

# Forest Partnerships

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

Edited by Maria Osbeck and Marisha Wojciechowska-Shibuya



The designation of geographical entities in this report, and the presentation of the material, do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IUCN concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of IUCN.

Published by: The World Conservation Union (IUCN), Asia Regional Office

Copyright: © 2007 International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources  
Reproduction of this publication for educational or other non-commercial purposes is authorized without prior written permission from the copyright holder provided the source is fully acknowledged.  
Reproduction of this publication for resale or other commercial purposes is prohibited without prior written permission of the copyright holder.

Citation: Osbeck, M., Wojciechowska-Shibuya, M. (Eds) (2007). Forest Partnerships. Enhancing local livelihoods and protecting the environment in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. IUCN, Bangkok, Thailand. 48pp.

ISBN: 978-2-8317-1011-2

Cover design by: IUCN Asia Regional Office

Cover photos: - 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

Layout by: Michael Dougherty

Produced by: IUCN Asia Regional Office

Printed by: Bangkok Post Publishing Co.Ltd.

Available from: The World Conservation Union (IUCN)  
Asia Regional Office  
63, Soi Prompong, Sukhumvit 39  
Wattana, Bangkok 10110 Thailand  
Tel: +662 662 4029  
Fax: +662 662 4388  
Email: [iucn@iucn.org](mailto:iucn@iucn.org)  
<http://iucn.org/asia>

# Forest Partnerships

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

Edited By Maria Osbeck and Marisha Wojciechowska-Shibuya

## Contents

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations . . . . .	5
Acknowledgements . . . . .	6
Foreword . . . . .	7
Executive Summary . . . . .	8
Nature and Poverty:How to Make the World a Better Place . . . . .	11
Indonesia . . . . .	18
Case Study: Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods in Danau Sentarum National Park, West Kalimantan — the Case of Wild Honey Bees . . . . .	20
Best Practice: Major Indonesian NGOs Join Forces to Contribute to an International Standard of Sustainability for Palm Oil Plantations . . . . .	23
Malaysia . . . . .	24
Case Study: The Story of Ubra and the People of Uma Bawang . . . . .	26
Best Practice: Influencing Palm Oil Trade Policy in the Netherlands . . . . .	28
Papua New Guinea . . . . .	30
Case Study: The Kiunga–Aiambak Road Project, Lake Murray, Papua New Guinea . . . . .	32
Best Practice: Managalas Organic Coffee Project in Papua New Guinea . . . . .	35
Synergy in Action . . . . .	36
Afterword . . . . .	41
Annex 1. Profiles . . . . .	42
Annex 2. The Official Dutch Motion for Parliament . . . . .	46
Annex 3. Code of Conduct for Members of The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil . . . . .	47
Annex 4. Facts . . . . .	49

## 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

## 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 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 BUTER

**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 watershed<sup>8</sup>. 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.

<sup>8</sup> The Kapuas River is 1,143 km long and the watershed is 85,200 km<sup>2</sup> 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 DNSP 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<sup>†</sup>. 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.

<sup>†</sup>For the complete Code, see Annex 3  
Source: [rspo.org](http://rspo.org)