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## **INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY TRIP TO DANAU SENTARUM NATIONAL PARK, WEST KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA 17 -27 MARCH 2010**

**TASK ORDER NO. 04**

**MAY, 2010**

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Consultant Erik Meijaard and the MSME Biodiversity Team.

USAID Cambodia MSME2/BEE Project

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NATIONAL PARK, WEST KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA 17 -27 MARCH  
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**TASK ORDER NUMBER 4**

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# Introduction

## Background

The USAID-funded Cambodia Micro Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Project, is implemented by DAI. The project improves the performance of enterprises in several value chains, supports dialogue between the public and private sectors to identify business issues and solutions, and strengthens the public sector to improve the business-enabling environment. A key component of the MSME project is biodiversity conservation through sound management of biologically important areas and reducing threats to biodiversity in priority locations. This component focuses on forest conservation through Community Based Natural Resource Management, promoting wildlife habitat, improving local community livelihoods through Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) enterprise development, and promoting sustainable conservation practices by local communities and government agencies.

Honey and resin are the primary NTFPs being developing using a value chain approach. Value chain interventions facilitated by the project include technical and business training and cross-provincial trips to visit successful leading enterprises, Community Forestry Associations (CF) and Community Protected Areas (CPA). The project facilitates business forums to promote a better business environment and increased investment opportunities. International study tours are sponsored to countries in Southeast Asia--those with successful experience in selected value chain development, including the policy and regulatory environment.

With these value chain interventions in mind, an international study tour was organized to Indonesia, from March 17 to March 28, 2010. The focus area for this tour was the Danau Sentarum National Park in West Kalimantan, Indonesia, where there has been nearly two decades of successful forest honey enterprise in a remote protected area setting.

The overall objectives of the study tour were:

- To exchange experiences on biodiversity conservation and natural resource management best practices.
- To learn about best practices in sustainable wild honey harvesting, processing and marketing.
- To learn how Community Groups advocate and work together with government to improve the Honey business environment and promote biodiversity conservation.
- To exchange experiences between national and provincial Ministry of Forestry officials, on their role in promoting sustainable NTFP management and biodiversity conservation--particularly as it relates to the policy and regulatory environment.

