FACULTY OF LIFE SCIENCES
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Forest income contributions to livelihoods in western Democratic Republic of Congo

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Research questions:

1. What is the household-level economic importance of forest income?

2. What factors determine forest income levels and dependency?



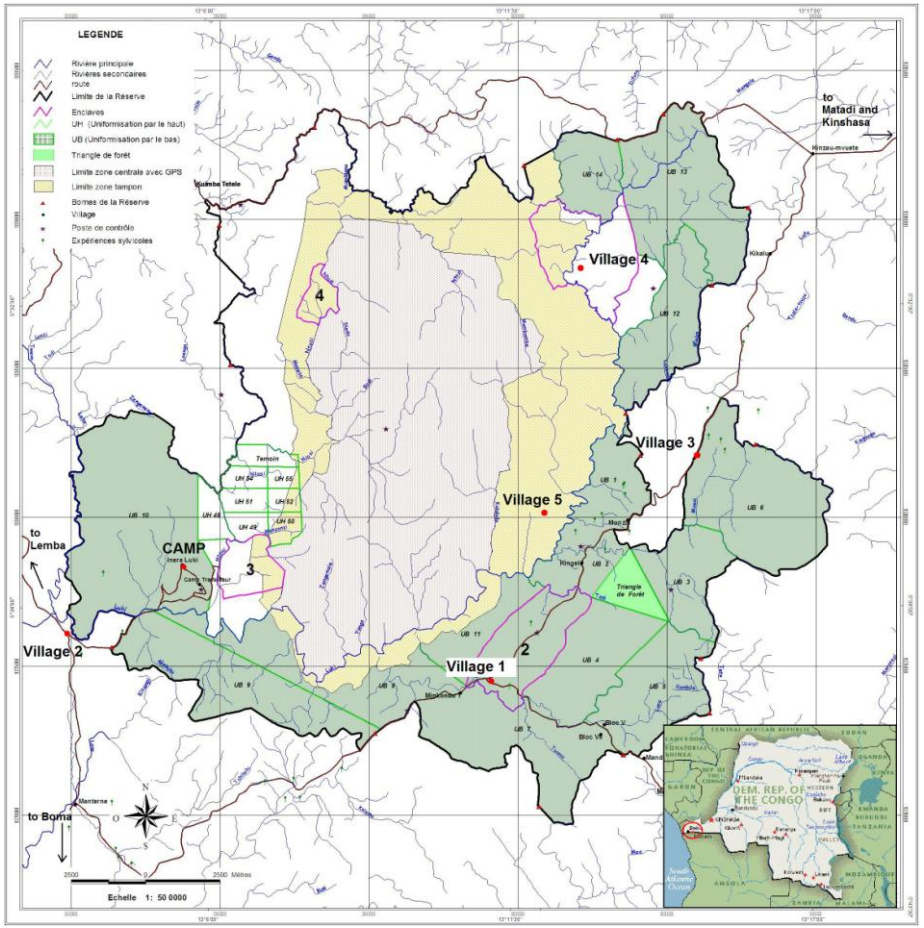


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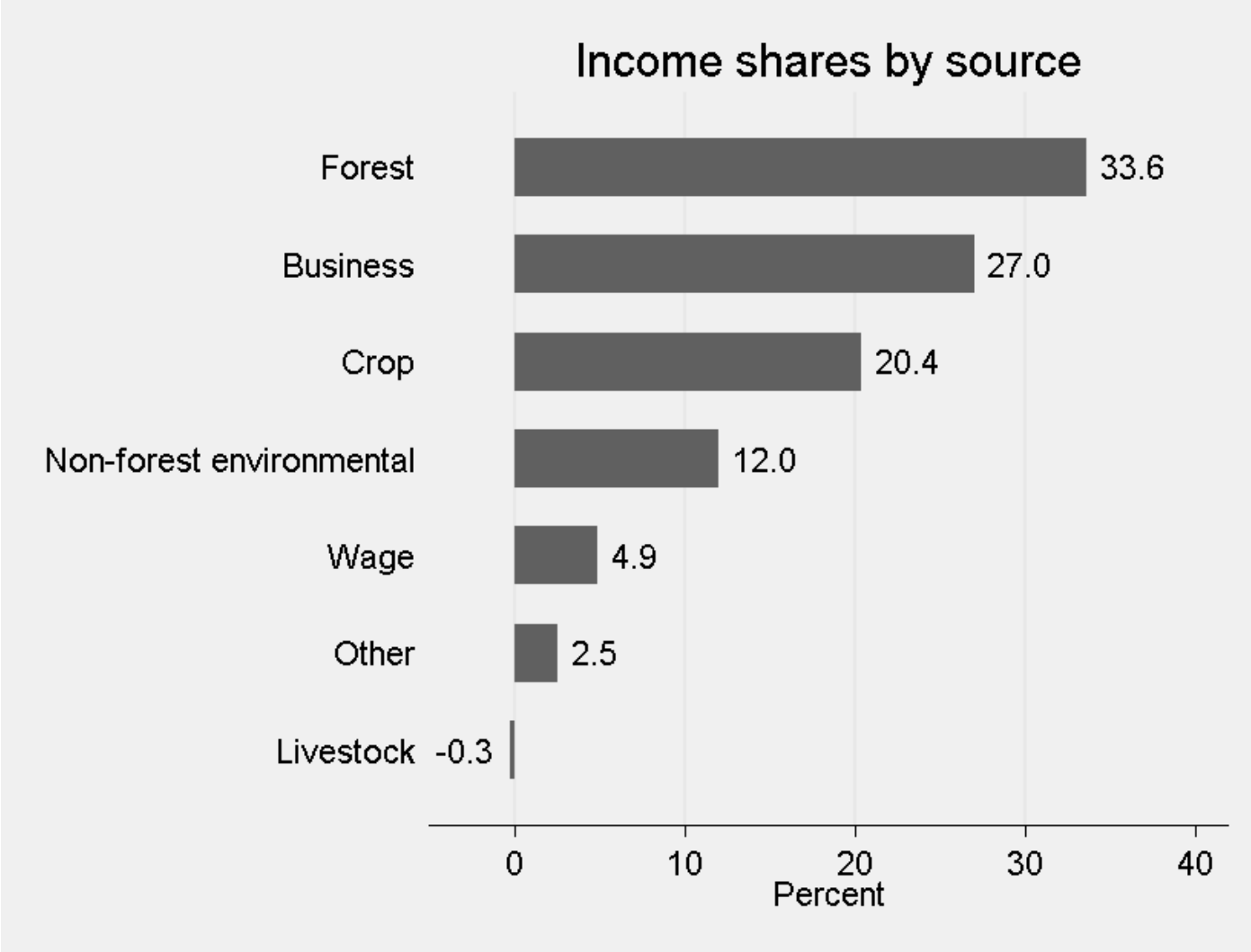
Context – the study area

- Tropical lowland rainforest
- Luki Biosphere Reserve (32,968 ha)
- Close to markets
- Av of 4.7 persons/hh
- Nov 2007 – Aug 2008

