

# NEFNEWSLETTER

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Founded in 1989, the Nagao Natural Environment Foundation (NEF) is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting the conservation of nature and wildlife in developing countries of the Asia-Pacific region. The NEF's activities are supported solely by private funds donated by Mr. Eijiro Nagao, who is the president of Marusan Securities Co., Ltd. and his family.

The NEF pursues its way through two main schemes: Research Grant and Scholarship. The Research Grant scheme provides grants to creative and committed local people to undertake their research and related activities in the scope of nature and wildlife conservation. The Scholarship scheme supports local students who can work for nature and wildlife conservation in the future.

In the past 15 years since its establishment, the Research Grant scheme mainly supported full-time researchers who belonged to research institution in the Asia-Pacific region. A total of 150 research projects have been granted during this time. In the meanwhile, the Scholarship scheme supported the total number of 910 students in seven countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

From 2004, the NEF is to offer new programmes. The Research Grant is to offer supports to (1) Research Grant Programme, (2) Publication Programme, (3) Small-scale Research Grant Programme, and (4) Conservation Activity Programme. In addition, the Scholarship scheme is to offer the Exchange Programme, where the students can broaden their knowledge and experience in conservation activities.

For further information, please visit our website at; http://www.jwrc.or.jp/NEF/

In addition to the above-mentioned two schemes, the NEF aims to help establish linkage between organisations working in similar research fields so that they could assist each other by exchanging skills and experiences.

#### **NEF Research Grant Scheme**

The framework of the NEF Research Grant scheme for 2004 is as below:

- (1) Research Grant Programme
- (2) Publication Programme
- (3) Small-scale Research Grant Programme
- (4) Conservation Activity Programme

Applicants must have their permanent and working addresses in the countries they undertake their projects. They are assessed in terms of both their academic achievement and work experience. Prior to the submission of the NEF Application Forms, applicants must provide the following documents in English: curriculum vitae, proposal outline (about 500-600 words), proposed budget (total and yearly), supporting letters of reference from supervisors and academic record. Applications are accepted and appraised throughout the year. Upon completion of their projects, the NEF grant recipients must submit a report of at least about 10,000 words or alternative materials with the financial reports.

For further information, please visit our website at; http://www.jwrc.or.jp/NEF/

The next section of the newsletter introduces some of the projects granted in Japanese fiscal year of 2002.

# Strengthening Community-Based Forest Management for Income Generation and Biodiversity Conservation: A Case Study of Two Indigenous Forest Communities in Northern Thailand (Progress as of November 2003)

#### **Sopon Thangphet**

Northern Development Center, Faculty of Social Sciences, Chiang Mai University, Thailand

### Introduction

The past four decades have witnessed growing concern over a rapid rate of deforestation in Thailand. Forest area has decreased dramatically from a little over 50 per cent of the total land area of the country in 1960 to only about 25 per cent in 1998. In other words, the country lost half of its forests over this 38-year period. Some argue that the real remaining forest area might be lower than the official figure (Northern Development Foundation 2000).

In response to the process of deforestation, the government has placed greater emphasis on local participation in natural resource management. Community forestry was initially introduced into the national development plan in 1987 (NESDB 1987). In case of Northern Thailand, the indigenous forest communities have existed in the area for several centuries. Most of them have been practiced without any formal written rules and regulations. unrecognized by the state and public until two decades ago. The existence of indigenous forest communities can be found in the law of King Mengrai who was the first king of Lanna Kingdom in the late 13th century AD. This ancient law prescribed a system of punishment that stipulated fines for violators of ceremonial forests. These forests are commonly founded at the upper watershed in areas where certain communities believe in the spirits of the watershed. In turn, these spirits serve as the protectors or guardians of the forest area. In addition, several studies also indicate that there are a large number of indigenous forest communities across the region. These community-protected forests are conserved primarily for the watershed value. Other benefits derived from the forest are windfalls, not the major reason for conserving the forest. Thus, in the past, the local irrigation groups (khum muang fai) served as a body that linked the watershed forest and the farming systems. Some local irrigation groups are still active in managing the forest today, others have transferred the watershed protection function to local government, particularly the Tambon Administrative Organization. Thus, there is a close link between forest protection and the farming systems. To date, the government is increasingly involved in the development of indigenous forest communities. In Northern Thailand, these community-based forest management systems, locally called pa chum chon, can be divided into five major types. These are ceremonial forests, watershed forests, wildlife sanctuaries, recreational areas, and communal woodlots.

