



**Annotated checklist of plant species of Loita Forest
(*Entim e Naimina Enkiyio Forest or the forest of the lost child*),
Narok County, Kenya**

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Abstract

An ethnobotanical survey was undertaken in Loita forest from 2012 to 2015 to document species richness and compile the first comprehensive plant species checklist of Loita forest. The forest is located in Narok County, Loita Sub County, an area occupied by the Loita Maasai community. Purposive sampling using established plots and transects walks was carried out for complete documentation of all plant species existing in the forest. Focused group discussions and key informant interviews were undertaken to confirm the local names of the species. The plants were identified and confirmed at the East Africa Herbarium; National Museum of Kenya. The checklist outlines the plant species in botanical and Maasai names and their corresponding families. The plant species have been arranged alphabetically using their scientific names. The checklist developed shall be crucial for future ecological studies and management of Loita forest. The checklist can be updated through future botanical surveys.

Keywords: Plant checklist; ethnobotanical survey; species richness and conservation

Introduction

Good understanding of floristic composition and structure is a foundation for a well conserved forest. While foresters need to know a narrow range of plants, communities have considerable knowledge on identification, growth habits, use and value of plants (Gachathi et al 1994). These sets of knowledge need to be fused so as to assist create awareness on forest value with a view to trigger interest to conserve and protect the forests. Loita Community Forest (LCF) lacks information on species richness. Documentation of the species richness and compilation of a checklist provides key source of information on the plant species composition in the forest.

Given that the forest has been least studied, the development of a plant checklist was important because the forest is very isolated, linked by very poor road network and is under exclusive community management with community living inside the forest and with no defined boundary. The forest is facing emerging social and ecological changes including: increased encroachment and settlement in the forest; permanent livestock herding in the forest supported by construction of water pans and permanent settlement; expanding crop farming area in the forest; fencing individual enclosures a deviation from communal use and increased trade in timber through use of power saws. The area has been declared an adjudication area, posing the greatest threat to the forest. The challenges are increasingly contributing to deforestation and degradation.

The plant checklist provides a baseline that is crucial reference material for future ecological studies and a guide to rehabilitation of degraded sites within the forest. It will arouse interest to managers, researchers and partners of the need to conserve the forest. Further, the species checklist will enhance management and conservation of the forest especially for the threatened plants species of socio-economic and ecological importance.

Location and governance of study site

Loita forest also known *Naimina Enkiyio* Forest (meaning “*the forest of the lost child*”) is located in Narok County, Loita Sub County. The geographical position of Loita is within 01°30 00 S, along the Kenyan Tanzanian Border and 035°30 00 E - 36° East (Figure 1). The elevation of the forest ranges between 2,000 – 2,600 m above sea level. The highland side receives higher rainfall amounts with a mean annual rainfall of 1,200 mm with the lowland side getting 600 mm (Obare 2003) with peaks in the months of April and December. The mean annual temperature of the area is 17°C; temperatures are lowest in June to August and highest in February, March and September. The forest lies between the Nguruman-Magadi escarpment and the Maasai Mara National Game Reserve estimated to cover an area of 33,000 ha (Zaal & Siloma, 2006; Karanja, Tessema, & Barrow, 2002; Musyoka, 1999) and is among the few un-gazetted Community (Trust land) indigenous forests in Kenya managed expected to be managed by the local people.

The adjacent community to the forest is the Loita Maasai (Loitans) who are mainly pastoralists but are fast changing to sedentary lifestyle and taking up crop farming targeting maize and beans (Mbuvi et al. 2015). In 1999, human impacts were limited in Loita forest and confined to settled zones (Kiyiapi 1999), but by 2016, the entire forest showed signs of degradation through anthropogenic activities (Mbuvi et al. 2013; Garcia 2015; Mbuvi et al. 2015). Forest encroachment, tourist camp sites, extensive tree harvesting for timber, continuous grazing and motorable roads crisscrossing in the forest exacerbates degradation (Mbuvi et al. 2013, 2015).

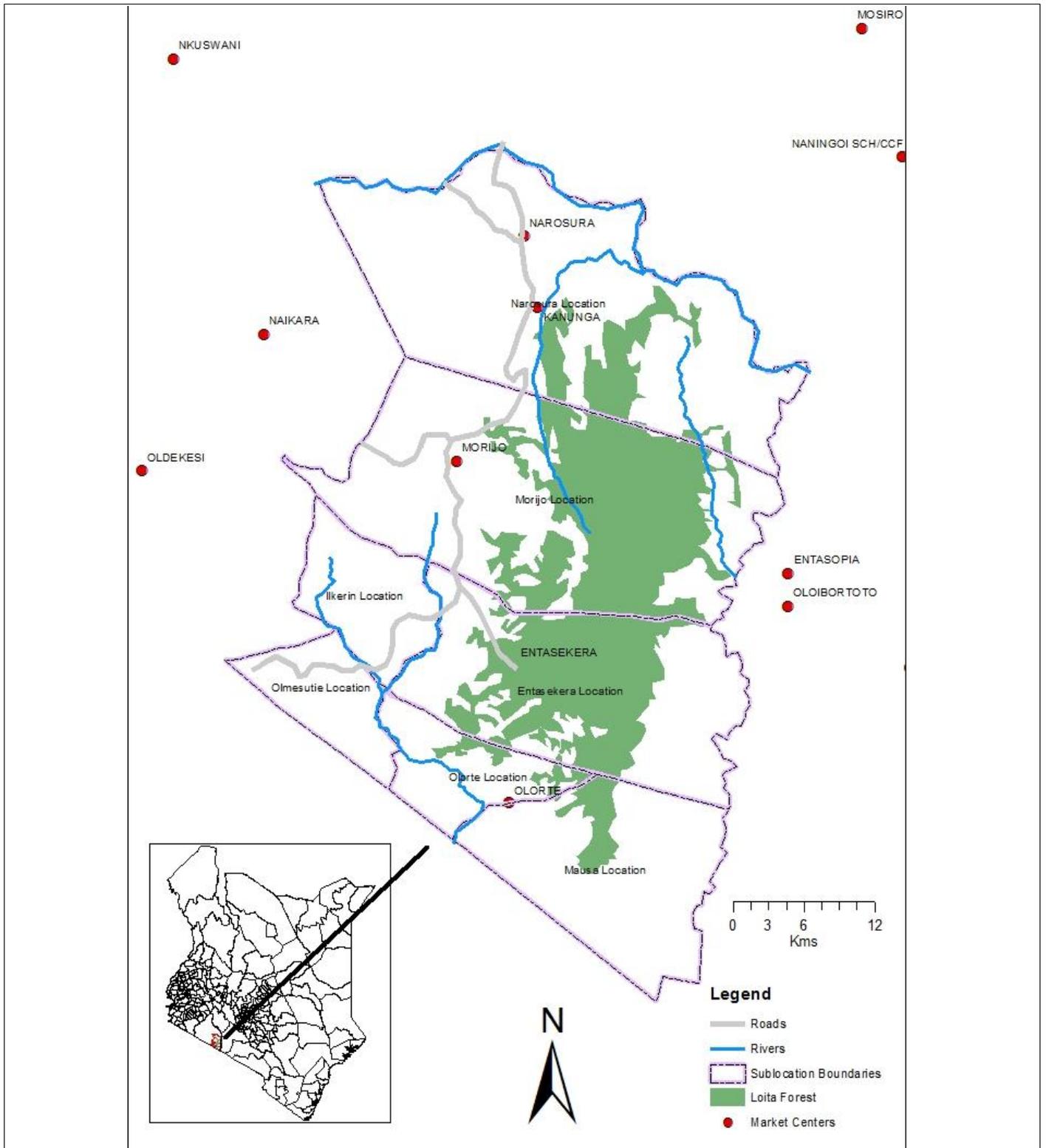


Figure 1: A map showing the location of Loita Forest in Kenya, the study site

The Loita Maasai have communally used the *Naimina Enkiyio* forest since time immemorial for grazing, firewood, building poles and water, medicinal plants and ceremonial sites (Maundu et al. 2001 quoted in Obare 2003). Loita community forest was under community “ownership” and the government through Kenya Forest Service (KFS) has no role whatsoever as the community exercises the full expanded bundle of rights (RRI 2012). Under the IUCN category of protected area, LCF would be a protected area category VI as it was a protected area with sustainable use of natural resources (Borrini-Feyerabend 2013). The forest was managed under governance type D where the management authority and responsibility rest with indigenous peoples and or local community through various forms of customary or legal, formal or informal, institutions and rules (Borrini-Feyerabend 2013). The forest management was by the Oloibon institution (council of elders), being a representative of a whole population ostensibly makes decision (community judiciary) creating a process more likely to achieve equitable and effective implementation (Riamit 2010). The system provides for broad-based citizen inclusion in decision making which increases efficiency and equity as well as natural resource management outcome as opined by Ribot (2010 quoted in German et al. eds. 2010).

Cultural and spiritual value of Loita forest

Loita Naimina Enkiyio Forest has great cultural and spiritual value to the Loita Maasai and has been associated with various traditional ceremonies and sacrifices. The Loita Maasai are cattle owners and much of their culture is cattle inspired. The natural vegetation is therefore important as the foundation of their natural resource endowment. The Loita Naimina Enkiyio forest has a long history of use by the Maasai community who see it as alive and responsive in many ways to their physical, spiritual and cultural needs. Sacred trees and plants required by the Maasai during performance of their spiritual ceremonies are found in the forest and include: *Olea europaea* ssp. *cuspidata*, used in all ceremonies as it is believed to bring good luck, *Ficus thonningii* and *Ficus cordata*, *Olea capensis* ssp. *hochstetteri* and *Cordia monoica*. The shrub, *Lantana trifolia* is used in many rituals involving livestock. The Maasai have designated at the centre of the forest a place of worship enclosed with seven trees, a sacred place where offerings are made to *Enkai*, the Maasai God.

Floral composition of Loita forest

The forest can be floristically classified as “dry upland forest” of the *Juniperus-Nuxia-Podocarpus* type (Beentje 1990). The dominant tree species include: *Juniperus procera*, *Nuxia congesta*, *Podocarpus falcatus*, *Podocarpus latifolius*, *Olea europaea* ssp. *cuspidata*, *Apodytes dimidiata*, *Cassipourea malosana*, *Acokanthera schimperi*, *Ekebergia capensis*, *Olinia rochetiana*, *Pistacia aethiopica*, *Schrebera alata*, *Vepris nobilis*, *Vepris simplicifolia*, *Croton megalocarpus* and *Calodendrum capense*. Common shrubs include: *Clausena anisata*, *Rhus natalensis*, *Myrsine africana*, *Psydrax schimperiana*, *Rhamnus prinoides*, *Zanthoxylum usambarense*, *Scutia myrtina* and *Maytenus heterophylla*. Within the extensive thick forest, are bushes, glades and wetland areas, and at higher elevation are clumps of bamboo (*Yushania alpina*) (Loita Forest Integrated Conservation and Management Project 1999; Maundu et al 2001).

Plant checklist play a very important role in biodiversity conservation, resource management and research as they provide: a common platform, facilitating dissemination and exchange of information about trees and the environment; allows all interested groups to refer to the same plant by the same name in all places minimizing confusion and misinterpretation; facilitates communication between visitors and the local people on forestry activities and create an avenue for non botanists to scientifically identify local trees. Further, checklist builds the efforts, which the local communities have put in conservation and protection of their forests and preserves traditional indigenous knowledge and wisdom that has been transmitted by word of mouth from generation to generation so that it will continue to be available to future generations.

Materials and Methods

Field data collection was carried out within the Loita *Naimina Enkiyio* forest with selected members of the Loita Maasai community from 2012 to 2015. The forest was stratified into near uniform blocks in a participatory process that involved key informants from the local community and plots measuring 10.0 × 10.0m were established systematically after 100 m interval along line transects that followed walking paths within the forest for vegetation assessment. Sub plots measuring 3.0 × 3.0m and 1.0 × 1.0m were nested inside the large plots of 10.0 × 10.0m for

assessing saplings and seedlings respectively. In each plot and subplot all woody trees, shrubs, creepers and lianas were identified by species name in local language by the local guides with vast knowledge on plants of the forest. This was followed by identification of the species by the plant taxonomists from the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) who provided the botanical names. To confirm the species names, herbarium specimens were collected and taken to the Herbarium of the National Museums of Kenya, East African Herbarium, by direct comparison with preserved specimens and with the help of Flora of Tropical East Africa; Polhill et al eds. (several dates); Agnew and Agnew 1994, Beentje

1994. Specimens were also kept at KEFRI herbarium. Focus group discussions were also held to support information gathered during key informant interview to confirm the local names for the diverse plant species.

Results

A total of 277 plant species were identified in both botanical names and Maasai local names. The identified species belonged to 203 genera representing 76 families. The species are annotated below alphabetically and summarized in Table 1.

Table1: Plant species of Loita forest with local (Loita-Maasai) and botanical names listed alphabetically

Maasai Name	Botanical Name	Family Name
-	<i>Gerbera viridifolia</i>	Compositae
-	<i>Helichrysum odoratissimum</i>	Compositae
-	<i>Rhynchosia hirta</i>	Papilionaceae
-	<i>Thunbergia alata</i>	Acanthaceae
-	<i>Trifolium usambarense</i>	Papilionaceae
Eikom	<i>Desmodium repandum</i>	Papilionaceae
Eimiyim	<i>Oncocalyx fischeri</i>	Loranthaceae
Eiyimiyim	<i>Indigofera arrecta</i>	Papilionaceae
Ekopirnyiny	<i>Clusia abyssinia</i>	Euphorbiaceae
Elaroba	<i>Echinochloa sp</i>	Gramineae
Elemuran	<i>Ocimum kilimandscharicum</i>	Labiatae
Eluai	<i>Acacia drepanolobium</i>	Mimosaceae
Emasiligi	<i>Cotyledon barbeyi</i>	Crassulaceae
Emasiligi	<i>Crassula alsinoides</i>	Crassulaceae
Emasiligi	<i>Kalanchoe densiflora</i>	Crassulaceae
Emasiligi	<i>Kalanchoe glaucescens</i>	Crassulaceae
Emasiligi	<i>Notonia abyssinica</i>	Compositae
Emasiligi	<i>Notonia petraea</i>	Compositae
Ematasia	<i>Clausena anisata</i>	Rutaceae
Emperre-epapa	<i>Asparagus africanus</i>	Asparagaceae
Enchani embaye	<i>Erythrococca bongensis</i>	Euphorbiaceae
Enchani-embae	<i>Allophylus rubifolius</i>	Sapindaceae
Enchani-enkashe	<i>Turraea abyssinica</i>	Meliaceae
Endalati ekutuk	<i>Ehretia cymosa</i>	Boraginaceae
Endaletoi	<i>Viscum tuberculatum</i>	Viscaceae
Engoloshoo	<i>Satureia biflora</i>	Labiatae
Enkaikuinyoi	<i>Eriosema shirensis</i>	Papilionaceae
Enkaimalasiai	<i>Hyposix angustifolia</i>	Hypoxidaceae
Enkaiserariai	<i>Momordica foetida</i>	Cucurbitaceae
Enkaiserariai	<i>Momordica trifoliolata</i>	Cucurbitaceae
Enkaisujoi	<i>Rumex usambarenensis</i>	Polygonaceae
Enkaiteteyiai	<i>Commelina africana</i>	Commelinaceae
Enkaiteteyiai	<i>Commelina benghalensis</i>	Commelinaceae
Enkamoloki	<i>Maerua triphylla</i>	Capparaceae

