



Non-Timber Forest Products Organization

Annual Progress Report

January to December 2010

Contact information - Non-Timber Forest Products Organization (NTFP)

Web: www.ntfp-cambodia.org

Email: edntfp@ntfp-cambodia.org

NTFP Main Office

Village 4, Sangkat Labanseak

Banlung, Ratanakiri Prov.

CAMBODIA

Tel: (855) 75 974 039

P.O. Box 89009

NTFP Sub-office (Phnom Penh)

190A, Street 155

Sangkat Toul Tompoung 1

Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA

Tel: (855) 023 309 009

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List of Acronyms

3SPN	3 Srepok Seansan Network
ANV	Active Non-Violence
CANDO	Cambodian Agricultural Non-Timber Forest Products Dev. Organization
CARE	International NGO; NTFP partner on education
CBO	Community-based Organization
CC	Commune Councilor
CCC	Cooperation Committee for Cambodia
CEDAC	Centre d' Etude et de Development Agricole Cambodgien
CF	Community Forestry
CLEC	Community Legal Education Centre
CLP	Community-led Project
CM	Co-management
CORD	Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (CORD)
CPA	Community Protected Area
CPAC	Community Protected Area Committee
DoE	District of Education
DPA	Development and Partnership in Action
EISEI	Extractive Industry Social Environment Impact
HA	Highlander Association
IADC	Indigenous People for Agriculture Development in Cambodia
ICC	International Cooperation in Cambodia
ICSO	Indigenous Community Support Organization
ILO	International Labor Organization
IOM	International Organization on Immigration
IP	Indigenous People
IPNN	Indigenous People NGO Network
IPWP	Indigenous People Well Being Project of NTFP
IYDP	Indigenous Youth Development Project
KCB	"Community Advisory Board" in the <i>Kroeuung's</i> ethnic language
KYSD	Khmer Youth and Social Development
LAC	Legal Aid Cambodia
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation (of a project)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products Organization
PDRD	Provincial Department of Rural Development
PLAU	Provincial Local Administrative Unit
PoE	Provincial Department of Education
RECOFTC	The Center for People and Forests
VCM	Village Committee's Members
VFI	Village Focus Cambodia
VNP	Virack Chey National Park
Vor Ort	German NGO working in Ratanakiri

Summary Profile of NTFP in 2010

Name of the organisation

Non-Timber Forest Products Organization (NTFP)

Title of current projects

1. Community-led Projects with the KCB(*Krom Chnom Bramang*)
2. Indigenous Youth Development
3. Community Governance
4. Non-Formal Bilingual Education
5. Indigenous Rights to Land Management
6. Community-based Ecotourism
7. Indigenous People's Well-being
8. Co-management Learning Network
9. Community Forestry

Location of projects

Ochum, Vernsai and Taveng districts of Ratanakiri Province (see *Map 1 - NTFP target districts in Ratanakiri*).

Project start & end dates and reporting period

1st January thru 31 December 2010; reporting period is the calendar year.

NTFP's vision and mission

Vision. Indigenous peoples in Cambodia exercise their rights and effectively participate in the development of national society; using and managing their land and natural resources to improve their families' economic well-being and maintain their cultural identity.

Mission. To promote indigenous communities, both women and men, to effectively and equitably participate in decision-making allowing them to choose their own future; especially to assure their rights in sustainably managing, using and developing their land and natural resources that are the basis of their livelihoods and for conserving their culture.

Strategic objectives

Objective 1. Strengthen NTFP organisation and staff to build strong partnerships with:

1. *community organizations for devolving activities and decision making to them;*
2. *partner organizations for technical and advocacy support to NTFP and its partner communities.*

Objective 2. Strengthen the capacity of women and men community activists, community leaders and representatives, and IYDP members in NTFP target communities to:

1. *strengthen community governance and solidarity;*
2. *monitor and effectively act against illegal land and forest activities, and plan and manage their natural resources;*
3. *build strong community networks to defend and claim their rights to their land;*

Objective 3. Develop pilot activities in selected NTFP target (focal) villages to build strong community self-governance, legal advocacy, shared learning and replication.

Objectives listed by project

Community-led Project

1. *Improve communication and networking with indigenous communities within Ratanakiri province*
2. *Improve the capacity of indigenous communities to manage their own affairs*
3. *Support and strengthen the knowledge and capacity of indigenous youth to: (a) enable them to participate in social development, (b) protect their natural resources and culture, and (c) improve their livelihood*
4. *Teach bilingual languages (indigenous language and Kimai) to 15 villages in Vernsai and Ochum districts to promote protection of their cultural and natural resources*

Non-Formal Bilingual Education Project

1. *Promote the quality of learning for the indigenous through Khmer and bilingual literacy classes*
2. *Promote the capacity of teachers and monitor on teaching methodology, and technique*
3. *Increase the effectiveness of education by participating from the communities and authorities*

Indigenous Well Being Project

1. *At the end of 2011, 480 families of indigenous communities in 16 villages—particularly women and children—receive better food, health service and quality of education.*

1.1 Objective of food security

Target families have the capacity to sustain their food security, through rights to manage and use resources

1.2 Objective of women's health

Health of 320 females in the 16 villages is improved, domestic violence is reduced in families, and better service is received from the health centre

1.3 Objective of children dropouts

820 children in 16 villages will have received basic education with support from parents, local authorities and involved institutions

Co-management Learning Network

1. *Support CM practice and mutual learning in relevant field-based initiatives in the selected sites*
2. *Enhance capabilities through technical CM support to develop collaborative management practices (policies, processes, agreements and institutions) among field-based practitioners in the selected sites*
3. *Enhance understanding awareness and recognition of CM practices in the selected sites and beyond*

Community Governance

1. *Strengthen capacity of women and men in communities to receive equitable benefits and rights*
2. *Manage and organize their resources within the development process*
3. *Promote initiatives that are effective, transparent and community-led*

Community Forestry

1. *Community Forestry Associations (CFAs), especially minority communities, are supported to*

establish legal Community Forestry (CF) sites

- 2. Long-term sustainability of forest resources is supported through the development of alternative livelihoods and market opportunities for non-timber forest products*
- 3. Support CF development by strengthening technical capacity of local NGOs with basic CF management, enterprise development, conflict management, and certification*
- 4. Support partnerships, networks and dialogue between CFAs, NGOs, local and national Government, as well as provincial and national level entities, and links between sectors*
- 5. Provide effective project management, with M&E and audited results*

Community Base Ecotourism

- 1. Strengthen the participatory management of ecotourism by indigenous communities at Kok Lak commune.*

Indigenous Rights to Land Management

- 1. Indigenous communities will use their land collectively in order to protect their culture and natural resources.*

Project beneficiary with 3-year old farm garden located in Laeung Chorng Village, Ochum Commune & District, Ratanakiri Province.

The project provided agricultural know-how and some supplies, such as seeds and basic implements.



Table 1 - Number of direct beneficiaries of the project

Table 1 - Direct beneficiaries of NTFP projects by gender - 2010			
1 Community Development & Non Formal Education programme	Male	Female	Total
1.1 IYDP project			
Youth at Banlung Town	26	25	51
Youth at communities	156	165	321
1.2 NFE project			
Literacy Teachers	33	3	36
Local monitors of literacy			8
Literacy Learners	266	186	452
1.3 CBET project	7	2	9
1.4 IPWP project	18	14	32
2-Natural Resources Management programme			
2.1 IRLM project	20	9	29
2.2 CF project	6	1	7
2.3 CG project	51	9	60
2.4 CMLN project	10	6	16
3. Krom Chnom Bramang			
KCB members	12	3	15
Elders	8	6	14
Total of Direct Beneficiaries	613	437	1050
Total of Indirect Beneficiaries across 3 Districts (2x multiplier)	1226	874	2100

Author of the report

Mr. Long Serey
Executive Director of NTFP

Date of report submission

1st Quarter 2010

1. Executive Summary

In 2010 there were two calamitous events that occurred locally within our project area. The first event occurred at Kok Lak commune in Vernsai district where several deaths were attributed to angry spirits linked to the encroachment of land and forests by outside mining exploration activities. The second event was the widespread outbreak of cholera in a number of Ratanakiri's districts. Both of these events seriously affected NTFP's fieldwork in the impacted areas, since the communities ceased to participate owing to their fear of cholera and the mystery surrounding the deaths at Kok Lak.

NTFP joined others in providing assistance—a project vehicle and human resources for emergency situations were furnished to transport the victims to hospital as well as other help. This assistance was publicized in newspapers in June, and again in July 2010. Aside from these 2 events, no further disruption hindered implementation activities during the year within the communities, such as threats from the local authorities.

NTFP's programme expanded geographically in 2010 into the District of Ta Veng, northeastern Ratanakiri (see shaded area of *Map 1 - NTFP target districts in Ratanakiri*). This initiative will provide capacity building and support to the Brao and Kroeung ethnics, living in the villages of Chuoy and Tabok in a remote corner of Cambodia. This population of 827 (415 female, 412 male) relies entirely on non-timber forest products and farming for their daily subsistence. However, their traditional livelihoods are under threat by rich and powerful outside interests who are illegally logging the buffer zone of Virak Chey National Park. NTFP's support is crucial if the Brao and Kroeung are to exercise their rights to protect their natural resources and promote their livelihood. Currently, they are oblivious of their rights, and have no say in what is becoming a precarious future.

