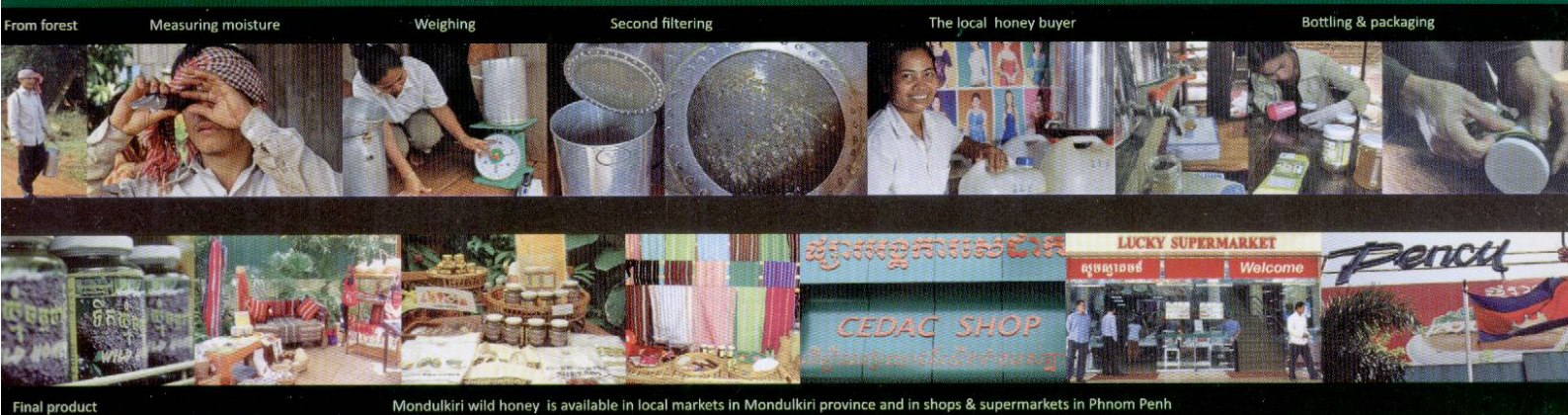


"I am so happy to participate in the honey enterprise because it provides me and the villagers of Krang Tes Commune benefits to reduce our poverty and also to preserve our traditional culture that has been passed on from our ancestors."

Mr. Sean Tha
Honey Group Leader



Protecting the people and biodiversity of Cambodia's Eastern Plains landscape

WWF provides assistance in conserving the unique and rich biodiversity of Mondulkiri province. In particular, WWF is managing the two critically important protected areas in the landscape - *the Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary* - and - *the Mondulkiri Protected Forest* - in partnership with the provincial government of Mondulkiri, the Ministry of Environment, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries.

WWF implements several projects in the Eastern Plains ranging from protected areas management, species conservation, sustainable financing through ecotourism, environmental education, and livelihood projects.

NTFP-Exchange Programme for South & Southeast Asia is a collaborative network of NGOs and community based organizations that work with forest-based communities to strengthen their capacity in sustainable management of natural resources. NTFP-EP's interventions range from networking, experience and knowledge sharing, policy advocacy, technical support and backstopping on enterprise development and marketing.

Mondulkiri wild honey outlets

Sen Monorom	► The Middle of Somewhere ► The Honey Group Shop
Phnom Penh	► Lucky Supermarket, #160, Sihanouk Blvd ► NTFP-EP, #10Eo, street 420 ► CEDAC shops, #689, Kampuchea Krom Blvd, #13, street 360, #67, street 230 ► Pencil, #15, street 214 ► Paragon, #45, street 220

Partners & Donors

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)



Greater Mekong Cambodia Country Programme
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Phnom Penh Cambodia
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Tel: +855 23 218 034, fax: +855 23 211 909
www.panda.org/cambodia

Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme for South and Southeast Asia (NTFP-EP)



Cambodia Programme Office
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http://www.ntfp.org
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ntfpcambodia



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FOREST TO MARKET

Mondulkiri Wild Honey Enterprise

A community-based enterprise that encourages involvement in Forest Conservation while promoting **Livelihood Opportunities** for indigenous forest-dependent people. The wild honey enterprise integrates 4 components:

- Principles of forest conservation
- Sustainable honey collection by improving traditional techniques
- Equity in community livelihood
- Community empowerment

Bringing sustainable income to Cambodian communities through biodiversity conservation

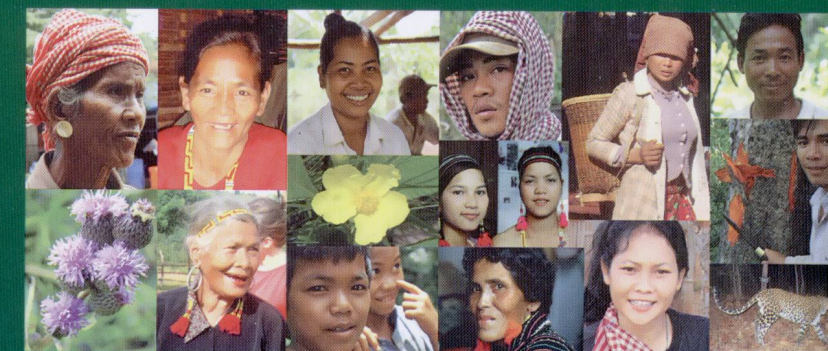
The honey enterprise aims to improve the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities through assistance in sustainable harvesting and collective marketing of wild honey.

Since its launch in 2007, the enterprise has made positive contributions in the life of indigenous Bunong honey collectors in two pilot communes in Mondulkiri.

The project has economic, cultural and environmental benefits.

