

Beyond Wood : the value of non-timber forest products

A workshop for young foresters to be held at the Eden Project, Cornwall, UK 2-5 December 2004



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Sponsors

Commonwealth Forestry Association

International Forestry Students Association

Eden Project

Background

Over 150 non-timber forest products (NTFPs) such as roots, bark, fruit, latex and fungi, are traded by forest-dwelling people throughout the world. In many countries these resources are critical, especially for the rural poor and women, and may provide them with their only source of personal income, medicine, construction material, and dietary variety. In contrast, in other countries the potential of NTFPs to provide income and maintain indigenous knowledge remains largely under-exploited. However, there remain differences of opinion concerning the best way to utilise NTFPs to improve the livelihoods of rural poor, whilst protecting biodiversity and ensuring sustainability. This presents a challenge to forest managers, ecologists, socio-economists and policy level decision makers.

Workshop objective

To increase awareness amongst young foresters (both students and young professionals) of the importance of NTFPs and the complex nature of their conservation, development and utilisation.

Lessons learned will enable these forest managers of the future to give a high priority to responsible and sustainable forest management, give due concern to the people who depend on the forest for their livelihood and open up new resources to communities and First Nations.

Participants

Students and young professional foresters from around Europe. (It is recognised that for such a short workshop it is unrealistic to expect to attract participants from other continents).

Teachers

Internationally-renowned experts on NTFPs from FAO, Oxford University, ODI and other UK-based institutions. We are fortunate in the UK that we have many internationally respected researchers and practitioners in the field of NTFPs with experience from around the world. The lack of need to fly in speakers from around the world will ensure that the workshop is cost-effective.

Workshop structure

A mixture of lectures, discussions, presentations and field trips.

The organisers

The **Commonwealth Forestry Association*** supports the wise management of forests throughout the world and the professional development of foresters.

The **International Forestry Students Association** promotes co-operation among forestry students, and establishes links with other international organisations in areas such as forestry, environmental protection, higher education, economy and social development

The **Eden Project** is an internationally famous centre for illustrating the relationship between people and plants.

Photo: Harvesting Pita in Oaxaca, Mexico (Elaine Marshall)

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