



Traders, buyers and agents either buy directly from owners or community forests or harvest themselves. There have been 10 major permit holders in the last decade in Cameroon, with one company dominating nearly 50% of the market. Companies needed a Special Forestry Products quota and permit. There is low volume local, trade for medicinal use, mainly via markets and traditional herbalists.

Pharmaceutical company importers are based outside of Cameroon. The pygeum market was worth US\$200 million to European and US pharmaceutical companies in 1999. In the United States, there are at least 8 products sold mainly as a botanic health product. In Europe it is sold as a registered medicine, with 19 medications including pygeum extract.

Government administration. As pygeum is classed as a Special Forestry Product, the Ministry for Forests and Fauna is responsible for allocating exploitation quotas. Together with ANAFOR, they are the main regulatory authorities for CITES in Cameroon. The former system of annual, non-quota based, multiple permit holders with unspecified geographic area quotas has now been changed. The new system includes:

A national quota for commercial bark harvest, which includes the available sustainable stock in Prunus Allocation Units and all registered planted *Prunus africana*.

The main zones containing pygeum in the wild have been divided into Prunus Allocation Units (PAU), for which legal entities can tender to obtain long-term harvest rights.

Commercial, large-scale exploitation is distinguished from and small-scale, traditional use. Planted and wild pygeum are also differentiated.

The quantity that can be harvested over a 10-year period will now need to be determined by an inventory, commissioned and financed by the PAU holder

and approved by the Cameroon CITES authorities. The inventory needs to be conducted according to a newly defined 'Inventory Norm'.

Harvesting techniques are now legally defined with a 'harvest norm'. Harvesters will need to be trained and certified.

PAU holders will be obliged to replant pygeum.

A new system of controls, monitoring and traceability is being implemented.

Customary and local authorities. Most pygeum comes from areas where traditional authorities have a strong influence on forest management. Fons, traditional councils and local councils are therefore important partners for ensuring good governance in exploitation.

Consumers. There is a growing need for the medication in Europe with the number of patients increasing from 85 000 in 2000 to 102 000 in 2007. Although there are botanical and synthetic chemical substitutes, pygeum has for the last 30 years been a favourite treatment for benign prostatic hyperplasia in Europe and there is stable to increasing consumer demand for the botanic health product among the target population of men over 40). In the Cameroon Highlands over 45 human medicinal uses and 11 veterinary uses are known. However it is not used locally as a traditional medicine or for its commercial uses by populations adjacent to forests in Adamaoua.

Endnote

- 1 Exchange rate US\$1 = 500 FCFA

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PYGEUM IN CAMEROON



Mobilization and capacity building of Small and Medium Enterprises in Non-Wood Forest Products Value Chains in Central Africa



Pygeum in Cameroon

What is pygeum?

Prunus africana, known as pygeum and locally as kanda stick, *alumty* (Nkwen), *wotango* (Bakweri), *ebla* (Oku), *kira* (Lamnso), *mueri* (Ken), *elouo* (Kom) and *bi'beh'kemb'oh'* (Fulfulde), is a tall, slow-growing evergreen tree whose timber and non-timber products have multiple uses for rural communities and urban populations. It has thick leaves with red coloured stalks, dark-brown to grey bark, creamy white flowers and fruit resembling a cherry when ripe, which is eaten by monkeys, birds and squirrels.

Where is pygeum found?

