



**AFF COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON
NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS (NTFPS) VALUE CHAINS**

**General Introduction -NTFPs of wood
products and importance to the African
continent**

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Outline

Introduction

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Introduction

- The scope of Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) is broadening over the period to encompass a wide range of products.
- A good number of researchers accept the fact that NTFPs contribute to the livelihood of community members more especially forest-fringed communities.
- **It is to be noted that continual under-reporting of NTFPs from forests and woodlands has resulted into lesser importance being attached to them in the national accounting; consequently their role in supporting livelihoods and food security is also undermined at the policy formation stage.**



Introduction

- The role of NTFPs in development and for poverty reduction is an issue of some debate.
- NTFPs have been promoted as having great potential for rural development and sustainable forest management.
- This is based on the premise that their exploitation can raise incomes among rural communities and at the same time create incentives for forest conservation.



Concept of wood base NTFPs

GIVE A DEFINITION BEFORE GOING TO WHAT THE DEBATE IS ABOUT

- The debate is around whether:
 - Wood products (fuelwood, construction, tools/crafts, carving, etc.) should, at all, be included as NTFPs
 - Or if the type of uses of the wood products should be considered to determine inclusion or not as NTFP; wood products extracted for simply subsistence consumption as opposed to trade (here also distinguishing between local and international markets)



Importance of wood base NTFPs

- NTFPs are extremely important to forest communities in terms of basic livelihoods,
- These products also provide an important economic safety net through product diversification
- providing a range of essential resources such as fuelwood, raw materials for household items and medicines.
- However, much of this value and the livelihood security that NTFPs can provide is little researched and understood.



- NTFPs also have significant cultural and social values for forest communities that have not yet been well documented.
- In the case of some of the most valuable, (and often internationally traded) NTFPs, there are concerns about overexploitation and the possible ecological and economic consequences.



Examples of wood base NTFPs

Chewing stick

Bamboo

Rattan

Carving

Reconstituted wood

Turned wood

Charcoal

Briquette

Bathing sponge



Chewing sticks

- one of the most important non-timber forest products and have provided the primary form of dental care for millennia.
- The production, trading and marketing of chewing sticks also provides the main source of income for many men and women
- Yet there are no policies or management strategies in place
- either to ensure sustainable production of the species
- *Garcinia mannii* and *Massularia acuminata*





Carving

- Woodcarving provides one of the most important uses of wood
- in terms of economic returns (export value of carvings estimated at over US\$20 million annually)
- generation of self-employment opportunities
- As an informal sector economic activity, the woodcarving industry has continued to attract a large number of unemployed people.





FUELWOOD



- For centuries fuelwood has remained an affordable and reliable source of domestic energy for the rural populations of the developing countries
- The main problem brought about by the collection of fuelwood has been the destruction of forest resources.
- Research into the causes of environmental degradation show that excessive fuelwood collection has contributed to, and brought about, disruption of the ecosystem



Bamboo

- The general name given to woody grass
- A versatile species
- Capable of lifting people out of poverty





Rattan

Rattan is a climbing palm that grows in the tropical regions of Africa, Asia and Australasia



used for furniture, handicrafts, and building material among others.



Rattan continues to be part of rural people's livelihoods.





Sponge (*Chasmanthera dependens*)

- The fibrous stem is beaten and used as a sponge
- commonly found in forest margins, savanna and secondary forest, often near rocks, but sometimes also in dense and moist evergreen forest, semi-deciduous forest and riverine forest





Charcoal

- a lightweight black carbon residue produced by strongly heating wood (or other animal and plant materials) in minimal oxygen to remove all water and volatile constituents





Reconstituted wood

- Wood turning
- The use of wood residue
- Laminated and turned to useful materials





Problems associated with NTFPs

- understanding of traditional management and control of NTFPs;
- measures to monitor NTFP exploitation and establish harvesting levels for threatened species;
- measures to control the impact of other forest uses on essential NTFPs
- No encouragement on taxation; credit for small producers and/or co-operatives;
- information provision on NTFP markets.
- One major reason for the lack of attention is the lack of methods to value NTFP
- products on a multiple scales, particularly when they are often non-cash contributions to
- household livelihoods



Conclusion

- Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are attracting more attention in recent years.
- Recognition that such products also have a role to play in sustainable management of forests is growing.
- comprehensive, well-designed set of policies, aimed at promoting and supporting this sector.



Conclusion

- There should be measures to monitor NTFP exploitation; Establish harvesting levels for threatened species,
- Enforce systems of fees and licenses, and ensure that the revenue raised is reinvested in the sector
- Which is believed that this CoP discussion will foster a way forward in achieving all these



Questions for discussion

- In your context /understanding, what is wood base NTFPs? Is there any specific product that you, in your field of work (or context) would consider as wood base NTFP but which is contested by others?
- Is the management of this resources sustainable in Africa?
- What would you see as potential practical issues related to the diversity of views / understanding of the concept of wood base NTFPs
- Taking into consideration the negative effects of charcoal production, should the production be encouraged? How can the negative effects be reduced?



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION