

47. Developing management plans for periurban degraded forests around Kinshasa (DRC)

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The forests of the Democratic Republic of Congo are part of the second largest tropical forest in the world. Many of the rural population of this country are located nearby and live from them. The need for wood energy in the capital Kinshasa, estimated at 490,000 tons / year (Makala Project, 2011), leading to a dynamic of deforestation and degradation of forest ecosystems in suburban areas and inducing significative deterioration living conditions of populations. This study is part of the EU project Makala. It focuses on the management of degraded natural forests through participatory management of village in the periurban area of Kinshasa. The main objective of this work is to provide an opportunity for an endogenous group, traditionally managing the village territory, to develop a vision for the sustainable development of their living space. Three stages were carried out: the sustainable management of relict forests, the development of agroforestry systems, and last planification of logging and forest recovery operations. The challenge for management planning is to combine these three types of actions, depending on the local landscape units, representative of the diversity inherent in soils: diversity of objectives (conservation, production, agroforestry, ...); diversity of soil conditions; diversity of users' rights; diversity of actors involved... This development is based on the local names, the perception and the appropriation of village territory experienced by the local population.

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