



# Conservation Programmes and Ethnobotanical Engagement Among Baka Pygmies in Central African Republic: Participation Rates and Medicinal Availability Insights

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## Abstract

The Baka Pygmies of Central African Republic possess rich indigenous knowledge in herbal medicine, which is under threat due to environmental changes and cultural shifts. Conservation programmes are vital for preserving this heritage while also promoting ethnobotanical engagement. A mixed-methods approach was employed, including semi-structured interviews and ethnobotanical surveys. Data collection took place over a year across multiple Baka settlements. The survey revealed that only 35% of eligible Baka Pygmies participated in the conservation programmes, highlighting significant barriers such as language differences and skepticism towards modern healthcare. Despite limited participation, ethnobotanical surveys provided valuable insights into traditional medicinal plant availability, revealing a diverse range of plants used for treating ailments including fever and respiratory issues. Enhanced community engagement strategies and simplified information dissemination through local languages are recommended to increase programme uptake. Further research should explore the impact on medicinal biodiversity in these areas.

**Keywords:** *Central African Republic, Baka Pygmies, Ethnobotany, Conservation, Participatory Research, Indigenous Knowledge, Cultural Heritage*

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