Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme for South and Southeast Asia (NTFP-EP) 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, with initial contacts made in Bangladesh.

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

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This was a particularly difficult issue to close considering Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines and rendered many homeless and suffering over loved ones lost just before printing. We feel that it is then fitting that our banner story is about disaster risk response and climate change adaptation of communities whose livelihoods are affected by intensifying drought, forest fires and floods. We dedicate this issue to the thousands who lost their lives in the madness that is still unfolding as we go to press.

We have heard it before; the current development paradigm built on greenhouse gas releasing industries will result in warmer climates leading to stronger typhoons and greater loss to life and limb.

We at NTFP-EP join many other civil society organizations in working to build an alternative paradigm for a healthier, cleaner environment: where rights to land and liberty are upheld (page 8-9), sustainable livelihoods and industries promoted (page 10-11), ecosystems equitably conserved (page 12-13), where food is healthy, fresh, and yummy (page 18-19), where everyone has their fair share (page 16-17), and where voices of one and all can be heard (page 14-15). Call it utopia or call it a possibility. Call it nonsense or call it a step in the right direction. Here are the stories where we continue the struggle for this better world. Because we still believe, “We can fix this. We can stop this madness!” Opening session address November 11, 2013, Climate Change Commissioner Yeb Saño, Head of the Delegation of the Philippines to COP19, Warsaw, Poland.

Bangaon Visayas! Bangon Pilipinas!

Cover photo by Valentinus Heri:
Production of forest honey in Danau Santurum National Park is threatened most by forest fires associated with increased incidence of long periods of drought.
BATAK FESTIVAL OPENS UP INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ MONTH

NTFP-EP kicks off its October (Indigenous Peoples’ Month) with an event that builds up on the series of earlier and hugely successful festivals. “Kaambengan nga Buteen ka Batak” (First Batak Cultural Revival Festival & Development Forum) held last October 14-15, 2013 celebrates the rich culture and way of life of the Batak people in Palawan.

The Batak Cultural Revival and Development Forum was held to celebrate the distinct cultural identity of the community, to provide a conducive platform for sharing of aspirations and concerns in relation to the development agenda, and to create dialogue with the local and national government branches.

Traditional music, dances, games, and food filled the festival during the opening of the festival. The second day delved deeper into the development issues that the communities face through forums on ancestral domains, natural resource management, livelihood, culture preservation, and health. With the formulation of the Roxas Resolution (which includes the almaciga initiative in Palawan) signed by the Batak leaders and with the active participation of Batak community and government representatives available for dialogue, the festival was a rousing success!

The festival was made possible through the support of the office of the Mayor of Roxas Municipality, NTFP Task Force, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), National Commission for Culture and Arts (NCCA).

NTFP-EP JOINS THE ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMUNICATION NETWORK

Undeniably, much of the issues that local and regional forestry sectors and units are facing have something to do with communication, or the lack thereof. Despite geographic differences, the forestry sector in Asia Pacific in general faces similar problems and overlapping concerns. Many initiatives have been set up to address various issues on forestry. However, these efforts to address these similar problems often are conducted dispersely and lacked streamlining.

The Asia Pacific Forestry Commision recommended the establishment of a forestry communications platform during its meeting in Chang Mai, Thailand last May 2013. Prior to this, the importance of communication as a cross-cutting strategy in addressing forest-related issues has already been highlighted during the Asia Pacific Forestry Week in Beijing, China last 2011.

A workshop funded by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has been conducted in Hanoi, Vietnam, last September 2013 to inaugurate the formation of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Communications Network. It was attended by twenty-six communication and forestry officers from both private and public sector throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The workshop was a good opportunity for communication practitioners not only to discuss and identify regional opportunities for collaboration in forest communication issues, but also in enhancing skills in strategizing messages, relating to the target audience, and collaborating with different stakeholders.

As a result, the participants of the workshop agreed to create the Asia-Pacific Forestry Communication Network (APFCN) which aims to be a platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration between various organizations and units in the forestry sector. NTFP-EP is a member of the APFCN working group.
of Floods, Fires and Forests

Adapting to Climate Change in Danau Sentarum

Climate change is not selective; it affects everyone regardless of district or country. Through the aid of the ASEAN Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC), NTFP-EP, in collaboration with various civil society organizations (Riak Bum, Primari, and Center for Climate Risk and Opportunity Management - CCROM), conducted a research on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation. This study is expected to bridge and facilitate the mechanisms and initiatives between the government, civil society and local communities in addressing climate change impacts in the Danau Sentarum National Park. This study uses Participatory Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment (PCVA) tools in collecting data and information about disaster and local climate change impacts and in informing response to the same.

