

Session 5: Planted forests facing global change risks





KENYA FORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Declining Tree Health in Exotic Forest Plantations: Exploring the Potential for Indigenous Tree Species for Sustainable Forest Plantation Development in Kenya

Njuguna Jane, Cherotich Sheillah, Okeyo Michael, Karani Susan, Muthama Angela and Machua Joseph and Mwangi Linus

ICPF 2023

Introduction

 Forest plantations development started in the Planted forests are to provide commercial goods and other ecosystem services.

 Continually face health challenges from diseases and pest occurrences due to their uniform genetic make-up.

 Management sometimes complicates tree health

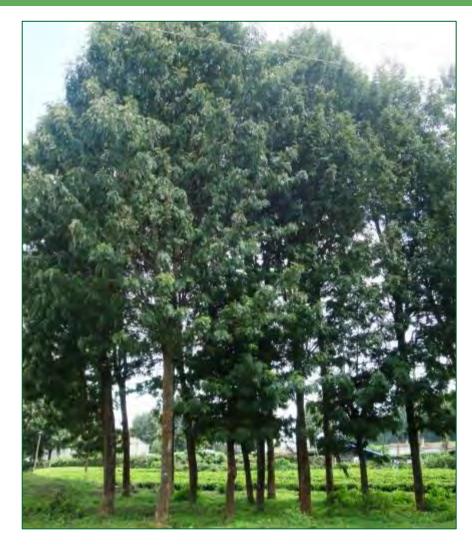
Main Tree Plantation Species in Kenya

- 1. Pines,
- 2. Cypresses,
- 3. Eucalypts,
- 4. Acacia mearnsii (Dying) and;
- 5. *Grevillea robusta:* An agroforestry species *among others*
 - Introduced to East Africa between 1880s and 1910
 - Intensified till the 1980s.
 - Logging bans have interupted due to over harvesting
 - Forestry research started formally in 1934 arising from the emerging problems

Our Goal: Well Managed Productive Plantations

Grevillea robusta on Farms





Some Disease History in Forestry Development

- Dothistroma blight decimated P. radiata in the 1960's.
- Attacked *P. patula* in Taita Hills in 1956 and in Nyeri first time early 1960s.
- **Cypress canker** caused by *Seridium* sp. on *Cupressus* maculata was detected in the 1960s.
 - Cuppressus maculata discontinued in the 1970s
- Led to the discontinuation of most cypresses.
- Currently the remaining *C. lusitanica* and other ornamentals are under attack from the resurgence of the disease
- Search for elite resistant germplasm is a must ongoing

Some Observations

- Unpredictable weather in the last 20 years,
- Increasing length of drought period
 - Negatively affecting the survival of exotic planted forests in the region.
- Gradual increase in stem cankers and dieback symptoms since the 1990s in plantations and some farm forests.
 - Caused by Botryosphaeriaceae & Teratosphaeria disease complexes
- In some case, mortalities occur especially in old trees.
- Disease symptoms seem to closely relate to variations in local weather conditions;
 - severe during hot and dry conditions

What is a Decline Disease?

- A decline disease has the following characteristics (Manion 1991):
 - Slow, progressive deterioration in health and vigor,
 - Primarily affects a mature cohort of trees
 - Decreased growth and increased twig and branch dieback
 - The etiology is complex and may involve important contributions from abiotic and biotic factors.

Decline Among the Cuppressaceae



The decline is not attribute to one fungal family only

Decline among the Pines



Nyeri, 2016

Transnzoia, 2016

Search for Alternatives: Focus on the Arid & Semi Arid lands (ASALs)

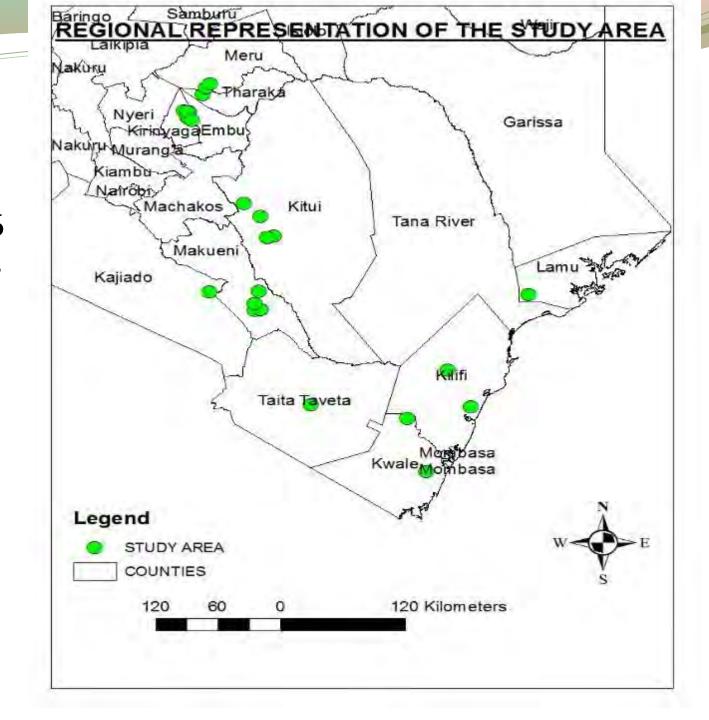
- ASALS offer the space for forestry expansion in Kenya
- Pathology to enhance resilience of indigenous tree species to climate change;

"To Select and promote disease resistant "indigenous tree species" for sustainable forestry practices and on-farm tree production in the ASALs of Kenya and Uganda".

Funded By the Swedish Research Council; 2016

- A general survey undertaken
- 3 Masters Thesis Completed
- One PhD completed
- Screened twenty six (26) tree species for canker and dieback disease symptoms in Eastern and Coastal Kenya.

