Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) and their value chains

WEBINAR BRIEFING NOTE

THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

Recent studies estimate that globally 3.5-5.8 billion people use Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP)*, of whom 50 % are located in the rural South, with the other 50 % in the urban South and global North. Many hundreds of NTFPs are collected for domestic use or for sale in formal and informal markets. Examples of NTFPs include products used as food or food additives (such as edible berries, nuts, oils, mushrooms, spices, herbs, wild meat, insects and honey), fibres (for construction, furniture, clothing or utensils), dyes, resins and gums, and raw materials for medicine, cosmetic or cultural purposes. Wild-harvested forest foods contribute to food security and nutrition of forest-adjacent people, especially in remote areas in the tropics and subtropics. The subsistence use of NTFPs for local health, food, livelihoods and cultures is likely to be more significant than products traded, and also than was previously assumed. One major product category is fuelwood, including charcoal, which is used by 30 % of the global population (2.4 billion people) to cook meals, sterilise drinking water and heat homes.

* Non-timber forest products are defined as: "Wild native or non-native biological organisms and materials, other than high-value timber, collected from forest landscapes and habitats".

31 May 2023 - Agenda

Welcome and keynote address Register here

Patrice Moussy INTPA F2

Moderation by *Eleonora Paci* INTPA F2

Introduction to Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) and their value chains

Jochem Schneemann F4 Facility

Development impacts and lessons learned in the shea nut value chain

Marie Veyrier Public Private Partnerships lead, Global Shea Alliance

Realities, options and opportunities for greener charcoal in sub-Saharan Africa

Phosiso Sola Natural resource governance and bioenergy scientist at ICRAF

Discussion and sharing of experience

Objectives of this webinar

Participants will leave the webinar with a greater understanding of:

- the nature and importance of non-timber forest products and value chains in INTPA partner countries, in particular the shea nut and charcoal value chains;
- global and local opportunities and challenges in developing non-timber forest product value chains;
- options for EU support for sustainable Non-Timber Forest Product value chains, and how to ensure that these deliver the desired outcomes – jobs, income, resilience – while maintaining healthy forests.

This webinar is part of the series of Webinars on **European Green Deal - Greening EU cooperation (Environment and Climate Change)**, offered by the European Commission's Directorate General for International Partnership (DG INTPA). The webinar is organized by the **Forests for the Future Facility (F4)**.

International Cooperation Partnership

The array of NTFPs is very broad, plant-based and animal-based, and varies with different forest ecosystems and geographies. Although they have been used for thousands of years, their economic importance is often undervalued and underestimated because information is incomplete, scattered or not easily comparable between countries. In most countries, national statistics on non-timber forest products are limited to formally marketed NTFPs and do not take into account informally marketed NTFPs and those used for subsistence.

Non-Timber Forest Products

3.5 *to* **5.8**

billion people use them

Wild Meat

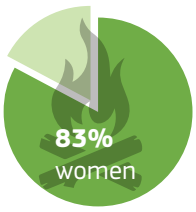
60 *to* **80%**

of daily proteins for forest dwellers

Wild meat contributes to food security and generates income for millions of forest-dwelling communities in tropical and subtropical regions. However, current unsustainable harvest rates threaten the integrity of ecosystems, the biodiversity and the livelihoods of many vulnerable households.

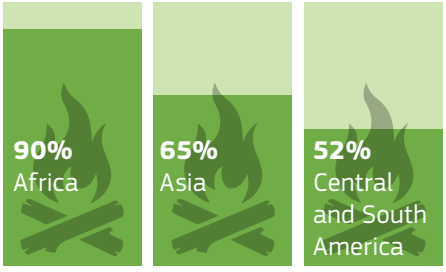
Globally, some 850 million people – 83 % of them women – are engaged in collecting fuelwood or producing charcoal on a part- or full-time basis.

850 million people collecting fuelwood or producing charcoal



The share of all roundwood removals in Africa, Asia, and Central and South America used as fuelwood is 90 %, 65 % and 52 %, respectively (FAOSTAT, 2020).

Share of fuelwood in global wood consumption



In many EU partner countries, fuelwood is the most available and affordable source of energy. In Africa, where most households have no access to alternative and cleaner energy for cooking and/or heating, consumption and production of fuelwood are increasing, while in other regions they are decreasing. Many NTFPs, such as berries, mushrooms or Brazil nuts, are consumed without any processing; others serve as ingredients for transformation, e.g. for chocolate or cosmetics, as is the case for shea butter derived from shea nuts.

They can be part of long value chains with export markets, in which SMEs and large companies carry out processing, distribution and marketing.