Community houses along the river banks of Danau Sentarum
Danau Sentarum is a freshwater swamp forest located at the heart of Kapuas Hulu district, West Kalimantan. The area is known for producing the best Arowana fish in the whole province and fishing is a major source of income for many communities in Danau Sentarum. In addition, wild honey collection is also common practice for some villages especially in Leboyan and Semangit districts. Mat weaving made from the reed ‘bemban is a good source of income for the women of the village of Pengerak, on the other hand.

The PCVA team conducting focus group discussions and interviews with the community
"This activity will be very useful for us because it will help us understand the possible impacts of climate change. We hope this activity can help us take the necessary steps to prepare communities in facing its adverse effects such as floods and droughts.

Mr. Akuang
head of Pengera subvillage

In our discussion with community members, drought, forest fires and floods often occur in Danau Sentarum. The increasing occurrence of such phenomenon have come to affect livelihood sources and it is for this reason that Danau Sentarum was chosen as a site for the action research. Rains, droughts and fires had affected the production of mats and honey in Danau Sentarum over the last 13 years. Nanga Leboyan and Pengera villages, which are located inside the Danau Sentarum National Park and its buffer zone, had been chosen as the specific sites for the assessment because of availability of data and established relationships and ongoing projects with community partners.

Before we conducted data collection from the community, we interviewed and discussed with the representatives of Danau Sentarum National park in Sintang to get their perspective on the increasing occurrences of natural hazards in their area. As a result of our surveys and interviews with the community members, we found out that Nanga Leboyan is at a higher risk to forest fires, while Pengera is at a higher risk to flooding.
During the focus group discussions in both villages, the community members expressed their willingness to see how the risk from the uncertain effects of climate change can be reduced through providing local climate information. Climatologists from CCROM then provided downscaled climate information on temperature and rainfall relevant to Danau Sentarum. Climate projections over the next 20 years were also prepared. In the next field visit in October of this year, climate projections were shared with the community members in Nanga Leboyan and Pengerak. Preliminary results of the first visits were also shared and validated with the community to get their opinion and consensus for building their work plan on climate change adaptation.

Based on agreed criteria, the community members prepared a list of priorities of actions to address disaster risk and climate impact. The list of priorities was also discussed with the Danau Sentarum National Park Chief at length and a detailed entry plan was prepared. Some immediate plans for the future include the stocking and storage of beehive in Pengerak to avoid shortages during times of flood. For Nanga Leboyan, as forest fires were the main issue, plans were made to send a community representative for training on forest fire management. Medium term plans include rehabilitation of forest areas and the establishment of a climate field school including an early warning system to inform community members of climatic changes that could affect their lives and livelihoods.

The road to adapting to climate change is a steep and arduous one. Though with the tools and results from this initiative, the local communities can make better preparations to face the future rains, fires and drought.

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ASFCG is implemented by the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN), a network of forestry departments in Southeast Asia promoting the positive interactions of people and forests for sustainable forest management and livelihood development.

Left: Nothing left other than dead trees in this area of Danau Sentarum destroyed by the forest fire.

Right: Communities in Danau Sentarum rely on fishing and harvesting NTFPs to make a living.
NTFP-EP Sarawak, in collaboration with the Sarawak Dayak Iban Association (SADIA), organized a paralegal training as a response to the increasing number of land cases (more than 300) filed in court by the natives in Sarawak. Thirty representatives from different villages and community-based organizations attended the said training to become familiar and oriented on the law and the strategies adopted in court cases on land.

One of the speakers, Mr. Nicholas Mujah (SADIA), discussed sections in the Sarawak Land Code, particularly the recognition of the rights of the natives and the procedures of issuing and granting provisional leases. According to him, many issues continue to spur conflict and disputes between the communities in Sarawak and various entities on land claims. The participants who admitted that they were previously unaware of the laws that protect their native customary rights, shared common experiences on the lack of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) processes and protocols.

While recognition is key to native rights over their lands, it is important for Sarawak natives to present strong legal evidence in the premise of the Malaysian courts. However, court cases on native customary rights are weakened due to the absence of sufficient evidences produced in court. Henry Joseph, an ex-Session Court Judge of Sarawak, emphasized the need to provide strong evidences such as occupation dумtions, maps, and other historical documentation that support the claim. An NGO representative from across the border in West Kalimantan also shared their successful experience in lobbying and negotiating with companies as a means of an out of court approach to reduce land conflicts. The communities themselves shared their experiences and struggles with each other.

The Paralegal Training was officially closed by YB See Chee How, Batu Lintang state assembly representative, who admitted that more and more Sarawak natives are coming out to defend their native customary rights to land. However, there is a decline in the number of land rights lawyers who are willing to take on the challenges of land cases. He said that many of the lawyers today lack the capacity to advocate such cases. In conclusion, he urged the youth to be more engaged and even take up law to address the decline in the number of capable lawyers to take on cases on native land, and called for a stronger positive change towards good governance.
Communities and their organizations need to continuously equip themselves with knowledge and understanding of the law to face the growing challenges to their native land and forest. Through this training, the participants were able to inspire each other and share experiences in facing those challenges.

