USEFUL PLANTS PROJECT

Conservation and restoration of indigenous plants to improve community livelihoods

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Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

MILLENNIUM SEED BANK PARTNERSHIP

Kew

Background

- Grown from a proposal made to the Kew's Millennium Seed Bank Partnership (MSBP) by a philanthropist based in Spain (MGU)
- Funded by MGU
- Developed and managed by Kew's Seed Conservation Department through the MSBP
- June 2007 – Nov. 2010 (Phase 1)
- June 2011 – May 2014 (Phase 2)

Purpose and main outputs

To enhance the capacity of local communities in Latin America and Africa to conserve and use sustainably useful plants

- **Targeting & prioritizing useful plant species**
- **Seed collection and conservation**
- **Plant propagation**
- **Planting & Training in the communities**
- **Sustainable Use & Income generation**
- **Research**

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Targeting & prioritizing useful plant species

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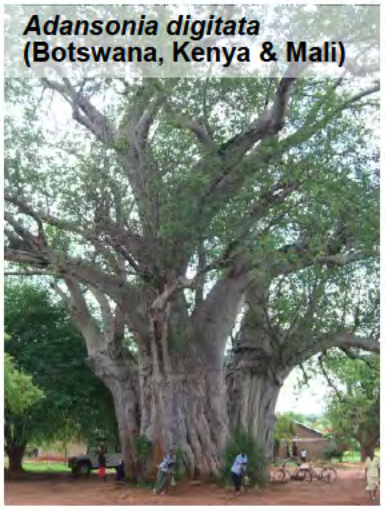
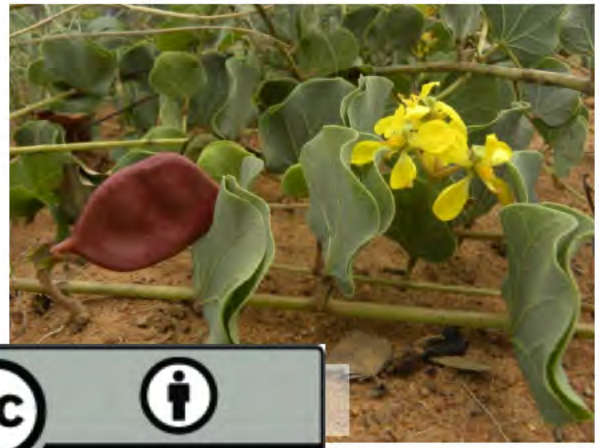
Targeting & prioritizing useful plant species

ca. 1,600 targeted useful species (*taxa*)


Adansonia digitata
(Botswana, Kenya & Mali)


Kigelia africana
(Botswana & Kenya)


Ceiba aesculifolia subsp. parvifolia
Mexico




Adenium swazicum
South Africa


Kalaharituber pfeilii
Botswana

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Seed collection and conservation

ca. 1,000 seed collections made







Philenoptera violacea

Kigelia africana

Trichilia emetica

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Seed collection and conservation

ca. 700 useful sp. conserved in country and duplicated at the MSB in the UK

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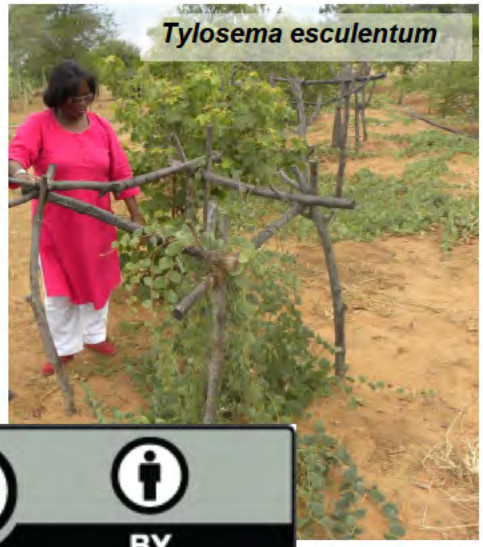
Plant propagation

ca. 600 useful species propagated



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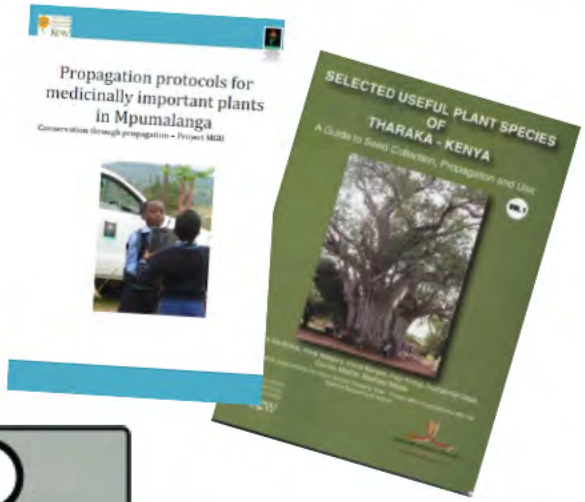
Plant propagation

