

# Cameroon National Indigenous Peoples Fellowship



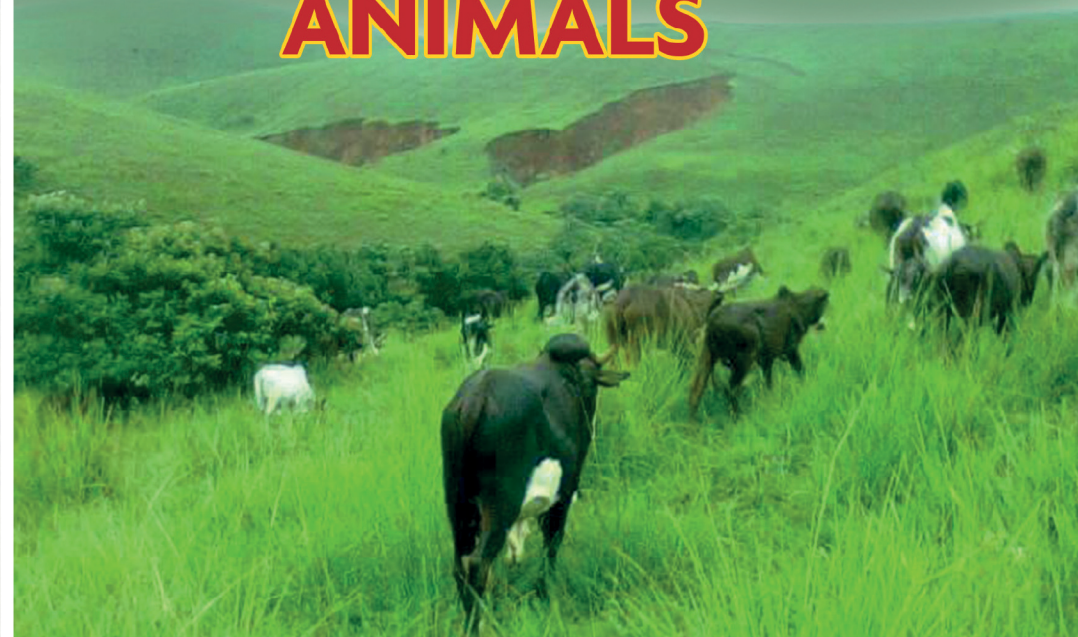
**SGP** The GEF  
Small Grants  
Programme  
CAMEROON



**EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FOR DEVELOPMENT**

**Project: N°: CMR/SGP/0P6/Y4/IPFellow/18/01**

## PLANTS TO SAFE ANIMALS



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# CONCLUSION

Plants and animals are so very much inter connected that we cannot separate them for each other. Documenting indigenous knowledge is one of the most important ways to preserve, valorize and transfer this knowledge to the next generation. As a result of the effects of Climate change, there has been a tremendous increase in the lost of plant species around the world therefore encouraging its domestication will help in land restoration and the protection of traditional knowledge through intergenerational knowledge exchange.

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# FORWARD

Modernization and development of conventional medicine to treat animals from the multiple diseases in recent years have resulted to the disappearance of traditional knowledge most especially among the youthful generation. In the past, ethno-veterinary medicines played an important role within the pastoral communities in Cameroon and around the world. These practices encouraged the domestication of plants to be used to treat animals, reducing financial expenses on the acquisition of conventional medicine to treat animals and equally protecting the environment. In an endeavor to protect traditional practices and indigenous knowledge, a list of some plants to treat animal diseases have been identified and documented in this booklet.

Due to the problems of climate change, migration of youth from the pastoral communities in order to search for better living conditions in the nearby cities and towns have resulted to the disappearance of some aspects of culture such as using plants to treat animal among the youthful population. Youth are less concerned about tradition which is an important aspect of the African culture. They depend more on conventional products to treat their cattle unlike it was the case in the past. Youth hardly know the use of ethno-veterinary medicine which is so much tied to culture in relation to animal treatment. This booklet will serve as a source of information to the present and future generations to master and understand how to use plants to treat animals, conserving biodiversity by domesticating plants to treat animals which has always been one of the greatest and most valued practices of the Mbororo pastoral communities.



