

1 FAO INVOLVEMENT IN NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS

1.1 Definitions

1.1.1 "Wood products"

The distinction between wood and non-wood products is ill-defined. In the present context "wood" refers to round wood, sawn timber, wood-based panels, wood chips and pulp, and usually involving commercial enterprises as well as the domestic use of unfinished poles for construction purposes.

1.1.2 "Forest"

The term "forest", as used here, embraces all the natural ecosystems where trees and shrubs form a significant component. Here "forests" range from evergreen rainforest to desert, although in the latter the trees and shrubs are confined primarily to oases and waterways. In certain areas, plantings of NWFP on farmlands constitute chief supplies available for household consumption or sale (eg., bamboo in Bangladesh; forage species), or have potential as sources of supplemental income (eg., medicinal herbs; mushrooms). In these cases, coordination among NWFP and agroforestry activities is required.

1.1.3 "Non-wood forest products"

Non-wood forest products (NWFP), as used in this report, refers to market or subsistence goods and services for human or industrial consumption derived from renewable forest resources and biomes, bearing promise for augmenting real rural household incomes and employment. The products include the use of plants for food, beverages, forage, fuel and medicine (Table 1.1), animals, birds and fishes for food, fur and feathers, and of their products such as honey, lac, silk, etc. (Table 1.2) and the services of land for conservation and recreation (Table 1.3). These tables may be considered to form a preliminary basis for the classification of NWFP.

Forage, in the sense applied by FAO usage (Ibrahim 1975), includes "all browse and herbaceous food that is available to livestock or game animals". Thus forage includes NWFP that sustain such animal populations.

Fuels derived from wood or NWFP are not considered in this report, although there is an overlap of interests where biofuels have as secondary products tar or chemicals useful to industry. Similarly, handicraft products derived in part from wood are included in this report, as they are insufficiently covered by other FAO branches.

Table 1.1 Vegetal Non-wood Forest Products

Food -	wild, domesticated, semi-domesticated plants, useable weeds, fungi, etc. and their edible roots, tubers, bulbs, stems, leaves, shoots, flowers, fruits, seeds, etc. to provide cereals, vegetables, edible fats and oils, spices and flavourings, salt substitutes, sweeteners, rennet substitutes, meat tenderizers, beverages, cordials and infusions, thirst quenchers, etc.
Forage -	food for livestock and wildlife, including birds, fishes, and insects such as bees, silkworms, lac insects, etc.
Pharmaceuticals -	drugs, anaesthetics, salves, ointments, lotions, purgatives, etc. for both human and veterinary use.
Toxins -	for hunting, ordeal poisons, hallucinogens, pesticides, fungicides, etc. Note, some may have a pharmaceutical potential, especially as anaesthetics.
Aromatics -	essential oils for cosmetic and perfume industries (international market highly specialized and vulnerable), unguents, incense, etc.
Biochemicals -	non-edible fats and oils, naval stores, waxes, gums and latex, dyes, tannins, biochemicals for plastics and coatings, paints and varnish industries, etc.
Fibre -	cloth, matting, cordage, basketry, brooms, stuffing for pillows, cork, etc.
Wood -	wood for handicrafts.
Ornamentals -	aesthetically pleasing plants for horticultural and amenity planting, cut- and dried-flower trades, etc.

derived from wood or NWFP are not considered in this report, although there is an overlap of interests between the two. For example, some products are derived from wood and have as secondary products tar or chemicals. Similarly, handicraft products derived from wood are included in this report, as they are covered by other FAO branches.

Table 1.2 Faunal Non-wood Forest Products.¹

Wild animals	- meat, hides, skins, fibre, horn, bone, pharmaceuticals, etc.
Birds	- meat, eggs, feathers, edible nests, guano, etc.
Fishes	- food, fish oil, feed protein, etc.
Reptiles-	food, hide, skins, shell, toxins, pharmaceuticals.
Insects	- edible insects, plant exudates (manna), honey, wax, propolis, silk, lac, insect pests, etc.

Table 1.3 Forestry Services

Range	- Grazing, browse, shade and shelter for domestic livestock and wildlife, etc.
Soil improvement and protection	- green manure, humus, N-fixation, soil stabilization, shade, shelter, hedges, etc.
Parks and reserves	- for conservation of flora and fauna, tourism, recreation, hunting, shooting, fishing, photography, bird watching, bug collecting, etc.
Aesthetic	- scenic or historic sites, etc.

¹ Note: Some Wildlife Products are Protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).