Figure 1: West Kalimantan Indonesia--Mission Visit Areas

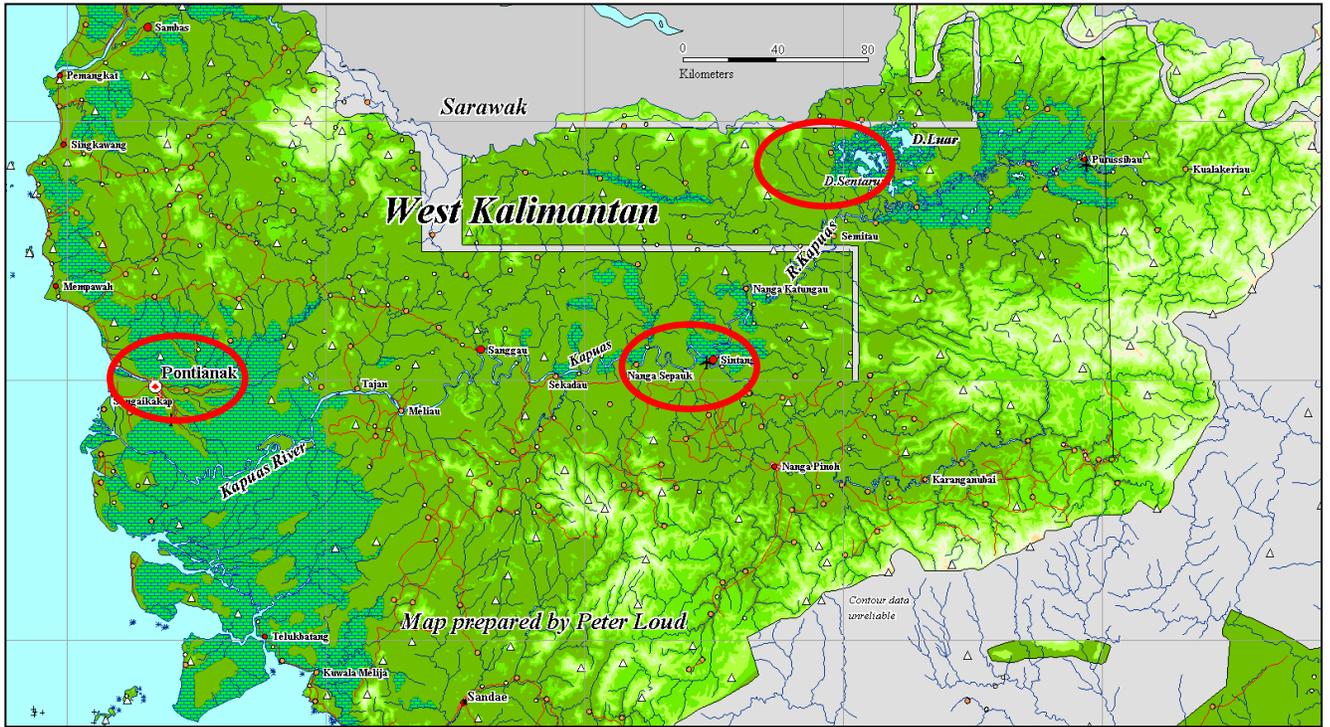
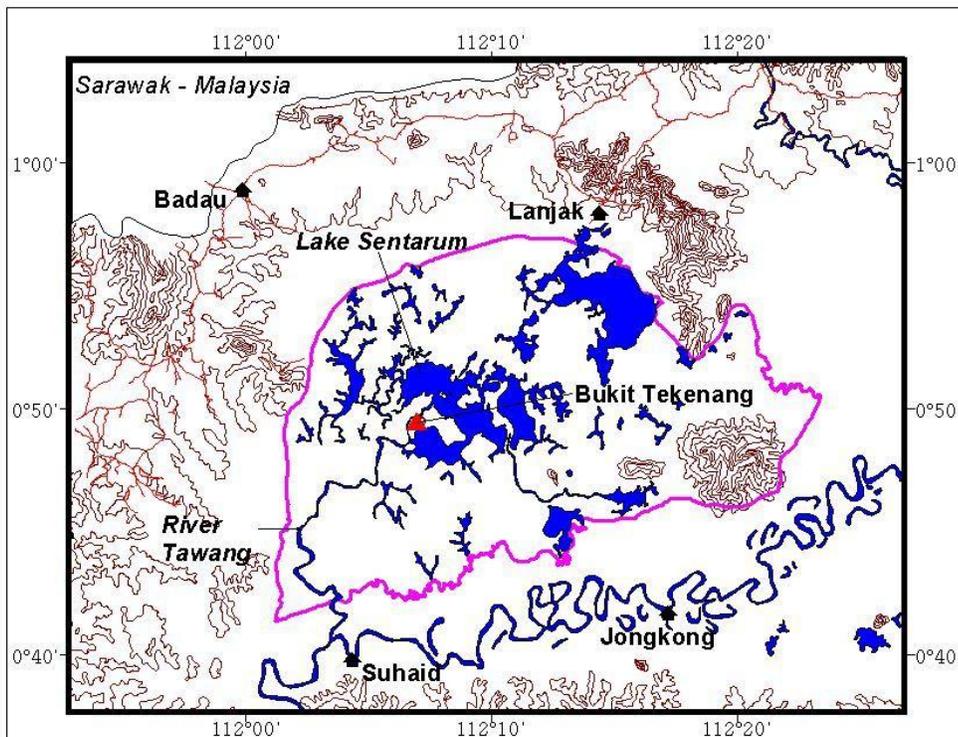


Figure 2: Danau Sentarum National Park



# Description of activities

In brief, the group of Cambodian delegates arrived in Jakarta on March 17th 2010, travelled to Kalimantan on March 18th, returned to Jakarta on March 25th, and returned to Cambodia on March 27th. Below, is a detailed account of the different daily activities of the mission.

March 17, 2010. The group was met by Erik Meijaard in Jakarta airport and taken by bus to the Gran Mahakam Hotel in Jakarta. After checking in, a brief introduction was given to the group, about the trip and the immediate plans.

March 18, 2010. The group was taken by bus to the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry for a discussion with the head of Danau Sentarum National Park and other representatives from the Directorate for Forest Protection and Nature Conservation. After introductions, the head of the park gave a presentation about the ecological and social aspects of park management, including the structure of the Honey Cooperative and associated fund flows (the information regarding honey trade turned out to be out-of-date). The presentation, which was given in Indonesian, was translated into English by Erik Meijaard, and then translated into Khmer by Ponreay. It provided a useful introduction to the park, its natural resources, socio-economic aspects, threats and management solutions. After the meeting, the Indonesian government officials were presented a gift from the Cambodian delegation.

The flight from Jakarta to Pontianak was uneventful. On arrival, we were met by a representative of the local NGO, Riak Bumi, which is heavily involved in the work on the Indonesian Honey Association.

March 19, 2010. After breakfast our bus arrived to take us to Sintang, 415 km from Pontianak. We met with Heri Valentinus from the Riak Bumi NGO who would be responsible for coordinating the Danau Sentarum part of the trip's logistics.

We made a brief stop at the Equator Monument where a short presentation was given about the history of the monument. From there the trip continued along the long, narrow and windy roads of West Kalimantan. The Cambodian delegation was quite taken aback by the Indonesian driving style and on several occasions we had to ask the bus driver to slow down, take corners less aggressively, and not to overtake other vehicles just before blind corners. We made another stop along the way in an oil palm plantation to talk about the benefits, but also social and environmental costs, of oil palm development. There was considerable interest in this, with several questions and ensuing discussions keeping us there for nearly one hour.

We continued the bus ride and finally arrived in Sintang around 7 pm, after a tiring day that not many participants enjoyed. Apparently, roads in Cambodia are just as bad—albeit less windy—but the driving

"I was amazed by the incredible highway system of Jakarta and had never before seen bridges that didn't cross rivers but other roads" – Kheng Bunna, Community Forestry Chief, Kampong Thom.



**Kheng Bunna (top) and Tith Saroeun (bottom) on boat in Danau Sentarum.**

style is much slower and less aggressive. A good meal in a local fish restaurant made up to some extent for the long trip, but after checking into our hotel, everyone quickly retired for some badly needed rest.

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We made another stop along the way in an oil palm plantation to talk about the benefits, but also social and environmental costs, of oil palm development. There was considerable interest in this, with several questions and ensuing discussions keeping us there for nearly one hour. Oil palm is a main export in an Indonesia, with a value of \$US 7 billion dollars/year. The government has granted land for economic concessions to companies for oil palm plantations. In the visited concession, we learned that the company had persuaded the village chief and commune chief to sell land to the company. These community representatives then fled their village, when they got the money. Many NGOs had opposed the forest clearing for the plantation, but were unable to prevent it. The negative impacts of forest clearing have included soil erosion, pollution of waterways and cultural harm in local communities. Utilization of fertilizers have also negatively affected honey pollen flowers. We concluded that palm oil plantation concessions should be located in areaa that do not negatively affect local populations.



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March 20, 2010. We started the day with a visit to KOBUS, a local NGO that works with women groups on economic development and protection of the indigenous cultural heritage. Jack Maessen, a former Dutch priest, who has worked in Sintang with local communities since the 1960s, and set up the weaving cooperative in Sintang, welcomed us.

His first question was why among 18 Cambodian delegates there was not even one woman. The delegation answered that: i) all honey collectors were men; ii) the trip was too far and arduous for women; and iii) that women had to stay home because their husbands did not allow them to leave their children and household duties.



This reply did not quite satisfy Jack, and there were a few slightly embarrassed smiles. He went on to explain that the reason why he worked with women was that women were more disciplined and responsible than men, and they engaged in more economic activities. With many NGOs focusing on men, there was an obvious need to develop a program that specifically targeted the economic development of women.

KOBUS started their activities in 2000 and focus on two major lines of work: i) production of handicrafts and weaving of traditional cloths using natural materials; and ii) providing micro-credit facilities to women for economic activities such as the development of rubber plantations. The main objectives are to protect the cultural heritage of traditional weaving, to ensure that these skills will pass to future generations and to make the women more economically independent. KOBUS achieves this through helping the marketing and profit sharing of handicrafts and weaving, as well as through the aforementioned micro-credit. We listened to a detailed presentation about the structure of the micro-credit facilities, compulsory and voluntary saving contributions, credit opportunities, and interest payments, but eventually we had to cut this short because we ran out of the time.

Following the KOBUS meeting, we had planned to visit a community-managed rubber forest, but because of limited time we decided to drop that activity (also because rubber gardens would reappear later in the program). Instead, we made a brief visit to the Danau Sentarum Regional Head Quarters to pay park entry fees and have a brief discussion with the Deputy Director of the park, after which we left by car in the direction of Suhaid. Ten km outside Sintang the we visited the recently opened 'Museum Kapuas Raya'. The museum staff had prepared a brief introduction to the three main cultures of this region: the Dayak, Melayu, and Chinese ethnic groups.