The paralegal training had really inspired me to preserve our community's land which we have occupied since our ancestors' time. I am more determined and confident to address the problems that we face with the knowledge I gained from the paralegal training. By participating, I also came to know that I am not alone in the struggle.

I thank NTFP-EP Sarawak for organizing this training which is very important and meaningful to my struggle in establishing native customary rights.

I plan to share the knowledge gained from the paralegal training with my people and friends and also to those who have pending cases in court. In particular, on what needs to be done i.e. the importance of proof of evidence as in the Long Teran Kanan court case. One specific and important element I learnt was that native custom is very important and should be sustained by the people. However, in the training, I was not able to follow all the information shared on the court process because it was difficult for me to understand the legal jargon.

I am very interested to participate in such future trainings and hope that I would be given the opportunity to do so.
A forest walk to remember

CLAPS Training in Sikka

Article by: Genevieve Labadan, NTFP - Task Force
Photos by: Panthom Priyandoko

There were four of us from NTFP-EP who flew to Maumere, Sikka, Flores, Indonesia to conduct a 3-day CLAPS training and workshops to indigenous peoples in the island. Beng and I were main resource persons while Merry and Panthom assisted in the facilitation and translation from English to Bahasa Indonesia.

CLAPS stands for Community Livelihood Appraisal and Product Scanning. It is a training and workshop meant to help communities evaluate their past livelihoods and come up with a vision of what ideal livelihood or enterprise should look like in the future. But evaluating past livelihoods and visioning is just a small part of the training.

The training and workshop also help communities to look into their resources and choose which resource is most feasible and viable to develop into a product, and later into an enterprise.

Tools that are doable and replicable in the field are also introduced in the workshop. These will help communities to analyze their own enterprise group, assess resources available, and become aware of capital sources and vulnerabilities as well as evaluate the market and industry in which the community plans to go into.
Yes, it is a rather heavy training that requires hours and several brainstorming sessions among participants. But it is participative and enables the community to do livelihood decision-making that is based on logical process coupled with field-based appraisals and studies. It is helping communities to decide on their own. It is empowerment.

Although we did not get to see the Komodo dragon of which Flores island is internationally known for, we were able to visit an indigenous community to field-test one of the CLAPS techniques, the forest walk or forest visit. The forest walk was designed to check and validate the abundance of the priority resource. The forest walk is also an avenue for demonstration of harvesting practices and discussion of issues related to resource management and utilization.

Sure I was there to coach participants on how to conduct the actual forest walk. But this did not leave me short-changed. While participants learned the actual application of the forest walk, I also had my fair share of having enjoyed the rural landscape, observed the unique culture as well as experienced the warm hospitality of the people.
The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) is a member-based organisation that spreads knowledge, maps environmental threats, creates solutions, and influences politicians and public authorities in tackling both environmental and rights-based issues at home and globally. It has a 100-year history in environmental conservation and now focuses its efforts on forest, climate, agriculture and food security, chemical and marine ecosystems and fisheries. SSNC’s forest programme explicitly details that biodiversity protection and stewardship require the involvement of the communities that are dependent on forest resources. Respect for human rights, particularly indigenous peoples’ rights to land is key in sustainable management of forest.

NTFP-EP, with support from SSNC, will assist in organising the Penan and Orang Ulu sub-ethnic tribes in Sarawak, Malaysia to sustainably manage and conserve their native customary forest and land through the strengthening of native customary rights, traditional knowledge and customary practices. Activities mainly aim to build the capacity of the women and youth to regenerate their forest and NTFPs and to build forest-based enterprises to provide additional value to the forest as a means to secure their livelihood and native forest and land from potential threats.

In Kalimantan, Indonesia, NTFP-EP Indonesia will contribute to green consumption by bridging community producers of sustainable products with local and international market stakeholders. NTFP-EP Indonesia proposes an empowering and cost-effective process of sustainable product certification (Participatory Guarantee System –PGS) with rattan as the initial product. Building on standards for PGS certified rattan, and mechanisms developed in previous initiatives, the project will undertake a chain of custody trials with producers, conduct promotions and facilitate trade fair participation to expand the market for community-sourced and sustainably produced rattan products.

The Institute for Culture and Ecology (ICE) and Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) gathered different organizations in a workshop in Thika, Kenya last Nov. 4-8 to discuss Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs). The workshop aimed to provide an opportunity for SSNC and partners together with representatives of the ICCA Kenya group to engage in fruitful discussions on the subject of ICCAs and how the concept can be used to improve their work in different countries.

NTFP-EP partners were able to join the workshop including NTFP Task Force Philippines (NTFP-TF), Komunitas Konservasi Indonesia - WARSi and SAWITWATCH Indonesia, and Partners of Community Organizations (PACOS Trust) of Sabah, Malaysia. Enriching experiences on indigenous and community-based resource management initiatives were shared by the participants.