Enkarani	<i>Hibiscus fuscus</i>	Malvaceae
Enkarashi	<i>Calodendrum capense</i>	Rutaceae
Enkayakuji	<i>Lantana rhodesiensis</i>	Verbenaceae
Enkayakuji-ekoko	<i>Pollichia campestris</i>	Caryophyllaceae
Enkinya-sirkon	<i>Cadaba farinosa</i>	Capparaceae
Enkodo kiok	<i>Maytenus senegalensis</i>	Celastraceae
Enkoiyapasei	<i>Aspilia mossambicensis</i>	Compositae
Enkoiyapasei	<i>Melanthera scandens</i>	Compositae
Enkonini-enkop	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	Malvaceae
Enkoriampiti	<i>Dregea abyssinica</i>	Aselepiadaceae
Enkoriampiti	<i>Dregea schimperi</i>	Aselepiadaceae
Enkoroi	<i>Indigofera swaziensis</i>	Papilionaceae
Enkoroi enkop	<i>Indigofera volkensii</i>	Papilionaceae
Enkunyita	<i>Blepharis stuhlmannii</i>	Acanthaceae
Entamejoi	<i>Tragia brevipes</i>	Euphorbiaceae
Entamejoi	<i>Urtica massaica</i>	Urticaceae
Entaretoi	<i>Englerina woodfordioides</i>	Loranthaceae
Entaretoi	<i>Tridactyle bicaudata</i>	Orchidaceae
Entasim-ekule	<i>Secamone punctulata</i>	Ascepiadaceae
Entemelua	<i>Solanum incanum</i>	Solanaceae
Enterepenyi	<i>Cyathula polcephala</i>	Amaranthaceae
Enterepenyi	<i>Pupalia lappacea</i>	Amaranthaceae
Entiakuleti	<i>Gomphocarpus integer</i>	Asclepiadaceae
Entiakuleti, Olekulele	<i>Gomphocarpus stenophyllus</i>	Asclepiadaceae
Entiakuleti-orok	<i>Gomphocarpus physocarpus</i>	Asclepiadaceae
Entiangularas	<i>Casaeria battiscombei</i>	Flacourtiaceae
Entiangingish	<i>Landolphia buchananii</i>	Apocynaceae
Entirkata	<i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i>	Mimosaceae
Entoish	<i>Bidens biternata</i>	Compositae
Entoish	<i>Bidens pilosa</i>	Compositae
Entulelei	<i>Solanum incanum</i>	Solanaceae
Entulelei entim	<i>Solanum indicum</i>	Solanaceae
Erisa	<i>Landolphia buchananii</i>	Apocynaceae
Erisa	<i>Loeseneriella africana</i>	Celastraceae
Erisa	<i>Uvaria scheffleri</i>	Annonaceae
Eseketeti	<i>Myrsine africana</i>	Myrsinaceae
Eseki	<i>Cordia monoica</i>	Boraginaceae
Eseki, Oseki	<i>Cordia monoica</i>	Boraginaceae
Esiteti	<i>Grewia bicolor</i>	Tiliaceae
Esonkoyo	<i>Justicia striata</i>	Acanthaceae
Esupukiai-oibor	<i>Pavonia patens</i>	Malvaceae
Esupukioi-narok	<i>Hibiscus calyphyllus</i>	Malvaceae
Inkuyek	<i>Amaranthus hybridus</i>	Amaranthaceae
Lekiku-uni	<i>Berberis holstii</i>	Berberidaceae
Lekiku-uni	<i>Oncoba routledgei</i>	Flacourtiaceae
Lekiku-uni	<i>Scolopia zeyheri</i>	Flacourtiaceae
Naingong'u-ndeyo	<i>Hirpicium diffusum</i>	Compositae
Naingongu ndeyo	<i>Gutenbergia cordifolia</i>	Compositae
Nareruk	<i>Selaginella abyssinica</i>	Fern
Nkaisuisho	<i>Centella asiatica</i>	Umbelliferae
Nokoreti	<i>Obetia radula</i>	Urticaceae

Obibi naibor	<i>Leucas martinicensis</i>	Labiatae
Olabaai	<i>Psiadia punctulata</i>	Compositae
Olaimurunyai	<i>Maytenus heterophylla</i>	Celastraceae
Olairagai	<i>Syzygium cordatum</i>	Myrtaceae
Olairagai	<i>Syzygium guineense</i>	Myrtaceae
Olairamirami	<i>Senecio hadiensis</i>	Compositae
Olairamirami-pus	<i>Solanecio angulatus</i>	Compositae
Olairangai	<i>Sapium ellipticum</i>	Euphorbiaceae
Olaisikirai	<i>Heliotropium longiflorum</i>	Boraginaceae
Olaiturdiai	<i>Capparis fascicularis</i>	Capparaceae
Olaiturdiai	<i>Capparis tomentosa</i>	Capparaceae
Olamai	<i>Ximenia americana</i>	Olacaceae
Olampirion	<i>Lannea schweinfurthii</i>	Anacardiaceae
Olamuriaki	<i>Carissa spinarum</i>	Apocynaceae
Olarashi	<i>Calodendrum capense</i>	Rutaceae
Olarioi	<i>Cassipourea malosana</i>	Rhizophoraceae
Olaturdai	<i>Phytolacca dodecandra</i>	Phytolaccaceae
Olawuo	<i>Dombeya kirkii</i>	Sterculiaceae
Olayakuji	<i>Rubus apetalus</i>	Rosaceae
Olbanki	<i>Tagetes minuta</i>	Compositae
Olbibi	<i>Leonotis nepetifolia</i>	Labiatae
Olbibi	<i>Leucas grandis</i>	Labiatae
Olbukoi	<i>Malva verticillata</i>	Malvaceae
Olchaki	<i>Vigna membranacea</i>	Papilionaceae
Olchartuyian orok	<i>Diospyros abyssinica</i> ssp. <i>abyssinica</i>	Ebenaceae
Olchoki	<i>Euphorbia bussei</i> var. <i>kibwezensis</i>	Euphorbiaceae
Oldupai	<i>Sansevieria suffruticosa</i>	Dracaenaceae
Oldurdien	<i>Drypetes gerrardii</i>	Euphorbiaceae
Oledat	<i>Trimeria grandifolia</i>	Flacourtiaceae
Olekidongo	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	Amaranthaceae
Olekiushin	<i>Pseudognaphalium luteo-album</i>	Compositae
Oleleshwa	<i>Tarchonanthus camphoratus</i>	Compositae
Olemenenga	<i>Cynoglossum coeruleum</i>	Boraginaceae
Olemudongo	<i>Rauvolfia caffra</i>	Apocynaceae
Olemuran	<i>Ocimum gratissimum</i>	Labiatae
Olenkuyaini	<i>Heteromorpha trifoliata</i>	Umbelliferae
Olenyawaitie	<i>Craterostigma pumilum</i>	Scrophulariaceae
Oleparmunyo	<i>Toddalia asiatica</i>	Rutaceae
Olerai oibor	<i>Acacia seyal</i> var. <i>seyal</i>	Mimosaceae
Olerai oibor	<i>Acacia xanthophloea</i>	Mimosaceae
Olerai orok	<i>Acacia kirkii</i> ssp. <i>kirkii</i>	Mimosaceae
Olesayiet	<i>Withania somnifera</i>	Solanaceae
Olesupeni	<i>Helinus mystacinus</i>	Rhamnaceae
Oleturot	<i>Conyza newii</i>	Compositae
Oleturot	<i>Polygonum salicifolium</i>	Polygonaceae
Oleturot	<i>Sphaeranthus confertifolius</i>	Compositae
Oleturot	<i>Sphaeranthus suaveolens</i>	Compositae
Olgilai	<i>Vepris nobilis</i>	Rutaceae
Olgilai	<i>Vepris simplicifolia</i>	Rutaceae
Olgirgirri orok	<i>Acacia brevispica</i> ssp. <i>brevispica</i>	Mimosaceae
Olgumi	<i>Vangueria apiculata</i>	Rubiaceae

Olgumi	<i>Vangueria volkensii</i>	Rubiaceae
Oliala	<i>Schrebera alata</i>	Oleaceae
Oljarbolani	<i>Acacia hockii</i>	Mimosaceae
Olkerosha	<i>Maytenus undata</i>	Celastraceae
Olkilenyai	<i>Rhoicissus tridentata</i>	Vitaceae
Olkiloilo	<i>Indigofera spinosa</i>	Papilionaceae
Olkiloriti	<i>Acacia nilotica</i>	Mimosaceae
Olkinewa	<i>Caesalpinia decapetala</i>	Caesalpinaceae
Olkinyei	<i>Euclea divinorum</i>	Ebenaceae
Olkirenyi	<i>Olinia rochetiana</i>	Oliniaceae
Olkojuk	<i>Cordia africana</i>	Boraginaceae
Olkokola	<i>Rhamnus staddo</i>	Rhamnaceae
Olkonyil	<i>Rhamnus prinoides</i>	Rhamnaceae
Olkorbobit	<i>Synadenium grantii</i>	Euphorbiaceae
Olkujuk	<i>Prunus africana</i>	Rosaceae
Olmagutian	<i>Pennisetum catabasis</i>	Gramineae
Olmagwai	<i>Sclerocarya birrea</i>	Anacardiaceae
Olmakirikiriani	<i>Lantana trifolia</i>	Verbenaceae
Olmakutukut	<i>Clerodendrum myricoides</i>	Verbenaceae
Olmaroroi	<i>Combretum molle</i>	Combretaceae
Olmasei	<i>Psydrax schimpriana</i> ssp. <i>schimperiana</i>	Rubiaceae
Olmasei	<i>Tarenna graveolens</i>	Rubiaceae
Olmasitet	<i>Albizia gummifera</i>	Mimosaceae
Olmataasia	<i>Clausena anisata</i>	Rutaceae
Olmeigaro-keon	<i>Phragmanthera usuiensis</i>	Loranthaceae
Olmeigaro-keon	<i>Plicosepalus curviflorus</i>	Loranthaceae
Olmeigaro-keon	<i>Viscum tuberculatum</i>	Viscaceae
Olmisigiyoio	<i>Rhus natalensis</i>	Anacardiaceae
Olmisigiyoio	<i>Rhus quartiniana</i>	Anacardiaceae
Olmokorionko	<i>Ekebergia capensis</i>	Meliaceae
Olmomoi	<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Solanaceae
Olmorijoi	<i>Acokanthera oppositifolia</i>	Apocynaceae
Olmorijoi	<i>Acokanthera schimperi</i>	Apocynaceae
Olmorogi	<i>Dovyalis abyssinica</i>	Flacourtiaceae
Olmorogi	<i>Dovyalis macrocalyx</i>	Flacourtiaceae
Olmoso	<i>Albizia gummifera</i>	Mimosaceae
Olmotoo	<i>Dombeya rotundifolia</i>	Sterculiaceae
Olmungushi	<i>Rhus vulgaris</i>	Anacardiaceae
Olmusaakua	<i>Vernonia auriculifera</i>	Compositae
Olmusaakua	<i>Vernonia lasiopos</i>	Compositae
Olmusakwa etim	<i>Solanecio manni</i>	Compositae
Olnaasi	<i>Physalis peruviana</i>	Solanaceae
Olnakulankulei	<i>Caesalpinia volkensii</i>	Caesalpinaceae
Olng'aboli	<i>Ficus sycomorus</i>	Moraceae
Olngeriantus	<i>Galium simense</i>	Rubiaceae
Olngeriantus	<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i>	Plumbaginaceae
Olngeriantus-loonchashuri	<i>Rubia cordifolia</i>	Rubiaceae
Olngonguenyi	<i>Acacia gerrardii</i>	Mimosaceae
Olnyalugwai	<i>Grewia similis</i>	Tiliaceae
Olobayie-tiang'ata	<i>Bersama abyssinica</i> ssp. <i>abyssinica</i>	Meliantaceae
Olobobo	<i>Sporobolus</i> sp.	Gramineae

Olodonganayioi	<i>Mystroxydon aethiopicum</i>	Celastraceae
Oloeniyeni	<i>Jasminum floribundum</i>	Oleaceae
Ologumati	<i>Microglossa pyrifolia</i>	Compositae
Ologumati	<i>Vernonia brachycalyx</i>	Compositae
Oloilei	<i>Euphorbia gossypina</i>	Euphorbiaceae
Oloilei-oibor	<i>Sarcostemma viminale</i>	Ascepiadaceae
Oloilupai	<i>Commiphora habessinica</i>	Burseraceae
Oloipiru salan	<i>Piliostigma thonningii</i>	Caesalpiniaceae
Oloireroi	<i>Boscia angustifolia</i>	Capparaceae
Oloirien	<i>Olea europaea ssp. cuspidata</i>	Oleaceae
Oloisuki	<i>Zanthoxylum usambarense</i>	Rutaceae
Oloitodor-aik	<i>Fuerstia africana</i>	Labiatae
Oloiurrur	<i>Cussonia holstii var. holstii</i>	Araliaceae
Oloiurrur	<i>Cussonia spicata</i>	Araliaceae
Oloiyankalani	<i>Sesbania sesban</i>	Papilionaceae
Oloiyapiapi	<i>Croton macrostachyus</i>	Euphorbiaceae
Olokildia	<i>Tinnea aethiopica</i>	Labiatae
Olokirisiai	<i>Gnidia subcordata</i>	Thymeleaceae
Olokoromua	<i>Tetradenia riparia</i>	Labiatae
Ololiondoi	<i>Olea capensis ssp. hochstetteri</i>	Oleaceae
Olomei	<i>Asparagus falcatus</i>	Asparagaceae
Olomei	<i>Asparagus racemosus</i>	Asparagaceae
Olonini	<i>Sida schimperiana</i>	Malvaceae
Olonini	<i>Sida tenuicarpa</i>	Malvaceae
Oloontualan	<i>Crotalaria agatiflora</i>	Papilionaceae
Oloontualan	<i>Crotalaria axillaris</i>	Papilionaceae
Olopito	<i>Cynanchum altiscandens</i>	Asclepiadaceae
Olopito	<i>Ipomoea wightii</i>	Convolvulaceae
Olopito	<i>Jasminum abyssinicum</i>	Oleaceae
Oloponi	<i>Erythrina abyssinica ssp. abyssinica</i>	Papilionaceae
Olorrondo	<i>Cyphostemma bambuseti</i>	Vitaceae
Olorrondo	<i>Cyphostemma cyphopetalum</i>	Vitaceae
Olorrondo	<i>Cyphostemma serpens</i>	Vitaceae
Olorite	<i>Faurea saligna</i>	Proteaceae
Olosang'atuny	<i>Chaetacme aristata</i>	Ulmaceae
Olosarng'atuny	<i>Pterolobium stellatum</i>	Caesalpiniaceae
Ololesiai	<i>Osyris lanceolata</i>	Santalaceae
Olosida	<i>Barleria micrantha</i>	Acanthaceae
Olosida	<i>Barleria ventricosa</i>	Acanthaceae
Olosida	<i>Hypoestes aristata</i>	Acanthaceae
Olosida	<i>Hypoestes forskahlii</i>	Acanthaceae
Olosida	<i>Justicia nyassana</i>	Acanthaceae
Olosiki	<i>Fagaropisis angolensis</i>	Rutaceae
Olosuashi	<i>Lannea schweinfurthii</i>	Anacardiaceae
Olpalagilagi	<i>Trichocladus ellipticus</i>	Hamamelidaceae
Olpaleki	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Euphorbiaceae
Olparuai	<i>Encephalartos bubalinus</i>	Zamiaceae
Olpiripiri	<i>Podocarpus falcatus</i>	Podocarpaceae
Olpiron	<i>Buddleia polystachya</i>	Loganiaceae
Olpiron	<i>Nuxia congesta</i>	Loganiaceae
Olpopongi	<i>Euphorbia candelabrum</i>	Euphorbiaceae

Oltakuru-kuriet	<i>Gardenia volkensii ssp. volkensii</i>	Rubiaceae
Oltangururua	<i>Flacourtia indica</i>	Flacourtiaceae
Oltankotua	<i>Pistacia aethiopica</i>	Anacardiaceae
Oltarakuai	<i>Juniperus procera</i>	Cupressaceae
Oltarara	<i>Acacia sieberiana</i>	Mimosaceae
Oltiameleteti	<i>Ipomoea hildebrandtii</i>	Convolvulaceae
Oltiasimbol	<i>Ilex mitis</i>	Aquifoliaceae
Oltiasimpol	<i>Apodytes dimidiata</i>	Icacinaceae
Oltimigomi	<i>Pappea capensis</i>	Sapindaceae
Oltiyani	<i>Yushania alpina</i>	Gramineae
Oltukai	<i>Phoenix reclinata</i>	Palmae
Oltulet	<i>Lagenaria siceraria</i>	Cucurbitaceae
Oltulet-lolowuaru	<i>Peponium vogelii</i>	Cucurbitaceae
Oltulet-loosirkon	<i>Cucumis aculeatus</i>	Cucurbitaceae
Oluai	<i>Acacia drepanolobium</i>	Mimosaceae
Orchartuyian	<i>Ochna holstii</i>	Ochnaceae
Orchartuyian	<i>Ochna ovata</i>	Ochnaceae
Orchartuyian orok	<i>Ochna insculpta</i>	Ochnaceae
Oreteti	<i>Ficus thonningii</i>	Moraceae
Orgimasarge	<i>Jasminum schimperi</i>	Oleaceae
Orgumi	<i>Rytigynia uhligii</i>	Rubiaceae
Ormoliloi	<i>Canthium lactescens</i>	Rubiaceae
Ormusaduku	<i>Podocarpus latifolius</i>	Podocarpaceae
Orngalayioi	<i>Cucumis ficifolius</i>	Cucurbitaceae
Orpandi	<i>Lanea schweinfurthii</i>	Anacardiaceae
Osanankururi	<i>Scutia myrtina</i>	Rhamnaceae
Oseki	<i>Cordia monoica</i>	Boraginaceae
Osenetoi	<i>Senna didymobotrya</i>	Caesalpiniaceae
Osentu	<i>Tarchonanthus camphoratus</i>	Compositae
Osiaitiado	<i>Acalypha fruticosa</i>	Euphorbiaceae
Osikawoi	<i>Solanum aculeastrum</i>	Solanaceae
Osilalei	<i>Commiphora africana</i>	Burseraceae
Osinantei	<i>Periploca linearifolia</i>	Asclepiadaceae
Osinoni	<i>Lippia javanica</i>	Verbenaceae
Ositeti-lorkeju	<i>Celtis africana</i>	Ulmaceae
Osoket	<i>Elaeodendron buchananii</i>	Celastraceae
Osokonoi	<i>Warburgia ugandensis</i>	Canellaceae
Osuguroi	<i>Aloe lateritia</i>	Aloaceae
Osuguroi	<i>Aloe secundiflora</i>	Aloaceae
Osuguroi lombokishi	<i>Aloe kedongensis</i>	Aloaceae
Osuguroi lombokishi	<i>Aloe volkensii</i>	Aloaceae
Osukunua	<i>Ficus cordata</i>	Moraceae
Osukunua	<i>Ficus cordata ssp. salicifolia</i>	Moraceae
Osupukiai oibor	<i>Abutilon longicuspe</i>	Malvaceae
Osupukiai oibor	<i>Abutilon mauritianum</i>	Malvaceae
Osupukiai-orok	<i>Dombeya burgessiae</i>	Sterculiaceae
Osupukiai-orok	<i>Pavonia urens</i>	Malvaceae

The species profile

Abutilon longicuspe A. Rich.

