SETTING EXPORT QUOTAS OF *PRUNUS AFRICANA*: GUIDELINES FOR A NDF PLAN

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A management model for **Non-Timber Forestry Resources** (NTFR) formed the basis for the proposed methodology, which was designed to prepare the necessary guidelines for implementation of a Management Plan for the species on Bioko (Equatorial Guinea). The results presented are based on the pilot project "Evaluation of the Harvest of *Prunus africana* Bark on Bioko (Equatorial Guinea): Guidelines for a Management Plan".

The guidelines provided are the culmination of a series of stages in work oriented towards evaluating the forest resource: *Prunus africana* specimens and their current status following bark-harvesting activities.

In recent years, great effort has gone into proposals of management plans for sustainable use of *Prunus africana* in several Range States. However, integral methodology must be established to evaluate the current situation, to know whether bark harvest is suitable or whether it is affecting the conservation status of the species, and propose corrective measures as needed to achieve sustainable use. The study was devised as a pilot project, covering a pre-selected area under 150,000 ha in Equatorial Guinea, it could give rise to a survey model and be applicable to other countries.

The general goal of the project was to determine the potential and current range of *Prunus africana* on Bioko. Based on this range data, stocks could be assessed, bark harvest evaluated, and proposals made with necessary recommendations to consider in drawing up a management plan for sustainable use of the species. The following specific objectives were established to achieve the general goal:

1	Survey of the distribution of dominant types of vegetation by means of remote sensing

2	Characterisation of the forests where *Prunus africana* occurs in current and potential harvest areas, in terms of their structure, species composition and diversity of tree species

3	Estimate of bark yield, and

4	Establishment of silvicultural criteria for sustainable use of *Prunus africana* forests