

Voices from the Forest

PANEN
RAYA
NUSANTARA

page 3

NTFP-EP

non-timber
forest products -
exchange programme

A vision of an
eco-fair
archipelago

What's inside

ICCA Exchange	6
Civil Society Forum goes to Myanmar	8
Mixing business and NTFPs	10
Slow food for your pleasure	11
Community voices in the congress	12
Weaving their heritage	13
NTFP talk	14
A learning visit to the rivers	15

Non-Timber Forest Products - Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP)

Asia is a collaborative network of over 60 civil society organizations (CSOs) 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.

Voices from the Forest is the official newsletter of NTFP-EP. It is released biannually and contains regional and country forests and people updates from the NTFP-EP network.

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PARARA or “the Great Harvest of the Archipelago” kicks off this issue of Voices from the Forest (cover story).

The festival that attracted over 3,000 consumers brought to the city-folk rich rural and indigenous culture, cuisine and crafts. PARARA celebrated the importance of sustainable livelihoods and its link to the green economy in Indonesia. Many are looking forward to PARARA in 2017.

Another celebration is due for the launch of the new restaurant “A Place to Bee”, another innovative creation of Keystone Foundation: Gastronomy to support the local economy! (page 11)

In addition to celebrations, Voices #29 shares with us various important meetings to promote community conservation (Page 6), community forestry producer groups (page 12, page 14), heritage livelihoods (page 13) and community voice within ASEAN integration. These meetings brought together voices of communities and their support groups to bring attention to examples and importance of sustainable use of natural resources.

The adivasis of Maharashtra meanwhile ponder their timeless NTFP harvest tradition for own consumption or for commercial purposes (page 10). Similarly, the nomadic Penan, young and old, make the journey up river to show visitors their forest foods and lush forests. Luckily, through the support of the local district chief, the Punan of Adiu have restored their ancestral home (page 15).

The issue ends with an array of publications and a snapshot of the process of the Forest Harvest Collective Mark (FHCM) which will be used as a marketing tool to promote community forestry products (page 16).

Hope you enjoy the issue. There is something for everyone: crafts to carry our load, food to fill our stomachs and songs to raise our spirits!

Cover photo by Wahyu Widhi

A dance courtesy of the Papuan youth participants

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Papuan youth in their song and dance opening number

*Wowa- Wowa -
Ruto rui saranden*
Calling on the sanctity of heaven

Wado-wado Mumfes
Descend to the earth

Kwainso Besine-besineno
To strengthen all people

A vision of an eco-fair archipelago

Article by: Crissy Guerrero, NTFP-EP Asia
Photos by: Wahyu Widhi, Landscape Indonesia

This Papuan song, sung during a traditional ceremony in offering to the heavens, was the opening number of the PARARA Festival. Young Papuan elementary school children, with wide-eyed expectation to see the Jakarta they only read about in school books, were on stage performing like they had done it a hundred times before. They were confident, clear and proud to share the new knowledge from a Papuan school, making sure they wouldn't forget the traditional knowledge of their people. Yadupa, an indigenous Papuan organization, had brought the 25 children to Jakarta for the PARARA Festival, an event that celebrates traditional cultural expressions such as woven fabrics, baskets, and other bounties that mother earth and their ancestors have given the people of Indonesia.

Talk show on women and textiles



PARARA is short for “Panen Raya Nusantara” or “Great Harvest of the Archipelago”. The festival is one that brought together over 100 communities supported by 22 NGOs with a passion to place fair and sustainable local economy at the top of the mind of consumers and government alike. Located at the famed Lapangan Banteng Park in Central Jakarta, 3000 consumers came to visit 70 booths of eco-fair community products, witness culinary presentations of local, healthy food, learn about various themes such as intellectual property rights, women fisher heroines, and community enterprise success stories. Innovative sessions like the Wayang Rock-n-Roll which featured local producer concerns in a puppet show and the Fiber Fair Fashion show also delivered the message of eco-fair business in varying forms.

Starting the day right with a run



NTFP-EP Director, JT Tarigan with forest honey advocate, Julmansyah



Dayak dance opens PARARA





Songs of a better world fill the night



Renowned actress and model, Davina, promotes indigenous textiles



Forest food sampler



Fiber fair fashion



Nothing beats refreshing honey drink after the run!

To make sure all was “clean and green” a young group of responsible children with whistles patrolled the grounds for litter bugs.

The two day festival of high energy, amazing turnover in terms of sales for most of the communities present, and one of newfound knowledge and connections is truly inspiring.

