest is to make sure that the rights of the local communities to land and forests are safeguarded in the process.

# PHILIPPINES

**Agta and Aeta participants of the Mam-Eh Festival are all eyes and ears on the programme**

*photo courtesy of Leonard Reyes*

The first Aeta Forest Foods Festival was held in a new project site of NTFP-TF in Capas, Tarlac. The event gathered 350 participants from Aeta and Agta communities in the northern provinces of the Philippines. The festival was a celebration of cultural traditions, including the preparation of traditional food, sustainable harvesting practices and food preservation techniques. Ground work was also done for the cultural revival for Negrito<sup>5</sup> communities in the Visayan islands.

The Agta community in Quezon province had a slow start in their honey enterprise. There was limited harvest at the beginning of the year but by October the community was able get a good yield, earning \$500, and still had stock to sell for 2012. NTFP-TF supported the construction of the water system near the honey processing center. It also assisted the community in the formulation of an ADSDPP for their land area covering 164,000 hectares in 37 villages. ADSDPP is a requirement for the titling of their land or their ancestral domain. In Mindoro province, NTFP-TF helped its Mangyan community partner in investigating a nickel mining project. It also supported the campaign against mining in Palawan province, which began when a staunch anti-mining advocate was killed. The movement has gathered over 5 million signatures. NTFP-TF remains an active member of Alyansa Tigil Mina (Alliance to Stop

Mining), which is lobbying for a new law on mining to replace the existing Mining Act that favors mining companies.

NTFP-TF continues to work with field testing PRM in the hope of swaying government policy towards more community-friendly NTFP harvesting policies. This year, it has set up permanent plots, recorded harvests of rattan and established forest patrols in two project sites. It has likewise drafted monitoring calendars, resource use and management plans and these experiences have led to improvement of the module on the development of PRM. Development of PRM tools have also been started in two new sites. However, there has been less progress on NTFP policy reforms, and the existing requirements for permits of communities remain lengthy and overly expensive.

The CoDe REDD network, which NTFP-EP started in 2009, conducted many more orientations to REDD+ and the PNRPS to increase awareness of communities, government agencies, local governments, and other stakeholders. A study on the implementation of the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process among IPs was also started.

The marketing arm of NTFP-TF, CustomMade Crafts Centre (CMCC), was also able to penetrate the export market through sales of naturally dyed homeware products.



# VIETNAM



*A surveyor conducting biodiversity studies  
in Takou Nature Reserve  
photo courtesy of Leonard Reyes*

In 2011 a feasibility study on establishing an NTFP museum in southern Vietnam was led by NTFP-EP partner, Center for Biodiversity and Development (CBD). A reconnaissance visit was made by NTFP-EP together with a representative from Natripal in the Philippines who had just set up their own eco-cultural heritage center, and a representative from the Tropenmuseum (KIT) in the Netherlands. The NTFP eco-museum will preserve and promote the cultural heritage of the ethnic minorities of Vietnam, including their intrinsic relationship with

nature and the NTFPs that are vital to their existence. Two national parks have been identified as potential sites for the museum. In the meantime, CBD has been conducting biodiversity surveys in one of the proposed sites, Takou Nature Reserve, and took an active role in the opposition of the proposed Dong Nai 6 and Dong Nai 6A hydropower plants, which threaten not only the biodiversity of Cat Tien National Park, but also the livelihoods of indigenous communities who rely on the forest and harvest NTFPs.



# ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES



*Bunong women on their way back to their families  
after a day's search for food from the forests  
photo courtesy of Leonard Reyes*



Four new program staff joined the NTFP-EP in 2011 -- knowledge management officer, community forestry and climate change officer, REDD+ network coordinator and a communications and knowledge management officer on REDD+ based in Cambodia. A new finance team was also established to strengthen finance systems and procedures.

NTFP-EP has a new strategic plan covering 2011-2013, prepared by board members, partners and staff. The plan provides more balanced attention to issues of food security, resource management, and advocacy efforts, without losing EP's strength in its core business of community enterprise development. One Board of Trustees meeting was held during the year.

**Enterprise Support.** Enterprise development activities were provided for partners in Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia and Cambodia through regional sales in Bali and Brunei. EP also supported Malaysia's crafts network visit to JOAS (Indigenous Peoples Network in Malaysia) in Sabah where inputs to JOAS' capacity building and marketing plans were provided.

**Communication and Knowledge Management.** The 20th and 21st issues of *Voices from the Forest*, the network's biannual newsletter, were released and distributed to more than a thousand readers. These could also be accessed online at [www.ntfp.org](http://www.ntfp.org). Two issues of *Forests, People & NTFPs*, the CNWG newsletter published in the Khmer language, were produced at 400 copies per issue.