NTFP is supported by a group of knowledgeable and committed donors as well as implementation partners. In 2010, donors and other partners collectively funded NTFP's programmes and projects at \$426,200. The increase over 2009 fund receipts, is due to the substantial contribution of ICCO. Other donors/partners increased their contributions too, while several previous ones withdrew as their cycle of support reached the endpoint. Total 2010 expenses were \$350,700 and the balance was carried forward to 2011 to continue all operations. For more details, see Section 2, *List of NTFP Donors and Financial Report for 2010*. NTFP's financial books are audited annually by *KPMC*, and the 2010 audit is scheduled for completion in May 2011.

Nine projects are in various stages of implementation at 42 target villages. They comprise community-based projects on governance, networking (KCB), ecotourism, and forestry. Others projects deal with youth development, bilingual education, fostering a learning network, indigenous people's rights to land management and their well-being. An update on these projects, their outputs, and implementation experience are discussed in Section 3.2.

More than 30 skills and other knowledge were imparted to communities, and assimilated by them. The skills varied depending on the project purpose and objectives. They cover categories

such as: (a) business practices, (b) planning, preparation and organisation, (c) decision-making and negotiation, (d) assessment and research, (e) technical instruction, (f) education and teaching, (g) community mobilization, and (h) report and proposal writing. The knowledge transferred to communities focuses on laws relevant to indigenous peoples, basic rights and standards, community development, other governmental laws about land and forest use, and impact of external land development and mining.

Paramount challenges facing NTFP's implementation efforts concern: continuing land and forest issues, very low educational attainment within communities, declining participation rates, barriers against women's participation, problems of youth, and resistance to collaboration by local authorities. Most of these challenges are not unique to NTFP. However, project plans for 2011 have adopted solutions for these challenges, along with specific actions (Section 4).

Within NTFP, there exist some staff limitations owing to the fact that 70% of NTFP's staff is indigenous people without schooling, hence their knowledge and skill are very limited. So in-service training is required. They are effective at doing tasks, but not at recording the projects' experience and results. Another area for improvement is the condition of NTFP's physical facilities at the Ban Long headquarters in Ratanakiri. Some refurbishing is required in the main office building, as well as construction of new washroom facilities for women visiting from the villages to attend workshops. A *Facilities Upgrade Plan* is under preparation.

Project impacts have been positive. Communities actively exercised their rights to protect their natural resources, and did much of the work by themselves, giving them a sense of ownership. In 2010, there have been few recurring land issues arising from land concession forms. Similarly, outside encroachment was reduced significantly and few anarchic land issues happened within NTFP's target areas. Furthermore, the historic conflict of interest between the local authorities and communities was settled and local authorities now collaborate and cooperate with the communities, especially the KCB.

Communication and networking within the communities has increased between elders, KCB's members, youth's members, and from village-to-village and commune-to-commune. Likewise, there has been a marked decline in domestic violence within families. Despite these achievements, there remains the issue of improving livelihoods and aforementioned challenges which are the main obstacle and barrier to NTFP's activities (Section 6.1). Externally, NTFP has benefitted enormously through collaboration and networking at provincial and regional levels, and nationally with a host of donor representatives, government departments, NGOs, committees, and sectorial networks. Staff members are permanently assigned to a number of these partners to maximize benefits from these associations (Sector 7)

While NTFP's work necessarily focuses on communities and groups therein, it is important to remember that individuals and families constitute the ultimate beneficiaries of the diverse field activities. For this reason, we have included a number of interviews, recounted by indigenous people themselves, on how the projects have benefitted their lives (Section 6.2).

Overall, programme outcomes and impacts contributed to our strategic and project objectives in these ways:

First, the key communities with whom NTFP works increased their capability to implement activities by themselves. The groups comprise: KCB members, focal persons, IYDP, legal entities, CF committee, CPAC, teachers, women groups, CBOs, and the local monitors. There are indications of ownership and sustainability in terms of the use of communities' resources.

Second, few "land grabs" and land conflicts arose within NTFP's target villages in 2010. However, there were two cases occurring in Ochum district regarding a land concession and mining concession, but the companies stopped their activities after communities lodged complaints to the provincial authorities and asked the parliamentarians to intervene.

Third, on the external front NTFP networked with many NGOs and partners at provincial and national levels such as Ratanakiri NRM network, NGO Forum, CCC, Mining Industry Extraction Network, and CORD. Internally, NTFP strengthened and improved its organizational capabilities, which resulted in NTFP being granted the NGO *GPP Good Practice Project* certificate from the CCC.

NTFP is pleased with the overall results during the year, despite the fact that the impact seemed difficult to quantify in some instances. Along the way, NTFP learned important lessons from our joint activities (Section 8), and we witnessed the key communities assuming a degree of ownership over the whole process. However, there is room for improvement and NTFP is endeavoring to strengthen, fill the gaps, and address weaknesses toward achieving the milestones. For example, in 2011 NTFP will strengthen the M&E system, and develop a phase-out strategy for realization before 2012.

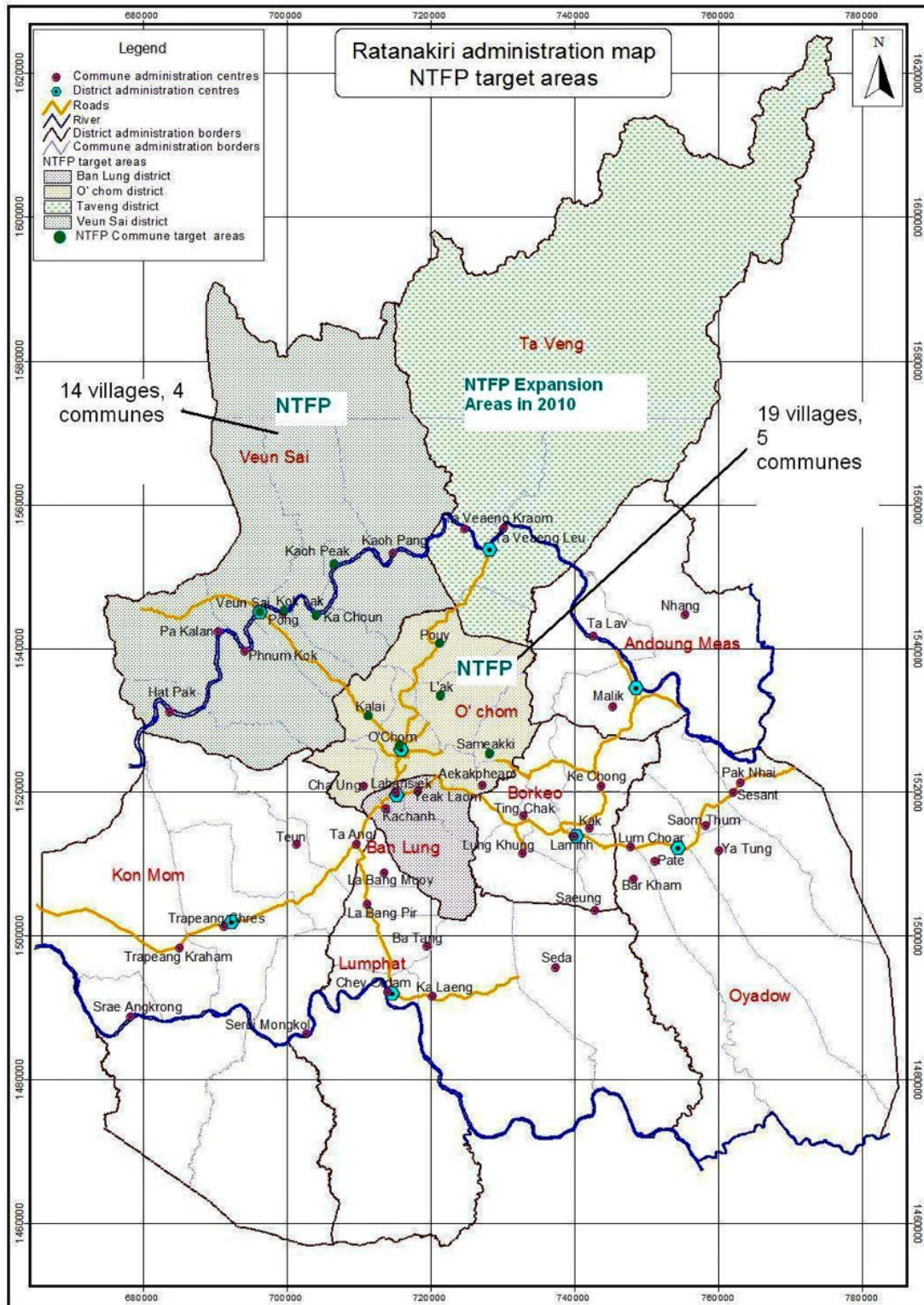
In closing, NTFP would like to thank partners and our donors for their crucial and effective support:

- CORD for their organizational and institutional development efforts.
- Trocaire, and OHK for their understanding of indigenous communities, and the appropriate cultural approach for NGOs working with these marginalized ethnics. Also, they provided necessary capacity-building through coaching.
- CCC for involving NTFP in the national dialogue between civil societies and the government and good governance, as well as the issue of aid effectiveness.
- CLEC for constant support on legal issues when communities encountered problems with the sub-national executive branch because of our joint work with "democracy".
- ICCO for their broad financial support, and particularly to Mr. Sjoerd Haagsma whose frequent insightful questions prompted NTFP to learn and improve on their practices.

