

# 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



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

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**Non-Timber Forest Products - Exchange  
Programme for South and Southeast Asia  
(NTFP-EP)**

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# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The robust growth of South and Southeast Asian economies in 2013 contrasted with incidents of growing violence against women, corruption scandals, forest fires, and disastrous typhoons and earthquakes. In many countries, the search for minerals, the expanding production of palm oil, and construction of mega-dams have continued to result in massive deforestation and social conflict. Against this backdrop, NTFP-EP linked arms with local leaders and communities that remained steadfast in working towards a cleaner, greener future.

***Learning to make leaf cups in a meeting***

*photo courtesy of Madhu Ramnath*

# ACRONYMS

<b>AGMIHICU</b>	Agtulawon Mintapod Higaonon Cumadon
<b>AMAN</b>	Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<b>ASFCC</b>	ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change
<b>ASFN</b>	ASEAN Social Forestry Network
<b>AIPP</b>	Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact
<b>BCHE</b>	Bee Conservation and Wild Honey Enterprises
<b>BC</b>	Borneo Chic
<b>CADT</b>	Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title
<b>CBNE</b>	Community-based NTFP enterprises
<b>CBO</b>	Community-based organizations
<b>CCA/DRR</b>	Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Response
<b>CLAPS</b>	Community Livelihood Appraisal and Product/Resource Scanning
<b>CMCC</b>	CustomMade Crafts Center
<b>CNWG</b>	Cambodia NTFP Working Group
<b>CRM</b>	Conservation and Resource Management
<b>CSO</b>	Civil society organization
<b>DOST</b>	Department of Science and Technology
<b>DOT</b>	Department of Tourism
<b>DTI</b>	Department of Trade and Industry
<b>EXCEED</b>	Expanding Community Enterprise and Economic Development
<b>FA</b>	Forestry Administration
<b>FFI</b>	Fauna and Flora International
<b>FMIP</b>	Financial management improvement plan
<b>FPIC</b>	Free and Prior Informed Consent
<b>FRA</b>	Forest Rights Act
<b>ICCA</b>	Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Territories and Areas
<b>IMR</b>	Impact Monitoring Report
<b>FDS</b>	Forest Department Sarawak
<b>IP</b>	Indigenous peoples
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
<b>JMHI</b>	Jaringan Madu Hutan Indonesia
<b>MACS</b>	Mutually Aided Cooperative Society
<b>MAFF</b>	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
<b>MGF</b>	MicroGrants Fund
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization
<b>NGP</b>	National Greening Program
<b>NTFP</b>	Non-timber forest products
<b>PFHN</b>	Philippine Forest Honey Network
<b>PGS</b>	Participatory Guarantee System
<b>PRM</b>	Participatory Resource Monitoring
<b>PTRI</b>	Philippine Textile Research Institute
<b>REDD</b>	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
<b>RFRI</b>	Rainforest Restoration Initiative
<b>RSPO</b>	Round Table for Sustainable Palm oil
<b>SIE</b>	Southern Institute of Ecology
<b>SHGs</b>	Self-Help groups
<b>UNDRIP</b>	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Program
<b>WWF</b>	World Wide Fund for Nature

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*Snehlata Nath*  
**Snehlata Nath**

President of the  
Board of Trustees

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ecological phenomena often lead to philosophical musings on the nature of things - living, consciousness, survival, energy, and hierarchy, among them. A tree fall gap in the rainforest of the *Cholanaickens*<sup>1</sup> had given rise to new life; suddenly the saplings lying dormant shot up and the birds seemed to frequent the place more. Sunshine had changed the pattern of life in that small space. The old must make way for the new.

In the NTFP-EP too, lots of changes occurred in 2013, giving new energy to the group. The focus on wild foods dominated our discussions, providing the link to culture and well-being. Instruments that recognize traditionally conserved areas by indigenous people, such as the Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs), were initiated. Work with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was undertaken, along with new concepts like the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS). Many partners re-initiated their attention on subsistence non-timber forest products (NTFPs), while strengthening enterprises simultaneously.

It was a challenge to balance the changes in the organization and the Board of NTFP-EP. I would like to welcome Lanny Nañagas and Doris Capistrano as new members of our Board. Together with the older members, they will provide new direction and strategy to the organisation. With the country programmes registering as separate organisations, their strength and local governance are enhanced. 2014 and the years to come will have to set out the new norms of engagement in the network.

Stepping down from being the President of the Board in 2013, I feel great pleasure to introduce the new President, Miks Guia-Padilla. She works with AnthroWatch and has vast experience with indigenous affairs in the Philippines. She has also been our Board member for several years now, and is well versed with the functioning and strengths of NTFP-EP. I wish her luck in steering us to new directions.

The most important aspect of all our success is the dedication and hard work of our staff, partner NGOs, and the indigenous communities across the region. Their challenges have been much more intense - having to face natural disasters, insurgency, mining, palm oil and other threats to their very existence. I wish them strength of conviction to continue the work of protecting forests and a way of life.

Another lesson from ecology is that of keystone species, whose role impacts the structure and integrity of the larger ecosystem. Many woodpeckers, starfish, elephants, and wolves are known to be keystone species in their ecosystems. I wish all in NTFP-EP to have that impact and provide niches for others to dwell in.

On behalf of NTFP-EP, I would also like to thank all our donors, advisors and friends for their firm support to our work. Wishing a fulfilling 2014 to all.

<sup>1</sup> *Cholanaickens* are an indigenous community in the Karulai Forest Range of Nilambur in Kerala of the western Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.



## WHO WE ARE

About a hundred million people living in and around forests in South and Southeast Asia depend on NTFPs for their subsistence and cash income. NTFPs and NTFP-derived products such as furniture, honey, varnish, beeswax candles, and herbal medicine are necessities in urban centers too.

However, communities often have no access to strategic information, practical technology, and financial support to make viable enterprises. A handful of organizations that saw the link between sustainable use of forest resources and economic development for indigenous peoples (IPs) and forest communities started helping these communities, and the Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme for South and Southeast Asia (NTFP-EP) sprung from the need for these groups to come together.