To maximize the internet in promoting the network's advocacies, Facebook and Twitter Fan pages were set up resulting in increased viewership of the network's website. E-groups among network partners were also maintained to exchange information on forestry, NTFPs and related trends and issues such as climate change, REDD+ and others.

**Resource Mobilization.** Several projects from various donor organizations began in this period. This included support from SDC (for REDD+ work at the ASEAN level); EU (for regional REDD project on community carbon pools with FFI as project partner); IUCN-NL Ecosystem Alliance programme (for NTFP development, community forestry, certification and eco-cultural zonation

in Indonesia); Cordaid-BE Sustainability basket (for NTFP-EP Certification project with Keystone Foundation as project partner); and, Cordaid for the regional NTFP-EP program for 2012. As a result of a fundraising mission to Sweden, SSNC invited NTFP-EP to submit a proposal on conservation and land tenure in Sarawak and on sustainable production and consumption in two (2) countries in the region. International Labor Organization also supported four (4) exchange visits on Advocacy, Cultural festivals, and Forest Conservation.

The Cambodia office was successful in leveraging funds from Toyota, Oxfam-Hong Kong, Misereor and Asia Foundation, for the implementation of existing projects. EP also assisted in preparing six (6) proposals with various groups in the Philippines for various funders.

The Belgian organization Broederlijk Delen also supported EP's MicroGrant Fund (MGF) providing small grants for NTFP development and other community forestry activities. Four (4) small grants applications were approved for 2011.

## MATERIALS PRODUCED IN 2011

- **Voices from the Forest,**  
NTFP-EP Newsletter, Issues No. 20 and 21
- **Forest, People and NTFPs,**  
NTFP-EP/CNWG Newsletter (in Khmer), Issues No. 7 and 8
- **What's the Buzz??** A Responsible InVEEsting Alternative.  
Video produced by NTFP-EP Cambodia with CBHE.
- **Philippine National REDD+ Strategy Briefer**
- **Economic Importance of Non-Timber Forest Products: Case Studies on Resin and Rattan in Kampong Thom Province, Cambodia**
- **Cambodia Wild Honey (Khmum Prey) Protocols and Standards**
- **We Are CBHE.** Video in Khmer with English sub-titles.
- **Guide to Sustainable Collection and Management of Dipterocarp Oleoresins or Balsams**
- Two standing posters (English and Khmer) for honey prepared for **People and Forests Forum** (Recoftc) meeting
- **International Year of the Forests.** Video for ASEAN Ministers in Agriculture and Forestry (in cooperation with ASEAN Secretariat, ASFN, SDC)

# NETWORK CHALLENGES



**Coal mining in Sarguja, Chhattisgarh, India**  
photo courtesy of Madhu Ramnath



## **Engaging with governments**

NTPF-EP has to apply various strategies for engaging governments and states in countries where it works. Its main objective for the engagement is to ensure the improvement of the lives of women and men in the partner communities that depend on the forests for livelihood.

In Malaysia, the challenge is to have a flexible approach in engaging with state agencies. There is a need to find a non-antagonistic way of engaging the state and federal government while remaining critical of development decisions. Engaging government is necessary so that NTFP-EP Malaysia can expand community partners and continue to support social forestry in the country.

There is a need to develop champions from government to review and improve NTFP policies in the Philippines. The existing permitting system of the DENR in the Philippines continues to threaten sustainability of NTFP resources and does not make NTFP harvest viable.

Convincing government to give more attention to community forests and community forest rights is the challenge in India. This could be done through stronger engagement with the Ministry for Tribal Affairs; information dissemination among indigenous communities on community forest rights and conduct of case studies on successful community forest experiences.

## **Network functioning**


Improving network functioning and enhancing the participation of partners is a continuous challenge. Various strategies specific to the conditions in each country are necessary to achieve this -- whether by strengthening sub-cluster formations and maximizing annual gatherings in India; or individual attention and visits to partners in Sarawak, Malaysia.

## **Multi-sectoral engagements**

Working with multi-sectoral like-minded groups, locally and nationally is always necessary. This set-up builds on and maximizes the strengths of each organization. The presence of prominent and influential people from the business sector, for example in the case of media giant ABS-CBN, has been very helpful in the advocacy against mining in Palawan, Philippines and has brought the issue to the national level. Multi-media mileage truly works.

## **Quality and sustainability**

Quality control, enterprise governance models and contract agreements with honey producer groups needs to be improved for Community Based Honey Enterprises in Cambodia to maintain its standards. In the Philippines, meanwhile, honey harvest has been affected because of continuous rains. Thus, the need to look into various income streams for the communities.