The next festival in 2017 is already being planned and those seeking to enlist are growing by the day. See you in 2017! Be ready to PARARA!



of Terasi and ICCAs

Article by: Tanya Conlu, NTFP-EP Asia
Photos by: GEF-SGP Indonesia

What does terasi have to do with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' Conserved Areas and Territories or ICCAs?

Terasi, or shrimp paste, is an indispensable ingredient in some Southeast Asian countries. Because of the precious krill that is used for making this, the women of Teluk Jor are making sure that their communities are jointly managing their coastal resources sustainably, including their mangroves which are breeding grounds of the krill. As there had been unsustainable practices in the past, the communities have decided to revert to their traditional ways, which they call awig-awig. This is a system that carefully takes into account zonation and seasons, and is ruled through community agreements that include dispute resolution mechanisms and sanctions. The district government has recognized this local wisdom in community resource management through legislation.

These communities were the host for the field visit of a knowledge sharing and capacity building event on ICCAs held in Lombok, Indonesia. The ICCA Consortium, together with UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme Indonesia and the Working Group on ICCAs in Indonesia (WGII), organized a regional event which gathered participants from the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Timor Leste, Taiwan, and of course, Indonesia. Representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities who govern and manage their ICCAs,

relevant government agencies, supporting civil society organizations and national GEF SGP coordinators shared about ICCAs in their countries and worked on their action plans to initiate or enhance the ICCA movement.

Through a series of discussions and workshops, the participants shared their experiences, key issues, opportunities, and problems in the recognition of ICCAs in their countries. "A meeting like this was very helpful to learn from each other for various rightsholders and stakeholders in each country. We worked together for five days and came to learn a lot from each other," said Taghi Farvar, President of the ICCA Consortium.

The Vietnam team and the lone representative of Timor Leste, newcomers in discussions on ICCAs, were very enthusiastic about starting their own national learning networks.

The event fostered not only learning but also camaraderie among participants and paved the way for a regional learning network on ICCAs. About 60 participants left Lombok inspired by the sharing of ideas and full of plans to bring back to their communities and countries. "We will continue to strengthen our ICCAs and share the knowledge of ICCA to other communities," said Olon Somo and Patricia Saibu, indigenous women from Sabah.

The event was supported through the ICCA Global Support Initiative (GSI), which is a collaborative initiative by UNDP GEF SGP, the German Ministry of Environment

