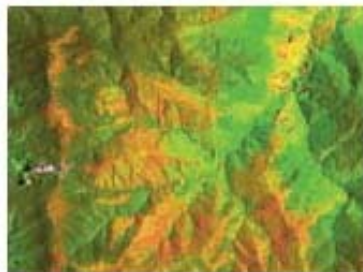


Sourcebook version COP14



SOURCEBOOK



**Forest biomass & carbon inventories
at community level**

Rationale for involving communities

- The management of local forest resources by organized community groups has proven to be very successful
 - Ownership
 - Long-term commitment
 - Social / Cultural pressure
- It is the ethical thing to do



Secondary uses of the forest



- Many communities rely on the forest for sustenance or livelihood
- Such uses may be combined with REDD
 - They may be complimentary
 - They can increase the “productivity” of the forest
 - Together they can be a viable alternative for deforestation or forest degradation

Carbon assessment by communities

- With very little training and support, communities can accurately assess basic parameters of the forest
 - Tree count
 - Species identification
 - DBH measurement
- Cost of assessment is between \$1 ~ \$4 per hectare per year
- Potential for collecting large volumes of data



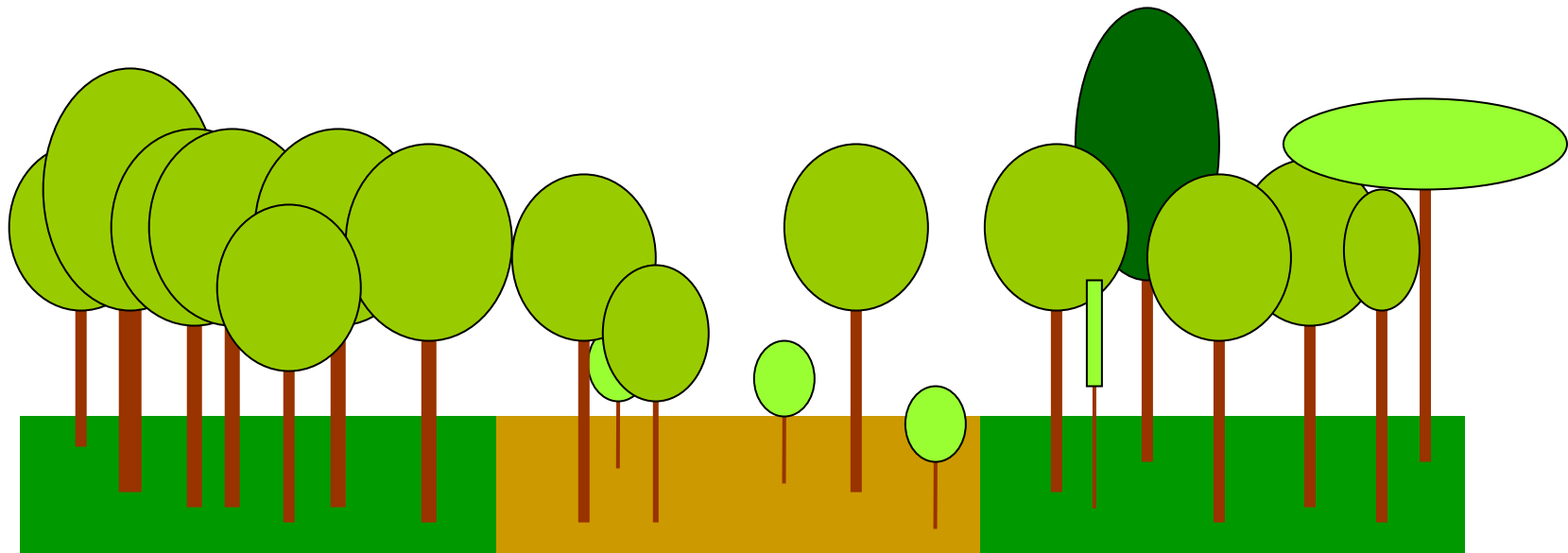
Data collection procedures

- Communities do not need much training to collect data
- Plot and data management requires support
 - Support can be provided by NGOs that serve multiple communities
 - Equipment to support data collection is ever more accessible and affordable: GPS, PDA, smart phone
 - NGOs can help share equipment between communities



Supporting the communities

- The communities need support at various levels beyond simple measurement to successfully contribute to REDD data collection
 - Forest resources need to be stratified into relatively homogeneous units
 - Sampling plots need to be established
 - Development of allometric equations, etc
 - Data management mechanism



