

CONTACTS

For more information, contact:

The Research Innovation and Industrialisation Directorate

Office of the Vice Chancellor, University of Zimbabwe

Phone: +263 242 303211 Ext. 11242/

Direct: 0242 333 676

Email: research@admin.uz.ac.zw

Website: www.uz.ac.zw



COP28
UAE



UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE

LEANING TOWARDS NATURE:

Leveraging on
Non-Timber Forest Products
for Community Resilience
to Climate Change

Leaning towards Nature: Leveraging on Non-Timber Forest Products for Community Resilience to Climate Change

As part of the Government of Zimbabwe's considerable efforts towards zero emissions and empowering communities to build climate resilient food systems and sustainable livelihoods, the University of Zimbabwe has initiated a project to explore the potential of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in search of heritage-based solutions that can be amplified through science, technology and innovation.

The overall purpose of the project is to promote the protection of indigenous forests for carbon sequestration and empowering of communities by value adding the locally available fruits.

By harnessing the potential of NTFPs, particularly the ubiquitous indigenous fruits of Africa, the University of Zimbabwe has developed innovative food products from Mazhanje or Mashuku fruit from a drought-tolerant tree species, *Uapaca Kirkiana*, prevalent in Zimbabwe's Miombo woodlands. The products notably include:



1. **Mixed Fruit Jam:** A delectable spread that captures the essence of Zimbabwe's natural flavors.
2. **Maheu:** A traditional African beverage, revitalized with the goodness of Mazhanje fruit.
3. **Pulpy Juice:** A refreshing and nutritious drink, packed with the vitamins and minerals of Mazhanje fruit.
4. **Cookies:** A delightful treat that combines the wholesome goodness of Mazhanje fruit with the irresistible taste of cookies.



Call to Action:

This initiative not only provides economic opportunities for communities in a changing climate, but also promotes biodiversity conservation and sustainable environmental management practices.

By utilizing NTFPs, the programme promotes afforestation of valuable tree species and reduction in cutting down of trees, contributing to carbon sequestration and the preservation of Zimbabwe's precious forests. This aligns with the global movement towards net-zero emissions by 2050, ensuring a sustainable future for both

the environment and local communities.

Join the Government of Zimbabwe in empowering communities and preserving the environment through sustainable utilization of non-timber forest products. Access to reliable and adequate financial resources will enable collaborative research, co-generation of innovations and technologies, co-development of new product markets, potentially reaching millions in communities facing climate-related risks.