# **Research Methodology**

An inventory of indigenous forest communities in Chiang Mai and Lamphun provinces was conducted during the first two months of the study. The first month was devoted to collecting secondary data. The site visits took two months because the locations of community forests were scattered. The leader or assistant of the indigenous forest communities was interviewed using an inventory form. The results of the inventory showed that there were 144 indigenous forest communities in Chiang Mai and 149 indigenous forest communities in Lamphun. Most

of them were conserved as watersheds for domestic consumption and agricultural production. The development of these community forests occurred as a response to deforestation, logging concession, and external forest encroachment. After comparing field data and following consultation with concerned organizations, two indigenous forest communities were selected for intensive study. These were Ban Thung Yao forest community in Lamphun and Ban Mae Khumpong forest community in Chiang Mai. Some preliminary fieldwork was conducted to collect information from these selected forest communities.



Collecting non-timber forest products for sale.

#### Research Plan

An intensive fieldwork will be conducted to collect more information from each selected forest community. Key informants from each forest community will be intensively interviewed using the interview guide. The main aim is to understand how community forest is being managed and how to strike the balance between economic and conservation goals.



Watershed forest protection of Ban Thung Yao with the spirit house nearby.



Watershed forest of Ban Thung Yao serve as a water source for domestic consumption and agriculture.

- **Note:** 1. Northern Development Foundation, 2000. Land and Forest: Participatory Watershed Management.. Paper presented in the Participatory Watershed Management Conference, Chiang Mai.
  - National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), 1987.
     The Sixth National Economic and Social Development Plan (1987-1991).
     Bangkok.

### Distribution and ecology of ricefishes of the genus Oryzias in Thailand (Progress as of January 2004)

#### Dr. Wichian Magtoon

Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Srinakharinwirot University, Thailand

The occurrence of ricefish *Oryzias* in Thailand was first reported by Smith (1945), who described *O. minutillus* as a new species based on specimens obtained from the small canal in Bangkok, central Thailand. Since then, the genus had been considered to be represented by this sole species in Thailand until *O. mekongensis* was described as a new species from the Mekong basin in the northeast Thailand by Uwa and Magtoon (1986), and *O. javanicus* and *O. dancena* (so far reported as *O. melastigma*) were reported from the Peninsular Thailand by Magtoon (1986) and Magtoon and Uwa (1986), respectively. In addition, *O. pectoralis* was found at the basin of the Songkham River, a branch of the Mekong River in northeast Thailand by Magtoon and Musikasinthorn (in press). Therefore, the genus *Oryzias* is now known to be represented by five species in Thailand.

Of the five species, *O. minutillus* is the commonest and most widely distributed in Thai waters, occurring in nearly all river basins in the country (Scheel, 1969; Robert, 1971; Magtoon, 1986; Magtoon *et al.*, 1981; Takata *et al.*, 1983; Robert, 1999; Magtoon *et al.*, 2002). It inhabits shallow waters, paddy fields, ponds, swamps and reservoirs in the central and other parts of Thailand (Magtoon *et al.*, 1992; Magtoon, 1993). Interestingly, *O. minutillus* is abundant in "secondary nature developments" such as rice fields which are already much or less altered by human activities. On the other hand, most of ricefish species are known to be sensitive to environmental changes and can be used as an indicator for environmental monitoring.