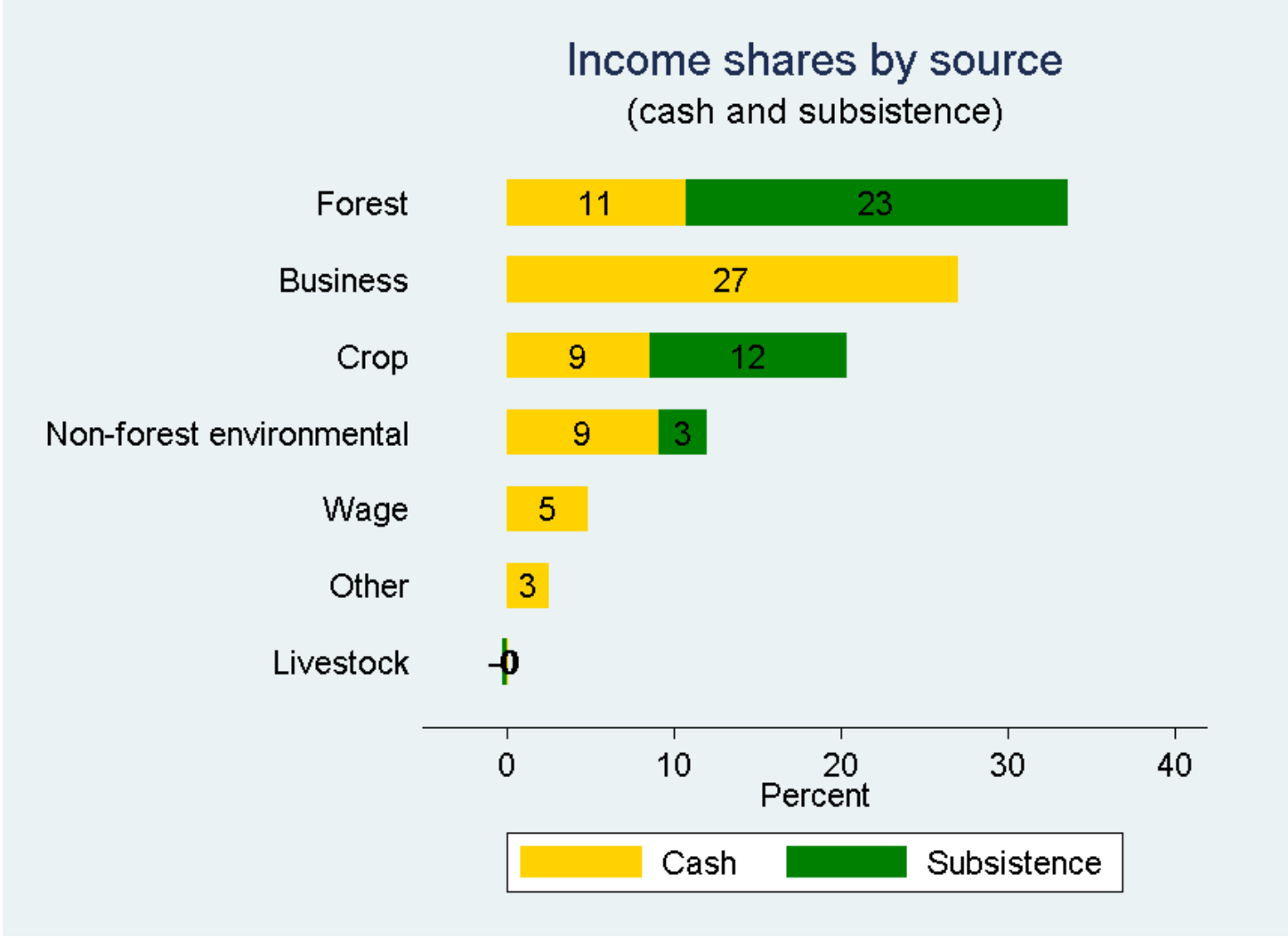
Village	Pop	Sample (hh)	After attrit.
01	2000	35	29
02	4900	60	58
03	794	40	32
04	345	36	32
05	317	36	24
Total	8356	207	175