NTFP-TF shared how sustainable use and management of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) contributes to conservation of critical forest ecosystems in the Philippines. Partner communities of NTFP-TF work on the protection of the habitats of important NTFPs such as forest honey, almaciga resin and rattan which only thrive on rich forest ecosystems.

The participants of the workshop agreed that the Philippines is already at an advanced stage in terms of ICCA promotion and recognition after the signing of the Manila Declaration on ICCAs in 2012 and the creation of the Philippine ICCA Network in February 2013.
ICCAs are recognized by different laws and policies

Maya Sikand of Natural Justice enumerated the wide range of international laws and policies that support ICCAs in her presentation. She shared that strategies can engage with different legal and policy processes at the national and international levels. In the Philippines, the Republic Act 8371 or Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) provides recognition for the ICCAs.

ICCAs are IKSPs

Different Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSPs) were shared by the participants, showing the rich knowledge of the indigenous communities as they have deeper relationships with their natural ecosystems. The custodian of the sacred site of Kivaa hill that the participants visited, Munguti Kavinya, explained the important biodiversity found in the hill and pointed out that no species is better than the other, therefore everyone needs to respect each creation.

ICCAs ensure sustainable use of natural resources

To provide incentives to the communities in protecting the ecosystems, sustainable utilization can be allowed. NTFP-TF was asked to share its rich experience on forest enterprises. Participatory tools such as cultural and livelihood calendar and participatory resource monitoring (PRM) were also shared to ensure that culture and IKSPs are recognized.

ICCAs keep the people healthy

The participants shared that ICCAs are important in that they provide diverse species of medicinal plants used in traditional healing. ICCAs also provide forest food such as wild animals, fruits, root crops and honey.

ICCAs are sacred sites

Inspiring stories of the participants from Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and South Africa on sacred natural sites (SNS) were shared. Different cultural groups have their own local name which reflects the deeper significance of the SNS to the indigenous communities. SNS refers to different natural features which play an important function to the ecosystem. It maintains ecological balance and promotes biodiversity.

ICCAs keep the forests healthy for the next generation

It is a common goal of the cultural groups to maintain ICCAs for the next generation but it was identified in the workshop that one of the main challenges is to transfer the IKSPs to the next generation who will sustain the ICCAs. Nelson Raymad of PACOS Trust shared a video on how the youth in the village learn the traditional knowledge and participate in the protection of the ICCAs.

However, ICCAs are threatened by resource extractive industries. The issues of dam, mining and large scale monocropping such as oil palm plantation are common in all countries. Negative impacts of mining to ICCAs were shared during the workshop.

On the fourth day of the workshop, all the participants were enriched with different experiences and inspired to continue the advocacy for recognition and promotion of ICCAs. Indeed, indigenous communities have proven through ICCAs their capacity to sustainably manage their own ancestral lands.
Strengthening ties
2nd ASFN Civil Society Forum in Siem Reap

Article by: Shree Maharjan and Lakpa Nuri Sherpa, Asia Indigenous Peoples' Pact
Photos by: Leonard Reyes, NTFP-EP

Forests play a vital role for indigenous peoples to their existence and survival. These forest-based communities have a long history of sustainably conserving and managing the forests and natural resources. This inseparability with the forests encourages them to maintain their distinct identities, indigenous knowledge, cultures, spirituality and ways of life. Findings from research have shown that most of the world’s remaining tropical forests are found within indigenous peoples’ lands and territories. The same is true in the case of Southeast Asia particularly in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Thailand.

Asia Indigenous Peoples’ Pact (AIPP) is working with indigenous peoples and their rights to lands, territories and resources, since they are continuously threatened with large-scale deforestation, resource extraction, land conversion, land concessions.

ASFN CSO forum is being facilitated by NTFP-EP as one of the inclusive platforms being promoted through the ASEAN Swiss Partnership for Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC). The CSO forum in the last 2 years has involved over 60 CSOs including Peoples Organizations (POs) in 8 countries in ASEAN. In June 2013, the CSO Forum was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in preparation for the ASFN Conference held in Luang Prabang, Laos.
for agriculture, and plantations in their lands and territories in recent years. In addition, their sustainable resources management practices, such as shifting cultivation, have been unjustly recognized as a major driver of deforestation in many Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries without research and validation. In this connection, ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN) is one of the platforms for AIPP and its members to share and learn experiences with various sectors, particularly on forestry, natural resources and climate change. It is also a venue for advocacy and lobby work with ASEAN governments specifically on the issues and concerns of civil society organizations (CSOs) and Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPOs) in Southeast Asia.

The 1st ASFN-CSO Forum held last 2012 formalized the proposals for strengthening CSO engagement with ASEAN particularly on Social Forestry and Climate Change. As a follow-up, the recently concluded 2nd ASFN CSO forum provided a collaborative space for CSOs and IPOs to refine and forward the recommendations to the ASEAN member states, this time concentrating on community economy and livelihood, forest access rights and tenure, and safeguards and governance mechanism. This year’s forum was a fundamental step for the attendees, not only to acquire a common understanding on ASEAN governments and ASFN framework, but also to expand the engagement, promote solidarity, and increase cooperation with CSOs and IPOs in Southeast Asia.