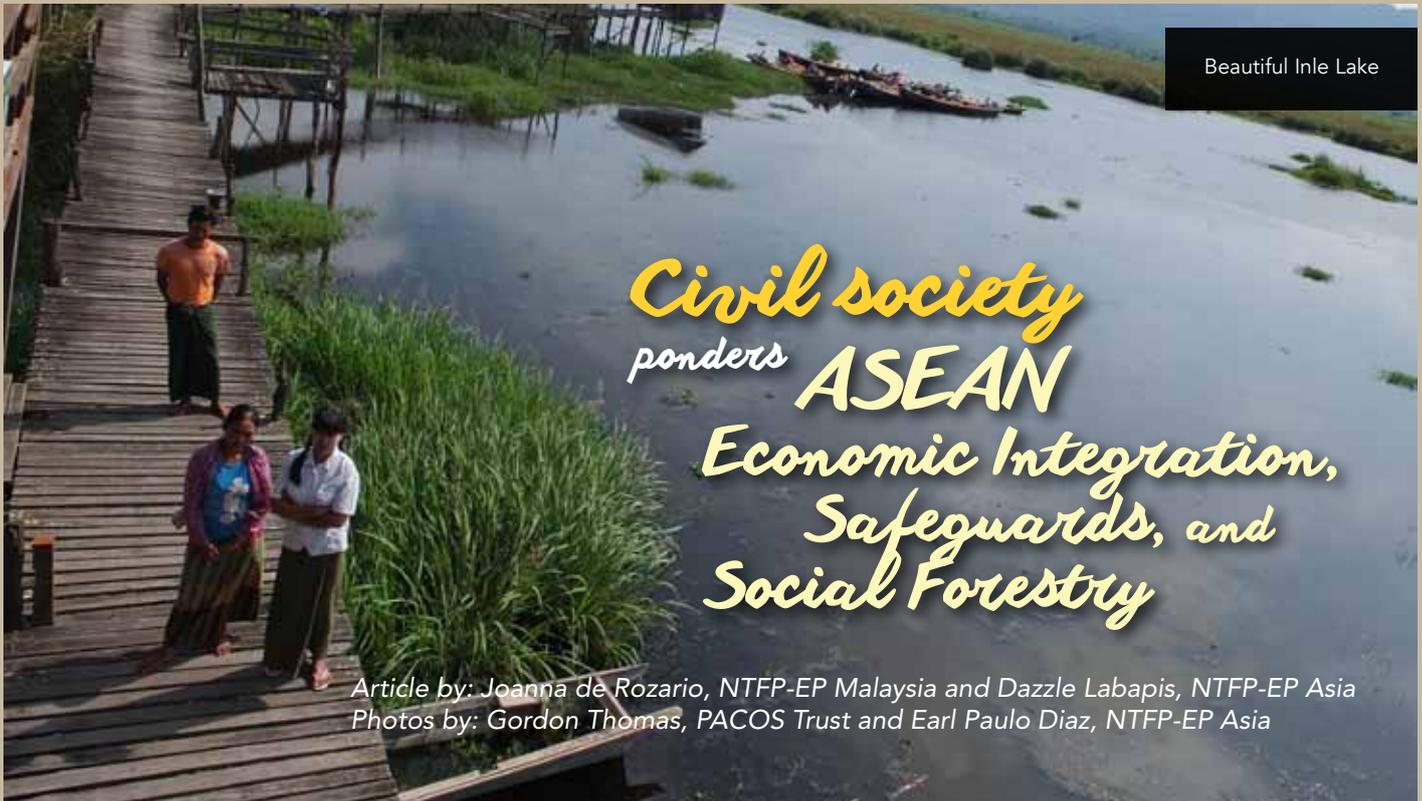




(BMU), the ICCA Consortium, IUCN and UNEP WCMC. Both WGII members, People's Coalition for Fisheries Justice (KIARA) facilitated the field visit with their community partner, and WWF Indonesia contributed additional financial assistance.

Judelight Dannang, a representative of Bukluran (ICCA Consortium of the Philippines) and her Banao indigenous community in Balbalasang in northern Philippines, said that being a participant was a great opportunity for her to learn about conserving and protecting their ICCAs. "I am empowered, inspired and more informed of the lessons from other participants on the conservation of our environment, as well as proud that as an IP, we are being recognized nationally and globally in protecting our environment."





Civil society ponders ASEAN Economic Integration, Safeguards, and Social Forestry

Article by: Joanna de Rozario, NTFP-EP Malaysia and Dazzle Labapis, NTFP-EP Asia
Photos by: Gordon Thomas, PACOS Trust and Earl Paulo Diaz, NTFP-EP Asia

Myanmar warmly welcomed the 4th ASFN CSO Forum delegates with open arms with its sprawling, idyllic rice fields and serene lake. About 80 old and new faces representing about 60 organizations from 8 ASEAN countries were seen at the forum this year. This is a phenomenal rise from the mere 10 organizations that were given open space at the ASFN conference in 2011, so expounded Femy Pinto, Executive Director of the Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) Asia.

This year's forum was jointly organized by NTFP-EP Asia and Promotion of Indigenous and Nature Together (POINT) of Myanmar with the theme, "Ensuring Community Rights, Safeguards and Equitable Benefits in Livelihood and Environment Conservation in the context of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)." Its overall objective is to assess the opportunities and threats of ASEAN integration on community livelihoods, tenure situation, governance regimes, and conservation management, among others.

The 2015 CSO forum was officially opened by no less than the Director General of Myanmar's Forest

Department, Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw affirmed a people centered approach in the establishment of social forestry in Myanmar. "The government and CSOs have to collaborate and work together to improve the condition of the forests surrounding the lake and relieve the pressure in the remaining forest." In a closed door meeting, key community and CSO representatives had the rare opportunity to sit and discuss forestry and land issues with him, which yielded a constructive dialogue with the Director on social forestry challenges and possibilities.

Although the AEC will only come into effect this year, bilateral and multilateral negotiations particularly in liberalizing trade have been on-going along the corridors of power. However, AEC has been a fairly new concept for CSOs and communities who will face the brunt of its implementation. NTFP-EP's Crissy Guerrero made a presentation on behalf of Dr. Ramon Razal on a study that looks into the impacts of the AEC on social forestry and forest products.

The study says that AEC's key characteristics include



CSO and government representatives after the meeting



Edna Maguigad during her talk on safeguards



a single market and production base, a highly competitive economic region, a region of equitable economic development, and a full integration into the global economy. A single market and production base means a region marked by the free flow of goods, services, investment, capital, and skilled labor.

The study shows that awareness and preparedness across countries, especially in the sector of forestry is relatively low compared to other sectors. Law enforcement regimes need to be strengthened to address existing illegal transboundary trade which is expected to heighten when borders are relaxed and economies stimulated. Infrastructure projects may also lead to deforestation and possible displacement of small holders.

