

**Data Collection and Analysis for Sustainable Forest Management
in ACP Countries
Linking National and International Efforts**

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NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS STATISTICS

ANGOLA

by

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1. INTRODUCTION

Much has been written on Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFP) and this paper will not enter into the theoretical aspect of what is not very much understood by it, its role, its importance, its socio-economic value and finally, its contribution to the welfare of the people and to the national economy. Therefore, it is very important to stress that Angola has immense heritage of natural resources. Forest resources apparently ignored in the ranking of the national economy could play a huge role contributing to the development of the country. Timber seems to be the only product largely recognised when it comes to value the importance of the forest, with more emphasis on wood, and in most of cases forgetting its role and other various services able to deliver. There is a range of NWFP used day by day by the people in order to satisfy their basic needs, such as for food, medicine purposes, and among others.

The use of these products is recognised, but it is still very difficult to the forestry sector to know at what extend they are used. There are no practically available data concerning the NWFP. No effort is made with this regard in order to acquire information in view of assisting the sector in planning and ensuring its sustainable administration, management and use for the future generations as well.

The forestry sector is operating under its capacity in terms of skilled personnel to introduce and develop necessary changes in the framework of institutional aspect. Financial constraints could relatively found solution if the sector launches a programme of formulating and developing adequate forestry policy for sustainable use of forestry resources, in which NWFP need to be accommodated.

Finally, it is a concern to do not present the scientific names of major part of Non-Wood Forestry Products, especially for plants and medicines. The frame time has been a limitation factor, however, it is expected that the sector of statistics needs to make a follow-up of this of this paper and provide their scientific names.

2. BACKGROUND

Modern forestry tends to be largely concerned with industrial timber. This is the case of many African countries, and Angola is not an exception. Actually sensitive efforts are made by African timber institutions, i.e. African Timber Organisation (ATO) and also the Forestry Sector Technical Co-ordination Unit of SADC (SADC FSTCU), in order to starting paying attention to other products very important, so-called Non Wood Forest Products.

It is deemed important that in Angola's quest for the formulation of the Forestry Policy, it is expected to consider the importance and the role of forest products other than industrial timber in the everyday life of the majority of Angolans. By Non-Wood Forest Proudest (NWFP), it is understood "all goods of biological, as well as services, derived from the forest or any land under similar, and exclude wood in all its forms (Chandrasekharan 1995).

Angola presents a large variety of biodiversity, estimated at about 5000 to 8000 plant species, of which 1200 are threatened. A diversity of 275 mammals and 900 birds are found in the country. Many wild species are endangered. Their role and importance are very high whereas local population largely make use of them, especially for who those are living in the rural area for food, medicine and for domestic purposes.

3. CURRENT DATA ON NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS

One of the major problems faced by the institution responsible for the forest resources is the lack of capacity of organising the collection of data. The few found are very far to be realistic; this is for timber and non-timber products. Unfortunately their value and other services provided are not taken into consideration when trying to estimate the contribution of forests to the national economy.

In fact, data collected by the Institute of Forestry Development with regard to NWFP are generally based on bushmeat, smoked fish, and in very few occasions on wild-fruits, leaves used for rural construction and roots for medicinal purposes. The only way of gathering these data is through issuing permits and controlling the entrance of products to the main entry points of the main cities. The last measure is less effective once a major part of products escapes to the control of the agents in charge.

As occur in most African countries, the data in possession are generally restrict and almost insignificant for the single fact that movement of NWFP in the rural areas are not taken into the statistics in the sector for many reasons.

3.1 Present status

It is evident that most of the population in developing countries is found in rural area and their dependence on forest and forestry resources is largely recognised. That means, the daily use of non-wood forest products is very much significant compared to timber, including the urban communities at some extent.

The present status of the use of NWFP may suffer few changes compared to a backward past. Actually, the imbalance between rural and urban communities is not too high for the single fact that an important part of the population of Angola left their original communities toward main cities and towns for unrest reasons. This seems to state there is a decreasing use of Non-Wood Forest Products (see section 6).

