

Pistacia aethiopica

About me: I am a tree of the cashew family (Anacardiaceae) and can be male or female. I am only found in dry evergreen forests of North and East Africa and particularly like to grow in lava forests. I am able to grow in these dry conditions by developing very long roots to capture the little water that is available. I grow very slowly and it is believed I might be able to live to 1000 years! I produce a high quality gum which is chewed by the Maasai and my twigs are used as toothbrushes.

Why I'm rare: My forest home is being cleared to make way for roads and farmland. I am also damaged when people tap me for gum. As a result of over-exploitation I am thought to be extinct in Nairobi and surrounding areas. Despite my wide distribution I am now **Near Threatened** on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and require conservation action to guarantee my future survival in my natural habitat.

Taking action: The Global Trees Campaign is working with African botanic gardens, such as Brackenhurst Botanic Garden, to replant me in the wild.



The Global Trees Campaign is dedicated to saving the world's threatened tree species. Find out more here: www.globaltrees.org

