

Voices from the forest

NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS EXCHANGE PROGRAMME FOR SOUTH & SOUTHEAST ASIA

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Cambodia's Own: FOOD FROM THE FIELDS AND FORESTS

Contributed by Fenny Pinto, NTFP-EP and Latig Senghorn, Sahakreas CEDAC

There is now a growing consumer base in Cambodia's capital, of organic rice, vegetables, meat and poultry, palm sugar and WILD HONEY that are produced and harvested by over 2000 smallholder farmers outside of Phnom Penh, including around 750 traditional honey collectors who are members of the newly established community based wild honey federation or CBHE. The CBHE's own branded wild honey product, Khmum Prey (bees from the forest) joins an expanding array of local, safe, quality food products retailed at nine (9) CEDAC shops in Phnom Penh and Kratie province, and which are also distributed to different dealers, mini-marts and supermarkets across Cambodia's city capital.

(continued next page)

from Cambodia's Own: FOOD FROM THE FIELDS AND FORESTS

Learn more about CEDAC on www.cedac.org.kh
Contributed by Femy Pinto, NTFP-EP and
Lang Senghorng, Sahakreas CEDAC
Photos by NTFP-EP, CEDAC, Sahakreas CEDAC

A promising partnership is simmering in Cambodia. Sahakreas CEDAC (SKC), a commercial arm of the Cambodian Center for Agricultural Study and Development or CEDAC sealed a purchasing agreement on the 8th April 2011, with the Cambodian Federation for Bee Conservation and Community based Wild Honey Enterprises or CBHE for the second year (2nd) year in a row. CBHE is a newly registered Cambodian business association composed of 750 individual members of community based honey groups across six (6) provinces in Cambodia, namely Mondulkiri, Koh Kong, Kratie, Preah Vihear, Stung Treng and Ratanakiri. Mr. Lang Seng Horng, Managing Director of SKC said that "SAHAKREAS CEDAC support the CBHE because they provide genuine Khmum Prey Wild Honey, which is collected following sustainable harvest methods and hygienic quality standards. All products that we sell at the CEDAC shops must abide by a safe and healthy food standard. Wild honey is traditionally consumed by all Cambodians but purity and quality is essential".

SKC'S mission is to supply high quality safe food to consumers in both the domestic and international markets; to improve the living standards of Cambodian farmers and small-medium enterprises through product linkages to SKC markets; and to generate profit to support CEDAC NGO's development programs. Over the past two decades, CEDAC NGO has supported and networked to date over 120,000 smallholder farmers in Cambodia providing them with access to capacity building opportunities and information about agriculture techniques and potential local, national and international markets.

At the 2nd contract signing ceremony between SKC and CBHE, both representatives, Mr. Lang Senghorng, Director of SKC, and Mr. Moeung Mean, President of the CBHE recalled the beginnings of their partnership. Mr. Mean who is himself a honey collector and leader

of a community based honey group and CBHE member from Koh Kong province, said "As honey collectors, we have encountered many issues in the past, such as high moisture content of our honey in Koh Kong, which is harvested from mangrove trees during the wet season. People were confused that the honey was not pure and so we could not sell our honey. When we did sell our honey, we had to sell it for a cheap price. Competition and costs were high. NTFP-EP facilitated exchanges among honey collectors since 2008 until the CBHE was formed in 2010. With CBHE, the honey associations and members from the 7 provinces can consolidate our honey and sell for a fair price in the market. Now CBHE members have more reason to protect their forests as they can see themselves earning more from them!"

From an original 50 liters in 2008, SKC has increased its current commitment to purchase 5000 liters!

Providing more than a mere introduction of the honey groups and their NGO partners to SKC and facilitating the agreements since 2008, NTFP-EP in Cambodia has since also initiated the establishment of NatureWild, an enterprise and marketing intermediary to primarily serve the needs of its network partners such as the CBHE in product development and packaging, production improvements, market investigation and linking, as well as in sales and promotions. Ms. Uch Sophay, NTFP-EP Marketing Officer, has also worked hard to share the facts on the quality of wild, forest honey as well as the unique benefits this product brings. NTFP-EP's efforts to build CBHE knowledge in this regard were evident when Mr. Moeung Mean confidently noted in his speech, "honey from the forest like Khmum Prey has many benefits. Keeping 1 liter of Khmum Prey is like having a doctor in the house". He then proceeded to explain how wild honey can be consumed

to treat a common cold and is also a natural source of energy. NatureWild assisted the CBHE in the development and ongoing application and monitoring of its harvesting protocols and product standards.

These are exciting times for NatureWild as it is currently market testing a range of new honey and bee products such as balms from beeswax and honey, honey vinegar and wine. This has been developed through cooperation and advice from resource people within the NTFP-EP network. SKC and its social investment partners are quite eager to hear more about these new products and are already considering future support.

As a young, enthusiastic honey collectors federation, CBHE shows bankable potential. SKC projects their business growth into 2015 and beyond to include further investments in wild honey procurement and processing alongside the growth of their other local food products line. At the same time, CBHE and NatureWild will continue to work together to strengthen CBHE's own enterprise capacity and to facilitate viable harvest and production capacities at the members level. Finally, SKC is planning a major national promotional campaign for the CEDAC shops in May in cooperation with NTFP-EP Cambodia's NatureWild initiative. The campaign will not only be a boost for the shops but moreso a boost for the farmers and forest collectors alike who toil the fields and protect the forests.





Ibu Luek, a Dayak Bentian weaver, displays her rattan "anjat" baskets."

NEW BEGINNINGS FOR THE Bentian!

Margaretha Seting Beraan, NTFP-EP

Bentian, in the Kedang Pahu watershed, East Kalimantan, is an area with rich rattan resources. This is possible since the Dayak Bentian cultivate their rattan in a sustainable manner according to their traditional wisdom. Unfortunately, the largest threat to the sustainability of their rattan and their forests in this area is the proliferation of large scale oil palm plantations and mining, even though this area is upstream and it remains as an important source of clean water for the Dayak Bentian people.

The destruction of the forest has had significant impact on the economy and culture of the Bentian people. The income of the community, a large part being weavers, decreased drastically. The skill of weaving transferred from generation to generation was scarcely being practiced, especially since the rattan needed for weaving was diminishing because of the loss of forest. There was also a lack of interest from the younger generation that looked upon other means of supporting themselves other than weaving.

As a result of the discussion on these alarming observations, a few weavers agreed to launch a revitalization program for handicrafts development in the Bentian area. This "return to crafts" effort was started with organizing the weavers and product development.

These initial efforts, and the enthusiasm of the weavers lead to the conduct of a larger training on community enterprise which was held from Nov 8-10 2010 in the Dayak Bentian area covering 4 villages namely Kampung Sambung, Renda Empas, Tende and Kampong Tukuq.

The objective of this training was to give insight to the weavers on basic enterprise functions such as organizational management, production management, finance and marketing, as well as to allow for the meeting of the weavers of the Bentian area. The material of the training was enriched by inputs on conserving the forest area from the threat of oil palm plantation investment that has already started to enter the area.

