

# The Role of Oil Palm in Tropical Africa–A Case Study of the Usage of Palm Wine in Southern Cameroon

Kenta SAKANASHI

JSPS Research Fellow

Doshisha university

[mokkosu81@gmail.com](mailto:mokkosu81@gmail.com)

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Why Oil Palm Wine?

Oil Palm (*Elaeis guineensis* )

Botany, Ecology and Agriculture (e.g Hartley 1967)

NTPFs (Non timber forest products)

→Oil, Fuel (Shuit et al. 2009)

Another Role: Palm Wine

→Involved with local people's life and history

## 1.2 Purpose

Role of palm wine as NTFPs

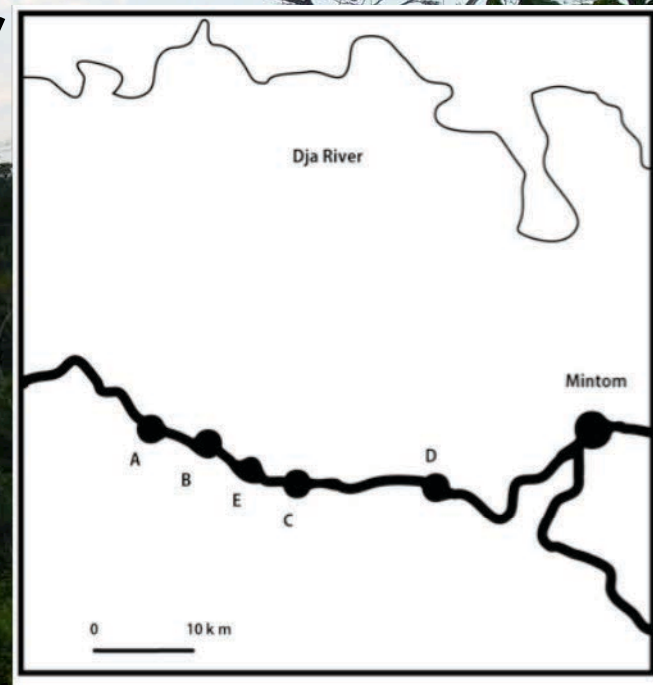
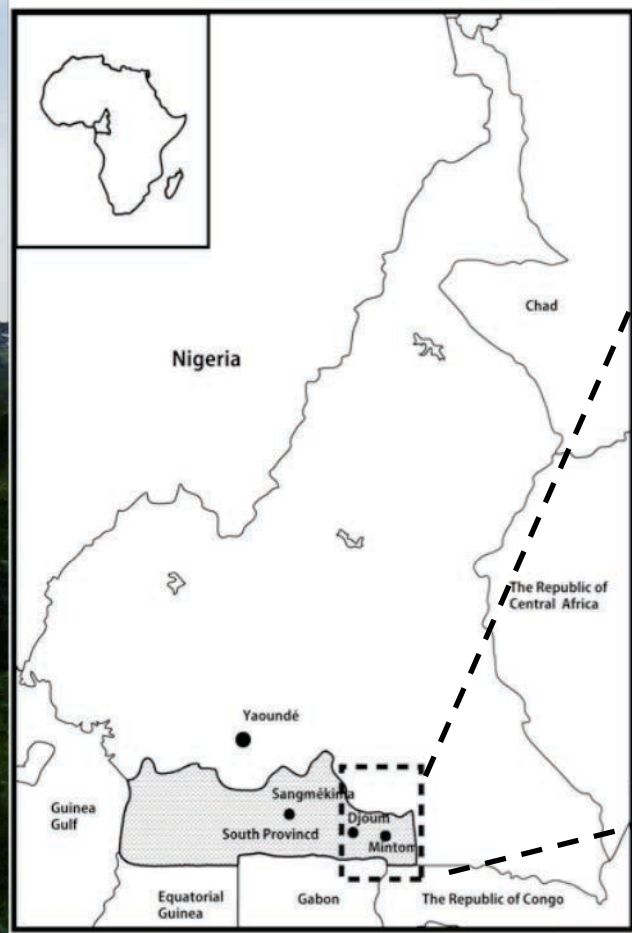
Link to local people's history

