

USES, HARVESTING TECHNIQUES AND SUSTAINABILITY OF NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS (NTFPS) IN KPANDO DAYI BLOCK FOREST RESERVE, VOLTA REGION

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ABSTRACT

Execution of this study comprised the use of open ended Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), administration of questionnaires, identification and uses of the NTFPs in the study area (Vakpo, Botoku, Tsrukpe and Tsorhor) and detailed studies covering the major NTFPs in the Kpando Dayi Block Reserve. Majority (60%) of the FGDs participants were males while 40% of them were females; and their ages ranged from 20 to 70 years. Most (60-100%) of the participants had at least primary education and are farmers. The main NTFPs identified are bamboos, medicinal plants, Marantaceae leaves, chew sticks, fruits and nuts, canes, mushrooms, snails, honey and bush meat out of which the uses and harvesting techniques of bamboos (the major NTFPs in the study area) was studied in detail. The harvesting techniques employed in harvesting bamboos (i.e., cutting at a height of 0.5-0.6m above the ground) in the Kpando Dayi Forest Reserve appeared to be sustainable because there was regeneration and coppice formation. Most (80%) of the respondents harvest between 1-51 tons of NTFPs (bamboos) on each harvesting occasion. Regeneration of bamboo stumps inside the Kpando Dayi Block Forest Reserve was found to be significantly higher ($p=0.01$) than outside the Kpando Dayi Block Forest Reserve. The number of coppices produced by the regenerating bamboo stumps, the height of the coppices and the girth growth of the coppices inside the Kpando Dayi Block Forest Reserve were also significantly higher ($p=0.01$) than were outside the Reserve.

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