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Biodiversity



**WATERBERG**  
LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE

# PROTECTED TREES OF THE WATERBERG

A Guide for Landowners  
and Citizen Scientists

January 2026

# Document Details and Acknowledgements

This document was developed by the Waterberg Landscape Alliance to support awareness and understanding of the importance of biodiversity, including threatened and protected species, within the Waterberg. It is intended as a resource for landowners and land managers across the various conservation/ security clusters and conservation reserves within the Waterberg.

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## Disclaimer

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This document is not endorsed by iNaturalist. The iNaturalist logo is included simply to promote awareness of, and encourage participation in, the iNaturalist platform among current and future citizen scientists.

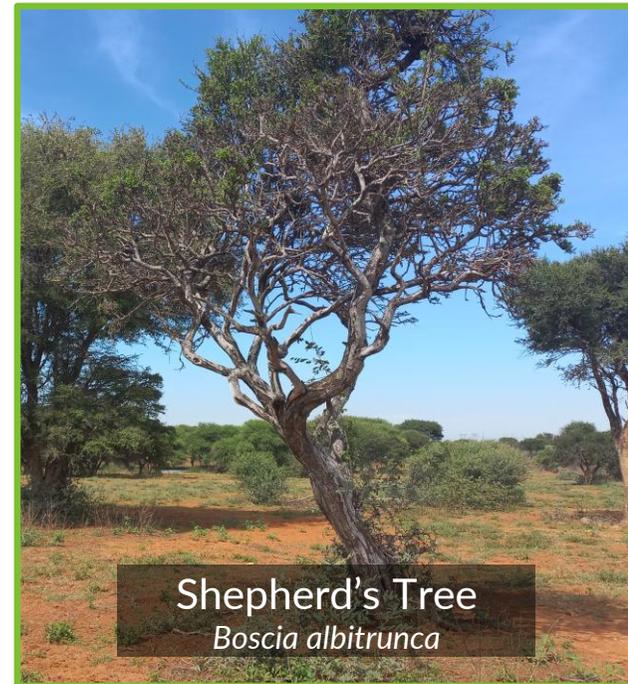
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For any questions, feedback, or corrections, please email Kelly using the contact details provided above.

## Purpose of This Guide

This guide provides an image-based overview of the protected tree species of the Waterberg, helping landowners, managers, and visitors to recognise and understand these important trees. Its primary aim is to encourage participation in citizen science initiatives, such as submitting observations to iNaturalist, so that the distribution, abundance, and conservation status of protected trees can be better documented. By contributing data, landowners play a vital role in filling knowledge gaps, supporting conservation planning, and safeguarding the Waterberg's unique tree heritage for future generations.



# Protected Trees of the Waterberg

Protected trees form an important part of the Waterberg's natural and cultural heritage. The region supports a wide variety of indigenous tree species that play a critical role in maintaining ecosystem function, providing habitat and food for wildlife, stabilising soils, and supporting water regulation within river catchments. Many of these species are slow-growing, long-lived, and highly sensitive to overexploitation and habitat disturbance.

In South Africa, certain tree species are legally protected under national legislation due to their ecological, cultural, or economic importance. Within the Waterberg, protected trees occur across a range of habitats, including riverine forests, bushveld, savanna, and mountainous areas. These species are often key structural components of their ecosystems and may serve as keystone or indicator species, reflecting the overall health of the landscape.

Protecting these trees is essential not only for biodiversity conservation but also for sustaining ecosystem services and preserving the character of the Waterberg landscape. Accurate recording and monitoring of protected tree species help to improve understanding of their distribution, identify threats, and support compliance with conservation legislation, while contributing to long-term, landscape-scale conservation planning.

- Maintaining ecosystem function
- Providing habitat and food
- Stabilising soils
- Supporting water regulation
- Ecological, cultural and economic importance
- Keystone or indicator species
- Preserving the character of the landscape
- Landscape-scale conservation

# Why Record Protected Trees

Recording protected tree species in the Waterberg is a powerful way for landowners, citizen scientists, and conservation practitioners to actively contribute to addressing biodiversity loss in one of South Africa's most important landscapes. Every verified record strengthens our understanding of species distribution, population health, and habitat condition, helping to fill critical data gaps that currently limit effective conservation action.

Accurate, up-to-date biodiversity data underpins sound conservation planning. By documenting protected trees, contributors help inform land-use decision-making, guide stewardship initiatives, and prioritise areas for conservation investment and ecological restoration. This information is essential for identifying key biodiversity areas, ecological corridors, and climate-resilient refuges across the Waterberg.