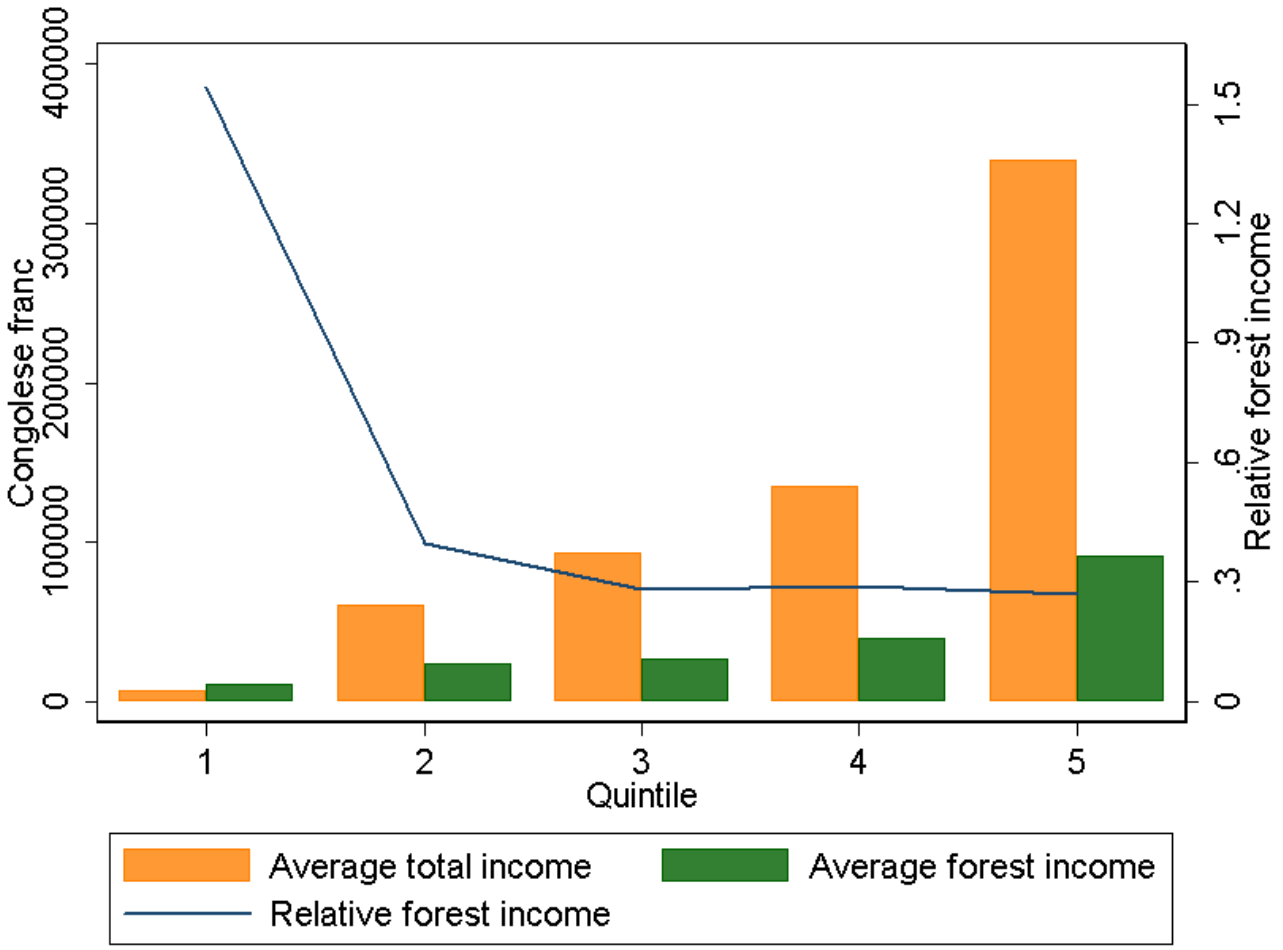
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