Therefore, *O. minutillus* has been selected as a typical model to study for this year. The objectives of the study are to clarify geographic range and local population of *O. minutillus* to investigate their biotic and abiotic habitat conditions and then to geographical variation (morphology and cytogenetics). Field surveys for *O. minutillus* have been done in 41 stations: Chao Phraya region (20 stations), Mekong region (14 stations), Southeastern region (six stations) and Peninsula region (one station). Other aquatic organisms in each station such as plankton (both phytoplankton and zooplankton), mollusks, crustaceans, insects and aquatic plants were also studied. Abiotic environmental conditions such as air and water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH and salinity were also recorded from the 41 stations.

# Biodiversity and Conservation of Yeasts in Indonesia (Progress as of November 2003)

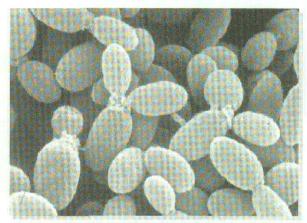
#### Wellyzar Sjamsuridzal

Department of Biology, Faculty of Mathematics and Sciences, University of Indonesia, Indonesia

Although the richness of Indonesian flora and fauna has been recognized, the Indonesian microbial diversity has been largely unexplored. We are lacking of in-depth knowledge on genetic diversity of Indonesian indigenous microorganisms. Yeasts have significant functions in ecosystems and they are ubiquitous in nature, present in both aquatic and terrestrial.

Among the under-explored microbial ecosystems in Indonesia, tropical rainforest of Gunung Halimun National Park, mangrove forests of Pulau Rambut Nature Reserve and Muara Angke Nature Reserve, and marine area of Teluk Jakarta (Jakarta Bay) in Java island, represented terrestrial and aquatic habitats, are selected as sampling sites for this study. The aims of this study are: to analyze the species distribution in three different ecosystems (tropical rainforest, mangrove forests and marine area) and to analyze the species diversity of yeasts from each ecosystems by molecular approach based on sequence analysis of D1/D2 region of Large subunit (LSU) ribosomal RNA gene. To obtain an understanding on the distribution and species diversity of yeasts from tropical rainforest, mangrove forests and marine environments, we need to get sequences data of yeast isolates from these ecosystems.

In our preliminary study in August of 2001, sampling was conducted in two mangrove forests (Pulau Rambut and Muara Angke) in the North Jakarta and marine water of Teluk Jakarta (Jakarta Bay). Then, in the year 2002, we had sequenced 67 yeast isolates (from a total 1.136 yeasts isolated from sampling materials e.g., the phyllosphere, water, soil, litters, sediment, and gastropods). Sequence data indicated that these two mangrove forests and marine water of Jakarta Bay possess a high species diversity of yeasts. To obtain a better understanding on species diversity of yeasts in mangrove forests and marine, we need to sequence more yeast isolates.



Yeasts

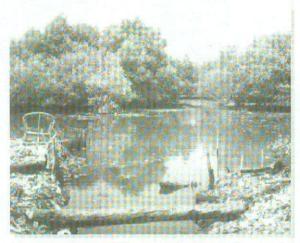


Mangrove forest of Pulau Rambut Nature Reserve in North Jakarta, Indonesia

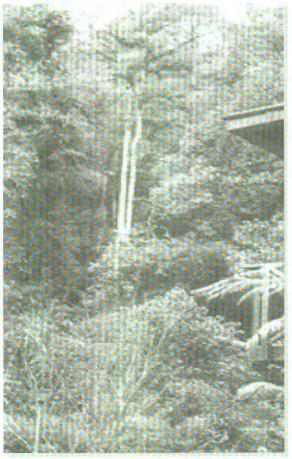
In the year 2003, we sequenced another 61 isolates from two mangrove forests (Pulau Rambut Nature Reserve and Muara Angke Nature Reserve) and marine water of Teluk Jakarta (Jakarta Bay). A total 128 yeasts had been sequenced from these environments, they consist of 18 genera and 36 species, which is phylogenetically highly diverse. Although we found common genera in these three ecosystems, which are *Candida, Cryptococcus, Rhodotorula* and *Trichosporon*, each ecosystem has its specificity on its species diversity. There are differences in species distribution and diversity in both mangrove forests and marine water. We found that 31 isolates or 25% from a total 128, indicated to be undescribed yeasts.

