

Conservation and Sustainable Management of *Osyris lanceolata* for Economic Development in East Africa

By

Beatrice Khayota, Solomon Kyalo, James Mwamondenyei, Joseph Otieno, Agnes Lusweti
Bernard , Kamondo and Issa Katwesige

Presented at

CITES Tree Species Programme Regional Meeting for Africa
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

11-15 March 2019



Introduction

- **Title:** Conservation and Sustainable Management of *Osyris lanceolata* for Economic Development in East Africa
- **Implementing Agency:** National Museums of Kenya
- **Project Leader:**
 - Coordinator: Beatrice Khayota
 - Kenya James Mwamondenyei Mwangombe
 - Uganda: Issa Katwesige
 - Tanzania: Joseph Otieno
- **CITES Management Authority Focal person:**
 - Kenya: Solomon Kyalo
 - Uganda: James Lutalo
 - Tanzania: Director of Wildlife

Project Team



Beatrice Khayota (PI)-NMK



James Mwangombe (Co-PI)-KFS



Benard Kamondo (CO-I)-KEFRI



Issa Katwesige (CO-PI)-Uganda



Joseph Otieno (CO-PI)-Tanzania



Agnes Lusweti (CO-I)-NMK



Jean Lagarde-Africa Coordinator



Solomon Kyalo (CO-I) KWS

Background

- East African Sandalwood (*Osyris lanceolate*) is a semi-parasitic evergreen tree
- Occurs in arid and semi-arid habitats
- Distributed in sub-Saharan Africa, from eastern to southern Africa
- Traded internationally for its fragrance (oils and sawdust)
- Also traded locally for timber, handcrafts and herbal medicine
- Market uncoordinated, unstructured and unregulated
- Eastern Africa population listed in Appendix II at CITES CoP 16 (Decisions 16.153 & 16.154)



Justification

- Osyris has entered the market as substitute for Santalum (Asian sandalwoods).
- Harvested from the wild illegally and smuggled to international markets (high cases of seizures/confiscations)
- Harvesting regime unsustainable (debarking and uprooting)-Declining wild populations/slow regeneration
- High demand with attractive prices
- Challenges with law enforcement in the region
- Inadequate artificial propagation programs
- Inadequate data on the status in the wild



Unsustainable Illegal harvesting



Seized shipment

Outputs

Specific Objective:

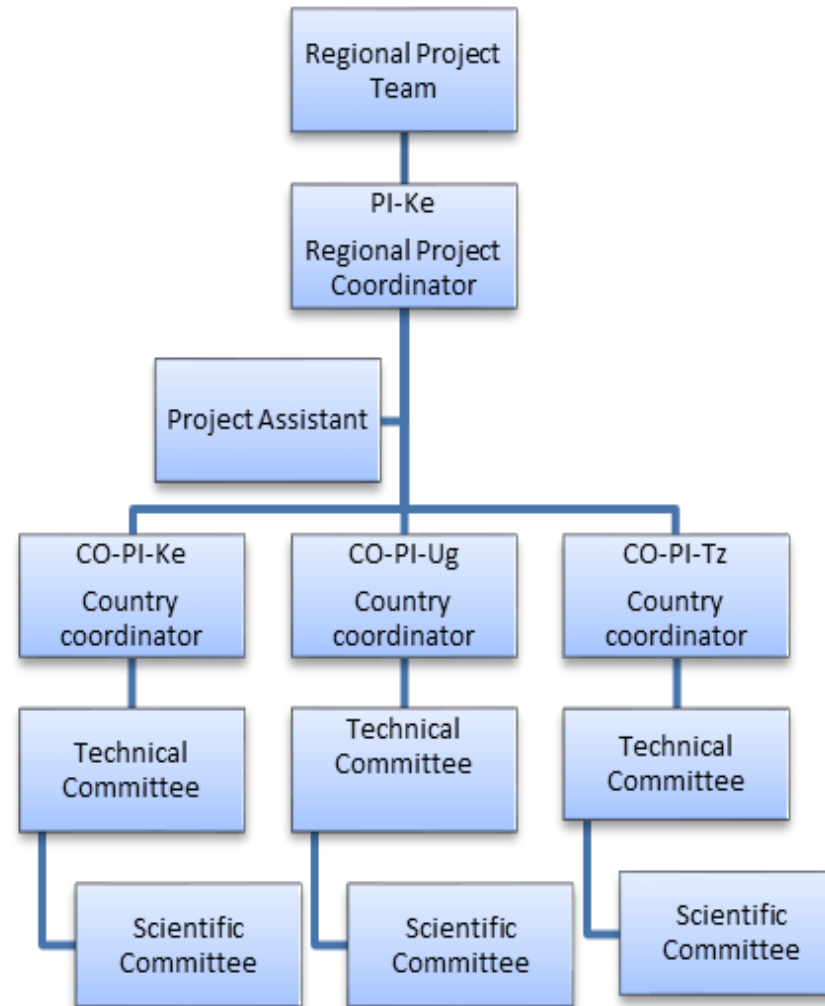
To assist the participating states (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda) make relevant assessments for formulating NDFs of *Osyris lanceolata*

- **Output 1.** Establishment of coordination team and relevant Committees of the project;
- **Output 2.** Status (research, management, ecological, and exploitable, control and monitoring, including ABS) of *O. lanceolata* in each country well established
- **Output 3:** Research relevant to management such as standing stock and quota setting for some selected sites well defined
- **Output 4:** Mechanisms for Identification/verification and, traceability established
- **Output 5:** Silviculture and domestication of *O. lanceolata* well known
- **Output 6:** NDF report and realistic action plan well developed and implemented

Expected impacts

- Sustainably managed and regulated use of *O. lanceolata* and their associated ecosystems
- Increased knowledge of the status of the species in the wild, use and trade.
- Policy decisions informed by scientific information and expertise
- Enhanced traceability of products along the trade chain
- Increased revenue generation for improved livelihoods based on local bio-resources

Operational structure



Implementation Challenges and Risks

- Delays in procurement and unavailability of items/consumables
- Travel restrictions
- Information gaps-lack of/incomplete baseline and field data
- Political instability
- Adverse weather conditions and bad terrain
- Inadequate expertise
- Delays in processing funds
- Conflict/overlap of project and office assignments
- Coordinating activities in countries with varying technical capabilities
- Unreliable electrical power
- Limited internet connectivity
- Lack of political will during implementation
- Lack of inter-agency/cross border cooperation/collaboration in illegal wildlife trafficking-national sovereignty and lack of trust.
- Unwillingness to share data
- Slow processing of prerequisite permits

Acknowledgements



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Presenter: Dr. Beatrice Khayota

Email: bkhayota@museums.or.ke; bkhayota@hotmail.com

Thank you