This training was conducted by the Crafts Kalimantan Network, a collaboration of 5 NGOs supporting indigenous weaving traditions in Kalimantan. It was a blessing to work together with 36 active participants from the weavers groups that followed the training with much energy, full of enthusiasm.

As a result a few Bentian leaders agreed that there is a need to clarify the decisions made on land use within the Bentian area, especially to establish the effect of extractive activities on the land, the resources and the people of Bentian.

From this training, there was an agreement to continue with the plan to form enterprise groups of community weavers in the area that would be supported by NTFP-EP. The weavers were also challenged to prepare sample products for the Borneo Chic 2011 collection. These were derived from the traditional motif "Inung Menangis" or "Inung's Tears".

Innovation from the motif "Inung Menangis" have become one of the prominent products in the new collection for INACRAFT Trade Fair 2011 to be launched from April 20-24, 2011

It can be said that one important result from the Bentian training was the renewed feeling of confidence and pride of the weavers; confidence that their products could compete with those of other areas and even products of other countries. This realization has inspired them to continue their tradition of weaving, to further understand and maintain the motifs and to conserve the forests of the Bentian community.

Ramp model Hilda Olifia is sporting an "inung menangis" bag perfect for the office.

Photo courtesy of Borneo Chic / Crafts Kalimantan Network



Exchange News

"When I heard about Borneo Chic, at first I wanted to work with them purely for business interests. But then when I heard about their noble cause, I was interested to help in their mission for the long haul."

Photo courtesy of Widhi Bek



These were the words of renowned fashion designer, Musa Widyatmodjo, who is assisting the Borneo Chic (BC) brand in preparing a new hand bag collection and in the marketing of BC products. Musa shared his sentiments in the recent Borneo Chic shop launch last April 14, 2011. The shop is situated in the Jakarta art center -- Kemang.

Other than Pak Musa, Ernie of Yayasan Dian Tama gave the opening remarks and told the audience about the mission of the Crafts Kalimantan Network, an initiative launched by 5 NGOs in Kalimantan, and how the Borneo Chic brand was developed to elevate the image of indigenous weaving traditions through more modern expressions in a collection of handbags. Handicraft production is a benign source of livelihood from forests – forests which are threatened by extractive industries that plague Kalimantan's ecosystem.

Ernie's talk was followed by a 3 minute TV commercial prepared by Gecko Studios.

We were also luckily accompanied by weavers Ibu Luek, a Dayak Bentian and Diana, a young Dayak Iban as they shared their stories about their crafts, their communities and their experiences and thoughts working with BC.

Diana mentioned that "Before selling products to Borneo Chic we had to make very large mats to sell. It would take a long time before we could make money. Now BC buys smaller mats that are converted into bags and we get higher prices for these smaller mats!"

Over 100 people graced the event from NGO friends, to craft aficionados to media personnel. We hope that with increased design and marketing capacity, sales from BC products will encourage indigenous weavers of Borneo to continue with their craft, an intrinsic part of the heritage of Borneo and the Dayak people.

The Borneo Chic Shop is found at the Ke-kun Coffee Shop, 99A Jl. Bangka Raya Pela Mampang, Jakarta Selatan 12720. Contact the Borneo Chic Shop at +62-21-7183-240 or visit the website www.borneochic.com

Cando Craft Shop opens in Phnom Penh: Taking culture and tradition of the hinterlands to the city

The CANDO Craft Shop, opened its doors to its partners and growing customer base in Cambodia's city capital, Phnom Penh. The CANDO Craft Shop is a business effort of the Cambodian NTFP Development Organization (CANDO), who founded and is managing a social enterprise programme - the CANDO Craft Center – in Ratanakiri province, northeast of Cambodia since 2008.

The CANDO Craft Center (CCC) aims to create economic development opportunities primarily indigenous men and women artisans from Ratanakiri province and other vulnerable producer groups and communities under fair production and business partnership arrangements. As a social enterprise programme, CCC's emphasis is on respect for both culture and the environment, the promotion of craftsmanship and fair business practices, and on building synergies among the indigenous artisan communities and the locally-run CCC social enterprise.

CCC products come under the CANDO Craft brand, ranging from traditional and indigenous-handwoven cloth, scarves, table-runners, bamboo and rattan traditional baskets and boxes, and functional and more contemporary-designed converted products such as bags, purses, notebooks and diaries. CCC's bestsellers are its natural dyed textile, which has significantly improved in quality as part of CANDO's crafts development and capacity building activities especially within the last year.

The CANDO Crafts shop opening was made possible through the support and participation of CANDO in the Creative Industries Support Programme (CISP) supported by the UN-Spain Millenium Development Goals Achievement Fund.

Congratulations to CANDO!

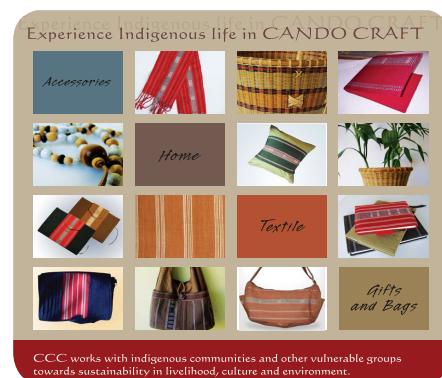


Photo courtesy of CANDO

CANDO Craft Shop is located on #190A, St. 155 (200meters south of the Russian Market), Phnom Penh, Cambodia. It is open, Monday-Saturday 8am-5:30pm. Coming soon: <http://www.candocraft.org> and <http://www.candodevelopment.org> of Cambodian Wild Honey [SAHAKREAS CEDAC press release].

NTFP-EP becomes an implementing partner of the ASEAN Social Forestry Network

NTFP-EP recently became an implementing partner of the ASEAN Social Forestry Network. The ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN) is the first and only inter-governmental social forestry network in Southeast Asia.

This collaboration is made possible through the ASEAN – Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change. This project supports the ASEAN Multisectoral Framework on Climate Change otherwise known as AFCC. The project will last for almost 3 years (April 2011 – Dec 2013) and focus on policy development, knowledge sharing and networking and learning interventions. The goal of the partnership is to integrate social forestry into climate change adaptation and mitigation measures and to ensure socio-economic benefit to ASEAN peoples. The partnership is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and its Global Program on Climate Change.

The project has 4 implementing partners, namely Ministry of Forestry Indonesia, CIFOR, RECOFTC and NTFP-EP. The role of NTFP-EP in the project is to promote civil society (indigenous peoples, community forestry groups, women, vulnerable groups) engagement in ASFN, through sharing the bottom-up approach of the Philippine National REDD Plus Strategy (PNRPS), establishing an ASFN Civil Society Forum, mainstreaming social forestry thru national, state level community forestry bodies, and assessing and supporting community livelihood adaptation strategies. NTFP-EP will focus particular attention on the Philippines, Cambodia and Sarawak (Malaysia).

