Beekeeping and Sustainable Development in DR Congo

How beekeeping can help generating sustainable incomes and improving the integrated management of natural resources?

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ULB-C° projects in DRC

- SYNAPIC project (Luki, Mbanza Ngungu and Madimba)
- Agroecology project in Kisantu
- Reforestation + beekeeping project in the plateau Bateke
Présentation de la zone d'étude

Légende:
- Village
- Station de recherche Inora Luki
- Route principale
- Route secondaire
- Rivière secondaire
- Rivière principale
- Limite_Luki
- Enclave
- Zone centrale
- Zone Tampon
- Zone apicole sous
- Synapic 1
- Zone de transition

Sources des données:
- Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature
- Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques
- Union Internationale pour la Conservation de la Nature
- Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement
- Programme pour l'Élimination des Désarmements Nucleaires
- Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture

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Beekeeping and Forest conservation

• The Biosphere Reserve: how to include the local population in the collective management of their “natural capital”?

• Complex land access in the traditional law
  ⇒ No tree planting for non-landholders
  ⇒ Land precarity leads to unsustainable practices and poaching

• “Makala” is an easy business. Can Beekeeping be an alternative?
The Beekeeping Project

- 230 beekeepers, 6 associations, 1 cooperative
- Annual honey production > 12,000 Kg
- Average income: 350 US$/beekeeper
How to improve the potential of Beekeeping?

- Training and improved practices
- Processing and marketing support (value chain study)
- Preserving and developing the melliferous potential
- Securing forest access for beehives
Agroecology Project in Kisantu
Breaking the vicious circle

Complex land laws => unsafe land access

- Arable lands decline
- Extensive agriculture Slash & Burn
- Deforestation for « Makala »
- Soil fertility loss => yields drop

Breaking the vicious circle
Beekeeping in the agroecological production system

What for?

- Diversification of production for more resilience
- Complementary incomes on the same land surface
- Pollination services
- Understanding and valorizing the melliferous flora & preserving natural resources
Beekeeping in Agriculture project

• Agroforestry and Beekeeping: producing cassava, “green Makala”, fruits, and honey on the same land surface

• Building multi-services community forests

• Supporting land tenure security for beekeeping
  ⇒ Contractual agreements with landholders and farmers
  ⇒ Using long fallows with melliferous pioneer species
Challenges and opportunities

• Land access, reforestation and beekeeping
• Quality of products and market opportunities
  • Quality process and trade logistics improving: to what extend?
  • Finding markets for co-products (e.g. beeswax)
• The place of beekeeping in development projects: professionalization vs integration
• Beekeeping as an alternative Income Generating Activity?
The SYNAPIC network

- Creating links between projects and partners
- Sharing tools and knowledge
- Capitalization and diffusion of experiences
- Transversal action research
- Networking and partnerships (INERA, ERAIFT...)

[Map of Congo showing locations like Plateau Batéké, Kinshasa, Kisantu, Luki]
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