After another 4 hours drive by rented cars, we finally arrived in Suhaid on the upper Kapuas River, where the houseboat was moored. Moods in the group noticeably lifted when everyone came onboard. The 4 hour boat ride from Suhaid to the park's field center in Bukit Tekenang was much appreciated by some who wanted to catch up on sleep and others to sit under the starry sky in the cool evening breeze. This appeared to be the first time for some good team building and bonding, especially between the government representatives and the farmers. The latter clearly felt a lot more at ease in this environment compared to the busy streets of Jakarta, bewildering hotels, and endless windy roads and crazy driving of Kalimantan.

March 21, 2010. The next morning, we climbed the steep path to the summit of Tekenang Hill, from which there are excellent views across the park's lakes and swamps. Andi Erman, of Fauna and Flora International, who had joined the trip and is native to the area, gave a presentation about the park's ecology and how park management aimed to reconcile rural development with natural resource management. The hike turned out a bit too tough for some, but was enjoyed by all others.



Back in the field center we were given a presentation about the park's zoning plans by Mr Jeffrey, one of the park staff. After a swim in the lake, we got back onto the boat and headed for the fishing village of Nanga Leboyan. On the way, we stopped at Semangit, where the local honey representative lives, to make an appointment for the next day's honey harvesting and processing demonstrations.

**Danau Sentarum Park Facts.**

**History:** Located in Kapuas Hulu Regency, West Kalimantan province. Established as a Natural Sanctuary 1981, total area 80,000ha, designated a Nature Reserve 1982, and then managed as a wildlife reserve. In 1999, the wildlife reserve was changed to Danau Sentarum National Park with a total area 132,000 ha. In 2007 the park was one of the 50 National parks in Indonesia and the 4 in West Kalimantan province.

**Vision:** To ensure security for the population, and lawful administration in the park area. To ensure permanent conservation of the park area. To provide strong institutional park management, including fostering dialogue and support of stakeholders, and optimizing development of sustainable nature tourism for the benefit of society.

**Mission:**

- 1/- Increase forest protection and pacification and life support systems, along with law enforcement in the park.
- 2/- Confirm borders and zones of the area, and manage natural resources and ecosystems.
- 3/- Develop optimum utilization of natural resources, ecosystems and environmental services based on the principle of sustainability and provide benefits to the community.
- 4/- Increase institutional partnerships and the active role of society for park management, protection, and utilization of natural resources and ecosystems.

**Biodiversity:**

Landscape: lowland and concave areas, flooded to a depth of 6-14m for 9-10 months/ year.

Park Zones: Core Protected Area; Buffer Zone; Sustainable Utilization Zone; Swamp Zone (traditional use only).

Flora: 675 species, 97 families.

Fish: 265 freshwater fish species.

Mammals: 147 species.

Birds: 310 species including the rare Swamp Forest Stork.

Reptiles: 31 species.

**Fishing:**

Fishing is an occupation of 90% of households in the park.

70% of the fish harvest from the Park is sold in West Kalimantan with a total value 5-6 Billion Rp./year.

**Honey:**

The Honey harvest is 20-25 tonne/ year, valued at \$US100,000-120,000. The honey season is from September to February or March. Honey sold has a recognized certificate of honey quality.

Honey Associations: Buys honey from hunters at 45,000Rp/kg and sells to buyers at 55,000Rp/kg.

Profit allocation from sold honey: buyers (around 33%); Indonesia forestry, Honey Network, workshop, exchange visit and learning exercise (around 33%); and 34% for the association. The association also provided training on honey techniques and sustainable harvesting.

From there we travelled upriver to where the houseboat could go no further. After a safety briefing, and handing out of life vests to those who could not swim well, we travelled in several smaller boats to the Sungai Pelaik long-house. This is a traditional village of the Iban ethnic people. The houses are under one roof, connected by a long gallery, where public life takes place.

On approaching the village, we heard the sounds of gongs and chanting and a group of Iban men and women danced towards us in the slow and gracious Iban style that imitates the flight of the hornbill.