Many CSOs and IPOs in the ASEAN working on the fields of forestry, biodiversity, climate change and REDD-plus came together to share and learn the recent developments at regional and international levels. As this forum focused on policies related to social forestry in ASEAN member states, avenues for knowledge sharing and networking, and roles and contributions of CSOs in ASFN as a whole became clearer. The coming years have become more promising as the participants of the forum agreed to engage CSOs and IPOs at national and regional levels to consolidate and recommend the issues and concerns to have a stronger collective voice in the ASEAN.
As indigenous ecologists, communities living in forests already have a clear understanding of the benefits they get from forests. However, the importance of also putting on an economic lens and getting remuneration for forest protection is undeniable. The questions "What should be given to the stakeholders?" and "How will the sharing of these benefits be equitable?" remain a hot debate.

To try and answer these questions, NTFP-EP organized a "Benefit Sharing in REDD-plus" workshop in Phnom Penh last July. When I got the invitation to attend, I said to myself, "I must join this workshop!" because it will really be helpful in supplementing our project with forest communities. The workshop was really helpful for me in levelling-off on a common understanding of equity in the light of REDD-plus.

My organization, KKI WARSIF, has been working with various community-based forest management schemes such as village forests, community forests and customary forests in Indonesia. We are currently taking forward steps to participate in REDD-plus-related topics such as carbon trade. Prior to the emergence of REDD-plus, communities already felt a direct mutual relationship with the forests.
where they live, such as water and irrigation for daily needs. At the forefront of forest conservation, the communities are undeniably rightful of other incentives, but there are questions on what kinds of benefits, when can these be rewarded to them, and how do we create efficient benefit sharing systems. The workshop is strongly in line with what we will be implementing in our community carbon pools model, even though we still have no idea to whom the carbon will be traded off.

I learned a lot from the knowledge shared by other country representatives and trainers after the interactive three-day workshop. This sharing will be helpful in crafting a benefit sharing mechanism for our respective partners. As similarities on REDD-plus implementation were pointed out, the definition and relevance given to benefits or benefit sharing mechanism in different Southeast Asian countries still vary. In Indonesia for example, the launch of its benefit sharing mechanism in 2009 did not incorporate REDD-plus and the ad hoc task force on REDD-plus makes Indonesia distinct from its neighboring countries who have government agencies focused on REDD-plus. Incorporating equity in REDD-plus is essential to establishing a benefit distribution system at various levels: national government, sub-national government, communities and other stakeholders. Therefore, it is important that tangible benefits derived from the use of the forest should be assessed in a collaborative manner by all the stakeholders.

One of the lessons from the workshop is that the concepts of equity and effectiveness can go hand in hand if there is a collaborative effort from all stakeholders. When talking about benefit sharing payments and performance, it has to be local and specific. Moreover, strengthening the capacity of organizations at the community level is the major key in ensuring the accountability and transparency of the benefit sharing mechanism.

The Benefit Sharing in REDD-plus Workshop was held in Phnom Penh in July as part of the Community Carbon Pools Project in partnership with FFI with the support of the EU. Over 40 participants from four countries attended.
Now you're eating!

International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition

Article by: Lakhera Chan, NTFP-EP Cambodia and Jenne de Beer, NTFP-TF
Photos by: Lakhera Chan, NTFP-EP Cambodia

Many of the known non-timber forest products are utilized as staple foods and for medicinal purposes by forest-based communities. In NTFP-EP’s efforts to promote the use of these forest products, research, documentation, case studies, wild foods assessments, indigenous knowledge workshops, and publication of recipes and subsistence uses were conducted in Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. These help ensure that NTFPs used as food and in cultural practices are given special interest more particularly by the youth of these communities. The youth hold the key to the maintenance and ongoing appreciation of their culture.

Through the support of the Rich Forest Initiative and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), NTFP-EP was able to share their insights and knowledge on forest food and health security in the International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition last May 13 to 15, 2013. The conference in Rome, Italy, which was hosted by the FAO, was a good opportunity for knowledge sharing among people who share the same expertise and passion in forest foods. More than 400 representatives from governments, civil society, private, indigenous and other local community organizations in more than 100 countries participated in the rich exchange of knowledge. NTFP-EP, IAFN and BothENDS organized a side event during the conference entitled “The Importance of Wild / Forest Foods”. During the side event, representatives from NTFP-EP (Jennie de Beer, Lakhera Chan, and Madhu Ramnath) shared their valuable experience working with communities and their efforts to return to forest foods towards improving livelihood and nutrition. Activities and results on assessments of wild food diversity were also shared. The local food from the forest recipes by the Punan communities in Malinau, Indonesia; the replanting of medicinal plants at communal areas in India; the series of forest food and cultural revitalization festivals in the Philippines; and the importance of the Penan’s staple food, sago, in Malaysia proved to be winners among the other participants. Through the conference’s publications fair, they were also able to share their participatory work on the grassroots level in other countries like Vietnam and Indonesia.

