



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT STATUS OF PRUNUS AFRICANA IN KENYA

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Workshop on Implementation of RST Recommendations for *P.africana*

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P.africana, Medicine & livelihoods

- Nearly all plant species on earth are medicinal
- *P.africana*, a major medicinal plant
- It is estimated that nearly 700millions in Africa derive their health care and livelihoods from medicinal plants





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- A mention of medicinal plants in Africa touches on the core fabrics of Africa's heritage.
- Medicinal plants play key role in Africa's social, cultural and economic Devt.

Currently global trade in herbal medicine is estimated at about \$65 billion.





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- 25% of the current prescribed medicines are derived from herbal medicines.
- World major pharmaceutical companies are investing lots of money in bioprospecting for discovery of lead herbal compounds from plants for health care purposes.





Challenges



- Diminishing source of raw materials
- Unsustainable harvesting
- Resource base of priority medicinal plants not known/established.
- Indigenous knowledge bank associated with plant value under threat.
- Unfair markets(imbalance in trade)
- No certification schemes
- Inadequate/lack of legislation &policies





Prunus africana, the species











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 high valued species exploited locally for both commercial and subsistence use.

Listed in CITES appendix II in 1995.

 Kenya proposal to CoP9 in 1994 for CITES Listing





Prunus africana -Biology & Status

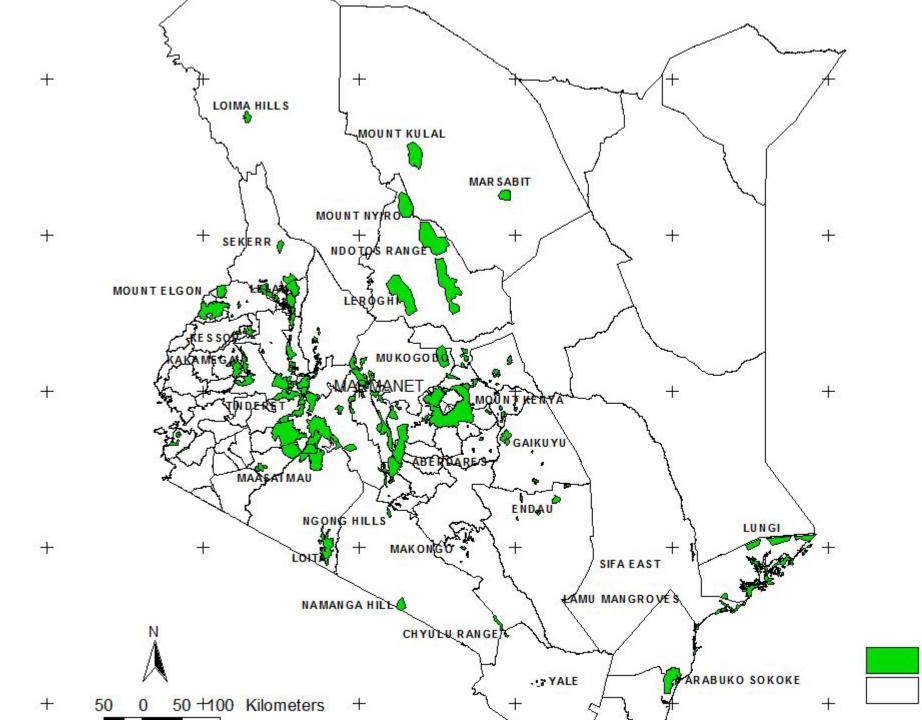
- Rainforest tree species
- Occurs in both lowland and montane rainforests
- Altitudes of 1200 3000m
- Both wild/natural and cultivated pops.
- Bark harvested from wild pops for exports





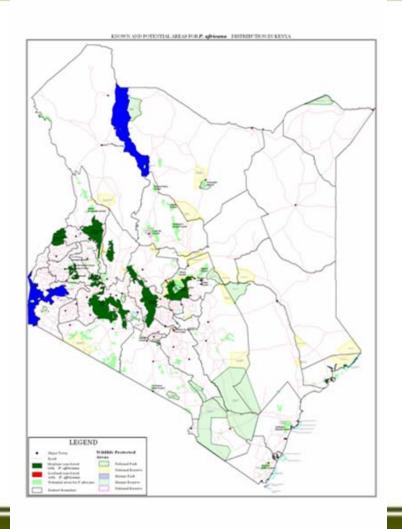






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Prunus africana distribution www.kws.go.ke