Ponrey and Erik stopped at the village entry, where the village head performed a ceremony in which we sipped rice wine and poured out the remainder while making a wish for a safe and happy gathering. A cockerel was passed over our heads and then sacrificed. Two plates with food and other items were placed on bamboo poles at the village entrance, after which it was safe for us to enter. After entering the long house, a second ceremony was performed to ward off evil spirits and bad omens that the visitors may have brought with them. A group of Iban youth challenged us for a game of volley ball on the village court in front of the long-house and our mixed Cambodian-Dutch team were sorely defeated in two decisive losses against a much more muscular and fit Iban team. It was a great way to get to know each other and have a bit of a laugh.



After dinner and discussion, the Iban performed dances and the Cambodian group reciprocated with some of their own songs and dances in which everyone was asked to join. There was plenty of laughter and happy faces, and the evening ended with loud and vibrant percussion performance by our Iban hosts.



March 22, 2010. Before breakfast the Head Man of Sungai Pelaik showed us their rubber gardens, which provided a good source of discussion on community land rights, how the community allocates land to individual families, and the technical aspects of rubber production.

We had a brief look at the micro-hydro facilities, built with German aid two years ago. The team paid a lot of attention to technical construction details, equipment and local prices, even though the structure had

recently been damaged by heavy floods and was out of order. After breakfast, we thanked the villagers for their warm hospitality and Ponreay presented a gift from Cambodia.

Back in Semangit, we went honey hunting with the community. Chann Monyneat and Toy Lakna observed the harvest from the honey collector's boat, while the rest of us sat well back ready to flee if the bees attacked. The first honeycomb turned out to be empty, and also a second *tikung* (honey rafter) no longer had honey. We had just missed the tail end of the harvest.



Next, we visited another *tikung*, which the Honey Association had left for demonstration purposes. The Association demonstrated how the *tikung* is set up. The group watched the process of setting up rafters with considerable interest.

Back in Semangit, the members of the local honey group demonstrated the honey extraction process. A three-hour discussion followed, with a great number of questions from the group about the details of honey production, the funding flows within the cooperative, and the details of the honey certification process. This was probably the most important learning experience for many of the participants, and it was clear how eager the team was to observe and ask questions.

Topics and lessons learned by the team during this discussion included:

- Honey temperature during processing and packaging is kept under 32°C.
- How Honey selling agreements are made between honey hunters and the association.
- How Honey marketing is undertaken with actors in value chain.
- The Honey quality certification process.
- The Honey revenue profit sharing policy of the Honey Association: A total of 40% of revenue is for association direct service costs, including transportation. The remaining 60% of revenues are allocated by the association as follows:
  - 10% for government tax
  - 35% for the Community Committee
  - 5% to a fund to protect the environment
  - 30% to a revolving fund for the community
  - 13% payment for the Honey quality certification service
  - 7% paid to the honey hunters.



On the way back, we stopped in the Nanga Leboyan village for a discussion with the local Fisheries Association. Topics included fishing rights, establishment and control of no-fishing zones, reconciliation of local development aspirations with natural resource management needs and prevention of forest fires. Also discussed was the community's unhappiness about the proposed zonation plan for the park, as the authorities had sought little or no input from the communities. We left Nanga Leboyan under falling darkness and arrived back in the dark field center in Bukit Tekenang around 10 pm.

March 23, 2010. Everyone got a good night's sleep, because it was quite cool. We had a slow breakfast and left the field center to return to Suhaid. During the 4 hour boat trip it was clear how much the group had enjoyed being on the houseboat. Although the facilities were quite basic, it was very pleasant to glide over the rivers and lakes, sleep under deck, or enjoy the sun and breeze outside. The food cooked on the boat was very nice, and the Cambodian team much appreciated the different types of fresh fish served.



In Suhaid, we had to wait before the rental cars arrived to take us back to Sintang. We asked the drivers to take it easy on the windy roads, and 5 hours later we were back in the hotel in Sintang, where we slept quite early.

March 24, 2010. The bus ride back from Sintang to Pontianak was a bit quicker than on the way up. People also knew what was coming and were better prepared, and so the trip appeared shorter. By 6 pm we were back in the hotel in Pontianak.

March 25, 2010. Ponreay, Phon, Suntra and Erik visited the Riak Bumi office in Pontianak to get some audio-visual information and to buy samples of local honey. Back in the hotel, we thanked Heri from Riak Bumi for his excellent assistance in facilitating the trip, and we collected our bags to go to the airport for the flight to Jakarta.