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

## WHAT WE DO

For centuries, communities in the region have been using traditional ecological systems, knowledge, and practices to protect forestlands, which have in turn provided them with their basic needs. Our shared goal is to promote forest conservation through the empowerment of forest-based communities and the sustainable management of NTFPs.

Employing a participatory strategy, NTFP-EP helps strengthen the capacity of forest-based communities and their support organizations by serving as a platform for information and knowledge exchange of appropriate resource management techniques and experiences. The network also provides technical support and training, assistance in strategy formulation, documentation of best practices and success stories, mobilization of resources, advocacy for local initiatives, and lobbying efforts for enabling policies.

Specifically, we work towards:

- Forest conservation through management and sustainable harvesting of NTFPs, to emphasize the forests' intrinsic relationship with the culture and livelihood of indigenous peoples;
- Tenurial security and enforcement of user rights through legal measures and policy advocacy;
- Food and health security through the enhancement of subsistence uses of NTFPs, and promotion of indigenous peoples' culture and traditional ecological knowledge;
- Increased income from value addition and marketing of NTFPs using the low volume, high value approach;
- Land rights, tenure and policy advocacy through constituency building, ensuring enabling environments in which various sectors are in support of indigenous land rights and their NTFP enterprises
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation through the integration of social forestry in these endeavors



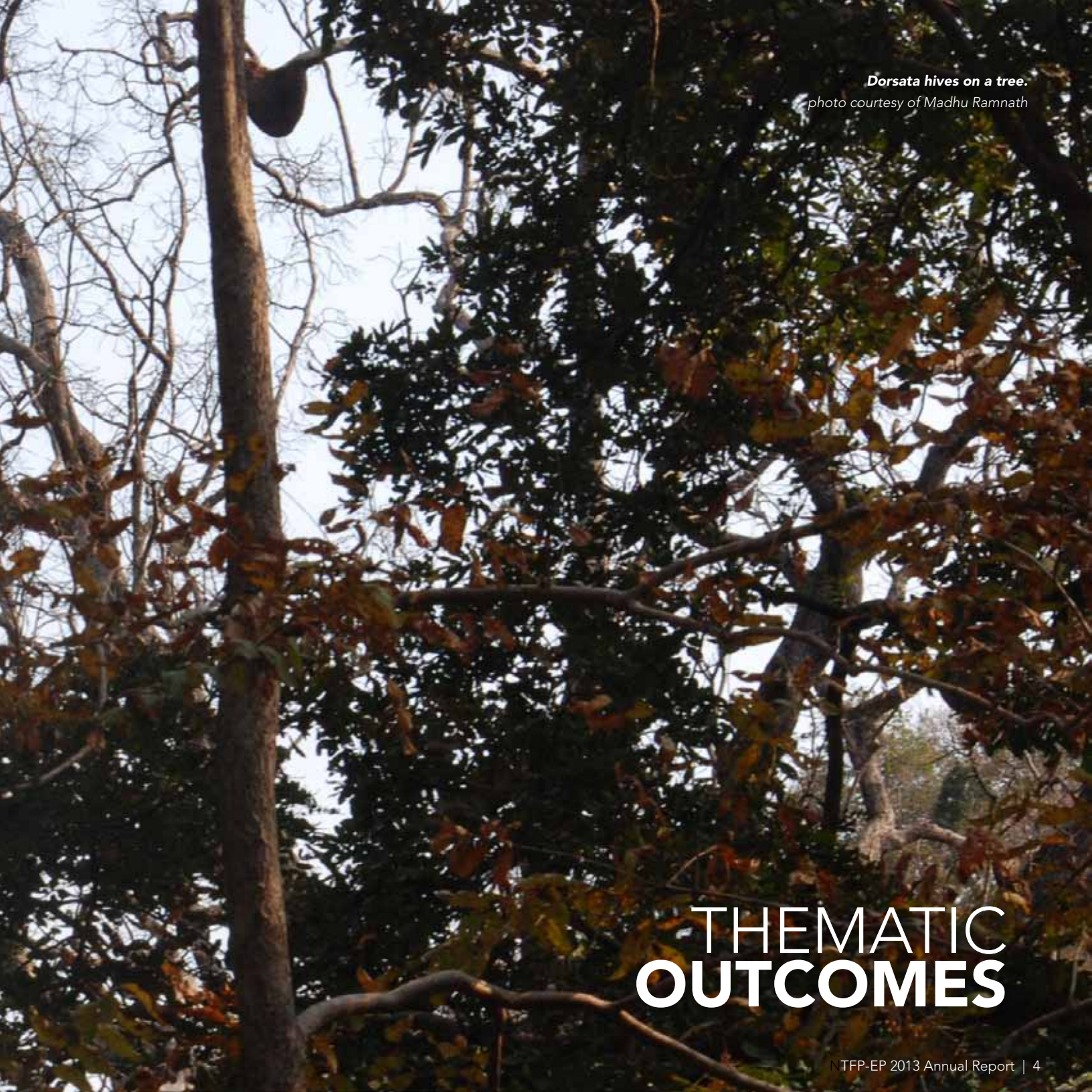
NTFP-EP

linking  
people and forests









*Dorsata hives on a tree.*  
photo courtesy of Madhu Ramnath

# THEMATIC OUTCOMES





# CONSERVATION

Wild food, leaves of *Celastrus paniculata* in a leaf cup

photo courtesy of Madhu Ramnath

Efforts in this theme were boosted with the establishment of a Conservation and Resource Management (CRM) program and team that helped to reformulate objectives and assess the interventions, tools, and needs per country. An informal pool of advisers made recommendations towards strategic directions, and a preliminary list of model sites and best practices was drawn up for potential documentation and replication.

Across the region, planting of seedlings and setting up of nurseries continued, particularly for medicinal species, trees and NTFPs of economic and cultural importance such as *jerenang*<sup>2</sup>, *bemban*<sup>3</sup>, wild yam, and fruit trees. Almost 183,000 seedlings were prepared, and in Malaysia, new techniques of marcotting are being tested to produce more rubber seedlings. Seed sharing and exchange are being done in India and Indonesia to address the lack of supply of seedlings. Rainforestation is ongoing in the Philippines as part of a national government programme.