A close-up photograph of an elderly Hanunuo-Mangyan woman, a master weaver, working on a traditional loom. She is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and a colorful beaded necklace with a blue 'X' pattern. She is holding a wooden loom frame with two vertical posts. Her hands are positioned to untangle threads, preparing for weaving ramit, a traditional Mangyan fabric. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with dry grass and wooden poles.

*A Hanunuo-Mangyan master weaver  
untangling threads in preparation for  
weaving ramit, a traditional Mangyan fabric  
photo courtesy Beng Camba*

LOOKING  
FORWARD  
TO 2012



At the regional level, NTFP-EP will intensify its support for CSO engagement in ASEAN and other intergovernmental bodies by organizing forums on CSO engagement on social forestry and climate change issues in ASEAN. It will also organize several learning activities on REDD+ safeguards and REDD+ policies across ASEAN countries.

In India, NTFP-EP will develop a team of community people to read forest signs towards developing better harvest protocols for NTFPs and indicators of forest health. It will conduct and document the festival on Wild Foods and species specific conservation on cycads<sup>6</sup>. It will also organize a training on wild product sustainable harvesting and on NTFP development of mahua<sup>7</sup>, sal leaf and gums. Furthermore, it will coordinate a meeting with the Ministry of Rural Development, Tribal Affairs and Home Affairs.

Regarding the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act or PESA and FRA, NTFP-EP will document its success and failures. The network will also try to secure recognition of the community forest rights claims of one to two villages.

The NTFP-EP Indonesia Foundation will complete the process for its official registration. NTFP-EP will support Indonesia on enterprise and marketing concerns, forest conservation and tenurial security for indigenous peoples. NTFP-EP and its Indonesian partners will embark on the concept of eco-cultural zoning in West Kalimantan and village Forest/community Forest exploration in East Kalimantan. Participatory methods for rattan certification will be tested. The reach of Borneo Chic brand will be expanded to Bali and Japan. Finally, NTFP-EP will step-up its efforts to promote sustainable forest-based livelihood

initiatives through national advocacy activities and engagement with national agencies.

For Malaysia, NTFP-EP will organize a workshop for the Penan youth. As the general elections will potentially take place in mid 2012, the democratic process and its link to culture, land and forest will be emphasized. EP will support establishment of the indigenous people's crafts network. It will continue to engage SFC and WWF on HCVF assessment and will be an observer in the pre consultative and consultative meetings. Finally, it will engage partners in Malaysia to participate in the ASFN CBO forum and ASFN conference.

In the Philippines, NTFP-EP will continue the implementation of PRM tools and will promote best practices on sustainable harvesting and management of critical NTFP species. It will continue the discussions on the possibility of a Joint DENR-NCIP policy to have the ancestral domain plan as permit and the use of PRM tools to monitor resource management. It will also assist in finalizing the ADSDPP of the Agtas and will continue its advocacy work against mining and agrofuels. It will further support the formulation of operating systems and policies for honey production and will assist new communities in packaging, labeling and marketing of their products. It will also organize the negrito cultural revival and empowerment festival and will launch an NTFP exhibit.

In Vietnam, NTFP-EP will finalize plans for a NTFP Museum in Ho Chi Minh in collaboration with Center for Biodiversity and Development (CBD). If funding becomes available, it will continue its activities in two national parks.

6 Seed plants found across subtropical and tropical parts of the world. Starch from the stems of some cycad varieties are used as food by IP groups.

7 Fast growing tropical tree found in central and northern India. Used for manufacture of soap and detergent, fuel oil, vegetable butter, among others.



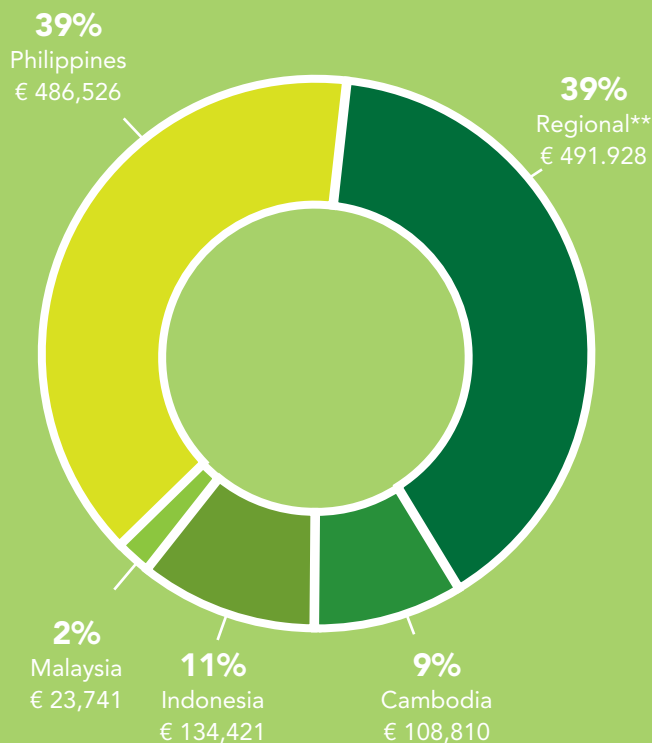
# FINANCIAL REPORT

*Shades of blue and green dominate the forests of  
Southern Vietnam on a clear afternoon sky*