## 1.3 Method of the Research

Interview

GPS (Global Positioning System)

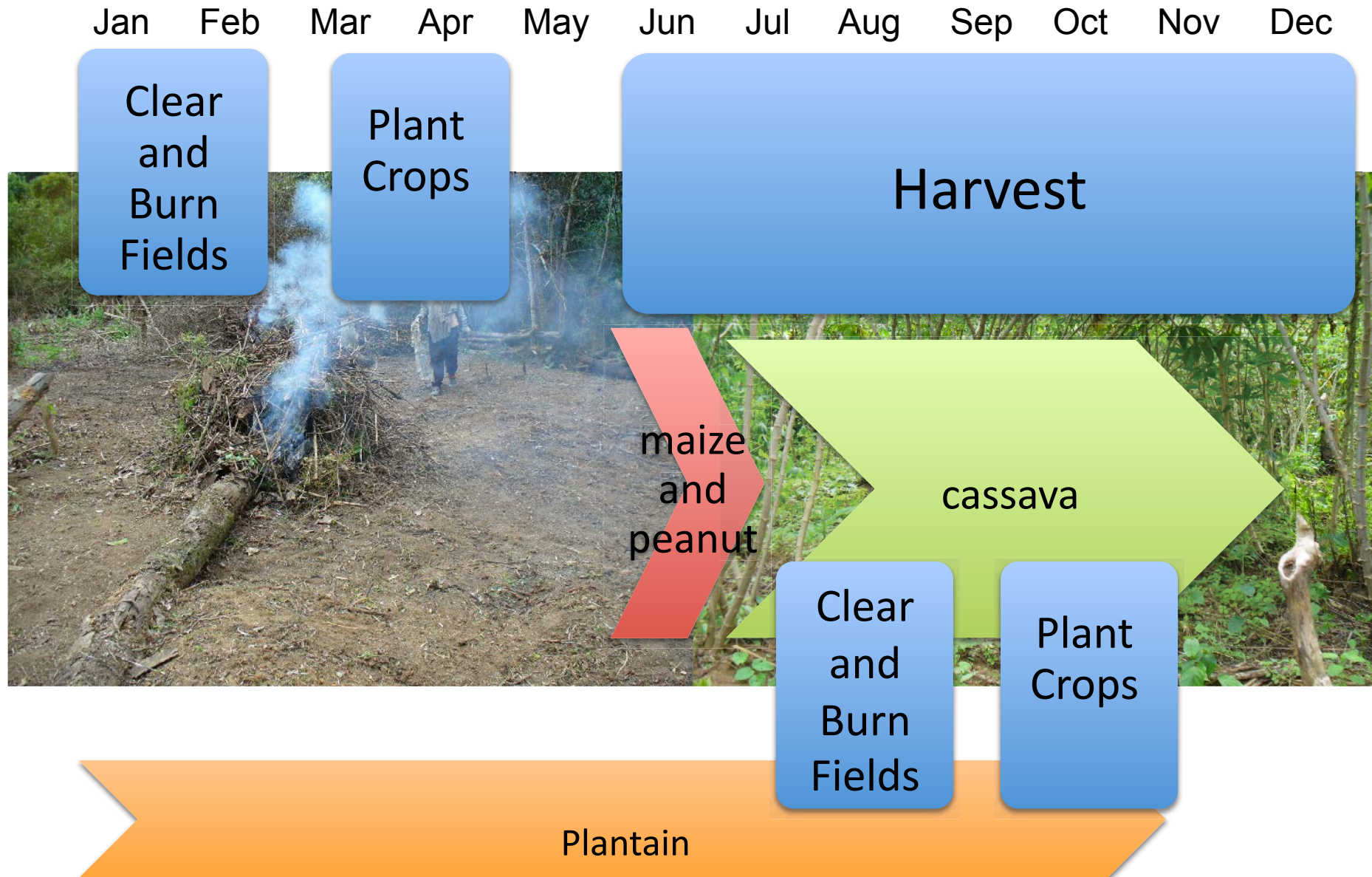
## 2. The Research area and people



- The Fang, Bantu farmers
- The Baka, hunter-gatherers

# 3. Economic Activities of the Fang

## 3.1 Slash-and –Burn Agriculture



## 3.2 Cacao Production

Cacao Production has three stages:

