Human Health and Forests - at CIFOR & Beyond

Carol J. Pierce Colfer, Patricia Shanley, Edmond Dounias
Center for International Forestry Research, Bogor, Indonesia
Outline of Presentation

- Phases of General Health-related Research at CIFOR
- Country Specific Efforts – Brazil
- Country Specific Efforts - Indonesia
First Phase - Literature Review
(Main Issues)

- Nutritional – forest foods
- Diseases
- Traditional medicines, practitioners
- Culture - indigenous knowledge and mental health

Second Phase: A book

**Human Health and Forests: A Global Overview of Issues, Practice and Policy** - 3 parts

- Syntheses (8)
- Cases (4)
- Health care delivery (3)
Syntheses

- Human health and forests: an overview (Butler)
- Health, habitats and medicinal plant use (Cunningham, Shanley & Laird)
- The nutritional role of forest plant foods for rural communities (Vinceti, Eyzaguirre & Johns)
- Wood, the fuel that warms you thrice (Smith)
Syntheses (cont.)

- Forest women, health, and childbearing (Colfer, Dudley & Gardner)
- The gender agenda and tropical forest diseases (Allotey, Gyapong & Colfer)
- Bat-borne viral diseases (Gonzalez et al.)
- Deforestation and malaria: revisiting the human ecology perspective (Pattanayak & Yasuoka)
Cases (4)

- The subversive links between HIV/AIDS and the forest sector (Lopez)
- Forest disturbance and health risks to the Yanomami (Gómez)
- Biodiversity, environment and health among rainforest dwellers: An evolutionary perspective (Froment)
- Sociocultural dimensions of diet and health in forest dwellers’ systems (Dounias, with Colfer)
Health Care Delivery (3)

- National public health initiatives that integrate traditional medicine (Fowler)
- Approaching conservation thru health (Ali)
- Hidden suffering on the island of Siberut, West Sumatra (Persoon)
Third Phase – National/International Workshops

- 4 country level meetings on health and forests (Brazil, Cameroon, Ethiopia, & Indonesia) – 2007

- 3 international policymakers’ dialogues (Sweden, Switzerland, USA) in 2008
Purposes of Meetings

- To identify country-level concerns about health and forests
- To facilitate sharing among sectors and disciplines on the topic
- To stimulate action at the national and international level (e.g., policy changes, financing, collaboration among stakeholders)
Clip from video shown at Indonesia country level workshop – *Cerita Pak Burung*, filmed by Yayan Indriatmoko
International Involvements

- Special Session at 2005 IUFRO World Forestry Congress, Brisbane, Australia
- Involvement in the CGIAR’s ‘Agriculture and Health’ group (in 2006 and 2007)
- Contribution to the ETFRN on Forests and Millenium Development Goals
- Participation in COHAB 2008
Overall Goals of CIFOR’s Country-Specific, Health-related Research have been to:

- Improve livelihoods by decreasing vulnerability
- Enhance health and nutritional status and decrease susceptibility to disease
- Empower the disadvantaged (gender focus)
- Bring attention to: “Conflict of Use Species” - fruits & medicines logged for timber, Cultural issues
Country specific projects: Brazil

- *Valuable and Vulnerable Species*: promoting sustainable management and collection of forest foods and medicines from tree species.
- Ecological and market studies of nationally traded tree fruit and medicinal species
- “Conflict of use” – all are logged for timber
- All represent important sources of nutrition and health care to rural and urban families
Country Specific Studies – Brazil

Valuable and Vulnerable Species: promoting sustainable management and collection of forest foods and medicines from tree species (Patricia Shanley et al.)

- Promote sustainable management and use of forest foods & medicines (*and awareness of non-economic benefits)
- Bring together modern and traditional health care systems and disseminate locally relevant health care information
Conflict of Use: Ipe and Jatoba sold as timber are at risk for medicinal use.

Bark is used locally and internationally to combat tumors, inflammations, and skin diseases.

1 year: 8 tons of bark sold in 7 leading stores.

10 years: 75 cubic meters exported from Belem.
Long term studies in Malinau, East Kalimantan
(Edmond Dounias, Douglas Sheil, et al.)

- Studies of symbolic meanings of food
- Assessments of nutritional and health status in collaboration with *Médecins du Monde* (*also Help Doctors with other forest-dwellers/other places*) – with some treatment
- Comparisons of health status of different ethnic groups living in different conditions
- Assessments of medicinal plant knowledge (MLA)
Country specific studies - Indonesia

- Experimental studies in Danau Sentarum, West Kalimantan (Linda Yuliani, Yayan Indriatmoko and Seselia Ernawati)

- Efforts to catalyze partnerships and collective action between women and youth

- Partnership with NGOs and local communities to address water quality issues and access to medicines

- Development of local policy briefs on orchids and more hygienic use of area under longhouses
CIFOR’s Advantages

- Network of research sites & international researchers
- Experience with multi-sectoral, transdisciplinary work
- Spans scales and promote communication – local community level to policy & regions
Useful Websites

http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/Research/Livelihoods/MainActivities/ForestHealth/index.htm

http://www.cifor.org

http://www.id21.org/nr/s2ed1g1.html

http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/8572/fr/

http://www.etfrn.org/etfrn/resource/news.html
Thanks for your attention and I look forward to our discussion!