Sustainable Management of Prunus africana on Mount Cameroon

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Presentation Outline

- Presentation of Mount Cameroon
- Some facts on Prunus africana
- Sustainable management of Prunus
- Access and benefit sharing
The Mount Cameroon National park was created by Prime Ministerial Order N° 2009/2272/PM of 18th December, 2009

Mt Cameroun NP (58,178 ha)

03 Community Forests

Woteva (1,865 ha),
Etinde (4,976 ha),
Bakingili (905 ha).
Some facts about Prunus africana

Distribution

Afromontane species occur between 1200-2800m asl

Traditional Usage

- Timber, fuel wood and medicine.

- The bark, leaves and roots are traditionally used either singly or in association with other ingredients to tackle a number of ailments including malaria, chest infections, stomach ache, rheumatism and gonorrhoea

- *Prunus* has been ranked as the fourth most popular medicinal plant species collected by 14% of households in the Mt. Cameroon region
Some facts about Prunus (continued)

International Usage

Bark used as raw material by the pharmaceutical industries to produce drugs to treat prostate problems and health supplements.

Major income source for forest based communities and enterprises.
Sustainable management of Prunus

Exploitation history
• Commercial exploitation of Prunus africana in Cameroon began in 1972 and regulation started in 1974.

First commercial special permit was granted to PLANTECAM in 1976 to cover SW & NW regions (one year renewable).

Between 1976-1986, the permit allowed PLANTECAM to harvest between 500-1000 tons in the SW, NW and Western regions.

In 1986 PLANTECAM had a 5 year special permit for 6500 tons (1300t/yr) valid for the 03 regions.

In 1992, this 5 year permit was renewed only for the Mt. Cameroon Region. This long term permit expired in 1996.

Since then, they were issued only short term one year special permits until their closure in 2000.
Sustainable management of Prunus

Exploitation history (continue)

1991: Partial ban of the exploitation of *Prunus* by CITES.

1992: Ban was lifted.

1995: Prunus was listed in CITES Appendix-II, classified as a “vulnerable’ species, and its international trade regulated.

2007: Suspension of prunus import into European Union which led to the eventual stoppage of prunus harvesting

2010: Inventory in the NW and SW to establish sustainable quota.

2011: CITES lifted the ban on Prunus importation

2011: Prunus Management Plan for the Mount Cameroon area drawn up.
Sustainable management of Prunus

Management initiatives

- Adoption of a National Guideline for *Prunus africana* Management in Cameroon (2009);
- Training of village harvesters;
- Conduction of *Prunus* inventories (1996, 2000 & 2010);
- Management Plan for Prunus exploitation on Mt Cameroon area.
- Intensify controls of illegal exploitation of *Prunus*;
- Establishment of an experimental 9ha *Prunus* plot;
- Initiate village level planting program;
- Establishment of village development Fund in each village;
- Evolve local population in Prunus management (Creation of MOCAP, a locally organised CIG).
Sustainable management of Prunus

Prunus Management Plan

- Mt Cameroon is considered as a single “Prunus Allocation Unit” (PAU);
- The Mt Cameroon PAU will be managed on a five-year rotation.
- Participation (benefit-flow) by local communities integral.
- Conduct 100% inventory using “Prunus africana inventory norms”.
- Apply prescribed norms for harvesting the Prunus barks.
- Clearly defined roles, responsibilities and benefits to partners (Park Service, MINFOF, Local Communities, ANAFOR etc.)
Sustainable management of Prunus

Prunus Management Plan (continued)

- Promote regeneration (through enrichment planting, plantations and integrating *Prunus* into farming system).

- Strengthen controls and monitoring.

- Integrate the *Prunus africana* management plan into the wider management of the Cameroon National Park.
Prunus distribution
Prunus Exploitation

- Harvesters (villagers) are trained on inventory, harvesting and monitoring techniques.
- Conduct 100% exploitation inventory of all *Prunus* trees with DBH ≥ MED.
- All trees to be exploited tagged, numbered and mapped.
- *Exploitation* done by only trained harvesters supported by validated exploitation documents (field log books, waybills, monitoring sheets etc.).
- Debarking will be as follows: ¼ of the stem stripped from opposite sides and leave the other sides unexploited for 5 years to permit the bark to regenerate.
- Exploitation begins at 1.3m above the ground level and end at first big branch.
- Transportation with duly signed document from MINFOF
Access and benefit sharing

- **Sign Memorandum of Understanding**
  - Between Park Management, Community (MOCAP) & Economic operator (Endorsed by Government)
  - Park Service and MOCAP
  - MOCAP and Economic Operator

**Purpose:**
- Clearly define roles and responsibilities of each party
- Facilitate sustainable harvesting, marketing and fair and equitable benefit sharing of revenues.
- Elaborate and agree on benefit-sharing mechanism
- Benefit sharing mechanism linked to the wider CDA development process, to enable the villagers see the link between the benefits and conservation activities in the Park.
- For Prunus found in Community forests areas under a separate MoU.
# Benefit Sharing Scheme

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<td>Village Development Fund</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>Transport</td>
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Thank you for your attention