- 1) Initial maintenance of the field
- 2) Maintaining young cacao

3) Harvest

- Reaping
- Breaking
- Carrying
- Drying



### 3.3 Hunting in the research area

-By Traps

1) Near or around the field

2) Deep in the forest

→ 1) Preventing damage by animals

2) Obtaining meats

-By Shotguns

→ More consistent results



## 3.4 Gathering palm wine

### 1) Cut down oil palm





## 2) Attach a bucket to gather sap



### 3) Natural fermentation

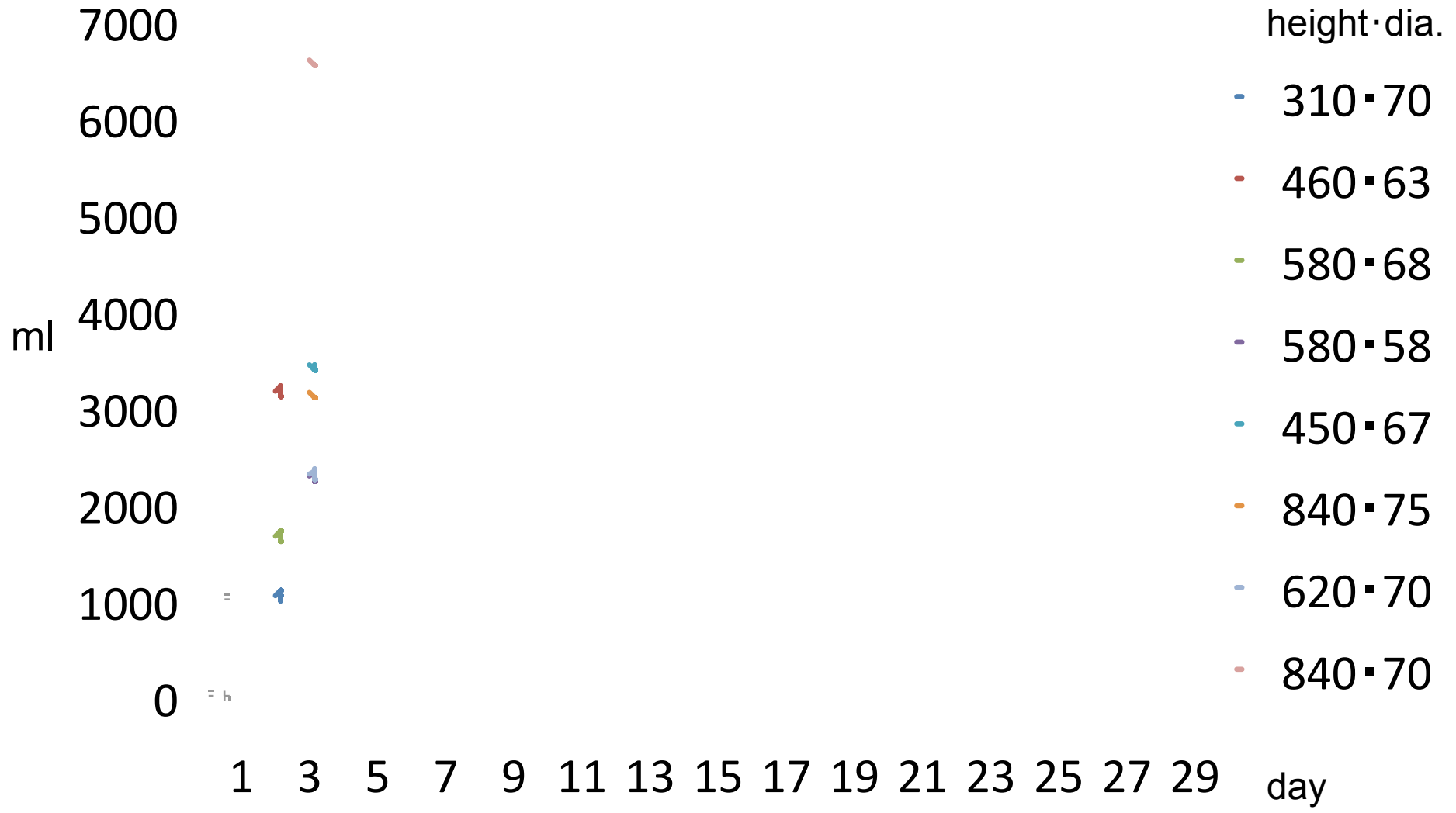


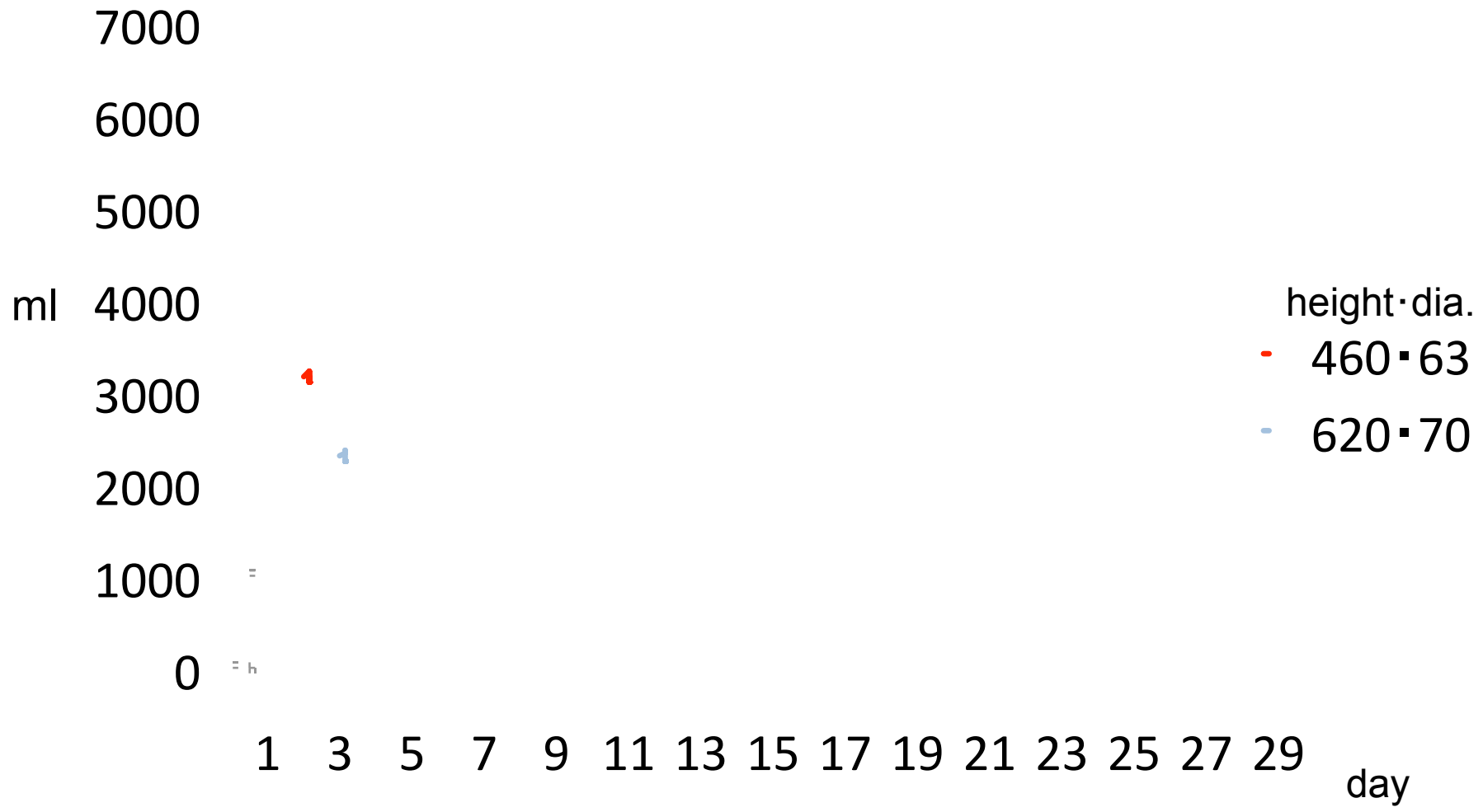














# 4. Various Roles

## 4.1 As Food

1L= 300 calories, 0.5-2.0 g of protein and considerable amounts of vitamins (Uraih et al. 1985)

Farm of young Worm



## 4.2 As Cash income

Palm Wine

1L= 100~150 CFAF (100CFA= about 0.15euro)