**Name of plant:** Pawpaw plant

**Scientific Name:** Carica Papaya

**Parts used:** Pawpaw leaves and bark of tree

**Method of use:** Pound leaves and bark of tree, mix with salt and feed animal

It helps solves the problem of low milk production in cows



**Name in Fulfulde:** Jillahi

**Common name:** Sausage tree

**Scientific name:** khaya anthotheca

**Disease treated:** Brucellosis/ tuberculosis

**Method of use:** pound bark mix with salt and feed animals





**Name in Fulfulde:** Kahi  
**Local name:** Mahogany  
**Scientific name:** khaya anthotheca  
**Disease treated:** cough/weakness  
**Method of use:** Pound mix with salt and feed animal.



**Name in Fulani:** Goullahi  
**Disease treated:** Broncilosis (Bakaleh)  
**Method of use:** Pound and mix with salt and give animal to leak

## AKNOWLEDGEMENT

On behalf of the Indigenous Peoples of Cameroon I extend my profound gratitude and immeasurable appreciation to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme/United Nations Development Program for the constant support to the Indigenous peoples of Cameroon and around the world and in implementing the GEF SGP fellowship to support indigenous people in capacity building and at advocacy level.

I thank so very much Dr Marie-Laure Mpeck Nyemeck, the National Coordinator of Global Environment Facility GEF SGP Program Cameroon, I am blessed to have known and learn so much from her great leadership skills, a woman with a God's given sense of honor, great timing and dedication to hard work, for her constant support and mentorship in making my fellowship meaningful, impacting my personal and professional life in some profound ways.

I thank Mr. Kamga Fogué Aimé GEF Small Grants Program Assistant, a man of true value and great principles for his constant support, advice as well as words of encouragement in making not only this work a success but my entire fellowship program through constant coaching and mentoring.

To my family, I say thank you for always being by me to make sure I carry out this great responsibility entrusted on to me in order to increase my knowledge and serve humanity while respecting the rule of law.

My sincere appreciation goes to the Mbororo community of Bafia and Balamba in the Center region of Cameroon for their collaboration and participation in data collection, plants identification and the warm welcome given to me during my visit to this community. I thank Joro Souleman Lagoudi, the community leader of Balamba for his constant support and ceaseless phone calls to know the level of progress made so far and Mr Ismaila Surandi Buba for his great inputs and valued contribution.

### Published:

GEF Small Grants Program Cameroon  
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# INTRODUCTION

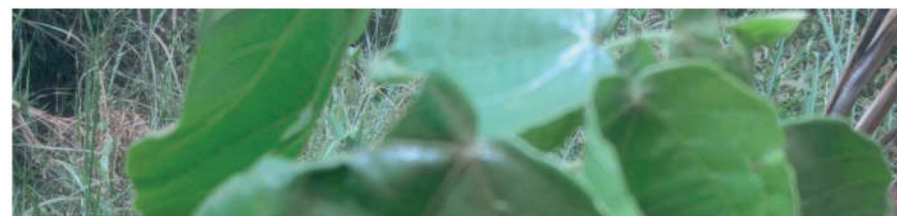
Within the Pastoral community of Cameroon, the Mbororo pastoralist are comprised of three migratory groups namely the Jafun'en, Aku'en and Wadabe who are about two million inhabitants (2,000 000) in number spread all over the national territory with a high concentration of the population in the Adamawa, Center, and North West region with cattle rearing as principal activity which is usually done by men while the activities of the women are to stay back at home and take care of the house. Today with technological development, traditional practices of using plants to treat animal diseases (cattle) which has always been an important practice within the Mbororo pastoral community has been disappearing among the present generation. This booklet titled "plants to save animals" will serve as a source of information to youth of the present and future generation to know various plants used to treat animals, learn how to use these plants, and equally protect the environment using these same plants. It should be noted that the uses mentioned in this collection are only the culture and the observations of the pastoral community, all these results are not scientifically proven. The domestication and usage of plants and barks to treat animals has kept the indigenous pastoral community alive to the present day.