Two boys from KokLak commune participating in NTFP's indigenous youth development program 2010



Map 1 - NTFP target districts in Ratanakiri, Cambodia (shaded areas)



2. List of NTFP Donors & Financial Report for 2010 (\$US)

A	Donor's Fund	Balance from previous 2009	Fund Receipts 2010	Total Balance
	ICCO	5,779	199,470	205,249
	ActionAid	4,871	71,198	76,069
	TROCAIRE	17,082	26,717	43,799
	OHK	-	39,975	39,975
	CIVESMUNDI	2,146	20,377	22,523
	FPSC	4,552	11,735	16,288
	UNDP	-	15,925	15,925
	Reserved Fund	8,815	5,863	14,678
	NLL	2,588	12,047	14,635
	ILO	2,687	11,140	13,827
	CBNRMLI	(577)	9,072	8,495
	AJWS	7,810	-	7,810
	Others	2,185	2,650	4,835
	TOTAL INCOME	57,939	426,168	484,107
B	Expenditure	Proposed Budget '10	Actual Expenses	Budget Balance
	Overhead Cost			
	Personnel& Benefits Allowance Cost	142,772	139,234	3,538
	Administration Cost	27,761	27,208	553
	Total Overhead cost	170,533	166,442	4,091
	Activity Cost			-
	CF Project	24,445	17,940	6,505
	CG Project	20,287	17,303	2,984
	CMLN	14,995	13,270	1,725
	IRLM Project	8,055	7,360	695
	UNDP	2,367	1,677	690
	KCB Project	20,050	19,755	296
	Capacity Building cost	2,736	2,543	193
	IPWP Project	53,136	53,053	82
	Organization Development cost	16,747	16,694	53
	IYDP Project	13,289	13,262	27
	Bank charge of fund rec'd from Donor		725	(725)
	NFE Project	9,822	10,584	(762)
	CBET Project	7,170	10,046	(2,875)
	Total Activity cost	193,098	184,210	8,888
	TOTAL EXPENSES	363,631	350,652	12,979
C	Budget remaining to Donors			
	Transferring back to OCKENDEN		1,100	
	Transferring back to FPSC		680	
	Transferring back to LI		28	
	Total budget remaining		1,807	1,807
D	Balance Carried Forward to 2011			\$131,648

3. Update on Projects

In 2010, NTFP were implementing 9 projects:

- Community-led Projects with the KCB (*Krom Chnom Bramang*)
- Indigenous Youth Development
- Community Governance
- Non-Formal Bilingual Education
- Indigenous Rights to Land Management
- Community-based Ecotourism
- Indigenous People's Well-being
- Co-management Learning Network
- Community Forestry

3.1 Measuring outputs of projects

During 2010, NTFP adopted the approach of working with several *key communities* consisting of youths, focal persons, committee members, CBOs, elders, KCB members, literacy teachers, women groups, CPAC, and local monitors. These key communities participated in various project activities supported, facilitated and monitored by NTFP:

- Meetings, workshops, conference, literacy days, women's day, dissemination and extension sessions.
- Monitoring & evaluation, following up, patrolling, mentoring and coaching.
- Capacity-building and education activities such as training sessions, reflection sessions, class examination, and exchange visits.
- Data collection on issues, networking, community's mobilization and advocacy.
- Assessment, research/surveys, livelihood improvement, community's registration.
- Liaison/coordination with local authorities.

How successful were NTFP's activities with key communities, and how was *success* measured? During 2010, NTFP began testing a monitoring tool on two pilot projects to measure progress of community's capacity against baseline data. This trial was designed for learning and improvement, so that NTFP could expand it in 2011. At this stage it is premature to reliably measure the concrete changes in relation to their acquired skill and knowledge for all NTFP's project's activities in 2010.

Nevertheless, NTFP's project staff do continue to monitor communities' capacity improvement from program activities through observation, interactions, interviews, asking questions, pre-test and post-tests during each training sessions and workshops. Based on this informal follow-up, NTFP is confident that the capacity of key community's representatives increased 10% to 50%—which is a wide range, explained by the background of the individual. The main barrier to further increases in capacity development is the paucity of general knowledge due to low levels of education.

Skills imparted to communities (list)

A wide range of skills and knowledge were imparted to communities, and assimilated by them. These skills varied depending on the project purpose and objectives. Examples include: report writing, writing stories or songs, communications, analysis, planning, interview skill, preparation and organizing workshops, meetings, recording minutes, conflict resolution, use of GPS, facilitation, decision-making, negotiation skills, basic proposal writing, leadership skills, tourist guide, research and survey methods, developing a questionnaire, monitoring, teaching methodology, community mobilization, documentation, library management, grass root advocacy, participatory rural assessment (PRA), participatory action research (PAR), finance and administrative, writing a business letter, nursery, village mapping, and making presentations.

Transfer of knowledge to communities

The knowledge gained by key communities varied according to the projects on which they participated. Therefore, this report describes the situation by subject headings, rather than from the perspective of a given project.

a) Laws relevant to IP communities

- Includes: land and forest law, IP culture, gender concept, domestic violence, drug issue, decentralization and, health, hygiene, HIV/Aids and community protected law;

b) Related Rights and International Standards

- Includes: basic principle of human rights, indigenous people's rights, the fundamental rights of IP in the UN statement and rights guaranteed in the Cambodian Land Law (Article 23-28).
- Includes: learning how to lodge complaints and court procedures. And knowing rights about natural resources management, and cultural rights, and socio-economics. They understood the basic international instruments such as conventions, protocols and other matters related to the IP.

c) Community Development

- Youth has increased understanding about their role and responsibility in society.
- Increased understanding of sustainable development through community cohesion and solidarity.
- Knowledge about basic agriculture for home gardening, and using natural fertilizers.
- The CBOs learned about small business planning, marketing plans and identifying markets.
- Promotion of indigenous women's knowledge of legacyweaving at some target communities.
- Literacy teachers are able to fill out attendance forms, sequence their teaching, use pictures, know grammar, read and write better, calculate numbers faster, understand meanings, interpret words, sounds, consonants, and phrases. Also, they are able to find key words in the lesson, relate teaching steps for adults, use a dictionary, and be able to translate *Kawet* to *Kimai* and vice versa.

- Teachers increased their understanding of lesson plans, new words, using questions, and creating a comfortable environment for students in the classes.
- d) Other government legal procedure
- Procedures of collective land management, by-law development, collective land use, concept and procedures of community forestry...as well as its steps.
- e) Impact of external land development and mining
- Impacts of development were conveyed to communities through awareness-raising, sharing and participation in various workshops at community, provincial and national levels. Key issues are mining exploration and production, and large-scale land concessions.

3.2 Project outcomes

During 2010, NTFP trialed an internal monitoring tool to track communities' new found skills and knowledge on 2 projects. However, overall monitoring relied upon informal and formal approaches by the project team:

- piloted the internal monitoring against the baseline survey of 2 projects, and it was conducted twice;
- Project Coordinators conducted regular field visits 1-to-2 times per month to see the project activities;
- monthly staff reports were made within projects and the KCB members participated;
- held quarterly project reflection meetings for each project;
- local monitors conducted visits 2 times/month to each hamlet;
- organized regular tests/examinations at the completion of each part of the Kawet and Kimai lessons;
- met to discuss class management issues with local monitors, teachers and committee members; teachers practiced teaching in all training sessions;
- NTFP met monthly with all project staff to get verbal reports from field staff, list their achievements and challenges, and consult and discuss areas for improvement;
- NTFP organized an annual review workshop between staff and key communities to review achievements and plan for the future.

Results from NTFP's informal and formal monitoring indicated significant changes within the communities. They embraced communities' ownership of activities and momentum generated, relationship and enabling environment fostered between local authorities and communities, communities' network and solidarity, and their ability to articulate and express their views. Details on these changes appear below.

3.2.1 Community-led projects (w/KCB)

a) Community's ownership of activities and momentum

The KCB's members made monthly activity plans and implemented them themselves. They mobilized communities and collaborated with local authorities to solve various illegal mining

and land/forest activities and conflicts within their communities. Examples include cases at Poy, Samaki, La Ork commune in Ochum and Pak Nam, Kachon and Kok communes of Vernsai districts.

b) Collaboration

The effort by KCB's members resulted in smooth collaboration with the local authorities through joint activities. Local authorities understood their roles and duties and shared information.



