



White Star Apple *Gambeya albida*

Adewale G. Awoyemi

June 2025

Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Ericales	Sapotaceae

Taxon Name: *Gambeya albida* (G.Don) Aubrév. & Pellegr.

Synonym(s):

- *Chrysophyllum albidum* G.Don

Common Name(s):

- English: White Star Apple

Taxonomic Source(s):

WCSP. 2019. World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. Available at:
<https://wcsp.science.kew.org/home.do>.



White star apple (English), Agbalumo (Yoruba), Udara (Igbo), Otien (Edo), Agwaliba (Hausa)

Ecology

- Woody species with a dominant canopy growing up to 45 m
- Adapted to lowland rainforests and riverine forests (covering up to 4m km)
- 3-5 seeded fleshy fruits (brownish-orange upon ripening)
- Fruiting time: February – April



Distribution



NATIVE

Extant (resident)

Benin; Burundi; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Congo;
Congo, The Democratic Republic of the; Côte d'Ivoire;
Equatorial Guinea; Gabon; Ghana; Guinea; Kenya; Liberia;
Nigeria; Sao Tome and Principe; South Sudan; Tanzania,
United Republic of; Togo; Uganda

Uses

- Fruits are eaten raw or fermented into a drink
- Important commercial crop in Nigeria
- Leaves are occasionally used for fodder
- Fruits, leaves, seeds, roots and bark are used for medicinal purposes
- Commonly used for furniture workshops in Kampala District of Uganda

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Main

threats

- Over-exploitation
 - Deforestation
 - Clearance for farming and plantations
- Urbanization

Conservation status



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Conservation actions



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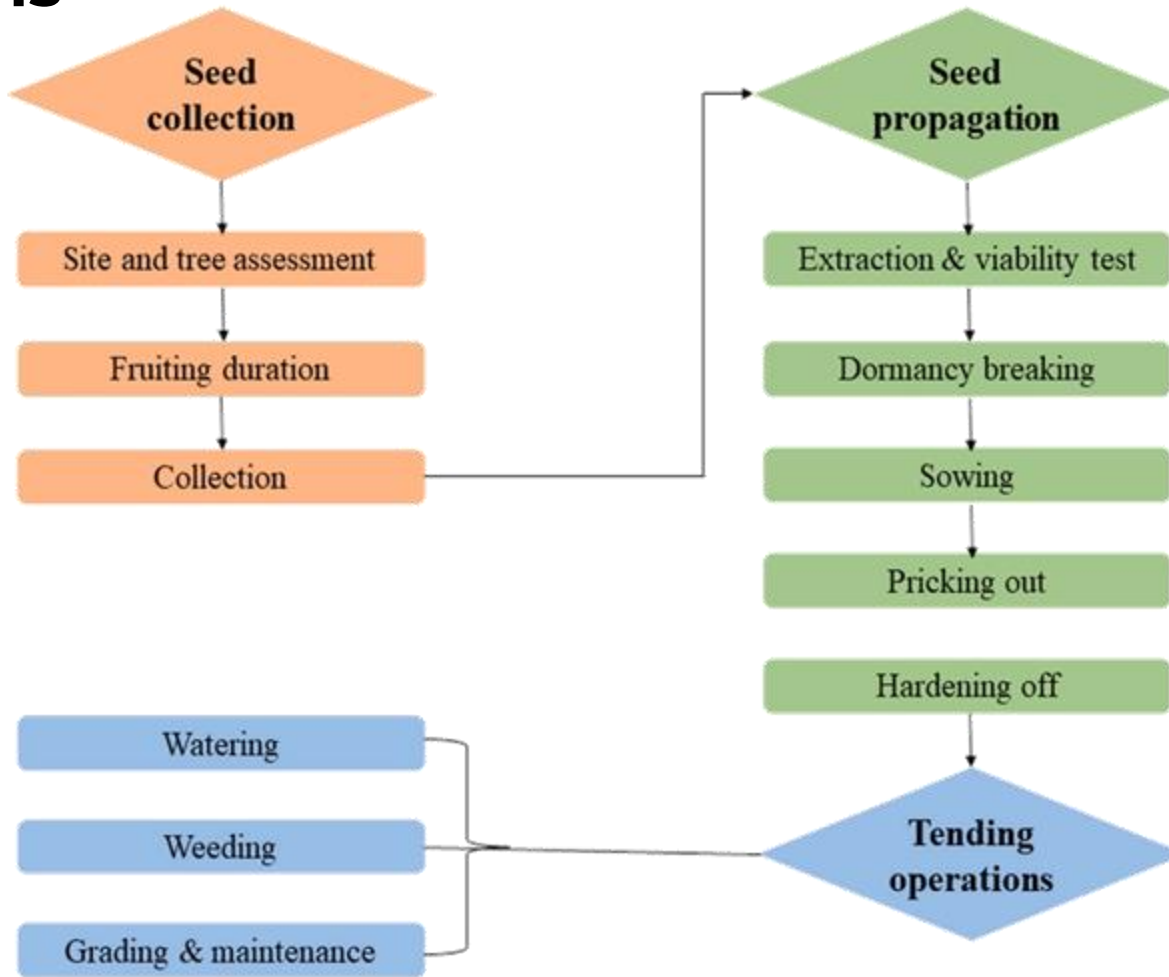
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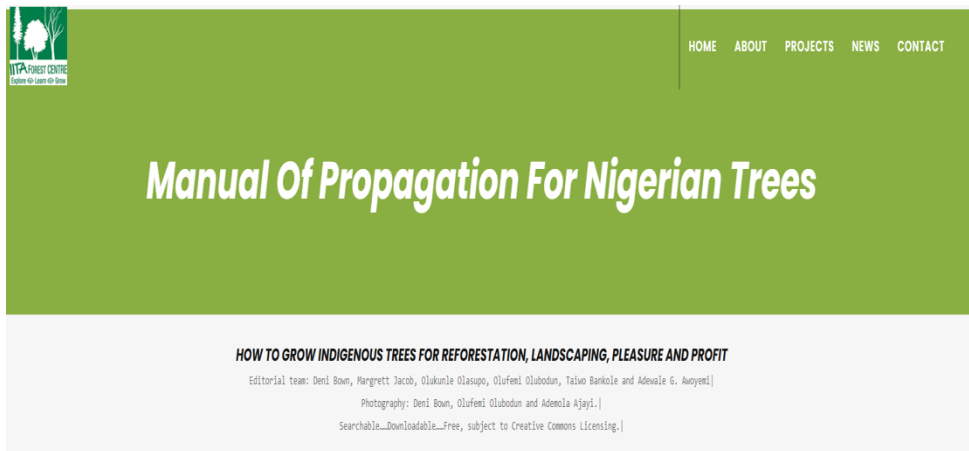
Prioritising and protecting Nigeria's threatened trees