The Upcoming Conference and Annual Meeting of the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN) to be held in Brunei Darussalam, June 2011



Mixed Dipterocarp swamp forest as a natural habitat of wildlife in Brunei Darussalam.
Photo courtesy of ASFN Secretariat

ASFN will hold its 2nd Conference in tandem with the 5th ASFN Annual Meeting from 21-24 June 2011 in Bandar Seri Begawan, and is expected to be launched by the Brunei Darussalam Royal Guest of Honour. The Conference carries the theme "Forests for People: The Role of Social Forestry in REDD+ and Forest Conservation", with Topics as follows:

- Governing Forests in ASEAN under the Emerging Global Climate Change and Biodiversity Agendas
- Key Challenges of Social Forestry in REDD+ Development in ASEAN
- Communities, Forest Conservation and Economic Development in ASEAN

As the Conference is to be held on the island of Borneo, a special session on the Heart of Borneo featuring presentations on Sarawak, Sabah, and Kalimantan will be organized.

Expert resource persons will be on hand during the Programme that will cover Roundtable Sessions, Open Space, Knowledge Fair, as well as visit to Field Sites of community forests and conservation reserves. ASFN is the first inter-governmental Network on social forestry in Southeast Asia with main goal to promote policy and practices through an established information and communication system in strengthening the ASEAN Cooperation in Social Forestry, and it reports to the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF). The Annual Meeting attended by the ASFN Leaders, National Focal Points, and Partner Organizations discusses among others the developments of Network activities, and adopt initiatives for implementation in the region. Any inquiries and early registration can be sent to asfn.secretariat@asfnsec.org (ASFN Secretariat, Jakarta).

Discovering more about Cambodia resins

At their recent return in March to the Forest Product Research and Development Institute (FPRDI) at the University of the Philippines at Los Banos, Eanghourt, Amy and Femy of NTFP-EP in Cambodia were excited to hear the results from the laboratory analysis conducted on samples of liquid resin *Dipterocarpus intricatus* and *Dipterocarpus alatus* species from Cambodia.

Ms. Mariluz Dionglay who led the research reported that there were two important components found from the samples: 80% oils and about 20% resin. The oils extracted had a citrus-like essence suited for perfumery and cosmetics. Provided that sustainable tapping techniques is strictly applied in Cambodia, and a sustainable market is found as well as an affordable technique and infrastructure for oil extraction, developing liquid resins (or *Dipterocarp balsams*) for the benefit of local communities in Cambodia may reap profitable returns.



Editor's Notes

VOICES FROM THE FOREST Issue 20 features honey gatherers of Cambodia and their success in expanding their sales with the national marketing outfit, CEDAC.

As a follow up to last issue's article on the award-winning "modern-heritage" rattan bag, we share the work of the masterful Dayak Bentian as their baskets of mythical stories also hit the fashion scene.

Our exchange news sections glows with the opening of shops in Indonesia and Cambodia reflecting the retailing potential of EP's partner products. In addition, breaking news this issue is on the further involvement of NTFP-EP at the ASEAN level, expanding the network's reach not only with people on the ground but with policy makers as well!

Speaking of policy makers, this issue celebrates the appointment of former EP board secretary, Dionesia Banua, as a Commissioner of the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP)! "Dioning" as lovingly called stepped down as EP board member learning a week later that she had a larger, more influential position waiting for her. Best of luck, Dioning!

Around the region we have experiences on NTFP-eco-certification and thoughts from Vietnamese Joke Waller-Hunter fellows, Tiep and Xiem. Finally, we end this section with the musings of our new Cambodian board member Eanghourt on his agroforestry learnings in the Philippines.

So the network continues to expand, but let us not forget that the NTFP movement is not only making waves in Asia, but also in Latin America! May you dance to the beat of this article!

The NTFP-EP Secretariat:

Maria Cristina S. Guerrero, Executive Director
 » **Max Ventura**, Deputy Director » **Tanya Conlu**, Programme Development Officer » **Vince Docta**, Resource Mobilisation Officer » **Emily Abella**, Finance Officer » **Annie Ocampo**, Administrative Assistant. Field Staff: **Madhu Ramnath**, Facilitator for India » **Joanna de Rozario**, Facilitator for Malaysia » **Dominic Langat**, Sarawak Community Development Organizer » **Panthom Priyandoko**, Kalimantan Facilitator » **Margaretha Seting Beraan**, Crafts Kalimantan Coordinator, **Merry Tobing**, Kalimantan Field Assistant » » **Femy Pinto**, Facilitator for Cambodia » **Phy Bunthorn**, Enterprise Development Officer » **Uch Sophay**, Marketing Officer » **Phan Channa**, Admin Officer » **Olive Meledrez**, REDDPlus Network Coordinator, Philippines

Pioneer EP Board Member, Now a Commissioner for Indigenous Peoples!

Dionesia O. Banua, a long time supporter and board member of NTFP-EP since 2000, was inaugurated by the President of the Philippines as Commissioner of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) on December 2, 2010. In her new role, Dioning, as she is fondly called, will be reviewing applications for ancestral domain titles and working on other socio-economic concerns related to indigenous peoples.

Dioning, a Tagbanua and a happy mother of 7, has had a long history of commitment to IP issues in Palawan. She worked for several Palawan-based NGOs and later assumed the post of Executive Director of Nagkakaisang mga Tribu ng Palawan (NATRIPAL) or "United Tribes of Palawan." She served her term from 2000 until 2006, when she received a scholarship from the Ford Foundation for her Masters in Environmental Management at the Ateneo de Manila University. After her studies, Dioning chose to return to her homeland, Aborlan in Palawan, where she worked with indigenous communities on forest conservation and advocacy concerns and taught at the Remnant International College.

Dioning served as a board member of NTFP-EP for 10 years (2000-2010). We all wish her well as she takes on the new challenge of government service.



Photo of Dioning (center) with President Benigno Aquino III courtesy of Gil Nartea/ Malacanang Photo Bureau

Three NTFP Advocates Become New EP Board Members



Photo of the EP board members and staff at Windy Ridge Hotel in courtesy of the NTFP-EPTagaytay

Despite the lack of view due to the mists, members of the EP board and several staff enjoyed the cool weather and the quick glimpses of Taal Volcano from Tagaytay City, where a NTFP-EP board meeting was held on October 25-26, 2010. It was at this meeting that Ms. Dionesia Banua announced her resignation as member of the board of trustees, pending her appointment as NCIP Commissioner. Re-elected President Ms. Snehlata Nath and Executive Director Ms. Crissy Gurero

expressed their deep gratitude for her many years of service, which began even

before the board was constituted. In absentia, Mr. Ramon Derige and Mr. Rene Guarin also signified their resignation.

With the need to fill the vacated posts, the group then nominated potential members, who willingly took on the commitment and responsibility. EP is happy to announce its three new trustees: Atty. Grizelda Mayo-Anda, director of Palawan-based Environmental Legal Assistance Center (ELAC); Ms. Amalia Maling, Technical Advisor of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) based in Cambodia; and Dean Ramon Razal, former Dean of the College of Forestry of the University of the Philippines in Los Baños (UPLB).

Extended board members, who serve as country representatives of EP partners, were also officially constituted during the meeting. These include Mr. Ridzki Sigit from Telapak, Indonesia; Mr. Khou Eang Hourt from Cambodia NTFP Working Group (CNWG); and Mr. Pandu Hegde from Prakruti, India..

IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES: DOWN TO EARTH DISCUSSIONS WITH DONORS

Norlita Colili, Enterprise Development Officer –NTEP Task Force (Philippines)



Photo courtesy of Norli Colili

How can donor support of indigenous peoples and indigenous landscapes result in improved livelihoods? How can indigenous peoples create business out of products and services from indigenous landscapes? Are there workable safeguards? What have been the lessons? How to sustain it beyond donor years of commitment? What are the frameworks for indigenous enterprise development?

The phrases above are the questions posed for discussion during the session on "Improving Livelihoods in Indigenous Communities" in the International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP) Asia/Pacific Indigenous Peoples Resource Sustainability and Funders Summit held on March 27-28, 2011 In Bali, Indonesia.

Improving livelihoods for indigenous communities involves a lot of processes. The challenge is to maintain culture while having the economic development through and enterprise development.

Thus, we need a process that does not compromise the identity of the indigenous peoples; that respects their tradition and culture; as IPs have their own life affairs too. They promote their craftsmanship and unique skills and conserve resources while trying to meet their basic needs.

In the process, the partnership among IPs and donors helps move the livelihoods and enterprises towards sustainability, as long as the people, planet and profit are given equal importance by both partners. Important learnings discussed were the following:

- Maintain fair relationships not only with outsiders, but also among tribes within the community,
- There must be equity in the access and use of the resources, the enhancement of skills;
- Younger people are very important as they are the ones next in line to sustain their livelihoods and craft,
- Make the market sustainable by not trying to maximize your profit and watch out for the market elites who could possibly exploit the IPs;
- Do not just go for any market, but do select your market.

But the process does not end here; guide indigenous communities more to releasing the power from within them to take control of their own livelihoods and enterprises. The IPs should actively participate in the entire cycle of livelihoods development. Funds may come to fill in the gap, but this should be used to develop mechanisms to regenerate their resources. Funding should not come to a dead-end; it should have and must have a meaningful result such as improved livelihoods and others.

The more trust, transparency, respect and accountability should be developed among indigenous communities and partner donors towards improving and sustaining community livelihoods.

Donor Forum

The Philippine National REDD-Plus Strategy DONORS' FORUM

The Philippine National REDD-Plus Strategy (PNRPS) Donors' Forum was held last March 8 at the European Union office in Makati City. The Swiss Ambassador to the Philippines, Ivo Sieber, delivered the opening message on behalf of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). SDC currently supports the development and implementation of the PNRPS along with the forum co-host, the European Union (EU), and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

Donors in attendance came from France, Korea, Japan, Germany, France, the United States, the Philippines and other international institutions

The government (Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Forest Management Bureau -DENR-FMB) and civil society (CoDe REDD Philippines) authors of the PNRPS presented the various components of the Strategy covering such themes as enabling policy; governance, resource use, allocation and management; research and development; measurable, reportable and verifiable conditions (MRV); capacity building and communication (CBC); and sustainable financing.

The PNRPS is one of the few REDD strategies developed through a bottom-up, multi-stakeholder approach. Additional support is needed for the implementation of the PNRPS to promote responsible, inclusive REDD+ development in the Philippines. It is hoped other donors will take the challenge and invest in PNRPS implementation.



Swiss Ambassador, Ivo Sieber, and other participants listen attentively to the presenters. Photo courtesy of NTEP-EP

NTFP ECO-CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP IN KOTAGIRI

by Mathew John, Keystone Foundation



Keystone Foundation, in Kotagiri, played host to a workshop on sustainable collection of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) from January 31 to February 1, 2011. Aside from the discussion on NTFP collection, the workshop was also intended to review the current state of certification for NTFPs. Twenty-three participants representing various research/academic/civil society organisations attended the workshop.

Eco-certification is a broad issue with many aspects. Sustainability of NTFP is an ongoing concern. Those who are involved in NTFP collection, whether for commercial or subsistence use, need to be able to assess and ensure both quality and sustainability of supply.

Many groups are also participating in the development of standards and certification for NTFP products. There are however many schools of thought when it comes to these issues. Resource persons shared their experiences, as well as the approaches of different organizations. During the workshop, resource persons shared about the development of the FairWild Standards

and the Indonesian national standards. Because of the different approaches, it was necessary for participants to come to a common understanding of certification parlance, and the different processes involved in branding, labelling and certification.

Because of the amount of work going on around the development of third party and participatory certification systems, this was also a major area of discussion. Particular focus was given to the formulation of criteria and indicators for the Indian Forest Certification Principles. The Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) was also tackled, since it gaining wider acceptance as a credible alternative to the third party certification system.

The workshop participants came up with several recommendations and suggestions that will be raised with the Indian National Committee. Ultimately, the main objective of the certification is to empower the communities to manage and preserve forest health and ecology for improved livelihoods. The focus on the communities should not be lost. Therefore, customary rights of communities should be incorporated into the certification process. The traditional and qualitative features of a community's knowledge should be documented, and included as part of the basis for certification. Community based or participatory methods (such as PGS) to document, appraise, and guarantee the sustainability of wild produce should also be recognized. Access to Benefit Sharing (ABS) for

bio-cultural heritage and resources, including intellectual property rights (IPR) should also be upheld and protected.

While certification is recognized as an important step forward, the group also remarked that it should remain as an impartial voluntary mechanism. Local initiatives for improving and standardizing NTFP products should not be undermined, even as the government takes on the responsibility for certification

In order to ensure that NTFP-based livelihoods remain sustainable, long-term monitoring needs to be undertaken. A credible conservation research institution will be able to evaluate whether long-term NTFP utilization is having negative impact on biodiversity. Forest and natural resource managers should also be regularly updated in terms of the certification process, and have regular capacity building activities in order to help ensure ecological and livelihood security.



A view from the keystone garden

by Rasdi Wangsa

From January 31 to February 1 2011, 23 persons coming from India and 1 person coming from Indonesia met in a small town—Kotagiri, India. That one non-Indian person was me, Rasdi Wangsa from Aliansi Organik Indonesia (AOI).

We were invited to discuss the collective movement towards ensuring NTFP sustainability and market access through NTFP-eco certification.

I was there because I was invited by NTFP-EP to explore NTFP eco-certification possibilities for Indonesia. There are many NTFP products in Indonesia from resins, to vines, to fibers, to nuts, but often time their prices are so low; there is no incentive to conserve them. There is an interest if certification, therefore, could help provide a premium price for NTFPs in Indonesia. AOI had already assisted the forest honey network in Indonesia on organic certification. That was a start, but we wanted to learn more.

In India, the main discussion was on how to obtain the vote of confidence of consumers in the participatory guarantee system (PGS) model that is currently being developed. The consumers' faith in the system is critical to helping NTFPs gain a wider audience and be better received by local, national or international markets.

Other than the plenary sessions and the workshops in the garden of Keystone's campus, the participants were also invited to see a little about NTFP development in another corner of town. Different NTFP products and other sustainably produced products adorned the "Green Shop" run by Keystone Foundation, such as tea, forest honey, cinnamon, cloves, cosmetics, textiles and earthen vessels.

