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## Benefits of non-timber forest products to the social-economic life of AFCOM.E2M communities of Southern Cameroon

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A study was carried out in AFCOM.E2M communities in South Region of Cameroon to evaluate the contribution of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) to livelihood of the people. The study identifies the various NTFPs used and further evaluates their socio-economic and cultural contribution to livelihood sustainability of the AFCOM.E2M community. The present study takes into account the exploitation, and utilization of NTFPs. One hundred and twenty five (125) individuals were randomly selected in the three villages of AFCOM.E2M community forest, fifty two (52) species of NTFPs were identified, from which seven (7) were practically used in all the three villages: *Irvingia gabonensis*, *Trichoscypha acuminata*, *Alstonia boonei*, *Garcinia kola*, *Piper guineense*, *Picalima nitida*, and *Ricinodendron heudoleuti*. The results reveal that parts of NTFPs used for consumption are represented by the following proportions fruit 68%, seed 20%, bark 5%, roots 4% and leaves 3%, while NTFPs of bark use for medicinal use are mostly used (70%), 16% for the seed, 7% for the leaf, 5% for the fruit and 2% for roots NTFPs. There was a significant difference ( $P=0.049$ ) for food consumption and no significant difference ( $P=0.86$ ) for drug consumption. Considering the two usage categories namely food and medicine, these two categories of utility also vary by Types of Land Use (TSU). The parts used to the consumption mode, reveals that there is a significant difference ( $P\text{-value}=0.048$ ) for the consumption as food and as well as consumption for drug ( $P\text{-value}=0.012$ ).

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