



## TRADITION TO TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA  
10-13 MAY 2007

The Tradition to Technology Conference was a joint effort between the Natural Health Products Research Society of Canada and the Canadian Herb, Spice and Natural Health Products Coalition. The conference also included a significant non-timber forest resources component supported by Royal Roads University.

The focus of the conference was on the tools, techniques and technology that support this industry and its R&D community. A wide range of topics were covered, from the traditional use of medicinal plants and non-timber forest resources to some of the most sophisticated tools and techniques available to advance the science that supports the industry.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**  
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## GLOBAL ECOTOURISM CONFERENCE 2007

OSLO, NORWAY  
14-16 MAY 2007

The International Ecotourism Society (TIES), Ecotourism Norway and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) organized this inaugural Global Ecotourism Conference, which TIES – in partnership with a national or regional ecotourism association – will be organizing every five years.

As the first major global conference on ecotourism since the UN's International Year of Ecotourism in 2002, the Global Ecotourism Conference 2007 reviewed the achievements in the ecotourism field and assessed challenges facing the industry.

The conference brought together national and regional ecotourism associations and networks from around the world, together with other interested organizations and individuals, to discuss common issues and to help strengthen the collective voice of the ecotourism community.

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## SHARING INDIGENOUS WISDOM: AN INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

GREEN BAY, WI, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
11-15 JUNE 2007

Indigenous peoples all over the world are steadily confronted with outside pressures of having both their land and cultures assimilated into the dominant cultural context. There is currently an acute need to explore successful models of sustainable development that allow for the preservation of indigenous lands, sovereignty and culture, while also allowing for the integration of economic development, institutional capacity-building and technological advancement.

This conference was designed to bring together scholars and practitioners who are committed to the concepts of sustainable development. This year the conference focused on the natural environment foundational element in the Menominee model of sustainable development.

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## THE ROLE OF NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS (NTFPs) IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

HANOI, VIET NAM  
11-15 JUNE 2007

The Viet Nam NTFP Project Phase II, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and the World

Conservation Union (IUCN) hosted this NTFP conference.

NTFPs play an important role in the livelihoods of the rural poor, as a source of food, medicine, construction materials and income. It has been estimated that there are more than 60 million highly forest-dependent people in Latin America, West Africa and Southeast Asia, with an additional 400 to 500 million people directly dependent on these natural products.

Access to forest resources helps rural households diversify their livelihood base and reduce their exposure to risk. Earnings from forest products are often important as a complement to other income. Very large numbers of households generate some of their income from selling forest products, often when farm production is not enough to guarantee self-sufficiency all year round. Income from forest products is often used to purchase seeds, hire labour for cultivation or generate working capital for trading activities. For the poorest households, NTFPs can play a critical role in providing both food and income.

While there is growing appreciation of the importance of NTFPs for rural households, especially of the very poor, there are concerns about the potential impact of NTFP collection on biodiversity.

A number of critical questions were explored during the conference.

- Under what conditions can NTFPs, both plants and animals, be sustainably harvested?
- Can on-farm production of NTFPs result in improved biodiversity conservation?
- Does commercialization of NTFPs result in overharvesting?
- What is needed for markets to be pro-poor?
- Are attempts to develop NTFPs for poverty alleviation really reaching the poorest of the poor?
- To what extent are these attempts impacting biodiversity conservation?

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