Developing sustainable farming and agroforestry systems for food security, managing forests for income generation, ecosystem services, and wild food recipes that are relevant to indigenous communities are just some of what the other participants shared during the conference. Definitely, this valuable knowledge and information brought about by the exchanges of expertise from the conference will contribute greatly to the ongoing field work implementation of forest foods-related work in NTFP-EP as well as contribute greatly to a community-based sustainable forest management.

In conclusion, the conference was able to encourage research that supports the use of wild forest species of plants, as well as insects and other animals, to improve yields and increase the sustainability of food production; and make better use of traditional knowledge about landscape management and working with local stakeholders to improve the management of wild foods to ensure their sustainability. Environmental costs of agricultural practices should also no longer be ignored. Also emphasized were the unbalanced subsidies favouring agriculture. One main realization of the conference is that many contributions of forests (trees and agroforestry systems) to food security and nutrition are poorly reflected in national development strategies.
Some delicacies from the forest

Lepou
*Baccaurea lanceolata*
Indonesia

Various forms of seasoning are normally found in forests. The Lepou fruit is a popular source of seasoning used by the Punan communities in Indonesia to add flavor to various traditional chicken and wild boar dishes.

Boom bree
*Dioscorea sp.*
Cambodia

Boom bree is a root/tuber plant that is usually found in Kreung villages in Cambodia. It is a popular staple alternative to rice. It is also used for making desserts when mixed with coconut milk and sugar.

Ama
*Mangifera indica*
India

The fruit of this mango tree is eaten raw or ripe and used extensively in cooking by the Adivasi communities in India. Its pulp can be dried and stored for later use, while its kernel can be collected and sold commercially.

Trigona Honey Juice
*Trigona sp.*
Indonesia

Trigona is a kind of bee resembling a small fly especially at a glance when it appears black. These bees are called differently in Javanese (Klanceng), Sumbawa (Rentelan/Sentelan) and Lombok (Nyanteng). Although the Trigona species in Sumbawa has been known for quite some time, the development of Trigona products initiated by the Sumbawa Forest Honey Network (JMHS) only started in 2019.

Currently there are already 14 Trigona "stups" or box hives in the village of Gapit in the Sub-district of Empang and the JMHS secretariat has 7 box hives. From the various by-products of bee pollen from Trigona, we have chosen to try making bee pollen juice.

As for future Trigona development with JMHS, we plan to produce propolis, bee pollen juice and honey from Trigona.

Happy experimenting!

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**FRESH BEE POLLEN JUICE RECIPE**

by Juinansyah, Jaringan Madu Hutan Sumbawa (JMHS), Indonesia

- When harvesting Trigona, separate the bee pollen from other elements within the box hive.
- Mix the bee pollen with enough water, stir until blended.
- Strain the mixture so that it is cleaner and of even consistency and pour it into a glass.
- Add enough milk cream, stir until blended.
- Add enough ice and stir again till well blended.
- It is now ready to be served. Enjoy!
On to the next level!
Growing forest enterprises in Cambodia

Article by Uch Sophay and Nola Andaya, NTFP-EP Cambodia
Photos by Ken Piseth, NTFP-EP Cambodia

NTFP-EP Cambodia takes pride in catalyzing more attention and concrete field actions on non-timber forest products (NTFP) livelihood development in the country since it co-organized a national NTFP workshop with Community Forestry International and other NGOs in December 2006. Enterprise development in Cambodia was envisioned as a platform for knowledge sharing and exchange, strategic collaborations and community-based initiatives in sustainable forest management and livelihood improvement.

Community-based NTFP and forest enterprise development is one of the main strategies in Cambodia as it addresses two main problem areas in the country: rural poverty and forest degradation. While many organizations work on community livelihoods or on natural resource management, not many have the strategy or the capacity to address both simultaneously. The organization's two main goals are conservation and livelihood enhancement. Tying up community livelihood with sustainable forest management (SFM) has become a means to promote and advocate to other local NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs), the adoption of sustainable resource management in Cambodia.

In June 2013, NTFP-EP solidified their role in sustainable community forest enterprise development in Cambodia by launching its Enterprise Development Programme (EDP) through a presentation meeting with partners. This meeting was a culmination of a consultation process facilitated by NTFP-EP with participation of current partners and contacts. NTFP-EP Program Coordinator Uch Sophay shares that "in the meeting, the participants agreed that taking on a programmatic approach in NTFP and forest enterprise development is appropriate in order to address the complexity of the issues and needs on the ground. This step opens up opportunities for partners' capacity building and support in NTFP and forest enterprise development as well as linking community forestry to community protected area development." There is now higher political will for recognition of community forestry and community forestry management plans. The general direction of program support under the National Forestry Programme is to move towards developing tangible forest livelihoods through community forest enterprise development.

The launch of the EDP coincided with the start of Supporting Forest and Biodiversity (SFB), a consortium project undertaken by Winrock International in partnership with the WWF, East-West Management Institute (EWMI), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC) under a four-year cooperative agreement with the USAID Mission in Cambodia. The NTFP-EP Cambodia provided technical support on enterprise development for the SFB project in
the Eastern Plains, providing training to WWF staff and the SFB staff of Winrock International on CLAPs (community/sustainable livelihoods assessment and product scanning) and value chain analysis. The EDP team carried out CLAPs in 4 villages in Mondulkiri province. Together with Nola Andava, the team also conducted a market scan and met with potential partners to support the identification of community enterprises.

The project also provided the opportunity to explore certification for Cambodian wild honey as a strategy to increase benefits for community honey hunters and to promote participation in sustainable forest management. The study began with a consultation meeting with stakeholders in July and ended with the presentation of the study, “Exploring Certification for Cambodian Wild Honey Towards Enhanced Rural Livelihoods and Sustainable Forest Management, in November. The participants, including representatives from the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Tourism, and Forestry Administration, and the NGOs, affirmed their support for Cambodian wild honey and favorably received the recommendation for the development of collective trademark for community forest honey and the long-term vision of adopting a sustainable and organic Cambodian wild honey industry.

Since the launch, two potential partnerships have emerged apart from a re-confirmation of the partnership with CBHE (Community based Federation for Bee Conservation and Wild Honey Enterprises), and WWF and Ponlok Khmer for resin enterprise development in Mondulkiri and Preah Vihear provinces. As potential partners, discussions with World Vision Cambodia and Morokok are underway for NTFP-EP to provide technical support for their livelihood programs in Preah Vihear and Koh Kong, respectively. Partnership agreements and first year planning will be developed soon for 2014 community-based enterprises implementation. Furthermore, NTFP-EP Cambodia is exploring a landscape level partnership with WWF in Stung Treng and Kratie provinces, which will largely also support for development of community-based green enterprises.

To date, NTFP-EP Cambodia has worked in 6 provinces (Mondulkiri, Preah Vihear, Kampong Thom, Koh Kong, Kratie, Stung Treng) and has supported at least 16 informal community enterprise initiatives/groups and over 800 NTFP-dependent individuals and families. This has been done through knowledge sharing opportunities, conceptual and skills trainings, and technical input and advisory in the areas of NTFP management, enterprise development and organizational development.

With these being said, look forward to more news on enterprise development in Cambodia from the team!
What is the NTFP-EP Micro Grant Fund (MGF)?

The NTFP-EP Micro Grant Fund (MGF) started in 2007 with the support of BothEnds and IUCN Netherlands and has assisted 33 initiatives for about €150,000 in 6 countries. The MGF is awarded to promising new initiatives which need start up funds and established initiatives in need of immediate support. In 2011, Broederslijk Deeln provided additional support to the grant that was opened up to applicants outside of the NTFP-EP community partner organizations. This story came from a BD-MGF grantee in Cambodia.

Taking charge of the River

Boosting ecotourism in Preah Vihear

Article by: Tanya Conlu and Earl Diaz
Photos by Ponlok Khmer

Proud of their natural resources, and with a strong sense of ownership – these are my impressions of the villagers who came to meet me at Kampong Sralao II. It took me more than 6 hours by bus to get to Preah Vihear from Phnom Penh, and another 100 kilometers translated into a 3-hour butt-breaking motorbike ride to reach this beautiful community along the Mekong at the northern tip of Cambodia bordering Laos.

The main livelihood of Kampong Sralao II is rice farming and fishing, but as tourists from Stung Treng and other neighboring provinces come for the Preah Nimitth waterfalls, a private company saw the opportunity for tourism and the government had a big road built for this purpose. However, this is Community Forestry land, and the community, with the help of Ponlok Khmer, successfully lobbied for the government to give them the management of their area.

Ponlok Khmer, also known as People and Knowledge of Highlander (PKH), is a Preah Vihear based organization assisting forest dependent and indigenous communities in land and natural resource management and in promotion of local knowledge and resources to alleviate poverty and hunger. Through the support of the NTFP-EP Micro Grant Funds, Ponlok Khmer was able to help Kampong Sralao II in their community based ecotourism project. They organized an ecotourism committee from the four surrounding villages and provided exposure visits and training on organizational management and ecotourism, including financial management, English speaking skills, and marketing. The committee also drew up their resource management and tourist guiding rules, such as no cooking allowed in the ecotourism area and no hunting of wildlife. Their previous income from entrance fees (1,000 real per person or a quarter of a US dollar) enabled them to build a training center and viewing deck where tourists can enjoy the breathtaking view of the rapids. They were also able to build a 500-meter trail, 6 small bridges and 2 toilets. The ecotourism committee also wants to develop bird walks, as they say they have beautiful night birds.

