

**28<sup>th</sup> KUASS**  
**(Kyoto University African Studies Seminar)**

**Non Timber Forest Products of Cameroon: Diversity,  
potentials, threats and indigenous response strategies**

Date: Oct. 23, 2014 (Thu.), 15:00 –

Venue: #318, 3F Inamori Center, Kawabata Campus, Kyoto University

Lecturer: Dr. Evariste FONGNZOSSIE (University of Douala, Cameroon)

\* The talk is given in English without translation. Admission free for attending the seminar.

**ABSTRACT:**

Cameroon's tropical forest is endowed with a great diversity of biological resources including non-timber forest products (NTFPs). These resources have long been ignored by forestry policies. It is only recently that their contribution to the national economy and to the live of millions of rural and urban populations has been acknowledged. On average, 40% of a harvester's annual household income is derived from such products. NTFP are good entry points for synergies between climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Statistics for non -timber forest products have been largely missing or undervalued and research efforts have been ongoing in Cameroon to improve the knowledge base on NTFP. This presentation summarizes the state of knowledge on NTFP and associated value chains.

Unsustainable harvesting of forest resources has however caused decline of the forest area of Cameroon, averaging 0.6 % each year. In addition to these threats, tropical forests of Cameroon are also known to be highly vulnerable to climate change that affects biological cycles of plants and is jeopardizing the flowering and fruiting phenology of most NTFP.

This presentation also explores indigenous response strategies and efforts of research and development institutions to promote sustainable NTFP management in Cameroon.

Co-hosted with: JST and JICA program: Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS),

"Establishment of Sustainable Livelihood Strategies and Natural Resource Management in Tropical Rain Forest and its Surrounding Areas of Cameroon: Integrating the Global Environmental Concerns with Local Livelihood Needs"

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