P.africana trade: source of materials

- Trade from Kenya date from early 1970's
- Licensed to only one entity; Jonathan Leakey Ltd.
- Prunus africana bark harvested from Forest reserves (natural die –offs), Excised forest areas (salvaged material) proclaimed forest areas and private farmlands
- Exports of bark to FR and recently China





P.africana trade: harvesting controls

- Harvesting controlled/regulated under Forest Act. &PD
- Chain of custody observed:
- Forest Reserve: District Forest Officer issuing license (license fees payable) to collect Prunus bark as authorised forest product
- Forest Excision: Authority from Provincial administration, Ministry of Lands/Agriculture, Forester/District Forest Officer
- Proclaimed forest areas: e.g roads and Power line waybill
- Private land: Authority from Area Chief, Forest Officer for Movement permit of forest product







Commercial exports

- Forest Reserves: bark stripping of fallen trees as a result of old age/lightning strike
- Forest Excision/farmlands proclaimed forest areas:
- bark stripping of felled/cut trees







P.africana trade: harvesting methods



Subsistence use

Partial debarking leaving the tree standing







Prunus africana Trade Volumes (1995-current)

Licensee	Year of export	Quantity (kg)	Specimen	No. of Permits
J. Leakey Ltd.	2003	100,000	Bark	02
	2002	67,000	Bark	02
	2001	150,200	Bark	04
	2000	250,000	Bark	05
	1999	450,000	Bark	09





Prunus africana Trade Volumes (1995-current)

Licensee	Year of	Quantity (kg)	Specimen	No.of
	export			permits
J. Leakey Ltd.	1998	450,002	Bark	10
	1997	350,000	Bark	07
	1996	250,000	Bark	05
	1995	150,000	Bark	03
Total for 8 Yrs		2,217Tons		47





Wildlife Management Principles

- Management of the Kenya's biodiversity is guided by science.
- develop policies on major species based on the best available scientific information,
- Enforcement efforts enhanced to reduce poaching of high value species,
- Contribute to Kenya's GDP





Policy intervention



- Wildlife (Conservation and Management) Act Cap 376 "....Fauna and Flora not domesticated"....
- Moratorium on trade in specimens of *Prunus africana* in 2002(pending Non Detriment Finding
 Studies). *specimens harvested prior to ban exempted.*
- Forest Act. 2005
- CITES Decision to identify Kenya as a country of "Urgent Concern" for *Prunus africana* and requirement to develop a Management Program for the species –Sign. Trade Review process





RST Responses



Reporting within 3 months complied to.

- Actions to implement Article IV
- Trade ban/Moratorium of 2002 pending NDF
- 2003 exports of 100,000 kg clarified
- Clarification on reported exports of extracts likely to be powder & facilities to produce extracts





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3 months timeframe reporting complied to.

 Clarify wood or plywood of *P.africana* is/likely to be exported from the country

Except: establishing conservative export quota





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1 Year timeframe Actions –(On-going)

- Carry out inventory of standing stocks
- Establish estimates of sustainable off-take
- Establish scientific monitoring system of harvested and un harvested populations
- Establish revised conservative export quota
- Provide a timetable to carry out peer reviewed ecological studies and Population modeling
- Establish long term Magt.Plan for sustainable use of the species
- PhD research Project designed to provide responses





P.africana Magt.Program devt.



- Detailed national inventory survey is planned in order to have a comprehensive report on the *P. africana* resource base to guide in making informed decisions on the species' sustainable utilization & devt of its Magt.Program
- Funding remains a major constraint





Current CITES Decision



- PC 17: No further action required in regard to the species in Kenya. Case eliminated from the RST
- SC57: 'If Kenya seeks to commence exports..... it should first provide information to the Secretariat on how the PC recommendations have been implemented'

CITES Secretariat letter of 30 July 2008





Elements of *P.africana* Magt. Program



- Non-Detriment findings studies (best available scientific information)
- Value addition
- Technology adoption development and transfer
- local community capacities
- certification schemes/chain of custody
- market access and benefit sharing
- Regulated trade to ensure conservation, regeneration and sustainable yields.