A unified set of information on NTFP species was collected in preparation for the re-design of the NTFP-EP website and the online database. So far, 434 NTFP species are being verified and translated before the data is uploaded to the website.

Community forest conservation was promoted through the revival of traditions in India, and leadership workshops and boundary delineation in Malaysia. Resource management plans for NTFPs such as honey, resin, *pandan*<sup>4</sup>, *simli*<sup>5</sup>, *kendu*<sup>6</sup>, and bamboo are being developed or improved in the Philippines, Cambodia,

and India. Special attention was made in demarcating water catchment areas and other important land uses, planting of rainforest species, ecological monitoring, and demarcating sacred groves.

While sustainable harvesting of resin is continuing in India, harvesting protocols are being consolidated among different communities in the Philippines, and new technology for minimal impact on resin trees is being experimented in Cambodia. The establishment of the Philippine Forest Honey Network (PFHN) will facilitate nationwide compliance to harvesting protocols for wild honey. Insurance for the sustainability of honey and other NTFPs in India, and for rattan in Indonesia, are being developed through a Participatory Guarantee System (PGS).

NTFP-EP scaled up its involvement in the ICCA Consortium from the global to community levels. Parallel efforts in ICCA documentation as a requirement for registration were done in Indonesia and the Philippines, where priority sites have been identified.

2 *Jerenang* is a rattan species harvested for the natural red dye it produces from its seed.

3 *Bemban* is a shrub whose stems are used for handicraft products. They especially grow in secondary forests, near rivers and lakes.

4 *Pandan* is a tropical plant in the *Pandanus* genus, with scientific name *Pandanus amaryllifolius*. Its leaves are used widely in Southeast Asian cooking as flavouring. (Wikipedia)

5 *Simli* is a native Silk Cotton (*Bombax malabathricum*)

6 *Kendu* or *Diospyros melanoxylon* is a species of flowering tree in the family Ebenaceae that is native to India and Sri Lanka





**Punan Adiu family heading home after foraging for food**  
photo courtesy of Wahyu Widhi

## FOOD & HEALTH SECURITY

Through research, festivals, and workshops, attention to forest food issues has been gained from civil society members, institutions, and private individuals. The launching of three books from Indonesia, India and Cambodia on wild food values and threats during the FAO International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition held in Rome in May 2013 has sparked some interest among researchers seeking collaboration.

The Slow Food movement and organic food advocates are supporting local and natural food products, especially through cook-fests and taste testing events. Indigenous forest-based groups are getting more invitations to share their knowledge on wild foods in national fora.

In the Philippines, forest foods and other subsistence needs were discussed for inclusion in the curriculum of a local Negrito school. Support is being sought from the Department of Education and the National Commission on Culture and Arts (NCCA). In Cambodia, a master's thesis

on wild foods is hoping to spark interest in young, urban-based scientists. In Malaysia, workshops have encouraged sharing between the old and the young, with the realization that many of the current generation no longer know the importance of wild food species, nor the means to find and harvest them.

In India, wild food festivals have resulted in the documentation of over 100 wild food species, and dried forest foods were shared in Barefoot Ecology meetings. These events have also sparked support for a yam and tubers nursery, which is slowly developing into a cultural revival and documentation center in Tamil Nadu. In Vietnam, tubers were harvested from the Takou Nature Reserve yam garden, for consumption by the farmers and also for cash income. In general, however, though progress has been made on this front, results are still modest as it has been difficult to source funding for this program.

# CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION & MITIGATION



Civil society engagement was facilitated through the ASEAN Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC). The ASEAN Civil Society Organization (CSO) forum position papers on tenure and rights, community economy and livelihood, safeguards, and governance were re-submitted to the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN). These were well-received and taken up at higher levels in the ASEAN structure.

In Cambodia, progress was made in advancing the participation of civil society and indigenous peoples particularly in the development of the National Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) program. A CSO REDD+ network was established and capacity building activities were conducted.

In the Philippines, progress on REDD+ was achieved at the national level, with the draft resolution on the establishment of National Multi-stakeholder REDD+ Council (NMRC) discussed. Several training sessions on REDD governance and tools were also conducted. Policy

briefs on Carbon Rights and Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) were prepared, and six cases on benefit sharing were implemented. In the Palawan REDD+ demonstration site, the Forest Land Use plans (FLUP) of four villages were integrated in the municipal FLUP and a watershed declaration has been issued.

Through the Community Carbon Pools REDD+ project, Fauna and Flora International (FFI) and NTFP-EP facilitated community learning exchanges, a benefit sharing workshop, and a regional policy workshop. These activities have helped to raise common understanding of safeguards, and equity in REDD+. Policy gaps were identified and interventions to address them were initiated.

Due to the grave changes in climate that affected livelihoods in partner areas, assessments of disaster risk, vulnerabilities, and capacities of seven partner communities in Indonesia, the Philippines and Cambodia were done. Climate projections were developed and initial climate change adaptation strategies were drafted in selected villages.



# LAND RIGHTS TENURE, & POLICY

Land tenure and rights has been one of the advocacies included in the ASEAN CSO forum. At the country level, local programs have been mediating Forest Rights Act implementation in India, the recognition of the Kien Luong Karst Nature Reserve in Vietnam, and several customary forest and land claims in the Philippines and Indonesia.

A Scoping Study on Cutting-Edge Technology and Strategic Knowledge on NTFPs for the Green Economy was completed. The study found that the ASEAN forestry sector can play a more significant role in the region's economic integration by 2015, and provides concrete recommendations on how this can be done.

In Cambodia, the establishment of a community forestry network and provincial community forestry program coordination committee has strengthened cooperation with the Forest Administration.

In India, support was given to community members fighting a court case to get back rights to NTFP collection in an area declared as a tiger sanctuary. There were also successes in submitting requirements for community forestry claims and mediating boundary issues between villages.

In Indonesia, efforts were made to promote the understanding and implementation of the constitutional court decision recognizing customary forest outside of state land. This brought renewed spirit among indigenous peoples seeking tenurial security over their forests.

