

Assessment of Coarse Woody Debris in Gallery Forest in the Bombo-Lumene Reserve (Democratic Republic of Congo)

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Abstract

The objective of this research was to assess the amount of carbon stock of coarse woody debris (CWD) in Bombo-Lumene Reserve. Data on lying CWD was collected on 35 circular sampling plots using Line Intersect Sampling (LIS) method. A total of 230 samples CWD (≥ 10 cm diameter) were inventoried. The mean carbon stocks of CWD was $29.48 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$, ranging from 4.32 to $73.54 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$. The CWD carbon stocks displayed a wide range of variation in decay states. The allocation of CWD among the decay class of all the CWD samples reveals that the most important classes were class 1 and class 3 with 323.66 and $321.96 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$, followed by class 4 with 264.56 and the last one was class 2 with $121.72 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$. The results suggested that the dead wood component is important in carbon sequestration and should be taken into consideration for quantification of carbon stocks not only in Bombo-Lumene Reserve, but in all forest ecosystems in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Key Words: Bombo-Lumene reserve, carbon stocks, coarse woody debris (CWD), Democratic Republic of Congo, line intersect sampling (LIS)

Introduction

Coarse woody debris (CWD) plays an important role in forest ecosystems (Yan et al. 2006; Fukasawa 2012; Herrmann et al. 2015). It contributes to carbon and nutrient cycling as well as provides habitats for many forest organisms including animals, plants, insects and microbes (Stares et al. 2018). The CWD is generally known as dead and downed wood such as snags, logs, stumps and logging residues. It also includes large dead branches and large por-

tions of wood found in forest soil. CWD is typically created by human interventions and natural disturbances such as wildfire, floods, windstorms, diseases and insect infestations (Hagan and Grove 1999). In addition, environmental conditions, including vegetation type, moisture content, heterotroph activity and stage of succession significantly contribute to transmission of the CWD (Mccay et al. 2002; Teissier du Cros and Lopez 2009; Paletto et al. 2012; Tavankar et al. 2017; Yuan et al. 2017).

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(IPCC) guideline (2006) defines five carbon pools including living aboveground biomass, living belowground biomass, deadwood, litter and soil organic matter (SOM) in the terrestrial ecosystem which is the third largest global carbon pool over the ocean and geological carbon pool (Penman et al. 2003; Simon 2006; de Madron et al. 2011; Assefa et al. 2013). The forest ecosystems sequester and store more carbon per unit area among all terrestrial ecosystems (Dey et al. 2014; Kim et al. 2018) and the dead wood (CWD) represents one of the major carbon pools in natural forest ecosystems (Chao et al. 2008; Merganičová and Merganič 2010). It is considered a major component of the Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) (Taylor 1997; Harmon et al. 2011). The importance of dead wood (CWD) in the forest can be evaluated by the quantity that is influenced by the mortality of tree and decomposition rate, but also on its dispersion in terms of dimension, stems quantity, decomposition conditions, tree species, age, position, and a special organization (Kraigher et al. 2002). Therefore, estimating the quantity of CWD and the carbon stocks in CWD is crucial to understand forest ecosystems and their structure (Baker et al. 2007; Fravolini et al. 2016).

Muller and Liu (1991) estimated the mass of CWD from 22 to 49 Mg ha⁻¹ in North American temperate deciduous forests, depending on stand age and productivity. Sato (2010), also, quantified the mass and inputs of CWD in two old-growth lucidophyllous forests in southwestern Japan and the CWD mass ranged from 20.77 to 36.85 Mg ha⁻¹.

Bombo-Lumene is a reserve in the Democratic Republic

of Congo close to the capital city Kinshasa. It is an ecologically important reserve since where is made up of open and wooded savannas interspersed by tropical gallery forests along its rivers as well as small forest patches. Recently, many studies estimating CWD mass and density loss have emphasized the ecological roles of CWD in the world (Keller et al. 2004; Maraseni and Mitchell 2016; Silva et al. 2016; Netto et al. 2018). However, little information is available concerning the carbon stock of CWD in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Thus, the quantification of CWD and its carbon stocks in Bombo-Lumene Reserve could provide fundamental information to manage and protect gallery forests as well as all Congolese's forests.

