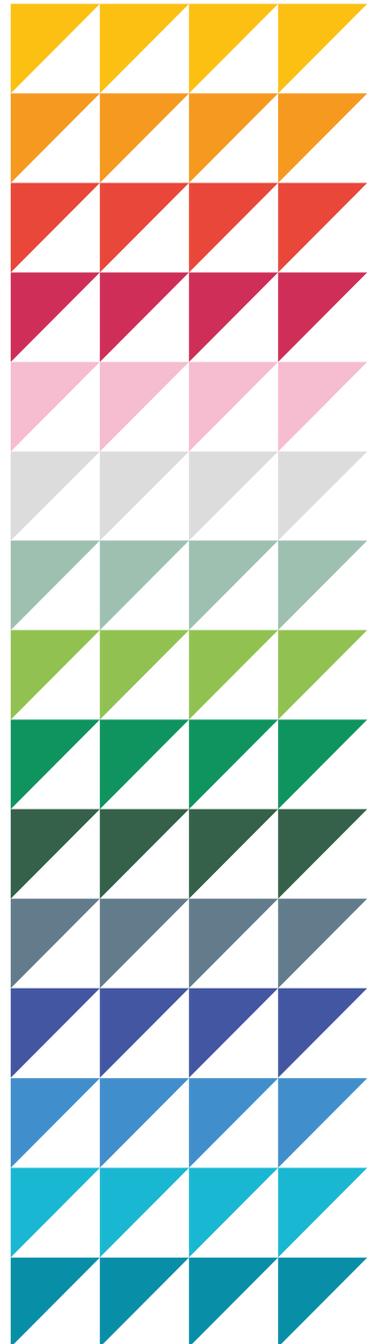


# Pathways to more sustainable woodfuel value chains

Funded by the European Union, the Governing Multifunctional Landscapes Sustainable Woodfuel project aims to contribute to knowledge, options and engagement for more sustainable woodfuel value chains across Sub-Saharan Africa.

This brief series describes findings, insights and analyses from the project's activities during 2018 to 2021, in particular experiences from woodfuel value chains in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya and Zambia.



## What is sustainable woodfuel?

Woodfuel is the main source of energy for cooking for over 60% of households in Sub-Saharan Africa, contributing to the food security and nutritional needs of millions of people. Due to the lack of alternative energy sources and to growing charcoal demand from urban centers, woodfuel production is expected to increase in the coming decades. The sector provides income to millions of people, including small-scale producers and collectors, traders, transporters and sellers, who rely on woodfuel revenues for their livelihoods.

Despite its socioeconomic importance, woodfuel production and trade is still a mostly informal sector. It is not organized, it has weak or inadequate legal frameworks, and it contributes little to government revenues. The lack of woodfuel governance, in combination with increasing demand, results in unsustainable wood harvesting that causes forest degradation and greenhouse gas emissions. In contrast, sustainable woodfuel value chains can positively contribute to livelihoods, by generating both household income from trade and a secure supply of cooking fuel, while mitigating negative environmental impacts.

There is a need for an integrated approach to woodfuel value chain dynamics that considers multiple functions of forest-agricultural landscapes and outcomes for livelihoods and forest governance. Through our work on the Governing Multifunctional Landscapes Sustainable Woodfuel project we aim to support and further this approach. This brief series provides documented experience on how better practices within woodfuel value chains and related governance can positively transform woodfuel sectors to benefit livelihoods, through both energy supply and income-generating activities, while reducing negative environmental impacts on forest-agricultural landscapes and mitigating climate change.



Improved charcoal kiln, Yangambi landscape, the Democratic Republic of the Congo. (Fiston Wasanga/CIFOR)

## Cameroon



Reducing the degradation of mangroves in the Littoral region through **improved fish smokers, improved extraction practices** and **management options**.



Promoting charcoal **production from wood residues** in the Littoral region by building a network of producers with Wood Processing Units (WPU).



Improving **woodfuel management in refugee-hosting areas** in the East Region, including through the development of model agroforestry systems with fast growing species and food trees in areas under pressure; and the creation of a business model and marketing strategy for improved end-use, including cooking techniques, cook stoves, and commercial stoves.

## Kenya



Developing **community action plans** in Baringo and Kitui counties to promote better management of woodlands and sustainable harvesting of trees, and more efficient processing and carbonization.



Supporting the Baringo County Environmental Committee in the development and the implementation of a roadmap towards sustainable *Prosopis juliflora* charcoal production.



Supporting Kitui County in the implementation of transitional implementation plans for devolved forestry functions, as well as the development of a **road map for sustainable woodfuel production** and local use.

## Democratic Republic of the Congo



Producing sustainable woodfuel in the Yangambi landscape, including through **community-led agroforestry** systems, and **improved carbonization techniques**.



**Improved use of wood residues** from sawmills in Kisangani to partially substitute use of unsustainable charcoal.

## Zambia



Developing participatory forestry action plans, including evidence-based **assisted natural regeneration** options for degraded production sites in three districts: Mushindamo (North-Western Province), Mufulira (Copperbelt Province) and Nchelenge (Luapula Province).



Supporting more efficient production by **charcoal producers' associations** in Choma District, including through charcoal kiln efficiency studies for cushion feedstock supplies in woodfuel production and supply areas.

