

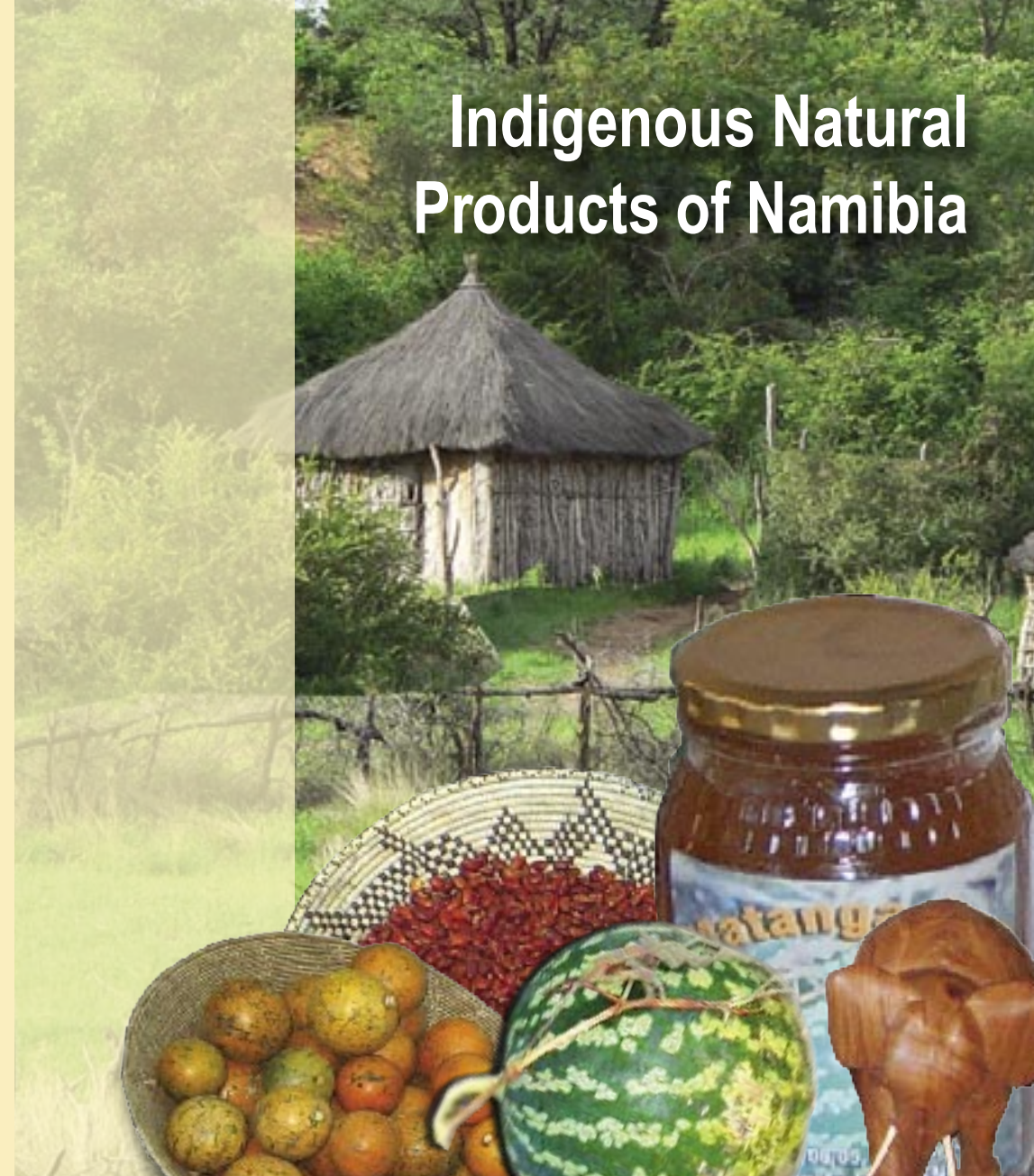
Indigenous Natural Products of Namibia

Useful Contacts

Muduva Nyangana integrated community forest and conservancy - Chairperson, 0813221856
George Mukoya integrated community forest and conservancy - Chairperson, 0813869704
Ncumcara community forest - Chairperson, 0812856594
Directorate of Forestry, Kavango - Chief Forester North Eastern, 066 265450
Department of Wildlife, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Kavango - 066 255403
Windhoek Permit office, Ministry of Environment and Tourism - (Switchboard) 061 2842111
Directorate of Veterinary Services Kavango - 066265254
Namibia Nature Foundation, Kavango - Coordinator, 066 256145
CRIAA - SADC - 061 220117
National Botanical Research Institute - 061 202 2012
ICEMA Community Funding Facility - Public Relations Officer, 061 284 2726
CPP-ISLM Innovative Grants Mechanism - Senior Business and Livelihoods Advisor, 061 284 2701
Staff of the Directorate of Forestry - Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry

Information on value-adding and product processing can be obtained from the **National Botanical Research Institute** on 061 2022012, or by contacting **CRIAA-SADC** on 061 220117, Fax 061 232293, and the **CBNRM** department of Namibia Nature Foundation on 0811413011.

