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In order to address international trade threats to wild species, governments



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established the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). CITES entered into force in 1975 and has over 160 member governments [Parties]. This report explores the role and impact of CITES on the trade in forest products and sustainable forest management throughout its 30-year history, with an emphasis on plant, and specifically timber, species.

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State of the World's Forests 2009

What will be the impact on forests of future economic development, globalized trade and increases in the world's population? The 2009 edition of the biennial *State of the World's Forests* looks forward, with the theme "Society, forests and forestry: adapting for the future". Part 1 summarizes the outlook for forests and forestry in each region, based on FAO's periodic regional forest sector outlook studies. Past trends and projected demographic, economic, institutional and technological changes are examined to outline the scenario to 2030. Part 2 considers how forestry will have to adapt for the future, focusing on: the global outlook for wood products demand; mechanisms for meeting the demand for environmental services of forests; changes in forest sector institutions; and developments in science and technology. This volume will serve as a source of information to support forest-related policy and research. It is hoped that it will also stimulate creative thinking and debate to enhance the future of the world's forests.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
Ms Andrea Perlis, Forestry Department, FAO,
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www.fao.org/ (Please also see pages 18-20 for
more information.)

Non-farm income from non-wood forest products

The aim of this booklet is to raise awareness – among people and organizations that provide advisory business and technical support services to resource-poor small-scale

farmers and local communities in low- and middle-income countries – about rural livelihood opportunities resulting from NWFP activities. It provides an overview of the uses of NWFPs (section 2); insight into the complementary contribution that they can make to sustainable livelihoods (section 3); an overview of NWFP trade (section 4); strategies for successful NWFP trade and livelihoods (section 5); and support and services that can help promote NWFPs as a livelihood source (section 6). It provides advice as to how the right support and services can help promote NWFPs as a successful livelihood option. Sources of additional information and technical support for any follow-up are identified at the end of the book

Marshall, E. & Chandrasekharan, C. 2009.

Non-farm income from non-wood forest products. Diversification booklet 12. Rural Infrastructure and Agro-Industries Division. Rome, FAO.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
Rural Infrastructure and Agro-Industries
Division, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla,
00153 Rome, Italy. E-mail: AGS-registry@fao.org
(Please also see pages 30 and 73 for more
information.)

Medicinas étnicas y tradicionales

¿Quién sabe que en Afganistán la medicina pashtún adopta todavía la cañafistula como laxante y la semilla de anís para curar las indigestiones? ¿Y qué los curanderos de la Amazonia usan, con óptimos resultados, la uña de gato, planta curandera, en contra de la artritis, las hemorroides y las lesiones cutáneas? ¿O qué la dieta espacial de los astronautas americanos comprende también la maca, la quínoa y la kiwicha, especies herbáceas y alimentos tradicionales del mundo andino? Todo esto podría llamarse *medicina alternativa* o *herboristería*, pero es más apropiado llamarlo *medicina popular*. Estas prácticas curativas en épocas y zonas diferentes han substituido o integrado la medicina moderna y convencional. Está reconocido que la técnica médica moderna no puede ignorar otras experiencias como estas, de las cuales – en todo caso – ella misma descende directamente, bajo muchos aspectos.

Esto es lo que afirma Giorgio V. Brandolini, ingeniero agrónomo de Bergamo y divulgador cultural, quien ha viajado en unos de los rincones más remotos del mundo, también por cuenta de organizaciones internacionales, en particular en Suramérica y en el Oriente Medio, donde ha recogido de

los pueblos indígenas informaciones sobre las hierbas y remedios para curar las enfermedades. Algunas plantas son todavía utilizadas y parecen ser muy eficaces. Una gran cantidad de información ha sido reunida en el libro, *Medicine etniche e tradizionali* (Macro edizioni, 416 páginas, € 14.50), de útil consulta no sólo para los interesados en las curas alternativas, sino también para los curiosos de las hábitos y maneras de vivir de los pueblos que viven en zonas de las que poco se habla, y que guardan tradiciones y usos que vale la pena conocer. La catalogación de apasionado científico y botánico de las hierbas y plantas medicinales, con relativos nombres científicos y usos, y la detallada explicación de los usos medicinales, son acompañadas por curiosas narraciones históricas.

Por ejemplo, una de ellas se refiere a la medicina clásica de los árabes, origen de fundamentales escuelas médicas, con Avicena, quien escribió los cinco libros del Canon de la medicina, o Albucaziz, el más grande cirujano árabe. Y el celebre Paracelso quien, bien que intensamente dedicado a la fármaco-química en pleno siglo XVI, estaba invadido por una visión panteísta de lo creado, que atribuía una dimensión espiritual a los fenómenos naturales, ejercitando la práctica de la *signatura*, filosofía que afirma que Dios habría puesto unos *signos* en las plantas, de los cuales derivan sus capacidades de curar las enfermedades. Al fin, descubrimos que la granadilla era usada como febrífugo o para lenificar las úlceras, que en la Edad media se difundió desde Persia a todo el Mediterráneo, y que de ella deriva el nombre de la ciudad andaluza de Granada.

Brandolini, Giorgio V. 2008. *Medicine etniche e tradizionali*. Macro edizioni. 416 páginas. ISBN: 8-8750-7867-X; ISBN-13: 9788875078676

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN, DIRIGIRSE A:
Giorgio V. Brandolini, Orizzonte terra, 30
Via Mazzini, I-24 128 Bérgamo, Italia.
Teléfono/fax: +39 035 219142; correo
electrónico: Orizzonte.terra@gmail.com o
giorgio.brandolini@poste.it ☛

It matters not how a man dies, but how he lives. The act of dying is not of importance, it lasts so short a time.

Samuel Johnson