

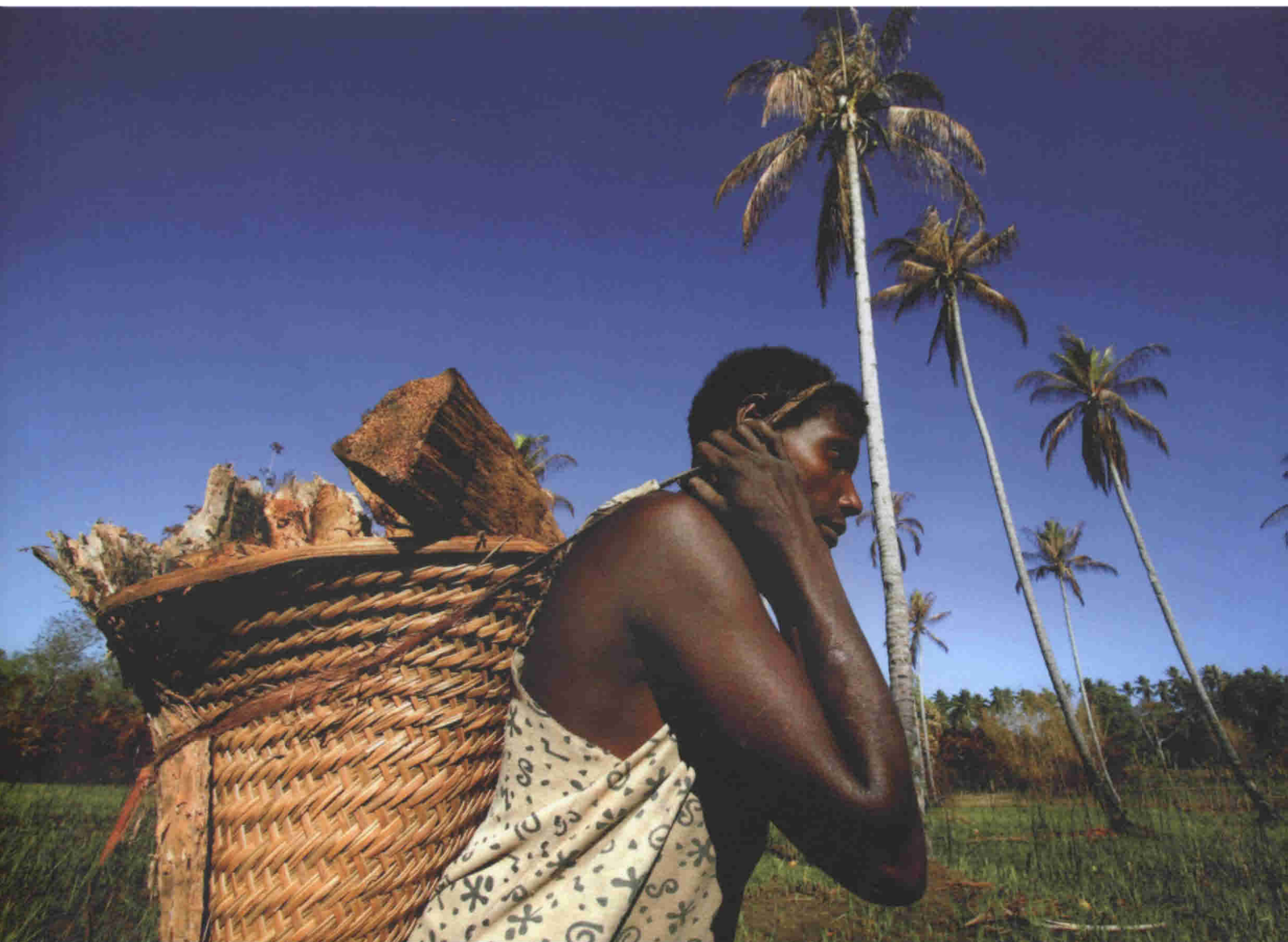
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The World Conservation Union

Forest Partnerships

Enhancing local livelihoods and protecting the environment
in Southeast Asia and the Pacific

Edited by Maria Osbeck and Marisha Wojciechowska-Shibuya



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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ASEAN:	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CAP:	Consumers' Association of Penang
CELCOR:	Center for Environmental Law and Community Rights, Inc., Papua New Guinea
CIA:	Central Intelligence Agency
CIFOR:	Centre for International Forestry Research
DFID:	Department for International Development (UK)
DGIS:	Directoraat-Generaal Internationale Samenwerking
DNSP:	Danau Sentarum National Park, Indonesia
ELC:	Environmental Law Center
EU:	European Union
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLEG:	Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in East Asia and the Pacific
FORCERT:	Forest Management & Product Certification Service
FPCD:	Foundation for People and Community Development
FWI:	Forest Watch Indonesia
GFW:	Global Forest Watch
ICS:	Internal Control System
IIED:	International Institute for Environment and Development
INGO:	International NGO
ITTO:	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN:	The World Conservation Union
LMROA:	Lake Murray Resource Owners Association, Papua New Guinea
MDG:	Millennium Development Goal
MOCP:	Managalas Organic Coffee Project
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organization
NTFP:	Non-Timber Forest Product
NTFP-EP:	Non-Timber Forest Product - Exchange Programme
PPP:	Population below US\$1.00 Per Day Consumption Percentage
PNGFA:	Papua New Guinea Forest Authority
PRF:	Permanent Reserved Forest
PRSP:	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PwM:	Partners with Melanasiacs Inc., Papua New Guinea
RSPO:	Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil
SAM:	Sahabat Alam Malaysia
SLA:	Sustainable Livelihoods Approach
UBRA:	Uma Bawang Residents' Association
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP:	United Nations Environment Programme
WAHLI:	Indonesian Forum for the Environment
WPCC:	Western Province Conservation Coalition
WRI:	World Resources Institute
WWF:	World Wide Fund for Nature

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Foreword

The importance of a healthy environment for development is evidenced by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, a comprehensive assessment of the state of the planet's ecosystems carried out by nearly 1,300 leading experts from 95 countries. The study concludes that 60% of the world's ecosystems are degraded or unsustainably used. This has a direct impact on the livelihoods of the poor. "The loss of services derived from ecosystems is a significant barrier to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals to reduce poverty, hunger, and disease", summarizes the assessment.

In the Southeast Asia and the Pacific region numerous people live in rural areas and depend for their daily lives on products and services provided by forests, wetlands and coastal ecosystems, which also function as a fall-back when other sources of employment falter.

To meet the challenges of reducing poverty and safeguarding natural resources simultaneously, three organizations have joined forces: Friends of the Earth Netherlands, the IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands and the World Wide Fund for Nature Netherlands. Together they launched the Natureandpoverty* Programme in 2003.

Partner organizations based in Southeast Asia and the Pacific joined the programme to create an unprecedented network of social, development and conservation organizations working together for forest protection and poverty reduction in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. By collaborating across targeted cross-cutting initiatives, the synergy created allows the partners to extend their reach and enhance impact.

The Natureandpoverty* Programme in Asia has shown the importance of

addressing legal ownership, access to ecosystems and exclusion from decision-making processes that affect how these ecosystems are managed. This publication draws on lessons learned in forest management, community development, indigenous knowledge and access to resources and social networks within the broad framework of the sustainable livelihoods approach.

The contents reveal how building workable partnerships among the considerable diversity of stakeholders is fundamental in contributing to sustainable development. The Millennium Development Goals cannot be achieved in isolation but require collaboration among institutions jointly contributing towards a similar goal.

As the remaining forests rely on dynamic interconnections, so to must governments, NGOs and the international community to meet the challenges of our generation.



Malaysia. Dawn over tropical rainforest in Northern Malaysia. CREDIT: © Edward PARKER IMAGE

Executive Summary

Vision

As time passes, the world will have more extensive, more diverse and higher quality forest landscapes. These forests will meet human needs adequately, while conserving biological diversity and fulfilling the ecosystem functions necessary for all life on earth.

Challenge

How can governments, communities, NGOs, and the private sector more effectively collaborate to improve forest governance in South East Asia and the Pacific.

Opportunity

This publication provides examples of efforts that are contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). By emphasizing how partners in the Natureandpoverty* Programme have worked collaboratively, it reveals the benefits of building partnerships and how effective partnerships between

local, national, regional and global levels can contribute to sustainable solutions.

By bringing together different groups with different skills, partnerships can help to combine resources and pool technical skills to develop broad- and long-term ideas and strategies necessary for change. This publication will share some of the experiences of working in partnerships and describe a number of outcomes.

Context

Southeast Asia and the Pacific house diverse natural resources and human populations. The forests have abundant biodiversity and are home to many forest-dependent indigenous people and other forest-dependent local communities. For the inhabitants of Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea, access to and use of natural resources are fundamental in sustaining and improving their livelihoods.

Human development activities in Southeast Asia and the Pacific have

resulted in large-scale forest loss. Key drivers behind forest loss are logging (both legal and illegal), plantation development (namely, palm oil) and mining.

This threatens the livelihoods of forest communities, which face dwindling incomes and reduced access to and control over natural resources.

Building Partnerships

To meet the challenges of reducing poverty and safeguarding natural resources simultaneously, three organizations have joined forces: Friends of the Earth Netherlands, the IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands and the World Wide Fund for Nature Netherlands. Together they launched the Natureandpoverty* Programme in 2003.

Partner organizations based in Southeast Asia and the Pacific joined the programme to create an unprecedented network of social, development and conservation organizations working together for forest protection and poverty reduction in the region. By developing partnerships across targeted cross-cutting initiatives, the synergy thus created allows them to extend their reach and enhance their impact.

In Southeast Asia and the Pacific nine organizations — Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM), Consumer Association Penang (CAP), WAHLI Indonesia, Sawit Watch, the Center for Environmental Law and Community Rights (CELCOR), WWF Indonesia, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Non-Timber Forest Product Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) and Partners with Melanesians (PwM) — have launched the Forests, Plantations and Poverty Alleviation Sub Programme in recognition that natural resources directly sustain the livelihoods of many of the poor in rural areas. The subprogramme, which enables a synergistic alliance between NGOs of diverse perspectives, is a unique and promising avenue towards poverty reduction through the sustainable management of natural resources.

Successful Initiatives

A group of communities in Papua New Guinea evict a logging company through the courts: The Lake Murray

Resource Owners Association in Papua New Guinea hired CELCOR in 2001 and won their court battle against a Malaysian-based logging company — halting all logging in the Lake Murray District. Wildlife has since returned to the region and the landowners are currently piloting an ecoforestry initiative.

Indigenous people protect their ancestral forests in Sarawak, Malaysia: The Uma Bawang Residents' Association (UBRA) in Sarawak, Malaysia, a group of indigenous forest people, has proceeded from staging protests against loggers to establishing dominion over their ancestral land and experimenting with sustainable livelihood options. Winners of the 2002 Equator Prize, their initiatives have ensured a steady supply of forest resources for future generations in the village.

Indigenous honey harvesters seek organic certification: With assistance from Riak Bumi and the NTFP-EP, traditional honey harvesting in West Kalimantan has been chosen as a pilot project for the Indonesian organic seal from BIOCert, which could eventually open up possibilities for organic honey export to international markets, thus generating a diversified income stream.

Dutch Parliament agrees to develop legislation to ban unsustainably produced palm oil: Following the

*"...implementation should involve all relevant actors, through partnerships, especially between Governments of the North and South... and between Governments and major groups to achieve the widely shared goals of sustainable development... such partnerships are key to pursuing sustainable development in a globalising world."**

* United Nations Division for Sustainable Development. (2003). *Plan of implementation of the world summit on sustainable development*, p. 1.



Sabah (Borneo), Malaysia. Truck bringing logs to clumping ground. Kimanis log clumping ground. Sabah, Malaysia. CREDIT: © WWF / Sylvia Jane YORATH



Sungai Pelaik village woman demonstrating traditional weaving technique to Genevieve Labadan, NTFP Exchange Program. CREDIT: © Abet Nego Tarigan

field visit of three Dutch MPs to the jungles of West Kalimantan, Indonesia — guided by Sawit Watch, WALHI, WWF Indonesia, Friends of the Earth Netherlands (Milieudefensie), IUCN-Netherlands and WWF-Netherlands — one of the MPs proposed a motion to develop legislation and instruments to ban unsustainably produced palm oil. It was upheld by the Dutch Parliament two weeks after the trip. Resulting from the motion, the government has requested the development of instruments based on the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) criteria; this should be done in collaboration with the private sector and NGOs. The result should be a comprehensive approach leading to the exclusion of palm oil that does not follow RSPO criteria.

Sustainability criteria adopted by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO): WWF Indonesia and the Sawit Watch league, with a number of NGOs and business entities, developed sustainability criteria that were ratified by the RSPO and voluntarily adopted by corporate members of the RSPO.

Organic coffee enterprise in Papua New Guinea: The people of the Managalas Plateau in Oro Province of Papua New Guinea, assisted by PwM, are building an organic coffee business to provide income. Having

auctioned off 15 tonnes in the first year of operation on the local coffee market, the business plan calls for expansion and possibly international exports in the next coffee season. The target for 2007 is to produce 30 tonnes.

To support dialogues between governments, NGOs and the private sector for planning, monitoring and evaluation of forest management in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Policy Recommendations

The successful ventures presented in this book need to be expanded and replicated. Moreover:

Nature conservation NGOs need to encompass social advocacy approaches and support local communities in their forest-related undertakings.

Organizations experienced in providing or implementing alternative livelihood programmes ought to document their experiences and disseminate them to diffuse the information and possibly replicate the programmes elsewhere.