In Malaysia, workshops were held to discuss laws, court decisions, forest conservation, and land rights. Increased knowledge on these issues provided avenues for members to formulate community action plans to protect their rights.

In the Philippines, linkages between local government bodies and community members in Palawan were established to simplify the NTFP permitting process for almaciga harvesting. A Working Group on Oil Palm Concerns was also formed to address the alarming expansion of the industry in the province.

In Vietnam, after a long campaign by Southern Institute of Ecology (SIE) and its partners, the Prime Minister finally declared the Kien Luong Karst Nature Reserve part of Vietnam's new system of protected areas, providing greater opportunities to conserve this unique karst landscape.



# INCOME GENERATION

A fruiting branch of *Chionanthus*  
photo courtesy of Madhu Ramnath

Enterprise development projects continued to generate additional income for forest communities. Quantitative results of the community enterprise projects in Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines are shown in Table 1. Through those projects, more women and men in forest communities were able to develop and manage their own community-based NTFP enterprises (CBNEs) covering economic, social, cultural and environmental development aspects.

Assistance for marketing and product development to CBNE partners contributed to increased sales compared to 2012 record. The marked sales increases were with Cambodia's NatureWild at 15%, Indonesia's Borneo Chic (BC) at 25%, and India at 358%. Malaysia also recorded a sales increase. In the Philippines, however, crafts and food purchases were affected when Christmas orders were withdrawn to use funds to contribute to the victims of Typhoon Haiyan instead.

The improved regional sales show increasing appreciation of NTFPs such as wild honey, bamboo and rattan, including country-specific products like *mahua*<sup>7</sup> and *amla*<sup>8</sup> in India, and specific species of natural dye plants in Indonesia and Philippines. Participation in trade fairs and exhibitions involving partners contributed to increased sales. It also expanded markets outside of the network, such as Norway and Japan where BC was invited for trade exhibition.

Practical ground-level experience on community enterprise development paved the way for the conceptualization of a training package for more organizations in the future. Topics

include CBNE development and management, Sustainable Livelihood Assessment (SLA), Value Chain Analysis (VCA), Community Livelihood Appraisal and Product/Resource Scanning (CLAPS), honey processing, and packaging.

In Cambodia, there was increased demand for technical support after the launching of the Enterprise Development Programme (EDP).

Through value addition projects implemented by partners in India, more women and men in tribal communities benefitted from increased incomes and improvement in processing technologies, including higher prices for products processed from a pulverizer purchased by KOVEL.

In Malaysia, the crafts network Jalinan has empowered more women by strengthening their community enterprises and crafts development.

In the Philippines and Indonesia, there was increased support to weaving and natural-dye producing communities through the "Sustainable Hand-woven Eco-Textile Project." Improvements on quality standards of NTFP products in the Philippines were made through the Philippine Forest Honey Network (PFHN). Other initiatives include the value chain study on almaciga resin, and product development on citronella, indigo dye and nipa syrup. The revision of the Impact Monitoring Report (IMR) tool by the NTFP-EP Philippine staff will further help quantify improvements in community enterprises.




COUNTRY	NUMBER OF COMMUNITY-BASED NTFP ENTERPRISES/ GROUPS	NUMBER OF PERSONS INVOLVED		NUMBER OF VILLAGES	NTFPS USED	SALES
		WOMEN	MEN			
<b>CAMBODIA</b>	41 CBNEs	230	1,488	87 villages in 10 provinces	resin, honey, rattan, bamboo, natural dyes, palm, soap nut	€ 55,728.70
<b>INDIA</b>	3 producer companies; 3 district federation; 1 cooperative; 437 self-help groups	20,504	12,950	480 villages in 11 districts	Honey, wax, shikakai, soapnut, millet, pepper, coffee, silk cotton, amla, jamun, sabai, sal, mahua, tamarind, hill broom, lac, banana fiber, phoenix broom, kokam rind, kokam butter, resin, oils, bamboo, neem, char seeds, gum karaya, siyadi, wild ginger, kalmegh, etc.	€ 352,667.00
<b>INDONESIA</b>	37 CBNEs	457 weavers	983 honey farmers	75	rattan, water reed, leaf fiber, bamboo, natural dyes, honey, and honey products, seeds, bamboo, rattan, pandan	€ 197,386.14
<b>MALAYSIA</b>	7 CBNEs	70	5	21	seeds, bamboo, rattan, pandan	€ 2,000.00
<b>PHILIPPINES</b>	80 CBNEs	1,921	1,776	104	Honey, seedlings, banana, wild fruits (passion and citrus, avocado, kaimito, pineapple, guyabano, guava, langka), pandan, forest seeds (pidlis), forest vines (rattan, nito, tarura), abaca, root crops (cassava), dyes (loco, knalum, guava), buri, bamboo, cogon, coconut, citronella	€ 107,524.98
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>23,182</b>	<b>17,202</b>	<b>767</b>		<b>€ 715,306.82</b>

7 *Mahua (Madhuca indica)*, is an Indian tropical tree found largely in the central and north Indian plains and forests. The tree is culturally most identified with Indian life in the plains. Its flowers are sweat, delicious and are distilled to make liquor and/or vinegar. The seeds yield fat known as Mahua butter used in cooking, adulteration of Ghee, manufacturing chocolates and even soaps, besides treatment of rheumatism and constipation.

8 *Amla (Emblca officinalis)* or Indian gooseberry is a natural, efficacious antioxidant with the richest natural source of Vitamin C. It is one of the most frequently used of the Ayurvedic herbs.

# MICRO GRANTS FUND



*A traditional Batak dish, Suydong - wrapped rice  
poured with water and then cooked  
photo courtesy of Portia Villarante*

Two small grant facilities, the Broederlijk Delen Micro Grant Fund (BD-MGF) and the Catalyst Fund from Both ENDS' Untold Story (BE-US) project, provided opportunities to local organizations that are less likely to get funding from big donor agencies. The simple guidelines for application, issued at the 4th round calling for proposals in August 2013 for BD-MGF, brought 15 submissions from the six country networks and Bangladesh. Seven projects in four countries on resource management, land tenure, livelihood, lobbying and addressing threats were supported covering a total grant amount of €30,914.

