



Woodmark Non-timber forest product (NTFP) Standard & Checklist for *Adansonia digitata* - Baobab

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Approved by ASI 5 June 2014

1 Principles

- 1.1 The harvesting and collection of NTFP is often of vital importance to local communities and economies, and so is central to the conservation of the forest resource. Maintenance of the ecological conditions required to ensure sustainable and healthy populations of the species from which non-timber products are harvested provides diversity within the forest. This standard is designed to ensure that non-timber forest products are managed to optimise the social, environmental and economic sustainability of the resource.
- 1.2 The sustainability of NTFP collection and harvesting is intimately linked to the sustainability of management of the forest in which the NTFP occurs. It is therefore essential that forests from which NTFPs are harvested are themselves sustainably managed.

2 Introduction to the standard

- 2.1 The collection or harvesting of non-timber forest products (excluding animal products) from managed forests may be considered an organic production method provided it has been subject to the conditions set out in this standard.

This standard does not consider bee products, which are addressed separately in the Soil Association Basic Organic Standards.

This standard does not address animal husbandry, which is addressed in the Soil Association Basic Organic Standards.

- 2.2 The standard is based on the Soil Association Wild Harvesting Standard. However, the Wild Harvesting Standard (Revision 17.1, February 2014) applies to the collection of plants in wild situations. This standard also applies to the collection or harvesting of products from managed forests and plantations.

This standard covers a wide range of products, geographical areas and conditions and is therefore quite general. More specific requirements for specific areas, species, etc may be developed on a case by case basis.

- 2.3 The standard has been designed to meet the requirements of IFOAM and FSC. Soil Association is accredited to provide certification to both FSC and organic status and joint certification can be arranged, if requested. In this case the evaluation will conform with both FSC and organic inspection arrangements.

- 2.4 When used to carry out certification for FSC status, the forest area must be evaluated against the FSC Principles and Criteria in addition to this non-timber forest product standard.

In applying the FSC Principles and Criteria to NTFPs certification bodies may consider it useful to substitute the phrase “resource management” for “forest management”.

- 2.5 When used to carry out certification for organic status, the forest area must be evaluated against the Soil Association Organic Forestry Standard in addition to this non-timber forest product standard.

3 The Standard	
1 General Requirements	Notes/Observations
1.1. Operators must ensure that the harvesting of <i>Adansonia digitata</i> is in conformity with all local, national and international legislation and action plans, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).	
1.2 Legal ownership (or tenure) of the land where harvesting/collection of <i>Adansonia digitata</i> is taking place can be proved and is not subject to dispute.	
1.3 If collection/harvesting of is taking place on state land the custodian rights should be respected and the local custodianship of the resources should be promoted	In most countries, NTFPs are commonly harvested from land to which there is no legal title – i.e it is under customary (or state) title. E.g. in Cameroon, the vast majority of land has no legal title from government
1.4. Managers should seek all approvals from customary authorities, as well as statutory/government regulatory bodies as appropriate	In Kenya utilization of plants is governed by environmental laws and the operator must obtain licenses from NEMA and KEPHIS before large scale harvesting
1.5 A map is available clearly showing legal boundaries of the land where harvesting/collection of <i>Adansonia digitata</i> is taking place	
1.6 A Management Plan must be established, documented and maintained sufficient to ensure and to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of these standards. The plan must be reviewed on an annual basis.	
1.7 The management plan must address the following: 1) A general evaluation of the ecological and social impact of harvesting of the NTFP 2) A description of the type of products being harvested (i.e. fruits, bark, leaves) 3) Maps of all harvesting areas	

<p>4) A baseline assessment of the NTFP resources</p> <p>5) An explanation and justification of the expected annual yield of the NTFP</p> <p>6) Policies and procedures for harvesting operations</p> <p>7) Hygiene and food safety</p> <p>8) Provision of training to all people involved in the implementation of the plan</p> <p>9) Procedures for post harvest monitoring of the impacts of harvesting Policies and procedures for processing, packing and sales of the NTFPs</p> <p>Each of these aspects of the management plan is addressed in more details in the sections below.</p>	
2 Evaluation of ecological and social impacts of harvesting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
<p>2.1 An evaluation of the ecological impacts of harvesting must be completed and must include::</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential impacts of harvesting/collection of <i>Adansonia digitata</i> on the biodiversity in the sourcing areas. <p><i>The evaluation should include consideration of potential for damage to neighbouring species, especially rare or threatened species. Particular care must be taken with those species that grow together in a symbiotic relationship or are otherwise dependent on each other or where similar species are growing in close proximity.</i></p>	<p>Baobab tree is a whole ecosystem in itself and it might therefore be important to evaluate live forms that inhabit the tree as a baseline knowledge assessment (e.g. common species include bats, fungi – including edible types, moths, primates and birds). However small operators are unlikely to be able to provide such information as this involves considerable amount of financial and human resources. But as a minimum an evaluation of the impact of the activities on the sourcing area is required</p>
<p>2.2 An evaluation of the ecological impacts of harvesting must be completed and must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impacts of harvesting on the growth and regeneration of <i>Adansonia digitata</i>. In the absence of reliable information on growth and regeneration for <i>Adansonia digitata</i> there is a programme in place to collect detailed information for future management. 	
<p>2.3 In the absence of reliable information on growth and regeneration for <i>Adansonia digitata</i> a precautionary approach is used to evaluate the harvesting yield</p>	
<p>2.4 An evaluation of the social impact of harvesting must be completed and must include :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An evaluation of the local uses of <i>Adansonia digitata</i> and the type of location concerned with harvesting 	<p>Local use might include medicinal usage, food, crafts, etc.</p> <p>Type of location might include around individual dwellings, in villages or in the bush</p>

