


Colfer, C.J.P., Sheil, D. & Kishi, M. 2006. Forests and human health: assessing the evidence. Bogor, Indonesia, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). ISBN 979-24-4468-6. This study has two central concerns: the state of human health in forests and the causal links between forests and human health. Within this framework, we consider four issues related to tropical forests and human health. First, we discuss forest foods, emphasizing the forest as a food-producing habitat, human dependence on forest foods, the nutritional contributions of such foods and nutrition-related problems that affect forest peoples. Our second topic is disease and other health problems. In addition to the major problems – HIV/AIDS, malaria, Ebola and mercury poisoning – we address some 20 other tropical diseases and health problems related to forests. The third topic is medicinal products. We review the biophysical properties of medicinal species and consider related indigenous knowledge, human uses of medicinal forest products, the serious threats to forest sustainability and the roles of traditional healers, with a discussion of the benefits of forest medicines and conflicts over their distribution. Our fourth and final topic is the cultural interpretations of human health found among forest peoples, including holistic world views that impinge on health and indigenous knowledge. The study concludes with some observations about the current state of our knowledge, its utility and shortcomings and our suggestions for future research. www.cifor.cgiar.org/publications/pdf_files/OccPapers/OP-45.pdf


For more information and to obtain copies, please contact: S.J. Velarde-Pajares, M.Sc., Programme Associate and Acting Global Coordinator, Alternatives to Slash-and-Burn Programme (ASBI), World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), PO Box 30677, 00100 GPO, Nairobi, Kenya. E-mail: s.velarde@cgiar.org; www.asb.cgiar.org


Hamilton, A. & Hamilton, P. 2006. Plant conservation: an ecosystem approach. Earthscan. ISBN 1844070832. In this book, the latest in the People and Plants series, plant conservation is described in the context of livelihoods and development; and ways of balancing the conservation of plant diversity with the use of plants and the environment for human benefit are discussed. A central focus is the idea that local and tribal peoples must be involved if conservation is to be successful and resources are to be used sustainably.

Also examined are the identification of priority plant species and localities for conservation projects, the trade in wild plants and the contributions that are made by taxonomists, ecologists and sociologists.


Krul, L. & Ozinga, S. 2005. Funding Europe’s forests. How to use EU funds for sustainable forest management and nature protection. Forests and the EU Resources Network (FERN) and Taiga Rescue Network.


Liese, W. 2004. Preservation of bamboo structures. Ghana J. Forestry, 15, 16. Ghana has valuable bamboo resources. The culms are an excellent material for countless applications. Their wider use for construction is encouraged by the overall scarcity of timber. Since bamboo has a low natural resistance, protection against biological degradation is of vital importance for long-term service. Although protective measures without chemicals are preferable, they are often limited in their effectiveness in a tropical environment. When choosing a chemical preservation, the restricted permeability of the culm tissue, the choice of a suitable preservative and treatment method and the environmental effects, as well as economical aspects have to be considered.


PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Faculty of Forestry, University of Joensuu. 406 pp. ISSN 1235-7421, ISBN 952-458-851-X [printed publication], ISBN 952-458-852-8 [electronic publication]. This publication discusses the problems and possible solutions to forest-based entrepreneurship in small-scale forestry, wood processing and NWFPs and services. The results of the second phase of the COST Action E30 "Economic integration of urban consumers' demand and rural forestry production" are presented. Download from: http://jyopub.joensuu.fi/publications/other_publications/niskanen_issues/


Pantanella, E. 2005. The silvicultural and sustainable management of rattan production systems. Viterbo, Italy, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Tuscia.


Pilz, D.A., Smith, S.J., Schoreder, J. & Freed, J.R. 2006. Non-timber forest product opportunities in Alaska. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-671. Portland, Oregon, United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 79 pp. Non-timber forest products (also called special forest products) from southern Alaska have been used for millennia as resources vital to the livelihoods and culture of Alaska Natives and, more recently, as subsistence resources for the welfare of all citizens. Many of these products are now being sold, and Alaskans seek additional income opportunities through sustainable harvest and manufacture of such forest resources.

The authors discuss the unique legal, regulatory, land tenure, geographic, vegetation, and climatic context that southern Alaska presents for marketing NTFPs; they summarize the various species and types of products being harvested; and they consider the marketing challenges and opportunities that new entrepreneurs will encounter. The information and resources provided are intended to enhance income opportunities for all Alaskans, while sustaining the organisms harvested, respecting traditional activities and ensuring equitable access to resources.


Scheckenberg, K., Marshall, E., Newton, A., Willem te Velde, D., Rushton, J. & Eduard, F. 2006. Commercialisation of non-timber forest products: what determines success? ODI Forestry Briefing, 10 March. Commercialization of NTFPs has been widely promoted as an approach to rural development in tropical forest areas. However, donor investments in the development of NTFP resources have often failed to deliver the expected benefits in terms of poverty alleviation and improved conservation of natural resources. This briefing paper discusses different conceptions of what constitutes successful commercialization and examines the key factors that influence the outcome of NTFP commercialization initiatives.


Shah, N.C. 2006a. Black soybean: an ignored nutritious and medicinal food crop from the...
the Kumaon region of India. *Asian Agri History*, 10(1): 33–42.


Indigenous fruit and nut trees are an undervalued resource, ignored and neglected for many years by the scientific and economic powers but often a mainstay and a lifesaver for those with no money. The fact that these plants are used and needed by some of the world’s poorest people is enough reason to study, promote and preserve indigenous fruit trees.