To promote strategic and systematic thinking on livelihood alternatives to plantations, a good sustainable livelihood analysis is needed. Activities related to capacity building for such an analysis need to be supported.

Research is needed to increase knowledge and enhance analytical capacity to assess the social-cultural, economic and ecological impacts of large-scale oil palm plantation development.

More marketing research is needed for the viable development of other NTFPs because poor communities cannot afford the costs of feasibility studies. Marketing research should be incorporated into PRSPs.

There is a need to increase awareness programmes to educate communities on their basic rights so they can defend their land and themselves from encroachment; also to educate them on alternative uses for their land.

The need for long-term involvement is rarely reflected in aid policies and subsequently, NGOs and INGOs work on a short-term basis. Donor agencies need to increase support to national and local NGOs.

Enable collaboration between organizations with different mandates so they can contribute more effectively to achieving positive change by building on their respective institutional strengths.

Critical analysis of aid efficiency and its contribution to achieving the MDGs is needed.

Nature and Poverty: How to Make the World a Better Place

Decades of international development work have yielded a deeper understanding of the sustainable management of natural resources and poverty, interlocking dimensions and the drivers of human development. However, despite the considerable achievements in poverty reduction and environmental conservation, formidable imbalances have transpired through massive development — costing the world immeasurable losses in biodiversity and livelihoods. Natural resources and the relative abundance of rural and forest-dependent communities in particular have come under great strain in recent decades, primarily from externally driven development.

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment was commissioned by the United Nations' Secretary-General and published in 2005. It reported that humans have significantly altered ecosystems, particularly in the last 50 years, as we have been requiring more energy and other inputs to sustain welfare and economic development. This has imposed increasing costs on ecosystem services, exacerbated the risk of abrupt changes and locked some groups of people into increased poverty. The 1,300 contributors to the report concluded by calling for substantial changes in policies, institutions and practices if we are going to reverse ecosystem damage. They warned that efforts will need to be stepped up on a much larger scale than is currently the case.

The forest resources of Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea are particularly rich in biodiversity as well as providing homes to forest-dependent indigenous people. Yet the pristine forests are vanishing rapidly, millions of hectares have already been cleared in aggressive large-scale operations. The key industries that drive forest loss are logging (both legal and illegal), plantation development (namely, palm oil) and mining; they all have strong international links to capital and

commodity markets. While these large-scale development schemes do generate income and employment for local communities, the main benefits accrue largely to outsiders, large corporations, the central government and the actors in international trade and investment; local people are left to reap the costs of environmental degradation.

Whilst globalization is a major driver of the rampant destruction of the forests in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, it also offers opportunities for positive change with benefits for both forest ecosystems — through reduced pressure and better management — and for local communities — through development options. However, as the issues are becoming increasingly complex, no single NGO can address such challenges on its own anymore. By reaching out, working across traditional alliances and complementing environmental expertise with social advocacy or business development expertise, NGOs can become stronger.

This publication draws attention to the dedicated groups hard at work in Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea; they are supporting forest communities in their efforts to defend themselves against external forces and find innovative ways to reap benefits from the globalized economy.

Linking nature conservation with poverty reduction and developing synergy between a network of NGOs is a relatively novel concept. By bringing together different groups with different skills, partnerships can help to combine resources and pool technical skills to develop broad- and long-term ideas and strategies necessary for change. This publication shares some of the experiences of working in partnerships and highlight some of the outcomes.

The reality is that poverty reduction and the environment are often inadequately integrated in development programmes. Sincere efforts are needed to integrate

Excerpt from the Ecosystem Assessment Report:

"The burning of 10 million hectares of Indonesia's forests in 1997/98 cost an estimated \$9.3 billion in increased health care, lost production, and lost tourism revenues and affected some 20 million people across the region."

social and environmental considerations in development efforts. This publication raises the understanding of the linkages between poverty reduction and natural resource management by building on concrete examples from Southeast Asia and the Pacific — encapsulated in a series of case studies and examples of best practices. The aim is to reach decision-makers at national and international levels, as well as international and national NGOs and donors. It is hoped that the information contained in this volume on combining nature and poverty objectives as a tactic to bridge the gap between sustainable ecosystem management and poverty reduction will alert decision-makers to initiate such programmes elsewhere and continue to support existing ones.

Combining nature and poverty objectives provides a promising avenue for meeting the much discussed MDGs, which world leaders adopted

in 2000. While progress is admittedly slow on meeting our commitments, dedicated groups and communities in Southeast Asia and the Pacific have been hard at work experimenting with the combination of nature and poverty goals — shining examples of how integrated efforts to address MDG 7 (ensuring environmental sustainability) will concomitantly contribute to achieving the other MDGs. The key finding is that an integrated approach is critical — not only for ensuring environmental sustainability as an underlying driver for poverty reduction — but also through sharing assets and resources via expertly crafted partnerships between cross-cutting social and environmental actors. Creating synergy between North-South, South-South as well as between grassroots civil society organizations by employing mutual capacities and networks in a complementary fashion has resulted in cross-regional collaborations and joint project implementation.

The Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
2. Achieve universal primary education.
3. Promote gender equality and empower women.
4. Reduce child mortality.
5. Improve maternal health.
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.
7. Ensure environmental stability.
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

Source: UNDP website: www.undp.org/mdg/

Biodiversity and Poverty Reduction: The Link

Biodiversity, health and poverty eradication are closely related. Biodiversity has a key role in sustaining livelihoods, including the provision of food, medicines and energy as well as services such as clean water. The following information illustrates this point:

- 70 to 80% of the developing world's population meets primary health care needs through traditional medicine, mainly from medicinal plants.
- Wildlife, including freshwater and marine fish species, is a significant source of protein in the diets of rural populations in many poor countries — an estimated 20% of the animal protein consumed in at least 62 developing countries comes from this source.
- Biodiversity provides a means to manage risks such as those resulting from climate change. In the aftermath of the Asian tsunami the world is realizing the need to better manage risks and the environmental sector needs to work in this domain.

Biodiversity loss affects the very basis on which poverty eradication and sustainable development more broadly depend. World leaders have made significant international commitments to achieving sustainable development, including the MDGs and the targets agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Key foci are the targets to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 and to achieve environmental sustainability by 2015. Indeed, the world's ability to achieve these targets will constrain or enable its ability to achieve the other MDGs. In other words, MDG 7 on environmental sustainability underpins the achievement of all the other MDGs which will fail without it*.

* Extracted from a statement delivered by Achim Steiner (former Director-General of IUCN) prepared for the ministerial consultation: Implementation of Internationally Agreed Development Goals of the Millennium Declaration, 23rd Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, 21 to 25 February 2005, Nairobi, Kenya.



The Natureandpoverty* Programme

The programme's overall objective has been:

To protect forests, local communities, plantation workers and smallholders in Southeast Asia and the Pacific from unsustainable and irresponsible development pressures generated by logging, plantation development and resettlement and to promote sustainable forest and plantation management.

Recognizing that pure conservation work alone no longer suffices to protect forests, the programme has aimed to combine conservation and social approaches; it assists the rural poor in their struggle for land, (forest) resources and fair treatment and is juxtaposed by pure conservation work — through community organization, policy influence and poverty reduction activities.

A novel feature of the programme has been the highly intensive interactions between North-South, South-South, as well as between grassroots civil society organizations. Natureandpoverty* provides a framework for synergy by combining the organizations' capacities and

networks in a complementary fashion. Through the programme, partners are able to operate more effectively than as individual organizations. Together, they are seeking solutions for improving natural resource management and reducing poverty.

Nature and Poverty: How?

The vision for combining nature and poverty objectives is resolving and improving environmental and poverty issues by addressing both simultaneously — thus poverty can be alleviated and natural livelihood resources restored through sustainable ecosystem management.

Stemming from the premise that forest conservation and the standard of living of poor rural and forest-dependent communities are closely related, if such communities have access to land and forest resources, they are comparatively well-off. They may still be considered poor in terms of cash income and formal employment and they may lack access to basic social services, but access to agricultural land and forests has generally kept them free from hunger and poor health. In order to make their livelihoods

Kayan Mentarang National Park, East Kalimantan (K. Timur), Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo), Indonesia. Kenyah Dayak people. Women collecting medicinal plants Kayan Mentarang National Park Eastern Kalimantan (Borneo), Indonesia. CREDIT: © WWF-Canon / Alain COMPOST

The Sustainable Livelihoods Approach



Nanang Sujana, film maker from Telapak making a film called *People Place and Policy* about the application of the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach. The film is available from IUCN – Asia Regional Office in Bangkok. CREDIT: © IUCN

IUCN, in collaboration with WWF-Indonesia, the Yayasan Riak Bumi* and partner institutions, organized a workshop on the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) from 17 to 25 November 2005 in Danau Sentarum, West Kalimantan. The workshop was designed to improve understanding of SLA for poverty reduction and sustainable natural resource management, to determine the merits of SLA in project implementation and to offer recommendations on how to improve poverty reduction and sustainable natural resource management linkage.

Each partner organization developed a concept note describing what they would do and how they would use SLA in their programmes. The workshop provided a forum for shared learning between partner organizations, helped the participants to gain further understanding and insights into SLA and demonstrated the strengths of the approach.

The participants revisited the guiding principles of the SLA and reformulated them according to the Asia–Pacific context. In summary eight principles were agreed:

1. People's participation
2. Community-based
3. Locally sensitive
4. People-centred
5. Adaptive and reflective processes
6. Equity and fair benefit sharing, cost–benefit
7. Partnership
8. Politically sound

These principles are useful regardless of institutional affiliation. WWF-Indonesia reflected on the institutional implications that needed to be addressed to effectively incorporate the SLA within its work programme. Sahabat Alam Malaysia looked at incorporating the SLA in a community mangrove rehabilitation project where the SLA could be used to develop community-based management of mangrove reforestation and at the same time address national policies. In West Kalimantan it further contributed to identify ways for various NGOs and international organizations to collaborate on addressing the sustainable development of the Kapuas River Basin.

* Yayasan Riak Bumi is an NGO working on ecosystems and livelihoods in West Kalimantan.

sustainable — so they can manage and recover from stresses and trauma — their capabilities and assets must be maintained or enhanced both now and in the future, without undermining the natural resource base. For local people, the sustainability of the forest is also determined by how the forest and water resources are managed on a larger scale: if overall the forests are not managed in a sustainable manner, smaller site specific initiatives will have diminished success, ultimately increasing the vulnerability of the local people who depend on the natural resources.

Institutional arrangements are instrumental in achieving sustainability as they directly influence environmental, economic and social outcomes:

Environmental sustainability is achieved when the productivity of life-supporting natural resources is conserved or enhanced for use by future generations.

Economic sustainability is achieved when a given level of expenditure can be maintained overtime. In the context of the livelihoods of the poor,

economic sustainability is achieved if a baseline level of economic welfare can be achieved and sustained.

Social sustainability is achieved when social imbalances are minimized and social equity maximized.

Institutional sustainability is achieved when prevailing structures and processes continue to perform over the long term.

The reality is often that development projects rarely put equal emphasis on all three aspects; they focus either on social or environmental sustainability or both, but less on integrating the economic dimension with environmental and social counterparts.

Forces at Play in the Forests

The Southeast Asia and the Pacific teems with cultural diversity and natural ecosystems. The region is also home to some of the few vast expanses of undisturbed forests in the world.

Over the past five years the Asia-Pacific region recorded the highest



- Local people -, Indonesia. Kayan Mentarang National Park, East Kalimantan (K. Timur), Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo), Indonesia. Old man going to the forest to gather rattan, Apauping, Kayan Mentarang National Park, East Kalimantan (Borneo), Indonesia. CREDIT: © WWF-Canon / Tanyo BANGUN



Friends of the Earth logging campaign in the Netherlands. CREDIT: © Peter van Sluijs

rate of forest plantation in the world.¹ From 2000 to 2005, the region lost more than six million hectares of natural forests, mainly converted to agricultural crops, including oil palm (see best practice page 23). Patrick Durst, FAO's senior forestry officer for Asia and the Pacific, indicated that this loss of more than one million hectares of natural forests each year was alarming.²

Despite marked differences and specificities, the region's countries present common significant trends:

The region's forests hold a remarkable richness in biodiversity and are home to a host of forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other local communities.

Pressures on forest resources largely stem from government policies, corruption and weak law enforcement, combined with development trends driven by regional and international commodity and capital markets.

Forest-dependent communities are disadvantaged by such development pressures and face impoverishment, human rights violations and internal conflicts.

As a result, forest communities face serious decline in quality of life in terms

of income, access to and control over natural resources (natural assets).

Development vis-a-vis Sustainability

The forest resources of Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea are rapidly depleting. According to FAO during 1990 to 2005, Indonesia lost 28 million hectares of forest, Malaysia cleared around 1.5 million hectares and in Papua New Guinea two million hectares were deforested. The area of primary forests differs greatly within the region. In Malaysia the primary forest covers 18% of total forest area and in PNG the primary forest amounts to 86% of total forest area.³

Large-scale development activities are typically developed and managed in a top down manner — they do not stem from locally-derived development needs but from national level initiatives for economic growth. Industries driving forest degradation have strong international linkages to capital and commodity markets, such that the development of Southeast Asian and Pacific forest lands is also heavily driven by international demand for investment targets and cheap commodities.

