



SEPALI

Conservation for the Bottom Billion

News from CPALI/SEPALIM

This week scientists and activists around the world are focused on informing governments abut the pending environmental disasters we face: climate change, habitat loss, pollinator loss and other species extinctions. Due to climate change, local communities need innovative approaches to earn money in ways that enhance local habitats and support local species. It is important that we do not forget them.

CPALI is continuing to develop new markets for cocoon-silk textiles to ensure SEPALIM's successful transition to economic independence and sustainability.

Because caterpillars spin cocoons to protect themselves from a variety of physical conditions in diverse biological habitats (lowland rainforest, montane forest, savannah, dry forest and during dry seasons, wet seasons, high temperatures and drought), in addition to predators, silk and cocoon compositions vary greatly in morphology and physical properties. When cocoons are processed and silks are spun to make textiles, the fibers can become homogenized and lose their unique appearance. Cocoon-silk made from untreated cocoons give silk its original look and reveal the conditions under which the moths live.

CPALI has organized 3, new events during Portland textile month in October to introduce cocoon silk to west coast artists, artisans and home decorators. If you are in the Portland area please consider joining us: 1) on October 3 Julie Beeler will hold a natural dye workshop for those interested in exploring how to dye cocoon silks for their own artistic uses; 2) on October 5 Cargo will hold a pop-up and reception at their store for a new Tanana-Cargo collection that celebrates their collaboration 5PM-7PM; 3) on October 23, CPALI/SEPALIM will hold a reception for the Sylvan Dyers Circle of Portland - 5

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3.8 kg of Red Ruffed Lemur



II 4000 silkworm pupae plus a side of 1 kilo of cocoons



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Portland Textile Month is hosting of whom have created original art works - at Cargo, 81 SE Yamhill St, Portland, OR 9721. The art pieces will be on display 5 October - 23 October when a silent auction will be held to benefit SEPALIM and the artists.



Explore using natural dyes on two types of cocoon silk!

In August, Mamy gave a wonderful presentation at the annual meeting of the Association of Tropical Biology held in Tana this year that piqued the interest of several conservation groups. Coincidently, Sanjo Silk, SEPALIM's distribution partner, is interested in helping SEPALIM produce silk yarns from the cocoons of Madagascar's Saturniidae silk moths. While it is still early in its experiments, Sanjo is developing yarns and hopes to train the SEPALIM team to use electric spinning wheels to greatly increase production capacity as well as the number of people who can profit from the SEPALIM program. Madagascar silk programs could then be extended to a variety of new habitats with new livelihoods that match the fantastic biodiversity of Madagascar wild silk moths!

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Lalaina has also been working hard to expand partnerships for the SEPALIM team. She discovered many new admirers for her and the team's work at the Santa Fe International Folk Art Market (IFAM) exchanged skills and knowledge. In fact, just after her return to Madagascar, she and Mamy traveled to the Amorni' mania region of Madagascar to visit Prisca Ramanaliniaina (the Association Tanjoana), a textile artist from Madagascar, who Lalaina met at the market. Prisca is teaching them how to make and use natural dyes. Mamy is collecting samples of dye plants that he will use to identify species in the same genera that grow in the Maroantsetra area. From these comparisons he should be able to identify dye plants that are locally available to SEPALIM.

3 events by CPALI/SEPALIM

Sign up on eventbrite!

Check out SEPALIM's new website

DONATE to SEPALI's new programs!

Donate





A. Prisca (Tanjona), Kerry, Lalaina, Marianne B. Cedi (Ghanian bead maker), Lalaina and Gasali (Nigerian indigo artist).

In addition to that intra-country collaboration, which was facilitated by the IFAM market, Lalaina also met expert indigo dyer and textile artist Gasali Adeyamo from Nigeria. Gasali is a long-time participant in the Santa Fe market and his current ambition is to encourage other artists to preserve and cherish the fantastically beautiful artistic techniques of the Yoruba tribe. Wouldn't it be wonderful if Gasali could travel to Madagascar and hold a workshop with Malagasy artisans to expand their resist dye techniques and create a new, crossfertilization of African traditional and contemporary textiles?

News from the Market

SEPALIM was the "talk of the market" at Santa Fe. We were thrilled that after looking at SEPALIM's products and learning about cocoon silk, buyers would then find and *grab* their friends returning to introduce them to the amazing cocoon silk!





Santa Fe buyer appreciates SEPALIM's textiles

We introduced a new product, Lalaina's beautiful "cocoon baskets" with hand woven raffia trim and sold within a day! We will be selling them at Cargo during the October textile month. Let me know if you would like to order baskets for holiday gifts. They come in three sizes and in navy blue or Egyptian red dip dyed, and shibori turtle pattern in sky blue.



Cocoon silk baskets with hand woven raffia trims.

We greatly appreciate your support and welcome your feedback.

All the best,

Catherine Craig, PhD CPALI President

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