

# Traditional rubber agroforests preserve biodiversity

Rubber agroforests can be productive for over 40 years; they contain a wide range of tree sizes, from seedlings to large canopy trees.



H. de Foresta, © IRD France



H. de Foresta, © IRD France

Lumps of rubber latex are formed into slabs in the agroforest; slabs can be stored for weeks and sold when income is needed.



G. Makon, © IRD France

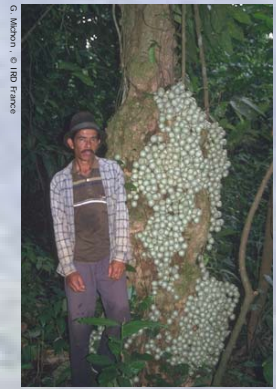
Durian (*Durio zibethinus*) is also cultivated in rubber agroforest and often contributes significantly to the income of farming families.

Natural forest is rapidly disappearing. Rubber agroforests (as shown below) cover hundreds of thousands of hectares in Sumatra providing a refuge for thousands of forest species.



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To limit the predicted massive loss of species, it is vital to both preserve the last remnants of natural forests and to help farmers continue to sustainably manage their rubber agroforests.



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The forest tree *Baccaurea lanceolata* is one example of the numerous species that spontaneously regenerate and are preserved by farmers in their agroforests.



A. Compoint

Various species of protected birds, such as the great hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*), can be found feeding in rubber agroforests.



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Limited management is typical of rubber agroforests; this allows many forest plant species to regenerate, including rare palm trees.



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Rattan is another commercially valuable product from rubber agroforests. In this photo "manau" rattan is prepared before being sold.



A. Compoint

The leaf monkey (*Presbytis melalophos*), an internationally protected species, is abundant in Sumatran rubber agroforests.



A. Compoint

Many forest shrubs such as this *Gardenia sp.* thrive in the agroforest understorey.



H. de Foresta, © IRD France

An extensive network of middlemen allows smallholders to earn an income from their agroforests, particularly in remote areas.



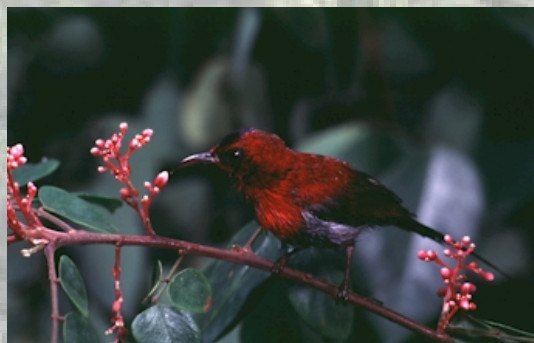
H. de Foresta, © IRD France

Latex from traditional rubber agroforests is the major source of raw material for the Indonesian rubber industry.

The complex structure and long life span of rubber agroforests allow for many epiphyte species such as this *Bulbophyllum sp.*, to develop.



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A. Compoint

High bird species richness is associated with the variety of niches found in rubber agroforests; pictured here is crimson sunbird (*Aethopyga siparaja*).

Society at large benefits from the conservation services provided by traditional rubber agroforests. Isn't it time that society support farmers in maintaining this environmentally friendly production system?



G. Makon, © IRD France

## JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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## MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

## APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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## MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## JUNE

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29	30					

## JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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## AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

## SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29

## DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		