In April of 2003, we conducted three days sampling in Gunung Halimun National Park (at three different altitudes, e.g., 500 m, 1.000 m, and 1.500 m above sea level). The sample materials for yeast isolates are the phyllosphere, water, soil, litters, sediment, and gastropods. Gunung Halimun National Park (ca. 40,000 ha, at elevation 500 – 1.929m) is the largest area of tropical rainforest remaining in Java. The previous studies indicated that the Park harbors a high diversity of plants and animals. However, no information on genetic diversity of fungal yeasts community in GHNP.

In this study, we had sequenced 93 isolates from GHNP (from a total 646 isolates). They consist of 21 genera and 45 species, which is phylogenetically diverse. In GHNP, we also found the genera Candida, Cryptococcus, Rhodotorula and Trichosporon. We found that 25 isolates (27%) from a total 93 isolates from GHNP are undescribed yeasts. Now we are analyzing the species distribution and species diversity of yeasts in three different altitudes in GHNP, and comparing to those in mangrove forests in North Jakarta and marine of Jakarta Bay. This study is the first report on genetic diversity of yeasts in Indonesia and our study detected the presence of new taxa from three different ecosystems, therefore, we need further studies for description and publication of those new taxa.



Mangrove forest of Muara Angke Nature Reserve in North Jakarta, Indonesia



Tropical rain forest in Gunung Halimun National Park, West Java, Indonesia

# Seasonality and population dynamics of understorey birds in West Sumatra lowaland forests (Progress as of February 2004)

#### Wilson Novarino

Biology department, Faculty of Mathematics and Science, Andalas University, West Sumatra, Indonesia

During the past decade, due to increasing human population, habitat loss has been the most serious threat to the survival of birds in Indonesia. Recently, illegal logging, concession areas, resettlements and oil palm plantations have been the major causes for the forest fragmentation. In light of this reality, experts have predicted that the forests on Sumatra, one of the larger islands in Indonesia, should be completely vanished by 2005 (Jepson *et al.*, 2001).

Understanding how the understorey tropical rainforest birds respond to forest fragmentation and consequent edge effect is vital to ensure bird conservation. Conservation of avifauna is often focused on protected area, primary forest or undisturbed forest, however there is little attention given to secondary and edge forest habitats, despite the fact that most of forest habitats now are secondary. In this study, we examined the seasonality and population dynamics of understorey birds at secondary forest edge in Sumatran lowland forests.

The Sumatran Bird Ringing Program was conducted in 1995-1997 during the Field Biology Research and Training Project (joint project between JICA and Andalas University). In this project, Hiroshi Kobayashi (JICA expert) set a bird ringing station at the forest edge of the Kasia'an River, Sipisang Village. A total of 106 species of birds have been recorded in this project, and Rhinomiyas brunneata was found to be a new record for Indonesia (Kobayashi, Setiawan, Saaroni and Setiadi, 1995, Salsabila, Kobayashi, Novarino, 1997). Since March 2002 until recently, the bird ringing study was reconducted by Cheng Kim Loke Foundation, Lady Mc Neicee. It is now continued by the Nagao Natural Environment Foundation.

Fifteen mist nets were set up on ground level for five days twice a month (beginning and middle of month). The nets were operated from 06.00 to 18.00, and checked every two hours. The captured birds were ringed with serial-numbered metal rings provided from Yamashina Institute for Ornithology. The birds were then identified, measured, weighed, scored and photographed.