The development has been excessive, especially in Indonesia and Malaysia. Both countries have built timber-processing capacities that exceed the sustainable — and at times,

the legally permitted — log supply many times over. Indonesia is facing particularly pressing issues, especially so in the pulp and paper industry that largely relies on tropical forests for its fibre supply. Since the downgrading processing and regulating export volumes are linked to dollar revenue and employment, Malaysia resorts increasingly to log imports — mostly from Indonesia — while Indonesia has clamped down on production forests rather than mill facilities, hence creating huge log shortages, which gives rise to illegal log trade within Indonesia and with Malaysia.

Transparency and Accountability

Human rights violations, mistreatment of workers and environmental destruction have been recorded as the consequences of large-scale industrial operations in the remote forests of the region, with little support afforded to the affected local communities, workers, women, farmers and smallholders.

Market actors, such as financial institutions and buyers, have yet to demonstrate increased transparency. As a case in point, banks can decline to inform account holders about the practices of their clients, based on the "investor-client confidentiality" clause, all the while stating that they operate in a corporate socially responsible fashion. In consumer countries, such as the Netherlands, companies also do not

¹ FAO. (2005). *Global forest resources assessment*.

² www.fao.org

³ FAO. (2007). *State of the Forest 2007*

provide such information, which results in lack of transparency and prevents consumers from assessing the impacts of their consumer behaviour.

Undervaluation

Southeast Asia and the Pacific's rapid exploitation of forest resources results in enormous losses (biodiversity, cultural diversity and indigenous knowledge, sustainable livelihoods, health and natural resources). None of these losses are measured in real monetary terms and, hence, are not deducted from the turnover and profits generated by forest development. The local communities however bear the brunt of such losses, with studies and peoples' testimonies suggesting that they were better off without logging, oil palm and pulpwood plantations.

The costs of large-scale development are rarely accounted for when and where they take place, although the costs of the 1997/1998 forest fires in Indonesia (which were largely set by

plantation companies to open up forest lands) were calculated to be US\$2.3 to 3.5 billion, in addition to the carbon releases of an estimated US\$2.8 billion, according to the latest study by CIFOR.⁴

These costs are largely borne by the general public, mainly in terms of the health impacts suffered by millions of people in Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore. Even in cases where the costs have been calculated, they are not accounted for in loans and commodity prices.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Within the Netherlands, the private sector is strongly inclined to communicate to its clients (consumers) that it operates responsibly, including outside the country's borders. This applies to both the timber and pulp and paper trade and the financial sector. The significant

involvement of Dutch traders and financial institutions in the timber and edible oils trade in Malaysia and Indonesia is a major opportunity to translate intent into action.

Halting forest destruction is not solely a Western agenda: Throughout Southeast Asia and the Pacific, local communities are affected by deforestation and logging even though sometimes they have themselves become involved actors. Some have come to regret having allowed their forests to be converted to oil palm or pulpwood plantations, and many have not been able to influence the decision-making process.

Forest-dependent people are key allies in conserving forest landscapes. Community-based forest management systems are win-win alternatives to the existing system of forest exploitation that best ensure sustainability and equity.

⁴ Colchester et al. (2006). *Justice in the forest: Rural livelihoods and forest law enforcement*. Indonesia. CIFOR.

North–South Vigilance: Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in East Asia and the Pacific

Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in East Asia and the Pacific (FLEG) was launched in Bali in September 2001. Ministers from countries in the region (Japan, China, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea) joined with G8 and EU nations to combat illegal logging and timber trade and associated corruption. The resulting Bali Declaration recognizes the responsibility of both timber-producing and consuming nations towards meaningful trade enforcement and embraces national action and bilateral and international cooperation as effective ways forward.

The declaration committed participating countries to intensify national efforts and strengthen bilateral and regional collaboration to:

- Address forest crime, particularly illegal logging and related corruption.
- Explore ways to eliminate the export and import of illegally harvested timber.
- Improve forest-related governance and transparency in order to enforce forest law.
- In response to the Task Force's (governmental) requests for input on other measures, the Advisory Group (non-governmental) listed a number of suggestions on how to implement the declaration and how to ensure meaningful and effective participation among all stakeholders.

A second interministerial meeting is planned for 2007 in the Philippines to assess progress on the implementation of the Bali declaration. The meeting will focus on:

- Transparency.
- Customs collaboration.
- Anti-money laundering.

Another point of discussion — the institutional linkages of the Asia FLEG process with ASEAN — will be discussed during the meeting.

For further information: www.iucn.org/themes/fcp/

Indonesia



East Kalimantan (K. Timur), Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo), Indonesia. Dyak indigenous people living in forest close to area of pre-FSC certified commercial forest. Near Berau, East Kalimantan. Indonesia. CREDIT: © Edward PARKER

National environmental policy

"Clear commitment to protect the environment and natural resources, while simultaneously providing for continued economic development." Statement of environmental policies is provided in the Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 23 of 1997.

Indonesia is the world's largest archipelago; spread across a chain of thousands of islands between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. It achieved independence from the Netherlands in 1949. It is a diverse ethnic nation, with more than 300 local languages.

Indonesia is a heavily forested country, with almost 60% forest cover (105 million hectares). According to the World Resources Institute (WRI), Global Forest Watch (GFW), and Forest Watch Indonesia (FWI), the rate at which Indonesia is losing its forests has doubled since the 1980s. The lowland forests, the richest in the country, will not survive for long on some of the biggest islands.⁵

Country Facts

Population: 234.7 million

Capital: Jakarta

Government type: Republic

Independence: 17 August 1945 (declared); 27 December 1949 (recognized by the Netherlands)

Life expectancy at birth: 70.2 years

Adult literacy rate: 90.4%

Area: 1.9 million km²

Source: World factbook. CIA, 2007

Human development index rank: 108

Source: UNDP. (2006). *Human development report*

⁵ Barber et al. (2002). *Slate of the forest Indonesia*. WRI.

Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

Target 1. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one US dollar a day.

Indicator 1. Proportion of population below US\$1 (1993 PPP) per day (Table 1).

Table 1

	1993	2002
Population below US\$1 Per day consumption Percentage (PPP)	17.4%	7.5%

Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability.

Target 9. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

Indicator 25. Proportion of land area covered by forest (Table 2).

Table 2

1990	2000	2005
64.3%	54%	48.8%

Source: United Nations, Millennium Development Goals Indicators. <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Data.aspx> viewed 29 January 2006.

Ten percent of the remaining tropical forests in the world are found in Indonesia. This forest hosts vast biodiversity resources: 10% of all plant, 12% of all mammal, 16% of all reptile and 17% of all bird species. These forests also provide livelihoods for approximately 40 million indigenous peoples. However, at present less than 55% of Indonesia's primary forest remains and deforestation continues⁶.

As most remaining production forests have already been logged at least once, pressure on these forests to be released for conversion into other land

use mounted in the 1990s. The main drivers behind conversion are oil palm plantations, pulpwood plantations and mining.

Based on Indonesia's recent poverty reduction trends, the projections are such that the country is on track to achieving its MDG target on poverty reduction of 7.5%, or half its 1990 levels for the country as a whole⁷.

⁷ United Nations Country Team Indonesia. (2004). *Millennium Development Goals: Indonesia final report*, p. 1.

⁶ FAO (2007) *State of the World's Forests 2007*



Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo), Indonesia. Forest along the Ella Ullu river. West Kalimantan, Indonesia. CREDIT: © WWF-Canon / Alain COMPOST

Case Study: Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods in Danau Sentarum National Park, West Kalimantan — the Case of Wild Honey Bees



West Kalimantan (K. Barat), Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo). Indonesia. Danau (Lake) Sentarum National Park, West Kalimantan (Borneo), Indonesia. October 2004 Danau (Lake) Sentarum is one of the most unique wetlands in Asia, marked by outstanding biodiversity. This area was declared as a National Park in 1999, covering 132,000 hectares. The park is located in the Kapuas Hulu District, which declared itself a Conservation District in 2003. CREDIT: © WWF-Canon / Rob BUITER

By Fitriani Ardiansyah, WWF-Indonesia, Abetnego Tarigan, Sawit Watch, Maria Cristina Guerrero & Aloisa Zamora-Santos, NTFP-EP, Heri Valentinus, Riak Bumi and Maria Osbeck, IUCN

West Kalimantan is one of four provinces in Kalimantan, the Indonesian portion of the island of Borneo. The province has a population of about 3.74 million people (2000 Census) and major ethnic groups include the Dayak, Malay and Chinese, who constitute about 90% of the total population.

The borders of West Kalimantan roughly trace the mountain ranges surrounding the watershed of the Kapuas River, the longest river in Indonesia, which drains much of the province, namely the extensive Lake Sentarum area — an extensive

protected reserve of 132,000 hectares of lakes and of seasonally inundated forest ecosystems.

The Lake Sentarum area plays an important role as a natural reservoir for the mid- and downstreams of the Kapuas River and watershed⁸. Of particular importance is the annual flooding regime (flood pulse), which ensures biological abundance that is extensively utilized by local people and forms a vital part of the local economy. In addition to fishing, local people depend on harvesting a variety of other terrestrial and aquatic organisms for their livelihoods, many of which are thought to be closely associated with the energy and nutrient cycles dependent on the annual flood pulse phenomenon.

⁸ The Kapuas River is 1,143 km long and the watershed is 85,200 km² in area.

Despite abundant rich natural resources and biodiversity, threats to the forests stemming from logging and agricultural expansion have made life increasingly more difficult for the majority of people living in the area who remain below the poverty line.

Local NGOs have collaborated to tackle the threats to Danau Sentarum and to provide assistance to local people in support of their livelihoods. They have played a role in providing critical services in areas such as: Indonesian natural resource law; regulations on international investment and relations; ways to register community land; and negotiation tactics and strategies. Recent efforts by WAHLI, WWF-Indonesia, Sawit Watch and Riak Bumi have focused on facilitating a dialogue between communities, other local NGOs and government officials to find workable

solutions for the future management of the Kapuas Watershed.

As sustainable management regimes in the upland areas impact the honey harvesting activity downstream, in December 2006, Riak Bumi, WAHLI, Sawit Watch and WWF co-organized a multi-stakeholder dialogue with government and non-government actors, resulting in a declaration that commits communities upstream to end electro-fishing by 1 January 2007 and prohibits the use of small size nylon nets as of January 2008.'

Wild Honey Harvesting and Marketing

Nests of *Apis dorsata*, the giant honey bee, have traditionally been exploited to produce large volumes of honey and wax for trade. The *tikung* system of honey collection is still practised by a relatively large group of the local population in the DNSP region. The honey is collected via three different techniques: *lalau* (climbing up tall trees to harvest honey), *tikung* (traditional honeyboard system) and *repak* (a place where bees produce no more than one comb on any kind of any tree branch — the first person to find the comb becomes its owner). Although the *tikung* system is the most typical honey harvesting approach practised in the park, honey gathering from tall trees that have been colonized by bees is also popular in this region.

Apis dorsata wild honey has good economic potential as a food product

as gatherers can obtain a high price. For local forest communities, wild honey (an NTFP) can be an alternative income source to help cover their daily needs. Sustainable harvesting of wild honey and management of *Apis dorsata* habitats are essential to protect the forest and the environment. Honey harvesting is also an alternative solution to mitigate de-forestation problems that have surfaced in recent years in Indonesia, resulting in the degradation of natural resources and the environment.

In this context, Riak Bumi initiated the Indonesia National Workshop on the Wild Honey Bee Network in Danau Sentarum National Park in January 2005 with participants from Kalimantan and Sulawesi. This forum facilitated the exchange and sharing of experiences on the management and practical utilization of wild honey bees by local gatherers; information dissemination and communication between areas emerged as a strategy for addressing forestry problems in Indonesia.

At the forum, participants raised concerns about the difficulty of marketing wild honey bee products. Discussion revealed that harvesting practices and postharvest processes result in low quality wild honey; moreover local conditions, namely forest fire smoke and logging, exacerbate the problem. The participants agreed to work towards standardization to ensure good quality wild honey in order to meet market demand. They also agreed to

set up a wild honey bee network to facilitate support facilities and information exchange and dissemination. The network's goals are to improve the quality of wild honey, to enhance its marketing value and to generate increases in volume and price. Such aims will provide incentives to encourage more gatherers to harvest honey judiciously and maintain natural bee habitats in the forest. Riak Bumi plans to select locations for extension in Sumba, Flores, Sumbawa, possibly (later) West Papua and Mentawai archipelago.

Honey and beeswax is sold in local and regional markets; Riak Bumi has worked to link communities and markets directly to close the gap between the producer and the final consumer. This has helped to channel increased economic benefit to the local producers that would have otherwise been diverted at various levels of the marketing chain.

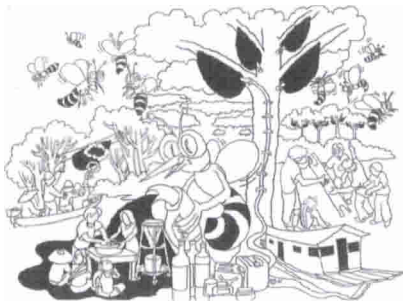
During the 2003 harvest season, Riak Bumi helped package and market over 1.5 tonnes of honey from participating villages and double the financial return to the producers. With an additional 20 tonnes of honey harvested annually throughout the DSNP area, this initiative could potentially contribute to significant poverty reduction for many communities. By helping new communities to improve the quality and marketing of their honey, Riak Bumi will augment socio-economic benefits to more villages.



Community meeting in Danau Sentarum, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. CREDIT: © Riak Bumi



The production cycle of organically certified honey produced in Denau Sentarum, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. CREDIT © Riak Bumi



Fitrian Ardiansyah, World Wide Fund for Nature WWF-Indonesia:

"It is difficult for NGOs to determine what to prioritize because the companies are moving so fast."

