

Voices from the forest



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NTFPs are important particularly to forest dwellers in Cambodia. NTFPs not only serve as a safety net in times of food shortage, but also as a valuable source of household materials and income. Women play key roles in NTFP harvesting, production and marketing. They gather fuelwood for their families and they are also involved in processing and marketing of NTFPs such as weaving and handicrafts.

NETWORKING IN CAMBODIA

creating spaces & connections for NTFP development

By FEMY PINTO, NTFP-EP FACILITATOR FOR CAMBODIA

ALSO INSIDE

FIRST STEP TO MOVE FORWARD
A MEETING OF MINDS:
NTFPS IN LATIN AMERICA
EXCHANGE NEWS
LEARNING HONEY MANAGEMENT
IN KEYSTONE INDIA
MAKING BOTH ENDS MEET
FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT
CRAFTING A NEW COMMUNITY-
BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT
STRATEGIC PLAN



exchange news

Around the region from December 2006-May 2007

Advocacy continues

Despite the postponement of the ASEAN Summit, the 2nd ASEAN Civil Society Conference (ACSC 2) pushed through from 10-12 December 2006 in Banilad, Cebu City. The postponement of ACSC2 was viewed as an opportunity for participants to refine the statement to be presented to ASEAN in January 2007. Some gains from the meeting included:

- ▶ Expanding the profile of environmental organisations engaging the ASEAN and the ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASOEN)
- ▶ Highlighting of the issue of the trans-boundary haze and forest conversion for plantations and its inclusion in the statement to ASEAN
- ▶ Forging of stronger links with groups engaging in ASEAN like Solidarity for Asian Peoples Advocacies (SAPA) and Southeast Asian Committee on Advocacy (SEACA)
- ▶ Forging of stronger links with environmental groups already engaging at the international level and willing to raise nature and poverty issues at that level (Sustainability Watch-Asia).

In January, ASEAN agreed to establish a permanent forum for civil society members.

Sarawak project kicks off

There had been a strong response of Penan communities (Apoth Tutoh, Middle Baram, Sarawak, Malaysia) to NTFP-EP's initial efforts at increasing awareness and field efforts on developing alternative livelihoods to address the threats of expanding oil palm plantations and destructive logging. A recent project possible through the support of NC-IUCN takes a more holistic stance. The project, headed by community development coordinator Dominic Langat, is aimed at securing food supplies, establishing native customary rights and providing alternative NTFP livelihoods of the Penans. Started January this year, the strategy is also aimed at strengthening Penan community leaders so that they may develop their own platform to collectively address their issues.



Honeycombs hanging on the sides of the cliffs in India

Looking 10 years ahead for CBFM

After ten years of implementing the Community-Based Forest Management as the Philippine strategy for forest management, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources actively involved the wide array of stakeholders – including other government agencies, non-government organisations, peoples' organisations, local government units and other partners in community forestry – in a series of workshop-consultations from January to March held across the country. Stakeholders are hopeful that the workshops translate into strategies with greater impact the local level (see article by Abi

CRISSY GUERRERO



Rootcrops are common NTFP, as explained by some men from the Apurina indigenous people

Coming together for the NTFPs of Latin America

NTFP-EP and Latin American organisations met at two workshops to discuss the Latin American adaptation of the manual *Steps to Sustainable and Community-based NTFP Management: A manual developed with special reference to South and Southeast Asia*, authored by Virtual Academy member Dr. Mary Stockdale. The first workshop hosted by the Universidad Veracruzana was held in Xalapa, Mexico (28 February-3 March) and the second in Rio Branco, Acre, Brazil (7-9 March).

The enthusiasm of the group was apparent throughout the discussions. The manual, when adapted to the realities of Latin America and highlighting relevant case studies, is seen as a valuable resource in understanding and better managing of NTFPs in the region. The meetings have resulted in the formation of a Latin American NTFP network, and even greater enthusiasm for further collaboration in the near future (see Frederico Machado's article on pp. 8-9).

More sweet exchanges

Last December 2006, Bebek of Dian Niaga, marketing arm of the Indonesia Forest Honey Network visited Keystone Foundation in India to learn especially from the Green Shop experience. You can read insights of this trip on p. 7.

Meanwhile, Dr. Phung Luu Chinh of the Bee Research and Development Center, Hanoi, Vietnam brought his *Apis dorsata* honey expertise to the tribal communities of Sen Monorom, Monduliri province, northeastern Cambodia last April. The training raised awareness on sustainable honey production and marketing from Monduliri experience on honey. The training was organised by WWF Cambodia in collaboration with the NTFP-EP.

ANNIE PALERAGIO



Thelvanai Amarthalingan of SAM/FOE-Malaysia, joins in the fun of papermaking during the field trip to Maasin, Quezon, Palawan. SAM is among the partners of the NTFP