KCB collecting data on land and mining issues, Ork commune, Ochum district

c) Networking improved

Increased community networking was practiced within the NTFP's target villages. KCB facilitated other key groups—CBOs, focal persons and committee members—to share information and integrate activities within their villages. The KCB's established links to other organizations inside and outside Ratanakiri. Three examples are



KCB members facilitate meeting with local authorities

instructive: (a) KCB conducted an exchange visit to ICSO district network at Oyadou district; (b) joined the mining workshop organized by EISEI network in Phnom Penh; and (c) visited the IRAM network at Roviend district of Preh Vihea province. Further, KCB's members supported the communities at Kalai commune in Ochum district to advocate the land issue between communities and a Vietnamese company; KCB's organized a twice-held workshop for NTFP's "report to stakeholders" which included key communities and local authorities.

d) Ability to articulate and express ideas

During the monthly staff meeting at NTFP office, KCB's members shared solutions with each other and assigned tasks to meet the problems raised by NTFP's staff. Solidarity of communities was increased and improved collaboration between committees, authorities, elders and KCBs.

3.2.2 Indigenous youth development

a) Youth's Momentum

Youth's members in the commune organized sessions to disseminate information to their communities about gender concept, IP's rights, drug and domestic violence. Aside from that youth met internally to reflect and learn about activities they had done and share common solutions. They helped integrate a village plan into the commune plan, led their environment group to document water sources, and protected areas in their villages. Furthermore, they assisted the CCs to record minutes.

b) Knowledge and skill developed

11 youth representatives increased their capacity to lead, facilitate, arrange meetings, attend workshops, do field tasks and negotiate with the local authority.

c) Livelihood and work experience

15 female youths are active in the weaving group, and 4 others are investigating markets for selling their traditional products by themselves.



Youth from La Ork village reforesting community land, La Ork commune, Ochum district

The Village Environment Group is functioning well:

- 30 (15 females) youths within the community helped protect the environment—plant village trees, emplace rubbish bins in 2 villages, and practice traditional dancing and art;
- 2 groups of youth representatives in Laork and Kalaiy villages assisted village NRM committees to build guard huts for preventing illegal cutting in their community forest.
- 3 village youths were employed in local institutions as: an assistant to the village head; contract teacher at the village school; and volunteer with IOM in Ratanakiri province.

3.2.3 Community governance

In March and April, the CPAC, village chief and commune councilor jointly prepared a monthly plan with monitoring. As result, they arrested some illegal perpetrators and confiscated precious timber, 15 bicycles, 2 motorbikes, and 2 chain saws. The goods and equipment now belong to the community.



Illegally cut timber confiscated by CPAC at Ta Bouk commune, Taveng district



CPAC captured bicycles & motorbikes from illegal loggers, Ta Bouk commune

In November 2010, 7 communities voluntarily spent 5 days doing land boundary research in order to verify the locations of the CPA's boundary markers (poles) against the map. They walked 60% of the area's perimeter and found no evidence of any error on the map. This dispelled some local concerns that boundaries were incorrectly positioned.

Finally, the issue of the location of VNP's guard post was resolved. 25 villagers voluntarily spent 2 days to meet and consult with the VNP's officer about the boundary and guard post. Some

persons believed the location was inconsistent with a former agreement. However, its location was simply a practical one, consistent with VNP's mission to protect the resources within the park.

3.2.4 Non-formal bilingual education (literacy classes)

a) Students – list of outcomes

- 220 students (95 females) completed the third year of the bilingual programme. This is a first for the Kavet in Ratanakiri.
- For the first time, numbers of female students reached about 60% of the total students. In the early years of the programme, only 30-40% of females attended and very few continued past the 2nd year. This increase is due to the support of parents, community members, and motivation of the girls themselves. It also indicates that the bilingual approach is successful with girls and women, who are not strong in Khmer language.
- It is important for girls to join literacy classes and gain an education while they are still young because they traditionally marry as young as 14-to-16 years. Many girls still drop out of class as soon as they are married, as their new husbands do not allow them to attend classes.
- Two Kavet literacy students have taken on additional roles in the project; one has become a teacher (a male in Lalay village) and the other a village librarian (a female student in Kongnok village).



The CPAC visited boundary issues between VNP and the Tabouk Community Protected Area in Taveng district

b) Teachers–list of outcomes

- The number of female literacy teachers and women's math teachers increased in the first semester to 9 out of a total of 48. Of these, 3 are from the Kavet villages. This is significant progress. In previous years it was very difficult to recruit women teachers, as few could read and write, and even fewer knew basic math. Unfortunately a number of them married so the number decreased in the 2nd semester, however the situation has still improved over previous years. The increase in women teachers is likely due to a number of factors:
 - there is a larger pool of literate females in the villages due to literacy classes and teacher training
 - there is a larger pool of females who know basic math, due to math teacher's training and math classes
 - Kavet women feel comfortable teaching the bilingual curriculum (as compared to the Khmer curriculum)
 - Girls in Ochum, Kalay, and other areas now have more access to the government primary school
 - Two Kavet literacy teachers have assumed community responsibilities: one as assistant village chief (Lalay village), and the other as a member of 'Can Do' weaving groups
 - Teachers report on the implementation of their literacy class at their regular monthly meeting for village authorities and village education committees.

c) Local monitors—list of outcomes

- Monitors have strengthened their skills and leadership.
- Two Kavet community monitors from Kok Lak traveled to Siempang District, Steung Treng Province in February 2010, and spent one week training teachers and monitors in the YWAM Kavet literacy project. Thirty-four beginning-level Kavet teachers were trained.
- Two local monitors have taken on added responsibilities: one has become assistant village chief of Rok village, and other has become the head of a village weaving group.

d) Communities and local authorities – list of outcomes

- Kok Lak village authorities and community members are aware of the bilingual approach. They are proud of the first bilingual story books recently produced together with NTFP—the results of a writer’s workshop held in 2009—which will soon be distributed to community libraries. This is significant progress.
- Village authorities and education committees now value literacy and the education needs in their villages, and can solve problems and assume ownership.
 - Two village education committees in Kok Lak (Rok and Lalay villages) met to discuss solutions and stop-gap measures to provide a primary school for the youth in their villages. They discussed submitting a request to POE for a primary school in their villages.
 - Kok Lak Community leaders feel that it is important for the children and youth to learn to read and write Kavet in the evening bilingual programme, including those who are able to attend primary school. Students who attend NFE classes excel at primary school.

3.2.5 Indigenous rights to land management

- The village committee members were able to conduct the extension session to build community awareness about the advantage of community membership’s registration as legal entity at their communities. They disseminated information to their communities through informal interaction individually, or in a group, resulting in fruitful outcomes. Project staff observed that the communities’ active participation and ownership in the process increased from time-to-time.

3.2.6 Community-based ecotourism

- Eight families successfully made home gardens and produced enough vegetables to feed their families and generate a small income selling to visitors.
- Wood signs and motor parking areas were set up. 12 local cooks were able to cook food more efficiently than before.
- CBET committees generated an income of 645,000 Riel (US \$157). 1,080 local tourists visited during Chinese New Year and Khmer New Year. The money earned was a three-fold increase over last year’s income.
- The CBET committees are now able to lead and facilitate. They can communicate and facilitate jobs with carpenters; construction workers and leading youths to collect resources such sand and bamboo for building toilets and repairing the community building.

- CBET committees have the courage to make decisions in meetings and assertive enough to disagree when they think there is a better way to resolve issues.

3.2.7 Indigenous people's well-being project

Livelihood Change

- Farmers of 11 families generated income from home gardening in amount of 1,360,900 Riel and shared it with nearby families in the villages.
- 76 families of communities changed their traditional cultivation methods and adopted new techniques they were taught.
- The farmers of six families at Laeung Chorng village shared their agriculture knowledge with other villagers interested in growing vegetable as they are doing.



New home garden at Laeung Chorng village, Ochum commune; assisted by NTFP which provided seed, implements, and agricultural know-how

Change in behaviour

- Based on observation, 2 groups of women at 2 villages began to change their thinking and habit with regard to their traditional belief to worship the spirits when sick. They have started to consult with clinic staff in their district.
- The indigenous women at NTFP's target area began using the Khmer language to communicate with outsiders when selling the products they made.
- Women sought assistance from the local authorities, and elders to sort out problems.
- The communities in Ochum commune of Ochum district changed their way of thinking about their issues. After consultation and discussion with village chiefs and elders, they built a village school for their children. They influenced the parents about the importance of education so as to send their children to school.

Gender Equality

- In some villages, men assisted women with their traditional work like collecting fuelwood, fetching water, cooking, and feeding pigs. Another change is that some men gave women the opportunity to participate in various meetings and workshops to promote their knowledge and skill.

Ability to do work

- The focal persons are able to facilitate and lead meetings better than before. They interviewed their communities to identify results, problems and explain the project's activities in detail. They successfully negotiated and collaborated with the local authority and district of education to secure some teachers to teach in their village.

