# Community-based prioritization and conservation planning of wild edible plants: Insights from Turkana County, Kenya



CGIAR

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Wild Edible Plants (WEPs) play a crucial diets in Turkana:



Mixed-sequential qualitative study approach:

• provide 12-30% of dietary intake

RESULTS

• average of 76% of micronutrients to consumers' diets.

WEPs face multifaceted threats endangering their availability and sustainability.

### Study aimed to:

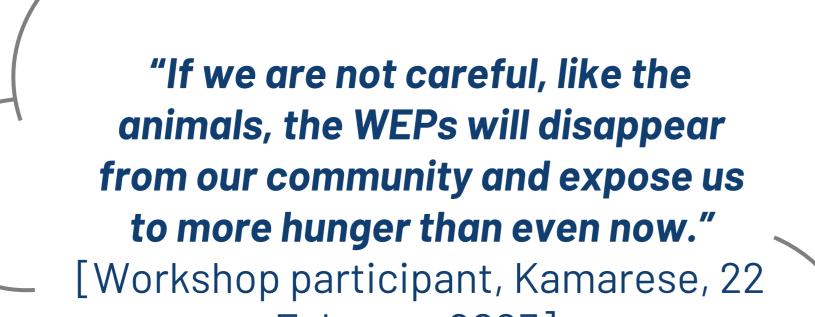
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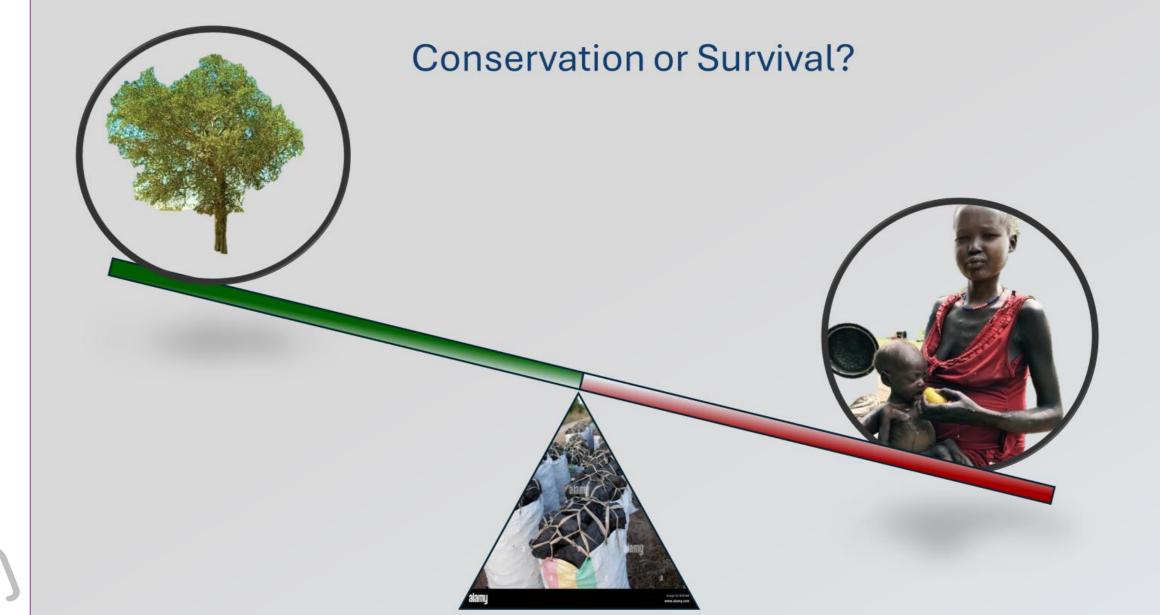
- Investigate stakeholders' perceptions of WEP tree status, trends, threats and conservation challenges.
- Co-develop a community led strategy of Turkana's WEPs.

- Nine two-day participatory community workshops.
- Eight in-depth validation interviews with local experts.
- Deductive thematic analysis of data









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Which is more important: saving a tree or saving a child from hunger?

# *Ex-situ* conservation through prioritization and planting

- Identification and prioritization of WEPs
- Planting priority species in home gardens, farming lands and

**County and National Government Responsibilities** Policy formulation and implementation

Role of NGOs, Research institutions and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Technical support and capacity building for conservation initiatives

> **Community level commitments** Active participation and local leadership in conservation efforts



### Conservation *in-situ*

- Awareness creation and sensitization
- Livelihood diversification and incentivization of
  - local conservation efforts
- Formulation and

- institutions eg schools, churches, hospitals
- Setting up community managed tree nurseries and community gene banks

Integrated community led conservation of Wild Edible Plants in Turkana enforcement of community bylaws and policies

- Establishment of community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Preservation and transfer of traditional knowledge
- Research collaboration

**Figure 1.** An integrated community-led conservation strategy for WEPs in Turkana County, Kenya.



 Urgent need for concerted WEP conservation efforts in Turkana County
Community-driven approach aligns with established conservation models while introducing Turkana-specific elements
Potential model for sustainable WEP management in similar arid

 Potential model for sustainable WEP management in similar arid environments

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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