There is no assessment carried out by the forestry sector or other institutions, at least after the independence, in order to determine the economic value of NWFP, apart from some few researches on medicinal plants carried out individually. Documentation produced is a concern, once it has not been possible to be found.

4. IMPORTANCE OF SELECTED NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS

The strong emphasis placed on the forest for its wood products at the detriment of its biological diverse products is rooted in direct financial derived at international and even national level from timber and its products. The magnitude of revenue from timber is so high that it attracts greater attention for non-wood forest products. Even among timber species, monetary values weight against lesser known and lesser-used timber species. Some countries have already undertaken researches enhancing the value of non-wood forest products in order to popularise their management, exploitation and sustainable use.

Our illiterate parents did not consider timber as important at all. They considered the food, the medicinal plants and water as important and therefore protected them (Dr. E.O.A. Asibei. Wildlife and Food Security, 1986). Non-Wood Forest Products can positively contribute to the development and economic growth, alleviate poverty, enhance the standard and quality of life of the people in Angola. All is not lost however since in the country, there are still many communities, which consider the wildness as food source, and these can teach the rest of us about the importance of indigenous food plants and animals. These foods include grains, fruit, tubers, leaves used as vegetable, roots used in soups or plant parts used in traditional teas and bushmeat, being a major source of protein for rural people.

In Angola as probably in the continent, non-wood forest products have a large impact in traditional medicine. A significant number of indigenous plants are commonly used for medicine purposes mainly in rural areas, where the access to the modern treatment and medicine is limited. It is to mention that traditional doctors are very known by making use of indigenous plants and/or animal parts to treat patients. Unfortunately this knowledge is not openly passed from generations to generations. In the course of this study we learnt that a young man living in Luanda has already treated according to some source of information, eighteen cases of diabetes, making use of indigenous leaves that he refuses to reveal.

It is interesting to notice that in a certain way, non-wood forest products are a very important source of revenues not only for rural inhabitants engaged to the exploitation of these products, but also for urban population who are dedicated to their trading, most of case by women, obtain their supply from middlemen.

Some people interviewed during this study reported that apart from the employment the non-wood forest products afford the market women, it further provides economic benefits to the middlemen who are found to be residents of villages or towns from where these supplies come and from this they sustain their families.

5. AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS

It is recognised that the main constraint of not having available data and information on non-wood forest products lays on the fact that the sector in charge has not yet defined adequate mechanisms to value them in terms of its economic contribution, although it is recognised that large part of the population is dependent of forest and forest products.

5.1. Honey

Angola has an important potential of indigenous melifera plants apart from large plantations of Eucalyptus spp., almost non-exploited for beekeeping activities. There are five provinces everywhere in Angola. Beekeeping activities are particularly left by farmers for subsistence production, while during the past, it was one of the income sources for the traditionally known for as producers of honey, i.e. Benguela, Bié, Huambo, Moxico and Namibe provinces, at least in the past. However, it is reported that feral honeybee colonies are found national economy, since production, trades and exports. The industrial sector producing commercial honey and wax in the country was completely collapsed soon after independence.

Currently, it is not exactly known neither the number of people engaged in beekeeping activities nor the production of honey. According to the sellers of these products, one of the only ways of obtaining honey is to buy it from farmers in the neighbouring provinces surrounding Luanda City. The movement of honey is not adequately reported, although the existence of the Beekeeping sector in the institution.

According to information from the Forestry Department, a training of trainers was undertaken at the beginning of 1998 to 1999 in three provinces, namely Huambo, Benguela and Moxico. European Union through NESAF – European Core for Food Security, an international NGO's, financed the project. The main objective of the training was to enable selected field staff of the Institute of Forestry Development to gain new skills and know-how technologies in view of assisting the communities undertaking involved in traditional beekeeping activities to improve their production and quality of honey harvested.

Eighty-five (85) participants of the three provinces above attended the training mentioned; it based on the combination of theory and practice activities. During practices, a room was open to the communities in order to learn new technologies of making apiaries, using both, indigenous and modern material and means. As result, communities have accepted these innovations and make use of them, and as indicators, production and quality of honey increased and improved.