"We need an integrated approach to the problems. Partnering with a network of NGOs made us expand our horizons, and build mutual understanding and relationships on regional issues to strategize and seek the optimal solutions."

"NGOs from the South have built a good working and sharing network on rain-forest issues through this programme; but what about the NGOs from the North?"

As honey gatherers increasingly recognize the enhanced financial value of their honey, there is a corresponding marked shift in people's attitudes towards local forest protection, conservation and enhancement. This includes growing recognition among communities for the need to work cooperatively to reduce the risk of fires; to adopt self-imposed rules to guide the community in the use of forest resources; and to re-plant to enhance bee habitats and ensure future wood-supplies. In 2000 and 2001, four local villages in the park worked together to reforest 120 hectares.

Furthermore, while many bee-keeping projects throughout the developing world have focused on the introduction of frame hive bee-keeping systems, which require the importation of exotic bee species (i.e. *Apis mellifera* or *A. cerana*), the DSNP project has emphasized the need to improve upon the traditional honeyboard hunting system (*tikung* harvesting system), which works with the indigenous *A. dorsata* bee and is compatible with the ecological conditions of the DSNP.

With Riak Bumi facilitating the training of six villages in improved harvest and postharvest processing techniques, marketing of forest honey, as well as participatory reforestation of fire-damaged sites in seven villages, the communities have heightened awareness about the need for baseline data to monitor honey production, bee population ecology

and forest regeneration. As a result, permanent monitoring plots to gauge their achievements have recently been established in the DSNP.

Furthermore, in June 2002, Riak Bumi co-organized a workshop on "Anthropogenic Impacts on DSNP" that convened local communities, NGOs, government agencies and academic institutions. This resulted in a community declaration committing them to participate in the conservation and management of the park through specific clauses on customary laws, forest protection and apiculture development. The continuation and expansion of these activities reflect the park communities' recognition of the critical link between livelihood sustainability and the need for their active participation in biodiversity conservation.

Organic Certification

In 2006, BIOCert an organic certifying body in Indonesia, announced that it had selected the Forest Honey Network Indonesia as its pilot project for organic certification. Guided by BIOCert, Riak Bumi, the national secretariat of the network, and the NTFP-EP (headquartered in the Philippines) joined forces to develop Local Standards and an Internal Control System (ICS) for the Honey Producer Groups of the Wild Honey Harvesters in West Kalimantan.

While various aspects of the management system need to be analysed to determine whether the honey produced

by the network qualifies for organic certification, the network seems to be well on its way to setting up its ICS and eventually becoming certified. With a number of factors already working in its favour — a sustainable management system and strong established institutions that can manage the certification process — the Forest Honey Network Indonesia's *madu* (honey) may soon bear the organic seal and break into worldwide markets.

Best Practice: Major Indonesian NGOs Join Forces to Contribute to an International Standard of Sustainability for Palm Oil Plantations

By Fitriani Ardiansyah, WWF-Indonesia & Abetnego Tarigan, Sawit Watch

The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) was established by businesses involved in the production, processing and retail of palm oil — key members include Malaysian and Indonesian palm oil companies and European processing and retailing companies. The RSPO was established to counter the concerns of environmental organizations that palm oil plantations were a major cause of deforestation and were being imposed on local communities without concern for their rights, livelihoods or welfare and managed with insufficient concern for the rights and welfare of plantation workers and smallholders.

The influential Indonesia NGO consortium Sawit Watch and WWF-Indonesia

— both RSPO Board Members — saw the opportunity to promote and call for high social standards and environmental criteria for stakeholders in the oil palm industry. Mutually supporting each others' experience and expertise, they developed "Sustainability Criteria", which elaborate voluntary standards to be adopted by the industry to ensure that palm oil production is socially and environmentally acceptable.

In November 2005, the principles and criteria (P&C) for "sustainable palm oil" were adopted by the RSPO General Assembly. The standard is being tested through a two-year trial implementation phase wherein 17 large companies have voluntarily committed to participate. Combined advocacy ensured that the P&C eventually included provisions on customary rights to land; free, prior and informed consent; respect for ratified international law; workers' rights; non-discrimination; minimized and safe use of pesticides; fair pricing for smallholder products; recognition of high conservation value areas; and other important environmental aspects.

This partnership presents a concrete example of effective synergy between social and environmental groups and represents an effort to bring the government, NGOs and the private sector to the table. The RSPO's sustainability criteria have established a good basis for developing best practices in the industry, halting conversion of high conservation value forests, promoting zero burning, and

phasing out the use of agrochemicals. Communities impacted are in agreement with this standard and preliminary field studies suggest that the draft standard will offer significant protection. Looking to the future, these measures — along with commitment from actors on the global supply chains — should prove instrumental for the advance of environmentally acceptable practices in the palm oil industry.

Abet Nego Tarigan, Sawit Watch:
"Partnership between NGOs increases our access to information and enriches our work."

Joanna de Rozario, NTFP-EP:
"A community that increases quality, increases its profit margin for the same volume of honey."

Community Member
"A key to ensure economic benefit and overall well-being for rain-forest communities lies in the ability to organize."

ANNOUNCEMENT 12 January 2007: RSPO Code of Conduct

RSPO is pleased to announce its Code of Conduct*. This is a major document that articulates the aspirations and expectations we as RSPO Members wish to aspire to and meet. The Code of Conduct is the culmination of the collective effort of RSPO Members, expressed through the Executive Board over the past year. It not only reflects the major concerns but also defines key objectives in meeting RSPO's goals. After deliberation, negotiation and consultation, the Code of Conduct is now ready for adoption. It would be a cornerstone for gauging members' contributions towards RSPO, and ultimately towards the goal of promoting the production, procurement and use of sustainable palm oil. It would also form the basis for our communication to stakeholders as we report against the Code of Conduct.

* For the complete Code, see Annex 3
Source: rspo.org

Malaysia



Sabah (Borneo), Malaysia. Dense forest landscape of the northeast tip of Borneo, in the Malaysian state of Sabah, the habitat of the endemic Bornean Pygmy elephant (*Elephas maximus borneensis*). Sabah, North Borneo, Malaysia. CREDIT: © WWF-Canon / A. Christy WILLIAMS

Malaysia was formed in 1963 through a federation of the former British colonies of Malaya and Singapore, including the East Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak on the northern coast of Borneo. The first several years of the country's history were marred by Indonesian efforts to control Malaysia, Philippine claims to Sabah and Singapore's secession from the federation in 1965. Malaysia is a multi-ethnic federation of 13 states and three federal territories.

At the end of 2005, forest land in Malaysia amounted to about 20 million hectares or 60% of its land area, following the definitions and methodology as adopted and used by FAO in its *Global forest resources assessment 2005*. Of this, an area of. Approximately 17 million hectares of the PRFs are semi natural and production forests with the remaining four million hectares being primary forests. Hence, at the end of 2005, the total area under primary forests in Malaysia was around 18% of its total land area.⁹

Since the 1960s, Malaysia has promoted the establishment of commercial forest plantations. Malaysia has set a target to establish 2.2 million hectares of planted forests, especially in the states of Sabah and Sarawak.¹⁰

Country Facts

Population: 24.8 million

Capital: Kuala Lumpur

Government type: Constitutional monarchy

Independence: 31 August 1957

Life expectancy at birth: 72.7 years

Area: 329,750 km²

Adult literacy rate: 88.7%

Source: World factbook. CIA, 2007

Human development index rank: 61 "

¹⁰ www.fao.org/forestry

¹¹ UNDP. 2006. *Human development report*.

⁹ FAO. *Global Forest Resource Assessment 2005*.

Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

Target 1. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one US dollar a day.

Indicator 1. Proportion of population below US\$1.00 (1993 PPP) per day (Table 1).

Table 1

	1992	1997
Population below US\$1.00 Per day consumption Percentage (PPP)	2%	2%

Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability.

Target 9. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

Indicator 25. Proportion of land area covered by forest (Table 2).

Table 2

1990	2000	2005
68.1%	65.7%	63.6%

Source: United Nations. Millennium Development Goals Indicators, <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Data.aspx>, viewed 29 January 2006.

In the past 40 years, environmental problems have been a major source of poverty and suffering in Malaysia. Peninsular Malaysia lost some 1.35 million hectares of forest between 1966 and 1985, while Sabah lost about 1.35 million hectares between 1970 and 1990; Sarawak is likely to be logged out very soon according to ITTO. Serious efforts are needed to plan resource use from a long-term perspective.

The government's commitment to poverty reduction has provided an important rationale for deforestation, whether for government revenue generation or for agricultural expansion, and recent national figures indicate overall progress in meeting the poverty reduction targets. According to government claims, such

reductions have been due to various poverty reduction programmes including, the "new land development" — a successful attempt to provide land to the landless and land-poor. Based on rubber, and subsequently oil palm, these schemes accomplished the deforestation of the bulk of the remaining accessible forest areas. In the mid-1970s, commercial logging was introduced to generate national revenue. Following national regulations in the late 1990s, some of the larger and more successful Malaysian commercial companies have moved abroad to new areas in Southeast Asia and the Pacific¹².

Malaysia has already achieved its poverty target, following substantive poverty reduction policies launched in the 1970s, and aims to eradicate absolute poverty by 2015¹³.

12 Jomo et al. (2004). *Deforesting Malaysia - the political economy and social ecology of agricultural expansion and commercial logging*. Zed Books Ltd.

13 United Nations Country Team Malaysia. 2005. *Malaysia: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals*.



Sabah (Borneo), Malaysia. Heavy logging activities in Sabah, North Borneo, Malaysia. Caterpillar loading logs on a truck. This is the habitat of the rare Bornean pygmy elephant, which is found only in the northeast tip of Borneo, in the Malaysian state of Sabah. CREDIT: © WWF-Canon / A. Christy WILLIAMS

Case Study: The Story of Ubra and the People of Uma Bawang



UMBRA Project members. Quotes listed below. CREDIT: © Abet Nego Tarigan

UMBRA project members:

"Every day and every moment when I sit in the main village the elders keep saying to me: Are you doing the right thing? All I can say is that despite the long struggle I never felt like giving up. For me it was worth every minute fighting to keep our forest." - Uloi Gao

"Each and every time we attended the court we never gave up." - Maring Saging

"I am worried about who will lead the struggle when we old people are no longer here." - Anyi Saging

By Jok Jau Evong & Theivanai Amarthalingam, Sahabat Alam Malaysia

Introduction

Sarawak is known to have one of the oldest rain forests in the world. This ancient forest has been an abode for its various indigenous people and its prolific biodiversity. The Uma Bawang Residents' Association (UBRA) is an inspirational effort by one indigenous community to overcome the threats of resource destruction and cultural erosion in today's Sarawak. In recent years, the UBRA example has spread to other communities, thanks to the work of Sahabat Alam Malaysia and other community development organizations.

UBRA's struggle is ongoing. It is vital for this venture to succeed, in order to provide hope and a potential future for other longhouse communities facing the same, all too common problems. The members of UBRA are determined to succeed.

Equator Prize¹⁴

The seven recipients of the Equator Prize 2002 embody the spirit of the sus-

14 The Equator Prize is a prestigious international award that recognizes outstanding local efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

tainable communities' movement in the tropics. Chosen from a field of 27 finalists, seven communities received their awards at a ceremony in Johannesburg on 30 August 2002.

The Uma Bawang Keluan Community was rewarded for its outstanding efforts to reduce poverty and conserve biodiversity. The community was applauded for using GIS mapping technology to defend customary land and forest rights against illegal logging and subsequently managing the area responsibly via cash income projects that include communal rice farming and milling, handicraft marketing and developing sustainable teakwood plantations. It is also involved in the reforestation of degraded forest lands.

A Community Fighting to Preserve its Forest

The people of Uma Bawang belong to the Kayan ethnic group, which first migrated from West Borneo, in what is now Kalimantan, Indonesia. The family group co-habits in a longhouse — its farms and gardens as well as water-courses and the surrounding forest at the site extend for half a day's journey by foot. Thus it is within this territory that each longhouse community has access to land for farming, to rivers for fishing and to jungles for hunting.

The 1980s brought disaster to Uma Bawang. Conflict began when the Sarawak State Government started issuing timber licenses over areas where the community already had native customary rights that were recognized and protected by state land law. The relationships among people in the longhouse started to break down. Fortunately, in 1987, some people in the longhouse looked for a solution by organizing themselves into a group that would protect what remained. In 1988, UBRA was formed to assist in the struggle. In 1990, UBRA was registered by the Registrar of Society and legally recognized.

While UBRA was still being formed, forest destruction was proceeding very rapidly and it was felt something needed to be done immediately. Uma Bawang blockaded the logging road into their area. It was one of the first blockades in Sarawak, and helped bring international attention to Sarawak's logging problem. The headman and others who received gratuities, failed to participate. This blockade was eventually broken up by the government.

In 1987, another blockade ended when 42 villagers were arrested and held without charge for two weeks. Uma Bawang continued to protest for the next several years, but the blockade strategy was not a good long-term solution as people could not be kept away from their farms and other economic activities forever. The blockade eventually ended and so logging resumed. A long-term approach to development was needed. The customary land claims needed to be legally recognized. Logging and the problems it generated would not disappear after a year or two. These realizations led to the fragmentation of Uma Bawang and the formation of UBRA. A new, anti-logging community was formed and in March 1989, the community moved to Sungai Keluan and built its own longhouse with 20 family units (*pintu*). UBRA was officially led by Jok Jau Evong. UBRA is open to any interested members of the longhouse. Its main objective is to promote the rights and interests of the individuals and the community. All plan-

ning, programmes and decisions are made by consensus among members. Board members are elected every two years. Rules have been drawn up to serve law, order and justice. There is a disciplinary board with elder Kayans acting as advisors since they are well versed in customary law.

