

### Project Update : April 2024

From July 25 to August 31, we carried out ethnobotanical surveys in the peripheral areas of Campo-Ma'an National Park. the following results were obtained.

#### Demography of Respondents

A total of 301 respondents were interviewed. Of these, 190 (63.1%) were men and 111 (36.9%) were women. The majority of responders (29.6%) were between the ages of 31 and 41. A total The study region's largest village, Mvini, had the highest percentage of informants 49 (16.3%) interviewed when compared to other localities. Of the respondents surveyed, 134 (44.5%) were college students, and just 8 (2.6%), had completed higher education. Additionally, 189 (62.8) of the respondents were married (**Table I**).

#### Ethnobotanical use value of *Diospyros crassiflora*

The ethnobotanical studies revealed that communities in the study area exploited five organs: wood, bark, leaves, fruits, seeds, and roots, in six use categories (animal feed, lumber, religious rites, handicraft, traditional medicine, and energy). Table II shows how *Diospyros crassiflora* organs are used in the study area. The RFC of the different organs ranges from 49% to 1.5%. The highest RFC was observed for wood (49%), followed by roots (14.3%), and the lowest RFC was recorded for fruits (1.5%), followed by leaves (4.5). Wood is the most commonly used organ in the village of Aloum 1, with an RFC of 64.3%; bark is the most commonly used organ in Bifi, with an RFC of 30.8%; leaves are the most commonly used organ in Aloum 1, with an RFC of 17.8%; fruits in Mvini, with an RFC of 6.7%; and seeds and roots in Minko and Mabiongo, with RFCs of 22.2% and 23.1%, respectively (**Table II**). Mvini and Assok I villages represent the only localities where all the organs mentioned by the respondents are used. Also, Mvini village represents the locality where the species is most used with a relative frequency of mention (RFC = 16.9 %).

#### Use categories of *Diospyros crassiflora*

Six use categories were mentioned by the population namely animal feed,

handicraft, timber, energy, religious ritual, and traditional medicine. The UV ranged between 6.8% and 34.3%. *D. crassiflora* was most frequently used as timber in the study area according to its high UV (34.3%), followed by traditional medicine (31%). The least UVs were reported for animal feed (6.4%), followed by ritual (6.8%). Also, the species was used for timber, handicrafts, energy, and traditional medicine in all villages surveyed. Mvini and Mabiongo had the highest use reports of *D. crassiflora*, as demonstrated by their highest total UV (**Table III**).

**Table I:** Socio-demographic characteristics of survey participants in villages in the vicinity of the Campo-Ma'an National Park (Southern Cameroon).

	Categories	Total number of participants	Percentage (%)
Gender	M	190	63.1
	F	111	36.9
Age	20-30	68	22.6
	31-41	89	29.6
	42-52	78	25.9
	53-63	52	17.3
	64-75	14	4.6
	Education	Primary	89
College		134	44.5
High school		70	23.2
University		8	2.6
Locality	Assok I	33	10.9
	Aloum I	32	10.63
	Aloum II	41	13.62
	Bifa	30	9.9
	Ebinemeyong	40	13.3
	Mabiogo	45	14.9

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Minko	31	10.3
Mvini	49	16.3

**Table II:** Relative frequency of citation of *Diospyros crassiflora* organs used by villages

Villages	Organs						
	Wood	Bark	Leaves	Fruits	Seeds	Roots	Total
Assok I	41.4	20.7	6.9	3.4	17.2	10.3	10.9
Bifa	38.5	30.8	11.5	-	-	19.2	9.8
Aloum I	64.3	-	17.8	-	17.8	-	10.6
Mabiogo	51.3	25.6	-	-	-	23.1	14.7
Aloum II	41.7	27.8	-	-	16.7	13.9	13.6
Mvini	40	22.2	4.4	6.7	11.1	15.5	16.9
Ebinemeyong	57.1	28.6	-	-	-	14.3	13.2
Minko	62.9	-	-	-	22.2	14.8	10.2
TOTAL	49	20.4	4.5	1.5	10.2	14.3	100

**Table II:** Relative frequency of citation of *Diospyros crassiflora* organs used by villages

Villages	Use category						
	Af	Cr	Ti	En	Tm	Ri	TUV
Assok I	20.7	7.9	34.5	6.9	30	-	10.9
Bifa	-	4.6	30	3.8	30.8	30.8	9.8
Aloum I	-	5	42.8	21.4	30.7	-	10.6
Mabiogo	-	18.7	38.5	12.8	30	-	14.7
Aloum II	16.7	3.3	25	16.7	30	8.3	13.6
Mvini	11.1	15	25	4.4	37.8	6.7	16.9
Ebinemeyo	-	20	32.8	14.3	32.8	-	13.2
Minko	-	10	45.5	7.4	22.2	14.8	10.2
Total	6.4	10.6	34.3	10.9	31	6.8	100

