

1. PAUSINYTALIA YOHIMBE

Extent of adoption

Pausinytalia yohimbe is not found on farms. All the harvest is currently from wild populations, and this is unsustainable (Sunderland et al., 2004). Traders and healers have reported that the bark has become scarcer, with supplies becoming more unreliable and expensive (Sunderland et al., 1997).

Marketing

Most of the bark entering commercial trade comes from Cameroon, although there is interest in exploiting this species in Gabon and Equatorial Guinea (Sunderland et al., 2004). The available data suggest that the trade in this bark has increased over the last 2 decades. Thus, data from the company Plantecam indicate that they exported a total of 285.9 tonnes between 1985-1991 (Cunningham & Mbenkum, 1993), while in 1996 alone, they reportedly exported 120 tonnes (Sunderland et al., 1997, citing Simons, 1997). Similarly, data on the licensed harvesting of this species (Table 1) indicate an increase from 110 tonnes in 1989/90 to 250 tonnes in the following year. The most recent estimate for the export of *P. yohimbe* from Cameroon is from 1997/98, which was apparently a peak production year, when 715 tonnes were exported, worth over 382 million FCFA (about USD 600,000) (Sunderland et al., 2004, citing MINEF, 1999). Trade for local use has also shown an increase in recent years (Sunderland et al., 1997).

Table 1: Medicinal plants commercially licensed for exploitation (tonnes) from Cameroon between 1988-1991

Species	1988/89	1989/90	1990/91
Prunus Africana	726	1,024	1,121
Voacanga Africana	201	881	217
Pausinytalia Johimbe	0	110	250

Source: Sunderland et al 1997

Further reading

Hoare, A. (2007). The use of Non-timber Forest Products in the Congo Basin: Constraints and Opportunities. The Rainforest Foundation.

Sunderland, T.C et al (2004). Yohimbe (*Pausinystalia johimbe*) in Clark, L. and

Sunderland, T. (2004). The Key Non-Timber Forest Products of Central Africa: State of the Knowledge. Technical paper No.122, U.S. Agency for International Development.

Sunderland, T.C.H., Z. Tchoundjeu & M.L. Ngo- Mpeck. (2000). The exploitation of *Pausinystalia johimbe*. *Medicinal Plant Conservation* 6:22–3.

Sunderland, T.C. et al (1997) The Ethnobotany, Ecology and Natural Distribution of Yohimbe (*Pausinystalia johimbe* (K.Schum.)), an Evaluation of the Sustainability of Current Bark Harvesting Practices, and Recommendations for Domestication and Management. A Report Prepared for ICRAF.

Sunderland, T.C.H. & C. Obama (1999) A Preliminary Market Survey of The Non-Wood Forest Products of Equatorial Guinea. In: Sunderland, T.C.H., L.E. Clark & P. Vantomme (Eds.)