UBRA Development Projects

UBRA has since worked to initiate community projects to benefit its members such as a communal rice farm and bank, the purchasing of a communal rice miller that has helped to cut the cost of rice milling for members, free-range pig rearing and fish pond schemes, a crafts cooperative for the women as well as reforestation and agroforestry projects on communal plots

Village Mapping, 1995

In mid-July 1995, UBRA started to study and develop basic survey/mapping techniques at a mapping workshop held in Keluan, assisted by some mapping experts from the Borneo Project. This programme was jointly organized by UBRA and SAM. Many people from other villages also attended. This was the first community mapping workshop in Sarawak.

Later in May 1996, a full-scale land-use map of the Keluan project area was successfully produced by UBRA members. This map is a very useful document for resource management, and for regaining control over reserved areas of communal forest. It has also been used to identify the boundaries between different individual land lots. In this way, disputes between landowners have been reduced. Some of the mappers trained in these original workshops have moved on to become experienced mappers in local NGOs.

Protesting Oil Palm Development

After years of protesting against logging, UBRA is now faced with the new threat of large-scale oil palm plantations. In many ways oil palm is even worse than logging, because loggers come and go, while an oil palm plantation results in the forest being completely cleared and converted into a plantation with 60-year leases or more.

Jok Jau Evong, UBRA, Malaysia:

"We feel safer because we are more organized. Now, the companies feel that they have to come and ask permission from us to operate in our territory."

"We need to be patient, straightforward, disciplined and firm."

"If we have the knowledge, we can make income from the forest. However, we still lack knowledge on how to manage our resources."

Theiva Lingam, SAM, Malaysia:

"The poor indigenous communities are those that have lost their lands to logging or that have rivers too polluted — from palm oil plantations — to fish in."



Indonesia. Palm oil (Sawi palm) fruit and derived products. Indonesia. Project number: 9Z0379 CREDIT: © WWF-Canon / Alain COMPOST

In 1998, the Sarawak State Government gazetted a huge parcel of land for the proposed Long Lama NCL Oil Palm Project. All of Keluan's lands were included in this project. However, after continuous protests and letters to the government that objected to the policy and the process of project implementation, in December 2001, a response was finally received from the Ministry of Resource Planning in a letter stating that the area identified as Block C, including the Keluan area, would be excluded.

Conclusion

The Uma Bawang Keluan Community has come a long way in asserting its property rights. Although judicially it was defeated, politically it has achieved marked success. It is one of the foremost tribes in the country to have organized its resources and access to them and subsequently managed them sustainably in harmony with nature.

This is evidenced by the fact that much of Keluan's land was gazetted to be logged by the KTS Timber Company — however when the company recently returned, rather than log straight away, it sought permission. This is proof that they recognize the community's efforts

and vigilance in defending its forests. Keluan has allowed some logging recently, but only selected logging in limited areas chosen by the entire village. In return, people feel they were fairly compensated. As part of this deal, the logging company provided the wood to build the new Keluan longhouse.

Their journey to ascertain their rights persists. Only through education and awareness on the importance of their existence will legislature give them the recognition that they deserve.

Best Practice: Influencing Palm Oil Trade Policy in the Netherlands

The Netherlands, an important importer and trader of palm oil is also promoting palm oil as an option for biofuel — with EU regulations driving countries to expand their biofuel resources. Since palm oil plantations require the clearing of large areas of rain forests in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, the opening of another market for palm oil in the form of biofuel may dramatically increase pressures on rain forests in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. In 2005, WWF-Netherlands, IUCN-Netherlands and Friends of the Earth Netherlands crafted a series of events aimed to inform, convince and mobilize a select group of Dutch

members of parliament (MPs) to push for policy reforms on the issue of sustainable palm oil within the Dutch Government. Following a roundtable for information disclosure, a group of three MPs travelled to West Kalimantan to conduct meetings at the national ministerial level, provincial level and with local communities as well as with business people in Indonesia.

Although it may be too early to determine the full extent, the field trip did have a direct and significant effect:

A motion to develop legislation and instruments to ban unsustainably produced palm oil from the Dutch market was proposed by one of the MPs upon return to the Netherlands and adopted by a majority in parliament two weeks later.

For the first time in 12 years a "General Meeting on Forests and Wood" will be held in parliament to review the effectiveness of Dutch policies on this topic over the past decade.

Formal questions were raised in parliament to the minister asking for increased budget support for programmes that work on the relation between nature conservation and poverty alleviation.

An official governmental visit that had already been planned will most probably include time to follow up on the informal visit and provide opportunities to push for reforms on the Indonesian side.

Unsustainable palm oil and illegal wood issues are back on the agendas of parliament, NGOs and the private sector in the Netherlands.

Resulting from the motion, the government has requested the development of instruments based on the RSPO criteria, to be done in collaboration with the private sector and NGOs. This should yield a comprehensive approach leading to the exclusion of palm oil production that does not follow the RSPO criteria.

The Dutch MPs:

"The Netherlands should establish good criteria and conditions for oil palm. People think oil palm can be used as biofuel for energy; although oil palm sounds like a natural product, the reality is that it is harvested at the expense of Borneo." - Boris Dittrich, Member of Parliament D'66

"We have had an impressive meeting with people living in the tropical rain forest. People living inside the forest are actually suffering hardship. It is not without reason that there is a programme like Natureandpoverty. If these people are offered chances for survival (e.g. alternative livelihood options) than we can also ask them to sustainably manage their forests." - Henk-Jan Ormel, MP CDA*

"If you want to preserve and protect the tropical rain forest you should not forget that there are actually people living inside the forest and that these people should have the means to make a living and sustain themselves." - Tineke Huizinga, MP Christenunie

"If one speaks about people, planet and profit one should also address these issues in this order." - Boris Dittrich, MP D'66

Excerpt from the Dutch Motion to Parliament on Palm Oil*

Motion no. 20 (30305)

Proposed 18 May 2006

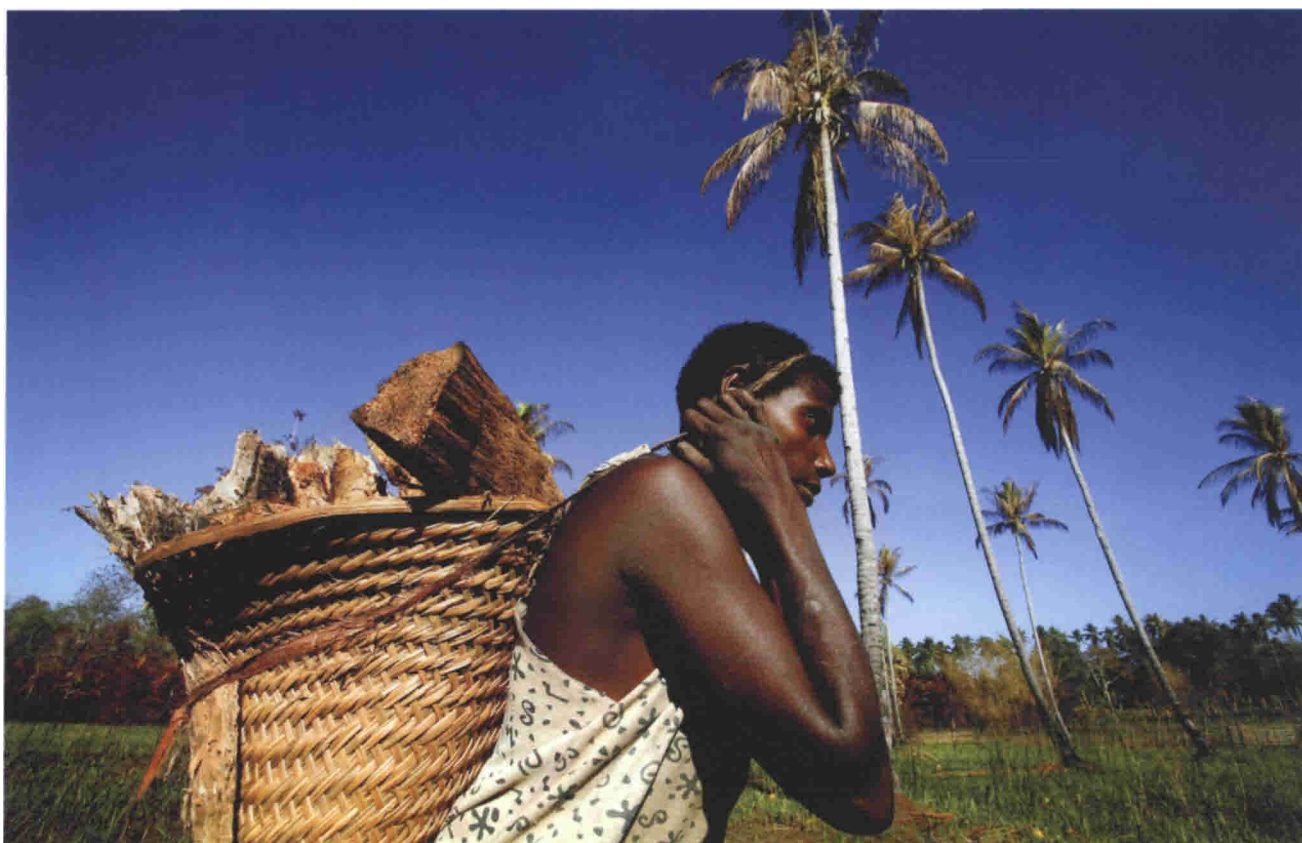
Observing that as a result of a growing world-wide demand for palm oil the volume needed by far exceeds the available landmass for palm oil cultivation, which results in a disproportionate pressure on the biodiversity in tropical land areas where palm oil is cultivated.

Concluding that Indonesia is one of the world's largest exporters of palm oil and the Netherlands one of the largest importers, [the motion] requests the government to develop an instrument based on RSPO-criteria in collaboration with the private sector and non-governmental organisations to come to a comprehensive approach to exclude palm oil, also in the energy sector, that is not produced according to RSPO-criteria.

[The motion] Requests the government, to continue to support initiatives that contribute to the preservation of the remaining rainforests and indigenous way of existence, amongst others by means of supporting the dialogue with the Indonesian authorities on land rights issues and viable economical alternatives for large scale palm oil production.

* The entire motion is reproduced in Annex 2.

Papua New Guinea



- Local people -, Papua New Guinea. A woman transports a basketful of baked sago from a pit oven back to Rhoku village. Sago is a common subsistence crop in Papua New Guinea. Western Province, Papua New Guinea. December 2004
CREDIT: © Brent Stirton / Getty Images / WWF-UK

Papua New Guinea is situated on the world's second largest island and is prey to volcanic activity, earthquakes and tidal waves. The eastern half of the island of New Guinea was divided between Germany (north) and the United Kingdom (south) in 1885. The latter area was transferred to Australia in 1902, which occupied the northern portion during World War I and continued to administer the combined areas until independence in 1975. A nine-year secessionist revolt on the island of Bougainville ended in 1997 with a peace deal, after claiming some 20,000 lives, but Bougainville still aspires to nationhood.

Papua New Guinea contains the largest intact tropical rain forest in the Pacific region and the third largest on the planet, at 9.4 hectares per capita (compare with 5.9 hectares per person in the rest of the region).¹⁵

Country Facts

Population: 5.8 million

Capital: Port Moresby

Government type: constitutional parliamentary democracy

Independence: 16 September 1975 (from the Australian-administered UN trusteeship)

Life expectancy at birth: 65.6 years

Area: 462,840 km²

Adult literacy rate: 57%

Source: World factbook. CIA, 2007

Human development index rank: 139¹⁶

¹⁶ UNDP. (2006). Human development report.

¹⁵ FAO (2007) *State of the Forest 2007*

Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

Target 1. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one US dollar a day.

Indicator 1. Proportion of population below US\$1.00 (1993 PPP) per day (Table 1).

Table 1

	1996
Population below US\$1.00 Per day consumption Percentage (PPP) ¹	37.5%

Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability.

Target 9. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

Indicator 25. Proportion of land area covered by forest (Table 2).

Table 2

1990	2000	2005
69.6%	66.5%	65%

Source: United Nations Millennium Development Goals Indicators. <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Data.aspx>, viewed 29 January 2006.

Strong cultural customary land tenure supported by the national constitution is a unique feature of forest management and policy in Papua New Guinea. About 97% of all land is held under customary title by resource owners.¹⁷ The country's rural population of over four million (85%) depend on the forest for its daily subsistence (providing food, medicine, building materials, clean drinking water) and income generation. Many communities revert to stripping their forests to generate income. Aside from poverty, the lack of sustainable natural resource-use alternatives perpetuates the problem. Degradation of natural resources is leading to declining rural welfare and increased poverty - clear illustration of how loss of natural resources and poverty are intricately linked. The poverty rate in Papua New Guinea remains high, with

¹⁷ Filer, C. and Sekhran, N. (1998). *Loggers, donors and resource owners*. London, MED,

little progress in alleviation having been achieved in the past 20 years — a situation compounded by the fact that the country's population has doubled during this time.¹⁸

Although government rhetoric disputes the fact, industrial logging presents a great threat to the ecology and people in Papua New Guinea.¹⁹ The customary tenure has not guaranteed sustainable use, due to difficulties in identifying traditional landowners, poor enforcement of the terms of land leases and concessions to private operators, and disputes over the distribution of the benefits accrued from logging.²⁰

¹⁸ Government of Papua New Guinea and United Nations in Papua New Guinea. (2004). *Millennium Development Goals: progress report for Papua New Guinea 2004*, p. 9.