Malvaceae

Osupukiai oibor

Shrub up to 4 m high with densely hairy stems and rounded soft leaves. Flowers bluish with dark centre. In forest edges and riverine. Used for bark fibre.

Abutilon mauritianum (Jacq.) Medic.

Malvaceae

Osupukiai oibor

Shrub with almost circular leaves, deeply notched at base and long spreading hairs especially on the flower stalks. Flowers are yellow. A common shrub along the

forest edges. It is used for bark fiber. The very soft leaves are valued as tissue paper.

Acacia brevispica Harms ssp. *brevispica*

Mimosaceae

Orgirgirri orok

Thorny scrambling shrub or small tree. Stems with scattered hooked prickles. Leaves twice-divided into tiny leaflets. Flowers are cream-white, in roundheads. Pods are thin, usually straight, purple-brown, dotted with reddish glands, to 15 cm long (Figure 2). Common along forest edges, openings and other disturbed areas. The pods are important fodder particularly for goats.



Figure 2: *Acacia brevispica* Harms ssp. *brevispica*

Acacia drepanolobium Sjostedt

Mimosaceae

Oluai (mature), Eluai (young)

Thorny shrub or small tree to 6 m tall, thorns forming black galls. In open wooded grassland. Used as medicine, fodder and firewood.

Acacia gerrardii Benth.

Mimosaceae

Olongonguenyi

Thorn tree about 10 m high with blackish bark and irregular crown. In wooded grassland, usually in areas of seasonal flooding and also riparian. Used for fodder, firewood and building.

Acacia hockii De Wild.

Mimosaceae

Oljarbolani

Shrub or small tree with yellowish peeling bark. Spines in pairs, straight. Flowers in heads, yellow. Pods curved, reddish. The innerbark is chewed to quench thirst.

Acacia kirkii Oliv. ssp. *kirkii*

Mimosaceae

Olerai orok

Thorn tree to 10 m high with ascending branches, orange yellow peeling bark and flat crown. Pods constricted between the seed. In riverine and wooded

grasslands of seasonal flooding. Used for medicine, firewood and goat fodder.

Acacia nilotica (L.) Del.

Mimosaceae

Olkiloriti

Small thorn tree generally about 5 m high with rough black bark and umbrella shaped crown at maturity. Thorns are in pairs, whitish, often pointing downwards. Flowers are bright yellow, in round heads. The pods are straight or slightly curved, constricted between the seeds, to 12 cm long (Figure 3). A very common tree in wooded grasslands. It is a popular medicine, firewood, fodder and fencing material.



Figure 3: *Acacia nilotica* (L.) Del.

Acacia seyal Del. var. *seyal*

Mimosaceae

Olerai oibor

Thorn tree about 10 m high with yellow or orange red bark and open flat-topped crown at maturity. Flowers bright yellow. Pods curved. In bushed grasslands and seasonally flooded areas with black cotton soil. Used for medicine, fodder, firewood and fencing.

Acacia sieberiana DC.

Mimosaceae

Oltarara

Thorn tree about 12 m tall with rough bark and flat-topped crown. Flowers in heads, yellow or cream. In

bushed grasslands. Used to prepare medicine, fencing and firewood.

Acacia xanthophloea Benth.

Mimosaceae

Olerai oibor

Tall thorn tree about 20 m high with flat crown and smooth and powdery yellow-green bark. The thorns are white and in pairs. Flowers are in heads, whitish or pinkish. The pods are yellowish-brown, flat and slightly constricted between seeds, breaking into segments. A common along river valleys and in places with high ground water. Used for medicine, fodder and firewood.

Acalypha fruticosa Forssk.

Euphorbiaceae

Osiatiado

Shrub about 2 m high with yellow resinous glands under the leaves. Leaves ovate, grey green below. Flowers in spikes, clustered along hanging spikes. In forest edges, riverine vegetation and bushland. Goat fodder.

Achyranthes aspera L.

Amaranthaceae

Olekidongo

Weak shrub with reddish flowers on a long inflorescence with spiny sepals. In forest edges and disturbed areas. Fodder for livestock. Medicine.

Acokanthera oppositifolia (Lam.) Codd

Apocynaceae

Olmorijoi

A much branched shrub or small tree to 4 m tall with purplish branchlets. All parts with white latex. Leaves hard, shiny with sharp tip. Flowers pink. Fruit oval, reddish to purple when ripe. Poisonous. In forest, mostly riverine. Wood for spear shafts.

Acokanthera schimperi (A.DC.) Schweinf.

Apocynaceae

Olmorijoi

A much branched shrub or small tree to 7 m tall. All parts with white latex. Leaves leathery, shiny with sharp tip. Flowers pink-white. Fruit oval, reddish to purple when ripe. In forest, mostly riverine. Wood for

spear shafts. Poisonous, arrow poison. Ripe fruits edible. Nectar from this tree makes honey bitter and not sticky.

Albizia gummifera (J.F. Gmel.) C.A. Sm.

Mimosaceae

Olmoso, Olmasitet

Large deciduous tree to about 18 m high with a flat-topped spreading crown. Leaves compound (bipinnate) with numerous leaflets. Flowers whitish-pink. Pods in clusters, flat and with raised edges. Riverine forest. Used to make stools. Bees make nests in old hollow trunks. Goat fodder.

Allophylus rubifolius (A. Rich.) Engl.

Sapindaceae

Enchani-embae

Shrub or small tree about 4 m tall, sometimes a climber. Leaves toothed along margin. In forest edges and bushland. The stems are used to make arrow shafts (embae).

Aloe lateritia Engl.

Aloaceae

Osuguroi

A stemless rosette-forming aloe with succulent white-spotted and streaked shiny leaves toothed along the margin (Figure 4). Flowers orange, appearing in terminal heads. It is common in rocky grassland and on sites with shallow soils. The flowers attract sunbirds and bees in search of nectar.



Figure 4: *Aloe lateritia* Engl.

***Aloe kedongensis* Reynolds**

Aloaceae

Osguroi lombokishi

An aloe with noded stem over 2 m high and toothed succulent leaves. Flowers red. Found on rocky sites in bushland, often forming thickets. Used for medicine. The flowers attract sunbirds and bees in search of nectar.

A stout stemless Aloe with large succulent shiny leaves toothed along the margin (Figure 5). Flowers red, on branched inflorescence, all turned to one side. It is common in wooded grassland on alluvial, shallow sandy soils. The flowers attract sunbirds and bees in search of nectar. The rhizomes are used in preparation of local beer.

***Aloe secundiflora* Engl.**

Aloaceae

Osguroi



Figure 5: *Aloe secundiflora* Engl.

***Aloe volkensii* Engl.**

Aloaceae

Osguroi lombokishi

Tree-like aloe to 6 m tall, branching from the base. Stems with nodes and covered with dead leaves. Flowers red. Common in rocky bushland with *Tarchonanthus camphoratus*. Used to make life-fence.

***Apodytes dimidiata* Arn.**

Icacinaceae

Oltiasimpol

Tree about 10 m tall with smooth ridged trunk. Leaves are shiny dark green above, with reddish midrib, drying black. Flowers are star-like, white with black anthers (Figure 6). It is a common forest tree. Wood is used to make earplugs. The flowers attract swarms of bees in search of nectar. It has medicinal uses. A very nice goat fodder.

***Amaranthus hybridus* L.**

Amaranthaceae

Inkuyek

Erect annual herb, sometimes with reddish tinge. Inflorescence spike-like raceme with small flowers, compact. Very common weed. Used as vegetable.



Figure 6: *Apodytes dimidiata* Arn.

***Asparagus africanus* Lam.**

Asparagaceae

Emperre-enpapa

A scrambling woody shrub from a fibrous rootstock with grey-brown smooth stems and brownish spines. "Leaves" needle-like, clustered. Flowers white. Fruit a 1-seeded red berry. Frequent in forest edges and wooded grassland, often in rocky sites. Used as a sieve for soup. Medicinal.

***Asparagus falcatus* L.**

Asparagaceae

Olomei

A climbing spiny herb from tuberous rootstock with zigzag grey-brown stems. "Leaves" flat, dark green, clustered. Flowers cream, in branched racemes. Fruit a 1-seeded red berry. Frequent in forest edges and wooded bushland, often in rocky sites. It is used to kill fleas in goats kids.

***Asparagus racemosus* Willd.**

Asparagaceae

Olomei

Woody spiny climber with brownish-yellow stems with zigzag branches. "Leaves" needle-like, clustered. Flowers white, in racemes. Fruit a 1-2-seeded red berry. Frequent in forest edges and wooded grassland, often in rocky sites. Used as a sieve for soup. Medicinal.

***Aspilia mossambicensis* (Oliv.) Wild**

Compositae

Enkoiyapasei

Much branched woody herb or shrub with very rough-hairy leaves and yellow flower heads. In bushland especially in areas with black cotton soils. Valued goat fodder. Used for medicine.

***Barleria micrantha* C.B.Cl.**

Acanthaceae

Olosida

Herb with short-stalked leaves, elliptic sepals with toothed margins and bluish flowers. In woodlands and thickets. Goat fodder.

***Barleria ventricosa* Nees**

Acanthaceae

Olosida

A scrambling herb or shrub with elliptic sharp-pointed leaves which are silky below. Flowers blue. Capsule ellipsoid, 2-seeded. Forest undergrowth and bushland. Goat fodder.

***Berberis holstii* Engl.**

Berberidaceae

Lekiku-uni

Spiny shrub with leaves in bunches. Terminal leaflet with spines on margins. Flowers yellow. Fruit ellipsoid, blue-black with remains of the style at the top. In forest margins, often associated with giant heath. Fodder, firewood.

***Bersama abyssinica* Fres.ssp.*abyssinica* Verdc.**

Meliantaceae

Olobayie-tiang'ata

A shrub or slender tree to 15 m tall with smooth bark. Leaves are compound with slightly winged rachis, with 5-10 pairs of leaflets. Flowers on thick upright spikes, greenish-cream with pink. Fruits thick woody capsules, about 2 cm across, opening into 3-5 sections, each with bright orange seed with yellow aril (Figure 7). Common in forest edges and glades, usually riparian. The soft wood is used to make stools.



Figure 7: *Bersama abyssinica* Fres. ssp. *abyssinica* Verdc.

***Bidens biternata* (Lour.) Merr. & Sherff**
Compositae

Entoish

Erect much-branched annual herb with pinnate, mostly trifoliolate leaves. Flower heads yellow with yellow rays. Flowering of this plant signals the end of rainy season.

***Bidens pilosa* L.**

Compositae

Entoish

Erect much-branched annual herb with pinnate, mostly trifoliolate leaves. Flower heads yellow with white rays. Very common weed of cultivation. Browsed by livestock.

***Blepharis stuhlmannii* Lindau**
Acanthaceae

Enkunyita

A much branched hairy plant with stalkless unequal leaves. Flowers on a dense inflorescence, white with spine-tipped bracts. Fruit a capsule, 2-seeded. In grasslands. Medicinal with cultural significance.

***Boscia angustifolia* A. Rich.**

Capparaceae

Oloireroi

Evergreen shrub or tree to 5 m high with massive often leaning trunk with silver-grey smooth bark. Leaves spaced on new shoots, in fascicles on short shoots on older wood, sharply pointed. Flowers yellowish cream. Fruit round, 8-15 mm across purplish when ripe. (Figure 8). In wooded grasslands and bushland. Wood is used to make traditional stools, highly valued as they don't crack. It is a useful shade tree and fodder for livestock.



Figure 8: *Boscia angustifolia* A. Rich.

***Buddleia polystachya* Fres.**

Loganiaceae

Olpiron

Straggling shrub about 5 m high with pale brown bark. Leaves narrowly elliptic with serrated margin, whitish or yellowish beneath. Flowers reddish orange with a paler tube. Used to make traditional fire.

***Cadaba farinosa* Forssk**

Capparaceae

Enkinya-sirkon

A densely branched shrub or rarely a tree, occasionally climbing. Flowers yellow-green. Fruit cylindrical,

orange inside. In bushland. Fodder particularly for donkeys (sirkon). Medicinal.

***Caesalpinia volkensii* Harms**

Caesalpinaceae

Olnakulankulei

A climber with curved sharp prickles on stems and leaves. Leaves are twice compound (bipinnate). Pinnae in 3-6 pairs, leaflets in 3-6 pairs. Flowers yellow, in dense terminal inflorescences. Fruits flattened densely prickly pods with a beak (figure 9). Often occurring along the rivers.



Figure 9: *Caesalpinia volkensii* Harms

***Caesalpinia decapetala* (Roth) Alston**
Caesalpiniaceae

Olkinewa

A straggling shrub with reddish-purple stems with scattered prickles. It has compound leaves. Flowers are yellowish. Pods reddish brown, containing dark-brown hard seeds. A hedge plant.

***Calodendrum capense* (L.f.) Thumb.**
Rutaceae

Olarashi (mature), Enkarashi (young)

Tree about 15 m high with smooth grey bark and spreading crown. Leaves opposite, often bunched together. Flowers pink white with crimson dots. Fruit spiny, splitting into a star-like shape showing black angular seeds. In dry forest. Cattle troughs, stools and firewood. Leafy branches are used as beddings by the morans because of their nice fragrance.

***Canthium lactescens* Hiern**
Rubiaceae

Ormoliloi

A shrub or small tree about 8 m high with rough bark. Leaves opposite, ovate. Flowers greenish yellow. Fruits ellipsoid, about 1 cm long. Occasional in the forest but common in bushland. The shrub is cherished by elephants.

***Capparis fascicularis* DC.**
Capparaceae

Olaiturdiai

Thorny climbing shrub with white flowers in several-flowered fascicles. Fruit round, greenish red. In bushed grassland and thickets. Medicinal, with significance. The reddish seeds are used by the Laibon for some rituals.

***Capparis tomentosa* Lam.**
Capparaceae

Olaiturdiai

Thorny climbing shrub with white to yellow-green flowers in several-flowered fascicles. Fruit round, greenish red. In bushed grassland and thickets. Poisonous, used in various rituals by the Laibon.

