

BOOK LAUNCH AND FORUM

**Steps to Sustainable and Community-Based NTFP Management:
A manual written with special reference to South and Southeast Asia**



A forum organised by the
Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme
for South and Southeast Asia
through the
Non-Timber Forest Products Task Force

With Dr. Mary Stockdale
FMB Conference Room
DENR, Visayas Ave.
Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
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Book Launch and Forum. Steps towards sustainable and community-based management of NTFPs: a manual with special reference to South and Southeast Asia

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1 Programme

2:00 PM	Registration	<i>Ms. Annie Paleracio</i>
2:15 PM	Opening Remarks	<i>For. Neria Andin</i> <i>Assistant Director, FMB</i>
2:30 PM	Objectives of the book presentation/forum	<i>Mr. Jenne de Beer</i> <i>Executive Director, NTFP-EP</i>
2:45 PM	Introduction of Participants	<i>Ms. Tes Matibag</i>
3:00 PM	Presentation on NTFP-EP	<i>Ms. Aloisa Zamora-Santos</i>
3:15 PM	Introduction of Dr. Stockdale	<i>Mr. Jenne de Beer</i>
3:20 PM	Book Presentation	Dr. Mary Stockdale
4:00 PM	Coffee Break/Snacks	
4:15 PM	Open Forum	<i>Ms. Tes Matibag</i>
4:45 PM	Synthesis and potential steps forward	<i>Ms. Maria Cristina S. Guerrero</i> <i>Deputy Director, NTFP-EP</i>
5:00 PM	Closing Remarks	<i>Benedicto Sánchez</i> <i>BIND, NTFP-TF Partner</i>

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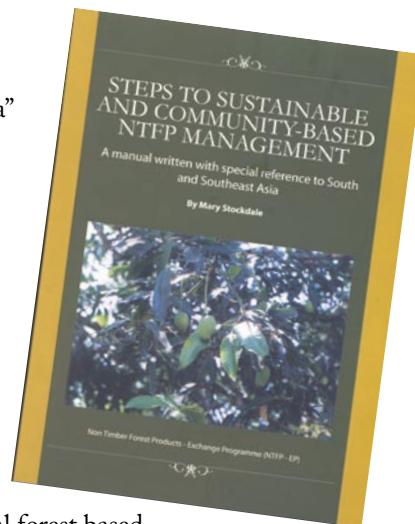
Overview

About the Manual

Steps to Sustainable and Community-based NTFP Management: A manual written with special reference to South and Southeast Asia” provides a systematic guide to documenting and evaluating existing NTFP management systems of local communities. It explores approaches that could complement traditional management systems.

It is a practical guide to working with a community towards sustainable NTFP management and describes a step-by-step process by which a community can develop, implement and monitor a plan towards sustainable NTFP use.

It is meant for use of those working with local forest based communities, whether they are community members, NGO representatives or government personnel. It would be useful for DENR, NCIP and NGOs as a resource book for their training and fieldwork



About the Author

Dr. Mary Stockdale conducts research, training and teaching on community-based management of Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) resources and associated topics. Dr. Stockdale is a founding Director of the NGO LAPIS (Land and People Information Sharing) and is affiliated with both the School for Environmental Studies at University of Victoria and the Centre for Non-Timber Forest Resources at Royal Roads University.

Although based in Victoria, BC, Canada, most of her work has been carried out in Southeast Asia, particularly in Indonesia and Philippines.

Her background includes a PhD and post-doctorate research fellowship at the Oxford Forestry Institute, University of Oxford, UK, followed by a position as Co-Manager at a new, interdisciplinary Center for Social Forestry (CSF) at the University of Mulawarman in Samarinda, East Kalimantan, Indonesia.

3 Objectives of the Presentation/Forum

Jenne de Beer
NTFP-EP Executive Director

Even in its seminal stages of writing, there had been great interest in this manual. With its release within the NTFP-EP network, the interest in the manual has grown over the past year. To make it more relevant to the work of organisations across the region, already there are plans to translate it into Bahasa Indonesia as well as local Indian languages. It will likewise be adapted in Spanish, through the CIFOR.

Along with the formal launch of the manual, the forum is held as a means of sharing of experience especially in assessment and monitoring in the Philippines within the larger issue of ancestral domain management.

In the areas of sustainable harvesting and marketing, there are many examples of what works best for communities given the constraints of limited budgets and resources. With the emphasis on NTFPs, other forms of assistance are needed as compared to merely timber management. Existing are simple monitoring systems with a maximum community involvement - these best practices need to be compiled and disseminated to others in the hopes that other countries may learn from the Philippine experience.

4 Presentation Summary

Refer to full Powerpoint presentation starting page 23.

“Steps to Sustainable and Community-based NTFP Management” was presented on January 23, 2006 by Dr. Mary Stockdale of the University of Victoria, BC, Canada. Dr. Stockdale’s presentation covered three points: how her manual on Steps to Sustainable and Community-based NTFP Management was developed, its contents and some examples of sustainable community-based NTFP management in South and Southeast Asia.