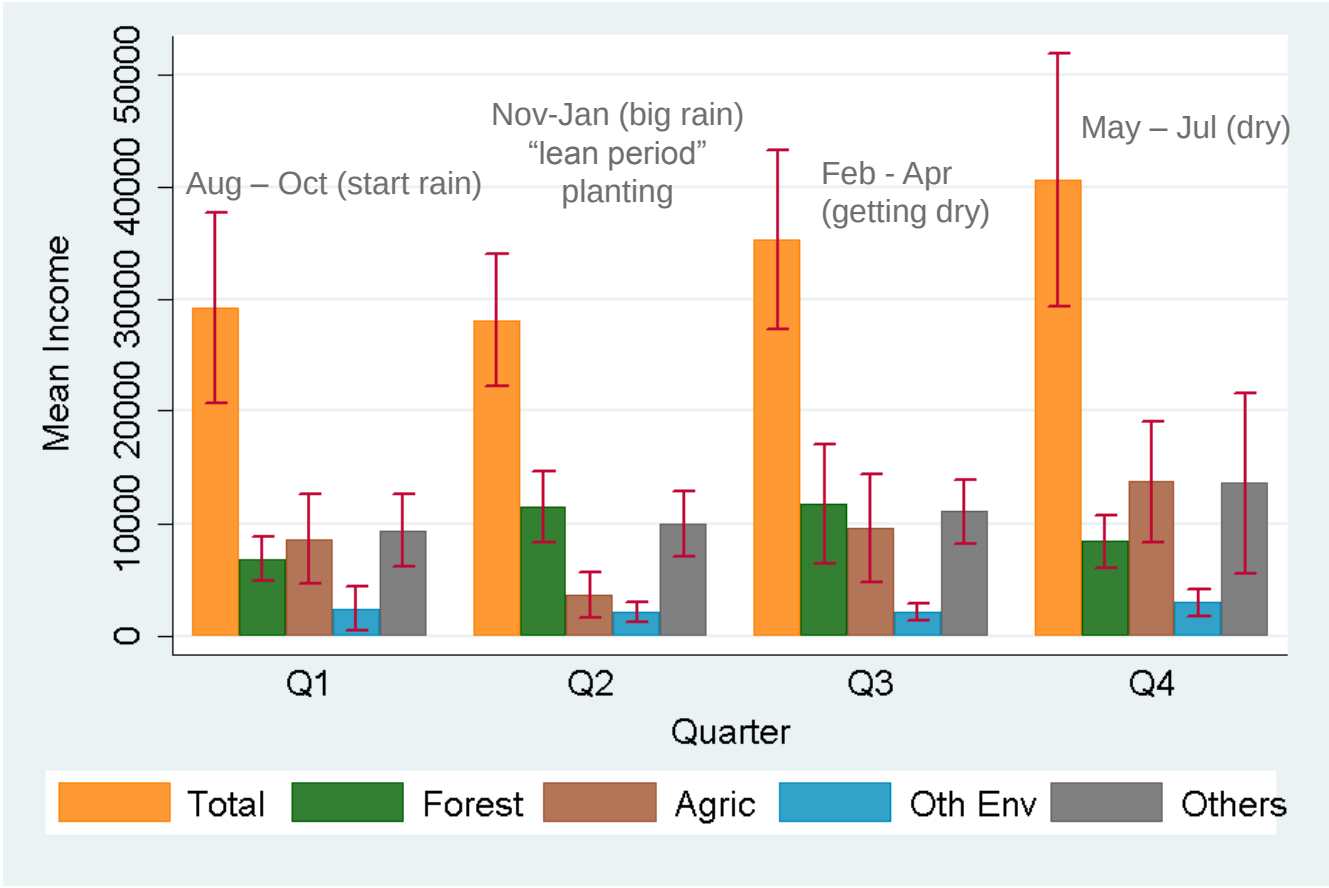


