

Knowledge and Perceptions of Rural Communities on Wild Food Resources Consumption in Tanzania

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ABSTRACT The study used three villages in Western Usambara, Tanzania, as case studies to investigate the knowledge and perceptions of rural communities on consumption of wild-food resources. It was found that, in spite of the increasing loss of African indigenous knowledge among farming communities, there was still a strong connection between cultural identity and cuisine. Local wild-food resources contributed the taste, texture, and odour of traditional cuisine. There were also vital connections between gender and age. Women and adults knew more about wild-food resources because of their practical involvement in related practices. Women had a greater knowledge than men in wild-food gathering, preparation, and uses. Among the recommendations are: translocation of the rare wild-food species; communities working with development agencies to develop conservation and educational programmes; documentation of the local knowledge from the community perspective.