Bioversity International

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

SADC PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES CENTRE • CENTRO DOS RECURSOS FITOGENÉTICOS DA SADC •

ZARI Zambia Agriculture Research Institute
Researching Soils, Crops and Water in Zambia

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SADC CWR NETWORK

Bridging agriculture and environment: Southern African crop wild relative regional network

This 3-year project is supported by the Darwin Initiative and funded by the UK Government.

DARWIN INITIATIVE

Project overview

Southern African region is rich in crop wild relatives (CWR) with over 1,900 species related to crops that are cultivated for food, beverages, ornamental, forage/fodder, forestry, medicinal, environmental and other uses. These CWR species are fundamental to the food security and lives for 130 million poor people in the region. Yet these CWR are poorly conserved, are threatened and barely accessible to breeders and farmers to benefit from their use. This three-year project is a collective endeavour to tackle these issues to enhance conservation of CWR, both in their wild habitats in southern Africa and in gene banks to facilitate their use.

Project deliverables

- Establishment of regional CWR network of in situ conservation sites in southern African region
- Identification of priority CWR conservation sites and National Strategic Action Plans for in-situ conservation of CWR in each partner country (Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia)
- Designed mechanisms to enhance the benefits of farmers from conserving CWR
- Access and Benefit Sharing mechanisms for increased access to CWR germplasm (Nagoya Protocol and International Treaty on PGRFA)
- Build gendered capacity in southern Africa on in situ conservation and use of CWR.

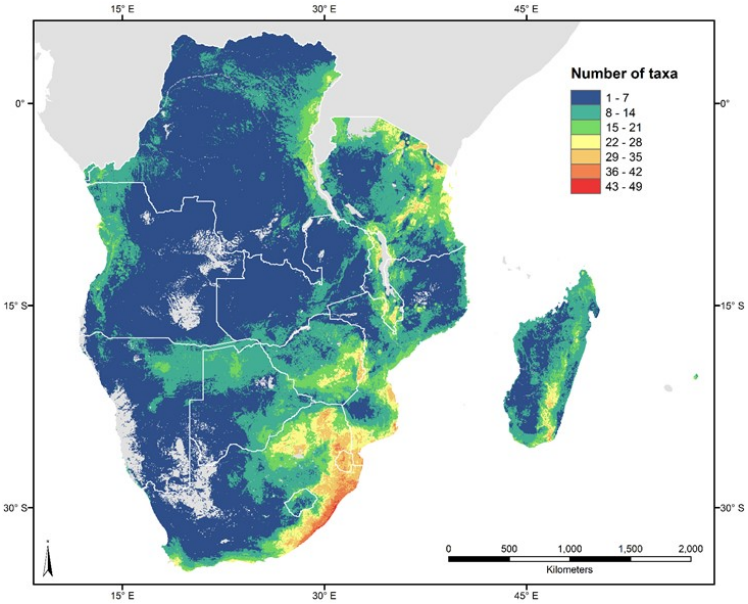
Project partners

Project partners include Bioversity International (lead organization), SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre, University of Birmingham, Malawi Plant Genetic Resource Centre, Tanzania Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (NPGRC), and Zambia Agricultural Research Institute.

Ipomoea robertsiana, sweet potato CWR
Credit: P. Moila

What are Crop Wild Relatives ?

CWR are wild plant species closely related to crops (including their wild ancestors). They are potential sources of traits beneficial to crops, such as pest and disease resistance, yield improvement, resilience to changing environmental conditions.



Map showing predicted CWR diversity in Southern African region

For more information, contact the Project Coordinator:
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