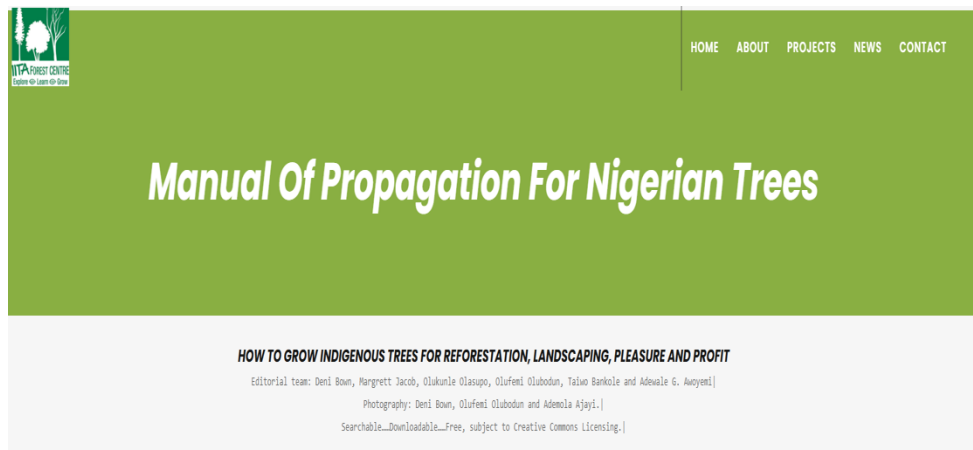
Conservation actions



Conservation actions



Conservation actions



Assessing project impacts

Societal Impacts 4 (2024) 100067



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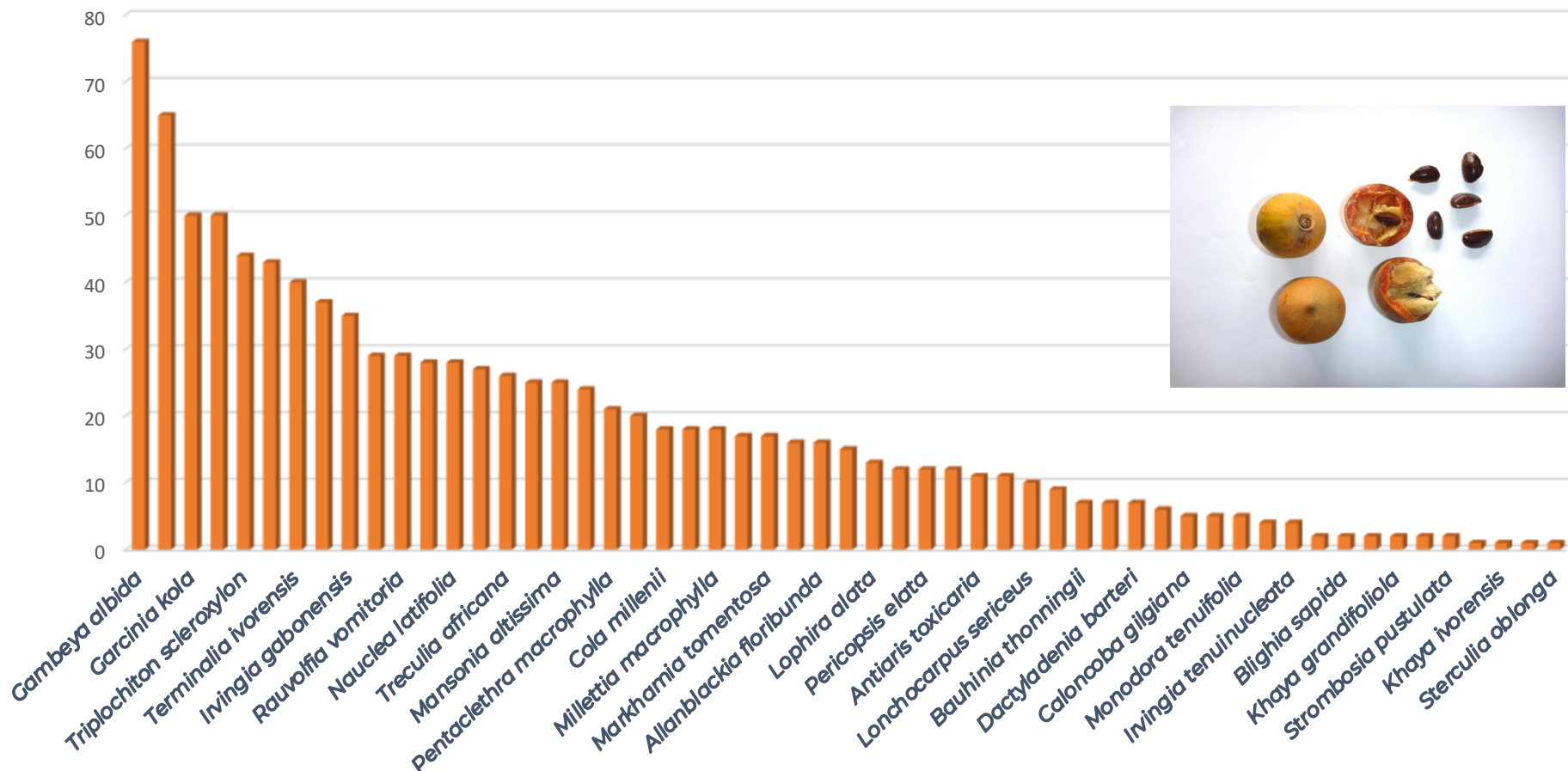
Think globally and act locally: Assessing the environmental impacts of the Nigerian threatened native trees project

Adewale G. Awoyemi^{*}, Olukunle E. Olasupo, Ademola D. Ajayi, Deni Bown

Forest Center, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Ibadan, Nigeria

Assessing project impacts

Number of downloads of the Manual of Tree Propagation for 55 native tree species



Assessing project

Table 2

Number of downloads of the Manual of Tree Propagation across countries. The data were extracted from the project website (<https://forestcenter.iita.org/index.php/manual-tree-propagation/>) using Google Analytics, 1 January 2018—31 July 2023.

S/N	Country	Number of downloads
1	Nigeria	693
2	Finland	58
3	Ghana	44
4	United Kingdom	26
5	Benin Republic	26
6	Cameroon	25
7	Côte d'Ivoire	24
8	Democratic Republic of the Congo	23
9	Uganda	21
10	India	15
11	Germany	14
12	Guyana	14
13	New Zealand	14
14	United States	13
15	Indonesia	3
	Total	1013



Now that white star apple is in high demand for propagation, what role can genomic studies play in unlocking its potential?

Let's explore the possibilities together in this workshop!

Thank you for listening!