Screened 26 tree species in 8 Counties (ASALS to the Coast)



The 24 Tree Species Screened

- 1. Acacia meleifera
- 2. A. polyacantha
- 3. A. Senegal
- 4. A. tortilis
- 5. A. xanthophloea
- 6. Adansonia digitata
- 7. Afzelia quanzensis
- 8. Azadirachta indica
- 9. Berchemia discolor
- 10. Carisa edulis
- 11. Dalbergia melanoxylon
- 12. Delonix elata
- 13. Maesopsis emini
- 14. Melia volkensii
- 15. Milicia exelsa
- 16. Moringa oleifera
- 17. Phoenix reclinata
- 18. Sclerocarya birea (Amarulla)
- 19. Senna antomaria
- 20. Syzygium spp.
- 21. Tamarindus indica
- **22**. Tectona grandis
- 23. Terminalia brownii;

Three (3) Selected Decline Case Studies

 All studies followed standard pathological and molecular techniques

Case Study 1

A canker and Dieback Disease Threatens the Growth of *Grevillea robusta* in Kenya

Jane Njuguna

1. Health Status of Grevillea robusta

- Introduced as a shade and windbreak tree for tea & coffee plantations.
- Together with Eucalypts they form a near monoculture in the humid areas and extending to the ASALs and is now considered a "commercial" timber species
- > No serious disease reports until the 1990s.

BUT

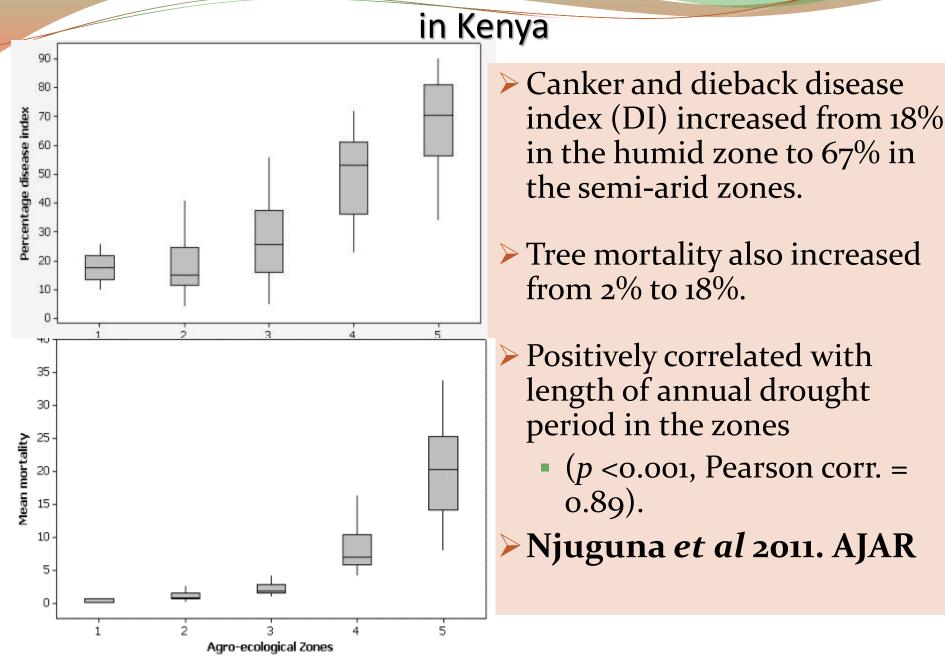
- Stressful conditions beyond the optimal range seem to predispose it to the canker and dieback disease caused by Botryosphaeriaceae disease complex
 - Fusicoccum group:
 - Neofusicoccum parvum and Botryosphaeria sp
 - Diplodia group:
 - Lasiodiplodia theobromae and Diplodia seriata





Resinous stem cankers and severe dieback on infected *G*. *robusta*

Disease Severity and distribution in 5 agro-ecological zones



Pathogenicity Tests

>Under hot and dry conditions;

- *G. robusta* was highly susceptible to the disease pathogens, High mortality of >90%.
- A warming climate wont favour its growth
- Senna Siamea and Azadirachta indica were moderately susceptible; Mortality <10%

 Melia volkensii was the least susceptible and showed high incidences of wound healing after 10 months of inoculation and low mortality (Njuguna 2011);
 Mortality <0.1%

M. volkensii is a good candidate for forestry development in the ASALS); Njuguna 2011



Canker and dieback Disease of Eucalyptus species in Kenya

Joseph Machua

3rd KEFRI Colloquium June 9 2022

2. Eucalyptus Canker and Dieback Disease

- No major disease threats until the early 1990s when the Botryosphaeria canker disease emerged.
- Currently attacking many Eucalyptus species in Kenya causing
 - > Shoot and branch dieback,
 - Dry & resinous stem cankers giving the brownish to blackish appearance on stems.
- Mild in cool areas, severe in the marginal to hot areas and death is common.
- Some clones performed poorly or failed beyond the subhumid areas.
- > *E. camaldulensis* performs well in the marginal areas

Increasing common Occurrence on Eucalypts



Stem cankers and death of Mature Eucalypts in the Semi arid areas



Semi arid areas

Four Tree Species on the Same Dry Site



Melia volkensii and Terminalias Eucalyptus sp

Acacia spp.

Pathogenicity Tests

- Pathogenicity tests from five (5) detailed studies; Measuring
 Mean internal lesion development in the inoculated plants revealed that;
- Twelve (12) species were tolerant to the canker and dieback pathogens.
- These included Melia volkensii, Acacia xanthophloea, A. tortilis, Sclerocarya birea, Adansonia digitata, Croton megalocarpus, Vangueria rotundata, Berchemia discolor, Azadirachta indica, Tamarindus indica, Olea europaea and Calodendrum capense.
- Lesion development was negligible
- No death was recorded on any species: disease tolerant
- High incidence of wound healing in the tree species
- Can be tested for plantation development in the arid and semiarid areas which cover 80% of Kenya

Case Study 3

Canker and Dieback: A Threat to Domestication of *Adansonia digitata* and *Sclerocarya birrea* in Agroforestry systems in Eastern Kenya