Information on value chain in indigenous plant and forest products has been made available with support from the National Forestry Programme Facility in Namibia, in collaboration with and support of FAO, Rome, Italy, and facilitation of Namibia Nature Foundation, Windhoek.



Marketing Information

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgement is made of views and support from individuals and organisations including the coordination office and Steering Committee of the National Forestry Programme facility in Namibia (NFP), Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF), and the staff of the Directorate of Forestry - Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF).

Similar gratitude goes to the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), the Indigenous Plant Task Team (IPTT), the Centre for Research Information Action in Africa, Southern Africa Development and Consulting (CRIAA-SADC), the Integrated Community-based Ecosystem Management (ICEMA), Community Forestry project in Namibia (CFN), German Development Service (ded), departments of Wildlife Management and Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), the Country Pilot Partnership – Integrated Sustainable Land Management (CPP-ISLAM), the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), and community forestry and conservancy management committees of Muduva Nyangana, George Mukoya and Ncumcara Community Forests in Kavango.

Acknowledgements are hereby made of views and support from Mr.J.Hailwa, H.Lutombi, N.Kanime and R.Karupu of DoF, Steve Carr and P.Poncelet of NBRI, P. Du Plesis and M.Michel of CRIAA-SADC, R.Sprung and W.Hesse of ded/CFN, D.Cole of MCA, G.Katjangua and A.April of ICEMA, W.Mukena and K.Ndumba of MET, D.Wamunyima of NNF, A. Ndango of Muduva Nyangana Conservancy, S.Kavaru of George Mukoya Conservancy and J.Ndjamba of Ncumcara Community Forest.



FAO, Rome Italy



Namibia Nature Foundation



MAWF



National Forestry Facility



Ximenia (*Kakukuru*) and (*mpeke*)

Uses

- Roasted kernels are a remedy against flu in children as well as an effective medicine for healing wounds and chest ailments.
- Crashed kernels are an industrial input for preparing body ointments (see picture on immediate left).

Harvesting

- Only mature or ripe fruits should be harvested. The flesh of the fruit should be removed before drying.
- The exposed nuts should be dried on a clean surface. Once dried, the nut can be cracked with a light metal-headed stick (use of stones is not recommended) and the kernels should be stored in a dry, clean place inside a clean container.
- Training in value-adding skills is currently offered by **ICEMA's** High Value Plant component.

Marketing Information

- Big quantities of kernels are required in order to be able to attract genuine buyers for the product. Thus suppliers should be willing to form big production groups that are capable of meeting required quantities of desired quality.
- The fruits are available during the rainy season.



Thatching Grass (*Nangodwe*)

Uses

- Grass-thatched houses are generally cooler in hot seasons, and offers the traditional touch to tourists and visitors to Namibia.

Harvesting

- Grass is highly affected by wild and forest fires, and should therefore be protected from fire at all times.
- Modern harvesting procedures should be used which ensure continued re growth of the product after. Grass should never be harvested by pulling the whole stamp out of the soil, but rather be cut carefully.
- It is good that the grass is stored well above the ground on racks (as in picture above) to avoid contact with pests.

Marketing Information

- All transporters of Thatching Grass require one-way transport permits. The permits can be obtained from the Directorate of Veterinary Services. The Directorate can also be contacted for information regarding frequent buyers of Thatching Grass. The contact of the Directorate in Kavango is 066 256254.
- Buyers require large amounts of Thatching Grass collected at one selling point, where it can be easily and conveniently picked. One such collection point is at the turn-off to Mkuve in Nyangana, 135 km west of Rundu which serves Muduva Nyangana and George Mukoya communities.

Notes

Value Chain In Natural Products

Since 2000 the Indigenous Plant Task Team (IPTT) has been coordinating Namibian efforts to create value chains for indigenous natural products.

A **value chain** is the set of relationships that are needed to move a product from the initial producers to the selling point. Along the way the product is usually changed through various forms of value adding. Everyone in the value chain must make a profit for the chain to work effectively. Let's look at a typical value chain:

- 1) **Harvesters** usually have problems selling raw forest products except in local informal markets. To create a functional value chain it is necessary for many harvesters to club together, so that they have enough raw materials to interest commercial buyers. This is the easiest step for communities to organise and control. It is very important that such groups keep their promises about how much they can sell, and also that they provide the quality required by the market.
- 2) **Buyers** of raw materials will deal easily with organised groups of harvesters. They know they can get enough material if they deal with a well-organised group. Buyers provide the money and transport needed to get enough raw materials to processors. If harvester groups are organised enough they can sometimes also act as the buyers of materials produced by their members.
- 3) **Processors** transform the raw materials into useful products. For example, they extract oil from seeds or make extracts of medicinal plants like devil's claw. They also play an important role in quality control. If a community can produce enough raw materials to justify processing, this step can sometime be done at community level, if capacity building and funds are available.
- 4) **Manufacturers** make the products that consumers will buy, like cosmetics or herbal tablets. They also design the packaging and "brand image" of the product and have to ensure that all the legal, health and safety regulations are met. Communities can usually not handle this level very well.
- 5) **Wholesalers and distributors** move the products to retail shops.
- 6) **Retailers** sell the products to consumers.