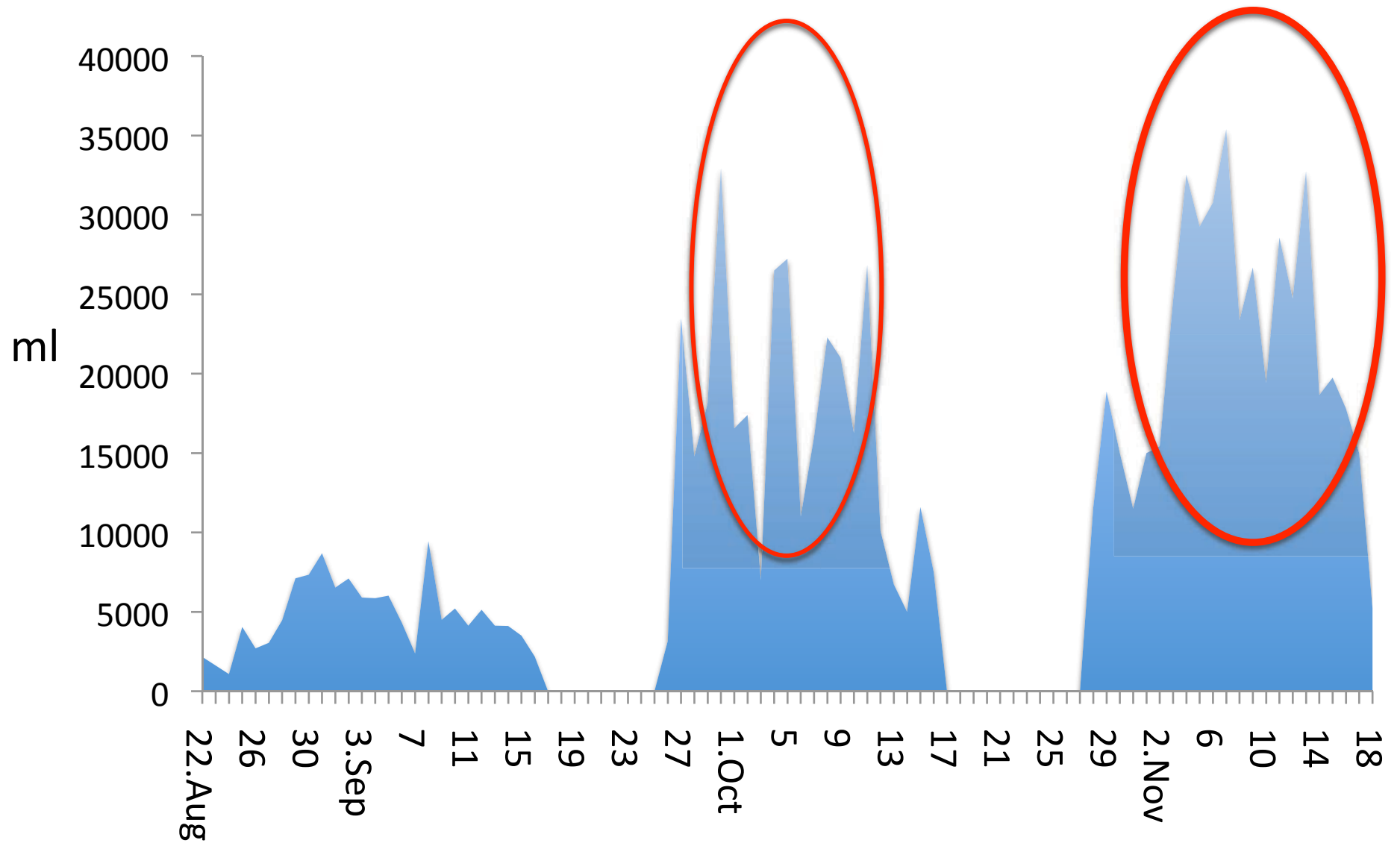
An oil palm →5600CFA~8400CFA

Distillation (20L Palm Wine → 5L )