Since 2012, there have been 25 local projects supported with overall grants of about €111,394. Sixteen grantees were funded by BD-MGF while nine projects were under BE-US project. For 2013, Cambodia and Philippines also started implementing their respective grants facility that was accessed by their country partners.

Projects supported by BD-MGF and BE-US in 2013:

1. Livelihood Creation from Sustainably-Managed Resources for the Dumagats in the Tayabasan Sub-Watershed by Philippine Federation for Environmental Concern (PFEC) in the Philippines
2. Crafts Development & Women Empowerment by Jaringan Orang Asal Semalaysia (JOAS) - Indigenous Peoples Network of Malaysia
3. Community-Based Resin Enterprise Capacity-Building for Supply-Readiness, by Ponlok Khmer (PKH) in Cambodia
4. NTFP Subsistence Scoping Study
5. Documentary Film on the Biodiversity at Kien Luong Karst, Vietnam by the Southern Institute of Ecology (SIE) of Vietnam
6. Sustaining and expanding market access through strengthened capacities by Fr. Vincent Cullen Tulugan Learning Development Center (FVCTLDC) in the Philippines
7. First Batak Cultural Revival Festival and Development Forum: An IP Month Event, a project to increase awareness and greater appreciation for the Batak traditions, knowledge and expertise by Nagkakaisang Tribu sa Palawan (NATRIPAL), Inc. of the Philippines.





*Fishing as a livelihood activity of  
communities in Danau Sentarum*  
photo courtesy of Jusupta Tarigan

# COUNTRY REPORTS

From books to boutique sales, many positive developments were achieved by NTFP-EP offices and partners in the six countries where the program is present.



# CAMBODIA

*Newly harvested leaves ready  
for traditional bunong cooking  
photo courtesy of Lakhena Chan*

The Conservation and Resource Management Programme of Cambodia was developed, and ways to fully integrate it into existing systems were sought. Assistance on resource management planning and sustainable harvesting of honey and resin was given to collectors.

In collaboration with WWF-Cambodia and Forest Product Research and Development Institute in the Philippines, field-testing for a new resin tapping technology was initiated. A video documentary about two communities that received support for resin supply readiness, including standardization of quality and tapping protocols, was produced.

Training on community and integrated mapping enhanced the capacities of at least 32 indigenous peoples from 15 provinces in validating and documenting NTFP species.

In collaboration with Nomad RSI, participatory research on forest food resulted in a publication on wild food and recipes. Support was also given to a master's degree student doing a thesis on the effect of land use practices and wild food collection on the abundance of food species.

Opportunities to advocate for civil society and indigenous peoples participation in the REDD+ program were pursued, and the CSO REDD+ network was established. Facilitation of capacity building on FPIC, safeguards, MRV, and benefit sharing were done, as well as co-facilitation of the process on setting up the multi-sectoral Consultation

Group of the National REDD+ Programme. A report on community participation on REDD+ and the mobilization of Cambodian CSOs to participate in the ASEAN was published.

Collaboration with the Forestry Administration on the formal recognition and support to the Community Forestry Network and the Provincial Community Forestry Coordinating Committee (PCFPCC) was done.

A workshop was organized for communities so they could share experiences on social forest management and climate change. Training on DRR and CCA was conducted, and the community formulated an adaptation plan against the main hazards they identified.

Several research studies for publication were conducted. These include a case study on three commercial NTFPs, a honey certification study, and a socio-economic baseline profile with NTFP livelihood assessment in one province.

Enterprise development training was provided to 28 Community-based Honey Enterprise (CBHE) and 10 NGO partners. Topics consisted of CBNE development and management, SLA, value chain analysis, CLAPS, honey harvesting protocols, and honey processing and packaging.

It was a great year for the enterprise development program, which earned revenues of € 55,728.73 through NatureWild.





**Weaving on a sunny afternoon**  
photo courtesy of Madhu Ramnath

Through the efforts of partners spread across six states, 178,000 seedlings in 37 nurseries were established and 200,000 were planted. Seed collection and exchange was done among partners, nurseries improved, and threatened and medicinal species have been added. Conservation work on threatened species such as Cycads, *Canarium strictum*, and *Bombax malabathricum* continue.

LEAF supported the revival of the thengapalli tradition in Bastar for sacred groves protection. Gram Swaraj worked towards reducing ritual hunting in 100 villages in Simlipal. So far, 150 village people have been involved in barefoot ecology.

Keystone's work on ecological monitoring is ready for a trial run. They produced a publication with RCDC on sustainable community forest management, and led an advocacy on protocols in two states. Sustainable harvesting training for honey and resin was conducted.

Two wild food festivals were organized, and 120 food species have been documented.

Communities fighting court cases continued to receive support, with eight villages succeeding in their claims.

In the Tribal Sub Plan, training for youth and increasing representation were undertaken. Ten interested youth in Bastar were trained as paralegals and taught the FRA, PESA, and the Constitution. Other advocacies include the Right to Food campaign, the Minimum Support Price, and strengthening the Bamboo Management Committees.

Partner hubs were strengthened with new production centers, and the procurement of equipment that would add value to raw NTFPs such as a mahua seed decortication machine. They have also been experimenting with new products such as natural dyes, essential oils, special honeys, spices, *adda leaf plates*<sup>9</sup> and palm fiber craft. Exploration of ten gum-yielding plant species started, and partners have been working with the corporate sector particularly for ayurvedic medicine.

Honey and bamboo crafts workshops and exchanges were organized, and a procurement and management plan was prepared for kendu leaf and bamboo.

Collective marketing of NTFPs and value addition at the household level was initiated by KOVEL for a group of women in Visakhapatnam. A producers' group run solely by indigenous peoples in Tamil Nadu registered as a separate company. There are plans for a certification scheme for each NTFP species after several workshops on PGS.

<sup>9</sup> *Adda leaf plates* are consumable products used in rural areas to serve meals.



# INDONESIA

*Winding rivers of Danau Sentarum covered with lush forests*

*photo courtesy of Jusupta Tarigan*

The Working Group on Indigenous Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) developed a documentation guide for use in five initial sites. Culturally important community forests spread across 170 hectares are being maintained in Sintang, West Kalimantan, where natural dyes were planted to aid the local hand-woven textile industry. The rattan gardens in the district of Sanggau were also enhanced.

A series of local and national workshops was conducted to approve the standards for a Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) that will ensure sustainability of rattan products. The International Market Survey on PGS rattan was also conducted.

A short book entitled “The Changing Forest and Food Systems of the Punan Adiu” was launched during the FAO International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition. At least 30 species of wild foods have been documented in Malinau, North Kalimantan and organic food experts have expressed interest in conserving certain species from that area. Together with other NGOs, the campaign on Sustainable Livelihoods Initiatives and Models (SLIMs) was launched.

Close collaboration was done with the Ministry of Forestry in supporting the promotion of NTFP centers in different parts of Indonesia. The implementation of the constitutional court decision on the recognition of customary forests or hutan adat was also promoted.

Through the Crafts Kalimantan (CK) Network, 28 weaver communities were supported. A total of 457 artisans were assisted and by midyear, close to 60% of the communities had registered higher income.

Livelihood appraisals of 10 community forestry groups in Sikka, Flores were facilitated. Support was given to community enterprises of six women in small business networks in Sumatra, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, and Java.

Borneo Chic (BC), the marketing arm of Crafts Kalimantan, recorded a 25% increase in sales. BC was also invited by the Ministry of Trade to export trainings and exhibitions in Tokyo. The year also witnessed a landmark design competition for BC, and new budding designers are now executing designs for 2014.





**Women actively participating during the CLAPS workshop**

photo courtesy of Hui Yein Koong

## MALAYSIA

Training on bud grafting enabled the communities to develop their own seedlings and lessen their dependence on traders. Rehabilitation efforts focused on two additional villages, Long Siang and Ba Marong.

Four communities have completed their land use maps, identifying areas of significance such as sago groves, settlements, farming and hunting grounds. A land use map will assist in identifying rehabilitation and conservation sites as a means to protect native land and forest from threats.

A Forest Food and Health workshop revealed that the nomadic Penans with access to cash income are getting more exposed to unhealthy processed food. Through dialogue and demonstration, the facilitator provided them with a basic understanding of good eating habits.

The 'Subsistence, Forest Conservation and Land Rights' workshop saw the elders being genuinely surprised that the youth lacked traditional knowledge. They shared the philosophy that all things in the forest, including the people

who live there, are connected; the destruction of one will have an adverse chain effect on all other life in the forest. Core threats to native land and initiatives to protect the indigenous people rights were also discussed.

In collaboration with the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), 22 FDS staff and community members participated in a 5-day exchange visit to Danau Sentarum National Park, West Kalimantan to learn about crafts and forest honey enterprise development. In response, FDS has initiated projects on forest honey using the rafter method, as well as rattan gardens in five indigenous communities in Sarawak.

A Community Livelihood and Product Appraisal Scanning workshop enhanced the participating women's capacity in understanding the concept, approach, and tools of sustainable livelihood and enterprise development. They were able to determine the importance of craft making in relation to other livelihood activities. Two community-based NTFP enterprises were formed at the workshop.



# PHILIPPINES

Psychosocial interventions held after the destruction of Haiyan  
photo courtesy of Beng Camba

Resource management workshops were conducted for almaciga resin harvesting communities, which identified threats to the sustainability of the traditional product through loss of habitat from logging and mining, high production demand from traders, and unsustainable collecting practices of non-IP gatherers. Discussions with almaciga tappers were conducted and a one-hectare sample production plot established.

The value chain study on almaciga resin was completed. The study was instrumental in the decision of indigenous peoples' organizations to engage in almaciga resin harvesting, processing, and marketing enterprises.

Trainings on rain forestation were given to IP members in Tarlac and Quezon. Documentation was initiated for the inclusion of some community sites in the ICCA registry.

The Philippine Forest Honey Network (PFHN) was organized and has formulated quality standards, guidelines on harvesting and collecting, and common pricing to be followed by all members. They also began formulating their organizational structure, functions, and goals.

Two food festivals were held – the Tulaog Food Festival in Quezon, and the Batak Food and Cultural Festival in Palawan. Tulaog is a sacred site of the Agta-Dumagat-

Remontado and one of the seven sites proposed for inclusion in the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)-World Conservation Monitoring Centre registry. Wild Food Tasting was held in Bacolod City, which integrated forest food into the annual Organic Food Festival of the province. A cooking demonstration of Aeta traditional food was part of the festivity.

Documentation to secure the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) for two areas in Palawan was continued. The ancestral domain management plan of General Nakar, Quezon was validated and a 3D map completed.

An oil palm conference was held in Manila to present the results of a study made by a local partner. The study highlighted the massive land conversion happening in Palawan to give way to oil palm.

The Sustainable Hand-woven Eco-Textile Project started, with project orientations and production assessments conducted among partner communities.

Trainings were conducted on weaving, indigo production, honey harvesting, and *trigona*<sup>10</sup> production with communities in various areas.

<sup>10</sup> *Trigona* is the largest genus of stingless bees, formerly including many more subgenera than the present assemblage; many of these former subgenera have been elevated to generic status.





**The view from Bidoup Nui Ba National Park office**

*photo courtesy of Tanya Conlu*

# VIETNAM

Community partners of SIE continued to maintain the garden of medicinal plants containing 40 species established in Nui Chua National Park in southern Vietnam.

Farmers in Ta Kou Nature Reserve have started harvesting tubers from the yam garden established the previous year. The harvested yam may be sold in supermarkets, which will provide sustainable income for the farmers. Meanwhile, the garden has expanded into a nursery for other plants, including other useful NTFPs and reforestation species. Translation of 150 NTFP species documented is ongoing.

The site for the planned Vietnam eco-cultural museum has been identified in a village of the K'Ho in Bidoup – Nui Ba National Park. An important consultation workshop was held in Da Lat City, resulting in the go-signal to develop the facility as soon as possible. Full support from other museum representatives and the local authorities

has been gained, including land and road construction to be provided by the national park. A feasible operation and management scheme has been recommended with the cooperation of local communities and the national park, and technical support from NTFP-EP and SIE.

