Assessment of Local Knowledge and Traditional Uses of Acacia senegal in Rural Areas of North Kordofan, Sudan

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Objectives

➢ To assess the local knowledge related to the different uses of all parts of Acacia senegal (Gum Arabic tree) (Hashab).
➢ To investigated the role of local knowledge in protection and conservation of Acacia senegal.

Study area: Um Habila village, is located South East Elobied in the main road of Elobied-Khartoum. Um Dabos village which is located in Bara locality, North to Elobied. Both areas are pioneer in gum arabic production, people with long time experience in production, tapping and using of A. senegal trees.

Data collection

➢ Explorative survey methods and participatory observations following a purposive sampling technique, by semi-structured and open interviews.
➢ 30 rural people (Hashab tappers and Hashab users) were interviewed

Results

Acacia senegal is multi-purpose tree where the local and traditional knowledge related to the tree uses exceed 40

✓ Nutritionally: (gum arabic as food for human, bark, flowers and pods as fodder for goats)

✓ Gum powder is used for homogeneity of local and house-made juice

✓ Medicinally: (gum arabic used for stomach disorders and kidney, bark is used for injury healing and cure)

✓ Culturally: (Poems, wisdoms and says related to the tree enhanced its protection and conservation)

✓ A. senegal is the basic component of Agroforestry in NK since ancient time up to date.

North Kordofan

Gum exudation

Agroforestry

Flowers

Dusty gum

Fresh gum

Conclusion and recommendation

✓ Acacia senegal in North Kordofan is the valuable tree due to its wide range of distribution and uses.

✓ It is recommended that, local knowledge related to A. senegal should be originated, documented and transmitted among the corner generation to guarantee protection and conservation of A. senegal.