

january

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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Indonesia is the only country producing the resin damar from damar groves or agroforests systems that have existed for over a hundred years. The best damar, called mata kucing (or 'cat's eyes'), is produced by the tree *Strombos javanicus*. Damar is traditionally used in making batik dyes and incense.

With India being the third largest exporter of gums and resins in the world, there is renewed interest in how poor forest dwellers or *adivasis* are able to sustainably harvest the resource.



february

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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Indigenous Raglay children of Nui Chua NP Vietnam are happy with harvested bee larvae, a delicacy in their culture.

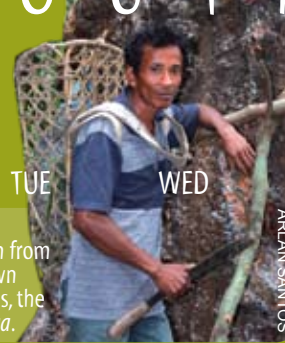
An abundance of wild honey is harvested in Danau Sentarum, Indonesia.



march

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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A member of the Iloghanua tribe, Palawan, Philippines collects resin from *Agathis philippinensis*, locally known *almogosa*, used for lighting torches. The tribe also sells and trades *almogosa*.



april

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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Cinnamon or *Dalchini* leaves, also known as the 'King of Spices', is not only used as a spice but for medicinal purposes. In Sikkim, India, collectors are mainly *adivasis*.

Transporting medicinal plants to the market in Nui Chua NP, Vietnam, Vietnam has a long history of traditional medicine, playing an important role in the health care of its people, especially in the mountainous areas.



non-timber forest products are all biological resources, other than timber, which are extracted for human use



GUMS & RESINS

may

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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The rattan basket called *bangko*, worn on the back is used by the Dayak tribe of Kedang Pahu, Indonesia to carry products from the gardens or fields to the longhouse.

The women of the Higaonon tribe in the Philippines weave *hinabul*, their traditional fabric from abaca fibres. *Hinabul* is traditionally used for peace offerings and can only be woven by *bae* women who are held in high esteem by the community. Better known as Manila hemp, the fibre is sourced from the plantain *Musa textilis*.



HONEY & RELATED PRODUCTS

june

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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Emblica officinalis, also called Indian gooseberry or *amla* is used in Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine for ailments like fever, liver disorder, indigestion, anemia, heart complaints.



The malva tree (*Sterculia foetida*) yields an excellent nut which is popularly used for desserts. The Khasi peoples of Khasi, Assam, India, rely on malva nut for food and also sell it for extra income. The tree is so tall, with no lower branches and climbing it to pick or shake down nuts is difficult and dangerous.

Rural farmers travel miles by motorcycle to sell bamboo and rattan baskets to souvenir shops such as these in Ratanakiri, Cambodia. Bamboo is often referred to as "poor man's timber" because of its ready availability and many uses.

july

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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The Abangan, Mangyan tribe of the Philippines haul split rattan for selling at the market. The Philippines and Indonesia are two of the key rattan producers in Asia. Commercially, large canes are used in furniture making while the smaller ones are used in the production of handicrafts.



august

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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Indonesia's *gaharu* or eaglewood is sought out as a source of high-quality incense. It is formed when damaged *Aquilaria* trees produce a fragrant protective resin that gradually hardens and turns into black lumps. A kilo can fetch at least US\$200.



Sago is a major staple food for the nomadic Penan of Sarawak, Malaysia along lowland peoples of New Guinea and the Moluccas. Sago is a powdery starch made from the processed pith found inside the trunks of the sago palm (*Cycas sp.*).



FIBRES

september

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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Rattan fruits used in producing dragon's blood resin



Dragon's blood resin is produced from rattan palms of the genus *Dacrydium* in Indonesia. Locally called *jenang* or *ganyang*, it is gathered by breaking off the layers of red resin encasing the unripe fruit of the rattan (see photo at top). The collected resin is then rolled into solid balls before being sold. It is used as a natural red dye as well as a panacea in Chinese herbal medicine.

BAMBOO & RATTAN

october

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The women of Bagu, Negros Occidental, the Philippines weave brightly dyed *buri* palm fibers into mats. *Buri* palm (*Corypha elata Roxb.*) is a palm from which three kinds of fibers, namely *buri*, *rafia*, and *buntal*, are obtained.



november

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Honeyhunting in the Nilgiris, India is an essential part of life. There are a range of techniques, traditions, beliefs and superstitions among tribals in the hills. It is a dangerous occupation, requiring skill and sheer nerve to collect honey from the combs on the cliffs. For many tribals, the brother-in-law is tasked with guarding the ladder of the honey-hunter based on the reason that if any harm befalls the hunter, his sister will become a widow.



SAGO PALM

december

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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In Bastar district, India, the *Medhi* Tihar or Festival of Mangoes delays the harvest of wild mangoes (*Mangifera indica*) until a significant proportion of the fruit is ripe. In these communities, the festival, and hence harvesting, cannot begin until the elders have determined that the fruit are ready.



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For centuries, rural and forest-based communities have relied on non-timber forest products for both subsistence use and as a source of income. Moreover, their close social, cultural and spiritual associations with NTFPs make these resources an integral part of their lives.

The NTFP Exchange Programme for South and Southeast Asia is a collaborative network of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community-based organisations in South and Southeast Asia. We work with forest-based communities to strengthen their capacity in sustainable management of natural resources. Over the years, the NTFP-EP has grown into a dynamic network, with over 40 partner organisations and major contacts in India, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and Cambodia.

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