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Sustainable Use of Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Species - Assessment of Case Studies -

Rainer Schliep

Consultant to WWF Germany and TRAFFIC Europe-Germany



Using Plant Diversity Sustainably

- Implementation of EPCS, Target 3.1:
 - “Best practice for the conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants (...) identified and promoted to relevant policy makers
 - By **2004**: **Evaluation of case studies** and other relevant information completed (...)”
- Support of the **development of internationally applicable standards and criteria** for the sustainable sourcing of MAPs from the wild
- Support of the **implementation of management approaches** for the sustainable sourcing of MAPs on the ground



Ecosystem Approach to the Management of MAP Resources

- Ecosystem Approach - framework for action under the CBD (COP-5, Dec. V/6)
 - Humans as integral component of ecosystems
 - Mutual dependency of people and environment
- Sustainable development = both human and ecosystem conditions satisfactory or improving

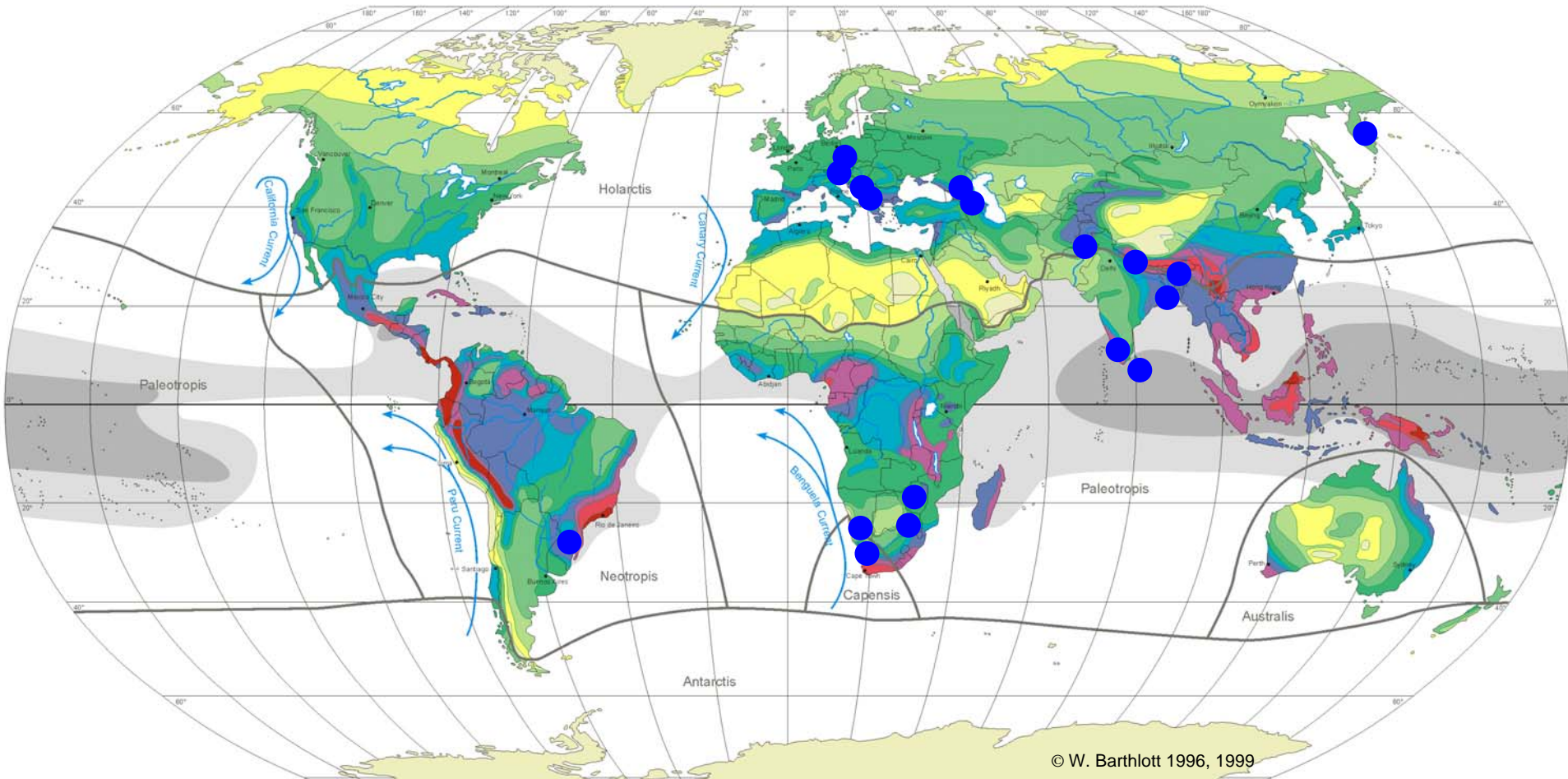


Methodology of Assessment

- Assessment of available publications
- Web search
- ➔ **List of 70 projects**
- Selection of projects integrating ecological, economic and socio-cultural aspects
- Distribution of questionnaire, interviews
- ➔ **Project descriptions (vertical assessment)**
- ➔ **Analysis of answers (horizontal assessment)**
- ➔ **Categorisation of projects**

Assessed Projects

Underlying map: Global Biodiversity – species numbers of vascular plants



Questionnaire

...covering 41 questions on:

- General project setting
- Social aspects
- Economic aspects
- Ecological aspects
- Communication and capacity building
- Institutional and legal aspects



Limitations to the Methodology

European bias of the assessment:

- Language
- Limited time
- Assessed material
- Background of interview partners
- Background of case studies



Some general results:

- Influence of MAP sourcing on utilised ecosystems is judged by the projects **mainly as positive**
- **No clear gender trend** regarding harvesters
- **No regional trends** regarding social, economic or ecological setting of the case studies



The majority of the projects:

- ...defines **economical aims** in project vision
- ...runs **short-term** (< 5 years)
- ...is implemented in **poor communities**
- ...operates on **common property**
- ...shows **weak societal organisation**
- ...established **monitoring schemes**
- ...disposes of **traditional knowledge** on res. base



Systematisation of Case Studies

- Development continuum?
 - Improving profit means in most cases intensification of MAP management
 - ➔ often contradictory to conservation issues