4. Challenges and Solutions

Paramount challenges facing NTFP's implementation efforts concern: continuing land and forest issues, very low educational attainment within communities, declining participation rates, barriers against women's participation, problems of youth, and resistance to collaboration by local authorities. Most of these challenges are not unique to NTFP. However, project plans for 2011 have adopted solutions for these challenges, along with specific actions.

4.1 Land and forest Issues

The government is still granting land concession to investors to do agro-business plantation, agro-agriculture plantation and mining exploration on land of the indigenous communities. The valuable forest is still logged anarchically by rich and powerful people. The key issue is that communities have not been properly consulted, informed and their consent secured. The communities still have little space to make decisions on developing their own communities. The power relation between the communities and local authorities are a different issue—state laws are not enforced, which is still a major problem.

Solution - the strength to overcome these situations lie with the communities themselves. NTFP supports communities with capacity building, to promote and empower them to work by themselves.

4.2 Capacity limitations of communities

The 2010-2012 strategy has ambitious targets for establishing functional community networking. However, based on internal review the results have been less than expected, perhaps only 20% were functional. Shortcomings were due to KCB's low capacity and related resources, such as time, human resources and budget given that in 2010 a small amount of money was budgeted for the KCB to implement their works.

Solution - In 2011, NTFP will increase the budget for the KCB to do field activities, consequently it is expected that the indicators will be increased from 20% to 40%.

- In general, according to observation and informal interaction, the key barrier for KCB's members are lack of general knowledge to read and write the Cambodian language. This caused much difficulty in their daily activities:
 - To record daily transactions with reference to financial and admin procedures
 - To write minutes and reports
 - To learn knowledge about pertinent laws

Solution - Continue to refresh, coach and train

- They are reluctant to confront the local authorities and top ranking people in dialogue and negotiations regarding land and forest conflicts, and the mining issue.

Solution - more training required to build their confidence for negotiation, fieldwork, data collection skills, and understanding pertinent laws.

- The communities do not dare to express their ideas. They listen more than they speak.

Solution - Explain the differences between trainers and facilitators; encourage the participants and youths to express themselves during break time, and during overnight stays in the villages where they can get to know one another.

4.3 Communities' participation

- In the rainy season, communities' participation became less due to farm work, which in turn reduced the project field activity.
- Communities' needs for support are voiced well ahead of when the project can deliver a response, so there is always a time lag which leads to reduced participation. It would help if each project's expected outputs could be measured against baseline data, then even if there is a time lag, results could be verified. Another approach to improve participation is for staff to change their attitude by learning from the community, and not just advise them.
- Organizing meetings at night was found to be effective in boosting participation.

4.4 Gender constraints and equality

- Finding women in the communities to lead programs and projects is still a big barrier, due to their lack of knowledge, and because of cultural tradition. For example in the community-led project, only 2 women were selected to be among the committee's members.

Solution - In 2011, NTFP will employ gender mainstreaming strategies to inspire women's involvement in their community's development.

- Most youths are shy, particularly the girls.

Solution - Provide opportunity and encouragement for them to speak out and practice in every meeting, workshops and other activities. Staff will interact with youths to stimulate group discussion and energize games.

4.5 Problems of youth

- Youths have not exercised their rights and roles due to their family work.

Solution - Educate parents and cooperate with the local authorities.

- Lack of morality among youths. They're susceptible to gangsters, and have no solidarity with nearby villages, nor respect for elders or their parents.

Solution - Create youth network; seeking a youth's model to educate them.

4.6 Resistance to collaboration by local authorities

- Some local government staff are difficult to coordinate and liaise with as they often think about their own benefit instead of broader social issues. There is still the problem of land sales and accommodating local authorities who always approve the document.

Solution - Try to establish a means of engagement by inviting them to join various activities, such as training. With improved dialogue, try to inform them that their signature is illegal.

4.7 NTFP staff and condition of physical facilities

4.7.1 Staff limitations

Within NTFP, there exist some staff limitations owing to the fact that 70% of NTFP's staff is indigenous people with minimal or no schooling, hence their knowledge and skill are very limited. So in-service training is required. They are effective at doing tasks, but not at recording the projects' experience and results. In 2011, NTFP is going to strengthen the skill to document the impact and outcomes of the project. At more senior levels, NTFP will release staff as required to attend partner and donor-sponsored training events and workshops. We deeply believe in upgrading staff capabilities.

4.7.2 Condition of physical office and equipment

Another area for improvement is the condition of NTFP's physical facilities at the Ban Long headquarters in Ratanakiri. Some refurbishing is required in the main office building, as well as construction of new washroom facilities for women visiting from the villages to attend workshops. A one room hostel is under construction to house these women overnight. Several of the NTFP motorbikes need to be replaced as they are worn out by years of extreme use in the road less hinterland of Ratanakiri, and require unending maintenance. *A Facilities & Equipment Upgrade Plan* is under preparation.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

NTFP has developed a formal internal systematic Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation in place for the whole organization, though it hasn't one hundred complete, however it is now started to use. In the year of 2010, NTFP had started to test the monitoring tool to measure the progress of community's capacity by using the baseline data, however the pilot was done only with 2 projects. This trial was designed for learning and improving so that NTFP could start it in 2011, (As mentioned in 3.1 of Output). In the meantime, NTFP conducted both formal and informal monitoring tools and mechanism to follow up and monitor the progress and effectiveness of program activities, including:

5.1 List of formal mechanisms

- Monthly staff meeting and Macom meeting;
- KCB's workshop in 3 month basis to verbal report what had been done to the communities, and local authorities;
- Six month program reflection and review workshops, 2 times a year;
- Quarterly Monitoring to ensure the annual activities and budget is consistently operated and not behind the timeframe.

- The NTFP Program Coordinator and Staff did internal field monitoring every six months.

5.2 List of informal mechanisms

- The Project Coordinators conducted regularly field visit 1 or 2 times per month to see the project activities;
- Individual interaction during staying overnight at villages.
- Weekly reflection by programs to learn what they had done in a week for improvement and replication.

6. Impacts

6.1 Overview of changes underway

It can be difficult to highlight project impacts and accomplishments during a one year period, when project activities target 42 villages, span several years, and milestones are scheduled for following years. However, NTFP's formal and informal monitoring gives us a reliable idea of progress being made.

Project impacts have been positive. Communities actively exercised their rights to protect their natural resources, and did much of the work by themselves, which gave them a sense of ownership. In 2010, there have been few recurring land issues arising from land concession forms. Similarly, outside encroachment was reduced significantly and few anarchic land issues happened within NTFP's target areas. Furthermore, the historic conflict of interest between the local authorities and communities was settled and local authorities now collaborate and cooperate with the communities, especially the KCB.

Communication and networking within the communities has increased between elders, KCB's members, youth's members, and from village-to-village and commune-to-commune. Likewise, there has been a marked decline in domestic violence within families. Despite these achievements, there remains the issue of improving livelihoods and aforementioned challenges which are the main obstacle and barrier to NTFP's activities.

6.2 Personal accounts of significant changes

While NTFP's work necessarily focuses on communities and groups therein, it is important to remember that individuals and families constitute the ultimate beneficiaries of the diverse field activities. For this reason, we have included a number of interviews, recounted by indigenous people themselves—but written down by NTFP's indigenous staff—of how the projects have benefitted their lives.

6.2.1 Mr. Hwen: on a change of livelihood

Authors. Mr. Peung Vannak, Project Officer of Indigenous People Well Being Project [IPWP].

Story teller. Mr. Hwen, a farmer who lives in Laeung Chorng village, Ochum Commune, Ochum District, Ratanakiri Province.

Dates. The story was recorded on 5 January 2011.

a) Situation Before

Before I was a farmer without knowledge of agricultural technology at all. I only practiced traditional cultivation in the rainy season and never farmed in the dry season. That's because I didn't have knowledge and techniques on planting. My family's livelihood faced some difficulty in finding vegetables as we always depended on the edible vegetation in the forest. My wife and children struggled to find these wild vegetables. In particular, my children didn't go to school while they were busy looking for them. Also, I didn't have money to send them to school and I never thought it was a priority.

b) After NTFP developed our capacity

NTFP started its project at my village and I volunteered to be a member of the agricultural community with the IPWP's project. I was trained in agricultural techniques to plant vegetables, make compost and renovate the equipment. I mobilized my family members and used my training to begin our cultivation. NTFP provided us with seed and some agricultural materials and I always received many good yields from this work. Apart from the sale of the food I had grown, I gave some to the villagers for eating.

I have been practicing agriculture for 3 years and my farm is functioning well. The first year I planted it for my family but received only a small yield for food and little income from the sale of the produce, 60,000 Riel [US \$15]. But a small garden can produce more than my traditional farm. So in the second year I expanded my farm garden, and received more yield and a greater income of 160,000 Riel (\$40). By year 3, I expanded the home garden again and produced more vegetables and increased my income to 600,000 Riels (US \$150).

c) Changes

The training and support that NTFP have given me increased my knowledge and skills every year. My family's livelihood is better than before, and at the same time I have gained a lot of experience from this. From the money that I earn, I support my 4 children [3 boys and 1 girl], and buy them study materials and uniforms to go to school. My daughter is now in grade 9.



