

Effect of Bark Harvest on Populations of the African Cherry (*Prunus africana*) in Cameroon

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The African cherry (*Prunus africana*) was once a common tree species on Mount Oku, Cameroon. In the early 1970s, its bark extract was found effective in treating enlarged prostates. I applied matrix models to assess bark harvest effects. Population growth rates for all sites were less than one, indicating population decline; lowest values were for harvested sites. However, values vary due to alternate year fruiting and seedling germination. Values of λ varied depending on whether trees were harvested during an “on” or “off” year. Results of harvest frequency simulations were equally variable. This study suggests the current harvest is unsustainable.