¹⁹ Greenpeace Pacific, WWF South Pacific Program.

(1998). *Sustaining Papua New Guinea's natural heritage*. Port Moresby.

²⁰ Hunt, C. (2002). Production, privatisation and preservation in Papua New Guinea forestry. IIED.



Papua New Guinea. Aerial view of tropical rainforest with meander river. Papua New Guinea. CREDIT: © WWF-Canon / Paul CHATTERTON

Case Study: The Kiunga-Aiambak Road Project,
Lake Murray, Papua New Guinea



Community members from the
Managalas Plateau, Papua New
Guinea. CREDIT: © Kenn Mondial

By Damien Ase, CELCOR & Kenn
Mondiai, PwM

Introduction

Lake Murray is situated between the Fly River and Strictland River in the Middle Fly area of the Western Province in Papua New Guinea. It is situated in one of the largest wetlands and watershed areas of Papua New Guinea, home to the last remnants of monsoon forest and part of the country's large expanse of tropical rain forest. As such it is very rich in flora and fauna, mineral oil and habitats for High Conservation Value Forest sites and species.

There are seven tribes in the Lake Murray area whose lives have been historically enriched with food, clothing and medicine from the lake (Lake Murray) and the forests. They lead a largely subsistence life, surviving on the abundance of food (from hunting) and medicine provided by their "forest supermarket".

However in April 1994 the government gave approval for the construction of the Trans-Highlands Highway that would link the Western Province and Komo in the Southern Highlands Province. A one-year Timber Authority (TA) was then granted to Paiso Company Limited for the road that would link Aiambak (Lake Murray) to Kiunga enabling the extraction of timber through road-line clearing only. Paiso Company PTY LTD subsequently subcontracted with Concord Pacific²¹ (a subsidiary of Samling) of Malaysia to undertake the TA.

The Malaysian-owned logging company in theory has been building a road between the small township of Kiunga

²¹ Concord Pacific is a logging company that has been involved in illegal logging on the pretext of building the Kiunga-Aiambak road. Concord obtained an illegal extension to road alignment and the logging and so-called "road building" has continued until court orders halted the operation. The new TA is totally illegal — it was granted without the approval of the Provincial Forest Management Committee and without any attention to the detailed procedures of either the 1993 Forestry Act or the 2000 Amendment Act.

and the village of Aiambak in Lake Murray. In practice the company has illegally extracted timber from the region's pristine rain forests. Seven years since the beginning of road construction, more than 179 km² of forest have been cleared but there is no and never has been a functional highway.

The Kiunga-Aiambak Court Case

The violation occurred when Concord Pacific started engaging in large-scale logging which is prohibited under a TA license (it only allows for a maximum of 5,000 m³ of logs to be harvested per year).

The logging activity has disturbed and degraded thousands of hectares of the pristine forests, leading to an estimated loss of more than US\$60 million of potential revenue to local landowners (PNGFA, 2001; PNGFA *Annual timber digest*, 1995-2001). Forest disturbance resulted in a scarcity of game animals traditionally hunted as food, loss of clean water supplies and loss of traditional building materials and medicines. (Independent Review Team, 2001; Individual Project Review Report No. 31).

The road project was clearly a veiled excuse to log the forest. The landowners' source of food and building materials was being destroyed before their eyes.

This unsustainable industrial logging has threatened the livelihoods and the well-being of the communities in the Kiunga-Aiambak area and made a significant contribution to poverty. The logging has directly and indirectly affected the lives of women in Kiunga-Aiambak, who are responsible for much of the labour and daily sustenance of the families. The negative impacts associated with the current forest management regime that takes men away from their home (for temporary work at logging camps), degrades streams and reduces the availability of NTFPs fall disproportionately upon women.

These incidents and damages prompted the landowners to take the company to court by engaging the Center for Environmental Law and Community Rights (CELCOR) in 2001. After almost two years of working on this matter — complemented by a vigorous campaign by Greenpeace and other NGOs — CELCOR obtained court orders against Concord Pacific and other defendants restraining them from further logging of the area until the substantive trespass case was tried in court. The injunctions were obtained on 7 July 2003 and further orders were obtained on 14 August of that year to restrain the company from exporting logs. A significant milestone was reached in the lengthy Kiunga-Aiambak case this year (22 June 2006) whereby the court ruled in favour of the clients (the Lake

**Ronald Gigmai, CELCOR,
Papua New Guinea:**

"The globalization process has to be a gradual one for poor and remote communities to develop themselves and reap some benefits."



Community meeting,
Papua New Guinea.
CREDIT: ©Kenn
Mondiai

Kenn Mondiai, Executive Director, Partners with Melanesians:

"For the project to work, the community has to be united and people must sacrifice their time and resources to make things work."

"Communities need to know how the forest supports their livelihoods, so environmental education and raising awareness are the first point of entry into a community."

"For the project to work, the community has to be united and people must sacrifice their time and resources to make things work."

"Communities need to know how the forest supports their livelihoods, so environmental education and awareness is the first point of entry into a community."

Murray landowners). It ruled that the Timber Authority (08) given to Concord Pacific to log in the area in 1994 has always been illegal. The defendants (the company) now want to settle outside of court regarding the monies (US\$500,000) held in the court trust account (from the logs that were sold at the time of the court trial). CELCOR is liaising with the landowners and other stakeholders for the distribution of these monies. CELCOR will persevere until the case is satisfactorily settled and that landowners are adequately compensated for the environmental damage as well as for payment of the unpaid royalties to the landowners.

Following the Court Case

Whilst awaiting the trial, resource owners also discussed the possibilities of venturing into other sustainable projects to utilize their forest and water resources. Currently, logging in the area has ceased and the logging company has moved out, yet CELCOR has faced a bigger challenge and responsibility in pursuing the case while assisting the local resource owners' association (Lake Murray Resource Owners Association [LMROA]) to build capacity and find alternatives to logging.

A Western Province Conservation Coalition²² of NGOs (both national and international) was formed in 2004 to combine expertise and resources to assist tribes venturing into alternative projects. The LMROA has decided to pursue ecoforestry as a sustainable way to generate income and employment in the area. Greenpeace, vocal in the campaign, as well as other national NGOs with expertise in alternative sustainable livelihood projects is now facilitating an ecoforestry initiative in the area. Portable sawmills have been introduced and customary land demarcations have been made pursuant to Papua New Guinea laws — with the assistance of a highly skilled forester from the Foundation for People and Community Development, a local NGO.

In ecoforestry, the trees are harvested using portable equipment and milled on the spot, before the wood is carried or floated out of the forest. A first shipment of logs was exported this year. Greenpeace is spearheading the initiative in the area with support from national NGOs with the intention of eventually handing the responsibility over to the LMROA. Ecoforestry will allow the communities to continue living in their forests in the same way they have lived for a thousand years and to earn income to support their children's school fees, build their own homes and provide for other needs.

Following the success of the court case, people's livelihoods have been restored. The local landowners are satisfied that the wildlife has now returned, making hunting easier for the local community. The animals had been scared off by the loud noise induced by logging practices.

With support from the NGOs, the resource owners will eventually exercise their right to control development themselves. These people are now choosing to care for their forests sustainably and to protect their way of life for future generations. Greenpeace and CELCOR have partnered to build the capacity of the executives of the LMROA to spearhead the development initiatives that they intend to pursue.

²² WPCC comprises CELCOR, Greenpeace Pacific, and WWF-PNG, Foundation for People and Community Development (FPCD), Environmental Law Center (ELC), Barefoot Community Development Services, Conservation Melanesia, FORCERT.



The organic coffee project in the Managalas Plateau, Papa New Guinea. CREDIT: © Kenn Mondial

Best Practice: Managalas Organic Coffee Project in Papua New Guinea

The Managalas Plateau, an area of 360,000 hectares, sits some 800 metres above sea level in a remote region of Papua New Guinea; it is accessible by footpaths, a five-hour ride in a four-wheel-drive and a once-a-week Twin Otter flight service. Its 16,000 inhabitants have limited access to markets and basic services and earn an average annual income of K150/year (US\$50/year) per family. Income-earning initiatives are virtually non-existent.

Having worked with the Managalas Plateau tribes for over 15 years, Partners with Melanesians Inc. (PwM) was in search of an alternative income stream to combat deprivations by logging, oil palm and mining speculation. In concert with the community, an eco-enterprise project was set up which supports natural resource livelihoods and poverty reduction at the community level. Under the leadership of the PwM group, the people of the Managalas are experimenting with a new economic model.

Previously, the 3,660 coffee growers on the plateau had been hindered by poor market access. PwM proceeded to help the community secure some funding through the Doen Foundation of the Netherlands to repair the road and make it passable again, as a first step to setting up the Managalas

Organic Coffee Project (MOCP). In the harvest season of 2006, PwM bought a vehicle and set up a collection scheme, offering a higher price for the coffee beans than that offered by the independent buyers, thus creating competition. Fifteen tonnes of the tribes' organic coffee beans were purchased, transported from the plateau, shipped to Lae, transported by road to Goroka in the highlands and milled and graded in a hand-picked facility, and finally auctioned off at the local market. Profits have been stored in a trust fund and will be redistributed according to a pre-approved formula: Shared among an education and health trust fund and a road maintenance fund.

PwM, in partnership with the NTFP-EP, always sourced the consultant who had experimented with a similar project in the Philippines. The consultant assisted PwM in the development of a practical and viable design for coffee production and drafted the MOCP's business plan. As adopted by the community, the business plan sets out the roadmap to a viable eco-enterprise, and ensures that the MOCP will be handed over to a separate Board of Directors representing the people and farmers of the Managalas Plateau in 2008 — transferred from PwM's Board.

The target for 2007 is to buy up to 30 tonnes of the Managalas organic coffee production and then test the international market and continue with

sales on the local market by auctioning, according to the business plan.

Initially it was difficult to put a new business system in place, especially when local communities were unused to it. Moreover there was a need to build local capacity to understand and manage the system well according to the business plan, while not losing focus on the importance of safeguarding the local environment and forest. Growing coffee on the Managalas Plateau is very challenging work and under the leadership of Paul Konia, the Manager of MOCP, the project is progressing well, despite difficulties with road conditions, weather problems, delays in shipping and landslides. But Paul confirms, *"there is light at the end of the tunnel for the Managalas organic coffee project"*.

Synergy in Action



Participants in SLA workshop (see page 14) visiting Sungai Peiaik village in Danau Sentarum, West Kalimantan. CREDIT: © Abet Nego Tarigan

Excerpt from the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

"... implementation should involve all relevant actors through partnerships, especially between Governments of the North and South....andbetween Governments and major groups... to achieve the widely shared goals of sustainable development. ...such partnerships are key to pursuing sustainable development in a globalizing world."

The Millennium Development Goals, adopted by governments worldwide in 2000 require us to halve the world's poor by 2015 and to ensure environmental sustainability — with deforestation rates being a major indicator against which to measure our progress towards this goal. This publication is further evidence to the fact that these goals mutually re-inforce, or conversely, impair each other. Nature (or the environment) and poverty are two sides of the same development equation.

Poverty is more than lack of income and assets to meet basic human needs (food, shelter, clothing, primary education and health); being poor should also be seen not just in terms of the absence of assets and resources, but as the lack of capability to realize these assets. This involves focusing

on what causes people's vulnerability, lack of access and use of resources, in addition to identifying which structures and processes affect people's ability to achieve a sustainable livelihood, such as marketing systems (e.g. for income generation based on NTFPs), tenure reform and policy changes that are often institutional in nature.

Thus, poverty is not simply a lack of assets, or a site-specific problem, but is subjected to deeper factors, such as lack of legal access to resources, exclusion from decision-making in resource management, inadequate marketing systems and other limitations, including policy constraints.

Tropical forests have more important functions than providing logs to build patio furniture or being a parcel of land waiting to be converted into shorter-term lucrative gains from monoculture. Countless studies have established the wealth of services that forests provide, namely to poor communities that depend on them for their livelihoods. Not only do they offer clean water, clean air, food, shelter and medicines, but they are also major sources of environmental income: studies show that nearly 1.6 billion people worldwide depend on forests for their livelihoods, and that forest-related income provides a significant share of total household income in many regions of the world.²³

The Natureandpoverty* Programme has used the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) to link the concepts of capability, equity and sustainability. Each concept is seen as both a good in itself as well as an end (cf. box on SLA, p 12). The precise frameworks and tools used by the partners vary. Each organization has identified particular entry points for the SLA, which reflect both the varying conceptual emphases and the organizations' own strengths and opportunities. While they are complex the following elements are central to the approach, that need to be understood, in order to find solutions that do not undermine the purpose of achieving sustainable livelihoods:

²³ FAO (2006) Better forestry, less poverty (FAO Forestry Paper No. 149)

Causes of vulnerability— shocks and stresses in the economic, social and political context, trends, seasonality, fragility of natural resources, etc.

Assets at the individual, household and community level, comprising human, social, economic, physical and natural resource components.

The context within which livelihoods evolve — policies at both micro and macro levels; civic, economic and cultural institutions, both formal and informal; the nature of governance and its processes at all levels in society.

Livelihood strategies, including, but not restricted to, consumption, production and exchange activities.

Livelihood outcomes, assessed multi-dimensionally in terms of food and other basic needs security, greater sustainability of the natural resource base, reduced vulnerability and increased income.

Building Blocks: Partnerships

The onset of globalization (i.e. the free flow of information, goods and people) has altered the playing field for all of us and externally driven development has become a powerful force to contend with, bringing along extraordinarily complex challenges that cannot be solved overnight. Then again, these complex realities offer various windows of opportunities. Forest products can be harvested sustainably, manufactured and delivered to consumers around the globe.