March 26, 2010. In the morning, the team did a de-briefing session. Reed Merrill of USAID and Yayuk Budi from the DAI-ESP program, who had helped a lot with the logistical arrangements for this trip in Jakarta, came to meet the team and were presented a gift from the Cambodian delegation.

The DAI-Orangutan Conservation Services Program (OCSP) had arranged a presentation for the delegation from World Education, one of the grantee organizations working under OCSP. Paul Hartman, the Chief of Party of OCSP opened the meeting with a brief presentation, and Handoko, World Education's (WE) Indonesia representative, gave an interesting presentation about how WE strengthens local livelihoods, and helps in managing conflict between communities and private sector (especially regarding timber concessions). Previously, the local economy in the project area was based on forest clearing, so there was a direct connection between economic and conservation issues from the beginning of the project. To promote conservation the immediate need was to find alternative sources of income for the community. Agricultural extension allowed people to plant short duration crops such as chilli and cucumber, providing income and reducing forest clearing. Other activities included growing garden crops, and planting rubber trees close to the forest. A Honey Zone was also demarcated, with participation of stakeholders, to protect Honey resources and to secure and develop honey harvesting for hunters.

Handoko also showed a book that WE had made on Natural Honey Harvesting by the Punan people of Kalimantan. They use traditional techniques for harvesting honey from bee colonies in tall *Koompassia* trees in the rainforest. There was considerable interest from the group in this final learning exercise.

After the presentation, the group returned to the to rest and prepare for the early morning (5.05 am) flight back to Cambodia.

# Lessons learned and thoughts for future trips

Overall, the trip went very well, without any logistical or other problems. In terms of logistics, as predicted, the journey to Danau Sentarum was very long. With many of the group's participants not being used to the windy roads and wild Indonesian driving styles, the bus and cars rides weren't particularly enjoyable. For this particular trip, however, the alternative, flying from Pontianak to Putussibau, and then driving about 6 (instead of 15) hours remains an unreliable alternative--with flights often being cancelled. For the time being, trips to Danau Sentarum will have to include the long driving times, although smaller groups can use cars rather than buses, which would cut the driving time back to about 11 hours from Pontianak to the boat mooring site.

There was a good balance between time invested in learning activities and off-time when participants could digest impressions and information. Still, during the de-briefing some participants suggested that they would have liked the trip to be longer and to include more activities. The trip could probably have included a little less time in Jakarta and a day more in Pontianak, however Jakarta arrangements were not confirmed until the last minute.

The trip greatly benefited from the expert leadership of the two DAI Cambodia staff, Phoung Pichponareay and Duk Phon. Ponreay was the obvious leader of the group who set the agenda, reminded participants of what needed to be done, and translated between English and Cambodian. Phon did a great job managing the financial aspects of the trip. The arrangement by which DAI paid all the meals by keeping back part of the participants' per diem worked out perfectly.

Based on comments from the group, there was a considerable amount of internal learning happening through bringing together government, non-government, and community groups in a setting in where they could interact informally. One government official (see box above) commented that he learned as much from listening to the Cambodian community members as from the actual Indonesian learning exercises. This is something to keep in mind for future trips, as an additional benefit of these mixed groups.

"This trip was very interesting because it was a joint government, communities, and NGO trip, which is actually quite rare. Not only did we learn a lot about Indonesia's natural resource management, but also, as a government employee, I actually learned a lot from the Cambodian community people. This was my first time to Kalimantan, and what struck me was how much traveling it took to get to the field – plane, bus, car, big boat, small boat. Now I understand what it takes to get down to the local level" – Hang Suntra, Chief of Forestry Industry and Trade Development Office, Forestry Administration, Phnom Penh.



Building on the previous point, it would have been good to have women in the delegation. This would have added to the internal process, by providing a women's point of view on certain issues, while also changing the dynamics of the group. Practically, there would not have been any particular difficulties for women to join the trip.

The detailed trip descriptions provided prior to the trip were much appreciated by the participants, and it is a good idea to provide these for future trips. The background information on the country: maps of locations to be visited, and a map of the local area around the Jakarta hotel, gave the participants some useful guidance. One aspect that should have been mentioned, is the different electrical plugs in Indonesia and the need to bring an electrical converter. Also, with many of the participants being keen to have regular phone contact, it would have been handy to provide some background information on pre-paid phone cards and cheap ways to call overseas.