Key recommendations of the study call for: increased capacity and connectivity of community forestry stakeholders in relevant value chains to increase their contribution and benefit to the AEC, support and acceleration of community forestry agreements, the creation and political support for safeguards on land, natural resources and cultural rights and protection of indigenous knowledge in the context of intellectual property rights.

In addition, the forum presented alternatives to the traditional WTO intellectual property approach which Elpidio Peria of BITS says “takes into account the customary law of indigenous peoples and local communities and recognizes the diversity and distinctiveness of communities and their associated traditional knowledge.” Roger Garinga of IDEAS Palawan presented benefit sharing on natural and agricultural resources, and underscored that key requirements would include secured tenurial and access rights, empowered and equitably organized communities, and a supportive permitting and licensing agreement in place to reduce corrupt practices.

Other equally essential tools shared by other presenters were REDD-plus Safeguards Information System, Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) methods, Operational Grievance Mechanism as strategies to safeguard community livelihoods and resources, and Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) to provide an inclusive, viable method of product certification for community enterprises. Major priorities identified by the CSO Forum members on the second day include expanding and clarifying the definition of social forestry, further strengthening tenure and

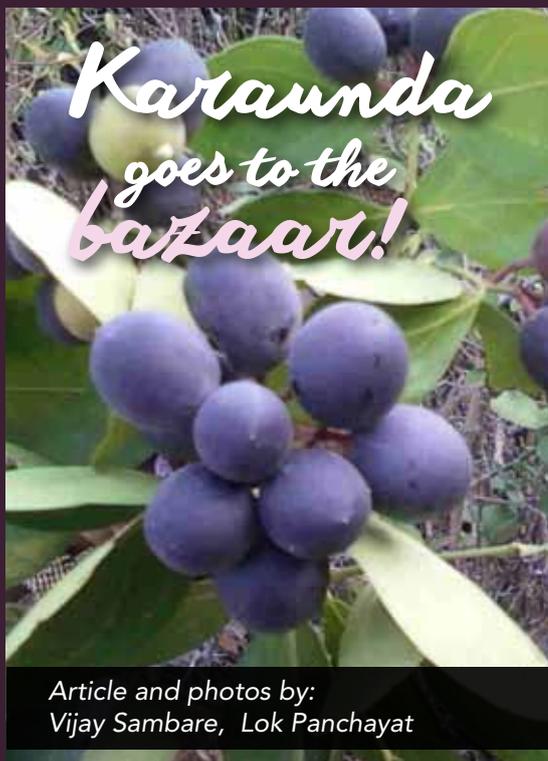
access rights and the development of community based enterprises. Improved policy support for community enterprises and a consumer campaign on green and fair products were a few of the recommendations by the community economy and livelihood group. Development of safeguards guidelines and operational mechanism on social forestry, climate change, and REDD-plus was recommended.

Before the activity officially ended, the members of the Forum had also formed key working groups that will work on operationalizing and monitoring the plans proposed.

Forum members returned home having an awareness of an ASEAN wide policy, the AEC, that will have an impact on their community rights and livelihood. For the CSO and community participants coming from various regions of Myanmar, it was a welcoming activity where they were able to share their stories of past struggle in safeguarding their livelihood and their environment. It is their hope that the CSO forum emerges as a continuing collective movement to further promote positive solutions in the growing economies of ASEAN in the pursuit of fair and equitable economic development.



Sando from Indonesia during the field visit



In the Western Ghats of Maharashtra, in the Sahyadris, there are many adivasi villages. One such adivasi village located in Ahmednagar district, is Akole Tehsil. Everyone in India knows Mumbai and Shirdi but despite Akole being in the midst of this region there are few people who have heard about it.

Akole Tehsil has been declared a 5th Scheduled area and about 93-94 villages come under this zone. In this hilly tract there is heavy rainfall during the southwest monsoon; the annual rainfall is between 2000-5000 mm. For hundreds of years these hills have been inhabited by Mahadev Kolis and the Thakar communities and they have kept alive the tradition of Sacred Groves; it is believed that sacred groves was essentially the conservation tradition of Mahadev Kolis. Since the British period, and leading into the present times, much of the forests have been damaged; many of the large trees were felled for the 'sleepers' to lay railway tracks, or for coal. After the havoc the people came together and protected whatever small tracts of forest that they could: this is the reason why today many of the private forests are in a better condition than state forests.

As the price of many forest produce have been low, species like karaunda and medicinal plants such as harda have remained protected. The livelihood of the people in this region is based on the rice they cultivate, which lasts them for about 5 months. The rest of the year they work as agricultural labourers or depend on the various NTFPs in the forest that they gather and sell.