***Carduus chamaecephalus* (Vatke) Oliv. & Hiern**
Compositae

-

A spiny rosette plant tightly pressed to the ground. The leaves are pinnately lobed, spiny. Flower heads purple, without stalk, 1-2 in the centre of the rosette (Figure 10). It is common in grassland. Monkeys readily eat the flowers.



Figure 10: *Carduus chamaecephalus* (Vatke) Oliv. & Hiern

***Carissa spinarum* L.**

Apocynaceae

Olamuriaki

Spiny evergreen shrub or scrambler to 5 m, all parts with milky latex. Spines are in pairs, straight, up to 5 cm. Leaves are opposite, dark green shiny above, with

pointed tip. Flowers pink-white, in terminal clusters, very fragrant. Fruits are round to oval, purple black when ripe, with 2-4 seeds (Figure 11). It is common in forest margins, riverine, often at rocky sites. Fruits are edible. It has medicinal uses. Fodder for goats.



Figure 11: *Carissa spinarum* L.

***Casaeria battiscombei* R.E. Fries**

Flacourtiaceae

Entiangaras

Tree over 20 m high with horizontal or drooping branches arranged in tiers. Leaves dark green, arranged in 2 alternate rows. Flowers yellow-green, in clusters in leaf axils. Fruit a capsule with a sharp tip, yellow to orange. In forest. Used for construction.

from the base, with toothed margin and unequal base. Flowers greenish yellow, in clusters beside leaves. Fruits round, yellow to orange, slightly hairy. A useful timber tree. Stem produces fibre for tying. It is used to make walking sticks.

***Cassipourea malosana* (Bak.) Alston**

Rhizophoraceae

Olarioi

Evergreen tree to 20 m high with straight cylindrical trunk. Bark smooth with horizontal lines. Leaves opposite, oval with slightly toothed edge. Flowers yellow-green with persistent calyx. Fruit small, egg-shaped. In dry forest. Medicinal. Holes in trunk popular home for bees.

***Centella asiatica* (L.) Urb.**

Umbelliferae

Nkaisuisho

A stoloniferous creeping perennial herb. Leaves kidney-shaped, almost circular, toothed along the margin. Flowers with no stalk, greenish yellow. Fruits flattened. In riverine grasslands.

***Celtis africana* Burm.f.**

Ulmaceae

Ositeti-lorkeju

A deciduous tree about 12 m tall with smooth grey bark marked with horizontal rings. Leaves 3-veined

***Chaetacme aristata* Planch.**

Ulmaceae

Olosang'atuny

A much-branched spiny shrub with drooping branches. Leaves are unequal-sided and sharply pointed, shiny on the upper side. Flowers yellowish green. Fruits are oval, with 2 long persistent styles, yellowish red when ripe. Wood used to make walking sticks and clubs.

***Clausena anisata* (Willd.) Benth.**

Rutaceae

Oلماتاسيا, Ematasia

A shrub or small tree about 4 m tall. Leaves compound with 11-37 alternate leaflets dotted with oil glands, crushed leaves with lemon smell. Flowers are white or

cream. Fruits are round or in two sections, shiny reddish purple, purple black when ripe (Figure 12). It is common along forest edges. It is used as mattress by morans, also as hand kerchief to wipe off sweat. It has medicinal uses.



Figure 12: *Clausena anisata* (Willd.) Benth.

***Clerodendrum myricoides* (Hochst.) Vatke**

Verbenaceae

Olmakutukut

Much branched shrub to 3 m high. Leaves opposite or in whorls of 3, usually with toothed margin. Flowers blue-purple, 2 petals shaped like butterfly. Fruit round, black when ripe. In forest edges and bushland especially on rocky sites. Used for medicine, very popular.

Branchlets peeling in fibrous strips. Leaves large, soft and hairy on both sides. Flowers greenish yellow. Fruits 4-winged, yellow-green at first, drying bright brown. In rocky hillsides. Has medicinal uses and often used in soup. The bark is used as tea.

***Clutia abyssinia* Jaub. & Spach**

Euphorbiaceae

Ekopirnyiny

A shrub to 2 m tall with variable leaves turning orange with age. The flowers are greenish yellow. Common shrub of forest margin and openings. It is said to be an excellent fodder for goats. Roots are used for medicinal purposes.

***Commelina africana* L.**

Commelinaceae

Enkaiteteyiai

Creeping herb with soft fleshy stems and thickened fibrous roots. Leaves shortly stalked, with purple or white hairs on sheath margins. Flowers yellow. In bushland, cultivation and disturbed habitats. Used for medicine, good fodder for livestock.

***Commelina benghalensis* L.**

Commelinaceae

Enkaiteteyiai

Creeping herb with soft fleshy stems. Leaves shortly stalked, with purple or white hairs on sheath margins. Flowers blue. In bushland, cultivation and disturbed habitats. Used for medicine, good fodder for livestock.

***Combretum molle* G. Don**

Combretaceae

Olmarroroi

Short deciduous tree usually 5 m tall with dark brown-black bark which is deeply grooved in squares.

***Commiphora africana* (A.Rich.) Engl.**

Burseraceae

Osilalei

Spiny deciduous shrub or tree to 8 m tall. Branchlets thorn-tipped (Figure 13). Bark grey-green, peeling to show green under bark, producing yellowish gum

resin when injured. Leaves trifoliolate, central leaflet much bigger. Fruit is round, pinkish red when ripe, with one stony seed inside. It is common in wooded grassland and bushland. Gum resin chewed as chewing gum. It is fodder for animals. It is important life fence.



Figure 13: *Commiphora africana* (A.Rich.) Engl.

***Commiphora habessinica* (O. Berg). Engl.**

Burseraceae

Olailupai

Spiny deciduous shrub or tree to 4 m tall. Branchlets thorn-tipped. Bark yellowish, peeling to show green under bark, producing yellowish gum resin when injured. Leaves trifoliolate. Fruit oblong-ellipsoid with stony seed inside. In wooded grassland and bushland. It is a fodder and life fence.

***Cordia africana* Lam. (*C. abyssinica* R. Br.)**

Boraginaceae

Olkujuk

Deciduous tree about 10 m tall with rounded crown and often with crooked trunk. Bark brownish, finely grooved. Leaves oval with round base and with prominent veins below, upper surface sandpapery. Flowers white, funnel shaped, calyx cup brownish, strongly ribbed. Fruit yellow when ripe, with sticky pulp. Used for timber, beehives.

***Conyza newii* Oliv. & Hiern**

Compositae

Oleturot

A much branched short-lived herb from a rosette to about 1.5 m with dark green leaves toothed along the margin. Flower heads cream in terminal pyramidal panicle. Common in disturbed soils.

***Cordia monoica* Roxb.**

Boraginaceae

Oseki, Eseki

A multi-stemmed shrub with blueish grey peeling bark, resembling eucalyptus. Leaves are almost round, upper surface like sandpaper. Flowers are yellow, in dense terminal clusters. Fruit is oval, pointed, yellow-orange when ripe, held in a cup-like calyx, single-seeded (Figure 14). It is found in bushland and riverine vegetation. Fruit is edible. This shrub has various ritual and ceremonial uses.



Figure 14: *Cordia monoica* Roxb.

***Cotyledon barbeyi* Schweinf.**

Crassulaceae

Emasiligi

Succulent multi-stemmed shrub to 1.5 m high. Leaves obovate, fleshy. Flowers red, in terminal corymbs. In dry bushland on rocky sloppy sites. Medicinal.

***Crassula alsinoides* (Hook.f.)Engl.**

Crassulaceae

Emasiligi

A prostrate succulent herb with solitary pinkish or white flowers. In montane forest especially on wet rocky sites. Dry season fodder for goats.

***Craterostigma pumilum* Hochst.**

Scrophulariaceae

Olenyawaitie

A rosette-forming herb with orange-red roots. Leaves dark green, toothed along the edge. Flowers blue, on long erect stalks. In montane forest especially on wet rocky sites and rock pools in bushland. Livestock medicine.

***Crotalaria agatiflora* Schweinf.**

Papilionaceae

Oloontualan

A shrub about 3 m high. Leaves digitately 3-foliolate. Flowers are yellow, in many-flowered racemes. Pods brownish, smooth. Occasional shrub of the forest margin. Used for medicinal purposes.

***Crotalaria axillaris* Ait.**

Papilionaceae

Oloontualan

A shrub about 3 m high. Leaves digitately 3-foliolate. Flowers yellow at first, fading to reddish later, in many-flowered short racemes. Pods brownish, slightly hairy. Occasional shrub of the forest margin.

***Croton macrostachyus* Del.**

Euphorbiaceae

Oloiyapiap

Deciduous tree with rounded open spreading crown. Bark smooth. Leaves heart-shaped, smooth, crowded at the end of branches. Flowers cream yellow, in erect spikes. Fruits, pea-sized capsules, divided into 3 sections. In dry forest and bushland. Wood used to make sword sheaths.

***Cucumis aculeatus* Cogn.**

Cucurbitaceae

Oltulet-loosirkon

Perennial herb with spiny yellow-hooked hairs on stem ridges and on major leaf veins. Leaves 3-lobed. Flowers yellow-green. Fruit green to yellow with scattered bristle-tipped projections. Found in grassland and bushland. It is cherished by donkeys.

***Cucumis ficifolius* A. Rich.**

Cucurbitaceae

Orngalayioi

Perennial herb with spiny and soft spreading hairs. Leaves round, 3-lobed. Flowers yellow. Fruit greenish yellow, covered with low conical projections. In grassland and bushland, common along the pathssides. Fruits are edible. It has medicinal uses.

***Cussonia holstii* Engl. var. holstii**

Araliaceae

Oloiurrur

Tree to 15 m high with large rounded open crown. Bark rough, thick and corky. Leaves compound, with 5 leaflets, crowded at the ends of branches in clusters. Flowers greenish yellow, on erect spikes. Fruits small, whitish yellow, crowded along the spikes. In forest edges, bushland especially on rocky slopes. Used to make tool handles, water and salt troughs, mortar and beehives. Used to make traditional fire.

***Cussonia spicata* Thunb**

Araliaceae

Oloiurrur

A slender tree about 10 m tall branched near the top. The leaves are digitately compound, leaflets with toothed margin. Flowers are in spikes. Used to make tool handles, water and salt troughs, mortar and beehives. Used to make traditional fire.

***Cyathula polcephala* Bak.**

Amaranthaceae

Enterepenyi

Scrambling woolly perennial herb, rooting at nodes. Leaves heart-shaped. Inflorescence terminal, of silvery spherical masses, turning brownish later, very adhesive to clothing and animal hair. In grassland. Fodder

***Cynanchum altiscandens* K. Schum.**

Asclepiadaceae

Olopito

A climbing sweet scented shrub with ovate leaves pointed at apex. Flowers in shortly stalked umbels.

Fruit 3-ridged. In forest edges. Used as ornament by girls. Used for tying.

***Cynoglossum coeruleum* A.DC.**

Boraginaceae

Olemenenga

Stiff hairy herb with linear pointed leaves. Flowers bright blue, on raceme-like scorpioid cymes. Fruit of 4 nutlets, each with barbed spines. In forest clearings, pathsides and weed in cultivated lands. Medicinal.

***Cyphostemma bambuseti* (Gilg & Brandt) Wild. & Drum.**

Vitaceae

Olorrondo

A climber with short hairs on all parts. Leaves palmate, leaflets 3-5, with a layer of hairs below, shallowly toothed. Fruit with short glands. At the forest edges. Medicinal.

***Cyphostemma cyphopetalum* (Fresen.) Wild.&Drum**

Vitaceae

Olorrondo

Fleshy climber with palmately divided leaves. Leaflets 3-5, almost circular in outline. Flowers greenish-yellow. Fruits red, hairy berries. In forest edges and bushland.

***Cyphostemma serpens* (A.Rich) Descoigns**

Vitaceae

Olorrondo

Climbing or trailing herb from a swollen red rootstock. Leaves palmate, leaflets 3-9, hairy below. Flowers greenish-yellow. Fruits red or black berries. In bushed grassland. Medicinal.

***Desmodium repandum* (Vahl) DC.**

Papilionaceae

Eikom

Much branched herb with spreading hairs. Leaves with 3 leaflets. Flowers orange, in clusters of 2-5. Pods glandular sticky in 4 segments. In shaded areas in forest, along streams and pathways.

***Dichrostachys cinerea* (L.) Wight & Arn.**

Mimosaceae

Entirkata

Shrub with leafy woody spines terminating the lateral twigs. Leaves like those of Acacia. Flowers in a hanging dense inflorescence, pink and yellow. Pods are spirally coiled. Found in grassland.

Diospyros abyssinica (Hiern) F.White ssp.abyssinica
Ebenaceae

Olchartuyian orok

Evergreen tree with straight slender trunk about 20 m high. Bark dark grey-brown, later black, cracking into small rectangles. Leaves shiny dark green with wavy margin, drying black. Flowers small, white. Fruit round, held in a cup-shaped calyx, red-yellow then black when ripe. In dry forest. Walking sticks. Construction.

Dombeya burgessiae Gerrard
Sterculiaceae

Osukupukiai-orok

Shrub with heart-shaped hairy leaves. Flowers white or pink, in long-stalked umbels. Fruit round, hairy. In riverine vegetation and wooded grassland. Bark fibre used to make rope for construction.

Dombeya kirkii Mast.

Sterculiaceae

Olawuo

A small tree 2-7 m tall. Leaves are broadly ovate, sandpapery above and toothed along the margin. Flowers are white in large panicles (Figure 15), very valuable honey bee forage. Stems are used to make bows. It has bark fibre used for tying and construction.



Figure 15: *Dombeya kirkii* Mast.

Dombeya rotundifolia (Hochst.) Planch.
Sterculiaceae

Olmotoo

Deciduous shrub or small tree about 6 m high, flowering when leafless. Young twigs reddish. Leaves almost circular, sandpapery above, hairy below, edge toothed. Flowers white-pink in many flowered heads. Fruit small round hairy capsule. In wooded grassland, bushland especially on rocky sites. Useful bee forage.

Dovyalis abyssinica (A.Rich.) Warb.
Flacourtiaceae

Olmorogi

Thorny evergreen much-branched shrub or small tree to 5 m tall. Branchlets dotted with lenticels. Leaves shiny dark green, stalks and veins reddish. Flowers greenish-yellow-white. Fruit is a round berry about 2 cm across, with persistent calyx, orange-yellow when ripe (Figure 16). It is found along the forest edges and in riverine vegetation. Fruit is edible. It has various medicinal uses.



Figure 16: *Dovyalis abyssinica* (A.Rich.)Warb.

***Dovyalis macrocalyx* (Oliv.) Warb.**

Flacortiaceae

Olmorogi

Thorny evergreen much-branched shrub or small tree to 5 m tall. Branchlets dotted with lenticels. Leaves shiny dark green, stalks and veins reddish. Flowers greenish-yellow-white. Fruit round, plum-like berry about 2 cm long, surrounded by enlarged hairy calyx, orange-yellow when ripe. Forest edges and riverine vegetation. Fruit edible. Used for medicine.

***Dregea abyssinica* (Hochst.)K.Schum.**

Aselepiadaceae

Entiakuleti

A hairy climber with milk latex in all parts. Leaves circular. Flowers yellow, in loose stalked cymose inflorescence. Fruit a pod with numerous wavy ridges, to 10 cm long. In bushland and forest edges especially on rocky sites. Stems are used to make the handle for the metal used for branding animals.

***Dregea schimperi* (Decne.) Bullock**

Asclepiadaceae

Enkoriampiti

A hairy climber with milk latex in all parts. Leaves circular. Flowers yellow, in loose stalked cymose inflorescence. Fruit a pod with numerous wrinkles, to

7 cm long. In bushland and forest edges especially on rocky sites. Stems used for branding animals.

***Drypetes gerrardii* Hutch.**

Euphorbiaceae

Oldurdien

Tree about 10 m tall with dark grey smooth bark and dense drooping foliage. Leaves alternate, arranged in one plane on zigzag branchlets, margin wavy, slightly toothed. Flowers yellow in small clusters. Fruits round, softly hairy, yellow to orange-red. Used for construction and tool handles.

***Echinocloa* sp.**

Gramineae

Elaroba

A perennial grass. In wooded grassland and bushland. Fodder for livestock.