Sheilah Cherotich

Example of Internal lesion development

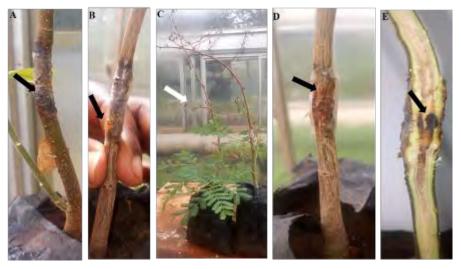


Fig: Observed symptoms after inoculations

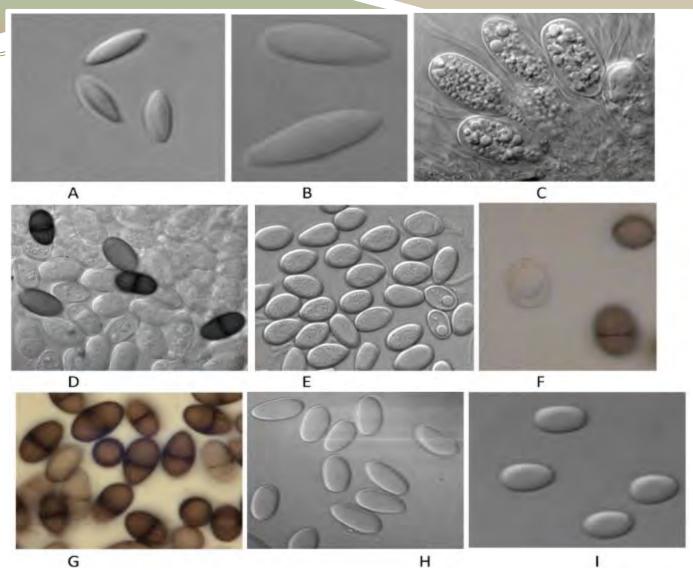
Selected tree species used in inoculation were; Adansonia digitata, Sclerocarya birrea, **Calodendrum capense** and **Acacia xanthophloea**

Fungai isolates inoculated were; Lasiodiplodia pseudotheobromae, L. theobromae and N. parvum

Pathogenicity results:

- Visible symptoms observed were lesions with resin, dieback and wound healing
- All species developed lesions after a comparatively log time > 20 days
- No mortality was recorded

The tree species are able to tolerate the canker and dieback disease



Conidia characteristics of (A) *Neofusicoccum parvum*, (B) *Botryosphaeria* sp., (C-D) conidiogenous cells and young and mature conidia of *Lasiodiplodia theobromae*, (E) Young conidia of *L. parva*, (F) and (G) young conidial and maturing conidia of *L. pseudotheobromae*, (H) *Diplodia seriata*, (I) *Diplodia* sp.

Facts about the Canker and dieback Pathogens: The Botryosphaeriaceae

- > Endophytes: part of normal flora of healthy plants
- Become opportunistic pathogens when the hosts are stressed by <u>extremes of any factor</u> that include the biotic and abiotic environment eg. water, temperatures, poor management etc.
- Plurivorous on a wide range of hosts (woody & herbaceous).
- Grow vigorously under warm conditions
- Indigenous tree species seem more tolerant the dieback disease

Conclusions

The species tested were all susceptible to the canker and dieback disease **But at varying levels in the ASALs**

- 2. The 12 species tested were tolerant to the fungal pathogens indicating a possible co-evolution
 - Melia volkensii, V. rotundata, B. discolor, O. europaea, C. megalocarpus, A. digitata, S. birrea,, C. capense, A. xanthophloea, A. indica, T. indica, S. siamea, E. camaldulemsis
- 3. Shown remarkable capability to survive despite the infections with **high incidences of wound healing**
- 4. The *Eucalypts*, *Cypresses* and *Grevillea* robusta are progressively becoming susceptible and poorly adapted to the drylands

5. Offers hope to the ambitious programme of growing 15Billion trees

6. Breeding for improved qualities should be intensified and possibly isolate the drought and disease resistance genes....

Supporting Publications

- Gitehi G., Kamondo B.M., **Njuguna J. W.**, Mwangi S., Kipkoech N., and Ingutia C. (**2023**). Rooting African Sandalwood stem cuttings using low-cost technology employed in the commercial propagation of *Camellia sinensis* in Kenya. Journal of Horticulture and Forestry: Vol. 15 (1), pp. 1-11.
- 2. Susan, K., **Njuguna J.**, Steven, R., Alice, M., Joseph, M., & Phoebe, M. (2022). Molecular and morphological identification of fungi causing canker and dieback diseases on *Vangueria infausta* (Burch) subsp. *rotundata* (Robyns) and *Berchemia discolor* (Klotzsch) Hemsl in lower Eastern Kenya. *African Journal of Biotechnology*, 21(1), 6-15.
- 3. Okeyo, M. M., Obwoyere, G. O., Makanji, D. L., **Njuguna, J. W**., & Atieno, J. (**2020**). Promotion of *Terminalia brownii* in reforestation by development of appropriate dormancy breaking and germination methods in drylands; Kenya. *Global Ecology and Conservation*, *23*, e01148.
- Sheillah Cherotich, Japhet Muthamia, Njuguna J W., Alice Muchugi, Daniel Otaye, Ignazio Graziosi, Zakayo Kinyanjui (2020). Fungal Microflora Biodiversity of Healthy and Diseased Adansonia digitata and Sclerocarya birrea Trees in Kenya. Topola/Poplar 205, 5-13
- 5. Cherotich Sheillah, Njuguna Jane, Muchugi Alice, Muthamia Japhet, Otaye Daniel, Graziosi Ignazio and Kinyanjui Zakayo (2019). Botryosphaeriaceae associated with baobab (*Adansonia digitata* L.) and marula (*Sclerocarya birrea* A. Rich.) in agroforestry systems in Kenya. African Journal of Plant Science, Vol. 14(10), pp. 411-419
- 6. Okeyo, M. M., Obwoyere, G. O., Makanji, D. L., **Njuguna, J. W., &** Omond, J. A. (**2019**). Fungal diseases attacking floral phenology of *Terminalia brownii* in Drylands, Kenya. *Topola*, (203), 5-11.
- 7. Okeyo, M. M., Obwoyere, G. O., Makanji, D. L., **Njuguna, J. W**., & Gathogo, M. W. (**2019**). Insects Associated with *Terminalia brownii* growing in Kitui, Baringo and Homa Bay Counties, Kenya: Implications on Tree Species Domestication. *Topola*, (204), 5-15.
- 8. Muthama, Angela M., Jane W. Njuguna, and Francis K. Sang (2017). "Botryosphaeriaceae Fungal Species as Potential Pathogens of Meliaceae in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands of Kenya. *Indian Forester* 143.9 (2017): 890-893.
- 9. Machua J., L. Jimu, J. Njuguna, M. J. Wingfield, E. Mwenje and J. Roux (2016). First report of *Teratosphaeria gauchensis* causing stem canker of Eucalyptus in Kenya. *For. Path.*doi: 10.1111/efp.12264.
- 10. Njuguna J. W. (2011). Stem Canker and dieback Disease on *Grevillea robusta* Cunn ex R. Br.: Distribution, Causes, and Implications in Agroforestry Systems in Kenya, PhD Thesis, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden.
- 11. Njuguna J. W., Barklund, P., Ihrmark, K., and Stenlid, J. (2011). A canker and dieback disease is threatening the cultivation of *Grevillea robusta* on small-scale farms in Kenya. *African Journal of Agricultural Research* Vol. 6(3), pp. 748-756.