Seven years ago the NTFP-EP India network, through ECONET, began a study of the different NTFPs in the region in the 10 adivasi villages in the Scheduled area.

Many unnoticed facts came to the fore: we had not realized that karaunda leaves were eaten as greens!

In remote villages the people did not bother about the karaunda, mango, harda, or any of the NTFPs in the forest; they did not realize that if they took such produce to the market they could earn some money. It was Lok Panchayat that first formed the people into an NTFP Harvester's Group; the group saw and learned from the traders. Along with the karaunda, they also traded in jamun, mango and other fruit available in the village. Of the 10 villages that Lok Panchayat began such work, 6 of them were doing it for the first time; 6 tons of karaunda alone was sold that summer for a total of Rs 30,000. The following year the youth also traded in wild mango and a group of ladies took ripe karaunda fruit to the town, bartering the juice for an equal quantity of pulses: a glass of karaunda juice for a glass of pulse! In 15 days the women brought back Rs 18,000 worth of grain back home.

At present the Lok Panchayat team is working with the people on several NTFPs – honey, harda, jamun, karaunda, mango, amla – and finding ways to value add these products. And the team is also holding Honey Festivals as a way to raise awareness to protect the honey bee *Apis cerana*. The work is not easy as the convergence of adivasi lifestyle and entrepreneurship doesn't happen normally. As adivasi people revere the forest, earning money through its destruction does not agree with them. To gather NTFPs to eat was alright but business... ? But the new generation is different, as are the influences that drive them. This seems to be the new challenge ahead to save the Western Ghats!



176/A Club Road, Ootacamund (Ooty), India 643001

Article and photos by:
Aritra Bose, Keystone Foundation

The Coolest



Keystone Foundation
making ecology and
economy meet with its latest
gastronomic venture:
Place to Bee!



Honey Bees are crucial for pollination of vegetables, fruits. Farm and forest food is possible because of these gardeners of nature. Keystone Foundation, a not for profit trust has been working with bees and beekeepers, honey and honey hunters since 1995 with its base in Kotagiri. We work with local and indigenous communities on Livelihoods, Conservation, Culture & People, Information & Training and Environmental Governance.

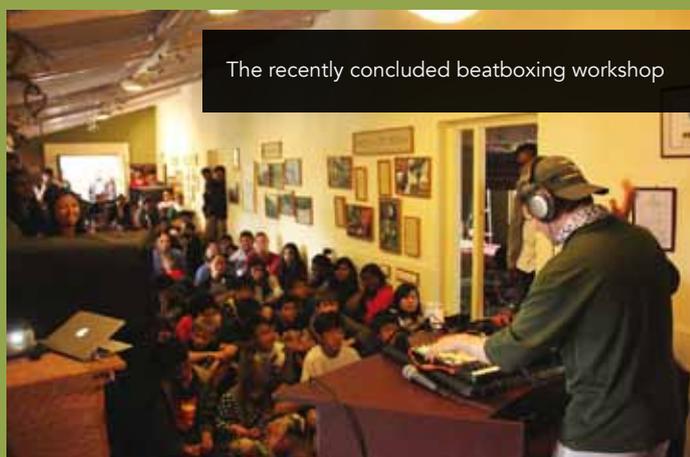
In 2007, the place was converted into the first Bee Museum in India. The posters, displays and the film have a story – a narrative that talk about bees, people whose lives are dependent on bees and the ecological function they perform.

In 2015, we decided to add another interesting layer in this space; apart from the Green Shop – run and managed by the Last Forest Enterprises Private Limited, a company that was incubated by Keystone; we have launched the Bee Museum Restaurant.

We have created a space that is not only a restaurant but a social enterprise that builds capacity of local and community people, promotes the values of Slow Food Principles, and connects the Bee Museum activities to our wider work at Keystone: consumers, producers, culture, ecological realities and challenges.

Slow Food (www.slowfood.com) is a concept that was founded in Italy, which gives importance to locally produced “good, clean and fair” foods, safeguarding agricultural biodiversity at risk of extinction, and giving visibility and the proper value to their supplying producers.

To provide a space for backpackers, bird watchers, the off-road tourist, we have a simple bed and breakfast arrangement within the Bee Museum.