***Ehretia cymosa* Thonn.**

Boraginaceae

Endalati ekutuk

Deciduous tree with crooked trunk, often branching from near the base. Leaves are oval, often attacked by insects. Flowers are white-yellow-pink, in large loose heads. Fruits are round, orange-red, later black (Figure 17). A common tree of forest edges and bushland. It is used for tool handles.



Figure 17: *Ehretia cymosa* Thonn.

Ekebergia capensis Sparrm.

Meliaceae

Olmokorionko

Tree to 15 m or more with large spreading crown. Old trees buttressed. Leaves are compound, with 3-6 pairs

of leaflets plus terminal one, leaflet blade unequal-sided. Flowers are small, white. Fruits are round, 1-2 cm across, orange when ripe (Figure 18). The trunk is used to make stools, cattle troughs and beehives.



Figure 18: *Ekebergia capensis* Sparrm.

***Elaeodendron buchananii* (Loes.)Loes.**

Celastraceae

Osoket

Tree to 20 m tall with dense rounded crown. Leaves leatherly, dark green, toothed along the margin, often attacked by caterpillars. Flowers cream-yellow. Fruit yellow, woody and pointed, 1-2 cm. In forest, wooded grassland. Leaves are poisonous to livestock.

***Encephalartos bubalinus* Melville**

Zamiaceae

Oparuai

A palm-like shrub with a rosette of very many leaves. Stem short and stout, covered with leaf scars. Leaves

compound, dark green and shiny, with sharp spines on the margin. Fruit a cone, appearing at the apex of the stem.

***Englerina woodfordioides*(Schweinf.)Balle**

Loranthaceae

Entaretoi

A parasitic shrub growing on tree branches. Leaves are opposite, leathery. Flowers are blue-grey with reddish lobes, in stalked umbels (Figure 19). Fruit is an obovoid sticky berry. It is common in the forest and bushland. It has medicinal uses.



Figure 19: *Englerina woodfordioides* (Schweinf.) Balle

***Eriosema shireense* Bak.f.**

Papilionaceae

Enkaikuinyoi

Annual herb to 30 cm high with hairy leaves. Flowers yellow with dark purple lines. Fruit a dark brown hairy pod about 1.5 cm long, shriveling after dehiscing. In hillside grassland especially on rocky sites. Goat fodder.

***Erythrina abyssinica* DC ssp. abyssinica**

Papilionaceae

Oloponi

Deciduous tree with short trunk, thick spreading branches and rounded crown, about 6-12 m high. Bark deeply grooved, thick and corky, usually with woody

spines. Leaves trifoliolate, leaflets round, covered with brownish hairs. Flowers orange red, in terminal heads. Fruit woody pods constricted between the scarlet black seeds. Wooded grasslands and rocky slopes. Used to make stools and beehives. Seeds for necklaces.

***Erythrocca bongensis* Pax**

Euphorbiaceae

Enchani embaye

Shrub or small tree about 4 m high pale brown bark flaking in sections. Leaves toothed along margin. Flowers yellow-green, smelling of boiling potatoes. Fruit yellowish red, 3-lobed. Along forest margin and bushland. Used to make walking sticks and arrow shafts.

***Euclea divinorum* Hiern**

Ebenaceae

Olkinyei

Shrub or tree usually to 9 m high with dark grey fissured bark. Leaves shiny above, margin often undulate. Fruit round, purple green when ripe. In dry forest, bushed wooded grassland. Popular medicinal plant.

***Euphorbia bussei* Pax var. *kibwezensis* (N.E. Br.) S. Carter**

Euphorbiaceae

Olchoki

Tree about 9 m tall with succulent 2-4-winged segmented branches. All parts with milky latex. Leaves deciduous. Flowers yellow-green in short

cymes. Fruit 3-lobed, yellow-green. In bushland or thickets, also in forest especially on rocky hillsides. Latex used for wounds.

***Euphorbia candelabrum* Kotchy**

Euphorbiaceae

Olpopong'i

Tree with short thick trunk with large round candelabra crown of massive ascending branches. (Figure 20). All parts oozing sticky white latex when injured. Branches with 3-5 spiny ribs. Flowers small, greenish-yellow. Fruits are green-red, pea-sized capsules. It is common in evergreen woodland and bushland, grassland and in forest on rocky slopes. Stems are used to make beehives.



Figure 20: *Euphorbia candelabrum* Kotchy

***Euphorbia gossypina* Pax**

Euphorbiaceae

Oloilei

A succulent scrambler with cylindrical branches. All parts with milky latex. Leaves, on young shoots only. Flowers yellow-green, in terminal cymes. Fruit 3-lobed. In bushland or thickets especially on rocky hillsides. Poisonous. Latex used for wounds.

***Fagaropsis angolensis* (Engl.) Dale**

Rutaceae

Olosiki

Deciduous tree with pinkish grey bark and compound leaves with 5-11 leaflets. Flowers yellowish, in erect

panicles. Fruits round, purplish. In forest. Trunk holes used by honey bees. Source of useful timber.

***Faurea saligna* Harv.**

Proteaceae

Olorte

A shrub or small tree with black rough bark and a dense crown. It has slightly curved leathery leaves with reddish stalks. Flowers are cream-purple, in dense silky terminal spikes. Fruits are tiny nutlets with silky white hairs.

Ficus cordata Thunb.ssp. salicifolia (Vahl) C.C. Berg
Moraceae

Osukunua

Tree to about 10 m or more with grey smooth bark. All parts with milky latex. Leaves ovate, smooth. Figs greenish red, round. On rocks and cliffs. Figs edible. Twigs used to make ceremonial fires.

Ficus sycomorus L.

Moraceae

Olng'aboli

Large spreading tree to 20 m high with yellowish bark. All parts with milky latex. Leaves almost circular, upper surface rough. Figs in leaf axils, in pairs or in clusters on the main trunk and branches, round and usually about 3 cm across, yellow-red when ripe. In riverine vegetation or places with high groundwater table. Used for water troughs, Figs edible.

Ficus thonningii Bl.

Moraceae

Oreteti

Evergreen large tree to 18 m, often starting as epiphyte, aerial roots often present. All parts with milky latex. Leaves oval, very variable in size. Figs in clusters from leaf axils, round, yellow or purple-red when ripe. In wooded grassland, riverine especially on rocky sites. This is a ceremonial tree with cultural significance.

Flacourtia indica (Burm. f.) Merrill.

Flacourtiaceae

Oltankururi

Tree or shrub with straight thorns. Leaves shiny above, with crenate margin. Flowers yellow-green. Fruit yellow or red, round and about 2.5 cm across, with persistent styles. In forest edges, wooded bushland and riverine vegetation. Fruits edible.

Fuerstia africana T.C.E.Fr.

Labiatae

Oloitodor-aik

Annual herb. Leaves opposite, toothed, staining fingers orange when crushed. Flowers white. In wooded grassland especially on shallow soils and rock sites. Used for dye. Also a medicinal plant.

Galium simense Fres.

Rubiaceae

Olngeriantus

A sticky climber with linear leaves. Flowers greenish yellow, in axillary inflorescences. Fruits of 2 dry, 1-seeded mericarps, black and fleshy. The very sandpapery leaves are used to decorate ladies faces. It is common in bushland.

Girardinia diversifolia (Link) Friis

Urticaceae

Entiamejoi olaroi

A terribly stinging herb with deeply lobed leaves, toothed along the margin. Very common in disturbed sites and pathsides in the forest.

Gardenia volkensii K.Schum.ssp.volkensii

Rubiaceae

Oltakuru-kuriet

Much branched tree about 7 m high with dense crown. Branches are in whorls of 3, hard and stiff. Leaves are spoon-shaped, widest at the tip. Flowers are large, white, tubular, borne singly. Fruit is large and almost woody, round or oval with prominent longitudinal ribs (Figure 21). It is found in wooded bushland. It is used for closing the cow gates by women. Branches are used to make a twiler.



Figure 21: *Gardenia volkensii* K.Schum.ssp. *volkensii*

***Gerbera viridifolia* (DC.) Sch. Bip.**
Compositae

-
A rosette herb with long-stalked hairy leaves. Flowers solitary, pinkish heads. Common in wooded grassland areas.

***Gnidia subcordata* Meisn.**
Thymeleaceae

Olokirisiai
Shrub with opposite ovate leaves. Flowers white to cream, in terminal bunches. In forest edges and bushland. Bark used to make very strong rope.

***Gomphocarpus integer* (N.E.Br.) Bullock**
Asclepiadaceae

Entiakuleti
Perennial sparsely branched herb with white woolly hairs on young branches. All parts with milky latex. Leaved needle-shaped. Flowers yellow green. Fruit ovate in outline, smooth or with bristles along one side. In grassland. Fruits used in wedding ceremonies.

***Gomphocarpus physocarpus* E. May.**
Asclepiadaceae

Entiakuleti-orok
Sparsely branched shrub with milky latex in all parts. Leaves lanceolate, often whorled. Flowers green and white tinged with purple. Fruit oval in outline, with a short hooked beak, covered with scattered hairy bristles. In grasslands. Fruits used in wedding ceremonies.

***Gomphocarpus stenophyllus* Oliv.**
Asclepiadaceae

Entiakuleti, Olekule
Perennial sparsely branched herb with white woolly hairs on young branches. All parts with milky latex. Leaved needle-shaped. Flowers yellow or reddish. Fruit ovate in outline, smooth. In grassland. Fruits used in wedding ceremonies.

***Grewia bicolor* Juss.**
Tiliaceae

Esiteti
Shrub with darkish purple peeling bark. Leaves elliptic, whitish beneath, base unequal, margin toothed. Flowers yellow. Fruit round or 2-lobed, red-brown to orange. In wooded bushland. Used for construction, make bows and arrows, walking and herding sticks.

***Grewia similis* K. Schum**
Tiliaceae

Olnyalugwai
Shrub, sometimes climbing, with woody knobs on the stem. Leaves are slightly obovate, with serrated margin. Flowers are mauve or purple, in several-flowered cymes (Figure 22). Fruit is 1-4-lobed, orange-red when ripe. It is common in forest edges and openings, bushland or bushed grassland. One of the best goat fodder in the Loita. Leaves are a traditional soap for the local communities.



Figure 22: *Grewia similis* K. Schum

ripe fruits

***Gutenbergia cordifolia* Oliv.**

Compositae

Naingongu-ndeyo

Much-branched annual herb about 1 m high. Leaves almost stalkless, whitish hairy underneath. Flower heads purple, in terminal corymbs. In grasslands especially in rocky sites, also weed of disturbed places.

***Helichrysum odoratissimum* (L.) Less.**

Compositae

-

A weak straggling shrub with silvery hairy stems. Leaves linear-lanceolate. Flower-heads yellow. In forest openings and bushland.

***Helinus mystacinus* (Ait.) Steud.**

Rhamnaceae

Orkuyaini

Thicket-forming climber with ovate leaves. Flowers yellow-green, in axillary umbels, densely hairy. Fruit a hairy capsule, separating into 3 mericarps. Riverine vegetation and bushland. Used for medicine.

***Heliotropium longiflorum* (A.DC.) Jaub. & Spach.**

Boraginaceae

Olaisikirai

Perennial herb with wavy linear leaves and white to cream flowers on short cymes. Fruit splitting into 4 dry hairy nutlets. In grasslands.

***Heteromorpha trifoliata* (Wendl.) Eckl. & Zeyh.**

Umbelliferae

Orkuyaini

Shrub about 5 m high with flaking grey or dark brown bark. Leaves aromatic, simple, trifoliolate or pinnate

usually with 1-2 pairs of leaflets. Flowers greenish-yellow in dense umbels. Fruit brownish, 3-angled. In forest edges, wooded grassland and bushland especially in rocky sites and in riverine vegetation. Used in various cultural rites.

***Hibiscus calyphyllus* Cav.**

Malvaceae

Esupukiai-narok

Woody herb or shrub to 2.5 m with broadly ovate leaves or clearly 3-5-lobed with serrate margin, often somewhat sandpapery. Flowers yellow with red or purple centre. In forest margins, riverine vegetation, bushland and bushed grassland. Bark source of string to make rope.

***Hibiscus fuscus* Garcke**

Malvaceae

Enkarani

Sparsely-branched woody herb with brownish black star-shaped hairs on stem. Leaves ovate, usually simple or rarely 3-lobed. Flowers white or pale purple. Fruit a capsule. In grassland. Used in various cultural rites and ceremonies.

***Hirpicium diffusum* (O.Hoffm.) Roess.**

Compositae

Naingongu ndeyo

Spreading annual herb with entire or pinnately lobed leaves. Flower heads yellow. In disturbed grasslands. Dry pappus could be very disturbing to the eyes.

***Hypoestes aristata* (Vahl) Roem.&Schultes**
Acanthaceae

Olosida

Perennial herb to 1 m with ovate lanceolate leaves. Flowers with 2-lipped petals, pale mauve, pink or white in axillary whorls. Fruit a 4-seeded capsule. In forest floor and thickets. Dry season fodder and useful bee forage.

***Hypoestes forskalii* (Vahl) R.Br.**
Acanthaceae

Olosida

Perennial herb to 1 m with elliptic leaves. Flowers are white or mauve, streaked with pink or purple, in axillary spike-like inflorescence (Figure 23). Fruit a 4-seeded capsule. It is common in grassland, bushland and forest edges. It is dry season fodder and useful bee forage.



Figure 23: *Hypoestes forskalii* (Vahl) R. Br.

***Hypoxis angustifolia* Lam.**
Hypoxidaceae

Enkaimalasiai

Herb from a perennial corm with a rosette of linear hairy recurved leaves. Flowers yellow with whitish hairs, in umbel-like cymes. Fruit a capsule. Common in upland burnt grasslands. The corm is used by children as toy gourd.

***Ilex mitis* (L.) Radlk.**
Aquifoliaceae

Oltiasimbol

Tree about 10 m high with smooth light grey bark. Leaves elliptic, smooth. Flowers white. Fruits round, yellow to red, with persistent stigma. In forest. Used for construction. Useful bee forage.

***Indigofera arrecta* A. Rich.**
Papilionaceae

Eiyimiyim

Shrub to 3 m high with compound leaves with 7-17 leaflets. Flowers pink to bright red. Fruit a straight pod, deflexed. In forest margin, bushed grassland, thickets and wooded grassland. Fodder.

***Indigofera spinosa* Forsk.**
Papilionaceae

Olkiloilo

A dwarf spiny shrub with trifoliolate leaves. Flowers pinkish. Fruit a straight pod. A useful livestock fodder.

***Indigofera swaziensis* Bolus**
Papilionaceae

Enkoro

Shrub to 2.5 m high with blackish hairs on the stem and compound leaves with 9-15 leaflets. Flowers pink to bright red. Fruit a pod, deflexed. In forest margin, bushed grassland, thickets and wooded grassland. Fodder.

***Indigofera volkensii* Taub.**

Papilionaceae

Enkoroi enkop

Creeping spreading white-hairy herb. Flowers pink, in racemes. Fruit straight, somewhat 4-angled. A useful livestock fodder.

***Ipomoea hildebrandtii* Vatke**

Convolvulaceae

Oltiameleteti

A shrub with almost round leaves which are very finely hairy beneath. Flowers are funnel-shaped, white with purple centre or completely light purple.

***Ipomoea wightii* (Wall.) Choisy**

Convolvulaceae

Olopito

Twining perennial herb with dense soft yellowish hairs on stems and leaf stalks. Leaves heart-shaped, often 3-lobed, whitish soft beneath. Flowers long-stalked, mauve, in dense heads. In upland grassland and higher forest edges. Goat fodder

***Jasminum abyssinicum* DC.**

Oleaceae

Olopito

Climbing shrub with opposite leaves. Leaves trifoliolate with ovate-elliptic, pointed leaflets. Flowers white, tubular, fragrant. Fruit a berry with 2 joined lobe, each 1-seeded. In riverine vegetation. Used as rope for tying.

***Jasminum floribundum* Fres.**

Oleaceae

Oloenyeni

Climbing shrub with opposite leaves. Leaves opposite, 5-foliolate with ovate leaflets. Flowers white, often streaked pink, in open 3-7-flowered cymes. Fruit a berry with 2 joined lobe, each 1-seeded. In riverine vegetation. Used as rope for tying. Also for medicine.

***Jasminum schimperi* Vatke.**

Oleaceae

Orgimasarge

Climbing shrub with opposite leaves. Leaves opposite, simple. Flowers white, pink outside, in dense terminal inflorescence. In riverine vegetation. Used as rope for tying. Also for medicine.