Landscape
Thousands
of hectares

Variety of forest types
Biomass: average
St. dev.: **high**

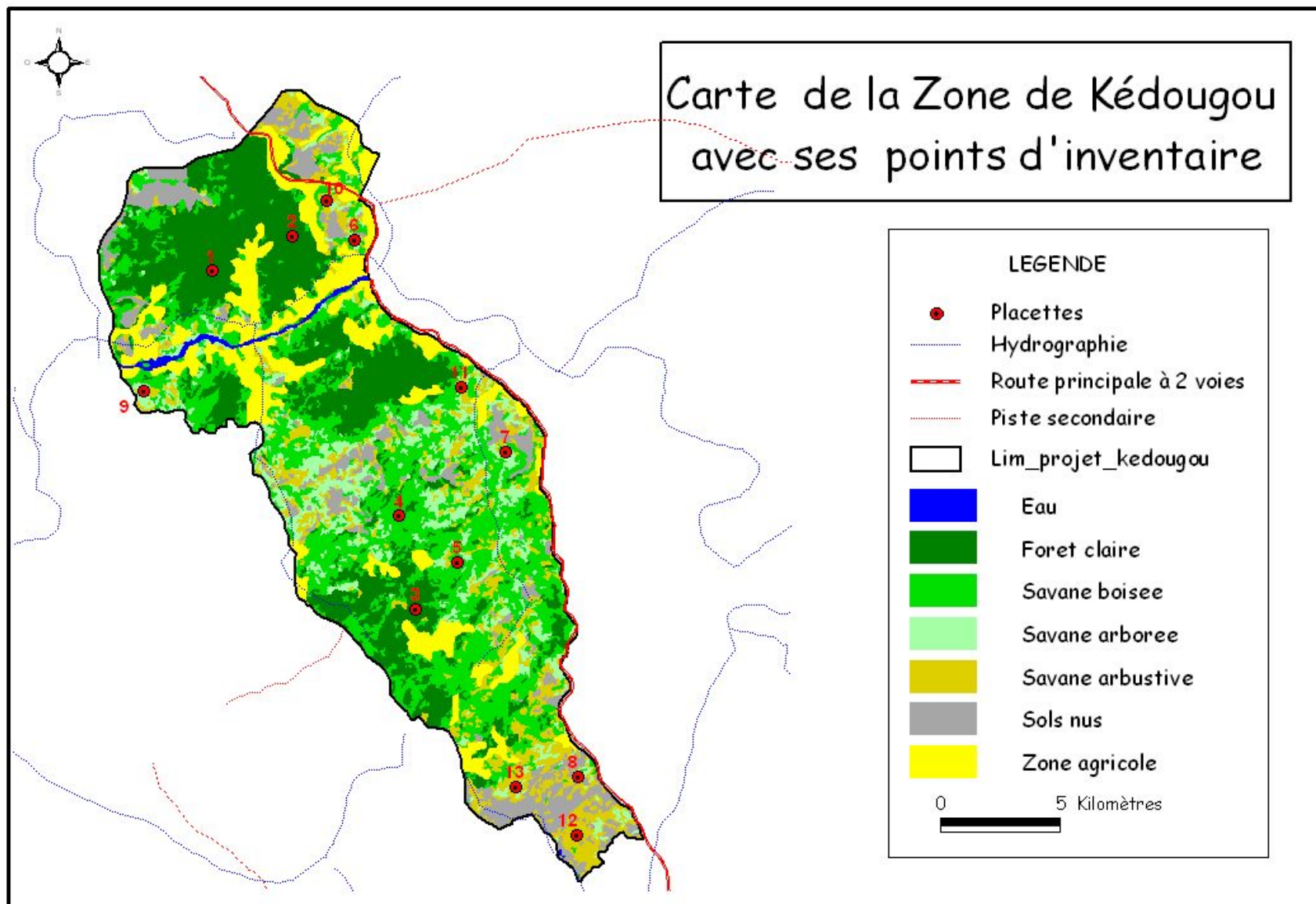
Stand
Less than
1,000 ha

Dense, natural forest
Biomass: high
St.dev.: **low**

Degraded forest
Biomass: low
St.dev.: **low**

Dense, mixed forest
Biomass: high
St.dev.: **high**

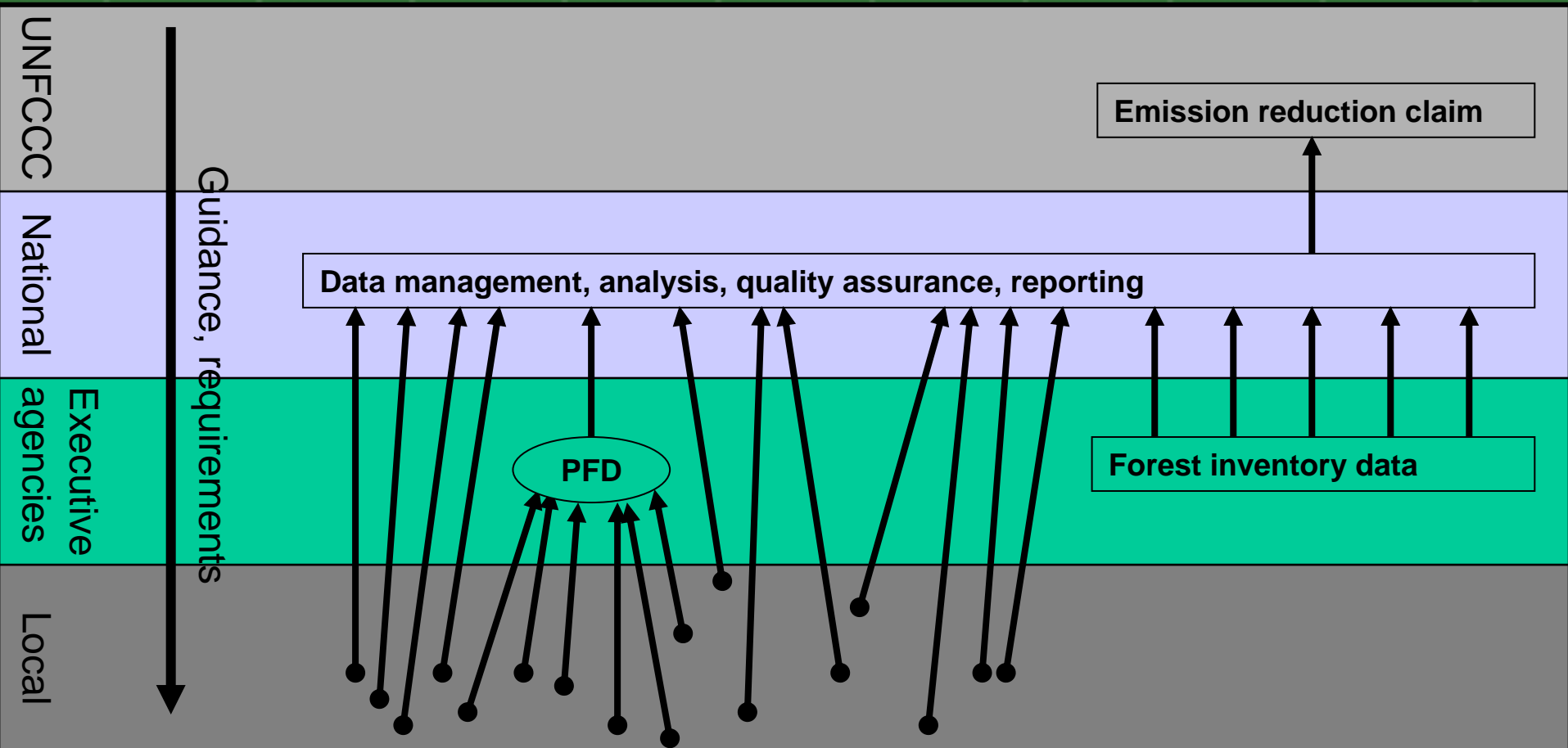
Carte de la Zone de Kédougou avec ses points d'inventaire



Supplementary data

- Supplementary data collection by a professional party can increase accuracy
 - Wood density, free branch height, total tree height
 - Development of allometric equations
- Large-scale data collection opens up opportunities for statistical analysis and filtering of data
 - Check accuracy: temporal, spatial
 - Large volume of data can increase level of confidence and reduce error of the estimate

Data management for REDD



Data quality assurance

- Data has to be checked for consistency over time and spatially
 - Remove measurement or reporting errors
 - Check if there are consistent errors from a location
 - Is the stratification wrong?
 - Does the community receive support or training?
- Data are grouped in large homogeneous units for reporting
 - Multiple measurements give indication of variability and accuracy of the measurement
 - If the accuracy is too low:
 - Refine the stratification
 - Add more measurements
 - Improve quality of measurements
- Data quality assurance requires specially trained staff
 - Forest ecologists: stratification, evaluation of measurements
 - Statisticians: error analysis, sampling scheme design, QA indicators

Connecting the dots

- The data that are collected by local communities are collated at higher levels in the national hierarchy and ultimately used to compute national emission reductions
- National governments want an independent validation mechanism
 - Most likely linked to national forest inventory and based on remotely sensed data sources
- Validation at the international level will require remote sensing
 - Objective methods, prior agreement
 - Uniformly applicable
 - Repeatable
 - Potentially lower transaction costs

