

## **45. Development and management of emerging NTFP: the case of Carapa in Congo**

*Mesa Carolina* <sup>1</sup>, *Loumeto Jean-Joël* <sup>2</sup>, *Forget Pierre-Michel* <sup>3</sup>,  
*Doumenge Charles* <sup>4</sup>

In Congo, the seeds of Carapa (Carapa spp., Meliaceae) are traditionally used for medicinal purposes and as a stimulant. Until 2009, their use remained very localized and confidential. However, in 2010, Brazzaville markets have seen an explosion in the consumption of seeds, dressed as suddenly the qualities of a panacea. The results are not always conclusive and a local doctor claimed that they could cause side effects if swallowed uncontrolled. Consumption collapsed despite the absence of research proving the toxicity. As a consequence, seed collection has decreased in parallel with an increase in the harvest of bark, supposedly less harmful. Changes in collection practices sometimes caused a total debarking and death of trees. Currently, the issue of sustainability of the resource is mitigated by the prohibition of logging, but it is insufficient. The silvicultural practices will depend on market orientation and the sharing of profits in the sector, encouraging or not the producers to sustainably manage this resource. The management of Carapa resources, which could participate in future development programs in the Lac Télé Community Reserve, should be designed with producers, taking into account the local cultural context.

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**Orator :** Charles Doumenge

### **Complete Authors addresses including Institution :**

- 1-C. Mesa, Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Rue Buffon, F-75005 Paris, France, mesa\_carolina@yahoo.fr
- 2-J.-J. Loumeto, Université Marien Ngouabi, BP 2820, Brazzaville, Congo, loumeto@hotmail.com
- 3-P.-M. Forget, Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, 1 av. du Petit Château, F-91800 Brunoy, France, pmf@mnhn.fr
- 4-C. Doumenge, CIRAD, Campus International de Baillaguët, TA-C-105/D, F-34398 Montpellier cedex 5, France, charles.doumenge@cirad.fr