## Importance of this booklet:

This booklet will serve as a guide for youth to acquire traditional knowledge (TK) on various animal ailments and the various treatments using plants, as well as preserving indigenous knowledge for the present and future generation.

## Benefits of using plants to treat animals

The use of plant to treat animals is valued and mostly preferred by pastoralist in animal treatment due to its less harmful nature and the absence of side effects in terms of usage. These plants are beneficial to grazers economically because they do not pay for these plants since most of them are found growing on natural vegetation with little or no human inputs in most communities. Environmentally, ethnoveterinary plants play a key



**Name in Fulfulde:** Bambamhi

**Parts used:** Bark and roots for placenta problem during birth

**Method of application:** squeeze and apply on animal's placenta after delivery



**Local name:** step grass

**Name in fulfulde:** Balbaldeh

**Usage:** Use to facilitate delivery in pregnant animals.

Pound stems in large quantity add water to the mixture, drain the thick green liquid Feed pre-



**Name in Fulfulde:** Boudoudi

**Parts used:** Leaves

**Disease treated:** skin infection (rashes and swollen skin)

**Method of application:** Pound leaves. Mix with palm oil and apply on affected areas



**Name in Fulfulde:** Karerehi

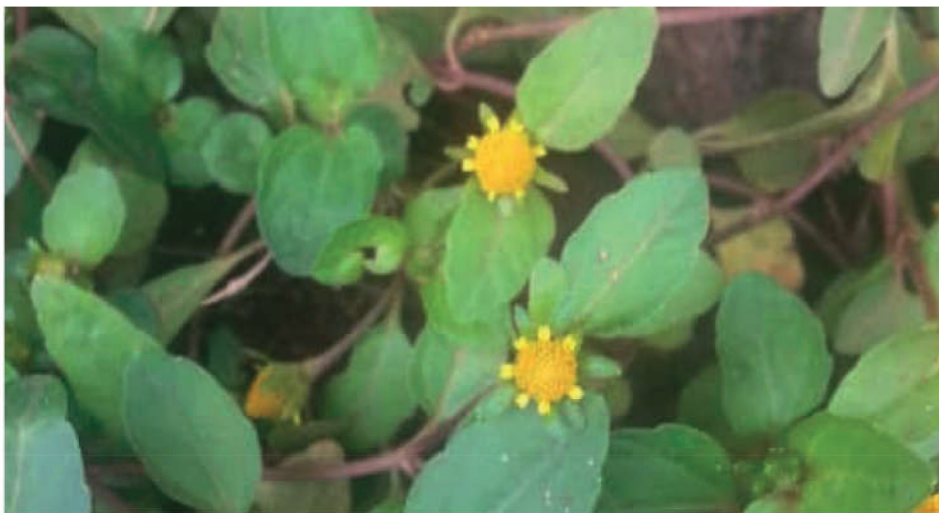
**Parts used:** bark of tree

**Disease treated:** Animal fever

**Method of application:**

Pound bark mix with salt and feed animal





**Local name:** chicken eye

**Disease treated:** cough in animals

**Method of use:** Grind leaves and flowers and mix in water, feed animals 2 times daily



**Plant used:** Maize stem

**Disease treated:** Swollen tongue in calves

**Method of use:** Burn stem mix the ashes with salt and apply on animal tongue

a key role in restoring degraded landscapes and carbon sequestration. Under conditions conducive to sustainable agriculture, they contribute to the improvement of soil fertility and prevent soil erosion. In addition, ethnoveterinary knowledge are often an important source of additional income to grazers due to its less expensive cost and availability within some pastoral communities.