When reading this pamphlet, remember that it is **no use** having raw materials if you do not have a value chain to sell them to. No-one will buy your forest products just because you can harvest and sell them. One has to work with national organisations like the IPTT or the Directorate of Forestry and others, to ensure harvesters in his community become part of a working value chain.



Courtesy: Dave Cole

Devil's Claw (*Makakata*)

Harvesting

Only mature plants (with big tubers) should be harvested without disturbing the taproot (picture on the left). The hole should be covered again with soil after harvesting to allow plant re growth. The harvested tuber should be cleared of before being nicely cut into pieces of 5 mm in thickness. The slices should hence be properly put off the ground in a shade to dry properly before being put in bags (see sliced and dry pieces on left, bottom picture).



Courtesy: Dave Cole

Marketing Information

A harvesting permit is required. Permit application forms can be obtained from the Department of Wildlife Management Ministry of Environment and Tourism. The permit is taken to Traditional Authority, community forest, or conservancy in the area where harvesting is going to be done and a fee will be charged.

-The fee differs from area to area, depending on availability of the product and how much of the quantity is expected from the harvest. On average between N\$200 - 500 is charged for harvesting.

-The receipt is taken back to the Ministry of Environment, who will issue a harvesting permit at no extra cost. Permits are valid between March and October. Whether the permit was used or not, it should be brought back on expiry, so that another one can be issued.

Rose Wood (*Nontjivi*)

Uses

-Rosewood seeds have high protein content and are used in preparing high protein sauce. The outer layer is used in preparing soap when boiled, while boiled leaves are used to cure coughing ailments and umbilical chords in delivering mothers. The bark of the tree is used to cure burns. The wood is hard and is used in producing high quality furniture and wood for construction purposes.

-The seeds are available between July and December.

Harvesting

-Mature seeds drop on their own and can be collected on clean, dry containers, void of contact with sand and water. They are then nicely dried on flat spread

object to remove any remaining amount of humidity, and kept in clean dry places. Clean sacks or baskets are preferred for storage.

Marketing information

Much of the harvesting is done manually and therefore takes time to gather sufficient amounts to attract buyers. It is important that many producers club together into groups, so as to be able to realize sizeable amounts to be able to make considerable supplies.

-Trade contacts can be made directly with producer communities.

-Wood products require harvesting, transport, as well as marketing permits (see wood products and carvings on page 6).



Timber Products



Uses

-Wood has several uses, including carvings and ornaments for beauty and decoration, timber for furniture and use in construction, and fire wood for heating energy.

Harvesting

Harvesting, Transport, as well as Marketing permits are required in order to trade in wood products. Permits are obtainable from the Directorate of Forestry offices (Permits office Kavango 066 265450), also from community forests and conservancies.

-Harvesting permits are valid for a period of 7 - 30 days. The maximum quantity is determined by the Annual Allowable Amount (AAA), which defers from harvesting area to the other, depending on availability of harvestable product. A small administrative fee N\$15.00 is charged for the permit, plus the amount of product one is buying. A tone of wood products (1 load/ 40 poles) is N\$30.00.

-Transport permits have a maximum validity of 7 days, while marketing permits have validity period of 6 months.

-Direct contacts can be made with craft centres (Ncumcara Craft Centre can be contacted through the Chairperson on 0812856594).

Marketing Information

-Buyers prefer dealing with blocs of producers who are capable of realizing sizeable product quantities. Supply as well as quality guarantees are necessary if customer confidence is to be maintained.



Beekeeping Products

Uses

-Honey produced by bees is rich in carbohydrates and trace elements that constitute complete balanced diety for humans.
-Bee by-products (wax, propollis and royal jelly) have high economic values

Harvesting

-Sustainable harvesting practices require that bee products (especially honey) are extracted with minimum destruction to bees themselves and their breeding areas. Smoke is used to make them dizzy and reduce their hostile attitude to humans, while honey is being extracted.

-Extracted combs containing honey are collected in clean containers before honey is seperated out.

Training in improved beekeeping methods is currently available from the Beekeeping Production component of the Small Stock and Beekeeping Support Programme of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry on 0612087291.

Marketing Information

-Beekeeping products are also available through contacting the offices of the Directorate of Forestry, as well as conservancies and community forests country wide.