Materials and Methods

Study site

Sampling was achieved in Bombo-Lumene Domain and Reserve (Democratic Republic of Congo), located at the east side of Kinshasa town, precisely at the edge of the urban-rural commune of Maluku, around 130 km from the city center (Habiyaremye et al. 2011), and comprised between 4° 20' and 5° 80' south latitude, 15° 50' and 16° 20' of east longitude, on altitude average of 600 m from the sea level (Milau et al. 2016) (Fig. 1).

Created through the ministerial decree N° 07 of February 10, 1968, as regards the part "domain" and 1976 for part "Reserve", with an objective to promote conservation and sustainable use of natural resources (Vermeulen and Lanata 2006). It is under control of

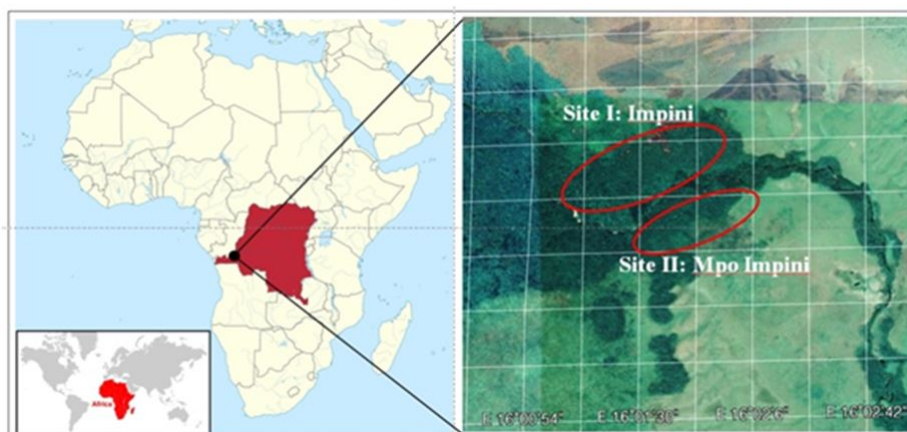


Fig. 1. Localization of studying area.

'Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature' (ICCN) (Moyene 2008). Bombo-Lumene Domain and Reserve cover an area of 350,000 ha and is subdivided into two groups: domain and Reserve. The studied area presents a climate, which, at regional level, belongs to the humid tropical climate of type AW4 according to the classification of KOPPEN. The mean annual temperature prevailing there is 24.8°C, while the annual precipitation average is 1549 mm (Kalambay et al. 2016).

The area includes a range of vegetation characterized by savannah (UICN/PACO 2010), punctuated by slits caused by continuous runoff and multiple riparian branches, the main flow into Bombo, Lumene and Lufimi. The first two having given their names to the site (Kayumba et al. 2015). These crevices and runoffs are covered by galleries forest with the largest tree species are *Gilbertiodendron dewevrei* (Caesalpinaceae), *Entandrophragme angolense* (Meliaceae), *Guibortia demeusei* (Caesalpinaceae) and *Uapaca guineensis* (Phyllanthaceae) (Inogwabini et al. 2006). The soil has an average particle size distribution of about 3.4% clay, 5.6% silt and 91% sand (Milau et al. 2016).