The cost of the training was estimated at about USD 12,500.00, conducted by a national expert after being trained in Portugal for one-year period.

The Moxico province, one the traditional area where during the colonial era was a greater producer of honey with small commercial factories producing honey and wax, achieved 706 litres of honey last year, while this was not observed in a few past. Unfortunately other provinces are not reported, thus, the situation in terms of production is not known.

There is no doubt that the institution responsible will not at a short run sustain training programme to capacitate its staff as far as financial support is concerned, and also, beekeeping is not a priority for the forestry sector.

5.2. Wax

The country was one of the excellent wax producer in Africa until 1975 as it has been the case of almost all agricultural products. Nowadays, same to honey, data with regard to this product are practically non-existent after independence. However, the Department Forest reported that the communities who benefited from this training have started producing wax in some of the areas. For a long time they have no paid attention to beewax production because the commercialisation

If this product has no importance. During the colonial period, wax was one of the greatest main resources of Moxico province. However, after the independence the production decreased, the factories went down, the export of the product broken and the populations which beewax production was their principal activity have abandoned this field.

5.3. Medicinal

As mentioned above, there are at about 5000 to 8000 plant species in Angola. Medicinal plants are found and known in every rural area of Angola and in a few occasions in the urban area. If it is recognised its social, cultural and spiritual value, the economic value remains still a concern. Consequently, it is evident that its contribution to the national economy be relatively ignored if not completely forgotten.

Few have been done in terms of research in the country. Mr. Azanco de Meneses, a national botanist undertook some researches on this regard, but it was not be possible to find some of his few results. Mrs. Manuela Batalha, also a national researcher and specialist in medicinal plants has done research in this field.

All primitive societies practised plant medicine and almost all medicine were obtained entirely from plant sources. In much of the developing world where it is recorded that about 70% of the population are rural dwellers and isolated from allopathic medical practice, therefore, the dependence on plant medicine is very high. It is accepted that about 25% of modern drugs are directly or indirectly derived from plant products.

In Angola abound medicinal plants, which with informed development. Its sustainable exploitation can support health and basic needs of its population. However, in the process of development, attention needs to be paid to factors related to finance, personnel, technology and necessary conditions to be put in place in order to ensure that the nation gets full benefits from the natural but exhaustible resources. Many sectors including the University must be involved.

The population of Angola uses medicinal plants, especially where modern medicine is scarce. However the transition of this product from an area to another is not almost a concern to the forestry sector. In the last sectoral annual report of 1998, root plants, without any specification, represented only 90 kg.

In the course of this study, despite of time limitation, few visits were conducted to three markets of Luanda in order to assess at least the trading of medicinal plants and other Non-Wood Forest Products (Annex 1).

5.4. Bushmeat

In Angola like almost everywhere in Africa, the contribution of fauna even ignored by decision-makers, plays an important role mainly in rural areas, where the access to traditional meat from cow and other domestic animals is difficult and food scarcity in certain regions is very acute. Fishery and hunting are two complementary activities as main sources of protein for many inhabitants, including those living in urban and peri-urban areas.

Apart from animals found in the parks and reserves, it is not a surprise to find big groups of animal population almost in every province of the country. In certain areas, hunting is the main man activity, generally related to traditional and ethnic aspects, including fishery.

There are three kinds of hunting recognised in Angola, i.e. shifting, commercial and sport hunting. The first type of hunting largely practised by most of rural inhabitants is one of causing less damages to the animal population, whereas means used are still antique and traditional.

Quantity of bushmeat from its provenance is very difficult if not impossible to evaluate and this is certainly due to weakness structure of the sector in charge. Also to stress that the State almost never acts strongly face to this kind of hunting, being the only way to rural inhabitants to obtain meat to feed their families. It is also their right to make use of forest products as main actors contributing to the management of forest resources. Finally, this hunting is generally practised out of parks and reserves.

Commercial hunting is one of the most important and critical, whereas permit is needed. First, the number of hunters registered last year (1998) is relatively very low, at about 164, while in the field it appears to be over 1,000 escaping to the control of the game rangers. The means used for hunting by most of this group are really sophisticated and in Angola, the unrest situation has contributed to the dissemination of guns in possession of civilians. The light control made to this group, for many reasons, may be one of the causes of ravaging significant number of animals.

It is very impressed, reported an officer of the Department of Inspection and Control of IDF, the everyday number of animal, quantity of bushmeat and smoked fish entering Luanda without permit, while the quantity registered per year by the sector in charge can be compared to a one-week movement (**Table 1**).

There are many cases of prohibited species such as the elephant, rhino, hippopotamus and others generally preferred by commercial hunters for the obtainance of valuable trophies like ivory and skin. At least one of this case was reported last year in the statistics of the Institute of Forestry Development, but game rangers and some responsible of the sector in charge admit the existence of several of these cases.

Table 1 Movement of bushmeat in some provinces of angola in 1999

Province	Quantity		Value in 000 Kzr		Total
	No of spp.	Kg	Product	Penalty, 30%	
Bengo	n.s	n.s	n.s	n.s	1,308,782
Benguela	233	n.s	n.s	n.s	333,225
Cunene	1	n.s	n.s	n.s	36,000
Luanda	440*	129*	2,016,700	864,300	2,881,000
Moxico	n.s	1488	n.s	n.s	-
Uige	9	n.s	264,750	124.400	389,150
Total	673	683			12,641,157

* Almost all bushmeat and animals come from neighbouring provinces

Data presented in the above table reflect the weakness of the Institute of Forestry Development in statistics. Among 18 provinces of the country, only 6 provinces provided data referred to hunting, while this activity takes place in all the provinces. Most of provinces did not specify

The revenue by nature of the products as well as the number and the quantities of products extracted from the forest.

It has not been possible to convert the number of animals into quantity of bushmeat for not having basic criteria. However, as already referred, these are the figures gathered through the reports of the forestry sector, therefore, the mechanisms used to obtain these data are still very weak and remote. There is a need to strengthen these mechanisms.

Table 2 Number of permits issued for hunting purposes in 1999

Province	No of permits	Type	Value in 000 Kzr
Bengo	85	D	7.699.000
Benguela	13	D	1,560,000
Huambo	1	D	10,00
Luanda	64	D*	5,790,894
Malange	1	D	35,000
Total	164		14,084,894

*One permit pertaining to type J

The number of permits registered in country is probably true, but it is also true that the number of hunters is several times higher compared to the one presented to this table. It is without saying that it may rise thousands among of which, including poachers.

Table 3 General picture of nwfp at national level in 1998

Nature of NWFP	Quantity		Value in 000 Kzr
	No of product	Kg	
Animal	1617**	683'	12,641,157
Honey		706 litres	1,059,000
Wax*		-	-
Medicinal plant		90	-
Other			
. beverage		637.6000 litr.	-
. smoked fish''		4624	-
. mushroom		2444	-
. insect		950	-
. wild fruit		2050	-
. comb	3292		-
. craving	1163		-
. grass		4395	-
Total	6072		13,700,157

* only 81 traditional beekeepers registered in Moxico province

** dead animals

' bushmeat

'' inland fish considered as NFP in Angola Forestry Sector

There is of course, a range of Non-Wood Forest Products in use in Angola and this is due to its large variety of forest resources, habit, and at some extent to the scarcity of food generalised in the country. As already mentioned these figures are just simple indicators.

The contribution to the national economy is certainly very low comparing to what was achieved during the last year, corresponding to almost USD 20.000 (USD 1 to Kzr. 686.000), therefore, with these figures, efforts to develop the sector can be completely ignored by decision-makers.

Table 4 List of main animal species hunted in the country in 1998

Local name	Scientific name
Bambi castanha	Cephalophus leucochilus
Bambi comum	Sylvicarpa grimmia
Cabra de leque	Antidorcas marsupialis angolensis
Elefante	Loxodonta sp.
Galengue do deserto	Oryx gazella blinei
Galinha do mato	Numida guttera
Gunga	Taurotragus oryx
Hipopótamo	Hippopotamus amphibius
Impala	Aepycerus melampus
Lebres	Pronologus
Macaco	Colobus angolensis
Nunce	Redunca arundinum
Paca	-
Pacaça	Syncerus nanus
Porco bravo	Potamochoerus porcus
Porco espinho	Lepus
Piriquito	-
Seixa	Guevi monticola
Songue	Kobus
Veado	Trapelaphus scriptus

6. TRENDS OF NWFP FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION, TRADE AND EXPORTS

6.1 Past

Unfortunately there are no data available with regard to the past trend of NWFP, although the effort made for having its access. Angola was during the colonial era a self-sufficient country in crop production, and the access of products such as meat and fish was not a big concern to the population during that time. However, that was not a factor pushing them to do not make use of Non-Wood Forest Products, mainly for food and traditional medicine.

What is still remembered until the present date, is the place of Angola in honey and wax production, trading and with emphasis to the export of these two products in the past. Everything went down with the ascension of the country to the independence.

6.2 Present

Due to the current situation characterised by the permanent unrest, the government as well as the private sector are not in a good position to satisfy the various basic needs of the population, commonly based on food and medicine, especially where the war was/is intensive. However non-wood forest products are seen as one of the sources of providing these basic needs and at the same time, a source of income for many families living in the rural areas.

As early mentioned, data regarding the use of these products continue to be a serious problem to the sector responsible for the administration of forest resources. Data presented in this paper are non-consistent and non-representative, therefore, it is not advisable to be taken into account, as reference data for a country like Angola, unless if there is need to assist the sector for developing and improving the statistics sector.

The survey conducted in three markets of Luanda has shown that non-wood forest products are playing a significant role for the diet and treatment of people. In one market located at above 10 Km of the main city of Luanda, there are more than 100 generally composed of women trading traditional medicine originated from plant and animal. The market is one of the centre where these products are abound.

It is the same to the bushmeat sellers, the huge number of women engaged to this activity is also important. It is very impressed to see the quantity of bushmeat sold in at least in Kwanza market. There is almost all variety of bushmeat reported in the **Table 4**, including crocodile and boa meat. Also to point out that insects are contributing to the diet of many people, once there a diversity of bush-insects sold in those markets visited (see Annex 1).

6.3. Future

Seems to do not possible to foresee the progress country in crop production if the unrest will persist. However, changes in consumption will not be too much significant as well as in trade and export. Changes are probably expected in terms of massive consumption when inhabitants of rural areas resettle to their original communities, i.e. peace is the only factor able to reverse the trend.

Regarding trade and export, the solution must be found first of all from the decision-makers and secondly from the entire society by recognising the economical value of Non-Wood Forest Products and its contribution to the welfare of the society. It will be, of course, an important step to attract investors in this field.

7. CONSTRAINTS IN GATHERING NON-WOOD FOREST DATA

1. The permanent unrest devastating the country is pointed as the major cause of strangulation of all vital sectors.
2. Lack of National Forestry Policy and forestry and wildlife regulations still in use need to be revised.
3. Inadequate institutional and financial capacity.
4. Statistics division poorly staffed and lack of necessary means to carry out this activity.
5. Internal weak networking system and the lack of external with other stakeholders.
6. Poor of involvement of the private sector and other interested groups, especially the society.
7. Weak intersectorial linkages, especially with stakeholders involved in the administration and use of natural resources.

8. CONCLUSIONS

The importance of Non-Wood Forest Products is at a certain extent recognised, especially by potential users. Its contribution to the diet constitutes an element of great importance for survival of many people, therefore require attention. The traditional medicine from plant and animal also contributes considerably to the treatment of various diseases, a fact broadly recognised.

Non-Wood Forest Products are main source providing food, medicine and also a source of income for a large number of inhabitants of rural area.

As already mentioned above, its economical value, very important to the national economy, is not taken into consideration when it comes to planning, i.e. completely forgotten by the decision-makers. This factor is hampering the sustainable management of the forestry sector and its resources.