***Juniperus procera* Endl.**

Cupressaceae

Oltarakuai

Tall evergreen tree to about 35 m or more with a straight trunk, brownish bark cracking and peeling in long narrow strips. Fruits waxy blue-grey, berry-like globose cones with 1-4 seeds. In drier upland forest in association with Podocarpus and Olea. Important ceremonial tree. Used for house construction, fencing, making beehives, firewood. This is one of the most utilized tree species within the forest.

***Justicia nyassana* Lindau**

Acanthaceae

Olosida

Trailing perennial herb with ascending branches. Leaves opposite, ovate to broad elliptic. Flowers mauve or purple, in dense terminal spikes. Fruit a capsule, 4-seeded. In damp cool places in dry forest floor. Dry season fodder. Useful bee forage.

***Justicia striata* (Kl.) Bullock**

Acanthaceae

Esonkoyo

Short-lived perennial herb with ascending stems often rooting at the nodes. Leaves opposite, ovate-elliptic, often paler below. Flowers white, in terminal spikes. Fruit a 4-seeded capsule. In woodland and bushed grassland. Dry season fodder. Useful bee forage. It is used as perfume by girls and the Morans.

***Kalanchoe densiflora* Rolfe**

Crassulaceae

Emasiligi

Fleshy herb with opposite succulent smooth round leaves. Flowers yellow, in dense terminal corymbs. Usually in disturbed places and rocky sites. Leaves used for massage.

***Kalanchoe glaucescens* Britten**

Crassulaceae

Emasiligi

Fleshy perennial herb with obovate smooth succulent leaves. Flowers yellow or to orange, in terminal corymbs. In rocky bushland. Leaves used for massage.

***Lagenaria siceraria* (Molina) Standley**

Cucurbitaceae

Oltulet, Lonkukurok

Large climber with divided tendrils and kidney-shaped leaves. Flowers white, tubular. Fruit large, of various shapes, often with a long and narrow end, greenish and

smooth, hard-shelled. In bushland and grassland, usually hanging on fences for cattle enclosures and manyattas. The long narrow fruits are used as containers for milking, large round ones for beer.

***Landolphia buchananii* (Hall.f.) Stapf.**

Apocynaceae

Erisa, Entiangingish

Woody climber to 20 m with milk latex in all parts. Bark dark brown. Leaves opposite, smooth. Flowers white to yellow. Fruit round, greenish with white spots. In riverine vegetation. Stems used for tying as rope.

***Lannea schweinfurthii* (Engl.) Engl.**

Anacardiaceae

Orpandi, Olampirion, Olosuashi

A deciduous tree about 8 m tall with drooping branches. The stem has greyish brown bark, flaking in older trees. Leaves are compound and usually crowded at the ends of branches; leaflets are 3-5. Flowers are in spikes. Fruits are reddish-brown, about 2 cm long. Ripe fruits are edible.

***Lantana rhodesiensis* Moldenke**

Verbenaceae

Enkayakuji

A coarse shrub to 3 m high. Stems ridged, densely covered with dark brownish hairs. Leaves opposite or arranged in 3s round the stem. Flowers pink, in dense heads. Fruits round, shiny purple, very many in one head. The whole plant is pleasantly scented and attracts swarms of bees when in flower. This is a common shrub of the forest edges and openings. Fruits edible.

***Lantana trifolia* L.**

Verbenaceae

Olmakirikiriani

Shrub about 2 m high with sandpapery aromatic leaves which are toothed along the margin. Flowers purple to pink in axillary spikes. Fruit red or purple, very many in one head. In forest edges and bushland. Plant associated with various traditional ceremonies and used as medicine. Fruits edible

***Leonotis nepetifolia*(L.) R.Br.**

Labiatae

Olbibu

Woody annual herb about 2 m high with long-stalked ovate leaves which are toothed along the margin. Flowers are bright orange, in dense globular clusters at upper nodes of the stem (Figure 24). It is a common weed of cultivated areas. Children are fond of sucking nectar from the tubular flowers.



Figure 24: *Leonotis nepetifolia* (L.) R.Br.

***Leucas grandis* Vatke**

Labiatae

Olbibi

Woody herb about 1 m high with ovate hairy leaves. Flowers white, in dense globose clusters in upper axils. In disturbed grounds especially grasslands. Used for medicine.

***Leucas martinicensis* (Jacq.) Ait.f.**

Labiatae

Obibi naibor

Woody annual herb about 1 m high with ovate loosely hairy ovate leaves. Flowers white, in dense globose axillary clusters in upper axils. In disturbed grounds

especially farmlands. Source of nectar for bees. Used for medicine.

***Lippia javanica* (Burn.f.) Spreng**

Verbenaceae

Osinoni

A shrub to 3 m high. Stems rough with stiff hairs. Leaves are sand-papery above and with toothed margin, very fragrant. Flowers are small, whitish, in round flat heads (Figure 25). It regenerates vigorously after cutting or burning. A plant of the forest margin, common also in the grasslands. It has medicinal uses. It removes bad smell. Nectar from this shrub makes bees increase the number of larvae in the hives.



Figure 25: *Lippia javanica* (Burn.f.) Spreng

***Loeseneriella africana* (Willd) Halle**

Celastraceae

Erisa

Woody climber to 15 m rough yellowish bark. Leaves smooth and shiny. Flowers yellow green. Fruit of 3 mericarps, brownish green, with winged seeds. In riverine vegetation and forest especially in rocky sites. Bark and stems used to make rope.

***Maerua triphylla* A. Rich.**

Capparaceae

Enkamoloki

Evergreen shrub or tree, sometimes a climber with simple or 3-foliolate leaves. Flowers greenish white to yellow in axillary racemes. Fruit cylindrical, often constricted between the seeds. In wooded bushland, forest margins and riverine vegetation. Useful fodder for livestock, especially goats.

***Malva verticillata* L.**

Malvaceae

Olbukoi

Annual herb about 1 m high with 5-7-shallowly lobed leaves which are circular in outline. Flowers pinkish white, in axillary clusters. Weed of waste places particularly around homesteads. Used for medicine.

***Maytenus heterophylla* (Exkl. & Zeyh.) Robson**

Celastraceae

Olaimurunyi

Spiny shrub usually with obovate fasciculate leaves on short shoots. Leaves toothed along the margin. Flowers white, cream or yellow, in cymes. Fruit yellow or red, obovoid and usually 3-lobed. In dry forest, wooded bushland and riverine vegetation. Used for various traditional ceremonies and as medicine. Useful bee forage.

***Maytenus senegalensis* (Lam.) Exell**
Celastraceae

Enkodo kiok

Shrub or small tree to 7 m high with drooping branches and numerous sucker shoots. Branches usually with spines, sometimes absent. Leaves usually in clusters, very variable in size and shape, smooth and fleshy, margin toothed, stalk and midrib pinkish. Flowers cream to almost greenish. Fruit a 3-celled round capsule, red when ripe. Used for medicine.

***Maytenus undata* (Thunb.) Blakelock**
Celastraceae

Olkerosha

Evergreen Shrub or tree about 8 m high with smooth grayish bark and elliptic leaves which are shiny above and toothed along the margin. Flowers greenish-white, in axillary fascicles. Fruit yellow to red, obovoid or 3-angled. In dry forest associated with *Olea europaea* and *Juniperus procera*. Used for tool handles, walking sticks and for construction.

***Melanthera scandens* (Schumach.&Thonn.)Roberty**
Compositae

Enkoiyapasei

A trailing shrub about 3 m with ovate-lanceolate or triangular sandpapery leaves. Flower heads yellow. In riverine vegetation within dryland forest. Leaves are used to smoothen tool handles.

***Microglossa pyrifolia* (Lam.) O. Kuntze**
Compositae

Ologumati

A scrambling shrub often forming thick bushes with softly hairy leaves. Flowers cream to yellow, in drooping crowded corymbs. In forest edges and riverine vegetation. Used to make medicine.

***Momordica foetida* Schumach**
Cucurbitaceae

Enkaiserariai

Hairy tendrillate perennial climber from woody rootstock with spotted stems. Leaves heart-shaped. Flowers yellow with black centres. Fruits egg-shaped, covered with soft orange bristles. Fruits cherished by monkeys.

***Momordica trifoliolata* Hook.f.**
Cucurbitaceae

Enkaiserariai

Perennial climber from a woody tuber with tendrils. Leaves with 3 or more leaflets. Flowers yellow with dark green to black centre. Fruit egg-shaped, red, dehiscing into 3 valves. In dry forest usually along riverine vegetation. Fruits are edible

***Myrsine africana* L.**

Myrsinaceae

Eseketeti

Much-branched shrub about 2 m high with grey-brown-purple branches. Leaves small, rather crowded on branchlets, margin with tiny sharp teeth. Flowers in axillary clusters, green-white to pink with purple anthers. Fruit round berries, about 5 mm in diameter, pink-purple when ripe. In upland dry forest. Fruit used to expel intestinal worms. Used to clean blood and for general health.

***Mystroxydon aethiopicum* (Thunb.) Loes.**
Celastraceae

Olodonganayioi

Evergreen shrub or tree to 10 m tall with smooth grey bark. Leaves dark green, glossy above. Flowers are yellow-green. Fruits are round, orange red when ripe (Figure 26). It is common in forest, usually riverine. Wood is used for tool handles, walking sticks and for construction.



Figure 26: *Mistroxylon aethiopicum* (Thumb.) Loes.

Notonia abyssinica A. Rich.

Compositae

Emasiligi

Succulent herb with ascending stems rooting at the nodes. Leaves obovate, fleshy. Flower-heads bright red. In bushland especially along the dry watercourses.

Notonia petraea R.E.Fries

Compositae

Emasiligi

A trailing succulent herb with ascending stems rooting at the nodes. Leaves are obovate, fleshy (Figure 27). Flower-heads 1-4, orange, on erect stalks. It is common in bushed grassland. Leaves are used for cleaning infants.



Figure 27: *Notonia petraea* R.E.Fries

***Nuxia congesta* Fres.**

Loganiaceae

Olpiron

Much-branched or multi-stemmed tree about 20 m high with short twisted bole and low drooping branches. Bark rough, shedding long fibrous strips. Branchlets 3-6 sided with thick nodes. Leaves in threes, crowded at the ends of branches. Flowers white, in dense crowded heads at the ends of branches. Fruit a small hairy capsule, many seeded. Excellent source of nectar for honey bees. Good firewood. This is among the dominant trees in the forest. A major host of the parasitic shrub, *Viscum tuberculatum* (Olmeigaro-keon).

***Obetia radula* (Bak.) Jackson**

Urticaceae

Nokoreti

A robust shrub growing into tree size, with terribly stinging hairs on stems and leaves. Leaves deeply lobed, margin toothed. Flowers yellowish green.

***Ochna holstii* Engl.**

Ochnaceae

Orchartuyan

Deciduous tree about 20 m tall. Bark grey, smooth. Leaves on short twigs, smooth, shiny and sharply toothed along the margin. Flowers bright yellow appearing when the tree is almost leafless. Fruits black drupelets, in groups of up to 4, with red sepals. In forest.

Wood, which is very hard is used for tool handles and walking sticks. Flowers attract swarms of bees.

***Ochna insculpta* Sleumer**

Ochnaceae

Orchartuyan orok

A deciduous tree with brownish dark bark. Leaves reddish when young, toothed along the margin. Flowers yellow. Fruit with black drupelets. Found in forest.

***Ochna ovata* F. Hoffm.**

Ochnaceae

Orchartuyan

Much-branched shrub or small tree to 5 m high with dark brown bark. Leaves on short shoots, reddish when young, toothed along the margin. Flowers yellow. Fruit of purple-black drupelets and with red sepals. In dry forest and bushland. Used for construction and walking sticks.

***Ocimum gratissimum* L.(O.suave Willd.)**

Labiatae

Olemuran

Aromatic shrub 2 m high. Leaves are ovate with toothed margin. Flowers are whitish to pale purple (Figure 28). It is common in forest margin, bushland, riverine vegetation and disturbed areas. It is used to make medicine.



Figure 28: *Ocimum gratissimum* L.

***Ocimum kilimandscharicum* Guerke**

Labiatae

Elemuran

Small much-branched shrub about 1 m high. Leaves elliptic, whitish hairy. Flowers white to pink, arranged in whorls in terminal inflorescence. In bushland, often on rocky and shallow soil sites. Medicine and bee forage.

***Olea capensis* L. ssp. *hochstetteri* (Baker) Friis & P.S. Green**

Oleaceae

Ololiondoi

A tree to 20 m tall with a straight bole. Bark smooth, grey to almost whitish. Leaves opposite, shiny above, with 1-1.5 cm long petiole. Flowers small and white, very many in cymes. Fruit oval, purple. In dry upland forest. A ceremonial tree with various cultural uses.

***Olea europaea* L. ssp. *cuspidata* (Mill.) P. Green**

Oleaceae

Oloirien

Evergreen tree to 15 m high with crooked trunk, rounded crown and grey-green foliage. Branchlets whitish, dotted with lenticels. Leaves opposite, oval and sharply pointed, dark green above, white or silvery below. Flowers small, white to yellow. Fruit oval with a pointed tip, purple when ripe. This is the most important tree among the Loita Maasai. It is used in most traditional ceremonies, make tool handles, clubs, walking sticks, firewood, construction, medicines etc. It is an important fodder for livestock during drought.

***Olinia rochetiana* A. Juss.**

Oliniaceae

Olkirenyi

Shrub or tree to 12 m high. Young branches squire. Leaves elliptic, leaf-stalk of young ones reddish. Flowers cream, fading to pink, in pyramidal cymes. Fruit round, pinkish. In upland dry forest. Medicine. Firewood.

***Oncoba routledgei* Sprague**

Flacourtiaceae

Lekiku-uni

Thorny much-branched tree to 9 m high. Leaves oval, toothed along the margin. Flowers white to pink. Fruit round, yellow, about 5 cm across. In riverine vegetation.

***Oncocalyx fischeri* (Engl.) M. Gilbert**

Loranthaceae

Eimiyim

A parasitic shrub. Leaves grey-green, hairy. Flowers yellow, fading orange with age, petals and stamens contorted, twisting and recoiling. Fruit an oval berry, warty, red when ripe. A common shrub in forest usually on *Grewia similis* and *Maytenus spp.*

***Osyris lanceolata* Hochst. & Steudel**

Santalaceae

Ololesiai

Evergreen shrub or small tree about 5 m high with drooping branches. Leaves are opposite, slightly fleshy, bluish green or yellow-green. Flowers are small, yellow-green in axillary cymes. Fruits are round, orange or red, 5-8 mm across (Figure 29). It is found in evergreen bushland and forest edges. Bark used in tea as well as soup.



Figure 29: *Osyris lanceolata* Hochst. & Steudel

Ozoroa insignis Del. ssp. ***reticulata*** (Bak. f.) Gillett
Anacardiaceae

Olokunonoi

A much-branched shrub often with a twisted stem. Bark corky, grooved and exuding creamy resinous latex when cut. Leaves leatherly with prominent parallel veins, very variable in size, green above, silvery hairy below. Flowers are small, cream, in small clusters. Fruits are flat and bean-shaped, reddish at first, ripening shiny black.

Pappea capensis Exkl. & Zeyh.
Sapindaceae

Oltimigomi

Semi-deciduous tree about 6 m high with short trunk branching low to form a spreading rounded crown. Bark smooth, with horizontal markings. Leaves stiff and wavy, edge spine-toothed, usually in terminal clusters. Flowers are green-yellow, in spikes. Fruit round, splitting to reveal orange-red aril covering black seed (Figure 30). It is common in the wooded grassland and bushland. It has medicinal uses. Fruits are edible.



Figure 30: *Pappea capensis* Exkl. & Zeyh. Flowers and fruits

Pavonia patens(Andr.)Chiov.
Malvaceae

Esupukiai-oibor

A trailing shrub with broad ovate leaves, notched at the base, irregularly lobed. Flowers yellow with a darker centre. In upland forest edges. Used to make medicine. Fodder.

Pavonia urens Cav.

Malvaceae

Osupukiai-orok

A hairy shrub with almost circular, 5-7-triangular-lobed leaves. Flowers pink, or white, usually clustered on short stalks. In forest edges and riverine vegetation. Leaves used as toilet paper for infants. Used to make medicine.

