

Palms for the future of Africa

Multidimensional approaches to the socio-economics, resilience and sustainable harvesting of *Raphia* species in Cameroon



Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) play a central role in the tropics - They also play vital roles in low-income food-deficit countries such as Cameroon (Africa). The RAPHIA project will use interdisciplinary and integrated approaches to describe, characterize and model the economic importance and future trends of *Raphia* species in Cameroon.

OBJECTIFS

- Document and quantify the current socio-economic importance of *Raphia* species in Cameroon.
- Evaluate the resilience of *Raphia* species in Cameroon to overharvesting and climate change.
- Assess recent innovations for the sustainable harvesting of *Raphia* species and promote *Raphia* as an important natural capital in Cameroon.

ACTIONS

1. Compile previous knowledge and collect new data on the taxonomy, uses and trade value of *Raphia* species in Cameroon.

2. Analyze value chains and estimate future trends of *Raphia* species products.

3. Explore spatial genetic structure of selected *Raphia* species

4. Evaluate methods to estimate *Raphia* population sizes and biomass via remote sensing.

5. Model the response of species to future climate change scenarios.

6. Assess the potential of innovations for sustainable harvesting of *Raphia* products.

7. Produce a general public documentary on the importance of *Raphia* in Cameroon.

8. Implement dissemination actions via collaboration with NGOs and local associations.

RESULTATS

1. Increase knowledge about NTFPs as a tool to fight against poverty / food insecurity in Cameroon and Africa.

2. A solid taxonomic framework of *Raphia* species.

3. The general public, professionals and educators gain knowledge about the use and value of *Raphia* palms.

4. Understand the threats and resilience of populations to over harvesting, climate change and habitat degradation.

5. New innovations in the sustainable harvest of *Raphia* palm wine and grubs.

6. Effective communication between farmers and government officials on questions related to the sustainable harvest of *Raphia* in Cameroon.

7. Submit a large EU Horizon 2020 project of African palm harvest and trade.

Responsable : Thomas Couvreur
thomas.couvreur@ird.fr **Unité de recherche :** AMAP, DIADE

Pays concernés: Cameroun

Date de démarrage : 01/01/2015

Date de clôture : 31/12/2017

Montant :




agropolis fondation