A total of 1,830 birds have been ringed and recaptured since 1997 (1,139 newly ringed and 691 recaptured), of which 1,373 individuals were dealt with during the present study (March 2002 until February 2004). These birds belong to 101 species, 25 families, with 42 species which have not been recorded in previous studies (Salsabila *et al.*, 1997, and unpublished data). There are 22 bird species declared as protected birds by the Indonesian regulation, 17 species listed as Near Threatened and one species (Fig 1. *Alcedo euryzona*, Blue-banded kingfisher) listed as Vulnerable by IUCN (IUCN, 2001)



Fig 1. Alcedo euryzona (Blue banded kingfisher)

The results also show striking monthly changes in bird species. Species turnover is also recorded during this study. Most of the newly recorded birds, such as *Iole virescens* captured for the first time in February 2004, were identified as characteristic species for degradated or secondary edge forests. Local extinction as one of the parameters on community studies is also suggested. For example, white-rumped shama (*Copsychus malabaricus*) had been captured in previous studies but there was no record in this project.

Based on guild composition, the study area is dominated by insectivore or frugivorous bird species and litter gleaning species became the lowest one, respectively 528 individual belonging to 23 species and eight individual belonging to three species.

#### References

- IIUCN, 2001. http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/redlists/Rlcats2001booklet.html.
- Jepson, P. J. K. Jarvie, K. MacKinnon & K. A. Monk. 2001. The end for Indonesia's lowland forests?. Science Vol. 292 (5518).
- Kobayashi, H., I. Setiawan, Y. Saaroni and A.P. Setiadi. 1995. The Birds of Sipisang and Ulu Gadut, West Sumatra. Annual Report of FBRT Project no 1. Pp 122-130. JICA- Andalas University.
- Salsabila, A., H. Kobayashi and W. Novarino. 1997. Bird Community Structure of Gallery Forest in West Sumatra. Annual Report of FBRT Project no 3 pp 278-287. JICA- Andalas University.

# The Economic Values of Water for Agricultural and Domestic Uses in Surrounding Gunung Halimun National Park Area

#### Widada

Gunung Halimun National Park, Indonesia

Gunung Halimun National Park (GHNP) is one of the most important protected areas in Indonesia because of its biodiversity and hydrological function for the area surrounds. Due to its hydrological use, forest ecosystem of GHNP has a very important role as water reservation and origin of more than 50 rivers. Water of the rivers is valuable for agricultural irrigation and other activities and gives intangible value to the people live in the province of West Java (District of Sukabumi and Bogor), Banten (District of Lebak), and Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia.

GHNP is surrounded by 51 villages with 219723 residents. Most of the residents are Sundanese who generally embrace Islam. Their education level is generally low (elementary school). Most of them work as farmer with narrow farm ownership (less than 1 ha) and their average income is lower than Rp 100 thousand per capita per month. Their livelihood is highly depending on natural resources from the forest. In some villages, there is traditional community (called Adat Kasepuhan) that respects custom of their ancestor. People around GHNP use wellspring or small natural reservoir for domestic uses. Other sources are river, well and others (Figure 1). The communities depend on natural water. In view of its quality, wellspring's water is better than river.

The objective of the study is to determine and to calculate economic value of water coming from GHNP, especially for the local community, which abut on direct with GHNP. Using the approach of levying expense, the research was conducted by taking 13 samples of villages surrounding GHNP representing the regency of Lebak, Bogor, and Sukabumi. Holding an interview with 325 responders (25 responders for each village) collected primary data; and secondary data were collected through study of literature and report.

Rice fields around GHNP are in the form of narrow belt following contour line. They are irrigated by natural water coming from wellspring in GHNP. The irrigation channel is not permanent so that farmer has to repair every season. Irrigating mechanism of the rice field around GHNP is quite simple. Water is poured into rice field through simple moat or channel of irrigation (Figure 2). Source of the irrigation is wellspring or part of upstream of a river. The moat or channel is usually made by "gotong royong" (mutual cooperation of people). To maintain water for the rice field, farmer must repair the channel before the cultivation.