Pennisetum catabasis

Gramineae

Olmagutian

Perennial tufted grass to 2 m high. In bushed and wooded grassland. Used to thatch traditional houses.

Peponium vogelii (Hook.f.)Engl.

Cucurbitaceae

Oltulet-lolowuaru

A climber with kidney-shaped, shallowly deeply 5-7-lobed with pointed teeth. Flowers bright yellow. Fruit ellipsoid, orange with green streaks, to 15 cm long. In rocky places and forest edges. Fruits edible, popular particularly by children and women.

Periploca linearifolia Dill.&A.Rich.

Asclepiadaceae

Osinantei

A climber with smooth linear leaves. All parts with milky latex. Flowers white with purple sepals, in terminal cymes. Fruit of diverging pods, to 10 cm long. In forest edges. Commonly taken in soup.

Phoenix reclinata jacq.
Palmae

Oltukai

Palm tree to 15 m high, mature palm with slender trunk, often bent over, covered with very rough leaf scars. Leaves 2.7 m long, leaflets bright shiny green, stiff and pointed. Flowers cream, in much-branched panicles. Fruit red to orange. In riverine vegetation and wet areas in upland forest. The fronds are used to clean gourds.

Phragmanthera usuiensis(Oliv.)M.Gilbert
Loranthaceae

Olmeigaro-keon

A parasitic shrub with ovate-elliptic leaves. Flowers yellow to orange, covered with rusty hairs (Figure 31). Fruit a blue-green berry with bright orange-red seed. It is found in forest and bushland. It is used to prepare medicine.



Figure 31: *Phragmanthera usuiensis* (Oliv.) M.Gilbert

Phyllanthus sepialis Muell. Arg
Euphorbiaceae

Entile

Many-stemmed shrub with small, almost round smooth leaves. Flowers yellowish green, in axillary groups, long-stalked. Fruit about 2.5 mm across, wrinkled. Useful goat fodder.

Physalis peruviana L.
Solanaceae

Olnaasi

Trailing hairy herb with ovate leaves, shallowly toothed. Flowers yellow with brown centres. Fruit yellow to orange, in inflated papery calyx. In disturbed places. Fruits eaten.

Phytolacca dodecandra L'Herit.
Phytolaccaceae

Olaturdiai

Somewhat succulent shrub with ovate smooth leaves. Flowers greenish white, very many in 30 cm long

racemes. Fruits orange. In forest edges. Poisonous plant.

Piliostigma thonningii (Schumach.) Milne-Redh.
Caesalpiniaceae

Oloipirusalan

A small tree about 4 m tall with rounded crown. Leaves are leathery with prominent raised veins, bilobed, often folded along the midrib, lower surface brownish hairy. Flowers white to pink. Pods woody, flat, brown in colour, 15-20 cm long. Found on the wooded grasslands.

Pistacia aethiopica Kokwaro
Anacardiaceae

Oltankotua

Evergreen shrub or tree to 10 m high with resinous rough bark. Leaves compound with 6-10 opposite leaflets, reddish when young, rachis winged. Flowers yellowish with red tinge. Fruits red, round. In dry forest in association with *Juniperus* and *Olea*. Used for tooth brush, firewood and medicine.

Pittosporum lanatum Hutch. & Bruce
Pittosporaceae

Oltiangararian

Tree with ash-grey scaly bark. The leaves are shiny above, crowded at the ends of branches. Flowers are

cream, strongly scented. Fruits are round with persistent style, 6-8 mm across, yellowish, splitting in two when mature (Figure 32). A common tree in the forest.



Figure 32: *Pittosporum lanatum* Hutch. & Bruce

Plicosepalus curviflorus(Oliv.)Van Tiegh
Loranthaceae

Olmeigaro-keon

Parasitic shrub with stems arising from surface runners. Leaves strap-like. Flowers curved, mostly red or yellow. Fruit red berry. In bushland and wooded grassland, usually on *Acacia* spp.

narrow, 2-5 cm long. Cones round, to 2 cm, green with dull purple bloom. In dry forest with *Olea* and *Juniperus*. Used for timber.

Plumbago zeylanica L.
Plumbaginaceae

Olngeriantus

A trailing smooth shrub. Leaves ovate with wedge-shaped base, leaf stalk winged and clasping the stem at base. Flowers white in terminal spikes. In dry bushland. For medicine.

Podocarpus latifolius (Thumb.)Mirb.
Podocarpaceae

Ormusaduku

Evergreen tree to 20 m high with straight bole. Bark cracking and scaling into irregular rectangles. Leaves narrow, 2-5 cm long. Cones round, to 2 cm, green with dull purple bloom. In humid upland forest and bamboo zone, may be locally dominant. Used for timber.

Podocarpus falcatus Mirb.
Podocarpaceae

Olpiripiri

Evergreen tree to 25 m high with straight bole. Bark cracking and scaling into irregular rectangles. Leaves

Pollichia campestris Ait.
Caryophyllaceae

Enkayakuji-ekoko

Straggling woody herb with apparently whorled leaves. Flowers greenish, in dense axillary clusters. Fruit red. In forest edges, bushed grassland and disturbed areas, often in shaded areas.

***Polygonum salicifolium* Willd.**

Polygonaceae

Oleturot

Perennia herb with linear-oblong sheathed leaves. Flowers pink or white, in groups, in terminal racemes. In waterside grassland.

***Prunus africana* (Hook.f.) Kalkm**

Rosaceae

Olkujuk

Evergreen tree to 25 m high with rough bark scaling irregularly. Leaves leathery, margin with shallow teeth, leaf-stalk pink to reddish brown. Flowers greenish white. Fruit round, dark red to purple-black, bilobed. In moist forest. Used to make medicine.

***Pseudognaphalium luteo-album*(L.) Hillard & Burt**

Compositae

Olekiushin

Erect woolly herb. Leaves spoon-shaped. Flowers in globose straw-coloured heads. In grasslands and disturbed places including areas of cultivation. Used to bathe newborn babies.

***Psiadia punctulata* (DC.) Vatke**

Compositae

Olabaai

Shrub about 2 m high. Leaves shiny and sticky, with gummy secretion. Flowers yellow, in many-flowered heads. Open areas in dry forest, disturbed grassland and woodland. Used as insecticide for fleas in sheep, goat kids and calves. Roots are used in soup.

***Psydrax schimpriana* (A.Rich.)Bridson
ssp. *schimperiana* Rubiaceae**

Olmasei

Evergreen shrub or tree to 10 m high, young branches square, somewhat winged. Leaves glossy above, smooth. Flowers white in dense cymes. Fruit black, 1-2-seeded. In dry forest and bushland, often in rocky sites. Used for firewood.

***Pterolobium stellatum*(Forssk.) Brenan**

Caesalpiniaceae

Olosarng'atuny

Scrambler or climbing shrub to 15 m with prickles on the stem and leaves. Leaves compound, leaflets in 7-15 pairs. Flowers cream-yellow, in spikes. Fruits purple-red, winged. In riverine vegetation, forest edges and wooded bushland. Used for medicine.

***Pupalia lappacea* (L.) A. Juss.**

Amaranthaceae

Enterepenyi

Perennial sprawling hairy herb with ovate leaves and terminal inflorescence with flower clusters with stiff hooked bristles, very annoying sticky plant. In bushland. Goat fodder.

***Rauvolfia caffra* Sond.**

Apocynaceae

Olemudongo

Much-branched shrub or tree up to 35 m high, branches whorled, all parts with milky latex. Leaves shiny dark green above, arranged in whorls of 3-5 towards the ends of branchlets. Flowers white, tubular, in dense clusters. Fruit round and smooth, black purple and wrinkled when ripe. In riverine forest. Used to make beehives and stools. See also *Tabernaemontana venricosa*.

***Rhamnus prinoides* L'Herit**

Rhamnaceae

Olkonyil

Much-branched shrub, occasionally scrambling. Leaves shiny above. Flowers yellow-green. Fruit 3-lobed, red first, later turning purple-black. In forest edges and openings up to the bamboo zone. Popular medicinal plant.

***Rhamnus staddo* A. Rich.**

Rhamnaceae

Olkokola

Shrub or tree, twigs occasionally thorn-tipped. Leaves obovate, margin slightly serrated. Flowers greenish yellow. Fruit red, turning black. In dry upland forest edges and evergreen bushland. Popular medicinal plant.

***Rhoicissus tridentata* (L.f.) Wild & Drum.**

Vitaceae

Olkilenyai

Shrub 1.5 m or climber to 9 m from tuberous rootstock. Leaves are trifoliolate, hairy (Figure 33). Flowers are reddish brown. Fruit is black, about 1 cm across. It is common in wooded grassland, forest margins and evergreen bushland. Fruits are edible. It is useful animal fodder in drought periods. It has medicinal uses. Its flowering signified higher honey production. Resulting honey is sticky, thick and sweet.



Figure 33: *Rhoicissus tridentata* (L.f.) Wild & Drum.

***Rhus natalensis* Krauss**

Anacardiaceae

Olmisigiyoio

Much-branched shrub with cream bark dotted with lenticels and angular branches. Leaves 3-foliolate, the middle one largest. Flowers yellow-green, in loose heads. Fruits bean-shaped, smooth, purplish red when ripe. In dry forest margins, bushland and wooded grassland. Fruit edible. Used to make medicine. Firewood. Toothbrush.

***Rhus quartiniana* A. Rich.**

Anacardiaceae

Olmisigiyoio

Much-branched shrub or tree about 7 m high. Leaves 3-foliolate, the middle one largest, densely hairy. Flowers yellow-green, in hairy loose heads. Fruits bean-shaped, reddish. In riverine vegetation and wooded bushland. Fruit edible. Used to make medicine.

***Rhus vulgaris* Meikle**

Anacardiaceae

Olmungushi

Much-branched shrub or small tree about 5 m high with brownish hairy bark. Leaves 3-foliolate, the middle one largest, densely hairy beneath. Flowers yellow-green, in hairy loose heads. Fruits bean-shaped, reddish brown, slightly flattened. In dry forest margins, bushland and wooded grassland. Fruit edible. Used to make medicine. Firewood.

***Rhynchosia hirta* (Andrews) Meikle & Verdc.**

Papilionaceae

-

A vigorous twinner with trifoliolate leaves. Flowers greenish white. Pods twisted, velvet. Seeds blue, persistent in the open pod. In riverine vegetation and wooded bushland. Fodder.

***Ricinus communis* L.**

Euphorbiaceae

Olpaleki

Evergreen shrub or tree to 5 m tall with purplish hollow stems. Leaves large, palmately lobed with toothed edge, young ones dark red-green. Flowers reddish to purplish green, crowded on upright spikes. Fruit round spiny capsules, splitting to release 3 seeds. Usual escape from cultivation, common in riverine vegetation.

***Rubia cordifolia* L.**

Rubiaceae

Olngeriandus-loonchashuri

Prickly climber with recurved prickles and long-stalked heart-shaped leaves. Flowers greenish-yellow, in short axillary cymes at the tips of the branches. Fruits black. In dry forest edges and riverine vegetation. Roots produce red dye for sword sheaths. A medicine for babies

***Rubus apetalus* Poir.**

Rosaceae

Olayakuji

A Scrambling shrub with scattered hooked spines on the stems. Leaves with 3-7 leaflets. Flowers with small pink petals, in branched heads. Fruits of many small parts purple-black when ripe. In forest edges and riverine vegetation. Fruits edible. Roots for medicine.

***Rumex usambarensis* (Dammer) Dammer**

Polygonaceae

Enkaisujoi

A scrambling shrub with pinkish-green hollow stems. Leaves sheathed, arrow-shaped at the base. Flowers are reddish, in terminal clusters. Stems and leaves have acidic taste, chewed to slake thirst.

***Rytigynia uhligii* (K. Schum. & K. Krause) Verdc.**

Rubiaceae

Orgumi

Shrub or tree to 8 m high with smooth bark. Leaves opposite, elliptic, smooth. Flowers greenish-yellow, in 1-2 flowered cymes. Fruit round, blue-black. In forest. Used for firewood and tool handles.

***Sansevieria suffruticosa* N.E.Br.**

Dracaenaceae

Oldupai

Perennial herb from a woody rhizome. Leaves straight, cylindrical, ribbed and usually variegated. Flowers white or pale red, in clusters or terminal raceme. Fruit a round berry. In dry rocky bushland. Used to make medicine. It is used to make rope.

***Sarcostemma viminale* (L.) R.Br.**

Ascepiadaceae

Oloilei-oibor

A twining shrub with greenish fleshy stems. Flowers greenish, in stalkless umbels. In rocky and disturbed

sites in bushed grasslands. Taken in soup. Has various medicinal uses.

***Sapium ellipticum* (Krauss) Pax**

Euphorbiaceae

Olairangai

Tree with drooping branches and with milky latex in all parts when cut. Leaves with toothed margin, turning red before falling. Flowers tiny, yellowish green, in terminal spikes. Fruits 3-lobed, purplish black when ripe. The tree often found near rivers.

***Satureia biflora* (D. Don) Benth.**

Labiatae

Engoloshoo

Erect woody herb to 50 cm high. Leaves almost round. Flowers pink, in dense axillary clusters. In grasslands. Leaves used in tea.

***Schrebera alata* (Hochst.) Welw.**

Oleaceae

Oliala

A deciduous tree over 15 m high with yellow-brown bark, flaking in patches. Leaves compound with 2 pairs lateral leaflets plus larger terminal leaflet, leaf stalk winged. Flowers cream white with purple. Fruit pear-shaped, woody capsule, splitting open when ripe, seeds winged. Dry forest remnants and bushland. Firewood. Twigs for cleaning teeth and mouth. Considered good medicine for teeth.

***Sclerocarya birrea* (A. Rich.) Hochst.**

Anacardiaceae

Olmagwai

A much branched tree with greyish cracked bark. Leaves are compound, with 7-21 leaflets. Flowers whitish-purple. Fruits are oval, 2.5-7.5 long, yellow when ripe (Figure 34). The fruits are edible.



Figure 34: *Sclerocarya birrea* (A. Rich.) Hochst.

***Scolopia zeyheri* (Nees) Harv.**

Flacourtiaceae

Lekiku-uni

Shrub or small tree about 8 m tall. Stem and branches with many straight spines to about 10 cm long. Flowers white with yellowish anthers. Fruit round, reddish black. The very spiny stems are used to make temporary cattle enclosures.

***Scutia myrtina* (Burm.f.) Kurz**

Rhamnaceae

Osanankururi

Scrambling spiny shrub forming bushes, branches with recurved thorns. Leaves opposite, broadly oval with a tiny sharp protrusion at tip. Flowers greenish white. Fruit round, purple black when ripe. In forest edges and bushland. Fruit edible. Bark used in soup. Branches used to make a twiler.

***Secamone punctulata* Decne.**

Ascepiadaceae

Entasim-ekule

Woody climber with narrowly elliptic leaves. Flowers orange in axillary and terminal cymes. Fruits diverging pods. In evergreen bushland and woodland. Used in various traditional rites.

***Selaginella abyssinica* Spring**

Fern

Nareruk

A carpet-forming herb on moist forest and bushland floor.

***Senecio hadiensis* Forssk.**

Compositae

Olairamirami

A semi-succulent climber with soft, slightly toothed leaves. Flowers yellow in terminal corymbs (Figure 35). It is common in forest edges. It is useful fodder in dry season.



Figure 35: *Senecio hadiensis* Forssk.

Senna didymobotrya (Fresen.) Irwin & Barneby
Caesalpiniaceae

Osenetoi

Much-branched shrub to 4 m high with compound leaves with 8-18 pairs of leaflets (Figure 36). Flowers

are yellow. Fruits are flattened pods, up to 10 cm long. It is common in riverine vegetation. It is used to make traditional medicine.



Figure 36: *Senna didymobotrya* (Fresen.) Irwin & Barneby

Sesbania sesban (L.) Merrill
Papilionaceae

Oloyiankalani

A deciduous short-lived shrub with reddish brown bark. Leaves compound, with 10-25 pairs leaflets. Flowers yellow with maroon specks. Pods in bunches, constricted between the seeds. In riverine vegetation and seasonally flooded areas. Goat fodder.

Sida rhombifolia L.
Malvaceae

Enkonini-enkop

Short-lived perennial herb to 1.5 m high. Leaves ovate elliptic. Flowers yellow, in axillary racemes. In disturbed sites. Used in traditional ceremonies. It is used to make sweeping blooms.

Sida schimperiana A. Rich.