I am planning to extend my home garden further. Also, in my community there are more than 25 families practicing home gardening now, of which 3 families have directly learned from my family. Now my family and villagers do not face the same problems to collect vegetables in the forest, since we all use the new agricultural techniques and are expanding the home gardening in the dry season.

d) Most significant change(s)?



The new skills I learned are most significant, as previously I had no knowledge or technique. I now do home gardening and mobilized the communities in the village to start gardening too. I plan to send my children to school, and share my knowledge and experiences with other families.

6.2.2 Mr. Pay Peuk: on building the CPA's capacity

Story's title. Community Protected Area [CPA] develops their capacity for their rights to manage natural resources and promote their livelihood.

Story Teller. Mr. Pay Peuk.

Author. Miss Kroeng Tuk, Project Officer of NTFP.

Dates. The story was recorded on 4-5 January 2011.

a) Situation Before

My name is Pay Peuk, and am 40 years old. I am Kawet ethnic who lives at Rok village, Kok Lak commune in Vernsai district of Ratanakiri province. I am a member of the Otung community protected area's committee [CPAC]. The Kok Lak's community is the area situated within Virak Chey National Park [VNP] that is remote from the district town. Most communities' daily subsistence is dependent on agriculture and collecting non-timber forest products.

There is no communication or information sharing in the villages. The villagers have no knowledge of human rights and law and they're susceptible to oppression from powerful people.

Before the project started the co-management in the community focused only on farm work. We cut trees, hunted animals and collected natural resources for our families, which is our tradition and custom. We didn't know about natural resource management apart from old photos that showed felling of the malva nut trees, and hunting wild animals to sell.

There was no collaboration with the VNP's agency, and we didn't understand our rights in managing the National Park. We were not aware what kind rights our communities possess with the national park and what is legal and illegal to do and use.

b) After NTFP started the NFE project

After the project started, I participated in activities and learnt a



CPAC prepared a plan for a forest patrol

lot. Myself and other members have learned various skills and knowledge so that we are able to mobilize the communities to think about law and their related rights with the support of the CPA. The collaboration between the communities and VNP's agency had also been established. Initially, this activity was very difficult, but subsequently, we formed a good partnership with each other. The community's internal communication network was also established to share decisions and information from one community to another, from community to local authorities and also to the VNP.



Pay Peuk facilitating a meeting

c) Changes

I am now able to facilitate and organize meetings, I can write minutes and reports, and lead the making of activity plans. Over time, I have been assigned to assist all these tasks in the meetings and have documents in place. Other members of CPAC were also allocated work based on their capabilities. Those who couldn't read and write did activities that didn't require writing, such as facilitating discussion. Despite the large distance between

communities, we developed small groups of 5-to-15 people and collectively made decisions

Currently we share information permanently and on time. Most communities understand land laws now and they took part in curbing illegal activities. As a result, the damage to our natural resources was reduced and community income increased, such as the case of protecting the malva nut tree (*Scaphium* sp.) and harvesting the nuts.

The chief of CPA has the capacity to function on his own. Now, he is facilitating meetings to prepare the monthly plan to patrol the community's forest to stop any criminal activities.



Locals embarking on a forest patrol

Myself and other committee members liaise with the local authorities, involved departments and NGOs and advise when illegal activity occurs. We always take notes and report to the involved agencies. Personally, I have stopped and apprehended people that cut down malva nut trees, just to get the nuts. This information was disseminated to the wider communities to make them aware.

The communities are now unified in protecting their natural resources. Communities' livelihood at the CPA benefitted from non-timber forest products such as the malva nut tree.

Presently, my family has a good house and means of transport including a motorbike, a boat and other materials. The income was generated from the sale of the malva nut tree.

d) Most significant change(s)?

- Increase of knowledge. Before the communities didn't unite to protect their natural resources, and now they cooperate to safeguard the forest for the younger generation.
- Information sharing helps the community have a collective voice. It has also helped them make decisions to demand justice for their rights in gaining benefit from the CPA.
- Natural Resource Protection Officers who manage the Protected Area have a better attitude, offering entry points for collaboration with communities on avoiding deforestation. It will help to sustain the natural resources of the area and community's livelihood.

6.2.3 Mr. Pech Nhoy: on the decrease of illegal and anarchic logging

Story Teller. Mr. Pech Nhoy, a member of Krom Chnom Bramang at Poy commune, Ochum district, Ratanakiri province.

Author. Lieng Bunthai, Community Facilitator of Krom Chnom Bramang.

Dates. The story was recorded on 4 January 2011.

a) Situation before

I am Pech Nhoy, a villager who lives in Kanchheung village, Poy commune, in Ochum district of Ratanakiri province. My family has lived in the village for generations and subsists by working on a farm in the indigenous tradition. Also, I have another small income from collecting non-timber forest products such as resin, honey, cutting vines, and hunting to earn some money to support my family.



Pech Nhoy, a member of KCB, Poy commune



Over time, these resources are less-and-less because there are bad people—rich and powerful people—destroying the forest recklessly, regardless of the effect on our community's livelihood, which is dependent on these resources. With this concern about loss of natural resources and various wildlife, the community collectively selected representatives to protect the natural resources.

b) After NTFP's intervention

The community trusts me because I am very disciplined and strict and always think about the community's benefit. At the end of 2008, the communities selected me to be a member of the

KCB community advisory board (in Kreoung language it is named the *Krom Chnom Bramang*) at Poy commune of Ochum district, which gets support from NTFP.

Since then, I have gained knowledge and experiences developed by NTFP. I learned about community leadership, communication, networking between communities, and negotiation.

c) Changes

I increased collaboration with the local authorities and met with them to explain to the villagers of Poy commune the importance of natural resources for humans and animals, especially for the indigenous people who rely on these resources. I asked the authorities to reduce deforestation and support participation. After the communities understood the advantages of solidarity, in April 2010, they reported the activity of illegal logging within the community's forestry area. On behalf of the community's representative, I consulted with the local authorities and village's committee.

We went down to stop them, and captured 3 bikes, one chain saw and one cube of valuable timber. We brought them to the commune police office. The loggers had escaped as we arrived. Since then, the issue of people illegally cutting trees has stopped for now. It shows that the momentum and solidarity of communities can help protect their resources.



Community members & local authorities patrol against illegal logging in Poy commune

d) Most significant change(s)?

- The communities are courageous, unified and able to seek support and collaborate with the local authorities to stop all illegal activities.
- The member of Krom Chnom Bramang who represents the communities in the commune, used his role to liaise and lead communities to manage the natural resources and stop the activity of deforestation within the communities. He mobilized the communities to become involved too.

6.2.4 Mr. Bras Vang: on life's progress and change

Story Teller. Mr. Bras Vang, a literacy teacher who lives in Rokvillage, Kok Lak Commune, Vernsai District, Ratanakiri Province.

Author. Mr. PhimDara, a Kawet Trainer for the Non-Formal Bilingual Education Project [IYDP] of NTFP.

Dates. The story was recorded on 30 December 2010.

a) Situation before

I am an orphan and my parents died when I was young. My brother married and left me alone at home. My job was to work on a farm along the Lalai stream. When I harvested products from the farm, I was anxious to sell them because I am of Kawet ethnic and I didn't speak any Khmer, Lao or Chinese language. I was afraid of being disregarded because I am indigenous and

illiterate. I was also afraid of being cheated especially when the Chinese came to buy chicken, pigs and rice in my village. The Chinese people always want to buy things with a cheap price. We don't have any option so we have to sell products cheaply for them.

Other issues in my village include the lack of solidarity. There is a lot of domestic violence and unjust solutions are always practiced. There is bad hygiene and many diseases and we don't have any medicine or trained Doctors.

b) After NTFP developed our capacity

When the project started, I was happy and enrolled to be a literacy learner for 2 years and I started to read, write and speak some Khmer language. Later on I was selected to be a volunteer teacher and I received many training sessions, and thereafter I began to speak up with village workers, elders and other villagers.



Using his training to be a volunteer teacher

c) Changes

Now I have the capacity to be a core teacher, and an assistant of the village. I am able to speak the Khmer language and my children have the opportunity to go to school near the commune and attend literacy classes. I have family's members and dependents...all these make my livelihood better than before.

d) Most significant change(s)?

I think the most significant change has been within myself. Earlier I never had the confidence to speak with other people, but now I can help my community. I am able to communicate and handle issues that emerge around my village and me.

6.2.5 Mr. Phann Pha: on knowledge of Tabouk village's CBO members

Authors. Ms. Pean Saboeun, Project Officer of Community Governance Project [CG].

Story Teller. Mr. Phann Pha

Dates. The story was recorded on 4 January 2011.

a) Situation before

I'm Phann Pha and I am 30 years old. I am Lao minority and presently live in Tabouk village, at Taveng Leu commune, in Taveng district of Ratanakiri province. My wife is Brao ethnic and her birthplace is in this district.

