



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Sustainable utilisation of *Flagelleria guineensis*

The utilization of non-timber forest products is often seen as a means to alleviate poverty in rural areas and optimally utilising natural resources. Baseline data on standing crop biomass, productivity, or rates of harvest are usually unavailable, thus making it extremely difficult to attain the goal of sustainable use of the natural resources.

Flagelleria guineensis (Climbing Bamboo, Ugonothi) occurs naturally in the indigenous forests in the Wild Coast forest of Port St Johns, South Africa. The plant is commonly used for the making of baskets and similar woven products. It has been reported that approximately 14 metric tons of the plant was harvested during the period 1981-1989. Because of the high levels of utilisation of this plant, sustainability could be doubted. The Department therefore launched a study to investigate availability of this natural resource and measure the response of the species to harvesting. Furthermore, the study aims to determine the time the species takes to reach harvesting size after being subjected to harvesting practices.



***Flagelleria guineensis* in the indigenous forests in the Wild Coast forest of Port St Johns, South Africa**

One experimental and one control of 2m x 2m in size were established in 2006. Reproduction and regeneration of un-harvested and harvested material are observed and diameter growth is measured twice a year during the wet (November) and dry (April) seasons. Data analysis is in progress and an extensive report will be produced in the near future.



2m x 2m research plots 2m x 2m in size established in 2006

For more information please contact:

Mr. Sonwabile Menyelwa

Senior Scientist: Forestry Technical Information Services

E-mail: menyelwas@dwaf.gov.za

Tel: (043) 604 5439

Fax: 0866130280

Mobile: 0795136620