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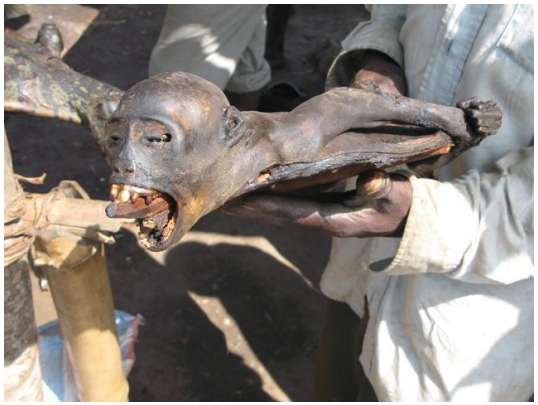
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Seasonality (income shares by quarter)



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Regressions of absolute and relative forest income against household and location characteristics, Bas-Fleuve District, 2007-08



Variable	RFI Coef.	lnAFI Coef.
Income quintile	-0.045***	0.336***
Household size	-0.003	0.126***
Age of household head	-0.004**	-0.013*
Female headed household	-0.103***	-0.389**
Household head education	-0.005	-0.032
Land owned	0.001	0.004
Livestock size	-0.000	-0.000
Assets	-0.000	-0.000
Distance to market	0.000	-0.002
Constant	0.697***	6.454***
	R^2=0.199	R^2=0.404
	F=6.41	F=14.78

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Conclusions

- Forest products are a major source of income across all income groups – can not be ignored in income surveys
- Locally and globally differential income diversification patterns
- Contextual factors important
- Policy and intervention design implications



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