

CONSERVING MEDICINAL BOTANIC GARDENS THROUGH PARTICIPATION: Case study of Idena, Lagos, Nigeria

By

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ABSTRACT

Developing various strategies for the conservation of Medicinal Botanic Gardens in Nigeria is important for today's critically degraded environment, and there is a growing recognition that the effective conservation of biodiversity will depend on the long-term participation and understanding of local communities. In order to establish a sustainable connection between the indigenous people at Idena, Lagos, Nigeria; government; private practice participation and the conservation of botanic gardens, this paper present the study of the vegetation at Idena with the view to establish Medicinal Botanic gardens and active participation of stakeholders, people's cooperation, fruitful involvement of communities, coordination between departments and sustainability. This will enhance the effective use and training of the people involved in the development of the Garden. This is the first of his kind in Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria ecosystems are diverse and endowed with arrays of flora biodiversity and had provided the needed rural health care from time immemorial for the traditional rural health care delivery program of the people. It is a general believe that in tropical Africa about 80% of the people in the rural areas rely on plants for medicinal uses. In Nigeria 70% (Ogundipe, 2005) of the population in the rural area depend on plants for primary health care in curative, preventive and mystical purposes. Most of the plants are harvested from the wild, fallow lands degraded sites and in the several forest floors.

Idena is in the Southwest Nigeria. It is located at the Itokin Ikosi-Ejirin Development Council Epe Local Government, Lagos State, Nigeria. The total land area is 230m in length and 107m in breadth (24150 m²). Lagos is the most populous state (17,000,000 million) in Nigeria and there is the need to have Medicinal Botanic Gardens outside the main urban settlement. So the main objective of the project was to identify plants of medicinal and economic importance within the entire land area for the purpose of in-situ conservation and provide a guide for future enrichment planting, provide species status, identification of plants, local names and medicinal uses of the various plant species. This study becomes relevant in view of the recent destruction of the environment and the treat to plants due to urbanization and other related factors. Furthermore the Botanic Garden would serve as training site for the traditional medicine practitioners at the local

and international levels and as an outstation for the students of the Department of Botany, University of Lagos and other institutions.

To execute these objectives, the indigenous people of Idena; the Department of Botany, University of Lagos and the government of Lagos State, Nigeria;

RESULT

Table 1. Medicinal plants species encountered

S/N	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Medicinal use of potentials
1	<i>Harungana madagascarensis</i>	Amuje	Anti-snake bite, blood tonic
2	<i>Cnestis ferrugenea</i>	Elemesan obegan	Achne remover
3	<i>Alchornea cordiflora</i>	Sinn	Eye sight enhancer, Malaria fever
4	<i>Magaritaria discordia</i>		
5	<i>Ananas cosmosus</i>	Ope oyinbo	Typhoid fever,
6.	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	Guafa	Diabetics, Malaria fever
7	<i>Ficus exsperifolia</i>	Opoto	Typhoid
8	<i>Icacina trichantha</i>	Ewe Gbegbe	Potency enhancement. Kidney problems
9	<i>Rauvolfia vomitora</i>	Asofeyeje	Diabetics, insomnia
10	<i>Baphia nitida</i>	Iyere osun	Divinity, teething problems
11	<i>Cassythia filiformis</i>	Omooniginigini	Pregnancy sustenance and family planning
12.	<i>Watheria indica</i>	Ewe epo	Blood tonic, Aphrodisiac
13	<i>Harungana madagascensis</i>		
14	<i>Paurijantha hitalla</i>		Malaria, Dysentery
15	<i>Starchytrapheta cayennesis</i>	Obibo	Child delivery, Pile
16	<i>Morinda lucida</i>	Oruwo	Malaria, Jaundice
17	<i>Abrus precatorius</i>	Iwere jeje	Cough, Measles and small pox
18	<i>Mussaenda elegans</i>	Odo-omode	
19	<i>Mageriteria indica</i>		
20	<i>Holarrhena floribunda</i>	Irena	Cough
21	<i>Anthoclestia nobilis</i>	Sapo	Hypertension
22	<i>Diodia scandens</i>	Dasa	Skin diseases
23	<i>Albizia ferruginea</i>	Ayinrete	Vomiting during pregnancy
24	<i>Bombax buonopozense</i>	Ponpola	Potency. Tooth ache
25	<i>Lantana camara</i>	Ewon agogo	
26	<i>Macaranga bacteri</i>	Awasa	
27	<i>Tephrosia vogelli</i>	Lakuta	Painful foot
28	<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i>	Lapalapa	Piles, Hemorrhage
29	<i>Bridelia micrantha</i>	Araasa	Diabetics, Appendicitis
30	<i>Icacina trichantha</i>	Gbegbe	Kidney problem
31	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	Goroba	Diabetics, Malaria
32	<i>Ficus capensis</i>	Opoto	

33	<i>Tapinanthus dodonifolia</i>	Afomo	
34	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	Mangoro	
35	<i>Milicia excelsa</i>	Iroko	
36	<i>Cassia lodosa</i>	Aidan	
37	<i>Leuceana leucocephalla</i>		
38	<i>Carica papaya</i>	Ibepe	
39	<i>Vernonia amygdalina</i>	Ewuro	
40	<i>Terminalia catappa</i>	Almond	

The study shows that 48 species of plants are identified presently at the site. The total no of species encountered is more and more work is still in progress. The collections are deposited at the University of Lagos Herbarium (LUH). Some of the plants species have been listed as rare species in Nigeria flora (Gbile, et. al 1981). There is the need to have full database of all the plants growing in this area.

Some of the plants that of medicinal uses are being overexploited by the local people to the treatment of their clients and this have forced some to the practitioners to far distances to collect materials. There is the need to train some local assistance on how to propagate and cultivate some of the plants and to identify and label them appropriately for educational, research and other purposes. If properly funded and supported by BCGI the garden will be viable and will sustain itself after some years.

The indigenous people were educated on the need to have a garden for sustainable use of the plants available and also the advantages of cultivating and propagating other useful medicinal plants in the garden. The indigenous people were encouraged to manage the area. They participated in reducing forest lost through surface mining, bush burning, sand mining etc. The traditional leaders were involved in the process.

The Government has shown interest in the approval of certificate of occupancy for the land and in providing all the necessary security and also to prosecute any body that trespass the area illegally.

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CONCLUSION

The study which is the first in Nigeria needs to be rigorously followed in view of the recent global interest in Ethno-Botany. The arrays and medicinal plants diversity observed provides a good take off ground for the garden by virtue of the various uses indicated for the different plants. It is also assumed that the uses indicated were not exhaustive as more uses could still be discovered for some of the species.

Therefore there is the need to look outward for support for this project from BCGI and other related bodies.

Fig 1. Showing soil mining



Fig. 2. Showing the hurt of a practitioner