3 Maps	
3.1 Maps of all harvesting areas are available and must include the location of the trees targeted for harvesting , must be up to date and at an appropriate scale.	Maps might include location of designated racks and collecting points when appropriate.
4 Sustained yield	
4.1 The proposed level of harvesting must be specified which is based on an assessment of the production in the sourcing area, prior to the harvesting.	A practical way to evaluate fruit productions will be to determine the size of fruit production at the beginning of each season for the sourcing area, and to then set a quota, eg 10% or 20% to be harvested. Size of production is determined by number of trees/ha and number of fruit/tree. Population size structure assessment (trees/ha) only needs to be done every 20 - 50 years, unless there is very high adult tree mortality, Fruit production assessment needs to be done annually as fruit production is variable and dependent on rainfall.
4.2 The long term impact of the proposed level of <i>harvesting on the population of Adansonia digitata</i> must be evaluated. Particular attention should be given to the impact on natural regeneration of the targeted species.	
5 Policies and procedures for harvesting operations	
5.1 Policies and procedures for harvesting operations must be documented, and must include appropriate controls relating to: a) Times/seasons during which harvesting is permitted b) Areas in which harvesting is permitted, location and number of trees targeted for harvesting in the sourcing area c) Approved harvesting techniques d) Quantities to be harvested e) uality of products harvested f) Skills of operators involved in harvesting	
5.2 Policies must ensure that: a) The population of the target species will be maintained in the long term b) The quality of the NTFP resource is maintained in the long term; c) The biodiversity in the sourcing area is minimally affected. d) The surrounding areas are not damaged through careless access or other activities associated with	Maintaining the quality of the NTFP resource as indicated under b) applies particularly to bark or root harvesting where quality is dependent on how much was harvested in the previous season

<p>the operation.</p> <p><i>Policies and procedures must be approved by SA Cert before harvesting commences.</i></p> <p><i>Any variations in the harvesting plan must be noted and approved. If it is felt that the harvest will exceed the sustainable (or agreed) yield, then this must be notified to and approval sought from the Certification Body.</i></p>	
<p>5.3 Chemicals are used only in minimum effective quantities, with strict observation of controls and regulations.</p>	
<p>5.4 A procedure is in place to develop and adopt environmentally friendly non-chemical methods</p>	
<p>5.5 Procedures are in place to record all use of synthetic chemicals by the forest management enterprise Records of chemical use include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Name of the product b) Location of the site treated; c) Area of the site treated; d) Method of application; e) Date chemical use started; f) Date chemical use finished; g) Total quantity of the chemical used; 	
<p>5.6 Chemicals classified as Highly Hazardous by FSC shall not be used.</p>	
<p>5.7 Collection/harvesting must be carried out at appropriate times of the year so as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maximise the effective use of the plant resource • To minimise environmental impact • To ensure the harvestable parts are fully mature. 	
<p>5.8 Collection/harvesting must be restricted to selected trees <i>If plants reproduce by seed or spore, sufficient plants must be left to mature, i.e. to reach reproductive age and/ or to produce seed or spore. For example: wild ginseng (Panax quinquefolius) produces seed after it grows its third prong/ leaf, which happens at the earliest at five years. Therefore harvesting the root of plants under five years would be prohibited. If plants reproduced by bulbs or corms, sufficient numbers must be left to sustain the species in the collection area.</i></p>	
<p>5.9 The areas used for collecting/harvesting must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) be identifiable in the field; b) have received no treatments with products other than 	

