



PREFEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE “NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE WOOD-ENERGY STRATEGY” OF THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Ref.
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Expert(s)	Country	Volume (md)	Amount* (€)	Beneficiary	Funding	Start date	End date	Partner(s)	Reference
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Detailed description of the project	Services provided
<p>The Republic of Congo is engaged in the definition and implementation of an energy policy, particularly through the use of wood as a renewable and low-cost source of energy.</p> <p>In order to develop a national strategy for sustainable wood energy , focusing on activities targeting both supply and demand, the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and Environment (MDDEFE) commissioned an analysis of the economic organisation and players in the wood-energy sector (production, transport, commercialisation and consumption) [part 2 of the study]. The surveys were carried out in both the rural and urban areas of three districts (<i>départements</i>): Brazzaville and the Pool, Dolisie and the Niari, as well as Pointe Noire and the Kouilou. The survey allowed to characterise the entire wood-energy sector through specific enquiries relating to supply (i.e. producers, transporters and traders) and demand (i.e. consumers or households).</p> <p>Moreover, the MDDEFE asked for an analysis of the feasibility of the implementation of a community-based, pilot reforestation project for energetic purposes, as part of the fight against climate change [part 3 of the study]. The Congo has one of the richest experiences in reforestation in Central Africa (industrial reforestation in Pointe Noire, National Reforestation Services (SNR), etc.). Community-based reforestation, with fast-growing species, represents a major action lever in the improvement of the supply of sustainable wood energy, and contributes to rural development as well as the fight against climate change (valorisation CDM, REDD+). However, it faces several technical and socio-economic barriers (land tenure issues, inadequate forest legislation) as well as financing difficulties.</p>	<p>Quantitative surveys were conducted on four groups: producers (rural areas), transporters, traders and consumers (households). The distinction between charcoal and woodfuel was taken into account. In Brazzaville, the sampling scheme for the household population was based on a sub-sample of the population surveyed in 2004 (a similar study was conducted at that time). As the 2004 questionnaires for Pointe Noire and Dolisie were not found a random sampling of the population was conducted. The work of the expert was to verify the data collected and entered by the national consultant during the study. The questionnaires were administrated by local interviewers (663 interviews in total). The surveys were used to characterise the three supply basins covered: sources of biomass, production techniques and organisation, production seasonality, modes of transport, trade organisation (deposits/markets, wholesalers/retailers, etc.), typology of consumer households and their cooking instruments (e.g. type of cookstoves). Finally, surveys were used to characterise the value chain throughout the supply chain, from producer to consumer.</p> <p>Based on field visits in the Pool (rural areas around Brazzaville) and interviews with key individuals (SNR, DDEF, local NGOs, etc.), the feasibility study of the pilot project of village plantations showed the necessity to test the proposed silvicultural techniques (very short rotation coppice), to work on land tenure regularisation, to develop flexible funding mechanisms, to adapt the forest legislation and regulations to private plantations, to adapt the organisation of the SNR (the project’s implementing entity), to detail the carbon valorisation framework (afforestation or reforestation, REDD, energy substitution) and to articulate the project activities with similar existing initiatives, at both national and sub-regional levels.</p>