



MOP19 CBFP – Side event CIFOR - Woodfuel management and the first decade of REDD+ implementation in Central Africa: Realities and the way forward.

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Context/objective:

Woodfuel is the main source of energy for cooking for households in Sub-Saharan Africa, contributing to the food security and nutritional needs of millions of people. Its management thus causes impacts both on the environment and socioeconomic domain. The event was based on knowledge exchange on woodfuel management in central Africa. The main objective was to share experiences among the practitioners and to generate early lessons related to woodfuel uses after a decade of REDD+ implementation in Central African countries. The event was comprised of 5 presentations. It combined direct presentations including online and physical participation.

The side event began with an introduction of Denis SONWA, followed by the presentation of the large articulations in front of furnished the sequence that was made by Abdon AWONO. He stressed the importance of the efficient management of wood energy in Central Africa in a context marked by global changes and where the majority of the population uses woodfuel as the main source of energy. The sustainable management of woodfuel can be an important lever in the fight against deforestation and forest degradation, the preservation of biodiversity, and community development in the context of REDD+. Then, different presentations followed.

The first presentation on Fuelwood harvest and land use/cover implication in the Mangrove of Cameroon was made by Claude TAGNE. In a context marked by the high demand for fuelwood of Douala city and where the main source of energy used by fishermen for the smoking of fish is the wood taken from the mangroves. These forests are subject to very significant human pressures, which are responsible for changes in land cover and Land use. He used remote sensing to characterize the implications of fuelwood harvest on the dynamics of the mangrove ecosystem and land cover/use in Cameroon.

The second presentation on the Increase in woodlots through agroforestry plantations in local communities, given by Abdon AWONO of CIFOR, highlighted the effort to plant fast-growing trees for woodfuel in Cameroon. As part of the GML project, they have contributed to the planting of fast-growing trees by refugees and local communities, in the refugee site close to the border of Cameroon and the Central African Republic, and in the



Center Region, close to the city of Yaoundé, in Cameroon. Food trees were associated with the planting material for improved food security through agroforestry.

For the third presentation which focused on the Woodfuel and REDD+ in DRC, Jean Jacques BAMBUTA, of CN REDD+ DRC talked about the experience of his country on REDD+ initiatives. He highlighted that in each region of DRC, efforts have been made to insert REDD + in the strategy of development and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from forests. DRC is mainstreaming woodfuel in each of the sub-national REDD+ initiatives while the country is developing activities at the national level to structure the governance framework related to biomass collection and uses.

The fourth presentation on the Cross-border trade of woodfuel from the far North region of Cameroon: The urgent need for a regional regulation, was done by Jean Hugues Nlom from the University of Douala. The presentation gave an overview of the socioeconomic and environmental context of management and trade of woodfuel in the far North region of Cameroon and neighboring countries both Chad and Nigeria. The cross-border flow of energy timber across Cameroon's borders is very important. Indeed, it stresses that the lack of regional regulation on woodfuel cross-border trade and the extreme poverty of rural dwellers, intensify transactions and the pressure on forest ecosystems of the Far Nord.

From these presentations, the following insight messages can be underlined:

- Promoting efficient management of wood energy in Central African countries is urgent with regard to the vulnerability of ecosystems and their crucial role in carbon storage.
- In the Congo Basin countries, the increase in the production of woodfuel is linked to the strong demand from the cities, the strong growth of the population, and the lag of a regional regulatory policy governing the related activities.
- There is a great need of strengthening the woodfuel production capacity of natural ecosystems through the increased planting of fast-growing species.
- A clear model should be proposed on reconciling the ambitions of using less carbon-emitting energies and strengthening the carbon sinks of the Congo Basin States which have energy sources based largely on wood resources, with the imperatives of combating forest degradation and deforestation.
- Efforts are being made and should be supported to reduce deforestation linked to woodfuel production, through adapted regulation norms governing exploitation and marketing activities, territorial planning, coordination of energy policies, and good governance of natural resources.