

ATBC 2019: Abstract (Oral presentation)

Title: Wild edible plants in Vohibe forest, in Ambalabe community, Madagascar

Topic: TROPICAL BIODIVERSITY and GLOBAL CHANGES

Subtopic: Local knowledge and ABS on tropical biodiversity

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Madagascar is widely recognized for its tremendous richness of biodiversity with high levels of endemism. It is considered as a cradle of marvelous nature due to its different bioclimatic zones and substrates which have allowed the development of diverse plant species. Generally rural Malagasy communities are isolated from markets and economic opportunities, making them depending on natural resources for their daily subsistence needs. Unfortunately, the close correlation of increased population pressures and high poverty rate intensify natural resources degradation. In that scope, the objective of our research project was to inventory wild edible plants at the Vohibe forest in order to establish sustainable uses and ensure conservation of each useful species. Prior to our study, ethnobotanical surveys were conducted among villagers living nearby Vohibe forest to gather information on the use of plant species and the associated potential threats of their utilization. 34 edible species, grouped into 23 families and 27 genera, were recorded during the study. Also it was found that 70% of the species recorded are used because of their edible fruits. Another significant finding of the same study was the excessive uses of one palm and one *Dioscorea* species rendering their existence in the area threatened. Thus, as part of this research project we plan to establish a sustainable practice and management plan for plant uses at this site to avoid irreversible fate for any useful species, and also to further develop an alternative source of income for the local population.