



# NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON WILD EDIBLE MUSHROOMS

27–28 February 2025



Tabora – Tanzania

Isike Mwanakiyungi Hall

## From Workshop to Action

The workshop on wild edible mushrooms was organized by The Association for the Development of Protected Areas (ADAP) and the Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI) in association with Adansonia-Consulting and brought together all key stakeholders from the value chain.

The workshop was attended by over 60 participants who were mushroom pickers, sellers, local authorities, government institutions, academics, experts, and other stakeholders. They came together to assess and discuss:

- The high socio-economic and ecological potential of wild edible mushrooms.
- The challenges.
- The way forward for the development of a sustainable value chain for wild edible mushrooms which promotes income-generating activities and better forest conservation.

## Emerging key Challenges from the Workshop Discussions

1. Low awareness of wild edible mushrooms which are plentiful in miombo woodland during rainy season (edibility, nutritious value, market potential).
2. Current regulations that restrict mushroom harvesting in Game Reserves under TAWA and complicated procedures in Forest Reserves under TFS for harvesting mushrooms.
3. Absence of a national strategy for non-wood forest products including wild edible mushrooms.
4. Inappropriate processing of mushrooms (drying and packaging) and difficult access to the regional and national markets.
5. Ongoing deforestation and illegal heavy grazing in forests that destroy mushrooms.



## Resolutions and way forward

- Creation of a **National Mushroom Forum**, a platform which promotes partnership amongst mushroom stakeholders, advocates for policy reforms, and promotes mushroom commercialization at local, regional, and national (international) markets.
- TFS is committing to ease the procedure of getting entry and harvesting permits of wild edible mushrooms for **forest reserves**.
- TAWA will consider mushroom picking in future management plans of **game reserves** for areas that are close to villages.
- TAFORI and other academia will engage in **more research** on wild edible mushrooms in order to disentangle the required information along the edible wild mushroom value chain.
- Local and regional administrations should **facilitate business activities** of mushroom pickers and sellers by facilitating the registration of associations and cooperatives and by offering loans for investments in material and infrastructure.



## Collaborating for Impact: Advancing the Wild Mushroom Value Chain

The workshop created a unique momentum to promote wild edible mushrooms. ADAP will continue to work in partnership with the Central and Local Governments, SIDO, TBS, TAFORI, SUA, UDSM, and others to facilitate the development of an added-value chain for wild edible mushrooms and to better link the different actors. ADAP, in collaboration with other key stakeholders, will further build the capacity of mushroom pickers and sellers based on regular monitoring.

## Any questions?

**ADAP:** Mr. Romanus Mwakimata, Rungwa River project manager, 062 172 0949, [adap.ch](http://adap.ch)

**TAFORI:** Dr. Chelestino Balama, Director of Forestry Research, 023 293 5174, [tafori.or.tz](http://tafori.or.tz)

Further media coverage and updates can be found on: [www.adap.ch/en/mushrooms2025](http://www.adap.ch/en/mushrooms2025)