Sneh, of the Keystone Foundation closed the meeting, by communicating to the participants her hope and expectation that the group could continue to work together as a civil society movement that is developing and strengthening each other's approaches. The basic message from the meeting was the need to layout the aspects of community control, traceability and fair pricing, in the process of developing the system of certification and market access for non-timber forest products.

I think in Indonesia we have a lot to learn and there is much scope for the development of NTFP eco-certification here. Some steps to take would be linking up with the market (for eg. rattan furniture companies) to see their interest in purchasing certified NTFPs, establishing standards for certain NTFP products and testing a guarantee or certification system for NTFPs in Indonesia. This is a new challenge for Indonesia that AOI is willing to undertake with NTFP-EP and its network partners.



The RedLANM! - The RedLANM is short for the "Latin American NTFP Network!"

Latin America is not only known for its sassy salsa dancers nor its "havaiana" flip-flops, but it is also home to many non-timber forest products or "productos forestales no maderables" (PFNM) in Spanish, that you and I may have consumed without even knowing it!

One such NTFP is the "chicle." Chicle is a natural gum that consists of the latex of the sapodilla, chicozapote, or naseberry, tree (*Manilkara zapota*), a tropical American fruit tree native to Central America, from which chewing gum was made first by companies based on its prehispanic use. Like many NTFPs, the dawn of cheaper synthetic products has minimized the use of chicle globally, except in Japan.

The RedLANM is trying to involve producers, governments, NGOs, scientists and researchers of NTFPs in Central and South America into an effective network that can provide a useful exchange of information, build capacities and improve the value of NTFPs, especially for local communities.

The network is still in an early phase, but it is growing fast. RED LANM maintains a general coordination at the RAISES office in Oaxaca, Mexico, though there are three (3) different clusters, nodes in the region. This is necessary considering the expansive nature of Latin American nations. One cluster is in Mexico itself and this is facilitated by RAISES. The other nodes are in Central America, facilitated by ACICAFOC and then in Amazonia facilitated by CTA. NTFPs that partners are working on cover quite a range from the mezcal, a distilled alcoholic beverage made from the agave plants, with species related to the one good tequila is wholly made of, to xate palms used for decorative flower arrangements to brazil nut, as we know it in our favorite Cadbury chocolate bar!

The RedLANM, through meetings and consultations, has prepared a strategic plan for the network. This will be the basis for the network actions in the future. Some of the interesting ideas emerging in the short term are making participatory videos on NTFP development and advocacies, doing a comparative analysis of NTFP policies across countries in Latin America, and possibly facilitating exchanges on NTFPs with the NTFP-EP for South and Southeast Asia. Now that would be exciting!

In the meantime, when you eat your next Cadbury bar, or take your next sip of tequila or dance a salsa, remember RedLANM!

For more information, you may email Ana Ortiz Monasterio, who has been the RedLANM general coordinator at redlanm.mexico@gmail.com

NOTES FOR NUI CHUA NATIONAL PARK VIETNAM: LEARNING THE NTFP APPROACH FROM THE PHILIPPINES AND INDIA

Tran Van Tiep & Pham Van Xiem, Nui Chua National Park, Vietnam, Grantees of The Joke Waller-Hunter Initiative 2010
Translated by Luu Hong Truong

The study tour to the Philippines and India was an excellent opportunity to learn lessons from other countries that could be applied to Nui Chua National Park in Vietnam. The Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Program (NTFP-EP) hosted us in the Philippines, while Keystone Foundation facilitated our visit to India.

We were impressed by the high level of environmental awareness of the visitors to parks in the Philippines. Mt. Makiling had numerous visitors, yet there was no visible littering. In Vietnam, environmental education is limited and maintaining the cleanliness of ecotourism sites is a difficult task. Establishing Nui Chua National Park as an ecotourism site is important, but raising public awareness on nature conservation is just as important. Efforts at Nui Chua National Park should focus on the development of a feasible long-term strategy for sustainable ecotourism that includes raising public awareness

on nature conservation.

In Palawan, a team of 15 local forest rangers is tasked with protecting a 20,000 hectare forest area. The system in Palawan allows forest keepers to utilize the NTFPs as part of their livelihood. This “benefit-sharing mechanism” (BSM) has been discussed for its potential application in Vietnam, particularly at Nui Chua, to effectively engage local communities in forest protection and management. It is not yet clear when this policy will be put in place. At the moment, the park is cooperating with NTFP-EP and Center for Biodiversity and Development in a pilot project to promote the participation of the indigenous Raglai in forest protection at Cau Gay Village. A BSM using NTFP as a benefit to local communities would definitely be part of the solution to the need for long-term forest conservation and community development in Nui Chua.

The visit to India allowed us to learn from the experiences of the Keystone

network. Honey production is another potential development that can be explored in Nui Chua, but there is much more to learn about honey—from harvest and the processing, all the way to the trade system. The India leg of the tour also allowed us to learn about other models, where agriculture, nurseries, and forest plantations were all part of the people’s livelihood, along with sale points for NTFPs. This site reminded us very much of Vietnam’s community-based forest plantations.

The examples we saw showed us that biodiversity conservation goes hand-in-hand with community development, especially when using the NTFP approach. Our next steps, will focus on establishing a network of villages—beginning with the project at Cau Gay village—around Nui Chua National Park, to help promote collaboration, capacity building, environmental awareness and participation in forest conservation, as well as utilization of NTFPs.





REHABILITATION WITH A *twist*

Photo courtesy of
Joanna de Rozario

Joanna de Rozario, Malaysia Facilitator, NTFP-EP

In 2007, NTFP EP began its sago rehabilitation efforts with the nomadic Penan Ba Puak community in northeastern Sarawak. The rehabilitation effort was conducted to respond to a clear need, as the nomadic Penan's staple food—sago—was fast depleting.

"There were times we only had one meal a day. Now, with the cassava, and later, when the sago palms we planted mature, we will not worry about the lack of food any more", shares Jeffry the headman of Ba Puak at a meeting of headmen in the area. "We have also stopped Jumbo Green, the logging contractor from logging in our forest. We hope they will stay away"

Jeffry continues to share that apart from the rehabilitation efforts, the community has grown more united and steadfast in facing this threat. He mentioned that for many, many days (2 odd months) the contractor visited them each day with gifts and promises in exchange for logging on their land. Each time they would say, "No you can't log in our forest because we have our sago growing there".

It was NTFP EP's hope that the rehabilitation efforts that strengthened the nomadic Penans and united them with a common purpose of protecting their forest could be replicated among the savvier settled Penans. Further discussions with the settled Penan villages led to the development of a project for planting Sarawak rubber. This would be planted in their agroforest gardens particularly at the borders, which are threatened by palm oil and other large-scale monoculture plantations. The youth in 7 settled Penan villages were very active in developing the nursery, cultivating the seedlings and planting the rubber in specified areas. In leadership discussions that are mainly participated in by headmen and elders, there has been an increase in the numbers of youth attending and participating, especially in discussions related to their land, forest and rehabilitation efforts.

Over a period and through the rehabilitation project, the headmen from 13 villages and groups in the area had moved from simply discussing their issues to mediating conflicts among villages especially difficult to solve border conflicts to finally calling for meetings to address their own village problems and inviting EP to help facilitate the discussion. Rehabilitation of forest and ntfps is beneficial to forest dependent communities. The twist, apparent or not so apparent, is that the process needs to build unity and empower the communities—especially with the future generation—to address their issues and needs.