### **Benefit of ethno-veterinary to safe animal in a developing country like Cameroon**

Livestock industry provides for a major source of livelihood for many people worldwide, particularly the pastoral communities in developing countries. Most of these communities live in marginal areas affected with animal diseases. These areas are not easily accessible to modern veterinary information and services and people are less economically powerful to coping with enormous animal health problems due so huge number of cattle by some individuals. The survival mechanisms and strategies are simply based on people's own local and inherent centuries knowledge that has withstood the test of time in all aspects of human evolutionary life. Any attempts to improve the lives of these people through livestock industry, must therefore begin by understanding and recognizing the evolution, application and management of ethnoveterinary medicine in their cultural lifestyle preserving traditional knowledge in a more sustainable way through documenting and knowledge sharing from one generation to the other. From the Cameroon context, the location of pastoral settlement is mostly found at the out skirts of towns where grazing land is available. Due to locational difficulties to access nearby cities, it this important to valorize traditional knowledge using available plants to treat animal ailment at an affordable rate.

This approach offers sustainable strategies directed towards developing sound and appropriate animal health care systems suitable and relevant to rural communities in improving livestock performance and production and hence, livelihood. Considering the environmental conservation and management strategies for achieving sustainability, availability, accessibility and affordability of existing plants .



# HISTORICAL LINE

Medicinal plants have a long history of usage in relation to traditional health care systems and numerous cultures around the world still rely on plants for their primary animal health care. Humans have used herbal remedies for curing different diseases in their domesticated animals since the advent of civilization. This ethnoveterinary medicine system is based on folk beliefs, traditional knowledge, skills and methods used for curing and maintaining health of livestock. Many rural populations use local herbal medicines for treatment of their domestic animals and the role of ethnoveterinary medicine in livestock development is beyond dispute. Traditional knowledge of ethnoveterinary medicine is of importance to pastoral and agro-pastoral communities since they rely heavily on livestock for their livelihood and for food security. This knowledge acquired through practical experience differs not only from region to region but also among communities which sometimes has been transmitted verbally across generations. It is not common to everyone in a community instead, only few individuals possess sound knowhow about these practices, thus it is threatened being in danger of extinction because of lack of interest in younger generation, besides advancement of the modern veterinary medicine. Ethnoveterinary practices are often cheap, safe, and based on local resources and strengths providing useful alternatives to conventional animal health care besides, these practices are much less prone to drug resistance and are ecofriendly than conventional medicine. Realizing valuable traditional knowledge about these practices is fast disappearing, the interest in documenting and validating ethnoveterinary practices began world over in early 1980s and has been focus of an increasing number of recent studies in India and other developing countries



**Local name:** Boodi

**Scientific name:** *Bridelia ferruginea*

**Method of use:** Boil barks, leaves, roots and feed calves. Use to treat worms among calves.



**Local name in Fulani:** Nyibe Mahkih

**Parts used:** Bark of the tree

**usage:** pound and mix with salt and give cattle to leak. Provides vitamins in cattle and increase of milk production.





**Local name in fulfulde:** Ndanhora

**Common name:** Yellow Tassel

**Scientific name:** Emilia coccinea

**Disease treated :** infected ear/rashes

**Method of use:** warm leaves and squeeze liquid into animal ears



**Name in Fulfulde:** Gaddal dorohji

**Parts used:** Leaves and bulb of plants

**Disease treated:** Refusing to breast feed calves

**Method of use:** pound leaves and bulbs of this plant, apply on the animal's udder

**Reaction :** causes itches to animal udder.

## Legend

- ▲ Site of collection
- Chief town of regions (10)

## Agro ecological zones of Cameroon

- Sahelian zone
- Soudano sahelian zone
- Soudano guinean zone
- Afro montain zone
- Congo guinean zone