Experimental design

In July 2018, 35 circular plots were randomly established and surveyed along Lumene river. In each plot, three transect segments with 20m each one were laid out radiating from a central point. The orientation of segment 1 was selected uniformly random perpendicular to the direction of water flow, and segments 2 and 3 were oriented at $\pm 120^\circ$ of the segment 1. The quantity of CWD was inventoried in the field using Line Intersects Sampling (LIS) method (Van Wagner 1968). It implies that all the objects intersected by line are included in the sample (Kangas and Maltamo 2006). The plots were distributed on both sides of the Lumene river in two sites as follows: Mpo Impini site

sampled with 22 plots and Impini site that included anthropogenic disturbance with 13 plots. A total 35 sampling plots included 230 fallen coarse woody debris ≥ 10 cm. The plots were distributed in Mpo Impini (site 1) with 155 samples and Impini (site 2) with 75 samples recorded. For every tailed piece, transect diameter and decay state were measured. A particle of downed woody was included in the sampling if the small end measured 10 cm in diameter or greater, was not attached to the living tree, and lying on the floor at angles $\leq 45^\circ$. The volume of CWD was calculated using De Vries's formula:

$$V (\text{m}^3 \text{ ha}^{-1}) = ((\pi^2/8 L) \sum di^2) \times 10,000 \text{ m}^2 \text{ ha}^{-1}$$

Where V=volume per unit area; L=transect line's length; di=CWD diameter of each piece at the line intersection point (Böhl and Brändli 2007; Monfils et al. 2009; Teissier du Cros and Lopez 2009; Ifo et al. 2015).

Various decay class systems are used to classify CWD (Sandström et al. 2007). In this study, the decay class was assessed for each log of CWD in the field; based on visual characteristics (Russell et al. 2015); into four classes using a modified CWD decay classification (Ifo et al. 2018) (Table 1).

Volume was converted to mass by multiplying the volume by 0.5 g/cm³ as conversion factor: $M=0.5 \text{ g/cm}^3$ (Reyes et al. 1992; Roshetko et al. 1999; Ekoungoulou et al. 2018). Assuming that carbon is stored in forest biomass and has a relationship, the amount of biomass is multiplied by 0.5 to get estimated carbon for each plot, because 50% biomass are assumed as stored in the forest (Pearson and Brown 2005; Chave et al. 2009; Uykun 2018).

Statistical analysis

All statistical analyses were done using R software and

Table 1. Decay classes of coarse woody debris (CWD)

Decay states	Characteristics
Class 1	More than 75% of wood still intact and a good part of the bark was still intact, twigs and leaves attached, the metal does not penetrate
Class 2	25-50 % of wood beginning to be soft and bark only partially convert; lacked of fine twigs and leaves
Class 3	75 % of the tree trunk has decayed, the bark is totally degraded
Class 4	More than 75 % of wood has decayed

Excel. The normality distribution and correlation were tested by using the Shapiro-Wilk normality test. If data were not normally distributed, then Wilcoxon/ Mann-Whitney test was used in order to compare the difference between medians. In contrast, when data were normally distributed, it was subjected to one-way anova, p-value < 0.05 was considered as significant.

Results and Discussion

Diameter

There was a great disparity in diameter size of CWD among sites. An average of 24.7 cm (range 10-67 cm) was observed at the Mpo Impini site and 28.8 cm (range 10-89 cm) at the Impini site. Frequency distribution of diameter was analyzed and it showed a tendency that the number of logs decreases gradually when the diameter increased. It was slightly higher in diameter classes < 50 cm.

The distribution of diameter and its distribution in decay states in both sites reveals that class 3; has high with percent of 29.56 %, followed by class 1; 28.26. Class 2 and class 4 have respectively 21.3 and 20.87%. Based on the compilation of data, we found in general that there was a significant

difference in the median CWD diameter across decay classes (Kruskal-Wallis chi-squared=14.221, df= 3, p-value=0.002619). Using the Wilcoxon test, the test indicated a significant difference between class 2 and class 4 (p-value=0.0019).

Volume

CWD volume per hectare was estimated for each plot across the sites. The highest volume estimated was 294.17 m³/ha at Mpo impini site and the lowest volume measured was 17.27 m³/ha at the Impini site, with a general average of 117.94 m³/ha. Estimates of volume means between Mpo Impini (mean=118.88 m³/ha) is slightly higher than Impini (mean=116.33 m³/ha) (Table 2). The dispersion of CWD volume in different classes varied among the sites. A one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to compare the total mean of CWD volume (m³/ha) in each site. With an F-value of 0.011 and p- value of 0.919, the sites were statistically compared.

