



Call for application for the recruitment of a post-doctoral researcher

State of the art of Non-Timber Forest Products Processing in Central African Countries and Prospects for Sustainable Value Chains Development

Background

During the period 2022–2025, the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) are implementing a support program for applied research in ecology and social sciences (RESSAC). Its goal is to strengthen the impact of this research on the sustainable management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa. RESSAC provides funding for applied research as proposed by consortia of partners based on an academic and scientific framework.

Following recommendations of external reviews of proposals, RESSAC has selected the proposal titled “*State of the art of Non-Timber Forest Products Processing in Central African Countries and Prospects for Sustainable Value Chains Development*” submitted by a consortium including the University of Douala (ENSET - Cameroun), Masuku University of Sciences and Techniques (USTM, Gabon), Czech University of Life Sciences (CZU/FTA, Czech Republic), and the Cameroonian NGO **Millennium Ecologic Museum (MEM) as the consortium leader.**

The Millennium Ecologic Museum will host the post-doctoral researcher at its headquarters in Yaoundé where workspaces and computer equipment will be made available.

Research objectives

This research aims to assess the value chain of processed NTFP in central Africa (Cameroon and Gabon).

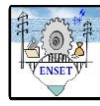
The specific objectives are to:

- describe the market characteristics of processed NTFP in central African countries;
- assess the value chain of each of the main processed products;
- Assess stakeholder needs and perceptions and identify priority interventions to upgrade these value chains.

This study is targeting the Central African countries. More specifically, two countries will be the main study sites: Cameroon and Gabon.

Methodology

To achieve the above objectives, the following key activities will be implemented:



Activity 1: Documenting market characteristics of processed NTFP

In the implementation of this activity, market surveys will be conducted year-round in local and regional markets to record the different types and quantities of products sold, prices, processing and packaging techniques, demand, and supply systems. The quality attributes of sample products will be assessed to ascertain their compliance with existing norms and environmental friendliness. All respondents give their informed consent for inclusion before participating in the study.

Activity 2: Value chain assessment of processed NTFP

This aspect of the study will make use of existing literature on NTFP value chains. It builds on the theoretical foundations of the value chain as defined by Russell and Hanoomanjee (2012), who present the value chain as a description of the set of activities necessary to accompany a product or service from its source to the final consumer and disposal after use.

Activity 3: Stakeholder needs and perceptions

An open-ended structured interview schedule will be designed to assess the perceptions and attitudes of different stakeholders toward NTFP processing in each study site. The questionnaire to be used will try to assess the perceptions of various stakeholders about their involvement in NTFP processing activities, their role, a record of activities of the last five years, difficulties, and the needs for further development.

Activity 4: Feedback meeting with stakeholders

After performing the analysis of the data collected, a stakeholder workshop will be organized to share the results with stakeholders from the grassroots level to the decision-makers involved in the NTFP sector in central Africa.

Tasks

The tasks of the post are as follows

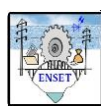
- Ensuring operational monitoring of the proper implementation of activities
- -Ensuring close monitoring of the Masters trainees under the supervision of the project's partner scientific supervisors.
- Prepare methodological notes with data collection tools
- Collecting data in the field
- Process and analyses the data collected
- Write technical reports and scientific articles

Deliverables

- Methodological note with collection tools
- Technical report
- At least 02 articles accepted in reputable scientific journal
- At least one political note published

Term and condition

- 18 month contract (start February 2024 to end July 2025)
- The postdoctoral researcher will be supervised administratively by Dr Nguenang Guy Merlin and Scientifically By Pr Fongnzossie Evariste (University of Douala),



Dr Nguenang Guy Merlin (MEM), Pr Christian MOUPELA (University of Sciences and Techniques of Masuku, Gabon), Prof. Dr. Ir. Patrick Van Damme Patrick (Czech University of Life Sciences, Faculty of Tropical Agrisciences).

Qualification

- Hold a doctorate in biological or agrisciences and demonstrate research experience of at least 2 years in one of the following fields: Biodiversity, Non Timber Forest Products value chains, ecology, forestry.
- Good command of English and French;
- Organisational skills/autonomy, meeting deadlines ;
- Ability to establish contacts with resource persons in Central Africa ;
- Ability to collect, process and analyze socio-economic and environmental data using criteria and indicator grids;
- Ability to articulate empirical approaches with theoretical and conceptual approaches in scientific approaches ;
- Ability to write scientific and financial reports ;
- Ability to write scientific articles for international peer-reviewed journals ;
- Ability to make operational use of research findings (policy brief, facts and figures, etc.);
- Female applicants will be given preference in cases of equal competence

Application procedure

Complete applications must include

- A detailed CV ;
- A letter of motivation stating explicitly what contribution you will make to the project;
- A methodological note indicating your understanding of the mission and how the objectives of the project will be implemented;

These applications should be sent as a digital file with the title: candidature-POST-DOC-projet RESSAC-MEM to the following addresses ecologicmuseum@yahoo.com with a copy to gnguenang@hotmail.com, fongnzossie@gmail.com. Deadline for applications is set for 15 February 2024, 23:59 (Central African time, GMT+1).