



COFO 22



SUPPORT FOR IMPROVING THE CONTRIBUTION OF FOREST PRODUCTS TO FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN CENTRAL AFRICA: WHERE DO WE COME FROM?

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FAO





OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION



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INTRODUCTION



- FAO has a long standing experience on providing technical advice on NWFP management and related policy formulation in Central Africa;
- The Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) is FAO's main regional counterpart organization in Central Africa;
- Various field projects in support to the Executive Secretariat of COMIFAC and its Convergence Plan have been implemented in conjunction with Governments in Central Africa.





FAO NWFP Projects in Central Africa (1/3)



- **TCP** on *institutional support and sustainable management of Non-Wood Forest Products in Cameroon, 2003;*
- **Project GCP/RAF/398/GER** *Enhancing Food Security in Central Africa through the Sustainable Management and Use of Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFPs), (July 2005-September 2008):* **Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, (1.000.000 USD);** **Funded by the German Government;**



FAO NWFP Projects in Central Africa (2/3)



- **Project GCP/RAF/408/EC** *Mobilization and Capacity Building of Small and Medium Enterprises involved in Non-Wood Forest Products Value Chains in Central Africa*, January 2007-June 2011: **Cameroon and Democratic Republic of Congo (3.785.104 Euros);** Funded by the European Commission;
- **Project GCP/RAF/441/GER** *Enhancing the contribution of Non-Wood Forest Products to poverty alleviation and food security in Central African countries*, October 2009-April 2013: **Central African Republic, Congo and Gabon (3.842.271 USD) ;** Funded by the German Government;



FAO NWFP Projects in Central Africa (3/3)



- **Project CGP/RAF/455/GFF *Wildlife and bushmeat sector management in Central africa: Congo, DR Congo, Gabon, CAR* (4.200.000 USD, funded by GEF;**
- **Project GCP/RAF/479/AFB *Enhancing the contribution of Non-Wood Forest Products to food security in Central Africa*, February 2014-February 2017: Burundi, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe (3.369.267 Euros), Funded by the African Development Bank through the Congo Basin Forest Fund;**



CONTRIBUTION OF NWFP TO FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

All these projects have shown that NWFP contribute to food security in three ways;

- **Supply side:** collection/harvest of NWFP for own consumption;
- **Demand side:** Sales of NWFP to purchase food;
- **Interface agriculture-forests:** use of medicinal plants to improve agricultural labour productivity;



JUSTIFICATION OF COMIFAC PROGRAM

- Former projects had short duration: 3 years on average;
- Difficulty to preserve and consolidate projects achievements and results;
- Need to coordinate all actions and activities on forests and food security and nutrition into one program to increase visibility;



COMIFAC REQUESTS TO FAO

- **First request** of COMIFAC made during final workshop of project GCP/RAF/441/GER, Brazzaville, December 2012;
- **Second request** made during the FAO International conference on forests for food security and nutrition, Rome, May 2013;
- **Third request** made during the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission meeting, Windhoek, September 2013;



FAO RESPONSE

- **Elaborate the terms of reference** of COMIFAC program on forests for food security and nutrition;
- **Recruit a consultant CTPD** to elaborate a draft of the program;
- **Organize an expert meeting in Libreville**, December 2013 to discuss the draft program and provide improvements;
- **Organize a second expert meeting in Kigali**, 6-7 June 2014 that included all 10 countries members of COMIFAC;
- **COFO 22 side event in Rome**, 25 June 2014;



PERSPECTIVES

- **Continue to provide support to the COMIFAC** program on forests for food security and nutrition;
- **Sensitize the governments of Central africa** to support the COMIFAC program on forests for food security and nutrition and to contribute financial resources for its implementation;
- **Continue to search for funding** to consolidate the results of past NWFP projects implemented by FAO;



*Thank you for your
attention!*

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Websites of FAO NWFP projects

www.fao.org/forestry/nwfp/55079/fr

www.fao.org/forestry/site/43055/en

www.fao.org/forestry/50255/en