MY SWEET TIME IN HANOI

Ramil Allan Perez, Enterprise Development
Officer – NTFP-Task Force (Philippines)

Not even a possible A to A (airport to airport) deportation) and a fine of USD50,000 could deter me from attending the International Conference on Beekeeping Development and Honey Marketing in Vietnam. And so, with my soon-to-expire passport in hand (it was valid until January 06, 2011), I made my way to Hanoi for the conference. Dr. Phung Huu Chinh, the director of the Bee Research and Development Center (BRDC), was very kind to invite me; BRDC is one of our partner institutions in Vietnam.

The conference was held from October 30 to November 1. Participants from Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Denmark, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Nepal, Nigeria, Sweden, UK, USA, and the Philippines were also in attendance, as well as several members of the Vietnam Beekeepers Association.

The first two days of the conference focused on the current scientific research and studies on beekeeping and the state of apiculture worldwide. Bee diseases and control, native bees conservation, honey production and marketing, honey trading and honey quality control were some of the main topics that were discussed at the conference. Our very own Jenne de Beer, "retired" executive director of NTFP-EP, presented a paper on the production and marketing of forest honey. Mr. Gilles Ratia, president of Apimondia, shared his study on the possible causes of colony collapse disease (CCD), a problem, which affects thousands of bee colonies in many parts of the world. On the last day of the conference, we visited a BRDC-sponsored bee farm north of Hanoi.

After the conference, Jenne and I visited Dr. Chin and toured BRDC's facilities. Dr. Chin briefed us on their beekeeping development program and introduced us to his colleagues at the center.

The visit to the BRDC office left me wondering on the current state of beekeeping in the Philippines. Compared to Vietnam, we still have a long way to go. Perhaps in a year or two, I will be celebrating my sweet time in General Nakar, Quezon.



Photo courtesy of
Ramil Perez

BEARING GOOD FRUIT: NEW LEARNINGS ON AGROFORESTRY FROM THE PHILIPPINES

Khou Eanghourt, National Facilitator, Cambodia NTFP Working Group
Amalia R. Maling, Technical Advisor, WWF Cambodia
Femy Pinto, Cambodia Facilitator, NTFP-EP

After a three-day strategic planning workshop at Bataan (north of Manila capital), Philippines, we went on a four-day exposure trip from 14 to 17 March 2011 to Los Baños to visit the Forest Products Research and Development Institute (FPRDI) and the Agroforestry Institute located at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños campus (1.5 hours road travel south of Manila capital), as well as some household-owned agroforestry farms located in different areas. We also had the opportunity to visit a bee farm.

Upon our arrival we went directly to the Agroforestry Institute, where we had a knowledge sharing with Dr. Roberto G. Visco, the institute's director and a visit to the 3.8 hectare demonstration farm developed for students and NGOs wanting to learn about agroforestry (AF). The farm showcases various soil and water conservation technologies such as contour farming, alley cropping, hedgerows planting and rockwalling, among others. Another interesting AF technology showed to us is the research pilot site for combining dipterocarp species and edible ferns.

On the second day we went to Purok 2, in Silang, Cavite, to visit another agro-forestry demonstration farm owned by the former Barangay Captain Virgilio Tibayan. This more than three (3) hectare farm features the so called "nine in one" AF technology where seven agriculture and forestry crops

are intercropped. The crops planted are peanuts, ginger, pineapple, papaya, coffee trees and guyabano and *Glicirida sepium* (locally known as kakawate in the Philippines). This tree is commonly used as AF crop because of its nitrogen-fixing ability. When mature, the tree will be used as support for growing black pepper. The farm is fenced with legume, mahogany trees and domestic yam. Mr. Tibayan advised us that we should visit during the soil preparation stage to get a better understanding of the process.

Our next visit was to the Municipal Agriculture Office in Nagcarlan, Laguna. The Municipal Agriculture Officer, Mr. Alex Dela Pena, briefed us on the mandate of his office, environmental solid waste management and the agricultural situation in the area. The municipality is generally rice-deficient but has an over-supply of vegetables and livestock. 90% of the land area in the municipality is coconut-based. The terrain is sloping, hilly and mountainous. Because of this, they have a 3-strata agricultural system: at the highest strata, there are coconut trees that also help to hold the soil and prevent flooding and erosion on the slopes. The 2nd or mid-strata, banana trees are planted and on the lower strata, are mostly vegetables and ornamental plants. Mr. Alex showed us a villager-owned agroforestry farm and on the way, we observed many fruit trees and crops planted in home

yards along the road all the way up to the foothills of Mt. Banahaw, a sacred mountain spanning two provinces of Laguna and Quezon. Mr. Alex told us that farmers plant vegetables, root crops (there is a popular one called "yakon" (which provides natural insulin and so is good for diabetics), and edible ferns, which are harvested for local market supply and transported to nearby towns.

We also visited a farm in Bukal village, which showcases a combination of ornamental plants and fruit trees and we were impressed by the diversity of plants growing there: it contained many species of domestic fruit trees, a few wild species, as well as flowering herbaceous ornamental plants particularly anthurium, which not only provides soil protection but also gives farmers growing this plant, a good income. We were informed that the orchard was three-hectares in size and comprised of many fruit trees, including coconut trees, rambutan, mangosteen, santol and lanzones, which provide many layers of canopy. The farmer told us that he comes to his orchard every day just to check if his coconut fruits, other fruits or ornamental flowers are mature enough to be harvested for sale. He can earn approximately US\$1000 every month from selling anthurium flowers and fruits.

We also met Mr. Ato Belen, a model farmer of Barangay San Juan, San Pablo

(continued on page 16)



THE STRUGGLING TRADITION OF Lac IN ODISHA

Bikash Rath, Sr. Programme Manager, Regional Centre for Development Cooperation, Bhubaneswar(India) E-mail: bikash.rath@rcdcindia.org

Helping a glorious but dying tradition stay alive is not an easy task particularly when many of the constraints are beyond your control. Rather than give up, the Regional Centre for Development Cooperation (RCDC) tried implementing a new strategy to help sustain and promote lac-based livelihoods, under the NTFP Exchange Programme.

The withdrawal of government support for lac-industries discouraged many of the lac cultivators and artisans. Today, many artisan families have abandoned the lac industry; only 300 to 400 artisans continue the practice.

Policy restrictions also affect lac-based livelihoods. In March 2000, Odisha issued a ban on the commercial lease of vulnerable NTFPs like gums & resins, including lac. This effectively restricts private growers from selling their produce, ignoring the fact that most lac is produced from trees on private lands. This is not the case everywhere however. In Jharkhand, where the Indian Institute of Natural Resins & Gums is located,

the lac business is booming due to the withdrawal of restrictions on lac. In Nabarangpur, both lac cultivation and artisanship are still widely practiced, thanks to the tradition promoted by the Maharaja of Jeypore.