110 propagation protocols finalized



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Planting in the communities

ca. 200 useful sp. planted in the communities (ca. 50,000 seedlings)

Case Study 1 – Mali
Planting in sacred forests

With the communities' participation, 5 sacred forests of 75 ha have been restored with enrichment planting of 15 useful species.

Afzelia africana

Antochleista kerstingii
5 years

Case Study 2 – Kenya Experimental woodlots

9 experimental plots have been established to further investigate the field performance (plant survival and growth rate) of indigenous species, using low cost procedures.

Maesopsis eminii

Eucalyptus sp.

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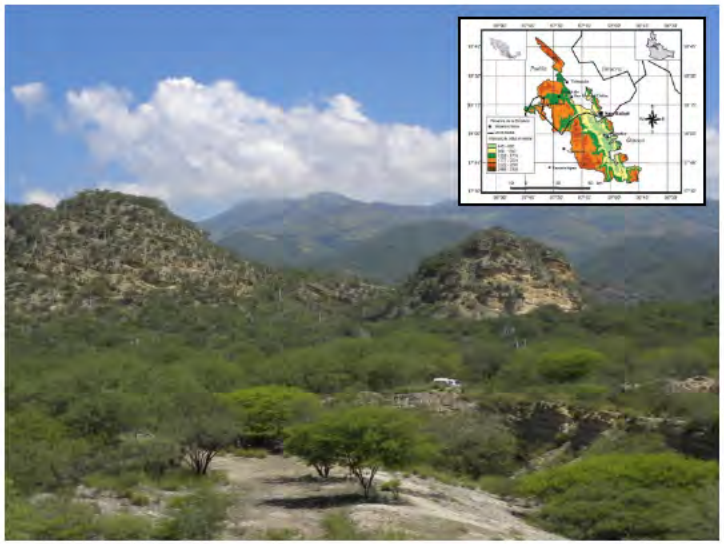
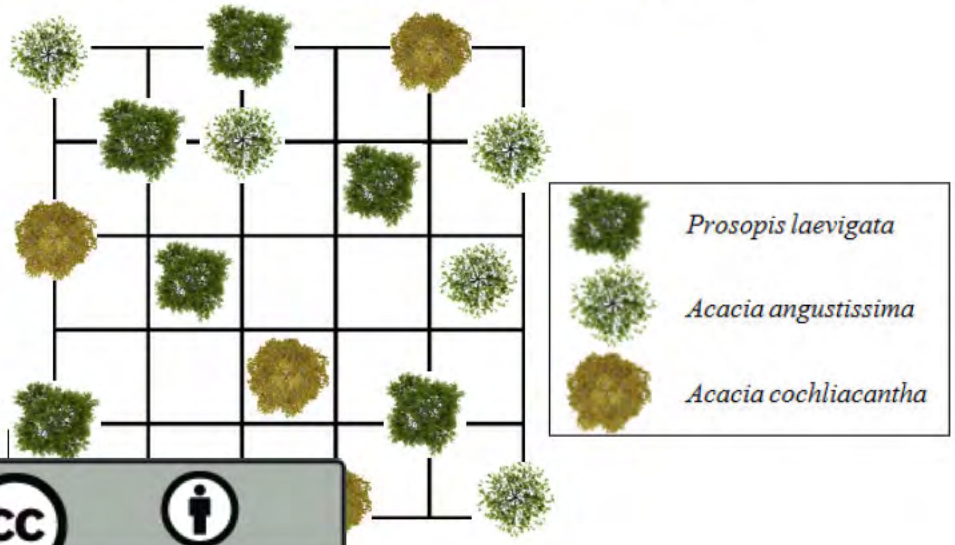
Case Study 3 – Mexico Restoration projects





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Sustainable Use & Income generation

