



## Harvesting Non-Timber Forest Products without Cutting Trees for Human Purposes

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### Description

Any good or service generated in forests that isn't timber is known as a Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP). Fruits, nuts, vegetables, fish, game, medicinal plants, resins, essences, and a variety of barks and fibers, including bamboo, rattan, and a variety of different palms, grasses, and palm fronds, are among them.

Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) are resources that come from forests but are not directly based on the wood that is generated. They are valuable to human society. Native Americans place a high value on many of the products, such as those used to make baskets or medicines. The sorts of measurement techniques used to evaluate NTFP availability also vary widely due to the large range of NTFPs. Additionally, the geographical scale can range from small, localized places to vast expanses. The management of the resources and markets that they are targeted toward is typically the subject of local area inventories of NTFPs. Both the number of products accessible and the quantity of products consumed can be calculated using inventories; the latter requires market research on the movement of products via a human system. General forest inventories, which can offer information on the structure of forests and tree diversity, may be used to create information on the availability of some NTFPs at a local level. For instance, determining whether a forest is suitable for growing wild mushrooms might depend on a variety of criteria, including tree species, tree ages, soil quality, and current management practices. A wide range of landscapes can be evaluated for potential availability using remote sensing techniques.

The flora harvested from forests for non-timber goods has been referred to by a variety of names. They are referred to as "nonwood forest products" by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, a category that also includes food and game, textiles, resins, gums, and plant and animal items used for medical, cosmetic, or cultural purposes. In a recently published national plan, the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service refers to "special forest products," which are defined as items other than sawtimber, pulpwood, cull logs, tiny roundwood, house logs, utility poles, minerals, animal parts, rocks, water, and soil. The term "forest botanicals" was recently introduced by the US Congress and defined as naturally occurring mushrooms, fungi, flowers, seeds, roots, barks, leaves, and other vegetation (or portions thereof) that grow on National Forest System lands. This legislation supports improved management for these products. It is well known that there is a connection between forest resources and local residents' ability to support themselves. Communities residing near forest edges in the West Usambara Mountains gain from the ecosystem services provided by the forest, although the advantages vary depending on the family. In West Usambara, this study sought to evaluate and compare the advantages accruing to community groups based on non-timber forest products and the driving forces behind community group forest management. The study determined the difference in NTFPs income flow between genders and age groups as well as the influence of NTFPs on the poverty dynamics of genders and age groups based on indicators of income, poverty, and management motivation. An essential component of forest conservation is the restoration of the means of subsistence for communities dependent on the forest. For the purpose of this study, we created a framework of restorative justice to analyze the fairness and equity of the management of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), which is frequently seen as a crucial tool for restoring livelihood in the context of forest conservation. The results show that initiatives to sell and employ NTFPs have fallen short of realizing restorative justice. There is an imbalance in representation from the viewpoint of recognizing justice, which focuses on the various perspectives taken into account while making decisions. This is because higher-level governments' preferences for particular actions lead to the establishment of political projects. The government ignores and underfunds local, bottom-up NTFP programs, even if they are unlikely to succeed. From a procedural standpoint, the execution of NTFP management policies and the quality of NTFP projects are compromised by the absence of expert engagement and public participation.

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