100cc=100CFAF

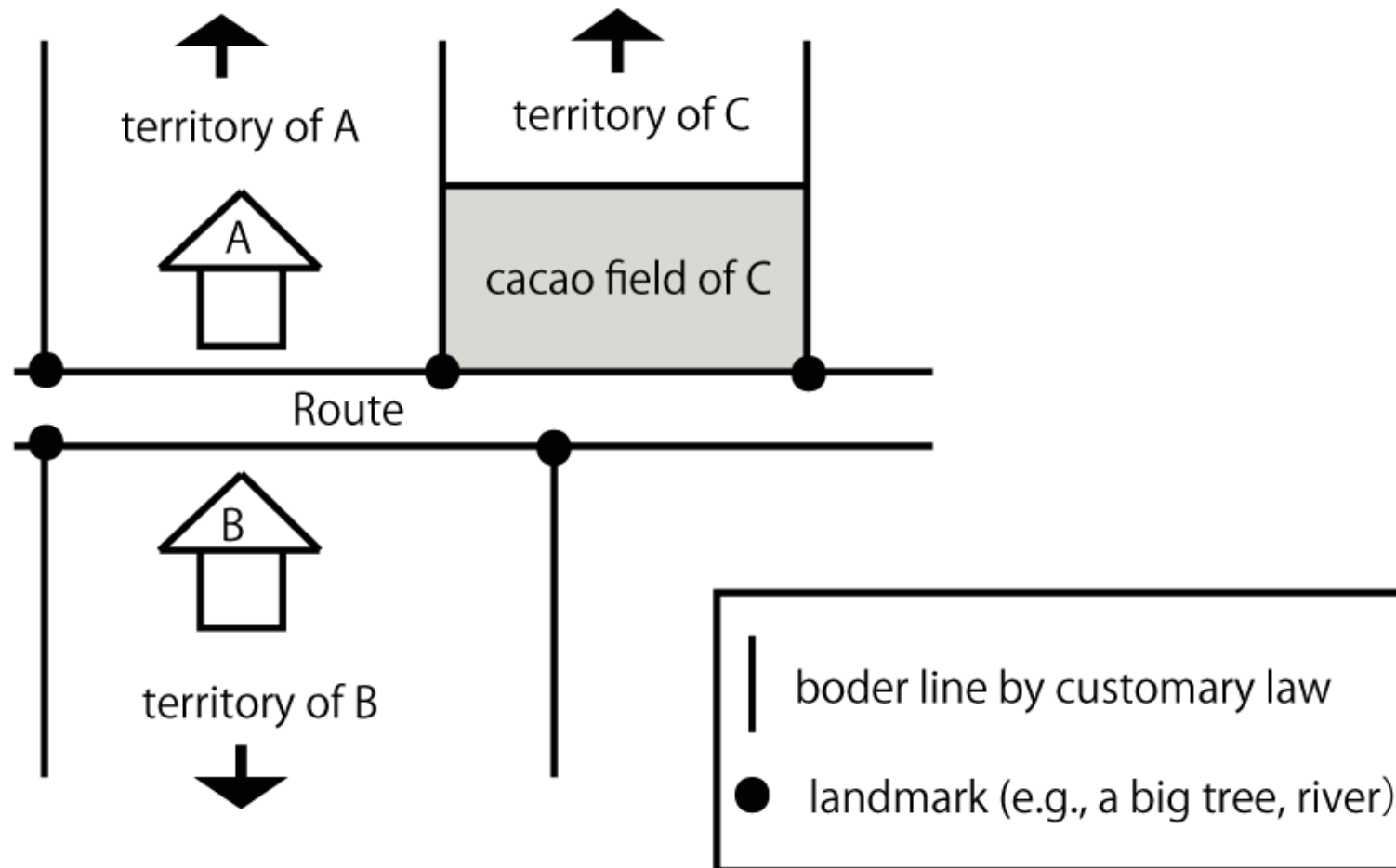


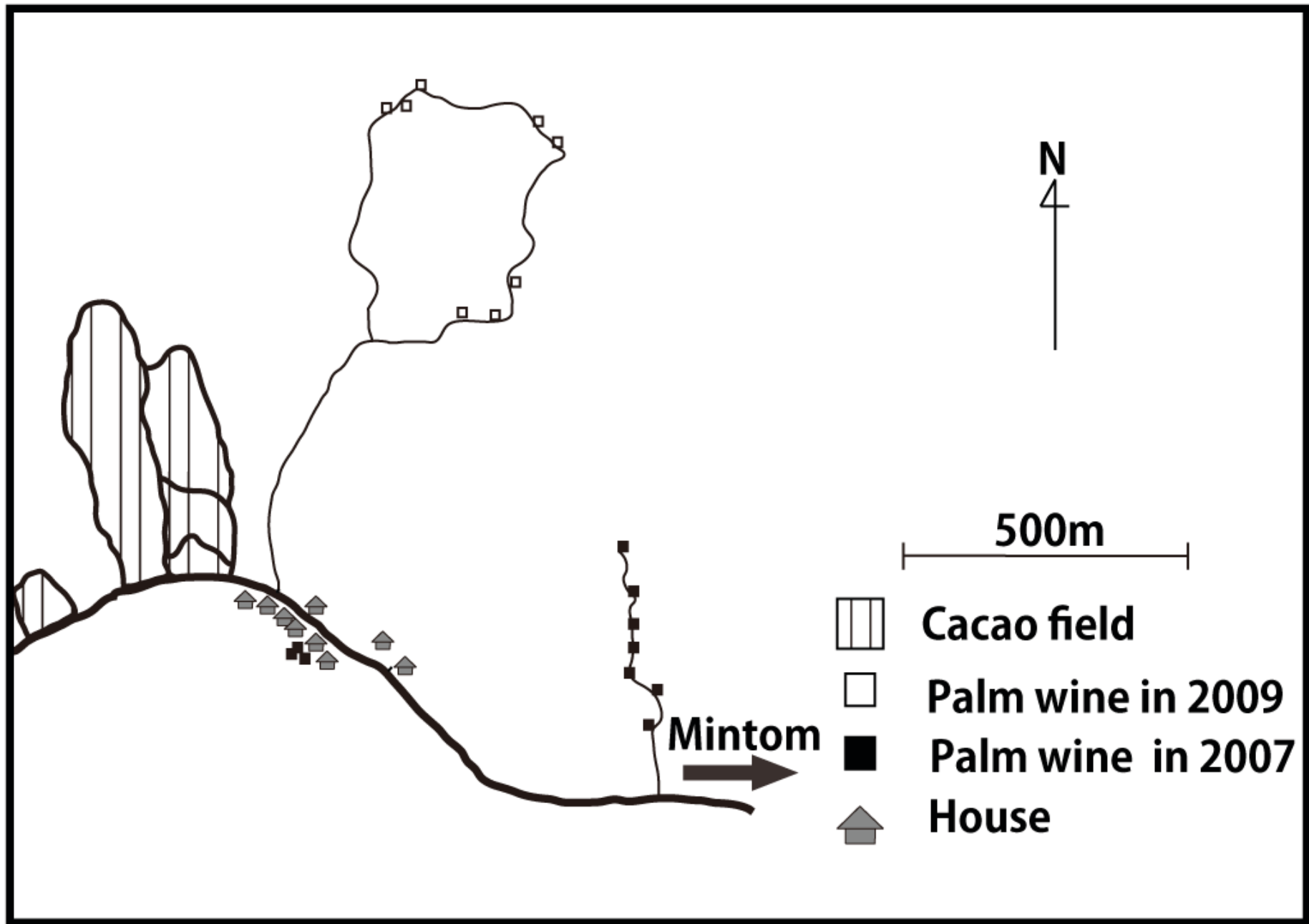
# 4.3 As Compensation



# 5. Toward Historical Ecology

## 5.1 Land Use by Custom Law





Fang A checked oil palm  
suitable for harvesting  
territory. He discovered  
did not identify who  
that his great-grandfa



Fang A checked oil palm trees that would be suitable for harvesting palm wine in his territory. He discovered old cacao trees but he