Acknowledgement

- Government of Kenya
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- Kenya University
- Moi University
- The Great Pathology Team



Great Pathology Team



3rd KEFRI Colloquium June 9 2022



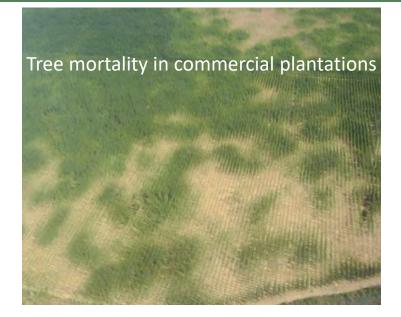
Drought-adaptive mechanisms in Eucalyptus grandis plantations:

key findings from 10 years of intensive monitoring in a throughfall exclusion experiment

Laclau J-P, Gonçalves JLM, Bouillet J-P, Christina M, le Maire G, Nouvellon Y

Introduction





- *Eucalyptus*: the most planted broadleaf genus in tropical regions
 (> 20 million ha worldwide)
- MAI of 40-50 m³ ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ in Brazilian plantations
- High productions of *Eucalyptus* plantations are highly dependent on substantial water and nutrient supply
- Tree mortality can occur on large areas during severe droughts

Our study aimed to gain insight into the interaction between nutrition and adjustment to water deficit in *E. grandis* plantations

We focused on K and Na:

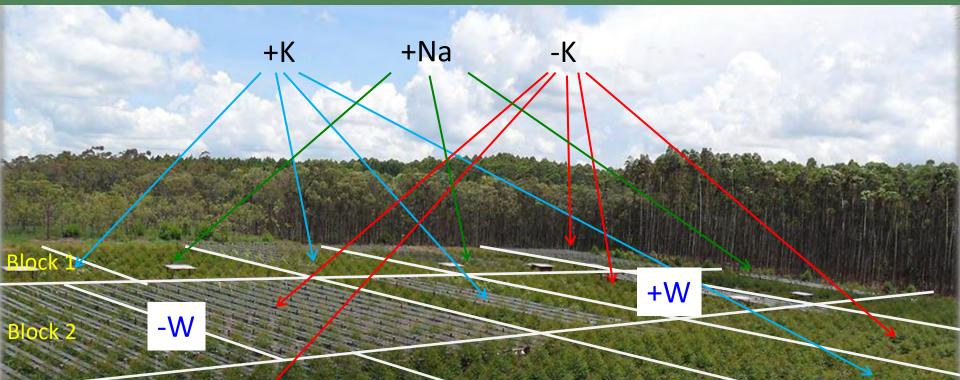
- KCl is the fertilizer the most applied in Brazil;
- A positive response of *E. grandis* trees to NaCl addition has been found in K-deficient soils

Study carried out over an entire rotation of 6 years + coppice

Annual rainfall: 1400 mm

All and a second second

- Mean temperature: 20°C
- Dry season from June to September



Block 3 Split-plot design (2 ha):

Plot: undisturbed rainfall (+W) vs 37% throughfall exclusion (-W)
 Sub-plot: fertilization (Control -K-Na, + NaCl, + KCl)
 Clonal *E. grandis* stand