Mass and carbon stock

The estimation of the mass of deadwood across the two sites revealed low changeability of mass at landscape scale. The proportion of total CWD mass was, on average, 58.93 Mg ha⁻¹. The mean mass was 59.38 Mg ha⁻¹ at the Mpo Impini site, while at the Impini site it was 58.16 Mg ha⁻¹. Examining carbon stocks by site; with the average of 29.48 Mg C ha⁻¹; the lowest carbon stock was obtained at the Impini site with 4.31 Mg C ha⁻¹ while the largest stock was recorded at the Mpo Impini site with 73.5 Mg C ha⁻¹. The average mass and carbon stocks vary from one site to another. The statistical comparison of the means does not indicate any significant difference in CWD carbon stocks across study sites (Table 3).

Table 2. Volume and relative proportions by sites

	All plots (n=230) m ³ /ha	Mpo Impini (n=155) m ³ /ha	Impini (n=75) m ³ /ha
Mean	117.94	118.31	116.33
Minimum	17.27	25.51	17.27
Maximum	294.17	294.17	262.93
Standard error	4.59	5.92	7.51
CV (%)	59	63	56

Table 3. Estimates of mass and carbon stocks

	Mass (Mg/ha)			Carbon (Mg C/ha)		
	All plots	Mpo Impini	Impini	All plots	Mpo Impini	Impini
Mean	58.93	59.44	58.17	29.48	29.72	29.084
Minimum	8.64	13.68	8.64	4.32	6.84	4.32
Maximum	147.09	147.09	131.47	73.54	73.54	65.77
Standard error	2.29	2.96	3.75	2.94	1.48	1.87
CV (%)	59	62	56	59	62	56

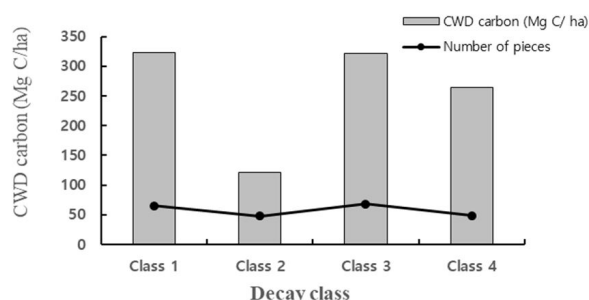


Fig. 2. Estimated carbon stocks of coarse woody debris (CWD) along decay class.

The allocation of CWD carbon stocks among the decay class of all the CWD samples on these two sites reveal that the most important classes were class 1 and class 3 with respectively mass 323.66 (31.36%) and 321.95 Mg C ha⁻¹ (31.20%), followed by class 4 with 264.56 Mg C ha⁻¹ (25.64%) and the last one was class 2 with 121.76 Mg C ha⁻¹ (11.8%) (Fig. 2).

The estimated CWD carbon stocks obtained in our field were about double compared to others studies done in Congo Basin Forests. Ifo et al. (2017) analyzed data in the Likouala forest (Republic of Congo) and found an average of 9.45 t C/ha. In the northern Republic of the Congo, Ekoungoulou et al. (2018) reported that the mean of CWD stocks varied between 8.9 Mg/ha and 19.96 Mg/ha in Ipendja forest management unit. Moreover, Carlson (2013) investigated the CWD in the Gabon's forest and found that the carbon stocks were between 14 Mg C/ha to 30.1 Mg C/ha. In contrast, compare our CWD carbon stocks with those studies done in others tropical regions in America, we found that our results were comparable. Chao et al. (2008) found a necromass mean of 45.8 Mg/ha in the sand forests in the northwestern Amazonian landscape. Clark et al. (2002) found a CWD mass average of 46.3 Mg/ha in the tropical rain forest in Costa Rica. Therefore, we can conclude that CWD in this forest is an important component in carbon sequestration and should be taken into consideration for quantification of carbon stocks not only in Bombo-Lumene Reserve, but in all forest ecosystems in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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