# Threats to THE survival of *prunus Africana*, *Albizia* Zygia, and *Maeosopsis Eminii* plant biodiversity in Uganda: a case study of Zirimiti Central Forest Reserve, Mukono District.

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## INTRODUCTION

The study was conducted to determine threats to survival of *Prunus africana, Albizia zygia* and *Maeosopsis eminii* plant biodiversity in Zirimiti Central Forest Reserve in Mukono District.

## STUDY OBJECTIVES

The study addressed the following objectives: determine major causes of threats to survival of *Prunus africana*, *Albizia zygia* and *Maeosopsis eminii* plant biodiversity in Zirimiti Central Forest Reserve; Examining socio economic and ecological effects of loss of *Prunus africana, Albizia zygia* and *Maeosopsis eminii* plant biodiversity in Zirimiti Central Forest Reserve; and to establish strategies being used to conserve *Prunus africana, Albizia zygia* and *Maeosopsis eminii* plant species in Zirimiti Central Forest Reserve.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Bottom of FormData was collected using a cross-sectional survey design. Quantitative and qualitative research methodologies were used. Data was collected using tools such as observation checklist, structured questionnaires and the interview guide. Analysis was done using Microsoft Office Excel.

## KEY FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Results revealed that harvesting of leaves from forest trees contributed to Forest Plant Biodiversity in Zirimiti Central Forest Reserve due to beliefs that *Prunus africana* and *Albizia zygia* tree species are medicinal, large scale bark harvesting of *Prunus africana* contributed to their loss. Clearance of land for cultivation as well as timber harvesting and demand for fuel wood led, to loss of *Prunus africana*, *Albezia zygia* and *Maeosopsis eminii*. It was concluded that communities in Zirimiti CFR utilized forest resources communally.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The study recommended that participatory planning of *in-situ* conservation is crucial since decisions taken by the local communities regarding use of forest resources incorporate cultural values as well as people's livelihood in areas designated as CFR; communities' involvement in Collaborative Forest Management of such areas enhances a sense of joint ownership thereby instilling a responsibility of sustainable utilization of Natural resources. Such measures can only be achieved when stakeholders are sensitized and act as members of a cohesive team.

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