did not identify who planted them. He assumed that his great-grandfather had done so.

→ It is normal that oil palm trees are left in their cacao fields

→ One of the indexes that reflect the local history

## 5.2 Refinement of taste

My Wine

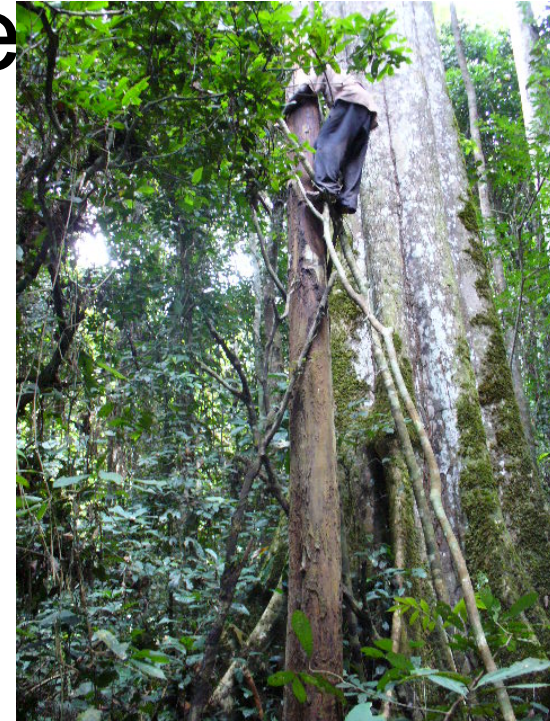
Mix, Way to manage

Tree barks

*Oniye* (Garcinia Kola Heckel)  
in the research area

*Esok* (Garcinia Lucida Vesque)  
in another area

→ Various human relationships  
Connection to another area





# 5. Conclusion 1

Oil palm

→oil, fuel

Palm Wine

→ closely related to agriculture and hunter-gathering

→Economic Value,  
Social, Cultural Value

# 5. Conclusion 2

Oil Palm

An Index (Allison 1961)

Settlement, Agriculture

Palm Wine

→ Extensive mobility of people and things (barks)

## 5. Conclusion 3

Oil palm for oil and wine

Agricultural field and forest

Present and Past

→ Total living environment in forest