The manual was the result of two visits to the Philippines: the first of which was in December 2002, when Dr. Stockdale attended a workshop in Negros Occidental on participatory NTFP mapping and inventory. The second visit to the country was in September 2003, during a regional meeting on assessment and monitoring of NTFPs in Nueva Viscaya. Several objections were raised during these meetings, namely: quantitative assessment and monitoring methods mentioned were too costly, time-consuming and difficult, NTFPs are not timber, and local people should be consulted regarding sustainable NTFP management.

The manual covers the principles and the seven-step process of sustainable and community-based NTFP management, as well as some examples from India, Indonesia and the Philippines.

The Principles are as follows:

- 1) Consider the entire NTFP management system;
- 2) Promote community participation;
- 3) Integrate scientific and local knowledge; and
- 4) Apply adaptive management.

On the other hand, the Seven-Step Process involves:

- 1) Identifying the NTFPs and the community who are to manage them;
- 2) Determining the community’s goals for NTFP management;
- 3) Documenting the community’s existing management system;
- 4) Evaluating the existing system’s potential for sustainability;
- 5) Incorporating new approaches to management;
- 6) Developing a plan for sustainable management; and
- 7) Implementing and monitoring the management plan.

Dr. Stockdale gave examples of sustainable and community-based NTFP management in several Asian countries, underscoring the fact that “the diversity of solutions for NTFP management reflects the diversity of contexts in which NTFPs are found” and that creativity, knowledge and skills of people involved are the most valuable resources to draw upon.

She concluded her talk by citing several concerns that should be addressed in the future, namely: 1) how to evaluate whether local knowledge on NTFP management from communities has been recognized and utilized, 2) determining if government extension systems and policies support local knowledge, 3) how to move from a timber-based management framework to one suited to communities and NTFPs, and 4) how do stakeholders work together to achieve sustainable and community-based management of NTFPs.

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Question and Answer

On Forest Resource Assessment

Dir. Andin and **For. Andres (DENR)** share that there has been a Forest Resources Assessment conducted by the DENR. The FRA reveals composition of forest stand, species, status of land use, etc. However, there is data available only for rattan and bamboo. Rattan species are those only within our forestlands; there is no data outside of forestland.

For the FRA, data was derived from 395 sampling plots (tracts 1km x km) in the Philippines from which where data came from. Two (2) tracts (at least) in Mindoro.

More data on FRA is available under the JICA project.

On Inventory

Crissy Guerrero (NTFP-EP) reiterated the demands - in terms of time, cost and capacity - behind BIND's experience of conducting inventory. The 5% is based on a timber bias. Are there alternatives other than inventory, as based on experiences in the field?

Responses:

Obet Oliveros stressed that the 5% is based on existing inventory. Other inventory methods can be used but there is nothing specific yet for NTFPs.

Joey Austria (DENR) answered that "we are in a bind right now" stressing that while inventories are recognized for timber, communities are constrained because of the associated costs of doing the inventory. He stresses, however, that finding out how much resources available and finding these said resources to undertake inventories should be the function of government. Government has no right to say not to do inventory, but admit that it is a very costly exercise for communities using NTFPs. These communities are not comparable to mining communities.

Benedicto Sanchez (BIND) said that funders are complaining that too much money is going into for research (of which inventories are a part). However, he questions how can communities go forward without the basic information that this research generates.

Mary Stockdale admits that "we don't have any final answers." The basic question to ask would be: WHY are we doing inventory, and that is to calculate annual allowable

cut (AAC). But take the example of cinnamon where bark is used. Whether harvesting is done by taking a little bit from each tree, or killing entire trees, the AAC does not reflect this. This being said, inventories have limitations.

This is where self-regulation and government must come in to monitor if resources are sustainably harvested using the best knowledge/practices. Another idea, a low-cost method, is to monitor regeneration only.

Lourdes Wagan asked how to get the most out of the inventory while assuring that resources are sustainably managed. She believes that there should be an option from the offset. At the same time, there should also be replanting!

Opena (FMB-CLASP) backed up Ms. Wagan, saying that a basic question WHY to undertake an inventory - is it merely for regulatory process (permitting, collection of forest charges)?

She expressed her surprise at not having best practices for inventory of NTFPs, given that NTFPs have long been recognized as forest resources!

She also raised the issue of how to recognize and identify NTFPs (see bullet 2 in Mary Stockdale's presentation), and how can we evaluate whether local communities own local knowledge has been recognized and utilized.

NTFPs recognized as forest resources

Opena believes that NTFPs have been overlooked and that a first step would be to how to make an inventory of other lesser known NTFPs in the Philippines.

Aida Lapis explains that when we mention NTFPs, we are talking about a wide variety of products. The basic issue is the identification of NTFPs. It would be useful if there were research work that we could refer to and manuals that highlight NTFPs potential and economic value.