Before I received support from NTFP, I was just a community member and every morning I used to prepare my equipment to go to the farm, and was not concerned about the community's development at all. The Tabouk's community is adjacent



Phann Pha, a Lao minority living in Tabouk village

toVirack Chey National Park (VNP), far from town, and all communities do farming and collecting non-timber forest products for their daily food. There was no community consultation or opportunity to discuss the communities' problems. No one in the community had any knowledge and they've never received any education about law. They didn't know about the importance of community participation in development.

The lack of knowledge was a big problem for the women especially and they rarely shared experience or knowledge. They never thought of learning from each another and this prevented them from innovating or creating business opportunities to generate their families' income, or to enhance their confidence .



Pha and CBO members attending project training session at Tabouk village

b) After NTFP developed our capacity

The villagers were educated about laws and now understand that they have full rights to take part in making decisions about the development of the community. They have the ability to get the community to join together and discuss ideas and show solidarity. Mr. Phann Pha said that "the CG Project started work in my village at the start of May 2010. The project taught us about the concept of developing a CBO with an aim to mobilize communities toward collectively addressing any issues within the

village. Some other families and I have been so interested so have volunteered to register as the CBO's membership".

In order for the committee to work effectively, there has to be a representative or leader who is chosen by the committee. I was very lucky and was chosen to be the committee's chief of the CBO. I have been trained by NTFP with various skills and knowledge such as writing records, report writing, making monthly activity plans, recording expenditure and income, recording loans and payments. I have been given opportunity to participate in two study tours to Yeak Lom and Kampot and I have learnt about the experiences of the community, which has been very beneficial.

c) Changes

I have had the opportunity to apply my knowledge and skills to serve my community. I helped write minutes during the CBO's meeting and when there are events in the village, I write the reports, facilitate



Preparing an activity plan with the CBO

the team to do monthly activity plans, record expenditure and income, and record loans and payments. All documents are kept as the important files of the CBO. I facilitated the CBO to set up the family's development plan and write funding proposals.

Recently, my CBO received a small grant of \$1,500 from NTFP to support the CBO's plan. I organized a meeting with 32 families to seek consent and develop the budget in an open manner. As a result of the meeting, the money was allocated in 3 phases. The 1st phase was given to 4 families who will pay it back in May 2011, and the other 28 families are learning about business experience.



Pha's wife managing the new "grocery store" at her home

My family was one of the 4 families to receive the grant to set up a business. My family's livelihood increased through generating income from selling groceries. We do business when we have time available and my family gets income of about 1 million Riel [\$250]. I will pay the loan back to the CBO according to loan's payment deadlines very soon and I am proud because I will be a role model for business and leadership in my community. My wife is very happy that we have a small business. She said

that the CBO is a local organization that really develops the community, in particular to help women promote the family's economy. My wife encouraged me to continue support the CBO's work in order to help other women to follow her model.

d) Most significant change(s)?

- The community now takes part in collective decision-making and there is a CBO leader to facilitate the internal meeting within their communities
- The communities have learned to handle issue by themselves and there are documents available for any monitoring and auditing by NGOs or relevant agencies.
- Promoting women's role

6.2.6 Mr. Sim Plan: on indigenous communities and mining

Story Teller. Mr. Sim Plan, a member of Krom Chnom Bramang at Koh Peak commune, Vernsai district, Ratanakiri province.

Author. Mr. Lieng Wannai, a Community Facilitator of Community Led project of NTFP.

Dates. The story was recorded on 5 January 2011.



Mr. Sim Plan, member of KCB, Koh Peak commune

a) Situation before

Before, the communities didn't know anything about the mining issue. They only heard about this, and in the past saw some illegal manual miners digging within their communities. Sim Plan said, "What is mining?"

b) After NTFP developed our capacity

NTFP built capacity for the *Krom Chnom Bramang* through training and sharing experiences in workshops. The workshops were held at national level by the EISEI (Extractive Industry Social Environmental Impact) and established focal persons to transfer this information to the wider communities about the impacts and consequences of mining. After the information was shared, the communities began to understand and became concerned about the loss of their natural resources, including land, spiritual and burial forest. Another concern was the issue of community's safety for the chemical substance used in mining to purify the ore. Mr. Sim Plan said, "the most vulnerable people are women and children". However, the community's knowledge about mining is still very limited because at present, very little activity is being done.



Kamis village mobilizing to block mining, La Ork commune, Ochum district, 2010

the company stop its activity. After the information was widely conveyed to other involved people—particularly the top leaders at national level—they intervened in time to stop the company's activities. The company moved out of the conflict areas in response to the communities' request.

d) Most significant change(s)?

Success was achieved because of the community's cohesion, solidarity and standing up to the authorities. The communities used their collective rights to

c) Changes

On the 24 July 2010, there was a mining company (requested not to reveal name) based in Banlung town, in Ratanakiri province that explored mines at Pi and Kangmis villages. The company used machines to drill around 30 holes and bulldozed the areas that affected the communities' farm lands, spiritual forest, burial land, water sources, village's land, and community's forestry. On 30 August 2010, 313 villagers were mobilized to discuss and consult to make a petition to the district authorities, the province as well as to national level to demand that



KCB members visit mining exploration sites, Ochum district, 2010

insist and protest. It is a role model and experience for other communities to replicate.

6.2.7 Ms. Thin Phol: on progress of the women's weaving group

Author. Ms. Vak Sam Oeun, Community Facilitator of the indigenous People Well Being Project of NTFP, [IPWP].

Story Teller. Ms. Thin Phol, a member of the Community Women's Weaving Group [WWG] who lives in Laeung Krein village, Ochum Commune, Ochum District, Ratanakiri Province.

Dates. The story was recorded on 4 January 2011.

a) Situation before

Previously, we didn't have any Community Women's Weaving Group and although we produced traditional clothes, scarves, sarongs, and Poeung (a type of indigenous Sarong), we didn't know where to sell them. We only produced them for use in our family. We were also afraid of being cheated because we are not good at speaking Khmer and don't understand business, numbers, and math. We are able to farm in the rainy season and although we produced a lot, we didn't know how to sell them. We didn't even know the different bank notes.



b) After NTFP developed our capacity

The IPWP of NTFP started its project in 2007 to provide information about domestic law, women's rights, gender and basic women's health, hygiene, child sponsorship, home gardening in dryseason, and also the CWWG. The project facilitated the CWWG in a study tour to see CWWCs in other villages so that we could learn from their experiences and apply them within our village.



c) Changes

Our CWWG has been well established and the project provides us with cotton fiber. We have been trained and can start thinking of business to generate income from this work. We can also speak more Khmer language than before. We can manage our group and are able to manage our income from sales contributed by group-members. We have also established an internal contribution system where members donate 5,000 Riel (\$1.25) for the CWWG's box and so far, this contribution has grown to 230,000 Riel (\$57).

d) Most significant changes?

- Training has encouraged indigenous identities through CWWG.
- Business concepts and practices were introduced to enhance community's income;
- Community was mobilized to share and train in traditional weaving.



6.2.8 Mr. Mo Teu: on learning skills as a youth member

Story Teller. Mr. Mo Teu, a Youth-member who lives in Trakvillage, Kok Lak Commune, Vernsai District, Ratanakiri Province.

Author. Mr. Thom Tem, a Community Facilitator Staff person of the Indigenous Youth Development Project [IYDP] of NTFP.

Dates. The story was recorded on 5 January 2011.



a) Situation before

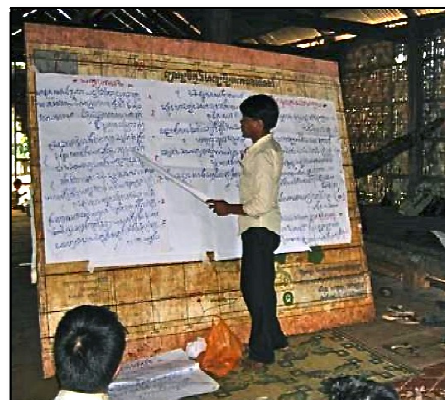
Mo Teu is from the Kawet's ethnic group and lives in Trak village along Lay Lai creek of Seasan river of KokLak Commune, Vernsai District. It is located a far distance from Banlung Town of Ratanakiri province and has very little school facilities.

Mo Teu is 20 years old and normally works on the farm but he joined the youth's members at village level in 2006. Mo is always anxious to take part with elders in the community's

development as he thinks that he has no rights to join others due to his illiteracy. He is also very shy.

b) After NTFP developed our capacity

From 2005 to 2010, the IYDP project of NTFP mobilized and prepared the youth's group in KokLak commune. Teu received capacity building and mentoring from 2005 to 2008, and he began to participate in many village activities. Because of his active involvement, he was selected to be a youth's representative of 4 villages in Kok Lak commune. Teu has led, facilitated and coordinated 4 youth meetings in the 4 villages.



c) Changes

Teu increased his capacity to work with the youth team, and communicates with village and commune chiefs for community effectiveness. He joined with elders and local authorities to discuss the community's development. He helped considerably with his skill to record minutes, make reports, and develop activity plans. Because of this capability, Teu has now been offered a job as the Villager's Assistant.

d) Most significant change(s)?