The major achievements of the Natureandpoverty* Programme have been the collaborations among the different partner organizations. This is exemplified by the strengths and capacities through synergistic partnerships for forest conservation and poverty reduction in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Alliances among non-naturally aligned partners help an organization to extend its reach and magnify its impact by combining skills, sharing information and pooling resources, among other benefits.

Several of the case studies and best practices presented in this publication have illustrated how sustainable liveli-

hoods can become reality when using a people-centred approach; this allows the participation of the different stakeholders who rely on natural resources and the actors involved in decision-making processes to determine their use and management. The interventions exemplified here are re-inforced through the synergy of complementary organizations, the dividends of which are to be reaped by the forest-dwelling communities, such as:

The honey bee case study in West Kalimantan: The aforesaid points have been addressed through the work of a number of different organizations. WWF-Indonesia, Sawit Watch, WAHLI and Riak Bumi have jointly studied the development plans of the area including logging and expansion of large-scale oil palm plantations and facilitated dialogues between communities, government and the private sector to find solutions for more sustainable development and to mitigate impacts. At the same time Riak Bumi and the NTFP-EP have been working with communities to generate economic profit from local NTFPs and honey products. Local groups oversee the business to ensure that it is properly managed and does not

harm the environment. West Kalimantan hojjeiyis in the process of gaining access to international markets following organic certification.

The development of an organic coffee enterprise on the Managalas Plateau of Papua New Guinea: CELCOR and PwM have ensured that customary law be enforced to inhibit concession companies from claiming the forest from people in the Lake Murray area. PwM and the NTFP-EP have facilitated the development of local coffee enterprises. Upon PwM's efforts, the local communities have adopted the business plan, with clear expectations on their responsibilities for the development of a management system; local people have been trained to implement the system, with regard to quality coffee grading, and the community mobilised itself to repair and maintain the roads, making it possible to export the harvest. The negotiations involved in the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) between the government, civil society and the private sector have led to the adoption of a set of global guiding principles for sustainable oil palm plantations: In Indonesia WWF-Indonesia and Sawit Watch are facilitating consultations



Mapping exercise with villagers in Nanga Leboyan village in Danau Sentarum, West Kalimantan. CREDIT: © Hermayani Putra

with the government to convert the criteria into national law and policy. WWF-Indonesia and Sawit Watch have also worked with PwM and CELCOR in Papua New Guinea to improve the involvement of civil society and the government in the RSPO process.

In Sarawak communities have been fighting for rights to their lands for more than 25 years and with support from Sahabat Alam Malaysia, the case has been brought to court. Gaining government recognition of customary law is a struggle for communities across the region, which determines what type of livelihood strategies people adopt as access to natural resources becomes limited.

The Natureandpoverty* Programme affiliates continue to explore how synergistic alliances among organizations, serve to enhance their impact by matching their activities, exchanging their expertise, learning from each other and complementing their roles. Hence, allying a nature conservation approach with a social advocacy campaign or a business marketing plan in a synergistic partnership is a unique and promising avenue to extend the NGOs reach and

to gain strength, ideas and skills. Deep in the woods of Southeast Asia and the Pacific, social, development and environmental conservation NGOs are partnering, building mutual trust and learning to combine their strengths for more effective impact.

Be it among the NGOs of Southeast Asia and the Pacific or between NGOs from the North and South, synergy is a sophisticated process that evolves in steps:

1. Organizations have to become acquainted; this requires free flow of information, accountability and exchange of viewpoints and eventually this leads to trust and respect.
2. Identification of possibilities for collaboration by exchange on strategies and experiences.
3. Adoption of mutual strategies and experiences (cross-visits, joint training).
4. Identification of joint new (learning) activities.
5. The ability and willingness to adapt the (project) activities of one's organization for the benefit of the overall (Natureandpoverty*) programme.

6. Ensuring accountability between partners.
7. Changes in funding strategies among donors is a common reason why partnerships are not continued.

The Natureandpoverty* Programme, was an experiment in developing sustainable partnerships The recurring meetings among these northern NGOs and counterparts in Southeast Asia and the Pacific re-inforced each other's work and yielded valuable lessons, namely:

There is a need for forest communities in the region to share ideas and experiences on forest issues relating to efforts to halt illegal logging operations on their land as well as their efforts in developing alternative livelihood programmes.

It is crucial to develop viable alternatives for unsustainable approaches (logging, mining and oil palm plantation expansion). It is imperative that civil society studies alternatives to plantations and how to facilitate decision-making and long-term thinking on this matter. The challenge is to offer viable alternative livelihood options and community forestry development opportunities and



Friends from WWF Indonesia and WALHI in Denau Sentarum, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. CREDIT: © Hermayani Putra



NatureandPoverty Program partners meeting in Sarawak, Malaysia. CREDIT: © Abet Nego Tarigan

be prepared to also provide the means to implement such alternatives.

Community mapping projects are of crucial importance to the land rights struggle. By defining their land boundaries on a map, the communities can offer proof of the extent of their communal boundaries and their native customary land and thus assert their rights to it. Participatory maps and natural resource management planning developed by communities have proven to be a vital basis for an alternative regional planning process.

In specific cases (i.e. West Malaysia, Papua New Guinea [Lake Murray]), supporting and empowering local/indigenous community groups with legal assistance and skills' development has been extremely valuable in bringing the needs of community groups to governmental attention.

In general plantation workers' awareness of their legal rights in relation to employment and social security benefits is very low.

Inspiration for Action: Policy Recommendations

The successful ventures presented in this publication need to be amplified and replicated. More, much more is

also needed if we are going to make progress on nature and poverty matters. For instance:

Nature conservation NGOs need to encompass social advocacy approaches and support local communities in their forest-related undertakings.

Organizations that have experience in providing or implementing alternative livelihood programmes ought to document their experiences and disseminate them for analysis and possible replication.

To support strategic and systematic thinking on livelihood alternatives to plantations, a good sustainable livelihood analysis is needed. Activities towards building capacity for such an analysis need to be supported. Studies are required to increase knowledge and enhance analytical capacity to assess (sociocultural, economic and ecological) the impact of large-scale oil palm plantation development.

More marketing research is needed for the viable development of other NTFPs because poor communities cannot afford the costs of feasibility studies. Marketing research should be incorporated into PRSPs.

Synergy

Person A as well as person B is too short to pick an apple from a tree on his own. Once person B sits on the shoulders of person A, they together are tall enough to reach the apple. In this example the result of synergy is one apple. But who will eat the apple?

There is a need to increase awareness programmes to educate communities on their basic rights so they can defend their land and themselves from encroachment and to educate them on alternative uses to their lands.

The need for long-term involvement is rarely reflected in aid policies and subsequently NGOs and INGOs work on a short-term basis. Donor agencies need to increase support to national and local NGOs.

Collaboration between organizations with different mandates ought to be enabled so that each can contribute more effectively to achieving positive change by building on their respective institutional strengths.

Critical analysis of aid efficiency and its contribution to achieving the MDGs is needed.

It is important to note that, while the value of secure access rights has an effect at the local level, the institutional change that supports it generally comes from policies or laws enacted at a state or national levels. Addressing poverty reduction and the environment must work both at the local level — facilitating equitable decision-making and distribution of benefits within a community — and at wider policy levels — using

Peter van Sluijs, Friends of the Earth Netherlands:

"There is clear added-value to the partnering of non-traditionally allied NGOs: cross-fertilization of ideas and strengthening of capacities."

"If we lobby against the logging or conversion of primary tropical forests, we have the responsibility to provide those communities living in the forests with sustainable options for their livelihoods."

"Policy dialogue is instrumental in engaging governments and making them aware of the issues regarding rain forests: Governments need to get input in terms of how issues are best addressed, and this programme shows that sustainable environmental management is essential in securing any progress in poverty reduction."

"There is no blueprint for environmental sustainability or poverty reduction; we need to be very creative and address the needs and issues as they occur."

policy processes to provide supportive institutional mechanisms. Local action can be supported by different institutions: For instance, the communities of the Lake Murray region in Papua New Guinea were able to regain control over their customary lands through the help of CELCOR, a national NGO which fought on their behalf in the national courts.

Genuinely devolved and facilitated negotiation in decision-making is essential for empowering people to manage resources. This does not mean that there is no role for central authorities in setting standards or broad objectives for natural resource and land management. The problem is how to do this without undermining local decision-making and effective decentralization.

This publication has shown that there is a need to make decision-makers responsible for their decisions, without the constraint of too many detailed guidelines. If sound local decision-making is to be possible, local institutions must be developed and strengthened. While they need to be accountable upwards — in such matters as safeguards for environmental standards — they also need to be accountable downwards, to the people they genuinely represent. Developing institutions that represent the poor is difficult, especially because poverty is not a priority among local elites, but it is an essential step.

A simple example of a transforming structure or process might be a policy change in a case where forest-dwelling people are not permitted to harvest and sell timber. A change in laws governing tenure would enable them to turn a potential asset (or capital) into something useful for livelihoods (and poverty reduction). Another example is the development of a marketing structure to enable people to sell their products, such as honey, to international markets. Institutional arrangements are often transforming structures or processes.

Conservation has contributed to human well-being by safeguarding global public goods and by maintaining ecosystem services at regional and national levels. At times, however, it has also

contributed to local poverty by denying poor people control over and access to the natural resources that underpin their livelihoods. This has occurred both in protected areas and with nationalized resources, such as forest concessions, which often exclude use for local benefits in the name of conservation or natural resource management.

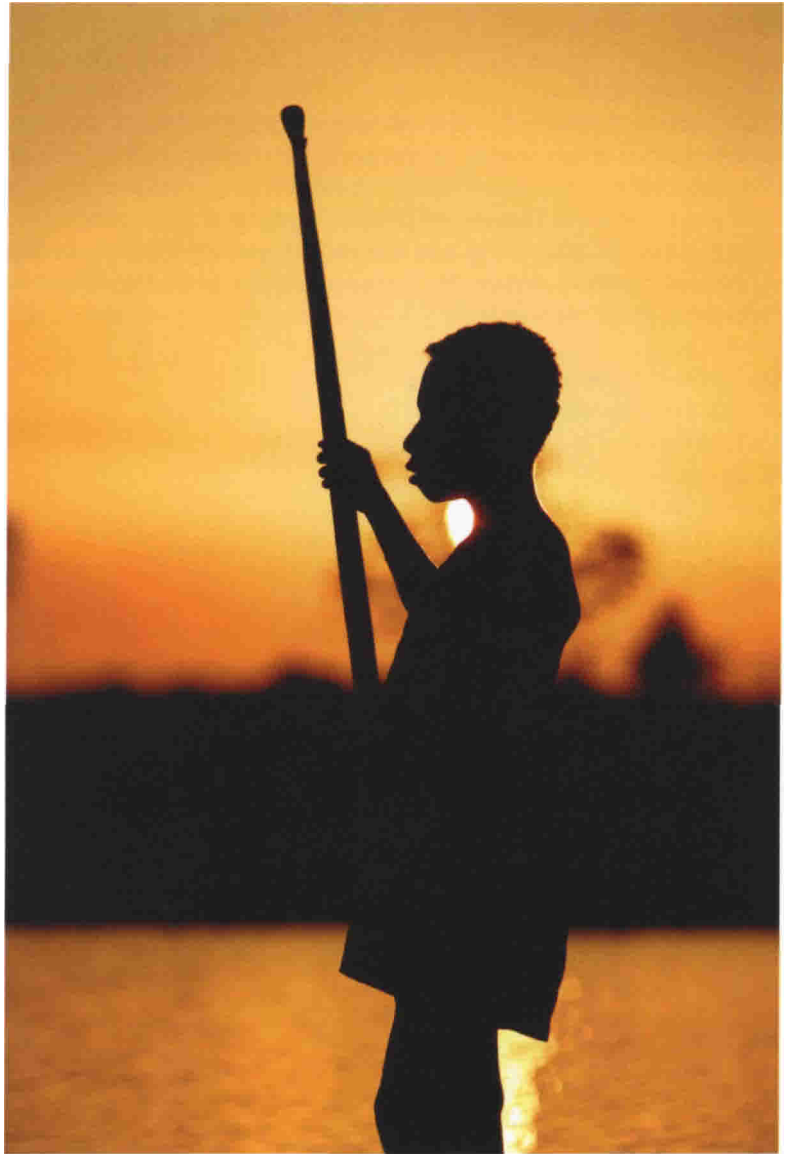
Conversely, while development cannot be achieved without economic growth, the overemphasis on economic development has in many instances undermined the environment in ways that affect the long-term benefits of development. Regardless of the benefits reaped at a larger scale, development has often occurred at a cost to the poorest people and the environment. Hence, the call to re-invigorate sustainable development presents major challenges to the development and conservation communities alike.

Having learned the lessons, the guiding vision for nature and poverty interventions lies in the need for corporate and governmental recognition of the community agenda for forest conservation and land rights; the need for informed consent and fair treatment of smallholders and plantation workers; and the need to build informed communities that make wise choices in the marketing of their resources.

The stories recounted in these pages inspire. But they seem too few and too slow. If under visionary domestic leadership local indigenous communities are going to empower themselves and choose to build sustainable livelihoods, they will need assistance.

If we are to make any substantial progress on achieving the MDGs, the lessons learnt in the plight of these communities need to be replicated and magnified, now. The NGOs that have delicately and painstakingly earned their trust are innovating to plan integrated approaches, amassing a wealth of knowledge and ideas along the way — precious lessons on the way forward. Their voices are echoing in the forests: Shall we stop and listen?