 - Projects depend on regional and national economic conditions
- Proposed systematisation of case studies:
 1. Traditional systems
 2. Subsistence level strategy
 3. Additional income strategy
 4. MAP focused strategy

Belcher et al. (2003) and Kusters & Belcher (2004)



Traditional Systems

Case studies: Dolpo/Nepal, Karnataka/India

- Intact or just slightly altered traditional management schemes
- Traditional health-care systems
- Intact communal organisation
- MAP sourcing for traditional health-care system
- ➔ Revitalisation through support of existing communal structures, establishment of phyto-botanical gardens
- ➔ Research on sourcing methodology and on portability of approach



Subsistence Level Strategy

Case studies: SHDC/Namibia, Sizamimphilo Bark Harvesters Association/Rep. South Africa

- Restricted livelihood options, poverty, lacking traditional knowledge, weak communal organisation, freeriding
- MAP harvesting introduced as poverty alleviation strategy
- Low-value-production for mostly external consumption (regional, national, international)
- Research on carrying capacities, harvesting methods; development of management schemes etc.
- Development of durable cooperative institutions, establishment of regulations for legal and controlled access

Not always possible to fully reconcile development and conservation goals!



Additional Income Strategy

Case studies: WWF Caucasus, Tulimara/Zimbabwe

- Some traditional harvesting techniques, weak communal organisation, freeriding
- Higher-value-production for mostly external consumption (national, international)
- ➔ Improvement of management schemes
- ➔ Development and establishment of monitoring systems
- ➔ Consideration of the applicability of certification schemes
- ➔ Support of cooperative institutions, establishment of regulations for legal and controlled access



MAP Focused Strategy

Case study: CUNA Georgica

- MAP sourcing main source of income, only limited options for agriculture
- High-value-production for external consumption, mature and stable regional to international markets
- ➔ Development and establishment of monitoring systems
- ➔ Consideration of the applicability of certification schemes
- ➔ Support of cooperative institutions, establishment of regulations for legal and controlled access



Summary / Lessons Learnt

- Crucial issues:
 - Development of durable **cooperative institutions**, which are self-governed by the resource users
 - Implementation, application and enforcement of **regulations for legal and controlled access** to harvest sites (requires monitoring)
 - **Capacity building** activities to provide necessary knowledge, contacts and skills to manage MAP resources
- ➔ **Involvement and active participation** of the local communities important to successfully establish sustainable sourcing schemes





Thank you!