

Elaboration of *Prunus africana* management plan in Cameroon, after the baseline study and the inventory done on this non timber forest product by CIFOR

Presentation of *Prunus Africana*

Prunus africana is native to the mountain tropical forests of Sub-Saharan Africa and Madagascar. It occurs in wild in forests from 22 countries, majority in the Eastern and Southern Africa region such as Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, but also Cameroon, Nigeria, Sao Tome, Angola etc. That valuable medicinal tree has more recently come under heavy pressure for wild harvest for timber and bark extraction, as there is a fast growing market for the bark. It has been added to Appendix II of CITES list of endangered species, for regulation of trade from wild harvest. CITES is an international agreement between governments that aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. ***The active ingredients in Prunus africana are effective treatment for benign Prostatic Hyperplasia and Prostate gland Hypertrophy.***

The problem:

Cameroon has been one of the major exporters of *Prunus africana* worldwide since the 1970s with 48% (about 2000 tonnes yearly) of gross exports since WCMC trade records commenced in 1995 for the international pharmaceutical and health products industry. The main countries importing Cameroonian *Prunus* since 2000 are France (53% of imports), Spain 31%, and Madagascar 11%, with India USA, Belgium and China all at 1%. Based on these exports, a strong request was made by CITES for further data from Cameroon on how the quota presented was calculated. At the 16th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee in July 2006, the main recommendation was made to effectively foster implementation of management plans in Range States and to ensure the quality of studies and follow-up of management plans for the species. On that line, the committee encouraged international cooperation projects that promote the use of *Prunus africana* in agroforestry systems and plantations, using proper genetic diversity and optimizing propagation and agroforestry cultivation techniques. Cameroon was appealed to establish a revised conservative export quota based on the inventory of standing stock and the estimates of sustainable off-take. The only way was to complement work; carry out an inventory of standing stock, establish estimates of sustainable off-take, taking into account the need to conserve large seed producing trees, and establish a scientific monitoring system of the harvested and unharvested *Prunus africana* populations

Since the CITES Lima meeting in 2006, a broad wish to continue harvesting and exporting existed among actors in the sector emerged. Many actors participated in activities, research and programmes which directly or indirectly made contributions towards meeting the CITES Lima recommendations. On that line, FAO-SNV-CIFOR-ICRAF EU financed project to support small and medium enterprises in the non timber forest sector - which includes the *Prunus africana* market chain in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon.

Despite these activities, the "reasoned recommendation" and "scientific non-detriment finding" have been difficult to establish, due to a lack of basic information and absence of a system to collect and analyze information that is accurate/robust enough to make concrete decisions. ***Cameroon was unable to fully meet the requirements of Lima or convince the SRG. The European Commission SRG subsequently informed Cameroon in October 2007 of its negative advice on the import of Prunus africana to European Union member states.***

Potential effect

The lag of raw material due to unsustainable management of *Prunus africana* will lead to **poor health for millions of patients suffering from *benign Prostatic Hyperplasia and Prostate gland Hypertrophy*** around the world in the coming days, which is a global concern.

The Objective of the *Prunus africana* Management Plan

The objective of this document is to set out a pragmatic management plan for the sustainable exploitation and use of *Prunus africana*. It sets out the institutional, technical, legal and operational procedures for sustainable management and harvesting of *Prunus africana* in Cameroon in the short and long term. The Plan was conceived and developed participatively to ensure a broad consensus of the multiple stakeholders, both national and international, involved in the *Prunus africana* chain. This includes the government, economic operators and private sector, community forest institutions, nature and conservation organisations, development agencies, research and scientific institutions.

Approach

This Management Plan has been developed by CIFOR, together with GTZ and TRAFFIC who provided a study on the legislative and institutional aspects of the management plan, in response to a request from the Minister of Forests and Wildlife in October 2008 to support the elaboration of a Management Plan. In September 2008, the Cameroon CITES Management and Scientific authorities included the participatory development a Management Plan as part of MinFoF's Action Plan to meet the recommendations of CITES from Lima 2006. The request was also in the framework of the GCP/RAF/408/EC Project '*Mobilisation et renforcement des capacités des PME impliquées dans les filières PFNL en Afrique Centrale*'. *The partners in this project: CIFOR, SNV, ICRAF and FAO have been collaborating with government, private sector, research and community based organizations in the Prunus africana market chain in the North West and South West of Cameroon since 2007*

The link with CIFOR mission

The impact of this work will be a management plan for sustainable exploitation that provides a model for other *Prunus* producing African countries, becoming a public good. These outcomes fall under Domain 3, Outputs 2 and 3.