<p>those permitted in these Standards for a period of three years before the collecting/harvesting operation;</p> <p>c) be a minimum of 10 m from areas subject to conventional farming or areas sprayed with products not permitted in these Standards;</p> <p>d) be a minimum of 50 m from motorways and dual carriageways, 25 m from other major roads, 10m from minor roads;</p> <p>e) be at an appropriate distance from other sources of pollution and contamination.</p>	
6 Management	
6.1 The person, organization or institution with defined authority and responsibility to implement and maintain the management plan must be identified	
6.2 The person, organization or institution responsible for the management must collaborate and work in conjunction with, local community/producer groups	
6.3 The manager of the harvesting operation must: <p>a) be clearly identified and be familiar with the collecting area in question;</p> <p>b) have written authorisation for harvesting of <i>Adansonia digitata</i> from local and/or national regulatory bodies or other authorities where applicable;</p> <p>c) ensure that there is co-operation and co-ordination with any other collecting/harvesting activities in the area concerned;</p> <p>d) have a signed contract with the collectors/harvesters or their representatives (e.g. community representative, chief, etc.), including an agreement as to what is being harvested and how this is to be carried out.</p>	
6.4 There must be a register of all personnel involved in the collecting/harvesting operations; <p><i>This should list the groups/organisations of collectors/harvesters together with their management structures and responsible persons.</i></p>	
6.5 Each harvesting operator must work to a written 'harvesting plan' which details the sourcing area, the number and location of trees targeted for harvesting, the timing and other aspects of harvesting for that operator.	
6.6 Managers must provide harvesters with acceptable pay and conditions.	
7 Health & Safety for collection/harvesting operation	
7.1 The manager of the harvesting is familiar with relevant	

health and safety guidelines related to the harvesting of <i>Adansonia digitata</i>	
7.2 The manager of the harvesting has assessed the risk to personnel involved in the collecting/harvesting operations, and has taken measures to reduce or eliminate such risks.	
7.3 Safety training is carried out, relevant to the tasks of the personnel and the equipment used.	
7.4 Workers are provided with safety equipment, relevant to their tasks and to the equipment used	
8 Hygiene and Food Safety	
8.1 Operators shall identify any potential risk associated with with food borne diseases and develop appropriate Health & Safety guidelines to mitigate such risk.	
8.2 There must be documented procedures which ensure that collectors/harvesters who have contracted any food borne diseases do not take part in collecting activities during that illness.	
8.3 There must be hygiene procedures which ensure that all equipment used is clean and free from remnants of previously harvested plants;	
8.4 There must be procedures for taking samples of harvested materials at processing level and for recording and storing them;	
9 Training	
9.1 All people involved in the implementation of the management plan must receive appropriate training or have appropriate qualifications	
9.2 There must be a training programme for all collectors/harvesters, to include: a) plant and species identification, b) life cycle of plants, c) harvesting d) hygiene, e) food safety (where appropriate); f) Regeneration techniques (where appropriate) g) Chemical usage and application	
9.3 The management plan must include a description of the training provided to all people involved in the implementation of the plan	
9.4 Where these standards cannot be adhered to, justification must be given within the plans submitted	

which will be considered on a case by case basis.	
10 Procedures for post harvest monitoring of the impacts of harvesting	
10.1 Procedures for appropriate and on going monitoring of the collecting/harvesting operations to ensure the protection of the sourcing area and the sustainability of the <i>Adansonia digitata</i> trees on this area. .	
10.2 Yields of <i>Adansonia digitata</i> harvested are recorded. This should include the quantity of fruits collected per tree (kg of fruit/harvesting season/per tree) and the total number of trees harvested in the sourcing area	
10.3 In the absence of reliable information on growth and regeneration for <i>Adansonia digitata</i> there is a programme in place to collect detailed information for future management.	
11 Policies and procedures for the processing, packing and sales of the NTFP	
11.1 The processing, packaging and labelling of non-timber forest products to be sold as organic must conform to all the relevant sections of the Soil Association Basic Organic Standards, including inspection arrangements. <i>This includes post harvest treatment, storage, transport, extraction, processing. Ref. to standards.</i>	
11.2 The processing, packaging and labelling of non-timber forest products to be sold as FSC-certified must conform to all the relevant requirements of FSC chain of custody certification, including inspection arrangements.	
11.3 Samples of each batch harvested must be taken and retained and recorded to ensure that they are fully traceable. <i>Size of batch on which samples are to be kept will depend upon scale, length off harvesting, operation, etc. Due diligence must be proven.</i>	
11.4 The specification of a <i>batch</i> should be defined in the Management Plan and should be appropriate to the quantities being harvested, the nature, duration and diversity of the harvesting operation.	
11.5 There must be a record keeping system sufficient to maintain traceability from harvest to point of sale.	