



Central African Regional Program
for the Environment

Investigator/Contact
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SOS Fund number - # 6d.21

Proposal Title: *Four State-Of-Knowledge Studies Of High-Value Non-Timber Forest Products Of Central Africa: Baillonella toxisperma (Moabi), Cola accuminata and Cola nitida (Cola nuts), Irvingia gabonensis and Irvingia wombolu (Bush mango), Ricinodendron*

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Abstract

The CARPE-funded Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) workshop held in Limbe in May 1998 highlighted the need for further study of a number of high value and much utilised NTFP species. To that end a number of taxa were identified as being of high priority for the undertaking of a series of state-of knowledge reports to assess their sustainability and their contribution to the livelihoods of local communities. Information will be gathered through an extensive literature search, including that of 'grey' literature; the contacting of others known to be working/interested in the taxa concerned; and the results of appropriate original research.

The state-of-knowledge studies that will be addressed in this proposal are as follows: *Baillonella toxisperma* (moabi), *Cola acuminata*, *C. nitida*, *Irvingia gabonensis* (sweet bush mango), *I. wombolu* (bitter bush mango), and *Ricinodendron heudelottii* (njansang).

These state-of-knowledge (or monographic) studies will:

- Detail who has done, or is doing, what in regard to the achievement of sustainable use of each NTFP;
- Identify gaps in current knowledge of each NTFP (i.e., setting priorities for further research);
- Characterise opportunities and constraints to promoting the sustainable use of these NTFPs.

So, the objectives of these studies are to present a full and accurate review of the available literature, and anecdotal reports of those known to work on these taxa, by providing a series of definitive reports on the current state-of-knowledge of each target taxa. These reports will contribute to CARPE's information base, which is made widely available through both paper and electronic media. These studies will contribute to a wider understanding of the forest resources of the Congo Basin, which, it is hoped, will lead to their rational and sustainable management and stimulate the livelihoods of the local communities.

Each study will follow the following guidelines:

- Ecology and related subjects;
 - Sustainability issues;
 - Market / trade issues;
 - Institutional issues;
 - Full bibliography.
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