37% throughfall exclusion using plastic sheets



Litterfall



Trenches between plots



TDR probes down to a depth of 17 m



18 schaffolds





Sap flow measurements

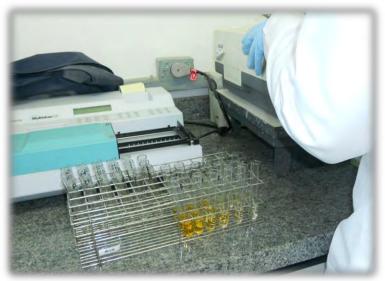
Phloem sap sampling



Leaf gas exchanges and leaf water relations

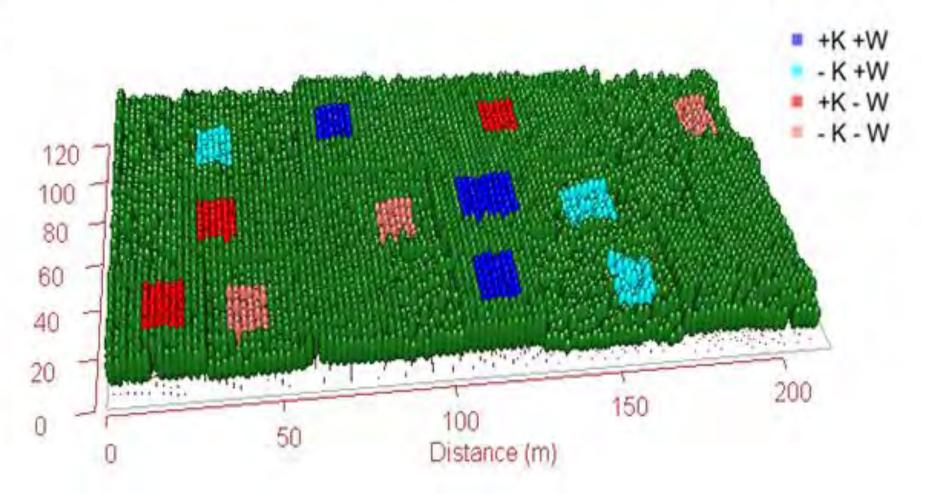


Leaf tagging and measurements



Sugar, starch and nutrient concentations



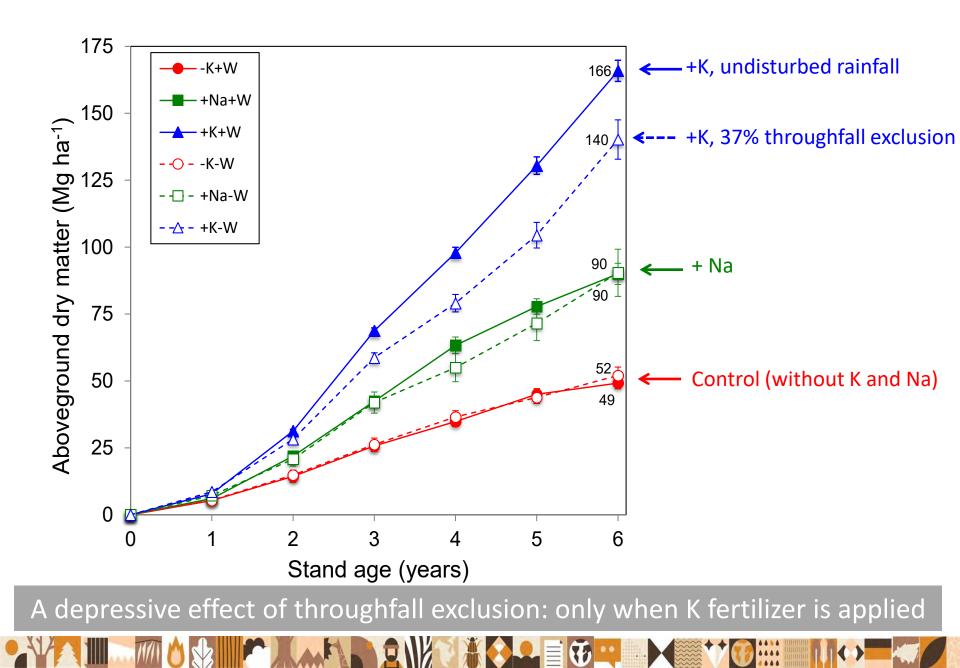


MAESPA model (validation from gap fraction and sapflow measurements)

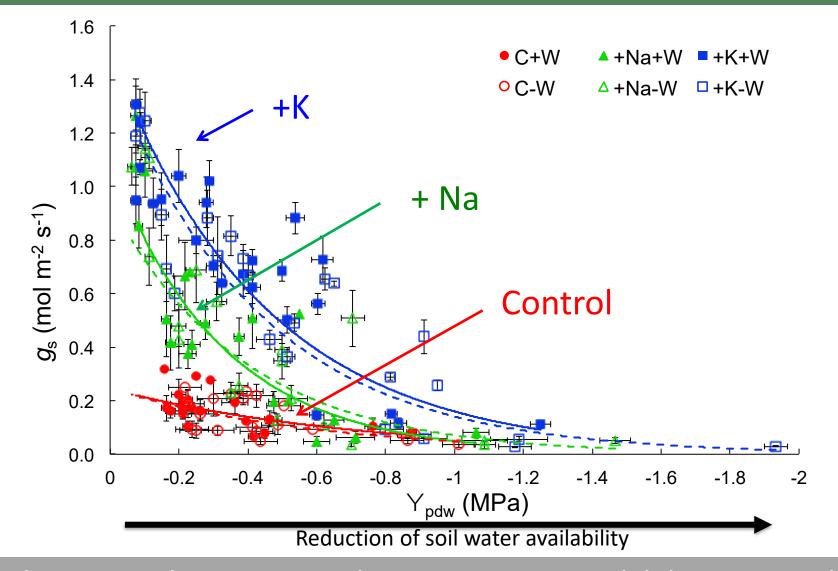
SOME RESULTS

11/11

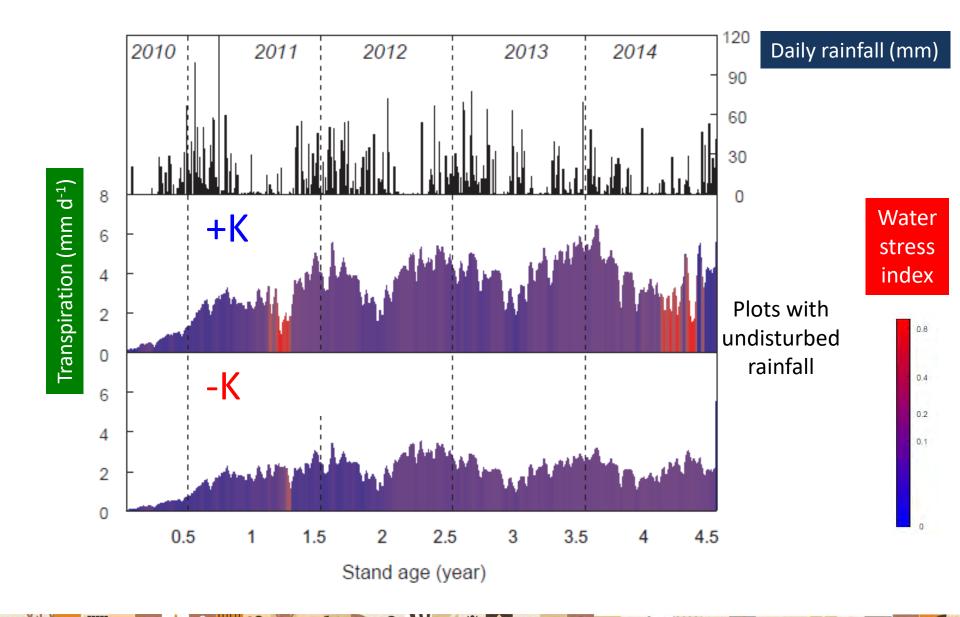
Harvested biomass x2 with Na addition and x3 with K addition



K and Na supply improve the regulation of gas exchange in the leaves

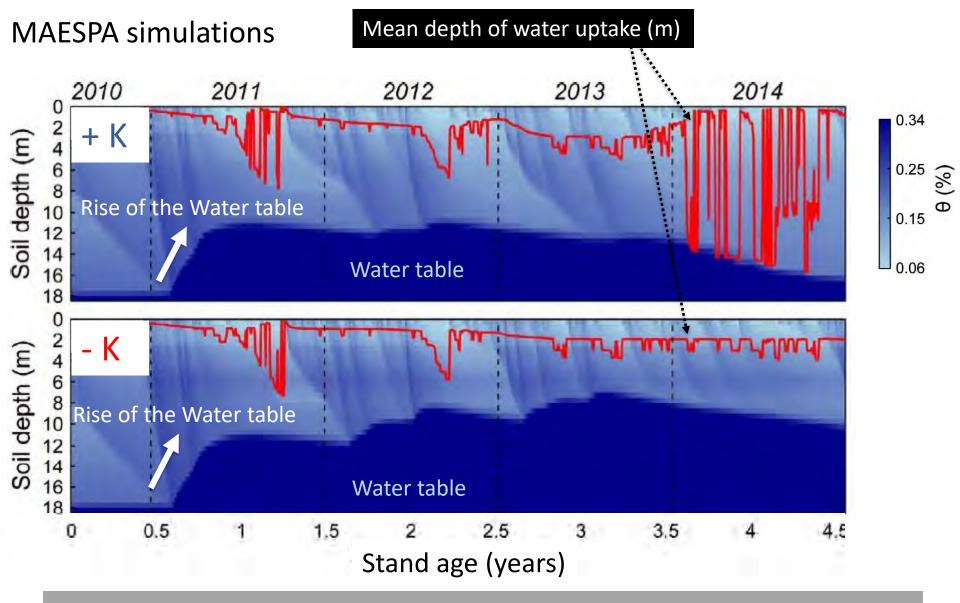


The stomatal response to changes in water availability was much higher in fertilized trees than in K-deficient trees



....