Malvaceae

Olonini

Much-branched shrub to 0.5 m high. Leaves linear-oblongate, greyish. Flowers yellow, borne singly or in groups of 4. In grassland and bushland. Used in various traditional ceremonies.

Sida tenuicarpa Vollesen

Malvaceae

Olonini

Spreading dwarf shrub with oblanceolate leaves with apical tooth. Flowers yellow, solitary or in heads. In grasslands and degraded pastures. Used in various ceremonies.

Solanecio angulatus (Vahl) C. Jeffrey

Compositae

Olairamirami-pus

A succulent climber with deeply pinnately lobed leaves. Flower heads yellow, in crowded umbels. Forest edges and woodlands. Fodder for goats.

Solanecio mannii (Hook.f.) C. Jeffrey

Compositae

Olmusakwa etim

A shrub or small tree to about 6 m high with greenish purple stems which have prominent leaf scars. Leaves are sword-like and toothed along the margin. Flowers in terminal inflorescences, yellow.

Solanum aculeastrum Dunal

Solanaceae

Osikawoi

Much-branched shrub to 5 m high with scattered thorns on branches. Leaves pinnately lobed, often spiny beneath. Flowers white, in axillary cymes. Fruit yellow, lemon-shaped, with pointed apex, often warty. In forest margins, clearings and riverine. Live fence around manyatta.

Solanum incanum L.

Solanaceae

Entemelua, Entulelei

Thorny shrub with ovate, slightly lobed leaves. Flowers mauve or purple. Fruit round, yellow. In waste ground and grassland. Used to treat various diseases.

Solanum indicum L.

Solanaceae

Entulelei entim

A shrub to 3 m high with straight or curved prickles on stem and leaves. Leaves often lobed and hairy. Flowers blue purple with yellow stamens. Fruits round, about 8 mm across, orange or red but later changing to black, appearing in small groups. In forest edges and openings. It has various medicinal uses.

Solanum nigrum L.

Solanaceae

Olmomoi

Annual herb with elliptic entire or toothed leaves. Flowers white, in drooping umbels. Fruits black or orange. Common weed of cultivated land, also common in forest. Used as vegetable.

Sphaeranthus confertifolius Robyns

Compositae

Oleturot

Loose shrub with winged stem and narrow-elliptic toothed leaves. Flower heads purple. In disturbed ground in forest and grassland areas. Used to make traditional medicine for babies.

Sphaeranthus suaveolens (Forssk.) DC.

Compositae

Oleturot

Trailing herb with ascending winged stems. Flower heads purple. In riverine and dry riverbeds. Used to make traditional medicine for babies.

Sporobolus sp.

Gramineae

Olobobo

A tufted grass to 1.5 m high with round slender flowering stalks. In grassland. Cattle fodder.

Synadenium grantii Hook.f.

Euphorbiaceae

Olkorbobit

Shrub or tree to 6 m high with milky latex in all parts. Leaves fleshy, with purple tinge. Flowers reddish in dichotomous cymes. Fruit red, slightly hairy. In bushland, usually at rocky sites. Planted to mark graves.

***Syzygium cordatum* Krauss**

Myrtaceae

Olairagai

Evergreen tree about 8 m high with short trunk and compact rounded crown. Leaves are blue-green,

clasping the stem in opposite pairs, oblong to circular, to 8 cm long (Figure 37). Flowers are pink-white with conspicuous stamens, in clusters. Fruits are fleshy, oval, purple when ripe. It is found in riverine. Fruits are edible.



Figure 37: *Syzygium cordatum* Krauss

***Syzygium guineense* (Willd.) DC.**

Myrtaceae

Olairagai

Evergreen tree to 15 m high with rough flaking bark and drooping branchlets. Young leaves purple red, mature ones dark green. Flowers white with conspicuous stamens, in dense heads. Fruits oval, purple-black when ripe. In riverine forest. Fruits edible.

***Tabernaemontana ventricosa* A.DC.**

Apocynaceae

Olemudongo

Tree with large shiny leaves, all parts exuding copious white latex when cut. Flowers white to yellow, tubular, in dense clusters. Fruit 2-lobed. Found along the rivers. Used to make beehives and stools. See also *Rauwolfia caffra*.

***Tagetes minuta* L.**

Compositae

Olbanki

Strong-smelling annual herb with pinnate opposite leaves. Leaflets toothed along the margin. Flowers yellow, in terminal heads. Weed in cultivated land.

***Tarchonanthus camphoratus* L.**

Compositae

Oleleshwa, Osentu

Shrub or tree to 6 m high with silvery-white (Figure 38) camphor-scented leaves. Flowers white, in terminal inflorescence. Fruits are woolly. A very common tree especially on rocky sloppy sites. It is used to treat various diseases. Used for firewood and construction. Leaves are used as handkerchief as well as beddings.



Figure 38: *Tarchonanthus camphoratus* L.

Tarennia graveolens (S. Moore) Brem.
Rubiaceae

Olmasei

Shrub or tree to 7 m high with opposite narrowly elliptic leaves. Flowers are whitish yellow, in compact

terminal heads (Figure 39). Fruits are round, 4-7 mm, turning black when ripe. Common in forest edges, bushland on rocky sites and riverine vegetation. It is used to make traditional medicines. It is used for firewood and construction.



Figure 39: *Tarennia graveolens* (S. Moore) Brem.

Tetradenia riparia (Hochst.) Codd.
Labiatae

Olokoromua

A sub-succulent shrub about 3 m high with knobby stems with leaf scars. Leaves are ovate with toothed

margin, 3-20 by 2-15 cm. Flowers are white or pale blue, in terminal panicles (Figure 40). It is found in dry rocky evergreen bushland. It is used to prepare traditional medicine. It is used to start traditional fire.



Figure 40: *Tetradenia riparia* (Hochst.) Codd.

***Thunbergia alata* Sims**
Acanthaceae

-
A twining perennial herb with winged leaf-stalk. Leaves triangular, with heart-shaped base and arrow-shaped lobes. Flowers orange, tubular with dark throat. Fruit a woody capsule with beak. Used for medicine.

***Tinnea aethiopica* Hook.f.**
Labiatae

Olokildia
Weak shrub to 3 m high with ovate leaves. Flowers in pairs at upper nodes, blackish purple, papery in fruit. In wooded bushland and grassland. Used to make eye medicine.

***Toddalia asiatica* (L.) Lam.**
Rutaceae

Oleparmunyo
Much-branched prickly climbing shrub. Branches and underside of leaves with hooked prickles. Leaves 3-foliolate. Flowers greenish-yellow. Fruit round, orange when ripe. In forest margins, riverine and grassland thickets. Used to prepare traditional medicines, very popular.

***Tragia brevipes* Pax**
Euphorbiaceae

Entamejoi
Climbing herb with stinging hairs especially on the fruit. Leaves ovate toothed along the margin and narrowed into a point at apex. Fruit a densely hairy ball. In forest edges and bushland.

***Trichocladus ellipticus* Eckl. & Zeyh.**
Hamamelidaceae

Olpalagilagi
Shrub or tree, usually scandent. Leaves silvery or yellowish brown beneath, obovate or elliptic. Flowers yellow, in heads. In forest, as understorey. Used for construction. This is a valuable fodder during drought.

***Tridactyle bicaudata* (Lindley) Schltr.**
Orchidaceae

Entaretoi
An epiphytic orchid with long straggling woody stems forming clumps on trees. Leaves linear to sterp-shaped. Flowers yellowish green.

***Trifolium usambareense* Taub.**
Papilionaceae

-
Annual herb with ascending stems often rootng at the nodes. Leaves digitately trifoliolate, leaflets wedge-shaped, toothed along the margin. Flowers purple. In forest, usually in marshy areas. Goat fodder.

***Trimeria grandifolia* (Hochst.) Warb.**
Flacourtiaceae

Oledat

Much-branched shrub or tree with pale grey smooth bark. Leaves ovate with toothed margin and prominent nerves below, densely hairy. Flowers yellow-green. Fruit reddish-orange, angular. In forest. Used to treat various ailments.

***Turraea abyssinica* A. Rich.**
Meliaceae

Enchani-enkashe

A shrub or tree to 8 m high with smooth bark. Leaves with rounded tip. Flowers are white, with a long filament tube, petals 12-16 mm long (figure 41). Fruit 3-lobed, seeds with orange-red aril. It is common in bushland especially riverine. It is used to treat various ailments. It is used as toothbrush.



Figure 41: *Turraea abyssinica* A. Rich.

***Urtica massaica* Mildbr.**
Urticaceae

Entamejoi

Herb from a rhizome with opposite leaves covered with stinging hairs. Leaves toothed along the margin. Flowers greenish, in spike-like inflorescences. In forest margins and paths, around manyattas.

***Uvaria scheffleri* Diels**
Annonaceae

Erisa

Woody climber with brownish stems. Leaves oval, smooth and aromatic. Flowers solitary, yellow. Fruits many together, cylindrical, yellow or orange when ripe. In riverine forest and bushland, often on stony sites. Fruits are edible.

***Vangueria apiculata* K. Schum**
Rubiaceae

Olgumi

Shrub or tree to 7 m high with grayish brown bark. Leaves opposite. Flowers greenish yellow in dense cymes. In forest and bushland. Fruits edible. Firewood.

***Vangueria volkensii* K. Schum**
Rubiaceae

Olgumi

Shrub or tree to 7 m high with grayish brown bark. Leaves opposite. Flowers greenish yellow in dense cymes. In forest and bushland. Fruits edible. Firewood.

***Vepris nobilis* Del. (*Teclea nobilis* Del.)**
Rutaceae

Olgilai

Tree to 15 m or more with finely grooved bark. Leaves usually 3-foliolate, leaflets elliptic, smooth. Flowers yellow-green, in terminal or axillary heads. Fruits round or ellipsoid, yellow, orange or red. In forest especially riverine. Used to make walking sticks, clubs and tool handles. Used to make medicines. Fruits edible. A useful fodder for cows during drought. Nectar from this tree makes honey bitter and not sticky.

Vepris simplicifolia (Engl.) Verdoorn (*T. simplicifolia*
(Engl.) Verd.) Rutaceae

Olgilai

Tree to 15 m or more with finely grooved bark. Leaves elliptic, smooth. Flowers yellow-green, in terminal or axillary heads. Fruits round or ellipsoid, yellow, orange or red. In forest especially riverine. Used to make walking sticks, clubs and tool handles. Used to treat various ailments. Fruits edible. Toothbrush. Nectar from this tree makes honey bitter and not sticky.

Vernonia auriculifera (Welw.) Hiern
Compositae

Olmusaakua

Spreading shrub with elliptic leaves densely hairy beneath. Flower heads purple or white, in dense inflorescences. In forest edges, grasslands and riverine vegetation. Used to treat ailments. Used in traditional ceremonies.

Vernonia brachycalyx O. Hoffm.
Compositae

Ologumati

A scrambler with ovate or elliptic leaves densely hairy beneath. Flower heads purple, in dense inflorescences (Figure 42). In forest edges, grasslands and riverine vegetation. Used to treat ailments. Used in traditional ceremonies.



Figure 42: *Vernonia brachycalyx* O. Hoffm.

Vernonia lasiopus O. Hoffm.
Compositae

Olmusaakua

A shrub, about 3 m high. Leaves are ovate or elliptic, 4-18 by 2-8 cm, toothed along the margin. Flowers are

pale purple (Figure 43). This is a plant of forest edges and clearings. Roots and leaves have medicinal uses.



Figure 43: *Vernonia lasiopus* O. Hoffm.

Vigna membranacea A. Rich.
Papilionaceae

Olchaki

Twining herb from woody rootstock with 3-foliolate leaves. Leaflets ovate-triangular. Flowers pink, blue or mauve. Pods covered with hairs. In bushed grasslands and forest margins. Fodder for goats. Used as cord in construction.

Viscum tuberculatum A. Rich.
Viscaceae

Endaletoi, Olmeigaro-keon

Parasitic shrub on tree branches. Stems forming dense globose masses. Leaves fleshy, obovate, yellow green. Flowers in groups of 1-3, yellow to orange. Fruit ovoid berry, orange or red. In forest and wooded bushland, very common on *Nuxia congesta*. Used in traditional ceremonies. Taken in tea.

Warburgia ugandensis Sprague
Canellaceae

Osokonoi

Evergreen tree over 20 m high with a rounded crown. Leaves glossy dark green above. Flowers yellow-green. Fruit egg-shaped, purplish when ripe. In riverine forest, often associated with *Acacia xanthophloea*.

Withania somnifera (L.) Dunal
Solanaceae

Olesayiet

Woody herb or shrub about 1.5 m high. Leaves ovate, densely hairy when young, later smooth. Flowers are yellow-green. Fruits orange or red, enclosed in a papery calyx (Figure 44). It is found along rivers, disturbed sites and seasonally flooding areas. It is used to treat various ailments.



Figure 44: *Withania somnifera* (L.) Dunal

***Ximenia americana* L.**

Olacaceae

Olamai

Spiny tree or shrub about 5 m high with alternate leaves clustered on spur shoots or on spines. Leaves often folded along the midrib. Flowers cream. Fruits oval, orange-red. Used to treat various diseases in young children.

***Yushania alpina* K. Schum.**

Gramineae

Oltiyani

Bamboo. Culms (stems) over 6 m high. In dense stands in higher montane forest. Used in cultural ceremonies. Culms made into various household items and snuff containers.

***Zanthoxylum usambarense* (Engl.)Kokwaro**

Rutaceae

Oloisuki

Thorny much-branched shrub or tree about 5-8 m high with brownish, deeply fissures bark. Branchlets with dark-red curved prickles. Leaves compound with 5-17 leaflets, with translucent gland dots, margin toothed,

stalk and midrib dark red and thorny, strongly aromatic. Flowers cream, in terminal heads. Fruits paired, reddish, with shiny blue-black seeds. In bushland and forest edges. A popular medicinal plant.

Discussion

The checklist provides a basic tool for supporting ecological research, facilitating dissemination and exchange of information about the species richness in LCF. Like most folk taxonomies, the Loita Maasai gave such names to plants for which they had a use or value so that they could be distinguished from one another. Important (based mainly on utility) plants are therefore better and more widely known than others. Oloirien (*Olea europaea*), for example, used in most traditional ceremonies, make tool handles, clubs, walking sticks, firewood, construction, medicines and fodder for livestock during drought is extremely well known unmistakably in all places. Several distinctly different plants of similar appearance which may or may not be related are often included together under one name.

For example the local name Olerai oibor (white Olerai) is applied for the yellow-barked thorn trees; *Acacia seyal* and *Acacia xanthophloea*. Olpiron is applied for *Buddleia polystachya* and *Nuxia congesta* while Olemudongo stands for both *Tabernaemontana ventricosa* and *Rauvolfia caffra*. Such occurrences are many.

Plant checklist allows all interested groups to refer to the same plant by the same name in all places and hence avoid confusion and misinterpretation. It also aids communication between visitors/tourists and the local people on diversity of the forest and creates an avenue for non-botanists to scientifically identify local trees. It is becoming increasingly clear that sustained management of forests without the involvement and consent of the local communities is extremely difficult. By combining local plant identification with taxonomic expertise, various forest and vegetation-related projects could be conducted more cost-efficiently and comprehensively.

The checklist builds the efforts, which the local communities have put in conservation and protection of their forests and preserves traditional indigenous knowledge and wisdom that has been transmitted by word of mouth from generation to generation so that it will continue to be available to future generations. It shall act as a constant reminder to the community, foresters, researchers and managers of what they shall lose if the forest is not well managed and gets degraded.

The checklist was not conclusive and needs for continual updating. It is advisable not to rely entirely on vernacular or local names alone when exchanging information about trees rather, it is important to always counter-check vernacular names alongside their corresponding botanical names. There are also minor dialects within the community and a plant with wide distribution may be known by different names in different areas. For example, the local names Oleleshwa and Osentu stand for the tree species *Tarchonanthus camphoratus*. Similarly, names that are used over a wide area may be applied to different plants in different places. There are also many species that have no local name. One cannot therefore rely entirely on vernacular or local names alone when exchanging information about trees. It is important to counter-check vernacular names alongside their corresponding botanical names.

The list is by no means exhaustive and there is need for more studies to continue updating it and also make

it holistic by including the fauna of the forest for understanding of the interrelationships and how they impact on the forest conditions.

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Conflict of interest statement

This is to confirm that we have no conflict of interest

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