Non-wood and wood forest products often come from the same forest (natural or planted), and their productivity depends on forest management measures. It therefore makes sense to take both types of products into account when developing sustainable forest management plans. In certain cases, wood and non-wood products can be supplied by the same tree (species). Many tree species produce resins, for example, and the most commercial natural resin is produced by pine trees that also produce valuable wood. But harvesting wood by logging can also harm other products from the same tree. This is the case in the rainforest in Cameroon, for example, where the moabi tree is valued for its wood as well as for the oil from its seeds. Villagers and indigenous peoples have been producing moabi oil for generations, but risk losing this livelihood as most of the moabi trees have been cut down for wood, and it takes a young tree 50-70 years before it starts bearing fruit. These examples show that forest management (plans) needs to consider both wood and non-wood products, their growing conditions and the actors involved.

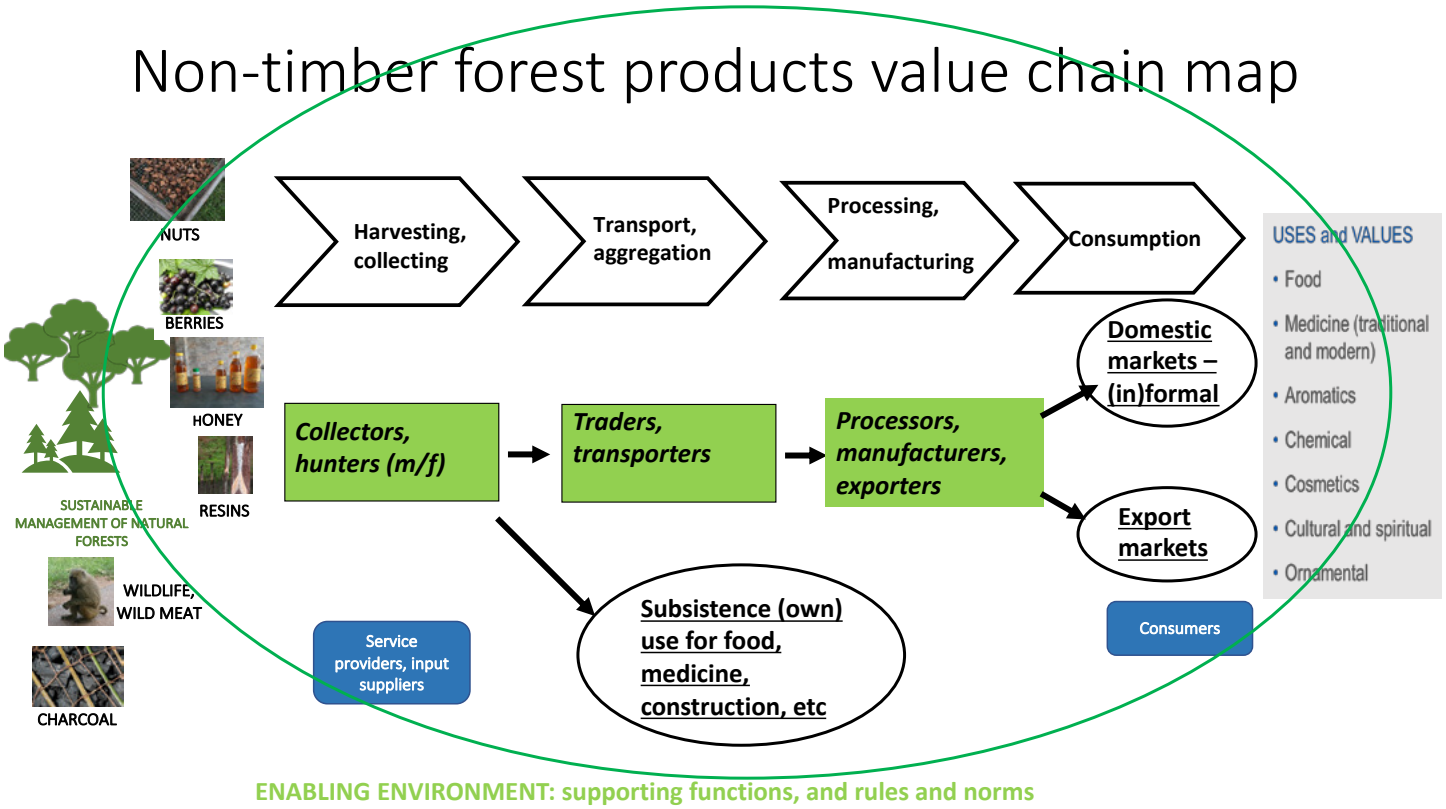
Harvesting of NTFPs from the wild can also lead to their disappearance or degradation, as illustrated in the report 'The wild dozen' (FAO). Examples are the Brazil nut (from the Amazon) and Pygeum (tropical Africa), both of which have a 'vulnerable' conservation status. To avoid their depletion from natural forests, there is a need to promote sustainable harvesting and to secure land and tree tenure rights. Another option is to plant selected young NTFP trees in plantations or agroforestry systems, which is called domestication. Successful examples of domesticated NTFPs are the rubber tree and the acai palm, the berries of which are marketed as a 'super food',both of which are native to South America.