The recently concluded beatboxing workshop

NTFP-EP at the World Forestry Congress XIV

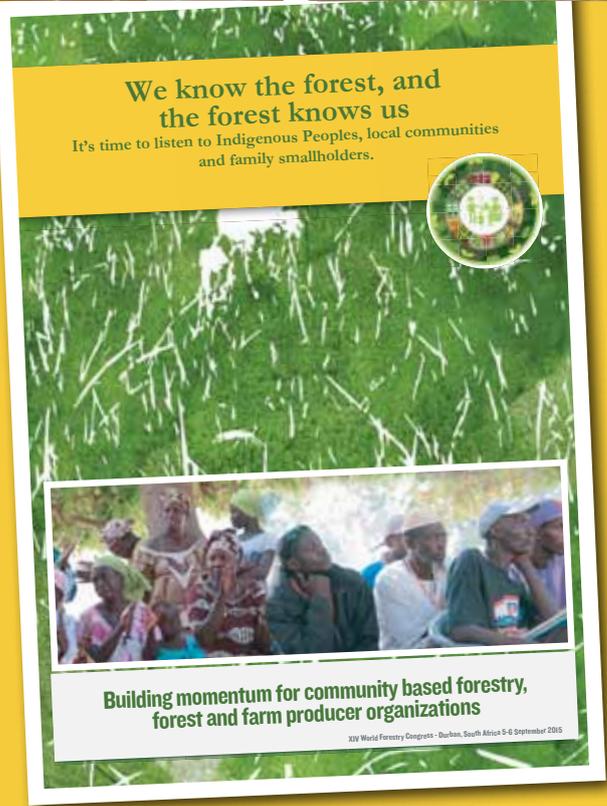
Building Connections and Building Momentum
for forest and farm producer organizations and
for community-based forest management

Article by: Femy Pinto, NTFP-EP Asia
Photos from: Forest Farm Facility website



On the sidelines of the large gathering of countries and global forest stakeholders, a gathering and alliance of forest and farm producer organizations and their partners and allies crafted their joint statement and delivered this at the Congress. NTFP-EP took an active part in this gathering. Our collective message from the gathering was that forest and farm producer organizations – comprising family farmers, local and indigenous communities – are the “largest private sector in forestry,” without whom, it would be impossible to achieve food security and nutrition, reduce poverty, respond to climate change and conserve biodiversity, according to FAO.

“Building Momentum,” the pre-congress event hosted by the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF), convened over 100 representatives of farm and forest producer organizations, and local communities and their partners and allies from non-government organizations, international organizations, research organizations, networks and associations from Asia, Latin America Africa, Europe and North America. FFF is a partnership between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Representatives of farmers associations and indigenous peoples organizations also shared their



experiences about their successes in policy advocacy, and their goals and achievements in strengthening their organizations.

I presented the examples from the National CBFM Federation (Philippines), the Bina Usaha Rotan (Rattan Weavers Association Indonesia), and the Cambodia Federation for Bee Conservation and Wild Honey Enterprises (CBHE). These cases show that to enable strong community organizations, we need to value local knowledge, skills and practice; encourage leadership; motivate membership; make use of culturally appropriate governance structures; and build processes that will allow the members to interact, share and learn from others within and outside the organization while they are growing. Other participants concurred with these challenges of forest producers organizations – that there are policies that are unfavorable and are endangering local livelihood, and sustainable resource management practices, and traditions. These organizations commonly face the problem of insecure forest land tenure; the forest producers and their organizations face the threat of cooptation by government and other third parties. They receive less support when government shifts priorities and reduce the resources allocated for small producers and community forest organizations. Oftentimes these organizations face difficulties in building a strong governance arrangement especially when they scale-up and start to expand their relationships and engagements.

The pre-congress statement, “Building momentum for community based forestry, and forest and farm producer organizations,” contributed to the Durban Declaration 2050 – which is the main statement that came out of the Congress. In particular, the Congress declaration carried our message that forests are critical for the food security of the people, and investing in both the forests and people will ultimately achieve sustainable development, mitigate climate change, and address food insecurity and poverty.



*Indigenous peoples
need recognition,
help in promoting
heritage
livelihood*

Article by: Rizal Raoul Reyes, Business Mirror
Photos by: Femy Pinto & Earl Paulo Diaz, NTFP-EP Asia

The country needs to put more effort in helping indigenous peoples (IPs) boost their livelihood and at the same time, help pursue sustainable development for a greener future. Ruth Canlas, executive director of NTFP-EP Philippines, said public perception must change because many people think that IPs don't have a source of livelihood and, instead, rely only on donations from the government and other institutions.

"We need to build more awareness. We need to tell the public that IPs have their own livelihood that can help them live sustainably, provided that they get support from government agencies," said Canlas in an interview at the sidelines of the recently concluded sixth Community-Based NTFP Conference held in Manila.

"Moreover, it is equally important to support them because their products reflect the country's cultural heritage," she said.

Among the products the organization is promoting are tinalak, hinabol, pina and ikat.

