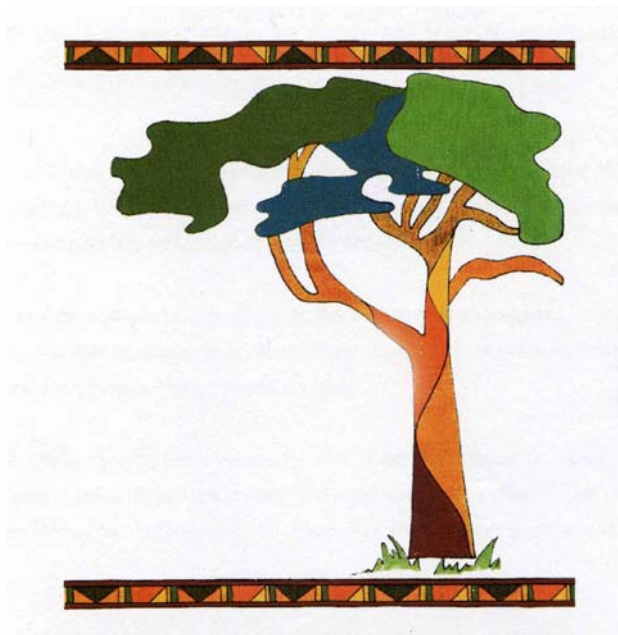


# Trees for Health Forever



## Workshop Resolution

Implementing sustainable medicinal bark use in southern Africa

A SADC regional workshop held at Willow Park, Johannesburg

1-3 November 2005



# RESOLUTION

We, the undersigned representatives of forest regulators, managers, scientists, herbalists, trade groups and non-governmental organisations from Benin, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland Zambia and Zimbabwe met in Johannesburg from 1-3 November 2005. This historic forum considered the impact of commercial medicinal tree bark harvesting and trade across the SADC region on trees and forests and the means of instituting sustainable management for this important resource.

The forum noted the considerable volume of commercial medicinal bark, other medicinal plants and non-timber forest products being traded across the sub-region. The extent and unregulated nature of this trade is threatening the future of the most valuable medicinal species. If we do not act now, many of these species will disappear altogether. A number of species have already become very difficult to find. The meeting further noted that if this unsustainable trade continues without appropriate management, the health and livelihood security of the people and the biodiversity of the forests will be compromised. The forum agreed that responsibility for medicinal resources rests not with a single institution or government but with all who collect, administer or use traditional medicine in the region – and that is all of us.

The delegates, therefore, resolved to play their part in securing the future of the important plant resources of our region and we commit ourselves to close regional collaboration and action. With timely, sustained and co-ordinated action to implement sustainable forest management, we are confident that our objective to secure the future of medicinal plant resources of southern Africa can be achieved.

We further resolve that this gathering forms the nucleus of a regional Non Timber Forest Product Working Group with an initial focus on trees used for traditional medicines.

The forum agreed on the following priority actions at the regional level in three general areas:

## **Advocacy**

- To lobby SADC for environmental and natural resources projects and to put natural resources and specifically forests on their agenda
- To get the message on sustainable harvesting issues throughout the medicinal plant supply chain

## **Regional co-operation**

- To establish a SADC region Non-Timber Forest Products programme. This will focus initially on traditional medicine but should evolve to include a range of sub-programmes for other regionally traded products.
- Implementation of regional information sharing and communication systems.

## **Future projects**

- Research and development of sustainable harvesting and value addition for medicinal plants for improvement of livelihoods for rural communities.
- Establishment of a large scale cultivation programme to supplement the supply to meet the huge demand.

Dated 3 November 2005

Willow Park, Johannesburg, South Africa

## **Signatories**

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### *Malawi*

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