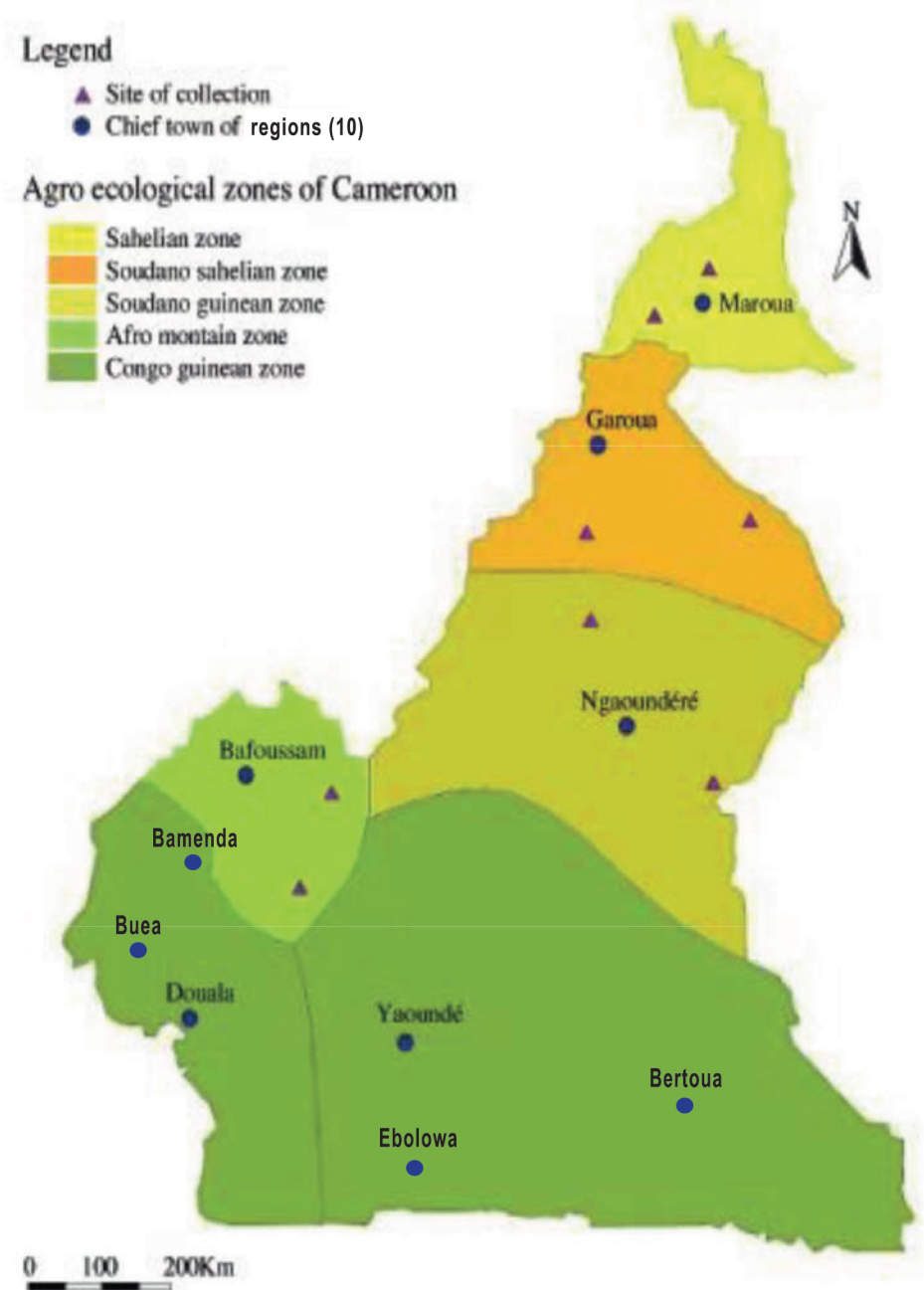


Figure 1: Agro ecological zones of Cameroon



# Plants and uses



**Local name:** Dalhi.  
**English name.** palm  
 Used to treat broken animal bones  
**Method of use:** Boil leaves and flowers feed animal 2 times daily



**Local names in Fulani:**  
 Boumihi  
 Use for fattening animals,  
**Method of use:** Pound bark of the tree and mix with salt feed animals regularly.