Local people, Papua New Guinea. Bensbach River, Papua New Guinea. Young boy in traditional dug-out canoe, near Bensbach tourist lodge, as sun sets over the Bensbach River, Western Province, Papua New Guinea. December 2004. CREDIT: © Brent Stirton / Getty Images / WWF-UK



Afterword

During a period when all countries are striving towards meeting their targets, as set forth by the MDGs, it is particularly timely for this publication to highlight the issues at play for the remaining expanses of rain forests in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Old growth rain forests are rich banks of biodiversity, of vital importance, especially to the local populations who have derived their livelihoods from them for thousands of years.

Given that our Northern markets are large consumers of tropical rain-forest products, we have a keen responsibility in refining our policies and market incen-

tive tools to support the sustainable harvesting of rain-forest materials. The field trip of the three Dutch MPs to the forests of Borneo in 2005 vividly highlighted the link between consumer behaviour in our countries and the destruction of tropical forests in the Asia-Pacific region. While the Dutch Parliament has adopted a motion to develop legislation for encouraging the import of sustainable palm oil into the Netherlands, we call upon other consumer countries to follow this initiative.

The anecdotes in this book are resounding accounts of hope, validating the

fact that development does not have to destroy the environment and livelihoods. On the contrary, when governments, businesses and civil society collaborate innovatively, we can produce harmonious achievements for the well-being of people and the global environment.

We congratulate the Dutch NGOs that have creatively engineered the framework for the Natureandpoverty* Programme, and salute the work of their counterparts in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, who are relentlessly toiling on the frontlines.

Annex 1. Profiles

Consumers' Association of Penang (CAP)

The Consumers' Association of Penang was established in 1970 to promote critical awareness and action among consumers in order to uphold their inherent rights and interests. CAP is a grassroots non-profit, NGO linking consumer issues with environment and development issues. It fights for the rights and interests of all consumers through research, educational and representational activities. It is dedicated to helping people become more responsible consumers and to protecting them from abuse and malpractice in the marketplace.

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Center for Environmental Law and Community Rights Inc. (CELCOR)

The Center for Environmental Law and Community Rights Inc. is a public interest NGO for law which was founded in February 2000. The main aim of CELCOR is to provide legal assistance to landowners affected by large-scale environmentally destructive projects including industrial logging, mining and oil palm plantation developments and to promote community-based natural resource management through the promotion of effective law and policies.

The Center for Environmental Law and Community Rights Inc. (CELCOR)

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Friends of the Earth Netherlands

Vereniging Milieudefensie/Friends of the Earth Netherlands is the Dutch branch of the international network, Friends of the Earth. The mission of Milieudefensie is to contribute to solving environmental problems and to conservation of cultural heritage, as well as to strive towards a sustainable society at global, national, regional and local levels, in its broadest sense.

As a non-profit environmental organization Milieudefensie carries out activities to: raise awareness on sustainability issues among key stakeholders in society; develop strategic concepts for sustainable development; and organize activities to promote the introduction and implementation of innovative measures to achieve sustainable development.

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IUCN — The World Conservation Union

Created in 1948, IUCN brings together 79 States, 114 government agencies, > 800 NGOs and some 10,000 scientists and experts from 181 countries in a unique worldwide partnership. IUCN's mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

IUCN is the world's largest environmental knowledge network and has helped over 75 countries to prepare and implement national conservation and biodiversity strategies. IUCN is a multicultural, multilingual organization with 1,000 staff located in 62 countries. Its headquarters are in Gland, Switzerland.

IUCN — The World Conservation Union

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The IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands (IUCN-NL) brings together the 35 Dutch members of IUCN to increase Dutch support for the protection and conservation of nature, to reduce the Dutch ecological footprint and to support civil society organizations in developing countries to undertake projects for the protection of our earth's natural resources.

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Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP)

The NTFP-EP is a collaborative network of NGOs and community-based organizations in South and Southeast Asia. The shared goal is to empower forest-based communities to make use of and manage forest resources in a sustainable manner. To this end, the NTFP-EP catalyses and supports activities that build up and strengthen the capacity of partner organizations in their work with forest-dependent communities, particularly indigenous peoples. Partner organizations, while respecting the integrity of cultural traditions, work together with communities in developing and implementing initiatives that meet local needs. The NTFP-EP strives to ensure that the benefits of these initiatives are equally enjoyed by young and old and by both men and women.

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www.ntfp.org

Partners with Melanesians Inc. (PwM)

PwM was conceived by staff and students of the Language and Literature Department at the University of Papua New Guinea in 1985. Initially, PwM was set up to support groups and communities who were involved in education and development initiatives in rural communities of Papua New Guinea. As time progressed, PwM started work on the Managalas Plateau of the Oro Province in what has come to be regarded as one of the best models of community mobilization and community development work for conservation in the country. PwM is now embarking on a new strategy whereby it works hand in hand with the local community on capacity building, training and promoting eco-enterprises activities for income generation as part of the larger conservation effort. Using the Managalas experience, PwM plans to expand to other new sites in Papua New Guinea starting in 2008.

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Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM)

Sahabat Alam Malaysia was registered as a society in 1977 under the Societies Act of Malaysia. SAM is a grassroots, community-focused NGO championing environment and development issues. Its activities include educating the general public on the need for ecologically sound development; assisting communities which have been adversely affected by so-called development; and advocating for a development model that is ecologically sustainable, socially just and fulfils the human needs of the majority. SAM operates out of Penang and Marudi, in Sarawak, and works together with communities throughout Peninsula Malaysia and parts of Sarawak.

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Sawit Watch

The Sawit Watch Association is an Indonesian organization that aims to counterbalance the uncontrolled expansion of large-scale oil palm plantations. Since 1998, the secretariat has built a network of 50 local partners who work directly with around 75 affected communities (approximately 40,000 families) throughout Indonesia. The Sawit Watch Association secretariat (15 staff) in Bogor has also built up partnerships with individual representatives in Indonesia as well as in Europe.

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WAHLI

The Indonesian Forum for Environment (WALHI - Friends of the Earth Indonesia) is the largest forum of non-government and community-based organisations in Indonesia. It is represented in 25 provinces and has over 438 member organisations (as of June 2004). It stands for social transformation, peoples sovereignty, and sustainability of life and livelihoods. WALHI works to defend Indonesia's natural world and local communities from injustice carried out in the name of economic development.

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World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

The WWF is one of the world's largest environmental conservation organizations. The organization builds concrete conservation solutions through a combination of field based projects, policy initiatives, capacity building and education work. The WWF wants to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

- Conserving the world's biological diversity.
- Ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable.
- Promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

Established in 1961, the WWF operates in more than 100 countries working for a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. Currently the WWF is funding around 2,000 conservation projects and employs almost 4,000 people across the planet.

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Annex 2. The Official Dutch Motion for Parliament

Dutch Motion for Parliament

Motion nr. 20 (30305)

Proposed May 18, 2006

Van der Ham, Dittrich, Hessels, Ormel en Huizinga-Heringa

Adjustment of the Electricity Law 1998 in relation to modifications in the way of promoting environmental quality of the energy supply.

The Second Chamber hearing the consultation,

Considering the need for a speedily transition to a more sustainable energy provision and acknowledging that certain biofuels can offer good contributions for this.

Considering the fact that palm oil as such does have good potential to be used as a bio-fuel, but recognising that productivity of palm oil decreases after 20 years, its negative effect on the direct environment and knowing that expansion often negatively impacts local populations and labour rights of plantation workers.

Observing that vast areas in the tropical forest of Borneo are severely endangered, where logging will take place to sell the timber and convert the land into palm oil plantations, as shown in recent plans of the Indonesian government to convert areas in and around the heart of Borneo; an area larger than that of the Netherlands.

Considering that approximately one third of palm oil producing and importing companies world-wide have joined the Round Table for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) which has developed sustainability-criteria on the basis of which unsustainable palm oil can be identified.

Observing that as a result of a growing world-wide demand for palm oil the volume needed by far exceeds the available landmass for palm oil cultivation, which results in a disproportionate pressure on the biodiversity in tropical land areas where palm oil is cultivated.

Concluding that Indonesia is one of the world's largest exporters of palm oil and the Netherlands one of the largest importers, requests the government to develop an instruments based on RSPO-criteria in collaboration with private sector and non-governmental organisations to come to a comprehensive approach to exclude palm oil, also in the energy sector, that is not produced according to RSPO-criteria.

Requests the government, to continue to support initiatives that contribute to the preservation of the remaining rainforests and indigenous way of existence, amongst others by means of supporting the dialogue with the Indonesian authorities on land rights issues and viable economical alternatives for large scale palm oil production.

This motion is proposed by the members Van der Ham, Dittrich, Hessels, Ormel en Huizinga-Heringa. It has been given nr. 20 (30 305)

Annex 3. Code of Conduct for Members of The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

It is fundamental to the integrity, credibility and continued progress of the RSPO that every member supports, promotes and works towards the production, procurement and use of Sustainable Palm Oil. All Ordinary and Affiliate Members must act in good faith towards this objective and commit to adhering to the principles set out in this Code. This Code applies to all Ordinary and Affiliate Members of the RSPO with respect to their activities in the palm oil sector and its derivatives.

1. Promotion and Commitment

1.1 Member organisations will acknowledge their membership of the RSPO, its objectives, statutes and by-laws, the Principle and Criteria (P&C) and its respective national interpretations and implementation process through informed and explicit endorsement.

1.2 Members will promote and communicate this commitment throughout its own organisation and to its customers, suppliers, sub-contractors and wider value chains where necessary.

1.3 Membership of the RSPO must be endorsed by a senior representative of the member organisation.

2. Transparency, reporting and claims

2.1 Members will not make any misleading or unsubstantiated claims about the production, procurement or use of sustainable palm oil.

2.2 Members are required to report annually on progress against this Code.

2.3 Members will commit to open and transparent engagement with interested parties, and actively seek resolution of conflict.

3. Implementation

3.1 Members to whom the P&C apply will work towards implementation and certification of the P&C.

3.2 Members to whom the P&C do not apply directly will implement parallel standards relevant to their own organisation, which cannot be lower than those set out in the P&C.

3.3 Members are responsible for ensuring that their commitment to the objectives of the RSPO is underpinned by adequate resources within its organisation.

3.4 Relevant personnel within member organisations will be provided appropriate information that will enable them to work towards the objectives of the RSPO in their work.

3.5 Members will share with other members experience in the design and implementation of activities to support sustainable palm oil.

3.6 Members to whom the P&C do not directly apply will actively seek to promote sustainable palm oil and will give support to those members engaged in implementing the RSPO P&C.

4. Pricing and incentives

4.1 Members procuring palm oil will integrate implementation and independent verification of the P&C as a positive performance measure when assessing supplier performance.

4.2 Members will adhere strictly to the RSPO anti-trust guidelines, and refrain from any behaviour which can be construed as anti-competitive practice.

5. Breaches of this Code

5.1 Members will seek to resolve grievances directly with other member organisations in a timely fashion, and will not make unsubstantiated allegations of breaches against other members.

5.2 Breaches of this Code, or the by-laws and statutes of the RSPO may lead to exclusion from the organisation.

5.3 Prior to taking public action in cases of unresolved allegations of breaches of this Code, members will report breaches to the Executive Board, which will deal with the alleged breaches in accordance with the RSPO Grievance Procedure.

5.4 Executive Board Members who are found, after due inquiry, to have breached the Code, will be replaced.

Note: We have made every effort to ensure that the translations of this Code of Conduct are as complete and accurate as possible. However, please note that it is the English language documents which should be treated as the official versions.

Annex 4. Facts

"A country could cut its forests and deplete its fisheries, and this would show only as a positive gain to GDP, despite the loss of capital assets. If the full economic value of ecosystems were taken into account in decision-making, their degradation could be significantly slowed down or even reversed."

<http://www.greenfacts.org/ecosystems/> - Point 3.2

"Levels of poverty remain high, and over one billion people have an income of less than \$1 per day. Most of these people are very dependent on ecosystems, because they support themselves mainly through agriculture, grazing and hunting. The regions facing the greatest developmental challenges tend to be those having the greatest ecosystem-related problems."

<http://www.greenfacts.org/ecosystems/> - Point 3.3

"Changes in policy can decrease many of the negative consequences of growing pressures on ecosystems. However, the actions needed for this are much larger than those currently taken. Most ecosystem services have already suffered, but the damage would have been even greater without the conservation actions taken so far."

<http://www.greenfacts.org/ecosystems/> - Point 8.1

"Environmental sustainability is the foundation on which strategies for achieving all the other MDGs must be built, because environmental degradation is causally linked to problems of poverty, hunger, gender inequality and health."

UN Millennium Project, 2005

<http://www.undp.org/pei/pdfs/SustainingEnvironmentFightPoverty.pdf>

"The loss of services derived from ecosystems is a significant barrier to the achievement of the MDGs."

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005

<http://www.undp.org/pei/pdfs/SustainingEnvironmentFightPoverty.pdf>

In 1990, more than 1.2 billion people - 28 per cent of the developing world's population - lived in extreme poverty. By 2002, the proportion decreased to 19 per cent.

United Nations, The MDG Report 2006, p. 4

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2006/MDGReport2006.pdf>

Deforestation, primarily the conversion of forests to agricultural land, continues at an alarmingly high rate - about 13 million hectares per year. The current net loss is equivalent to about 200 square kilometres per day.

United Nations, The MDG Report 2006, p. 16 & 17

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2006/MDGReport2006.pdf>

IUCN

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