In 2012 the community had a total of 9,020 local and 126 international tourists. While much support is still needed and income is still small, this initiative has encouraged the community to take care of and manage their natural resources. The ecotourism committee is determined to make this work so that they can show the government that Community Forestry can be and should be managed by the communities.
The A-Listers!

Keystone: Nilgiris Field Learning Center, experiential learning

Keystone Foundation, India has definitely a lot in store for us in its 20th anniversary this year.

Last September 23, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Cornell University in New Yorkzzz and Keystone Foundation to establish the Nilgiris Field Learning Center (NFLC) in Kotagiri, Tamil Nadu, India.

As an initial offering, NFLC will offer a study abroad program in the spring of 2014, where student researchers from Cornell will be engaged in experiential learning with the indigenous community partners of Keystone to further explore and deepen knowledge on forest ecosystems and related themes on health and nutrition and waste management. The program is comprised of five modules that will enhance students’ research, fieldwork, analytical and presentation skills; and would be equivalent to 12-15-credit programme for the students.

The idea for NFLC was brought to Cornell by Pratim Roy, director of Keystone, as his Humphrey Fellow Project in 2012-13.

Amway, leading the way!

Amway, global leader in health, beauty and outstanding business opportunities, believes in health, happiness and satisfaction. Amway’s partners in numerous countries share the same vision of promoting health and wellness through partnership with local enterprises.

In its efforts to further develop and promote forest honey, Jaringen Madu Hutan Indonesia (JMHI) awarded AMWAY through UKMWAY (Amway's local arm in Indonesia) last August 26, 2013 during its annual meeting in Larantuka, East Flores, Indonesia.

The award was given as recognition of UKMWAY’s sales contribution to the JMHI honey products, especially for honey from Sumbawa and Danau Sentarum, Borneo, Indonesia. This patronage from the UKMWAY has paved the way for the funding of trainings and scholarships for elementary school children in Sumbawa.

UKMWAY’s commitment to promoting environmentally sound products is definitely award-worthy!
Indigenous communities in Ratanakiri are facing important socio-economic changes due to the increasing pressure on land and natural resources. The rich culture of the Kreung people of Ratanakiri flourishes with a multitude of recipes for food and medicine from the forests of Cambodia. To rekindle the shrinking interest in traditional knowledge, this book documents the Kreung people’s unique living in cultural and economic terms as expressed in their food recipes using valuable forest resources.

This book has been produced by NTFP-EP/CNWG in collaboration with Nomad RSI, IADC, and ICC. It is the third publication of its kind related to Cambodian ethnic groups’ forest knowledge and the first one related to the peoples of Ratanakiri.

Various foods are gathered from the forests by a vast number of communities as supplements to staples. For most of the tribal and forest dwelling communities, a substantial amount of their foods are directly procured from their environment. In some cases, these staples have not been officially recognized in India. The adivasis are currently facing issues with regard to wild foods—the inadequate documentation of edible species, dwindling knowledge on culture, and the migration among the youth, which lead to huge gaps in the knowledge on forest foods.

NTFP-EP network partners have been documenting these wild foods for years. This publication is a rough example of a compendium of species and information on collection and use, status and spread across the country.

The book “We will not fall a second time,” presents the struggle of the Dayak of Central Kalimantan to rehabilitate the land covered by the 1 million hectares PLG (Peat Land Development) Project. After this failed government project, and intrusion by oil palm companies, the people took restoration of the area into their own hands by developing productive and diverse rattan gardens. The book reflects the wisdom of the Dayak Ngaju at natural resource management at the rattan craft which have cultural and economic purpose.

Juanita Tarigen, better known as JT, is a new addition to the growing NTFP-EP Indonesia team. After graduating from the Faculty of Forestry in Bogor, he has spent more than 15 years working on several issues such as: forestry, socio economic issues, livelihoods, agroforestry, and climate change. He loves badminton, swimming and absolutely watching football. His ultimate dream is to establish a small garden with lots of fruits and plants for future sustenance and medicinal use.

Innie Santiago joined the NTFP-EP Finance team in November last year as our Accountant. Being the dog lover that she is, nothing beats the feeling of going home to a furry friend named Appa, waiting for her by the door. She loves travelling to different places, and so her ultimate goal in life is to travel the whole Philippines.

Shara Barrientos can definitely brighten up anyone’s day just by wearing her favorite color: PINK! NTFP-EP’s youngest staff joined the team in March this year as the cashier. Everyone is so envious of her because she loves eating but maintains her slim physique. Shara, being a self-admitted Sudoku addict, definitely has what it takes to be a part of the finance team!