With the Philippines's heavy deforestation, Canlas said supporting IPs in their livelihood activities can help alleviate their poverty situation, and, at the same time, help preserve the country's forest resources. Canlas said selling IP products should not be done on a massive scale because it might lose the significance of their products.

Handwoven textile production, one of the main sources of livelihoods of various indigenous and rural women in the Philippines, has not been given much importance as a component in the textile and garment industry.

Canlas said it remains a challenge for IPs to promote their products because people perceive that products made by traditional weavers are believed to have poor quality, limited functionality, minimal production capacity, nonmarketable designs that become an obstacle to promoting to government agencies and the market. Canlas said the NTFP-EP is confident that indigenous products have a good market potential because more and more consumers are shifting towards environmental-friendly products. She said people are now more aware in pursuing a green lifestyle to help them achieve a sustainable lifestyle. For over two years the NTFP-EP has been working with weavers and producers of handwoven textiles aimed at improving their entrepreneurial capabilities and improve their production processes in order to meet buyer demands for quantity, quality and deadlines.

To improve the quality of the IP products, standardization was introduced and workshops were conducted to develop criteria for good hinabi (woven) practices which will include environmental accountability, social responsibility and quality assurance.



This article previously appeared on:
BusinessMirror, 16 October 2015



Article by: Ethan Harfenist, Phnom Penh Post, Photos by: Phan Channa, NTFP-EP Cambodia

An environmental group has urged the government and civil society to take steps to build a sustainable green economy in the Kingdom, as rampant deforestation and resource exploitation threatens to affect the livelihoods of millions of Cambodians.

The first National Forum on Community-based Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) Enterprises, a two-day conference aimed at strengthening efforts toward building a sustainable green economy was held at the Himawari Hotel in Phnom Penh.

Femy Pinto, the Executive Director of the NTFP-EP Asia opened the gathering of government officials, NGO representatives and activists, emphasising the importance of such products for Cambodia's mostly agrarian society.

"Non-timber forest products are considered one of the main resources used for livelihoods in many communities living and adjacent to forests," she said. "In Cambodia ... tens of thousands of households are reliant on them – not singly for their subsistence and cash income – but vitally as part of a diversified livelihood strategy to cope with seasonal changes, varying patterns of food and other resource availability to meet household needs."

The event, supported by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Cambodia Harvest programme (an initiative supported by USAID) and the Cambodia NTFP Working Group (CNWG), was meant to strengthen local NTFP businesses through cooperation, education and awareness of issues facing many of the country's customary communities.

According to Pinto, small and medium forestry enterprises in the developing world make up as much as 90 per cent of businesses in the sector, as well as more than 50 per cent of forestry-related employment.

As Cambodia's mostly-rural population is largely dependent on NTFPs – 75 per cent of the country's economy is agriculture-based – the participants stressed the importance of empowering traditional businesses.

"The Royal Government of Cambodia fully supports the forestry sector," Forestry Administration official Long Ratanak Koma said in his address to the forum. "Better management is needed to protect those who depend on the forest".

Non-timber goods touted at meeting



This article previously appeared on:
Phnom Penh Post, 20 May 2015

It was a special day for the Dayak Punan of Adiu in Malinau, a province in the far northern corner of the Island of Borneo. After 15 years since the big flood in 1999, they were finally able to build their ancestral home or *balai adat* once again.

This was made possible through the support of the local government led by the *bupati* or local district head and his “bottom up” program, GERDEMA.

So in these circumstances, late in July, I happened to find myself in Malinau. Happening alongside the inauguration of the customary house was the Food and Culture Festival of the Punan of Indonesia, exchanging with their hunter-gatherer counterparts of Malaysia, the Penan. This was organized by LP3M, a local organization supporting the Penan, and the Punan Adiu village people themselves. Activities were held in the village and attended by representatives from the local community, several NGOs including JKPP, the national participatory mapping network; PADI Indonesia, a local Borneo-based support organization; Save the River, a Sarawak-based organization; Perkumpulan Menapak Indonesia; and representatives from NTFP-EP Malaysia, Indonesia and India. Members of a college program supporting education in the remote areas also joined the group.

Our trip to Punan Adiu village took 2 and a half hours on asphalt road and another 1 and a half through a dusty dirt road. When we are arrived, there was a welcoming ceremony for us where all visitors received beaded bracelets as a symbol of their unity with the Punan Adiu. These were tied one by one on each of our wrists.

The event was opened by Malinau Bupati Dr. Yansen who officially inaugurated the *balai adat*. He shared that he was hoping for a meaningful sharing among the Dayak on their experiences in managing their natural resources. The local chieftain and the village head also welcomed and thanked everyone for their support.

