



# Traditional Medicine in Contemporary South African Healthcare Systems: A Policy Analysis

**Khumalo Dlamini<sup>1</sup>, Mngqibala Zuma<sup>2,3</sup>, Siwele Nkabinde<sup>1,4</sup>, Sekhukuhuni Mkhulwazi<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

<sup>2</sup> Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Venda

<sup>3</sup> Department of Advanced Studies, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

<sup>4</sup> University of Venda

**Published:** 23 July 2003 | **Received:** 26 March 2003 | **Accepted:** 08 June 2003

**Correspondence:** [kdlamini@aol.com](mailto:kdlamini@aol.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18779803](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18779803)

## Author notes

*Khumalo Dlamini is affiliated with Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.*

*Mngqibala Zuma is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Venda and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.*

*Siwele Nkabinde is affiliated with University of Venda and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.*

*Sekhukuhuni Mkhulwazi is affiliated with University of Venda and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Traditional medicine plays a significant role in contemporary healthcare systems across Africa, including South Africa where it is integrated into mainstream health services. The analysis will draw on existing literature, government documents, and interviews with stakeholders in the healthcare sector to evaluate current policies and practices related to traditional medicine. Traditional medicine practitioners report a growing demand for services, with approximately 50% of patients seeking complementary treatments alongside conventional care. The integration of traditional medicine into South African healthcare systems is essential but faces challenges such as underfunding and lack of standardised training programmes. Strengthening funding mechanisms and implementing standardised training programmes for traditional healers can enhance the quality and effectiveness of care provided.

**Keywords:** *African, Geography, Anthropology, Ethnobotany, Public Health, Integrate, Policy*

## ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

**Email:** [info@parj.africa](mailto:info@parj.africa)

Request your copy of the full paper today!

## SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

**Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!**

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

**Submit at:** [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)



Scan to visit [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)

**Open Access Scholarship from PARJ**

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge