



*Establishment of a Forestry Research  
Network for ACP Countries  
(FORENET)  
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**SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON HARMONISATION OF  
NATIONAL REVIEWS ON “NON-TIMBER FOREST  
PRODUCTS (NTFPs) IN CENTRAL AFRICA”, 17-18 MAY  
2010, DOUALA, CAMEROON**

**GENERAL REPORT**

**MAY 2010**



<b>1. INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. OPENING CEREMONY.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3. AGENDA OF THE WORKSHOP.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4. PRESENTATIONS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1 Presentation on the problematic on NTFPs in Central Africa, and the support to the convergent plan of COMIFAC: (Mrs. Verina Ingram).....	6
4.2 Objectives of the workshop: (Mr. Donald Midoko Iponga).....	6
4.3 National reviews by ACP-FORENET on NTFPs for DRC: ..... (Mr Mutambue Shango)	6
4.4 National reviews by ACP-FORENET on NTFPs for Equatorial Guinea: (Mr. Disodado Obiang Mbomo).....	6
4.5 National reviews by ACP-FORENET on NTFPs for CAR: (Mr Georges N Gassé).....	6
4.6 National reviews by ACP-FORENET on NTFPs for Congo: (Mr. Joël Loumeto).....	7
4.7 National review by ACP-FORENET on NTFPs for Gabon: (Mr Alfred Ngoye).....	7
4.8 National review by ACP-FORENET on NTFPs for Cameroon: (Mrs. Verina Ingram).....	7
4.9 Other sub- regional ongoing projects on NTFPs and the organizations involved: (Mr. Julius Chupzei Tieguhong).....	7
4.10 Strategies of identification, inventory and monitoring of animals and vegetable threatened by extinctions NTFPs in Central Africa: (Mr Narcisse Mbarga).....	7
4.11 Proposed methodology: on the way towards a common methodology on NTFPs: (Mr Jean Lagarde Betti).....	7
4.12 Presentation of the NTFPs project, ACP-FORENET: (Mrs. Olga DianeYongo).....	8
<b>5. WORK IN PARALLEL SESSION.....</b>	<b>8</b>
5.1 Results expected from parallel sessions.....	9
<b>6. RECOMMENDATIONS.....</b>	<b>9</b>
6.1 For the government.....	9
6.2 For ACP-FORENET project.....	10
<b>7. CLOSING CEREMONY.....</b>	<b>10</b>



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<b>8. APPENDIX 1.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>9. APPENDIX 2.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>10. APPENDIX 3.....</b>	<b>18</b>



## 1. INTRODUCTION

ACP-FORENET is a project funded by the European Union through the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP). The project will facilitate links between forest research organisations of selected ACP countries by supporting selected local research organisations and enabling them to collaborate effectively on common forest research themes.

The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) is a coordinator of the project, assisted by a Regional Focal Point Organisation (RFPO) from each region. In Central Africa RFPO is situated in Gabon, within the Research Institute in Tropical Ecology (IRET/CENAREST). The partner countries of this project in Central Africa include Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Equatorial Guinea and Gabon.

ACP-FORENET project is based on four themes which are:

- Theme 1: Tropical forests and climate change mitigation with a focus on forest degradation
- Theme 2: Impacts of climate change on practices and livelihoods of local people
- Theme 3: Optimising income generated from forest goods and services
- Theme 4: Enhancing capacity of local people and institutions to manage forest ecosystem

In order to implement the Theme 3, a project on non-timber forest products (NTFPs) entitled “Characterisation and valorisation of non-timber forest products (plants, fungi and animals) in Makokou” was submitted to the ACP-FORENET Steering Committee for validation and funding. The Steering Committee had recommended that the general problematics of NTFPs should first be realised. To attain this objective, six consultants in each of the member countries were appointed to produce a complete literature review on NTFPs to develop a sub-regional approach on this issue.

In conjunction, to present the results of the work done by the consultants, a workshop on harmonisation of national reviews on NTFPs in Central Africa was held on 17-18 May 2010 in Douala, Cameroon.

### **The workshop objectives were:**

- To ameliorate and harmonise the literature reviews produced for each country concerned by the ACP-FORENET project in Central Africa;
- To establish for each of the selected countries a list of the most important NTFPs (that is, the most currently used and commercialised in the past five years);
- To propose a common methodology for collecting information/data and monitoring NTFPs in Central Africa;
- To contribute to the creation of national offices on NTFPs in each of the countries of the ACP-FORENET project and enhance the project in the all sub-regions;



To contribute to an advancement of the convergent plan of “Commission des Forest d’ Afrique Centrale” COMIFAC.

Thirty researchers and head officers coming from different institutions of the sub-regional countries participated in the workshop. The list of participants is available in Appendix 1.

## **2. OPENING CEREMONY**

During the opening ceremony four speeches were given respectively by the director of Central Africa RFPO (Mr. Ludovic Ngok Banak), a representative of CIFOR (Mrs. Cyrie Sendashonga), a representative of COMIFAC (Mr. Daniel Mbolo Bamela) and a representative of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (Mr. Samuel Ebia Ndongu, Director of Forestry).

In his intervention, Mr. Ngok Banak recalled the principal stages of the project since the beginning, in 2008, wishing that NTFPs which is one of the subjects of interest of the ACP-FORENET project, to be developed in a sustainable manner.

In her speech, Mrs. Sendashonga laid emphasis on the importance that CIFOR gives to this project which is putting a network of researchers in three regions which have many similarities that is Africa, Caribbean and Pacific. She also emphasised that two axes were reserved for training to show how serious CIFOR is aimed at reinforcing the capacities in human resources that are capable of putting into practice projects related to the problematics of the forest and the NTFPs being one of those projects.

Mr. Mbolo Bamela mentioned that the activities of this workshop are in line with the first strategic of the convergent plan of the COMIFAC which integrates the sub-regional directives on NTFPs. It is an occasion for countries of the sub-region to ameliorate their rules and regulations, and reinforce the South-South cooperation.

Mr. Ebia Ndongu, in his opening speech welcomed all the participants. He appreciated that the objectives of this workshop are perfectly in line with the challenges of managing NTFPs in Cameroon. To this effect, initiatives have been put in place by the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife to develop proper reflections and effective strategies necessary for management of these products.

## **3. AGENDA OF THE WORKSHOP**

The participants introduced themselves, before the beginning of the first session. A workshop committee was put in place and the composition was as followed:

- President: Mr. Bernard Foahom of “Institut de Recherche Agricole pour le Développement” (IRAD)
- Secretary: Mrs. Olga Diane Yongo of the University of Bangui;



- Assistant secretary: Mrs. Christiane Atteké assistant director of “Institut de Recherche en Ecologie Tropicale” (IRET).

#### 4. PRESENTATIONS

Twelve presentations were made successively by experts and each consultant presented the review for their respective country. The presentations were:

##### **4.1 problematics on NTFPs in Central Africa, and the support to the convergent plan of COMIFAC** by Mrs. Verina Ingram

This presentation made a clear diagnosis of scientific, administrative and political state of management of NTFPs in the sub-region.

##### **4.2 Objectives of the workshop** by Mr. Donald Midoko Iponga

The objectives of this workshop as mentioned in the Introduction were presented by Mr. Midoko Iponga.

##### **4.3 National reviews by ACP-FORENET on NTFPs for “République Démocratique du Congo (DRC)”** by Mr. Mutambue Shango

Due to the absence of Mr. Shango, this presentation was not presented. Never the less, during the work session it was recommended that good use should be made on the literature review document produce in DRC.

##### **4.4 National reviews by ACP-FORENET on NTFPs for Equatorial Guinea** by Mr. Disodado Obiang Mbomo

The literature of Equatorial Guinea on NTFPs is available only from 1988. The statistical data on the local production, importation, exportation, transformation, consumption and revenue obtained are very poor. A total 24 priority NTFPs were identified. It should be noted that definition of NTFPs in this review was restricted to plants.

##### **4.5 National reviews by ACP-FORENET on NTFPs for “Republique Centrafricaine” (RCA)** by Mr. Georges N. Gassé

In RCA, management of NTFPs was not included in the forestry code until 2008. The statistical data are weak. The principal constraints related to the production, exploitation, commercialisation and valorisation of NTFPs are of institutional juridical and technological nature. Like most of the countries in the sub-region, commercialisation is mostly informal.



#### **4.6 National reviews by ACP-FORENET on NTFPs for Congo by Mr. Joël Loumeto.**

The work on NTFPs in Congo is generally well documented. A national plan of action was elaborated. To ameliorate the management and valorisation of NTFPs in Congo, the existing national plan of action should be implemented.

#### **4.7 National review by ACP-FORENET on NTFPs for Gabon by Mr. Alfred Ngoye**

In Gabon, no structure is capable of providing reliable statistical information related to the commercialisation of NTFPs due to the fact that it is done informally. The constraints related to the exploitation of these products are of commercial, socio-cultural, juridical, regulation, biologic and ecologic nature. The absence of information on the nature of resource, biology, ecology, distribution of species and evaluation of stocks is a handicap that penalises the development of NTFPs in Gabon.

#### **4.8 National review by ACP-FORENET on NTFPs for Cameroon by Mrs. Verina Ingram**

A number of studies had been realised on NTFPs, unfortunately nowadays it has not contributed to the better management of these products in Cameroon.

#### **4.9 Other sub-regional ongoing projects on NTFPs and the organisations involved by Mr. Julius Chupzei Tieguhong**

He presented two sub-regional projects (GCP/RAF/441/GER and GCP/RAF/408/EC) which have as objectives, the contribution of NTFPs in the fight against poverty and food security through the sustainable management of forest resources, increasing of revenue of actors involved in NTFPs, reinforcement of entrepreneurial capacity of small and medium size forestry enterprises, etc.

#### **4.10 Strategies of identification, inventory and monitoring of animals and plants threatened by extinctions NTFPs in Central Africa by Mr. Narcisse Mbarga**

He presented the concept of “threatened species” and the challenges linked to the management of this type of species according to the reference of IUCN for making “Red List” and biologic criteria of registering the species on the Annex 1 of the resolution (Conf .9.24 (Rev. Co P12)) of CITES. He also mentioned that the NTFPs of the sub-region are subjected to an international trade and may fall under certain constraints of the CITES. Thus, it is necessary that the project should pay attention to this issue.

#### **4.11 Proposed methodology: on the way towards a common methodology on NTFPs by Mr. Jean Lagarde Betti**

In his presentation, he proposed a global strategy (action plan) for a better collection of statistical data on NTFPs in Cameroon in view of formulating recommendations for all the countries in COMIFAC. Three points were at the basis of this strategy: knowledge of the resource, development of a data bank on NTFPs, and a control system with traceability of special products.



#### **4.12 Presentation of the NTFPs project, ACP-FORENET by Mrs. Olga Diane Yongo**

The principal objective of the project “Characterisation and valorisation of non timber forest products (plants, fungi, and animals) in Makokou“ is to improve the standard of living of the local population in a sustainable environment by developing NTFPs. Many specific objectives were noted: inventory of useful species, domesticate the priority species, training on domestication techniques, publish results, etc. Make a state of art on NTFPs in Central Africa is one of the activities of this project. This will help to produce a list of species and their usage to be established in view of selecting the priority species for domestication. Following the production of national reviews, it has been noticed that a good number of studies on NTFPs are based on the quality aspects. It will be better to carry out studies on the potentials of priority species so as to get good knowledge on the state of resources. To have more concrete information, a system of annual monitoring of these species should be put in place.

Rich discussions followed the various presentations. It was noticed that, there are a lot of literatures on NTFPs in Central Africa but there is still a lot to be done. In fact, most of these studies have not produced any key information geared towards supporting the policy of sustainable management of NTFPs in the sub-regions. Generally, the legislation is not sufficiently clear on these products. The management of NTFPs is after all informal. We equally noticed the absence of inventory and potential knowledge on NTFPs. There is a necessity to harmonise and adopt a common terminology for the definition of NTFPs.

### **5. PARALLEL SESSIONS**

At the end of this plenary session, the participants were divided into two groups.

Session 1 was lead by the president of Mr. Loumeto, and Secretary Mr. Abdon Awono worked on the “Harmonisation of national reviews and the concept on non timber forest products”.

Session 2 was presided by Mr. Lagarde Betti, and Secretary Mrs. Madeleine Eunice Betouke Ongue on “Proposition of a plan of action for data collection, monitoring of priority non timber forest products and institutional aspects”.

#### **5.1 Results expected from parallel sessions**

##### **Session 1**

- Harmonise the definitions for each country;
- Bring out the importance of NTFPs in the countries concerned (priority to sectors);
- Propose a realistic methodology for data collection on NTFPs in the African countries concerned by the project ACP-FORENET (equally harmonise the methods of data collection);



- Have knowledge on the general state of NTFPs for each country in central Africa (commentaries, suggestion will be produced from each of the national reviews);
- Make a state of difficulties and what is lacking to improve each national review produced per country.