- Use his rights for the community's development.

6.2.9 Ms. Toong Soo: on youth's participation in village development

Story Teller. Ms. Toong Soo, a Youth-member who lives in Laork village, Ochum Commune, Ochum District, Ratanakiri Province.

Author. Mr. Thom Tem, a Community Facilitator Staff [CFS] of the Indigenous Youth Development Project [IYDP] of NTFP.

Dates. The story was recorded on 5 January 2011.

a) Situation before

Previously, I didn't know much at all, as I am from an indigenous group who live in a remote area where we collect only non-timber forest products for daily use. I am illiterate, and have no school nearby to study—the nearest school is 12km away from my village. Also, I was too old by then and I dare not go to school. That is the reason I couldn't read or write.

On the other hand, I didn't value studying. I didn't know about youth's role, and indigenous rights in managing the natural resources. Also, I didn't understand women's rights to participate in the village's development. When I saw the Khmer people come to buy pigs in my village, I was always scared.

b) After NTFP developed our capacity

I learned various skill and knowledge from the IYDP project of NTFP that mobilized and prepared the youth's group in my village. For example, we learned to record minutes, do reports, and make activity's plans. We also learned about: youth's role in participating with elders, solidarity between neighboring villages, women's rights, land and forest laws, morality, and maintaining IP's culture and identity.

c) Changes

I have strong ambition to educate the youth's group in the village to unify each other, and promote a good relationship with elders. In any emergency matter in the village, youth should participate with elders. I want elders to lead the



Ms Toong Soo, a youth member from Laork village who can now read and write, due to the IYDP project and her hard work!

youth to help each other when there is village's event. I have learned about some laws and now understand that women and men have equal rights and value in society.

I have assisted the village's chief to record minutes and mobilized other youths to work on the village's collective farm [VCF], and participate with elder and committee's members in the village's meeting. For the village's festival, I solicited money from our youth to buy vegetables and traditional wine for the festival.

d) Most significant change(s)?

The most significant changes are:

- She inspired the youth's participation in social work including education of morality.
- She led other youths to do environmental work and agriculture.

6.2.10 Ms. Chheoun Sarun: on increasing the capacity of female youth

Ms. Chheoun Sarun is 18 years old and a youth volunteer for Indigenous Youth Development Project in 2009. She lives in Laeoun Chhorng village, Ochhum commune, and Ochhum district. She belongs to the Kreong ethnic minorities. She is in grade 7 of Secondary school in Ochhum Secondary School and wanted to help her community on cultural and natural resources protection. But due to her low education, she did not participate with community people in raising the issue of natural resources.

One day, the villagers including the elders, village-head and youths held a meeting to select a commune youth representative. She was one of the outstanding persons among the dozen to be selected by elders, youths and community people as representative of the youth leader in her community.



Ms Chheoun Sarun is a volunteer facilitator with the youth group of Laeoun Chhorng village, Ochhum commune



Sarun (18 yrs old) is a natural leader with the youth group and is committed to sharing information

She is committed to learning from IYDP's project on community mobilizing, facilitation, and leadership. She assisted NTFP's staff to facilitate and translate the local language; to prepare local materials; and inform the community. She is very happy with IYDP for providing her the skills to support her community. Now, she is confident to provide her knowledge and skills to her community. She said that "the IYDP project is a bright pathway or bridge for her and other IPs to assist indigenous communities to grow".

7. Collaboration and Networking

NTFP networks and collaborates with NGO partners on a sectorial basis. Examples include: CCC on Aid Effectiveness and Aid Development/GPP, NGO Forum on Land/Forest/IPNN, Recoftc on CF and EISEI networks. Similarly, we link with NGOs, donors, and government agencies at provincial, regional and national levels to support and facilitate the communities on land/forest issue and IP rights. This is accomplished through joint activities such as workshops, meetings, national events, communications, and coordination.



7.1 Provincial and regional level

NTFP is pleased to collaborate with an impressive list of NGOs including: ICC, ICSO, DPA, LAC, CANDO, VNP, IDAC, 3SPN, HA, IOM, VorOrt and CEDAC. Cooperation is also extended to Government institutions such as PLAU, Dept. of Vocational Training, PoE, DoE and PDRD. In addition, NTFP regularly joins monthly NGO coordination meetings and NRM sector meeting, or other urgent meetings related to advocacy issues.

7.2 National level

At the national level, NTFP is a member of the NGO Forum and also serves on the steering committee of Land and Forest Program. Also, NTFP is a member and is on the steering committee of the EISEI Network. We work closely with CLEC and LAC to support land cases and violations of IP rights and NRM.



From experience, NTFP has found that effective collaboration is best served by assigning specific staff members to various sectors and organizations. Assignments during 2010 were as follows:

- 1 staff for networking with land/forest program of NGO Forum.
- 1 staff for networking on IPNN of NGO Forum.
- 1 staff participated with youth organization, KYSD.
- 1 staff dialogued with CCC at national level regarding the relationship between government and NGOs, and on Aid Effectiveness.
- 1 staff to participate with CCC GPP.
- 1 staff to participate with the EISEI network.
- NTFP is a partner of CORD and a member of Climate Change Group, which embraces more

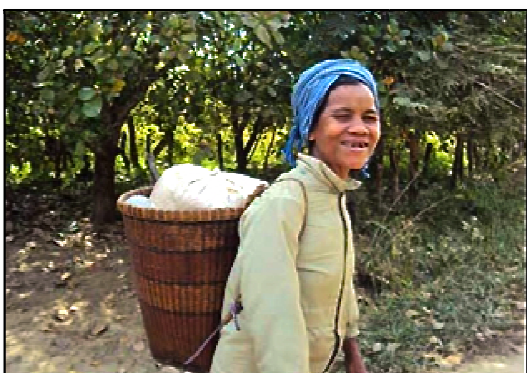
than 15 NGOs lead by CORD, Forum Syde, and DCA-CA.

NTFP actively works in partnership with other NGOs having similar vision and mission, through workshops, forums and other events, i.e. CORD, DPA, ILO, and CCC.

8. Lessons Learned

Lessons learned in 2010 are drawn from all facets of the programme. Members of key communities found exchange visits among villages to be particularly fruitful. Not only did they learn from others' knowledge, but felt motivated to share their newly acquired knowledge with residents of other villages, as a first step in replicating successful approaches. Another lesson, was the value of NTFP's advocacy work to encourage women's participation. This was a primary success story (CPN experiences) and it helped in resolving the "land grab" case that occurred in La Ork commune, Ochum district, Ratanakiri province where a company grabbed community land in 2006.

Provision of opportunity leads to empowerment. This lesson was proved repeatedly and conveyed to NTFP by the key community's representatives and communities undertaking activities and work by themselves. This motivational approach is one that NTFP strategically envisioned and now maintains as a best practice.



Collecting non-timber forest products

When doing fieldwork, the practical approach of staying overnight within communities is the preferred alternative when they are busy with their own activities. During extended visits, it became apparent to NTFP that the traditional collection of non-timber forest products by the indigenous people is compatible with sustainable management of forests, and will ensure their future use by the next generation.

A final lesson concerns the practice of advocacy in the local area. While advocacy enables environmental and natural resources discussion, and greater involvement by concerned communities, NTFP has found that it may also be used to open dialogue with local authorities. Engagement with local authorities reduces barriers and fosters their support.

9. Conclusion and Future Steps

Throughout 2010, more than 95% of planned activities were completed with satisfactory outputs and outcomes, notwithstanding the mysterious deaths at Kok Lak commune and the cholera outbreak in several Ratanakiri districts. Overall, NTFP is pleased with the results during the year, despite the fact that the impact seemed difficult to quantify in some instances. Along the way, NTFP learned important lessons from our joint activities (Section 8), and we witnessed

the key communities assuming a degree of ownership over the whole process.

However, there is room for improvement and NTFP is endeavoring to strengthen, fill the gaps, and address weaknesses toward achieving the milestones. For example, in 2011 NTFP will strengthen the M&E system, and develop a phase-out strategy for realization before 2012.

In closing, NTFP would like to thank partners and our donors for their crucial and effective support:

- **CORD** for their organizational and institutional development efforts.
- **Trocaire**, and **OHK** for their understanding of indigenous communities, and the appropriate cultural approach for NGOs working with these marginalized ethnics. Also, they provided necessary capacity building through coaching.
- **CCC** for involving NTFP in the national dialogue between civil societies and the government and good governance, as well as the issue of aid effectiveness.
- **CLEC** for constant support on legal issues when communities encountered problems with the sub-national executive branch because of our joint work with “democracy”.
- **ICCO** for their broad financial support, and particularly to **Mr. Sjoerd Haagsma** whose frequent insightful questions spur NTFP to learn and improve their practices.

Report collated by:

Mr. Long Serey
Executive Director of NTFP
Date: 1st Quarter, 2011

NTFP Main Office
Village 4, Sangkat Labanseak
Banlung, Ratanakiri Prov.
CAMBODIA
Tel: (855) 75 974 039
P.O. Box 89009