The economic value of water for local communities around the GHNP is as follows: Economic value of water equal to Rp 6.64 billion (Rp 173.278,47 per ha) is representing economic benefit of water stemming from GHNP for the 51 villages which abut on direct by GHNP. The monetary value will be bigger if we look at the area broader.

The enormous benefit value of water (domestic and the agriculture) proves that development of conservation area (in this case is GHNP) does not oppose against economic development.

**Table 1.** Total value of water for local community, which abut on direct with Gunung Halimun National Park

Economic value	Domestic Water (Rp per year)	Irrigation water (Rp per year)	Total (Rp per year)
Willingness to pay	5223870380	1417546684	6641417064
Paid value	1163367368	958967038	2122334406
Consumer surplus	4060503012	460387310	4520890322

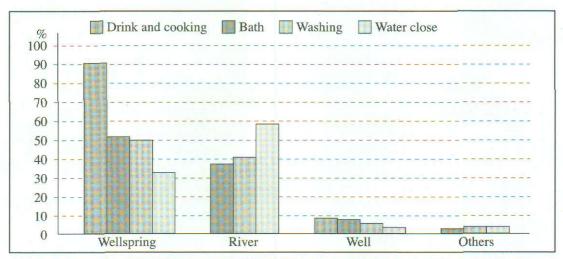


Figure 1. Way of community surround GHNP fulfill amount of water required for domestic uses

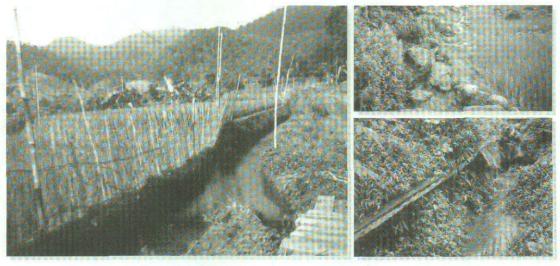


Figure 2. Simple moat or channel of irrigation for paddy field

#### References

- IIUCN, 2001. http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/redlists/Rlcats2001booklet.html.
- Jepson, P. J. K. Jarvie, K. MacKinnon & K. A. Monk. 2001. The end for Indonesia's owland forests?. Science Vol. 292 (5518).
- Kobayashi, H., I. Setiawan, Y. Saaroni and A.P. Setiadi. 1995. The Birds of Sipisang and Ulu Gadut, West Sumatra. Annual Report of FBRT Project no 1. Pp 122-130. JICA- Andalas University.
- Salsabila, A., H. Kobayashi and W. Novarino. 1997. Bird Community Structure of Gallery Forest in West Sumatra. Annual Report of FBRT Project no 3 pp 278-287. JICA- Andalas University.

## **NEF Scholarship Scheme**

The NEF Scholarship scheme aims to support students who can work for conservation of nature and wildlife in the future. It operates through partnership with local counterpart organisations in selected countries. In 2003, the NEF Scholarship scheme supported students sitting a BSc-level or above in Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines (restricted to students from Palawan Province) and Vietnam. In 2004, students in Malaysia (restricted to students from Sabah State) and Lao P.D.R are to be invited to this programme.

Applicants must be nationals and residents of those countries. Scholarships are offered in the subjects relevant to conservation of nature and wildlife. For further information, please contact the counterpart organisation at the addresses shown on the following pages.

#### Indonesia

Contact: Ms. Rika Novida
Office of the NEF Scholarship Programme in Indonesia
Manggala Wanabakti Bld, Block 7/6th Floor, Jl. Gatot Subroto
Jakarta 10270, Indonesia

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Contact: Mr. U Ohn

Forest Resource Environment Development and Conservation Association (FREDA) 288/290 Suite 707 MWEA Tower, Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Dagon Township Yangon, Myanmar

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Contact: Professor Le Trong Cuc Centre for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (CRES) The University of Hanoi 19 Le Thanh Tong Street Hanoi, Vietnam

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