K fertilization increases the depth of water uptake



K fertilization reduces the storage of water in very deep soil layers

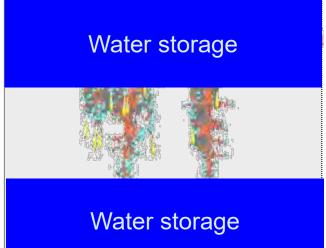
The recharge of soil layers is dependent on fertilization regimes

Nutrient deficient trees

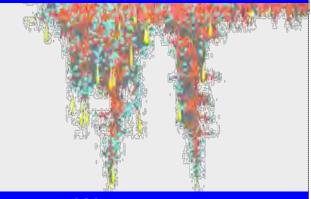


Slow-growing trees store more water in the soil during the rainy season and take up less water in very deep soil layers





Water storage



Water storage

Fertilized trees

• Strong interaction between K and water supply: K fertilization increased tree sensitivity to drought ;

- Fertilization must be revisited in a context of climate change:
 - even though K fertilization improves stomatal regulation, high tree water demand can lead to higher risks of hydraulic failure during severe droughts;
 - **soil depth** is an important variable to consider in tropical forest plantations because very deep water storage can account for tree growth during dry periods.





Pest risk survey of *Cupressus lusitanica* Mill. in Rift Valley region of Kenya

Angela Muthama Researcher, Forest Pathology Kenya Forestry Research Institute



CIFOR-ICRAF CAMPUS NAIROBI, KENYA

Presented on 9th November 2023



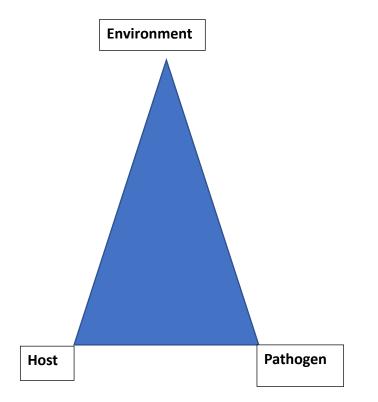
Presentation Outline Introduction Research Questions Methodology Results Discussion Next Steps



Introduction

- Forestry in Kenya began in the early 1880s as a science of managing available forest resources to provide timber and fuelwood for industry, construction and infrastructure development
- Exotic tree species were introduced including Cypress, Pines and Eucalyptus in large plantations
- In 1970s *Cupressus macrocarpa* was attacked by cypress canker disease leading to widespread infections that subsequently led to replacement of the species with *Cupressus lusitanica*
- In 1980s *Pinus radiata* was attacked by Dothistroma pine needle blight later being replaced with *Pinus patula* a less susceptible species
- Cypress requires deep fertile soils and does well in moist climate between altitudes of 1000-4000 m.a.s.l with annual rainfall of 800-1500mm, annual temp. 12-30 degrees celsius
- Main uses are sawn timber, pulp, as a wind break and fence

Why Study Tree Diseases



Tree Diseases can cause: Death of shoots Root rots Leaf blights Leaf spots and shot holes Necrosis on leaves Oozing on stems Death of the entire tree Species wipeout

Disease Triangle: Requirements for a plant disease to occur influenced by human activities

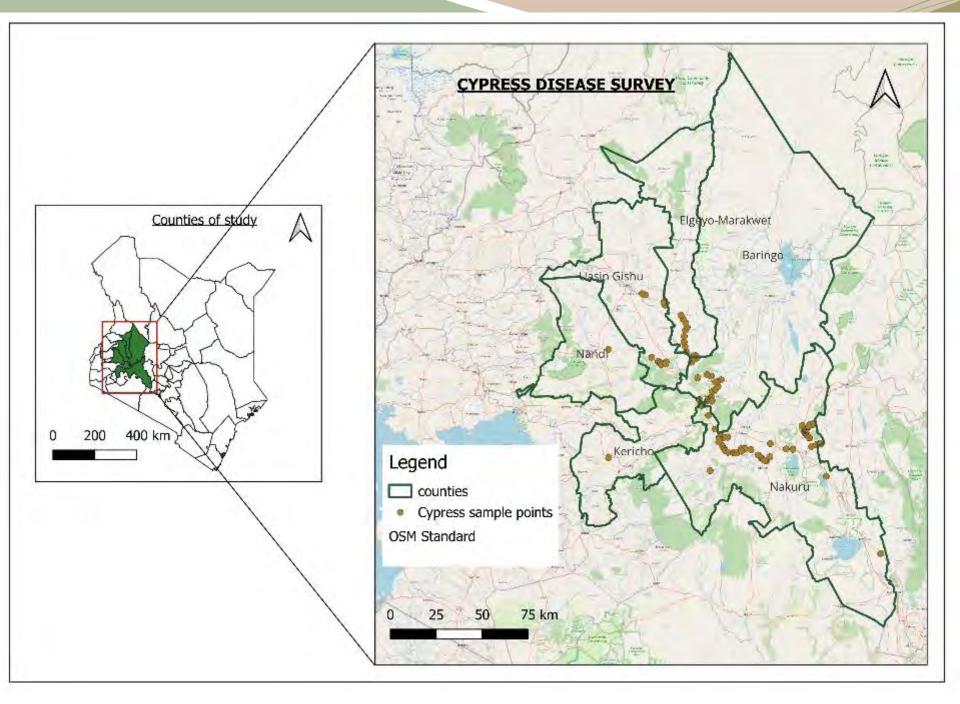
Research Questions

- a) What conditions favor disease infection of *Cupressus lusitanica* in the Rift Valley ecoregion of Kenya?
- b) Can the existing data provide patterns of disease outbreaks on *Cupressus lusitanica* in Kenya?
- c) How can machine learning help pathologists in decision making and management of tree diseases

