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Project factsheet

Origin, population dynamics and silviculture of *Cylicodiscus gabunensis* Harms / Principal Investigator: Romaric NDONDA MAKEMBA

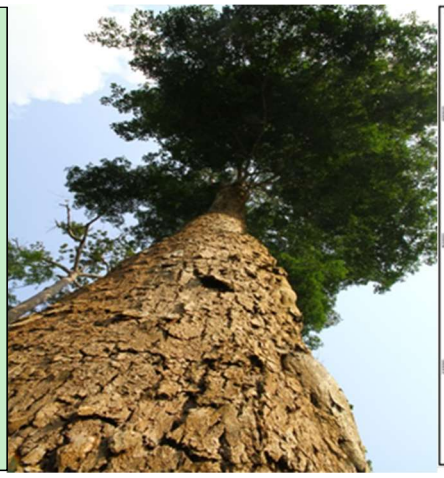
Snapshot

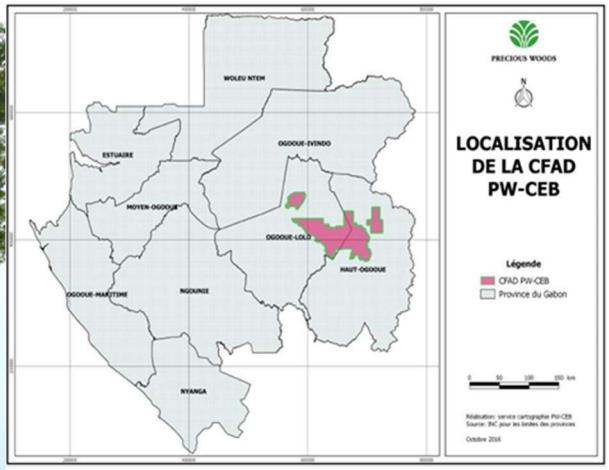
Life of Project
2018-2021

Current project phase:
Writing a paper on the origin of okan populations

Budget 2019:
€ 17'210 (of total budget of € 19'961)

Partner organisations:
- Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech
- USTM (University of Masuku)
- CEB Precious Woods
- Nature+
- ANPN





Project overview

This research project is part of a doctoral thesis carried out at the Faculty of Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech (University of Liège, Belgium). The thesis aims to understand the historical, biological and environmental mechanisms that can explain the current structure of *C. gabunensis'* populations. Ultimately, this project will define the ecological profile of *C. gabunensis* and recommend appropriate regeneration methods.

Cylicodiscus gabunensis wood occupies an important place in the timber trade in Central Africa. Unfortunately, tree populations usually show a regeneration deficit in evergreen moist forests, which could compromise the long-term exploitation of the species. Understanding the factors that influence population dynamics of this species is therefore crucial to its long-term survival and the sustainable management of its populations. The inclusion of the project in the Dynaffor and P3FAC programs ensures long-term monitoring of the results

Project Objectives

- Examine the relative contribution of past anthropogenic activities and soil factors to the current spatial distribution of *C. gabunensis* in the Gabonese rainforests.
- Study the population dynamics of *C. gabunensis* and the impact of logging on these populations.
- Study the light requirements of *C. gabunensis* seedlings in a controlled experiment and the performance in plantings.
- Propose recommendations fort the sustainable management of the populations.

Expected Outcomes

1) The ecological profile of *C. gabunensis* is characterized; synthesis papers are published in scientific journals.
2) The population dynamics of *C. gabunensis* is understood; results are published (Bois et Forêts des Tropiques).
3) Recommendations are formulated regarding a species-specific planting method.
4) An effective regeneration method is available and implemented by forest operators in tropical forests improving their forest quality

Precious Forests Foundation has been established in May 2018 and is committed to the sustainable preservation of tropical forests through the valorisation of their ecosystem services and the responsible, multiple use of their renewable timber and non-timber products.