.....The Bunong communities

Mondulkiri forest offers invaluable life support system to the Bunong who traditionally consider forests their home, market & medicinal garden and a crucial part of their culture.



- 52% of Mondulkiri's population are Bunong.
- They are subsistence farmers living in small villages in and around the forests.
- They traditionally practice shifting/ swidden agriculture (dry rice).
- They highly depend on forest resources for food, medicine, income, spiritual beliefs.
- Their customary tenure & resource management causes minimal impact to the forest.
- Their diverse traditions are threatened by rapid, commercial and extractive development.

Mondulkiri's Diversity



Located in the Northeast of Cambodia, Mondulkiri covers 1.5 millions hectares. Mostly blanketed by a vast expanse of primary and secondary forest (91%) it's composed of Deciduous Dipterocarp Forest (48.5%), Semi-Evergreen (20%) and Ever green Forest (10.5%). It provides a perfect habitat for honey bees [*Apis Dorsata* & *Apis Florea*] and hosts large mammals like : Wild Asian Elephant, Gaur, Banteng, Tiger and many bird species. It has the highest potential in the country for Tiger recovery.

Major challenges were identified

The lives of forest-dependent communities in Cambodia are becoming increasingly vulnerable due to the declining availability and threatened condition of forest lands and natural resources in the country. Many Bunong communities rely on Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) collection for subsistence. 40% of their income is sourced from wild honey and other NTFPs.

They face external & organizational obstacles such as:

Market Barrier

- ▶ Lack of support for Bunong community members;
- ▶ Traders dictate the honey price (as low as 2.50\$/L);
- ▶ Because of competition producers increase the volume by diluting the honey with water and sugar.

Practices

- ▶ **Unsustainable collection:** Removal of the entire hive, killing all the bees in the colony;
- ▶ **Unhygienic or inadequate practices:** Hand squeezing of the comb, poor filtering and lack of adequate materials, use of un-sanitized containers and re-use of inappropriate bottles.

Solutions were found

After consultation and participation in workshops & exposure trips, community members decided to implement a honey enterprise project.

This pilot project represents a community based livelihood intervention that is both socially and culturally acceptable, and is also compatible with forest conservation.

WWF, NTFP-EP and others, facilitated organizational development activities with Bunong honey collectors.

Traditionally, everything the Bunong need in order to survive comes from the forest. They believe that their health and well-being and that of their family and the wider community depends on maintaining a strong relationship with ancestral and natural spirits in the environment.

They consider that they should use the forest like the bees do. "We take from the forest but we also need to give back."



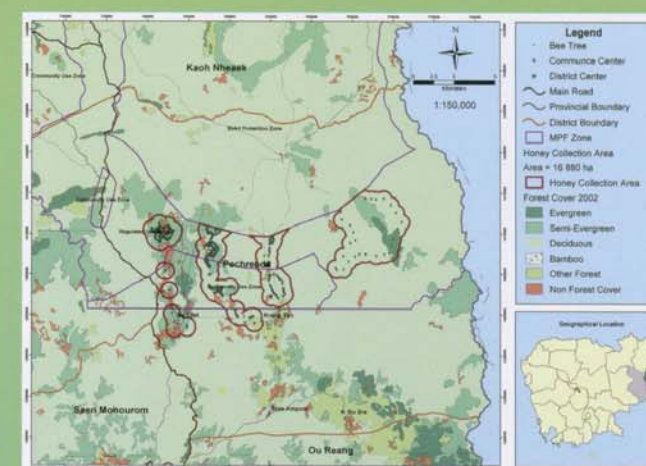
by the communities

They are now organized into commune level honey enterprise groups and receive financial & technical assistance on resource management, sustainable collection methods, quality control and marketing support.

Through this pilot project, WWF and NTFP-EP are promoting the protection and recognition of Bunong customary tenure and resource management practices under the appropriate community forest management regimes of Cambodia.

The project follows community based, participatory conservation & development principles.

Honey collection areas



Activities & Results

Community-based enterprise & capacity building

- ▶ Formation and capacity building of honey groups which manage village to provincial level honey business systems and quality control.

Honey production & quality control improvement

- ▶ Promotion and use of indigenous knowledge and skills on honey harvesting;
- ▶ Improvement of honey collection, handling and processing techniques to enhance sustainability of harvest and product quality.

Income & benefit sharing

- ▶ Community consultation and agreement to attain fair pricing for procurement of honey;
- ▶ Setting up of benefit sharing facilities such as: tools and material assistance, training and extension, resource management, operations, and working capital.

Awareness raising & knowledge sharing

- ▶ Documenting and disseminating indigenous knowledge and good practices on honey harvesting and forest & bees protection;
- ▶ Learning from the experiences and good practices of others.

Marketing & business support

- ▶ Packaging and branding assistance, sale & promotion activities;
- ▶ Facilitating buying agreements through multiple channels;
- ▶ Media, government and industry linkages.

Forest protection & management

- ▶ Database development for honey collection tracking;
- ▶ Resource mapping and tree tagging activities;
- ▶ Cooperation with local & governmental authorities for forest patrolling and monitoring.



Creation of a community owned brand "Mondulkiri wild honey"

Benefits go to 169 families from 8 villages

Honey price doubled in the local market

Communities income increased by 20%

**The product is fairly priced
73% of the selling price is captured by the collectors**

Quality standards are followed for processing

The honey is sustainably collected

Stronger initiatives are organized by the villagers to protect their forest

Revival of ancient spiritual beliefs and solidarity

In 3 years time

- ▶ Reaching more villages
- ▶ Benefiting more families
- ▶ Increasing communities income by 70%
- ▶ Meeting international standards