

Research Fellows and Research Projects

Department of Science and Technology (DST) – National Research Foundation (NRF) Centre in
Indigenous Knowledge Systems (CIKS)

RESEARCH FOCUS AREA: BIODIVERSITY



Figure 1: Researcher in action



Figure 2: Knowledge holder

Full Name: Luambo Jeffrey Ramarumo

Country of Research: South Africa

Research Topic: Ethnobotanical survey of problem plants; alien invasive weeds and their roles
in Nzhelele, Makhado Local Municipality, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Institutional Affiliation: University of Venda, Department of Botany

Research Supervisor: Dr Nndivhaleni Anox Masevhe

Summary

The study was, undertaken in deep rural areas in Mauluma and Matshavhawe villages, Nzhelele region of the Makhado Local Municipality within Vhembe District Municipality, Limpopo Province, South Africa. Justification of action against invasive problem plants were been

invoked, and thereby, it does not include biocentrism and ethical reservations. Ethnobotanical literature on ecological prominence and ethical values of problem alien weed species is scant and should be, documented to avoid loss of valuable species. The primary purpose of the study is to make an inventory of valuable problem plants and alien invasive weeds considered as plants of benefits in Nzhelele Region, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province, South Africa. Since this study is a survey, purposeful triangulation research techniques has been, employed to ensure proper qualitative and quantitative data gathering. During the pilot survey, the study has revealed that indeed problem plants and alien invasive weed species were been utilized for different purposes such as, vegetables, building materials and medicinal. Pilot survey discovered that, some problem plants and alien invasive weeds play a crucial role in maintaining rural livelihood. However, some problem plants and alien invasive weed species were found negatively altering biodiversity and thus, rural dwellers were eliminating those plant species.

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Outstanding research highlights.

Activities	Results
✓ Pilot survey	In progress
✓ Sampling survey	Not yet done
✓ Analyses of results	Not yet done
✓ Write-up	Not yet done
✓ Submission of complete research report to the supervisors for final overseeing	Not yet done
✓ Submission of complete research report to the English Department for final editing	Not yet done
✓ Submission of final dissertation to Examination Section for assessment	Not yet done