

**Traditional Rubber Agroforest:
Local Effort to Protect the Areas of Globally Important Biodiversity**

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The main 'service' that differentiates the rubber agroforests from other 'tree crop' production systems, is the diversity of plants and animals. With rubber trees typically at or below 50% of the total tree basal area, the diversity of forest trees, epiphytes, birds, insects and mammals is around 50-70% of that in natural forests. This type of agroforests provides one of the best examples of an 'integrate' approach to ecological agriculture, combining biodiversity conservation and income generating opportunities.

RUPES Bungo project is an on-going joint action-research initiative of ICRAF-WARSI-YGB that aims to enhance livelihoods of poor tappers-farmers through development and initiation of efficient "reward" mechanisms for environmental services, in particular rich biodiversity and habitats conservation, in traditional rubber agroforests. There are three kinds of rewards that have been identified as the best options to achieve the RUPES Bungo goals, that is:

1. Micro Hydro Power Plant (PLTKA).
2. Local empowerment through farmer groups and nursery technology
3. Eco certification for traditional rubber agroforest

Please note that our diagram contains realistic elements, but in a schematic way.



1

Tapping rubber:

Large and small trees occur side by side in traditional rubber agroforests. Tapping the rubber trees has for long been the major source of income.

2

Rubber trade:

The Rubber market does not provide incentives for high quality of the product and so far does not reward for the environmental benefits.



3

Agriculture activity:

Paddy rice fields, inherited from mother to daughter, provide food for local consumption; durian from the agroforest can be sold. Diversity of livelihood is important to avoid dependencies in only one kind of resource.





4

Various products from jungle rubber:

One of the main benefits of the rubber agroforestry system that it can provide forests products (fruits, medicinals, rotan) to the villagers.



5

Endangered species:

Traditional rubber agroforest also has a function as protection areas for endangered flora and fauna. The tallest inflorescence of the world and symbol of Jambi province occurs in jungle rubber.



6

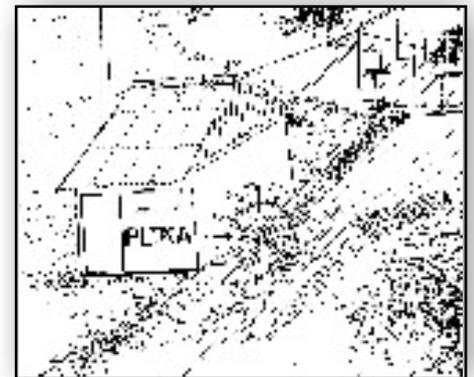
Local empowerment through farmer groups and nursery technology:

Farmer groups are established and now work in a concerted manner. Capacity building by sharing the latest techniques for rejuvenating old rubber plots without initial plot-clearing provides the opportunity to increase the quality of rubber products while still protecting the landscape.

7

Micro Hydro Power Plant (PLTKA) and clean river:

Using local environmental friendly technology, a local initiative has made villagers more independent by providing their own electricity source, this also became a good justification to protect their traditional rubber agroforest (RAF) to maintain the stability and the quality of river flow.



8

Buffer zone and eco-certification scheme:

Traditional rubber agroforest (RAF) has a very important function as a buffer zone between National Parks. Market recognition by eco-certification may in the long run provide more income.