The sector in charge of forestry resources has not included in its list a lot of Non-Wood Forest Products, essential to enhance its socio-economic importance. Therefore, there is a great need, as a starting point, of reviewing and developing the sector of statistics of the Institute of Forestry Development, before undertaking any other crucial actions related to Non-Wood Forest Products.

ANNEX 1 SOME NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS COMMONLY IN USE IN ANGOLA

<u>Nature</u>	<u>Use</u>	<u>Local name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>Part</u>	<u>Therapy</u>	
Plant	Medicine	Londo		root	Aphrodisiac	
		Lolo		bark	stomach-ache	
		Sango-sango		stem	cough	
		Brututu		root	aepathite	
		Mpidi		grain	stomach-ache	
		Minkombo		grain	stomach-ache	
		Alegria		leaves	fever	
		Nsani		fruit	fever	
		Kaxiringi		root	spiritual	
		Lemba nzau		all plant	spiritual	
		Kimbiolongo		root	aphrodisiac	
		Mudia nioka		root	fever	
		Jindanda				
		Capim de Deus			all	fever
		Muelele			stem	fever
		Saku saku			leaves	cough
		Afazena			grain	spiritual
		Santa Maria			leaves	fever
		Ngadiadia			grain	stomach-ache
		Mpeve			grain	stomach-ache
		Nkasa			bark	aphrodisiac
		Sinda			leaves	cough

<u>Nature</u>	<u>Use</u>	<u>Local name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>Part</u>
Plant	Food	Mfumbwa		leaves
		Sinda		steam
		Wivua (mushroom)		

<u>Nature</u>	<u>Use</u>	<u>Local name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>Part</u>
Plant	Beverage	Matebeira	-	-
		Chipepe		fruit
		Nsinga		steam
		Diadia		steam

<u>Nature</u>	<u>Use</u>	<u>Local name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>
Animal' & insect	Food	Nkiunsua* Mbende Nkusu Mfuma* Nsombe* Nkonko* Nzenze* Nkala*	

'does not include hunting animal

*insect

ANNEX 2 LIST OF PEOPLE CONSULTED

At the Institute of Forestry Development

Mr. Malaquias José	Director of Forest
Mr. Domingos Veloso	Head of Planning and Studies Bureau
Mr. Gregório Gongolo	Head of Forestry Department
Mr. Joaquim Feliciano	Head of Inspection and Control Department
Mr. Francisco J. António	Head of Wildlife Department
Mr. Mauricio Rodrigues	Chief of Beekeeping Division, Forestry Department
Mr. Agosto Kibambo	Chief of Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife
Mr. Herculano Pederneira	Expert in Wildlife, Department of Wildlife
Mr. Joaquim Sousa	Chief of Inland Fishery Division, Department of Wildlife
Mr. Virgílio Dipinda	Chief of Inspection and Control Division
Mr. Santino Campos	Chief of Cadastral Division, Inspection and Control Department
Mr. Luta K. Kingengo	Director of Forest, Uige province
Mr. Domingos N'Dedica	Chief of Statistics Division, Planning and Studies Bureau
Mr. Mateus Silva	Chief of Cynegetics Division, Department of Wildlife
Mrs. Elisabete de Almeida	Director of Institute of Forestry Development, Luanda province

At São Paulo Market:

Mrs. Mariana Kapingana	Medicine seller
Mrs. Joana Capelo	Medicine seller
Mrs. Rosa Nsimba	Medicine seller

At Kwanza Market:

Mrs. Rosa Nsala	Medicine seller
Mrs. Madalena Mbala	Medicine seller
Mrs. Mbenga Madalena	Medicine seller
Mrs. Teresa Lubaki	Bushmeat seller
Mrs. Luisa da Conceição	Bushmeat seller

At Congolese Market:

Mrs. Branca Morena	Bushmeat seller
Mrs. Taniana Lubaki	Bushmeat seller
Mrs. Josefina Vieira	Bushmeat seller

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