The Prime Minister finally approved the inclusion of Kien Luong Karst Nature Reserve in Vietnam's new system of protected areas, after a long media campaign by SIE and its partners to conserve this unique landscape. Coverage from the country's biggest national newspaper and a 4-part series broadcast on national television helped achieve this positive outcome, with one episode even getting a bronze prize in a recent festival. The film was also shown in a big workshop in August involving different stakeholders, including a central government ministry. SIE and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) have worked continuously on this campaign.

A photograph showing the back of a person wearing a black polo shirt. The shirt has the text 'linking people and forests' printed on the back in a green, cursive-style font. In the background, another person is visible, slightly out of focus, wearing a similar black shirt with a green logo. The setting appears to be an indoor event or conference.

*linking  
people and forests*

WHAT'S NEW  
**AT NTFP-EP**



Two Board of Trustees meetings were held and two new members joined the Board - Mr. Vitaliano “Lanny” Nanagas, a finance governance and management expert, and Ms. Doris Capistrano, who has a solid background in forestry governance, economics and international development. A new set of officers for the next four years was elected, with Ms. Ma. Teresa “Miks” Guia-Padilla as the new President.

The Board of Trustees adopted fund-raising policies and guidelines. Internal systems and structures were strengthened, and its external programs enhanced. The Financial Management Improvement Plan (FMIP) is being implemented.

The Indonesia office, which registered as an independent foundation in 2012, hired its first executive director. Meanwhile, NTFP-EP Philippines decided to seek in-country registration and has chosen its own set of Board of Trustees. These country programs have spun off as independent entities to ensure grounded projects.

Communication planning workshops were conducted for Cambodia and the Philippines. To strengthen branding, and following a consultative process, the Board adopted a tagline for the organization, which is featured for the first time in this report – NTFP-EP: linking people and forests.

Various online platforms were utilized to disseminate information and knowledge to wider audiences through regular posting of interesting content. Exchange News, NTFP-EP’s e-newsletter, was sent out every two months, reaching 284 individuals in 17 countries.

Four new projects were approved for implementation:

- Support for the Micro Grant Fund until June 2014;
- 2-year regional capacity building and sustainable trade program for community forest enterprises;
- 1-year ICCA documentation and regional learning exchange project; and
- 3-year Cambodia project on indigenous community alliance for rights, resources, culture and biodiversity

NTFP-EP started to develop a paid-training program that would be offered to organizations supporting community enterprises. This is in response to the increasing demand for NTFP-EP’s technical competence in building up and strengthening community-based NTFP enterprises (CBNEs) particularly in Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines. The new program, Expanding Community Enterprise and Economic Development (EXCEED), is designed to mentor civil society organizations, people’s organizations, CBNEs and government service providers on community forest enterprise development.

**Timber in a Forest Department post in Maharashtra**

*photo courtesy of Madhu Ramnath*

WHAT NEEDS  
**TO BE DONE**



As the years go by, more and more lessons have been learned as efforts expand to a wider area in the region. At the same time, many challenges remain, making the work of NTFP-EP more critical than ever in supporting forest-based communities.

### **Working with government**

Collaboration with local and national governments across the region opens both opportunities and challenges. There is still a tendency among some government units for a top-down approach in providing services to communities. The need to help fast-track the enforcement of favorable policies, such as those granting tenure and access to resources to indigenous peoples, remains a major challenge.

### **Building community resilience**

Dealing with internal conflicts and misunderstanding that occur among communities on issues such as defining land boundaries is a constant concern. There is also an increasing trend among logging companies and other investors to offer ‘gifts’ to soften the impact of threats coming from destructive and extractive projects such as dams, mining, and plantations. Finally, support among community members needs to be strengthened in light of severe weather disturbances that affect lives and livelihoods.

### **Sustainability of NTFPs**

The growing demand for NTFPs in the domestic and international market is making conservation a very more important aspect of our work. More emphasis is needed on restoring resources and ensuring continued production in the long term. Communities need to be involved in this effort, especially with climate change making it more difficult to retain traditional planting cycles.

### **Engaging the youth**

A persistent challenge across the region is how to get the young members of the community to be more involved in the projects. Traditional ecological knowledge and decision-making processes need to be shared with the younger generation, who are getting alienated from their forest environment and losing their culture as they join mainstream society.

### **Financial sustainability**

With many projects ending in 2013, there is a need to work on sustained funding for community efforts and core support. The conservation and resource management and subsistence program remains underfunded. It is important to ensure consistency between short-term funding and longer-term programs to achieve strategic goals.



ONWARD  
TO 2014



It's going to be another busy year, with the following major regional activities:

- CSO forum and ASFN conference in Sabah, Malaysia;
- NTFP Conference in Cambodia;
- Philippine Honey Network exposure visit to Indonesia;
- Participation of community partners and NTFP-EP Indonesia and Philippines to the International Folk Art Market in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA;
- Regional ICCA and tenure exchange visit in the Philippines;
- Regional participatory resource management training in the Philippines;
- Learning visit on enterprise sustainability and producer cooperative formation to Last Forest brand in India;
- Food from the forest regional meeting, back to back with barefoot ecology and wild foods orientation

In the country offices, some of the key activities are the following:

- Developing modules for barefoot ecology in India;
- Pilot testing of rattan participatory guarantee system in 2 districts in Kalimantan in Indonesia;
- Development and launching of a booklet on important food species in Penan, Malaysia;
- Food festival, youth camp and resource assessment of forest foods in Nakar, Quezon in the Philippines;
- Action research on forest foods;
- Opening of a shop at the SIE office in Vietnam to promote NTFPs produced by the local communities;
- Raising awareness on the importance of resin dipterocarp and improving sustainable resin tapping practice through information materials and community trainings

Documentation of ICCAs will continue in Indonesia and the Philippines. Agreements will be made on final plans and topics for the research and documentation of NTFP-EP's "Best Practices" Toolkit. New database entries of NTFP species will be finalized and uploaded online.

