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Direct use values of secondary resources harvested from communal savannas in the Bushbuckridge lowveld, South Africa.

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Abstract: This study reports on the direct use value of secondary resources harvested by rural communities in a savanna region of South Africa. Data pertaining to the use, amount and direct use value of 11 secondary resources were presented individually, along with a final composite value. Only five resources (fuelwood, construction wood, edible fruits, edible herbs, and medicinal plants), individually accounted for more than 10% of the total value per hectare (US\$ 141), and together they represented over 94% of the total value per hectare. On a per household basis, only 3 of the 11 resources contributed 10% or more to the total direct use value (US\$ 386 used at home and US\$ 767 traded), and together contributed greater than 71% of the total direct use value per household. Two-thirds of the value per household was traded locally with other households or regionally, rather than consumed at home. The total value per hectare compared favourably with other land uses within the region, except for capital intensive enterprises. The returns to collecting and selling secondary resources were higher than those paid for local agricultural wage labour. The extraction rates of several of the secondary resources are probably sustainable but not for the more important ones such as fuelwood, construction wood and medicinal plants.

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Language of text: [English](#)

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Indexing terms for this abstract:

Organism descriptor(s): plants

Descriptor(s): agroforestry, edible species, extraction, fruits, fuelwood, grasslands, labour, medicinal plants, multiple land use, non-wood forest products, rural communities, savannas, structural timbers

Identifier(s): agriforestry, agro-forestry, drug plants, firewood, labor, medicinal herbs, minor forest products, non-timber forest products, officinal plants, subsaharan Africa

Geographical Location(s): Africa, Africa South of Sahara, South Africa

Broader term(s): Anglophone Africa, Africa, Commonwealth of Nations, Developing Countries, Southern Africa, Africa South of Sahara, Threshold Countries, eukaryotes

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