During the two days, each visitor enthusiastically exchanged information on how to provide assistance to indigenous peoples. There was a realization that each partner had obstacles in supporting the indigenous peoples' struggle. There was renewed strength in finding common struggles in other countries. They left the sessions hopeful that indigenous peoples could defend and claim their rights.

What followed the next day was a journey to Adiu River. Boats were waiting for us at the side of the river. One by one, our little boats traveled first along Malinau River then turning into the Adiu River. Entering the Adiu river was refreshing with its abundance of trees making the air clean and cool. But our boat was overloaded and the water level was low. To move forward again, we had to take turns pushing our boats up the river! After an hour and a half, our boat arrived at the guardpost of the Punan Adiu Customary Forest. It was a beautiful sight and all that pushing was worth it!

With the community, we learned how to make Punan food from the abundance of the forest. Fish, cassava, sago, bananas and other produce were processed for subsistence. We also all learned how to make sago, the staple starch Punan food extracted from the core of palm stems.

The highlight of my trip was when my Indian colleague, Madhu, gave me a special technical training on the identification and documentation of the different plant



Article and photos by:
Anang Setiawan, NTFP-EP Indonesia

species found in the Punan forest. He said that most species have certain characteristics that can be used for identification. For instance, in the grape family, *Vitaceae*, the main characteristic is the presence of tendrils that are directly opposite to the leaf. This is important for the Punan as we are supporting them in their plans for the elders to teach the youth more about the different species in the forest, especially those that can provide needed food.

We ended the last day with a sumptuous, traditional lunch with all participants enjoying the food from the forest. After lunch, we returned to the village by boat. In the evening after watching the traditional dances of the Dayak Punan Adiu, it was sad that we had to leave their homeland, but we were leaving with new knowledge and new friends. I will definitely return to visit the new *balai adat* and support the food from the forest program of the Punan Adiu.





ASEAN
Stories of Social
Forestry in the region

The ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN) is a government driven social forestry network in Southeast Asia, with main goal to strengthen ASEAN Cooperation in Social Forestry through the sharing of information and knowledge. Drawing out multi-stakeholder experiences in the region, ASFN continues to build up on linkages that promote further collaborative regional responses to national and local issues governing forests and peoples. Social forestry brings equitable economic benefits for indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities, bringing intangible benefits like providing clean water, maintaining the climate and mitigating climate change.

This film brings forward its valuable contribution to conservation, ecosystem services, local economy, food security, cultural identity, creative economy, making ASEAN a model for other regions.



**From Nature,
Women Weave Life**

The book "From Nature, Women Weave Life", tells the story of how the Dayak women in Sanggau, West Kalimantan, Indonesia harvest and use forest products without damaging the environment. For the Dayak people, the forest is the air they breathe, their life blood, a symbol of pride, the center of life, spiritual identity and HOME. This story is about the efforts of women to preserve their weaving culture and rattan resources amidst modern life and challenges due to the conversion of rattan gardens into oil palm plantations. This book was a collaboration between Yayasan Dian Tama and NTFP-EP Indonesia under the efforts of the Crafts Kalimantan Network.



**Democratising
Forest Business:**
a compendium
of successful
locally controlled
forest business
organisations

Forests worldwide are home to approximately 1.3 billion people and must cater to the multiple needs of people - from providing local goods and services (access to income, food, clean water, wood energy, construction materials, fertile soils, medicinal and cosmetic products, and recreation) to providing global goods and services (climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, hydrological and mineral cycles). It is a tall order because many of these needs compete with one another. This book published by IIED presents 19 case studies from 14 developing countries showing how local people have been democratising forest businesses, and offers conclusions based on an analysis of the case studies, including two from NTFP-EP.

Staff stuff



Last January, NTFP-EP staff and board members convened together to hold its Strategic Planning Workshop and Regional Staff Meeting in Vietnam. The results of the strategic discussions are to beef up the exciting times ahead, especially on the thematic priorities of the network until 2019.

Looking forward



In the Madhu Duniya event last April 2015 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, the concept of the Forest Harvest Collective Mark was presented to the partners of the NTFP-EP. The ideas of a collective mark and a pilot with forest honey were warmly welcomed by the partners. Six months later, the partners have come up with a draft Asian Forest Honey standards and protocols that shall be the basis of the use of the collective mark on forest honey. The three pilot community enterprises are from Sumbawa Island, Indonesia. While the launching activity is still underway, we are expecting to have the first honey product carrying the **Forest Harvest Collective Mark** in February 2016.