

Sustainable Management of some critically endangered species of medicinal plants in Central India

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The objectives of the project were:

- (1) To study the status of species under study (Safed musli - *Chlorophytum spp*) and Malkangni - *Celastrus paniculata*) in the natural forest of the Bhopal and East Mandla Forest Division. and causes of population declined
- (2) To study the ecology of the species
- (3) To study present harvesting practices of the species in the natural forests
- (4) To standardize sustainable harvesting regime

The study clearly showed that the position of Safed musli and Malkangni in the natural forests is very alarming in terms of numbers and status of natural regeneration. The over harvesting of both the plants for commercial purposes and immature harvesting by the local peoples needs to be stopped and there is an urgent need to conserve species in the natural forests. The findings of the project suggested improving the harvesting practices for these species under study. It also suggested training of the local people for collection by scientific methods.