Methodology-Field surveys

- Plantations of *Cupressus lusitanica* in gazette forests within Rift Valley ecoregion were surveyed and assessed for disease symptoms, the disease incidence and severity
- **Disease Incidence:** Percentage of diseased plants in a sample or population
- **Disease Severity:** the percentage of relevant host plant tissue that is covered by a symptom or lesion or damaged by the disease

Samples of symptomatic tissues were collected for laboratory analysis



Methodology- Laboratory isolations

- The cut pieces were surface sterilized by rinsing for one minute using 33% hydrogen peroxide and rinsed 3 times using sterile distilled water.
- The pieces were then blotted dry on sterile filter papers in the laminar flow before being aseptically placed in Petri dishes containing 2% Malt Extract Agar amended with Streptomycin.
- The petri dishes were then placed in controlled culture chambers with 12h alternating light and dark cycles
- Fungal growth was monitored daily and the emerging fungi were transferred on to culture media to obtain pure cultures of the fungi.
- Once pure cultures were obtained their morphological identification was done to get preliminary results on causal agent

Results

- 67 plantations were assessed in the target area
- Disease symptoms recorded were:
- Branch dieback
- Cankers
- Tree mortality
- Predisposing factors recorded on site were:
- Injury by animals causing wounds on young shoots
- Poor pruning technique
- Poor or delayed thinning and pruning of stands causing low vigor



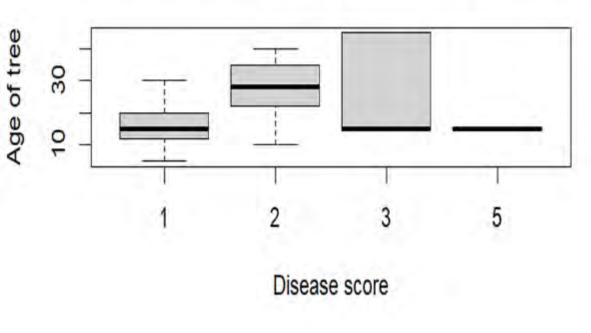








Effects of Age of tree on disease score

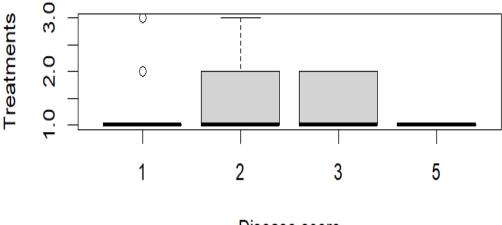








Effects of Treatment on Disease score



Disease score







Botryosphaeriaceae sp.

Pestalotia sp.

Seiridium sp.

Discussion

- Delayed management operations had the biggest impact on the health of the stands assessed
- Poor species site matching was a challenge in private farms and woodlots
- With proper management disease infection and spread can be controlled by upto 90%
- Cypress technical orders for sawn timber:

Year	Thinning	No.of stems left
By Year 6	712	888
5 years after 1 st thinning	355	533
10 years after 1 st thinning	178	355
15 years after 1 st thinning	99	256

Next steps

- DNA level identification of the fungi isolated from the study
- Complete algorithm development for predictive analysis of disease infection
- Develop maps for high risk areas
- Submit data in an open source data repository
- Submit paper for publishing

Thank You, Asante Sana

Email: <u>amuthama@kefri.org</u>



Physical and Biotic factors for modelling site selection of Rosewood plantations and seed orchards establishment in Ghana

William Bandoh, CSIR-FORIG



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- α Brief Description of Methodology
- α Key Results
- α Way Forward







- α In line with the theme of Session 5; rosewood forests are facing significant global change risks.
- Over 80% of the world's rosewood supply to China by volume comes from West African savannas (CITIES, 2016).



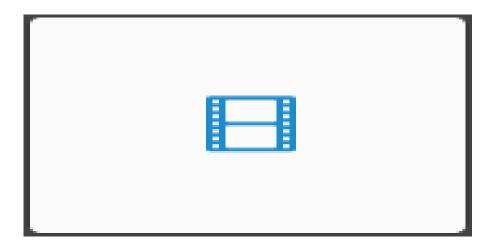
α Majority of the timber harvest & export is illegal







As consequence of the high levels of exploitation of rosewood in Ghana, the Forestry Commission of Ghana (FC-Ghana) embarked on a national rosewood planting exercise under its plantation programme







Region	Target	Area Reported(ha)	Area Verified (ha)	Variance (ha)	Variance (%)
Ashanti	24.0	54.0	51.35	-2.65	-5%
Bono	4.0	4.0	4.6	0.6	15%
Bono East	8.0	19.0	12.57	-6.43	-34%
Savannah	16.0	15.0	14.21	-0.79	-5%
Northern	8.0	4.8	4.44	-0.36	-7%
TOTAL	60.0	96.8	87.17	-9.63	-10%





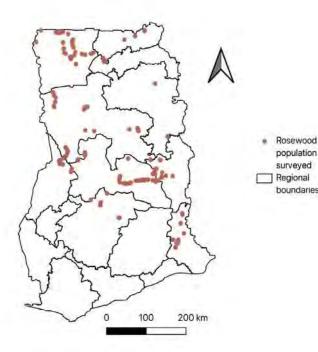
BRIEF METHODOLOGY

- α ArcGis & R were used to generate specific maps that addressed seed size, plant health & disease etc

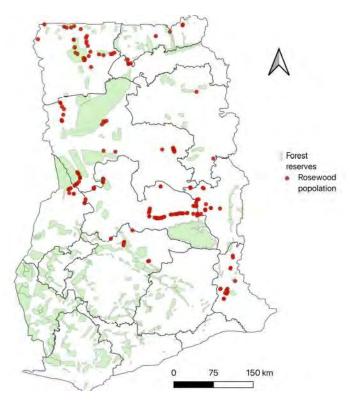




A map of populations of rosewood surveyed across Ghana



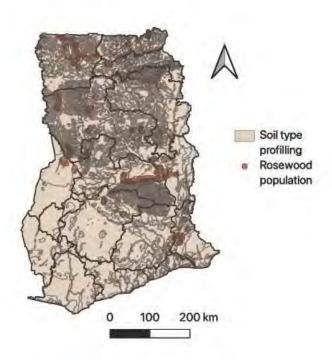
How the rosewood sample collection points compare to forest reserves across Ghana