**Name in Fulfulde:**  
 Bakourehi nyoldeh  
**Parts used:**  
 Bark of plant and roots  
**Method of use:**  
 Boil and feed calves.  
 Scabies and body rashes  
 (Sahnicohjeh in Fulani)



**Local Name:** Gadalbodi  
**Parts used:** leaves and bulbs of plants  
**Disease treated:** snake bite  
**Method of use:** Pound leaves and bulbs of plant, add more water and give animal to drink. Apply some on the affected area.



**Common name:** Better leaves  
**Scientific names:** Vernonia amygdalina  
**Parts used:** leaves  
**Disease treated:** worms in animal  
**Method of use:** Pound leaves, sieve and feed animals



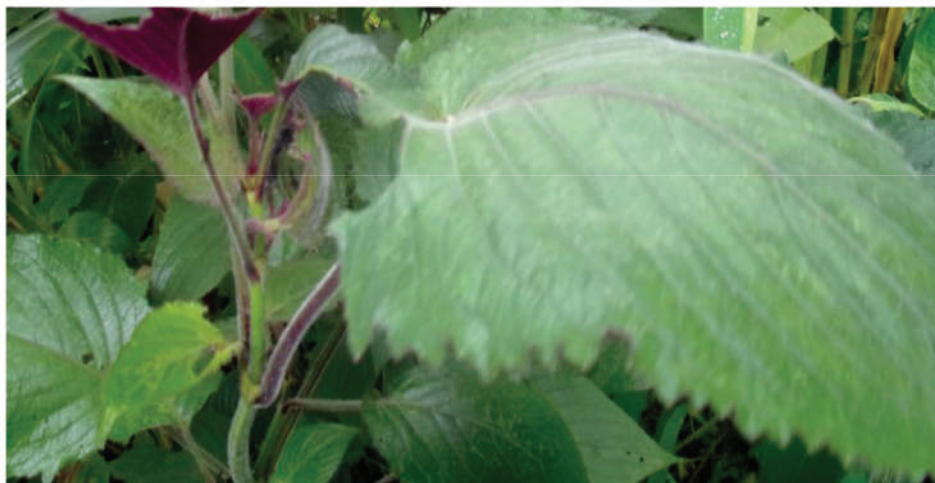


**Local names :** Hakosaboulou

**Common name :** Sweedish bitter leaves

**Disease treated :** Running stomach

**Method of use:** Mix leaves with guava leaves, pound and feed animal



**Name in fulfulde:** Hako Ngyi ngyam

**Parts of plant used:** leaves

**Disease treated :** Weakness/ tiredness in animal (unable to stand)

**Method of use :** Boil leaves in a large quantity and feed animal

## Anti Poison



**Names:** palm nuts

**Scientific names:** Elaeis Guineensis

**Parts used:** oil obtained from nuts (palm oil)

**Use:** To treat animals from chemical/poisoning (Anti poison)

Use oil obtained from nuts (palm oil) to feed animals when any sign of poisoning is noticed





**Name in Fulfulde:** Colacolahi

**Name in English:** Castor plant

**Scientific name:** Ricinus communis

**Common name:** castor bean

**Disease treated:** Lactation

**Method of use:** pound leaves, Mix with salt and feed cattle



**Name in Fulfuldeh:** Giteh Nai.

**Disease treated:** Rashes and scabies in animals

**Method of application:** Burn and Pound seeds, mix with palm oil and apply on affected areas



**Name in English:** African flagella

**Scientific Name:** Euphorbia hirta

**Disease Treated:** Lactation

**Method of use :** Grand plant and mix with water and feed animal 2 times daily



**Name in fulfulde :** Bohvogolhi

**Common Name :** Mexican tea

**Scientific name :** Chinopodium ambrosoide

**Disease treated :** Hemorrhagic septicemia

**Method of use :** Pound leaves and roots burn and make animal inhale the smoke