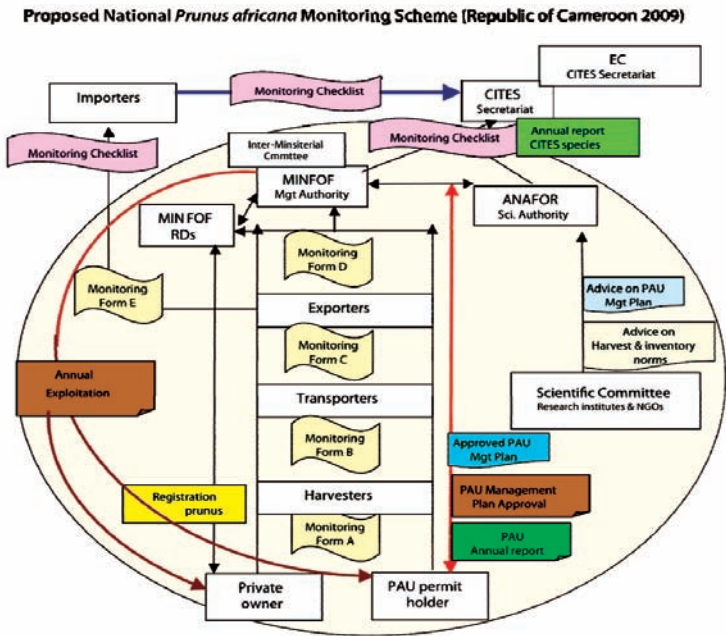
Pygeum is native to mountain tropical forests in sub-Saharan Africa. It occurs in the wild in high altitude forests—generally 800 metres above sea level and higher—in 22 countries in eastern and southern Africa. Cameroon has some of the largest known populations, particularly in the highlands of the Southwest, Northwest and Adamaoua and in the Centre, West and Littoral regions.

How is it used in Cameroon?

Pygeum's hard, durable wood is used for axe handles, poles, carving and fuelwood; it is an important tree for bees that yields 'mountain white' honey; the bark and seeds are used in traditional medicine for genito-urinary complaints, allergies, inflammation, kidney disease, malaria, stomach ache, fever and for animal medicines. The bark is peeled off the tree, dried and chipped or powdered, then used to make an extract included in treatments for benign prostate disorder, excessive hairiness and aging. (Benign prostatic hyperplasia is a non-cancerous glandular disorder affecting mainly men over forty).

High demand threatens existence in the wild

Since the 1970s Cameroon has been a major exporter, supplying 48% of worldwide trade since 1995. On average 1700 tonnes has been exported annually to international pharmaceutical and health businesses. Since 2000 Cameroon has exported mainly to France (53%), Spain (31%) and Madagascar (11%), and small quantities to Belgium, China, India and the United States. In 1995 growing demand and unsustainable harvesting resulted in the species being included in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). CITES is an agreement between governments to ensure that global trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. Appendix II lists species that may become endangered if trade is left unregulated. Cameroon has been a signatory of this Convention since 1981. Pygeum has been listed as a 'vulnerable' species by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species since 1998. In 2006 CITES recommended banning trade in the bark until exporting countries developed sustainable management plans and inventories. The European Union, the largest importing market for Cameroon, voluntarily suspended trade with Cameroon in 2007. The suspension has meant that stocks held by many pharmaceutical companies are now at very low levels and the future of trade in pygeum is unsure, as no other countries have been permitted to export pygeum since 2007.



Who are the actors in the pygeum chain in Cameroon?

In 2007 the market chain from harvester to exporter in Cameroon concerned about 60 000 people indirectly including community forests and communities belonging to the Mt Cameroon harvesting company, MOCAP. The trade employed up to 700 people: about 500 occasional harvesters, more than 28 exploitation permit-holding small scale enterprises and about 5 small and medium sized exporting enterprises (Ingram and Nsawir 2007). It provided a sporadic source of income for at least 400 individuals with planted pygeum and at least 51 community organisations, including councils, with small plantations. The trade circuit flows from the main production areas of the Northwest highlands, Mt Cameroon and Adamaoua, through stores in the towns, including Bamenda and Buea, to drying sheds and factories in Douala and Bafoussam where basic processing, drying and cutting are performed, prior to exporting. The powder or extract is then re-exported to China, European countries, India and the United States. The average price at harvester level was 180 FCFA per kg in 2007, varying from 50 FCFA per kg outside of community forests to 80 FCFA within community forests and up to 160 FCFA for MOCAP in the SW. Harvesters receive on average 67% of the total forest-edge price. The export (Free on Board) price varies from 750 to 1050 FCFA per kg. The trade value of the chain in Cameroon in 2007 was estimated to be 315 million FCFA (US\$630 million¹) for 646.5 tonnes.

Harvesters. About 25% of harvesters are organised and have received training on sustainable harvest methods, notably MOCAP and community forests in Kilum Ijum. Many harvesters and plantation owners do not work collectively in production and exploitation. Associations of community forests are in contact but often lack 'soft assets'—management and entrepreneurial skills. In harvest years, pygeum has contributed up to 80% of harvest household incomes for communities in the Northwest and Southwest regions.



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