Jenne de Beer responded that there is existing research information on this. A springboard would be Brown's work for NTFPs in Philippines. De Beer stresses that what is more relevant would be research on traditional and non-traditional practices harvesting of major NTFPs such as rattan and almaciga. A question to raise is whether harvesting practices actually follow the guidelines in the manual we are presenting today.

Capacity building and marketing

Domingo Bacalla feels that there should be more stress on capacity building and marketing support for NTFPs (which were highlighted in the 4 points under future questions in Mary Stockdale's presentation). Mr. Bacalla, from a more pragmatic viewpoint, wanted to know how we could work together, especially in CBFM areas. In the existing guidelines for CBFM, such concerns have to be indicated in workplans.

He opined that while harvesting is an important aspect, value addition and marketing support are two critical areas where CBFM communities so that they may develop and utilize CBFM areas.

Issues of sustainability

Nelson Gorospe raises the question "Is it possible for CBFM projects to be sustainable without harvesting of timber and for communities to rely primarily on NTFPs?"

(Mangyan Mission) clarifies whether the CBFM is inside ancestral domain area. He opined that the question that begs to be answered is whether NCIP asks community whether can give the CBFM area to the outsiders. It is silly to even ask this question because the IPRA says that the IP should decide!

In response to the above question, yes but not necessary to use timber, but can rely on NTFPs. The setting of the AAC only means replacing what was actually cut.

Who shoulders the cost?

Nelson Gorospe raised Sec. Ignacio's question: "How can we make community-based NTFP management sustainable without government putting in money?"

Joey Austria retorted that this is a very unfair question. We ask the community to protect the forest and it is only right that they should get something from it. Government should provide the necessary services to the communities; this in itself is a recognition of the community taking on the crucial role of protection. Moreover, provision of services is a government mandate.

Nelson Gorospe clarifies that he was referring to subcontracting.

CBFM as a national strategy

Domingo Bacalla emphasizes that CBFM has been existing for some time (since the 1970s), ISF (community-managed) – in these areas – no cutting of timber – but are still surviving, but have been improving

(ACB) states that there has been much discussion on best practices. However, do we have same definitions of "sustainable" and "best practices"- what are criteria, how do we define sustainable management?

Dir. Andin reiterates that CBFM is a national strategy. While there are already tools in place and there are attempts at harmonizing processes, a starting point would have to be levelling off on definitions.

- ◆ Trying to adapt indicators to assess level of sustainability
- ◆ Statistics information system – complement
- ◆ Tools: FRA, science-based information where we anchor planning, etc.
- ◆ Model sites: Nueva Vizcaya, Samar
- ◆ Harnessing science – at local, regional and national levels – welcome working together
- ◆ Present here: Research sector, policy, FMB + other stakeholders

She ended by saying that every Tuesday, the DENR holds discussions on various topics. It would be highly relevant to have a discussion on NTFPs and extends the invitation to the NTFP-TF to join the said discussions.

6 Steps Forward

Crissy Guerrero summed up that there are three ways to continue work being done on NTFPs:

- ◆ Rattan, AO 4 – 1989 – propose that we review and look at points for integration of local knowledge
- ◆ Other protocols for other NTFPs other than rattan
- ◆ Manual testing – May 2006 – invitation to DENR

Jenne de Beer stressed that the NTFP-EP is most willing to collaborate in setting up a database of best practices and database of NTFPs (in response to ACB)

Crissy suggested that the Venn diagram showing the intersection of various concerns may serve as a good way of summarizing all our concerns.

- ◆ even donors are complaining about the costs
- ◆ getting away from timber bias
- ◆ definitions and objectives of sustainability
- ◆ regeneration plots – to be tested
- ◆ identifying NTFPs, practices, among others, and learning from these
- ◆ we welcome the invitation from DENR

Benedicto Sanchez, as representative of an NTFP-EP partner organisation, extended his thanks to those that participated in the discussion. He stressed that these discussions should continue not only at the local but at the national and international levels as well. The bigger picture is that all our experiences have international significance because of the desire to meet millennium development goals. The forum is but a first step, and he expressed his hope all could come together again to share their knowledge, expertise and experience.

7 Photos



Jenne de Beer (NTFP-EP), Joey Austria (DENR) and Dr. Mary Stockdale



Forum participants came from various government agencies, such as the DENR and NCIP, as well as from various NGOs.



Asst. Dir. Neria Andin and Dr. Mary Stockdale



Asst. Dir. Andin welcomes participants to the book launch/forum.



NTFP-EP Executive Director Jenne de Beer explains the objectives of the activity and the relevance of the manual.



Aloisa Zamora-Santos of the NTFP-EP provides an overview of the organization.



Dr. Mary Stockdale introduces the manual, explaining that it was the offshoot of a field workshop held in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya in 2003.



Ms. Tes Matibag opens for floor for questions ...



... and a discussion ensues.



... the realities of NTFP management and implementing the manual in the field are brought to the fore.



Benedicto Sanchez of NTFP-EP partner BIND thanks participants for their participation in the forum.



The manual is signed by Dr. Stockdale for Dr. Aida Lapiz of the ARCBC

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Powerpoint Presentations