

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

CBRM Database

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Case Study Name:	Pressure indicators of wood resource use in an Atlantic Forest area, Northeastern Brazil		
Author:	Medeiros, P. M., Almeida, A.L.S., Silva, T.C., Albuquerque, U.P.		
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Region:	Latin America and the Caribbean		
Country:	Brazil		
Ecosystem Type:	Tropical rain forest		
Social Characteristics:	Community near protected area		
Scale of Study:	Community		
Resource Type:	Protected areas, forestry		
Type of Initiative:	Research driven project		
Community Based Work:	Conservation		

Keywords:	Ethnobotany, conservation strategies, resource management, wood use, use categories
Summary:	<p>Wood resources are often used to support the needs of the local population. In order to protect biodiversity and resources, conservation strategies need to consider what types of wood use have the strongest impacts on forested areas. This study aimed to identify the use categories that put higher pressure on an Atlantic forest region located in the municipality of Igarassu in Pernambuco, northeastern Brazil. To conduct the study, we measured the volume of all wood products in 62 surveyed residences and registered the average replacement time for such products. The fuelwood category was most important locally and accounted for 92% of annual wood consumption. However, the construction category harvests more destructively and concentrates on the consumption of a few wood species. Therefore we recommend the fuelwood category to be the main focus of conservation efforts. In addition, the most important species for construction purposes (e.g., <i>Eschweilera ovata</i> (Cambess.) Miers, <i>Apuleia leiocarpa</i> (Vogel) J.F. Macbr. and <i>Pogonophora schomburgkiana</i> Miers ex Benth) should also be considered as a priority for conservation.</p>