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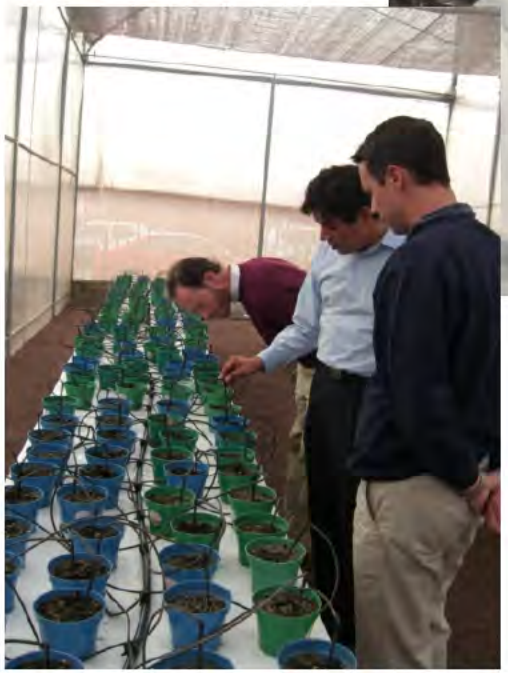
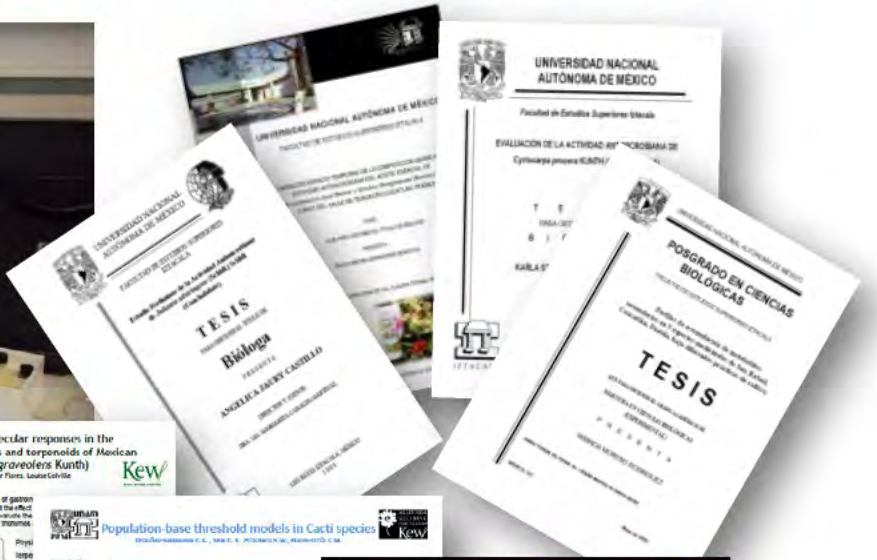
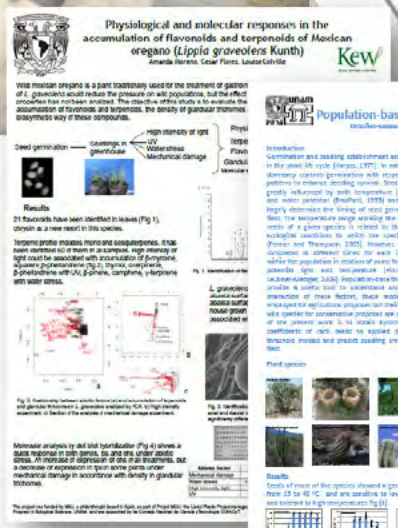
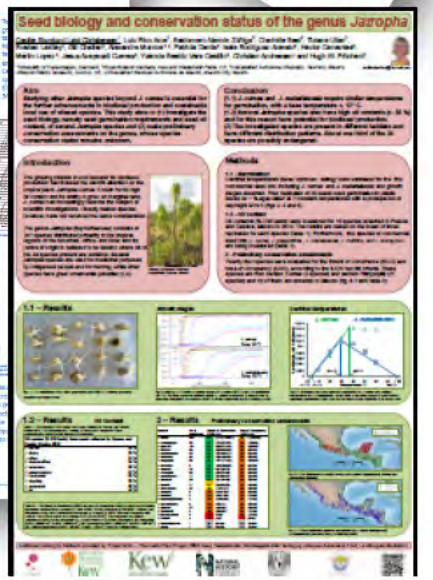
Research

ca. 170 useful species researched









Conclusions

This project has confirmed the potential of biodiversity conservation to:

- **improve food security and human health,**
- **enhance community livelihoods and**
- **strengthen the resilience of land and people to the changing climate.**

This approach of using indigenous species and having local communities play a central role may represent a model for other regions of the world, where similarly biodiversity conservation and restoration should be integrated with improved human wellbeing.

Acknowledgements

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