Opportunities exist to increase the contribution of NTFPs to livelihoods and to strengthen gender

equality, based on gender-sensitive value chain analysis and upgrading strategies for selected NTFP value chains. In many cases, there is scope to improve quality and add value (producing more from less) when value-chain operators (male and female) are better organised, informed and skilled, and have access to affordable finance and markets. To safeguard the current use of NTFPs for subsistence and livelihoods of local communities and indigenous peoples, strengthening and maintaining their user rights in forest governance and legislation is important.

Through political dialogue and capacity development, the EU can play a key role in strengthening forest governance, and in creating enabling and just legal and institutional frameworks for the development of NTFP value chains. Considering that access to the source, markets, technology, finance and roles of men and women in NTFPs value chains can vary, these should be analysed case by case. The EU can support gender-sensitive value chain analysis and upgrading strategies, support engagement with the value chain operators and stakeholders, or support finance mechanisms for smallholders and SMEs and development of bankable proposals and suitable credit lines by finance institutions. The EU can also support sustainable management and harvesting practices for natural forests or invest in research that promotes domestication of wild varieties.

FOREST PARTNERSHIPS ANIMATION



References

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FAO, 2022. The role of forest products in the global bioeconomy.

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Schindler, C. et al., 2022. Wild check – Assessing risks and opportunities of trade in wild plant ingredients. Rome, FAO.

Guatemala, sorting of xate palm foliage - Photo © ACOFOP

■ Any project on NTFPs should consider their use for subsistence and for income, and seek **integrated resource** management of wood and non-wood tree species.

Charcoal production in Cameroon - Photo © CIFOR, Erin Myers Madeira

■ NTFPs have been used for thousands of years, but their economic importance is often **underestimated due to a lack of data**: it is difficult to get data for the many NTFPs that enter informal markets or serve for subsistence use. Other NTFPs, such as **Brazil nut** and **shea**, represent well-developed multi-million or even multi-billion-euro industries with global markets.

Woman of Pengerak village make a bemban mat, Kalimantan, Indonesia. © Photo by Ramadian Bachtiar, CIFOR

■ Securing forest user rights and tree tenure are key for **sustainable harvesting** and production of NTFPs by smallholders and SMEs.

NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS HIGHLIGHTS

Charcoal production in Cameroon - Photo © CIFOR, Erin Myers Madeira

■ The global demand of NTFPs is expected to **increase with the growing global population**, urbanisation and increasing affluence.

Honey produced in mangrove forests of Suriname - Photo © Peter Lansbergen

■ EU support (policy dialogue, budget support, grants, technical assistance, access to finance) can be a game-changer in **developing sustainable non-timber value chains** in partner countries, in line with the Green Deal objectives, EU policies and international agreements.

Bundle of firewood, Ethiopia - Photo © CIFOR, Natasha Elkington

■ Investment in forest-based value chains in EU partner countries is challenging due to the high (perceived) risks, limitations in infrastructure and available technologies, low capacity levels of organisations and personnel, as well as weak governance and policies. **EU support can reduce the risks and accelerate the needed investments**.

Brazil acai palm fruit collected by Jean de Souza - Photo © CIFOR, Ingo Wans

© F4 Guyana - photo Wilhelm Eltenbroek

■ Developing value chains starts with the selection and analysis of those with the most potential (based on markets, resources, infrastructure and comparative advantages), **mapping of the actors** – distinguishing men and women and their specific interests, capacities, opportunities, risks and constraints – and formulation of strategies to address these.

Local market in Cameroon - Photo © CIFOR, Collince Venel

All INTPA trainings on Climate Change, Environment, Natural Resources, Water

Mushrooms from Zambia's miombo woodlands - Photo © CIFOR; Fiona Paumgarten

Our future is in our hands and in our trees

WHAT IS A FOREST PARTNERSHIP?

Forest Partnerships are a comprehensive, holistic and integrated approach to protect, restore and ensure the sustainable use of the world's forests and in particular key tropical forests. Forest Partnerships are a pillar of the Green Alliances foreseen under the European Green Deal and are part of the regulation proposal on commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation. In its Forest strategy the EU commits to protect and restoring forests, boosting a sustainable forest-based bioeconomy. In the Communication Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests, the EU supports partners to tackle deforestation in a partnership approach.

European Union

FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE FACILITY

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The Forests for the Future Facility (F4) provides technical support to contribute to healthy forest ecosystems and forest-related value chains in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. The Facility is managed by DG International Partnerships Unit F2 – Environment, Natural Resources, Water.