Prized for centuries by Chinese emperors, Native American healers and black market smugglers, ginseng launched the rise to power of China’s last great and influential dynasty; inspired battles between France and England; precipitated America’s first trade with China; fostered the study of comparative anthropology; and made and broke the fortunes of many. Today its healing properties are being studied for the treatment of diabetes, cancer and Parkinson’s disease. The book traces the market links from mountain communities to consumer markets.


Un nuevo estudio de perspectivas del sector forestal para América Latina y el Caribe (ESFAL) ha sido lanzado a mediados del 2006. Esta publicación forma parte de un proceso de perspectivas realizado por la FAO en diferentes regiones del mundo en colaboración con los países miembros y actores relevantes del sector privado, con organizaciones no gubernamentales y otras instituciones involucradas en el sector forestal de cada región. Mediante este estudio se visualiza y caracteriza la probable situación del sector forestal con horizonte al año 2020, si las actuales tendencias continúan o bien si se toman acciones que influyan en el desarrollo del sector.

Este estudio pretende ser un importante apoyo a otros instrumentos para la planificación estratéctica, en particular a los Programas Forestales Nacionales en la región de América Latina y el Caribe (ESFAL). Para el caso de los productos forestales no madereros (PFNM), de gran importancia para las economías de comunidades locales en América Latina y el Caribe, se menciona la carencia de datos en serie sobre la producción y el valor económico de estos productos, las dificultades en la comparación de la información de los mismos y la falta de recolección de información sistemática. Para mayor información acerca de los estudios de tendencias y perspectivas del sector forestal en América Latina y el Caribe, dirigirse a: Olman Serrano, Oficial Superior, Dirección de Productos e Industrias Forestales, Departamento Forestal, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Roma, Italia. Correo electrónico: Olman.Serrano@fao.org; www.fao.org/forestry/site/outlook/sp

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Hikojiro Katsuhisa, Chief, Forest Products Service, Forest Products and Industry Division, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy. E-mail: Hikojiro.Katsuhisa@fao.org

Wild edible fungi, No. 17 in FAO’s NWFP publication series, has now been translated into French. Copies of this publication – Champs comestibles sauvages. Vue d’ensemble sur leurs utilisations et leur importance pour les populations – can be purchased from FAO’s Sales and Marketing Group at publications-sales@fao.org

An electronic version is available from FAO’s NWFP home page at: http://www.fao.org/docrep/009/y5489f/y5489f00.htm

Steps to sustainable and community-based NTFP management. A manual written with special reference to South and Southeast Asia

Rural and forest-based communities in South and Southeast Asia have managed NTFPs for generations, whether these products are mangoes from India, rattan from the Philippines or honey from Indonesia. These communities have relied on NTFPs for subsistence needs as well as cash income and have often also had close cultural and spiritual associations with NTFPs. In recent times, a decline in the availability of these products has been noticed in many places. The causes range from loss of forest habitat to a decline in traditional systems for controlling NTFP management and to overharvesting by both communities and outsiders as a result of increased commercial demand.

This manual, written by Mary Stockdale, provides the reader with a practical guide to working with a community towards sustainable NTFP management.

Pipeline publications

FAO’s NWFP programme is currently preparing a variety of publications and working documents. Future publications will include the following:

- Trade measures – tools to promote the sustainable use of NWFPs? A working document planned for February 2007
- Non-wood forest products: resource assessment guidelines (a new publication in our NWFP series; planned publication date March 2007)
- Bees and their role in forest livelihoods – a new publication in our NWFP series; planned publication date May 2007

NEW PUBLICATIONS IN THE FAO NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS SERIES
Linking plant-based enterprises and local communities to biodiversity conservation in Nepal

People in the mountainous region of Nepal are struggling to survive and the nearby forest gives them the hope to live. They are able to collect fuel and fodder from the rich forest. However, they realize that they are depleting the forest but they do not know that they are destroying both lives and the environment. The practice results in increased poverty and decreased biodiversity. Can poverty be alleviated and biodiversity improved? Is there no synergistic way that brings both factors together? How can poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation be sustainable?

The author, Bhishma P. Subedi, applies different methods and experiments to come up with a practical solution to the challenges.

Subedi concludes that enterprise-oriented community forest management can generate positive outcomes at both conservation and local livelihood levels. In the light of different approaches being tested and implemented to resolve conservation problems, the findings challenge the approaches that set communities aside from forest resources and keep forests untouched. The author finds that there are good prospects for forest-based enterprise development on the local, national and international markets.

Since its first issue in March 1994, Non-Wood News has focused on highlighting the importance of NWFPs and promoting all their aspects. Through its global coverage, the publication has sought to raise awareness among policy-makers and other readers about the multiplicity of NWFPs and the opportunities they can offer, as well as the vital role they play in forest-dependent communities.

Over the years, Non-Wood News has included articles, publications and readers’ contributions on a variety of NWFPs (bamboo, medicinal plants, mushrooms, rattan, shellac, etc.); their uses (e.g. in energy drinks and cosmetics, or as dyes, fabrics, fodder and shelter); their economic benefits (NWFP trade takes place in local, national and global markets); and their links to other key issues, such as the bushmeat crisis and biodiversity conservation, as well as traditional knowledge, bioprospecting and benefit-sharing.

Non-Wood News has, therefore, collected a wealth of information since its inception. In an effort to manage this knowledge and facilitate its use and retrieval, the first 12 issues of Non-Wood News have now been indexed. These indexes are available in two volumes: the first covering issues 1 to 6, with its companion volume covering issues 7 to 12. These volumes and all issues of Non-Wood News (available now in pdf and html) can be accessed from the NWFP home page at www.fao.org/forestry/site/6367/en

We hope these new information tools will be of benefit to our readers and to everyone researching the multifaceted world of NWFPs.

For more information, please contact: Tina Etherington at the address on the front page.