Usually lac cultivators do not practice artisanship and vice versa. Traditionally, networking and collaboration between cultivators and artisans is weak and traders and middlemen take advantage of this gap. RCDC organized a workshop to bring together the various lac stakeholders, particularly the primary collectors and cultivators and the processors and traders, in order to provide them with a unified platform and to help promote lac-based livelihood. The workshop was also a venue to prepare recommendations to the government for the adoption of a pro-poor policy for lac-based livelihoods, and to share the latest developments in the NTFP sector with the stakeholders.

A state-level workshop was held on November 8-9, 2010 at Bhubaneswar, the capital city of Odisha. Although

other villages were invited to participate, interest was low. It seems that many have decided not to go back to the lac tradition, especially since other industries are more financially rewarding.

Despite the many factors hindering people from reviving this traditional occupation, those artisans and cultivators who attended actively raised and discussed their issues. The workshop participants formed the All Odisha Lac-culturist's Association to advocate for lac-based livelihoods.

The Association has already submitted its first phase of recommendations to the Government of Odisha, demanding greater flexibility in the policies governing the transport of lac. The stakeholders have made a good start, but there is a need for continued support from RCDC, Key Stone Foundation, NTFP-EP Network, and other such agencies and programmes to help them overcome the present hurdles and keep their glorious tradition alive.



Photo courtesy of Bikash Rath/RCDC



Lac is a hard, resinous material of insect-origin, which is found on trees. The quality of lac depends on the strain of the insect and the type of host tree. The crop is harvested at least twice a year, with a maximum of three harvests. Lac is used primarily for industrial purposes, such as for wood-polishing materials and varnishes and various other products.

FPIC IMPLEMENTATION IN THE PHILIPPINES: WERE IP RIGHTS PROTECTED? YES OR NO?

CoDe REDD Philippines ¹ and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) ² are conducting a study to assess the implementation of Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) in the country. FPIC is recognized by Philippine law in the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) where all permits, licenses within ancestral domains cannot be granted without an FPIC from affected indigenous communities.

This study is one of four (4) components of the CoDe REDD -GIZ policy studies entitled "Forest Policies and REDD" Project". The other components in the series are Analysis of Key Drivers of Deforestation, Analysis of Forest Policies and Clarifying Carbon Rights. These policy studies were found crucial in the development of a robust REDD-plus policy to ensure social and environmental safeguards as articulated in the Philippine National REDD-plus Strategy (PNRPS). A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the National Commission on the Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), GIZ and NTFP-EP (on behalf of CoDe REDD) has been forged for the said projects.

The FPIC study will be undertaken in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), local government units (LGUs) and various non-government organizations (NGOs). The study aims to: 1) Assess the faithful implementation of the Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) provisions as effective safeguards for IPs to assert their right to self-determination; 2) Develop a policy agenda and recommendations for enhancing FPIC process in the Philippines, particular in the context of REDD-Plus implementation; and, 3) Determine the community definition of FPIC. This study is critical because there has been no monitoring and evaluation of the FPIC processes since the Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) issued the first Certificate Preconditions ³ in 2004.

The study will investigate 10-15% of all the Certification Preconditions (CPs) that have been issued by NCIP as of December 2010. Other "special sites" were also chosen for various considerations.

This study will be the first of its kind with such wide a reach and with a very comprehensive list of guide questions across stakeholders. The study is also crucial as it will have bearing as well on the FPIC process for other development projects (extractives, etc), within ancestral domains.

The FPIC policy assessment team is composed of CoDe REDD representatives as well as a diverse set of esteemed representatives of the academe and civil society. As remarked by Dr. Cecilia Macabuac-Ferolin of Xavier University, "the good thing about our team is it's being inter-disciplinary and inter-generational. The entire team is looking forward to being part of this collaborative effort, and to fruitful results.

1 Certification preconditions are released by the NCIP once the FPIC process has been conducted and has been deemed valid.

2 GIZ implements a project on Forest policy and Piloting of REDD+ with DENR-FMB as the main partner. The Project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety under its International Climate Initiative, which is based on a decision of the German Parliament.

3 Certification preconditions are released by the NCIP once the FPIC process has been conducted and has been deemed valid.

More information on FPIC for REDD can be found in the following document: Free, Prior, and Informed Consent for REDD+: Principles and Approaches for Policy and Project Development, Bangkok, February 2011. Developed by RECOFTC and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Sector Network Natural Resources and Rural Development – Asia, this publication is targeted at people concerned with the design and implementation of REDD+ projects or programs. It provides an overview of REDD+ and the importance of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), describes the development of a process that respects FPIC and guidelines on twelve aspects or 'elements' of a generic process to respect the right of indigenous peoples and local communities to FPIC. (http://www.forclime.org/images/stories/RECOFTC-GIZ_FPIC_in_REDD_2011.pdf)

Book Reviews



AN INTRODUCTION TO THE KARST OF KIEN GIANG

The booklet may be downloaded at <http://www.mediafire.com/?t5hfkq1705d9ctt>

Supported by MacArthur Foundation and IUCN, CBD published a booklet namely An Introduction to the Karst of Kien Giang. The publication of this guide is motivated by the desire to promote the sustainable management of karst for the benefit of local communities, business, and visitors.

According to scientists, the karst caves were first used by our ancestors thousands of years ago. Several archaeological sites of the Funan culture were discovered in the karst formations of the Chua Hang and Hang Tien Island.

Karst is a distinctive topography in which the landscape is largely shaped by the dissolving action of water on carbonate bedrock (usually limestone, dolomite, or marble). This geological process, occurring over many thousands of years, results in unusual surface and subsurface features ranging from sinkholes, vertical shafts, disappearing streams, and springs, to complex underground drainage systems and caves. Limestone quarrying for cement production has brought economic benefits to this area, but also raises questions about the balance between economic development and environmental protection. Limestone provides the habitat for endemic species of flora and fauna, many of which have yet to be scientifically described, particularly those living in caves. If no action is taken, these great wonders of nature will disappear before they are discovered.

AETA FOOD FESTIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT FORUM



Photo courtesy of Jenne de beer

The Aeta of Tarlac, like many hunter-gatherer Negrito groups, enjoy food from the forest as a traditional element in their diet. Food items include leaf and root vegetables (the former including various species of ferns, the latter e.g. *D. luzonensis* and other *Dioscorea*), fruits and flowers (both e.g. derived from wild banana, *Musa* sp2.), palm heart ('uwud', a generic term referring to a range of palm species), as well as mushrooms, bush meat (wild boar in particular), insect larvae, fish, crabs and other aquatic animals. Such a diet of a wide variety of wild foods is a great source of nutrients for the Aeta, though this fact is often underplayed and little recognized.