The MSME Biodiversity team highlighted further lessons learned from the mission. Overall, the delegation learned a great deal and gained much useful experience from the mission including:

- National park management and ecology and how park management can reconcile rural development with natural resources management--especially though park zoning.
- Sustainable utilization of natural resources based on local community traditional activities (agriculture, fishing, honey collection).
- The importance of maintaining the traditional cultures of local communities, and the positive role in they play in attracting eco-tourists.
- The mechanics of Honey harvesting and sale management and the benefit sharing system from honey harvesting.
- Learning Sustainable Honey harvesting techniques (cutting out the honey comb/head, rafter bee-keeping).
- Learning about Honey processing, packaging and marketing.
- Learning about the roles of different Honey actors in the value chain, and how they work together for mutual benefit.

The participants were very satisfied with the locations visited, the facilitation of events and the food and accommodation during the mission. The sites visited were very useful for practical learning. Below are three major benefits highlighted by mission participants:

1. This trip was very useful for our community representatives and for government staff. We learned much from the Indonesia Ministry of Forestry, NGOs, honey collectors and the Honey Association about improving the protection and conservation of natural resources, and about how to do the honey business in Cambodia.

"This was my first time abroad. I learned so much! I learned about the culture of people living in a long house. I learned about natural resource management in the park. But the most interesting was to see the honey harvest and processing. We had great fun during the dancing exchange in Sungai Pelaik" - Mean Mom, management committee of the Honey Association, Kampong Thom.



2. We experienced a real successful Honey Association based on best business practices in Indonesia. We could learn from this experience to develop our Honey Association business in the future.
3. This trip helped build relationships between Cambodian and Indonesian representatives in government and communities. It also was very valuable to help us build relationships and understanding between the Cambodian public and rural private sector mission participants.

Participants were interested in undertaking further biodiversity conservation missions to the other countries where upland biodiversity conservation is supported by a strong partnership of government and local communities. They suggested that more government staff should be included in future trips to build government collaboration for project and community activities. All participants wished to express their thanks to the Cambodia MSME Project and USAID for supporting this very useful trip.

# Annexes

## Trip Participants

**Table 1: Mission Participant List**

Cambodia	Name	Province
<b>Project Staff</b>		
Phoung Pichponnareay	CBNRM Specialist	MSME
Duk Phon	GIS Specialist	MSME
<b>Government Officials</b>		
Meng Tech	Director of Dang Peng Multiuse Area	Koh Kong
Net Nivin	Chief of Dang Peng Triage, Forestry Administration	Koh Kong
Hang Suntra	Chief of Forestry Industry and Trade Development Office, Forestry Administration (MAFF)	Phnom Penh
Sokheng Novin	Director of Wildlife Sanctuary Department (MoE)	Phnom Penh
Voun Thoeun	Director of Boeung Pe Wildlife Sanctuary (MoE)	Preah Vihear
Chann Mony neat	Chief of Vor Yeay Triage, Forestry Administration, MAFF	Kampong Thom
<b>Community Forestry (CF), Community Protected Area (CPA), Honey and Resin Enterprise Representatives</b>		
Phea Sophal	Honey Group Representative	Kampong Thom
Mean Mom	CF Chief	Kampong Thom
Chhiv Chhorn	CPA Chief	Preah Vihear
Khan Pich	Resin Group Representative	Preah Vihear
Meas Chroeun	CF Chief of Phnom Torp Cheang	Koh Kong
Oeung Ban	Honey Group Representative in Torp Cheang	Koh Kong
Tith Saroeun	CPA Chief of Preang and Chamkar Kroam	Koh Kong
Pich Sary	Honey Group Representative in Preang	Koh Kong
Toy Lakna	Honey Group Representative in Chamkar Kroam	Koh Kong
Kheng Bunna	CF Chief	Kampong Thom

<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Province</b>
<b>Trip Facilitator</b>		
Erik Meijaard	Forest Director, People and Nature Consulting International	Jakarta
<b>NGO representatives</b>		
Heri Valentinus	Director, Riak Bumi	Pontianak
Denny	Staff Riak Bumi	Pontianak
Jimmy Sam	Staff Riak Bumi	Lanjak
Andi Erman	Staff Fauna and Flora International	Putussibau

## Additional Photos



Meeting at the Ministry of Forestry.



An explanation and discussion about the costs and benefits of oil palm development on the road from.



Thanking the people of Sungai Pelaik for their hospitality



Visit to the Kapuas museum.