*photo courtesy Leonard Reyes*



## GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF NTFP-EP FUNDS RECEIVED\*



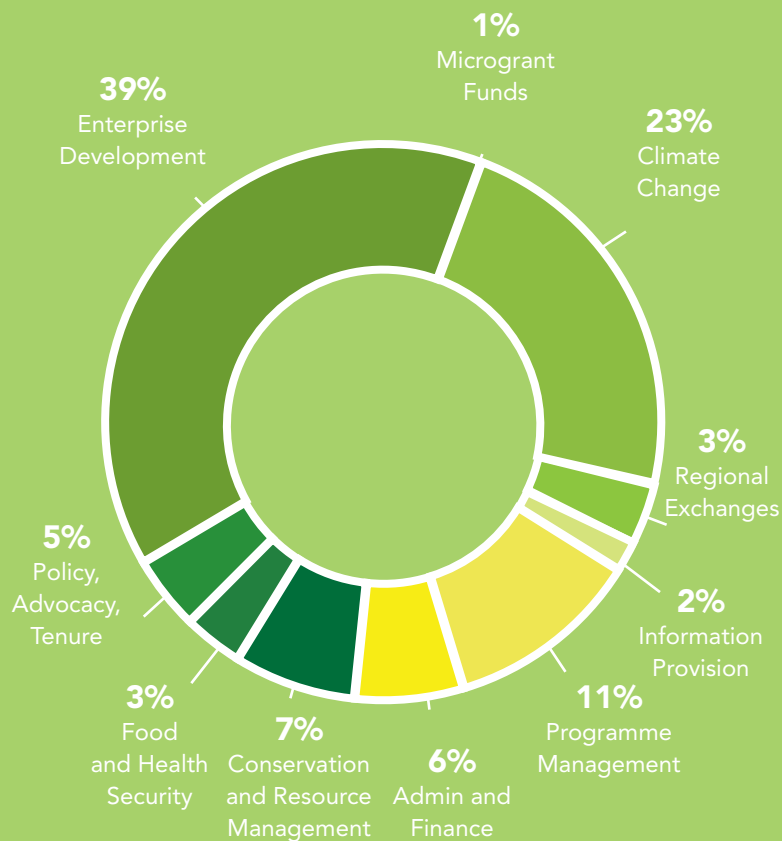
\* NTFP-EP Regional office managed the funds for India and Vietnam

\*\* these funds are utilized by the NTFP-EP Regional office for projects that involve two or more countries.

For 2011, NTFP-EP received a total amount of €1,245,426 in grants for its programmes in six countries. Of the total amount, NTFP-EP in Cambodia was able to leverage €135,569 for its country programme, while NTFP-TF was able to secure €278,196 for the Philippines.

The country networks used the grants for the various thematic programmes. Figure on the right, above, shows that the biggest spending were for enterprise development and climate change.

## THEMATIC DISTRIBUTION OF NTFP-EP EXPENSES



The network has been supported by Dutch, German, Swiss, Belgian, and Japanese donors. It also received support from the European Union and United Nations. These grants are on a project basis and future operations of the organization have not been guaranteed, so NTFP-EP is continuously searching for donors and partners with similar purpose and approaches to sustain the network's objectives.

**NTFP**  **-EP**

**www.ntfp.org**

92 Masikap Extension, Brgy. Central, Diliman, Quezon City 1101 **PHILIPPINES** // +63 2 920 42 01  
Jalan Jatisari II/30, RT 005/007, Jatipadang, Pasar Minggu, Jakarta Selatan, **INDONESIA** // +62 217 884 83 27  
10E° Street 420 Sangkat Boeung Trabek, Khan Chamkarmon, Phnom Penh , **CAMBODIA** // +855 23 727 407

**Editorial Team**

Crissy Guerrero, Lia Esquillo, Tanya Conlu, Tes Matibag, Earl Diaz

*An indigenous woman resting under the forest  
shade in Oddar Meanchey province, Cambodia  
cover photo courtesy of Earl Diaz*