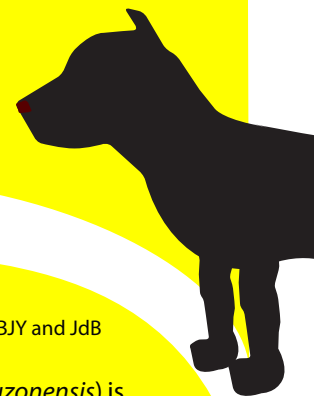
In this light, the Aeta and their partners have organized an Aeta Food Festival and Development Forum. The objectives of this activity are to invigorate the Aeta's healthy food tradition and to foster renewed pride in related skills, knowledge and customs. After the food festival, a development forum will be organized so that the Aeta can share their concerns (food and otherwise!) to different stakeholders. It is hoped that such cultural activities will promote other such "organic plus" diets based on the indigenous cultures of our country. Over 350 participants are expected for the event, the vast majority of which are Aeta from Tarlac with a contingent of Aeta and Agta from the provinces of Zambales, Pampanga, Quezon and Camarines Norte. The activity will take place from April 28-29 in Sta. Juliana, Capas, Tarlac.

Oh My Goodness!

by JdB

Nothin Like a Hound Dog!

The Wasp Hound is a hand-held device containing 5 parasitic wasps that can be used to replace sniffer dogs in detecting drugs, explosives and pests. W. Joe Lewis, joint inventor of the gadget: "The term 'wasps' elicits a certain fear, though ours don't sting people and are friendly." (IHT, 26-27/02/11.)



Silence Please! by BJY and JdB

Tasty labit (*Dioscorea luzonensis*) is one of the favourite wild yams eaten (roasted, boiled or raw) by the Aeta of Tarlac (Philippines). And following Aeta harvesting practises (more about this another time), the same site can be revisited year after year. However, it is hard work, as 'chasing' these large tubers requires carefully digging a hole up to 2 meters deep. This may take two (usually) women half a day or more.

But it becomes much harder still if (like while hunting wild boar) people are noisy during the dig. The root then tends to withdraw deeper in the ground...

Full disclosure: on a recent collecting trip, undersigned and friends were repeatedly scolded (albeit in a playful manner) for exactly this: being noisy and talking way too much!!!



MAN BITES BUG!

Forest insects as food: humans bite back, FAO Bangkok, 2010. Edited by Patrick Durst, Dennis Johnson, Robin Leslie & Kenichi Shono.

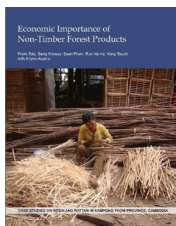
Entomophagy – the practice of eating insects – is getting renewed attention from nutritionists, food security experts, environmentalists and others. Now, this most informative illustrated publication is out, a must-read for all of us working on forest food issues! Among the findings:

- The value of insects as a food item is undisputed. Their nutrient profiles are often very favourable from the point of view of dietary reference values (DVRs) and daily requirements for normal human growth and health. Insects generally tend to be a rich source of essential proteins and they contain lipids of easily digestible fatty acids, as well as a balanced admixture of minerals.
- Under favourable circumstances, collecting edible insects can be highly labour-efficient, with great returns of calories per hour of effort invested.
- Insects regarded as crop pests often have a higher nutritional value than the crop being saved and they are much more efficient than cattle or other livestock in converting what they eat into tissue that can be consumed by others – including humans.
- Now that the poorer segments of society in many developing countries no longer benefit from such traditional diets, protein deficiencies (kwashiorkor) are more common, especially in Africa.
- Colonial invaders frequently dismissed entomophagy as a primitive or barbaric practice, implying superiority of their own culture and food, while they themselves relished other invertebrates as well as molluscs as gourmet food.
- Even though insects account for the greatest amount of biodiversity in forests, they are the least studied of all fauna so far and little is known about the life cycles and population dynamics of most edible forest insects.

Finally, some of the delicacies figuring in the book no doubt will also enter the 'cook and taste' sessions during the long anticipated Aeta Forest Food Festival coming April in Tarlac (Philippines)!

Publications and Films

Economic Importance of Non-Timber Forest Products: Case Studies on Resin and Rattan in Kampong Thom Province, Cambodia - August 2010



by Prom Tola, Seng Kimsay, Sean Prum, Run Vanny, Vong Touch with Arlynn Aquino

This was published by NTFP EP in Cambodia in cooperation with the Cambodia NTFP Working Group, Oxfam GB and the Forestry Administration

The report is based on findings of a case study research conducted between December 2009-January 2010 which aimed to document and analyze the economic importance of NTFPs in Cambodia by using case studies on product-specific enterprises in Kampong Thom province. The study utilized participatory research methods for primary data collection, secondary data sources, particularly statistics and records from the Forestry Administration and NGOs, and the use of the Total Economic Valuation (TEV) method as primary tool for the economic sensitivity analysis on local resin and rattan trading in Kampong Thom Province.

The report is in English with an Executive Summary in both Khmer and English language.

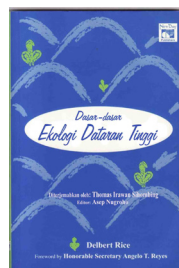
Basic Upland Ecology by Delbert Rice Translated into Indonesian by Thomas Irawan Sihombing

Edited by: Asep Nugroho

The environment is like a well designed machine with every part performing a function within one or more of its systems and influencing every other part. This book describes how the various environmental systems work. It also presents several of the present problems with the environment and possible solutions.

This book presents environmental science accurately in simple language. The teachings in this book are probably more than educational. They are probably critical to life on earth.

This Indonesian version was developed as a response to the demand from Indonesian civil society for a simple ecology book that speaks to all generations, at a time when ecological problems threaten our existence.



Cambodia Wild Honey (Khmum Prey) Protocols and Standards



This is a 21-page small illustrated booklet targeted mainly for the members of the Cambodian Federation for Bee Conservation and Community Honey Enterprises (CBHE). It describes the agreed community based protocols and standards about: (a) sustainable and responsible honey/bee management and conservation, (b) honey quality control and maintenance, (c)

building community/honey members capacity, relationships and linkages, and (d) sharing benefits.

This booklet is available in Khmer language. An English version will be published soon.

Available in PDF version. Print version to follow.

For copies and inquiries contact:
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from

BEARING GOOD FRUIT: NEW LEARNINGS ON AGROFORESTRY FROM THE PHILIPPINES

City. He owns about 22 hectares, 20 hectares of which is devoted to agroforestry, and the other two hectares for other purposes, such as housing, animal raising, nursery and fruit trees. He said his land was almost barren in the past ten years, but today, it is full of fruit trees. He also showed us his home-made organic spray products called Lactobac Las I and granule soil produced by earthworms. There are two types of organic spray products; one is used to eliminate smell at animal cages and another one is used to stimulate the growth of crops and flowering of fruit trees. When asked about this technique, he kindly shared with us his knowledge. He is also skilled in horticulture techniques like inarching, grafting and budding. He shares his knowledge with other farmers in the area by giving weekend lectures. Because of his vast knowledge and his willingness to share this with others, the government has recognized him as a model farmer and he is quite well known in San Pablo.

On our way back to Manila, we visited a family-owned bee keeping farm and business, Ilog Maria. Within the three-hectare area, bee boxes are installed, some in systematic rows, some randomly scattered. There is also a store that sells many honey and bee wax products. We were very interested by the eco-friendly design of the bee museum/house and the bathroom, and the use of solar power for lighting.

The sites we visited were examples of good agro-forestry practices that are resulting in productive and highly diverse forest farms. Clearly, by implementing good techniques, agro-forestry can be practiced at the household level with profitable results for farmers.

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