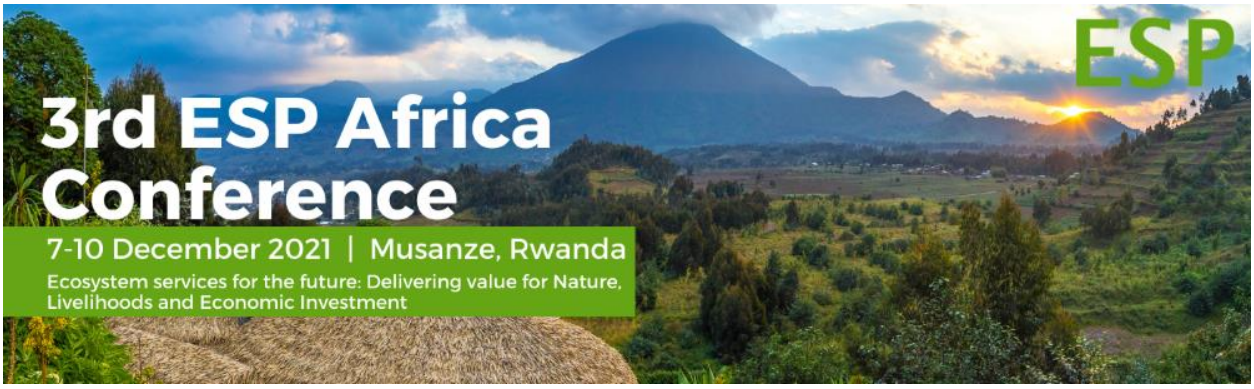


SESSION DESCRIPTION

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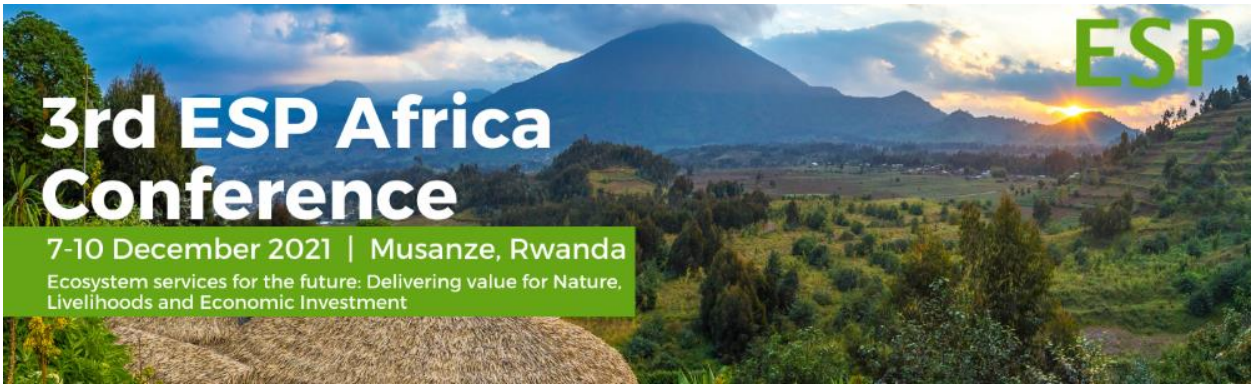
Neglected and Underutilized Plant Species and the Ecosystem Services in the Tropics: The Role of Local Knowledge

Hosts:

	Title	Name	Organisation	E-mail
Host:		Joshua Idassi	Empowering Africa Consulting Group, LLC.	jidassi@gmail.com
Co-hosts:		Philipina F. Shayo	Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology	shayop@nm-aist.ac.tz
		Osei Yobuah	North Carolina A&T State University	oyeboah@ncat.edu

Abstract:

Neglected and Underutilized Plant Species (NUPS) are those plant species that little attention is paid to their ecosystem services, socio-economic needs, and local knowledge of the indigenous population. NUPS are wild or semi-domesticated plant varieties and non-forest timber species adapted to a local ecosystem (Padulosi et al. 2013). The neglect by agronomic and forestry researchers, policymakers, genetic erosion, loss of local knowledge, markets, and climate change are major challenges to the sustainable management and use of NUPS. Many of these NUPS varieties along with a wealth of traditional knowledge about their management and use are disappearing at an alarming rate. Reversing the neglect, tackling these challenges, and ensuring that NUPS are conserved and used sustainably, means taking urgent action, and in this plenary session we will present strategic steps taken by our stakeholders showing the tremendous ecosystem services opportunities for fighting malnutrition, hunger, and poverty. This is the time to act for NUPS. The main aims of our session are to encourage collaboration in researching and outreach on local knowledge (using both qualitative and quantitative methods), promoting ecosystem services for NUPS, conserving, sustainably using NUPS, and coordinating activities and multi-stakeholder platforms across sectors. Finally, under the auspices of potential NUPS ecosystem system benefits, for our expected outcomes, we will put in place strategic frameworks that will utilize local knowledge and suggest financial incentives enhancing valuation tools showing how to optimize the net economic benefits of NUPS while



encouraging bio-diversification, and conservation against climate change. A list of success stories will be drafted and archived.

Keywords: Ecosystem services, traditional knowledge, stakeholders, financial incentives, poverty reduction, socio-economic needs, climate change, and sustainability.

Citation: Padulosi, S., Thompson, J., Rudebjer, P. 2013. Fighting poverty, hunger, and malnutrition with neglected and underutilized species (NUS): needs, challenges, and the way forward. Bioversity International, Rome.

Goals and objectives of the session:

The main goal of our session is to encourage and promote collaboration in research and outreach to gain knowledge of NUPS. Specific objective: 1. Conduct both qualitative and quantitative methods to promote ecosystem services for NUPS; 2. To assess the conservation and the sustainable utilization of NUPS, and 3. Coordinate activities and multi-stakeholder financial incentives to optimize the use of local knowledge and net economic benefits of NUPS to encourage bio-diversification, and conservation against climate change.

Planned output / Deliverables:

1. Local knowledge strategic framework

2. Financial incentives enhancing valuation tool

3. A drafted list of success stories

Voluntary contributions accepted:

Yes, I allow any abstract to be submitted to my session for review

Related to ESP Working Group/National Network:

Thematic working group: TWG 8 – Cultural services & Values