

Reconsideration of forests tree species composition to incorporate indigenous fruit/food trees species

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Abstract

The current forest policies and management practices have failed to address the issue of food contribution towards communities that live within and with-out the forest. This is seen in the current tree composition of most forests in the world, where emphasis is centred mostly on wood= timber benefits and climate mitigation. This paper looks at the initial co-existence of communities where food security, especially for children and adults, in Africa were addressed. Examples are: the Ongieks, Sangwets in Kenya, Pygmies in Congo among others who lived and fed in the forest non-destructively. The present Ongieks, Sangwets and Pygmies of our times can be likened to street children, unemployed youth, squatters and many landless people, who faced with same challenges are posing danger to the environment and economic stability of Nations and in particular Africa. Just like the one third gender rule, we propose that management legislature, in Kenya, be made to ensure that forest composition is all inclusive.