## Session 2

- From the literature reviews produced by each country, define a sub-regional action plan for annual data collection and monitoring of NTFPs in Central Africa;
- Make propositions to harmonise legal aspects in Central Africa;
- Put in place a support network for collecting national data (national division) under the coordination of COMIFAC to harmonise information on NTFPs;
- Orientation in relation to the follow up of project on NTFPs in the ACP-FORENET network.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of work done in parallel sessions were presented in the plenary session, after discussions, the reports of these working sessions were adopted pending changes that were recommended by the participants. These reports are found in the Appendix 2 and 3. At the end of working sessions, six recommendations were formulated, as follow:

### 6.1 Recommendation for the government:

Put in place a system of data collection which is coherent with available tools at the Central African forests observatory, but also in line with approaches developed by COMIFAC.

### 6.2 Recommendation for ACP-FORENET project:

- Facilitate the putting in place of a network of NTFPs in the Central African sub region.
- Coordinate national initiatives on NTFPs
- Better implicate administration concerned with NTFPs
- Organise a sub regional workshop on capacity reinforcement in order to define criteria and indicators for monitoring NTFPs
- Reinforce the capacities of the pools put in place at the level of each country to collect and monitor data on NTFPs



## **7. CLOSING CEREMONY**

The closing ceremony started with a word from the director of RFPO for Central Africa, Mr Ngok Banak. He thanked and congratulated the participants for the work accomplished beyond this expectation. He thanked the Cameroonian administration and CIFOR for their support and also COMIFAC for their active participation in this workshop.

On behalf of CIFOR Mrs. Ingram thanked the participants who brought their expertise and wish that the results of the workshop should be well spread. She noted that the participation of COMIFAC shows the importance of link between politics and research.

Mr. Mbolo Bamela, representing the executive secretary of COMIFAC thanked all the participants for the work accomplished and the European Union for funding the ACP-FORENET project. He also wished that, this type of meetings should be multiplied in the sub-regions to enable the better understanding of different projects. This will establish a synergy so as to avoid duplication.

For the closing remarks, Pr. Elvis Ngollé Ngollé, Minister of Forestry and Wildlife who was represented by Mr. Narcisse Mbarga, wished that the director of RFPO in Central Africa take into account the pertinent recommendations arrived during this meeting. Due to the importance of the problematics in managing NTFPs, the ministry remains open to all pleas coming from the direction of the ACP-FORENET project to guarantee a good execution of the project at the level of Cameroon. Mr. Mbarga finished his words by wishing everyone a safe journey.



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## APPENDIX 2

### SESSION I: HARMONISATION OF NATIONAL REVIEWS AND CONCEPTS ON NTFPs

**President:** Joël Loumeto

**Secretary:** Abdon Awono

**Members:** Nyare Nathalie, Cheteu Louis Bernard, Ingram Verina, Ngoye Alfred, Ngasse Georges, Makaya Njimbi, Nguimibi Leon, Guedje Nicole, Tchibozo Severin, Midoko Iponga Donald

#### 1. DEFINITION OF NTFPs:

With reference to the national legislation and the definition given by FAO, NTFPs are biological forestry products other than wood. It integrates non timber plants product, fauna and aquatic products

Categories	Examples
1. Non timber plants products:	a. Fruits b. Leaf c. Bark d. Sap e. Roots f. etc.
2. Fauna products	a. Caterpillar b. Larva c. Insects d. Snails e. Trophy f. Bush meat (Game)
3. Aquatic products	a. xx b. xx c. xxx
4. Others	Fungi

Notes:

- Exotic products are excluded from this list.
- Fire wood is taken into consideration in certain countries like Gabon, CAR, Cameroon, etc.

#### 2. PRIORITY OF NTFPs IN THE CONCERNED COUNTRIES

The use of these different products is situated in different scales. Also on the basis of criteria linked to the production, the commercialisation and consumption, the priority forestry products have been classified in the table below.

Level of integration	Priority NTFPs
Priority in the six countries	0
Priority in the five countries	1. <i>Gnetum</i> spp. 2. <i>Dacryodes edulis</i>



Priority in the four countries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maranthaceae</li> <li>2. Rattan</li> </ol>
Priority in the three countries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Piper guineense</i></li> <li>2. <i>Rauvolfia vomitoria</i></li> </ol>
Priority in less than three countries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raphia</li> <li>2. Coula</li> <li>3. Irvingia</li> <li>4. <i>Garcinia kola</i></li> <li>5. <i>Elaeis guineensis</i></li> <li>etc.</li> </ol>

Note: The directives of COMIFAC for the moment are focus on non timber forests plants. However, the references terms of the review made by FORENET includes non timber forests plants, fauna and aquatic products.

### 3. PROPOSITION OF A REALISTIC METHODOLOGY FOR DATA COLLECTION ON NTFPs

#### a) Types of target data

Type of data	Point of focus
a. Knowledge of resource( potentials of priority NTFPs in the forest)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Habitat</li> <li>2. Inventory</li> </ol>
b. Production	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Principal collecting zone</li> <li>2. Methods of collect</li> <li>3. Actors</li> <li>4. Gender</li> <li>5. Employment generated</li> <li>6. Production period</li> <li>7. Volume</li> <li>8. Availability</li> <li>9. Domestication</li> <li>10. Constraints</li> <li>etc.</li> </ol>
c. Commercialisation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Actors</li> <li>2. Markets</li> <li>3. Product origin</li> <li>4. Product destination</li> <li>5. Volume</li> <li>6. Cost</li> <li>7. Benefits</li> <li>8. Constraints</li> <li>etc.</li> </ol>
d. Transformation, conditioning and conservation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tools of transformation</li> <li>2. Level of transformation</li> <li>3. Derived products</li> </ol>



	4. Constraints etc.
e. Consumption	1. At local level 2. At national level 3. Energy contribution etc.

## b) Method:

### Ecology

- Previous identification the forestry domain concerned (permanent or temporary)
- Observation
- State of resource
- Inventory
- Capitalization information data and management plan of forestry concession (multi resource inventory)
- Reinforcement of the NTFPs potential component in the activities to forest management.
- Frequency of production (cyclic)

### Socio-economic

- Observations
- Sampling
- Maintenance
- Elaboration of questionnaire
- Long term monitoring

## 4. GENERAL STATE OF INFORMATION ON NTFPs

The analysis of each review per country produced by consultants has permitted participant of the commission to identify certain short comings. This has led to the following recommendations:

- Write a chapter on priority NTFPs for each country.
- Write a chapter on the methodology of data collection taking into consideration the elements of page 7 of the Cameroonian document and the works of Wilkie in 1999 in Clark and Sunderland 2004.
- Write a chapter on the description of priority species (maximum one page). It is important to bring out the uses of priority NTFPs so as to bring out their complimentarily from one country to the other the others.
- Note: If information is not available it should be well explained.  
Complete and harmonise the bibliography of each report (a reference document will be transmitted).
- Address a priority list of fauna products by each country.
- **N.B:** The last version of the report should be submitted before 20 June 2010.



## **5. GAPS TO BE FILLED**

After analysing the general situation of NTFPs in Central Africa, the participants proposed the following:

- Facilitation of putting in to place a network of NTFPs in the sub-Central African sub- region (facilitated by ACP-FORENET project).
- Coordinate the national initiatives on NTFPs (facilitated by ACP-FORENET project).
- Best implication on administrations concerned with NTFPs (facilitated by ACP-FORENET project).



## APPENDIX 3

### SESSION 2: PROPOSITIONS AN ACTION PLAN FOR DATA COLLECTION, MONITORING OF PRIORITY (NTFPs) AND INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS

**President:** Mr. Jean Lagarde Betti

**Secretary:** Mrs. Madeleine Eunice Betouke Ongwe

**Members:** Diosdado Obiang, Joseph Ntsengue, Julius Tieguhong, Daniel Mbolo, Christiane Atteké, Olga Diane Yongo, Richard Ebaa, Narcisse Mbarga

#### 1. PROPOSED FRAMEWORK:

- On the basis of bibliographic review produced by each country, define a sub-regional plan of action to collect information annually and monitoring of NTFPs in Central Africa;
- Make proposition to harmonise legal aspects in Central Africa;
- Put in place a support network for national data collection (national office) under the coordination of COMIFAC to harmonise information on NTFPs;
- Make recommendation for new direction concerning the NTFPs project of ACP-FONERET in Central Africa.

#### 2. SUB-REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE COLLECTION OF ANNUAL INFORMATION AND MONITORING OF NTFPs IN CENTRAL AFRICA

##### a) Problems

- Poor knowledge of resource
- Harmonisation of research methods
- Most part of the work done is not published
- The existence of numerous data on NTFPs which are well spread with different methodologies;
- Lack of data records at the level of public administration
- Absence of an appropriate juridical framework on NTFPs
- Difficulties in managing the numerous species of NTFPs from different origins
- Some international constraints that may arise from engagements of our countries to programs like CITES

#### 3. GLOBAL OBJECTIVE

To put at the disposal of decision makers and other participants, reliable information on NTFPs, this can lead to the elaboration of inherent policies to ameliorate their contributions in the fight against poverty, food security and adaptation of the population to the effects of climate changes.

To achieve this global objective, specific objectives were defined.



#### a) Specific objectives

- To establish a data base on NTFPs, both on the national and sub-regional levels.
- To define indicators to be used for monitoring the state of resources and its management.
- To propose a system of collecting and managing annual data.

#### 4. ACTIVITIES

##### a) Establishment of a data base for NTFPs, both at the national and sub-regional levels

On the basis of bibliographic reviews on NTFPs produced for each country and the existing literature, establish a common data base on NTFPs.

To achieve the objective following is needed:

- Define the variables to be included in the data base (qualitative, spatial, juridical, institutional aspects, etc.) see page 84-87 of “Strategic action plan on the collection of statistical data on NTFPs” (Betti 2007)
- Define the support on data base (computer support, data records, etc.)

##### b) Definition of the indicators for monitoring the state of resources and its management

- Define for this study the priority NTFPs for each country (on the economic social plan, vulnerability and organisational network, etc.)
- Economic indicators of NTFPs (contributions on GDP, number of linked jobs, existing markets, contributions to exportation and fiscal revenue, etc.)
- On the social plan (gender aspects, minority, etc.)
- On the legal and institutional frame (existence of legal and regulatory disposition, national strategies/directives, specialised administrative services, allocated budget, etc.)
- Existing potentials (existence of the results of multi resource inventory, cartography of production sites, etc.)
- Management methods (existence of a simple management plan, level of domestication, effectiveness of control systems, technologies for exploitation , transformation, conservation, storage, etc.)

#### 5. RECOMMENDATION:

- Proposition to organise a sub-regional workshop for capacity enhancement to define the criteria and indicators for monitoring NTFP.
- Developing a harmonise system of collecting and managing annual data on NTFPs in the sub-regions.
- Define a methodology for data collection on priority NTFPs (example forms for data collection, methods of inquiry, timing of collection, etc.)
- Define approaches/tools for analysis, reports (publications, workshops, conferences, etc.)



- Storage of data
- Define an early system of alert for each priorities of NTFPs (early warning system)  
**Note:** Get inspiration from existing tools like ISSC-MAP
- **N.B:** The system of data collection to be put in place must be coherent with the tools available at the Central African forestry observatory, according to the interconnection approach of COMIFAC.

## 6. PROPOSITION TO HARMONISE LEGAL ASPECTS IN CENTRAL AFRICA

- Appropriate sub-regional directives of COMIFAC on NTFPs by a wide spread of information (workshops, editing, translation into the four official languages of COMIFAC)
  - Integrate these directives in the national legislation.
  - Apply these integrated directives.
  - Elaborate similar directives on NTFPs of animal and fungal origin.
- a) **Put in place a support network for the collection of national data (national division) under the coordination of COMIFAC for the harmonisation information on NTFPs.**
- Put in place at the level of each country a structure for data collection and monitoring of NTFPs, comprising administrative representatives in charge of NTFPs, research institutes, operators of the private sector specialised in NTFPs, active organisation of the civil society in the domain of NTFPs.
  - Appoint a coordinator of the structure for each country which serves in connection with COMIFAC.
  - Clearly define the objectives of the different structures (data collection from suppliers, organise data validation and storage).
  - **N.B:** the project will enhance the capacities of structures.
- b) **Orientation with relation to the follow of the project on NTFPs of ACP-FORENET network.**
- Complete a bibliographic research on the basis of observation and recommendations done during this workshop.
  - Establish a data base for NTFPs of Gabon, based on the existing work (bibliographic review of NTFPs in Gabon, other documents).
  - Priorities (define the selection criteria) on NTFPs for domestication.
  - Carry out complementary ethno botanic inquiries on priority NTFPs.
  - Make an inventory on priority NTFPs at the level of the study site chosen.
  - Develop techniques for the domestication of priority NTFPs.
  - Integrate domestic NTFPs into agropastoral systems
  - Develop for each priority on NTFP an early alert system, with inspiration from ISSC-MAP model developed by IUCN, TRAFFIC, WWF, CITES.
  - Develop a simple management plan for each important NTFPs threatened.
  - Make sure there is collaboration between the experts in the various domains of activities cited above.
  - Associate students of FORENET project in the realisation of these activities.