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The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ 2013.2

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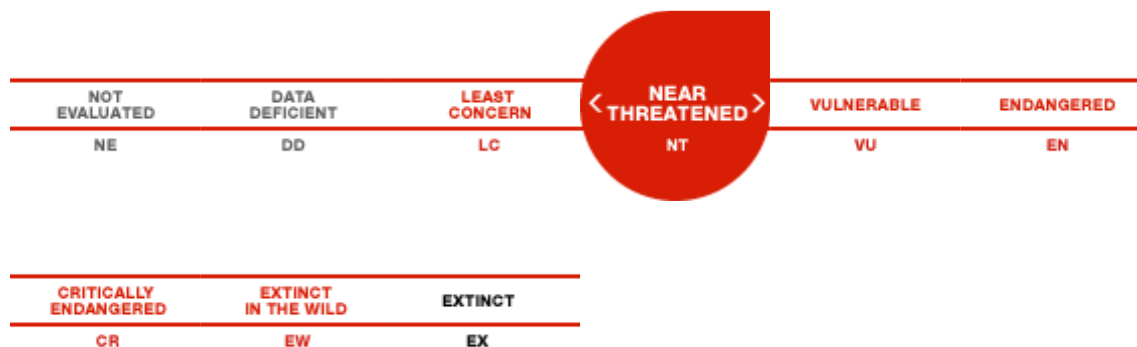


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Gnetum africanum



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Taxonomy [\[top\]](#)

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
PLANTAETRACHEOPHYTAGNETOPSIDAGNETALES	GNETALES	GNETALES	GNETALES	GNETALES

Scientific Name: *Gnetum africanum*

Species Authority: Welw.

Common Name/s:
English–Eru

Synonym/s: *Thoa africana* (Welw.) Doweld

Taxonomic Notes: In 2000, Doweld proposed that all *Gnetum* species should be changed to *Thoa*, except two Asiatic species, mainly based on seedcoat structure.

Assessment Information [\[top\]](#)

Red List Category & Criteria:

Near Threatened [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published:

2011

Date Assessed:

2008-07-17

Assessor/s:

Lakeman Fraser, P. & Bachman, S.

Reviewer/s:

Hilton-Taylor, C. & Lutz, M.L.

Justification:

Gnetum africanum has a large distribution across tropical Africa and tolerates a range of habitats and environmental conditions. It is well known to local communities as a useful plant, most notably for its edible leaves, but also for a number of medicinal uses. A large amount of material (mostly leaves) from this plant is traded locally and internationally; the majority of which is from wild stands. Exports from countries such as Cameroon, Gabon and Central African Republic to Nigeria for example are estimated to be 2,500-4,000 t annually. The overall rate of harvesting of wild populations is not known, but appears to be increasing. Despite the large range of *G. africanum* the harvesting of wild populations is considered a major threat and a rating of Near Threatened is given. The increased

harvesting of this species, if unchecked and unmanaged, could lead to a drastic reduction in population size which would then meet the thresholds for a threatened category. Sustainable cultivation should reduce the pressure on wild populations and careful monitoring should be undertaken to ensure population numbers are stabilised.

Geographic Range [\[top\]](#)

Range This species is found from west central tropical Africa to Angola including Central African Republic, Cameroon, Gabon, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola.
Description: Native:
Countries: Angola (Angola); Cameroon; Central African Republic; Congo; Congo, The Democratic Republic of the; Gabon
Range Map: [Click here to open the map viewer and explore range.](#)

Population [\[top\]](#)

Population: The population size is not known.
Population Trend: ↓ Decreasing

Habitat and Ecology [\[top\]](#)

Habitat and Ecology: *Gnetum africanum* has been recorded in both primary and secondary semi-deciduous, humid forests, in some cases where the forest had been degraded substantially. The species tolerates both dense forests and the transition of anthropogenous grass savanna to forest at exposed, sunny locations. In most cases however *G. africanum* is a shade tolerant plant and doesn't like direct sunlight. It has also been collected from riverine forest environments that were seasonally flooded and had soils of sandy composition.
Systems: Terrestrial

Threats [\[top\]](#)

Major Threat(s): Over-harvesting for local, national and international trade is the main threat to this species.

Conservation Actions [\[top\]](#)

Conservation Actions: Domestication programmes to alleviate harvesting pressure on wild populations are being developed. *Gnetum africanum* has been recorded from several protected areas across its range and is likely to be found in many more.
Citation: Lakeman Fraser, P. & Bachman, S. 2011. *Gnetum africanum*. In: IUCN 2013. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2013.2. <www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on **27 February 2014**.
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