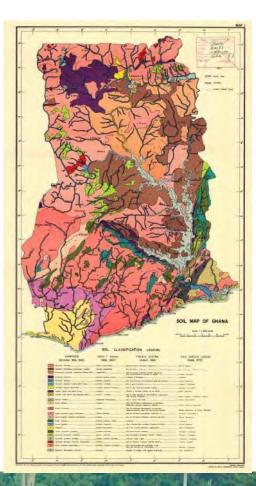




A map of populations of rosewood surveyed across Ghana



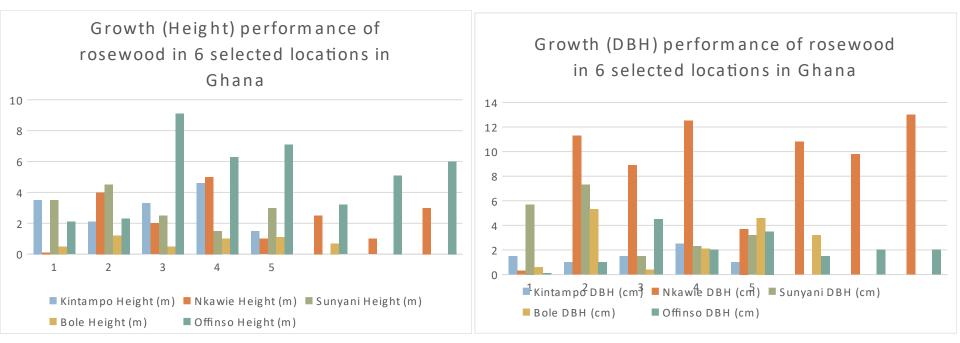
The soil map of Ghana







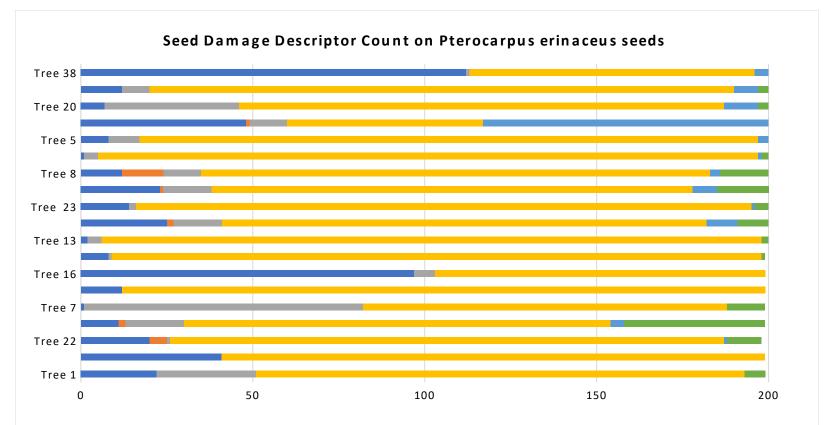
Growth performance characteristics of rosewood in six (6) selected locations







Seed Health of rosewood seeds across Ghana: A selection from the DSD



■ A ■ B ■ C ■ D ■ E ■ F





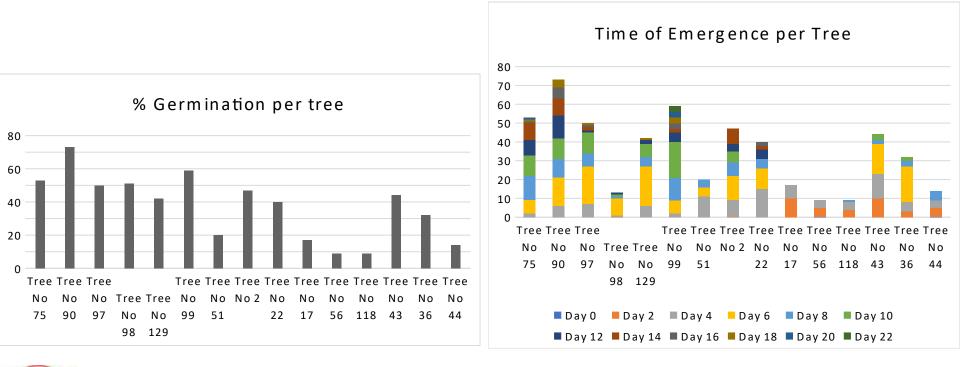
LETTER	DESCRIPTORS
A	Intact seed
В	Underdeveloped seed
С	Blemished seed (discoloured/ not healthy brown)
D	Blemished seed with insect attack
E	Unblemished with insect attack
F	Absent seed





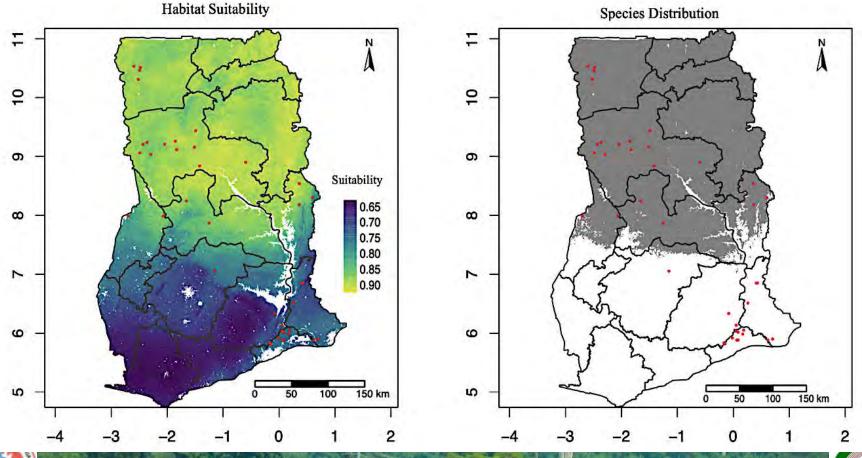
Tree 90 showed the highest germination percentage of 80%

On average trees from the savanna showed late emergence





The above data and several others have been overlayed to provide this suitability map.



Forestry Research Institute of Ghana



Way Forward

- Comprehensive study of intra & inter specific genetic diversity of rosewood populations in Ghana.
- α Research into silviculture of rosewood in the coastal savanna, given that there are few incidences of naturally occuring growth in this AEZ









(CSR)

Way Forward

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