



Wild foods as cultural heritage and cultural ecosystem services in Indigenous Food Systems

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- Wild foods are not only healthy nutritious options, they are also cultural important, providing:
 - Cultural ecosystem service
 - Intangible cultural heritage
- Harvesting wild food is linked to attachment to place and thus cultural identity (Richmond et al. 2005; Loring and Gerlach 2009; Urquhart and Acott 2014).





East Usambara Mountains, Tanzania

Kyle Powys Whyte and other Indigenous scholars and activities note that:

Indigenous relationships with ecosystems, places, and all species are an interwoven set of responsibilities that foster the collective continuance of all species, including people.





Gumuz woman collecting bamboo shoots, Ethiopia

The Gumuz people of Ethiopia:

- Unlike most other communities in Ethiopia, consume a lot of wild foods (e.g. bamboo shoots)
- Locally preferred traditional lablab bean thrives in shifting cultivation, now discouraged/ banned
- Hunting, although illegal, remains common in west Ethiopia (Erena et al. 2020). High rates of livestock disease and low access to extension services, mean loss of wild could have sig. implications





Emilina, with fishing pole, sago palms in background, Papua Province, Indonesia

Indigenous communities of Papua, Indonesia:

- Traditional diet based on sago and wild fish and meat
- State narratives about “food security” heavily focused on rice, forest land seen as “unproductive”
- Increased production of oil palm in the region has led to influx of non-Indigenous people and greater access to processed foods





- Indigenous and minority communities around the world are vulnerable to policies that are not attentive to the unique aspects of their food systems
- Land-use and conservation policy has, and continues to, infringe of the right to food for many Indigenous communities (Holen 2004; Sylvester et al. 2016, Sunderland 2020; Turner and Curran forthcoming).

Thank You!

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