Country communication plans will be finalized and integrated in the regional plan. Updated organizational information materials will be produced, while effective and regular story generation for Voices from the Forest and online platforms will be continued.

There are plans to expand NTFP-EPs presence in the Mekong Region. Efforts in fundraising for conservation and resource management related targets will be increased. The EXCEED training program for community forestry enterprises will be offered. NTFP-EP will continue to implement its Financial Management Improvement Plan.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

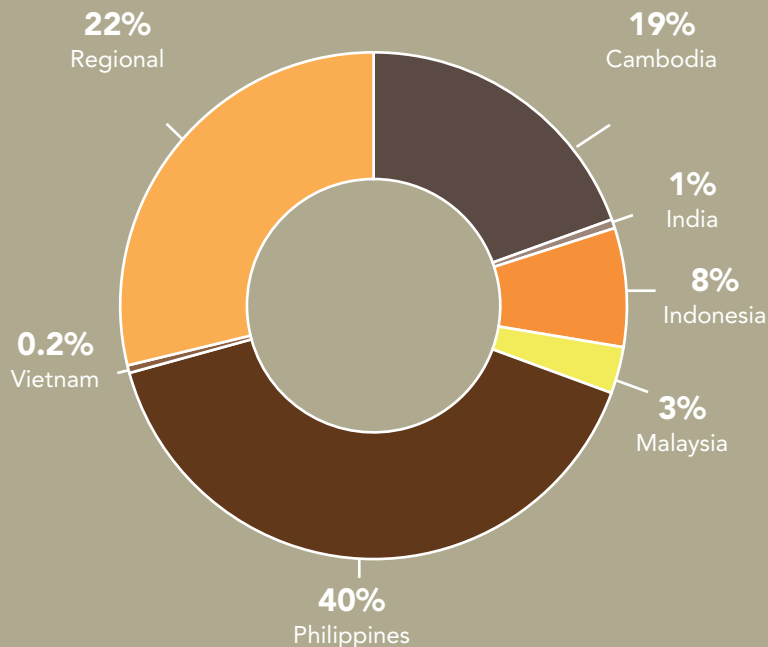


*A Bhinjwar adivasi in Chhattisgarh ready for a dance.*

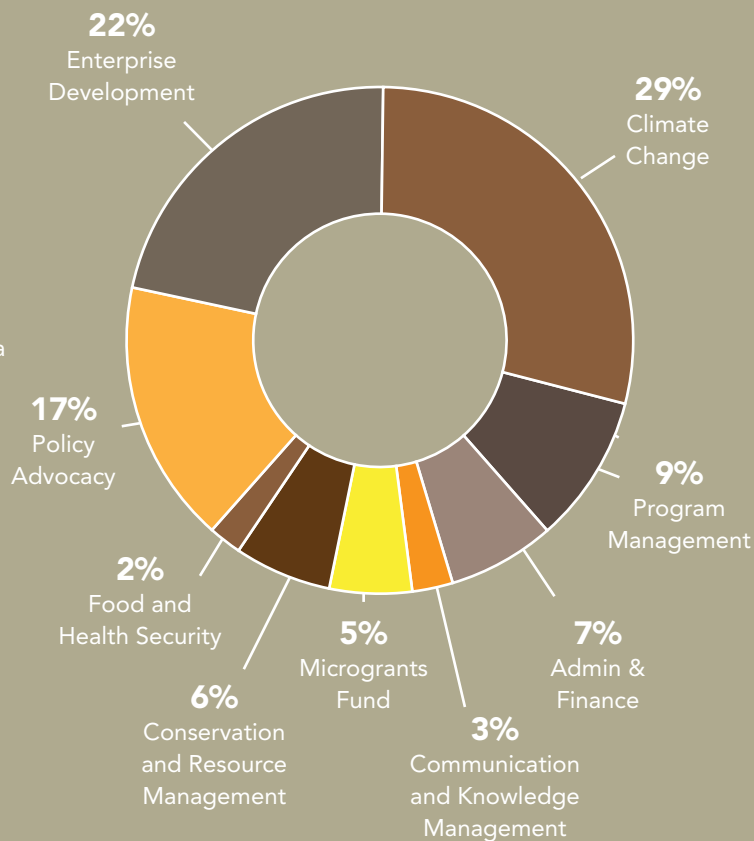
*photo courtesy of Madhu Ramnath*



## GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF NTFP-EP FUNDS RECEIVED



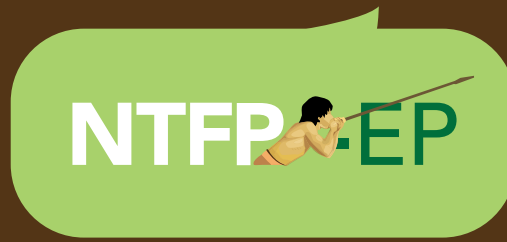
## THEMATIC DISTRIBUTION OF NTFP-EP EXPENSES



NTFP-EP's total spending for 2013 amounted to 1,544,755 euros that was utilized in the various thematic programs in 6 countries. The above chart shows a significant portion of the expenditure went to climate change and followed by income generation. The food security program has the least spending, not because of lack of programs but because of lack of funding opportunities towards this theme within the context of forestry. For country spending as shown above, the Philippines registered the highest utilization that was followed by regional activities. Regional spending includes micro grant funds, coordination costs among countries, monitoring and evaluation, board and staff meetings, publications and website maintenance, salaries of secretariat, and other costs such as external evaluation and travel of consultants and regional staff. India and Vietnam recorded the lowest spending. India raises funds through

NTFP-EP partners and their network's independent spending is not reflected in this report. Vietnam is largely supported by micro grant funds.

Aside from partner organizations in Belgium, Japan, Netherlands and Switzerland, NTFP-EP has initiated a new partnership with a donor agency from the United States of America for a project in Cambodia. European Union and United Nations also provided support for specific projects and countries. However, the various project support do not guarantee future operations of NTFP-EP so it will continue to actively search for donor partners that can complement its programs and projects for catalyzing forest community conservation and sustainable development.



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