Importantly, robust biodiversity records support the case for strengthened protection of the landscape. Species occurrence data can contribute to formal biodiversity assessments, support applications for biodiversity and conservation status, and assist in motivating for protected area expansion or the declaration of new protected areas. In this way, individual observations collectively help secure long-term legal and conservation safeguards for the region.

Finally, documented records of protected and threatened tree species provide an evidence base to assess, challenge, and object to inappropriate developments, including mining and unsustainable land-use change. Reliable biodiversity data strengthens environmental impact assessments and ensures that development decisions properly account for ecological value, legal obligations, and the long-term integrity of the Waterberg landscape.

## How You Can Help

- **Join iNaturalist** via the app or website.
- **Record protected trees** by photographing key features like leaves, bark, flowers, or fruit.
- **Upload observations** to iNaturalist with accurate location and date details.
- **Join iNaturalist projects** such as Waterberg Biodiversity Project, Matlabas Biodiversity Project, Protected Trees of South Africa (via iNaturalist).
- **Get family and friends involved** in recording trees.
- **Encourage staff** such as guides, PHs, and rangers to participate.
- **Invite guests and visitors** to contribute their sightings.
- **Share awareness** of protected trees and their conservation value.
- **Support citizen science** to help safeguard the Waterberg.

# Protected Trees of the Waterberg

The Waterberg has 18 protected trees that occur within the region. These are;

- African Almond – *Prunus Africana* [Vulnerable]\*
- Appleleaf or Raintree – *Philenoptera violacea*
- Assegai Tree – *Curtisia dentata* [Near-threatened]\*
- Boabob – *Adansonia digitata*
- Bushman’s Tea – *Catha edulis*
- Bushveld Red Balloon – *Erythrophysa transvaalensis*
- Bushveld or Anthill Saffron – *Elaedendron transvaalensis* [Near-threatened]\*
- Camel Thorn – *Vachellia erioloba*
- Cheesewood – *Pittosporum viridiflorum*
- Leadwood – *Combretum imberbe*
- Manketti – *Schinziophyton rautanenii*
- Marula – *Sclerocarya birrea*
- Pepper-bark Tree – *Warburgia salutaris* [Endangered]\*
- Real Yellowwood – *Podocarpus latifolius*
- Red Ivory – *Phyllogeiton zeyheri*
- Shepherd’s Tree – *Boscia albitrunca*
- Torchwood – *Balanites maughamii*
- Violet Tree – *Securidaca longepedunculata*

Of the protected tree species, four are also listed as threatened on the Red List, as indicated by the asterisk (\*) and corresponding threat category.



The following pages present an image-based guide to the protected tree species found within the Waterberg. All images have been sourced from iNaturalist, and full image credits and acknowledgements are provided on the final page.

# Protected Trees of the Waterberg Quick Summary

VU



AFRICAN ALMOND | ROOISTINKHOUT | *Prunus africana*



APPLELEAF or RAIN TREE | APPELBLAAR | *Philenoptera violacea*

NT



ASSEGAI TREE | ASSEGAAI | *Curtisia dentata*



BAOBAB | KREMETARTBOOM | *Adonsonia digitata*



BUSHMAN'S TEA OR KHAT | BOESMANTEE | *Catha edulis*



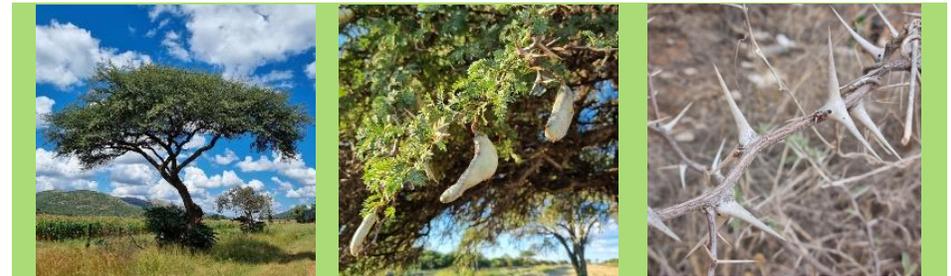
BUSHVELD RED BALLOON | BOSVELD-ROOIKLAPPERBOS | *Erythrophyta transvaalensis*

# Protected Trees of the Waterberg Quick Summary

NT



**BUSHVELD SAFFRON | BOSVELD-SAFFRON |**  
*Elaeodendron transvaalensis*



**CAMEL THORN | KAMEELDORING |** *Vachellia erioloba*



**CHEESEWOOD | KASUURBOOM |** *Pittosporum viridiflorum*



**LEADWOOD | HARDEKOOL |** *Combretum imberbe*



**MANKETTI | WILDE OKKERNEUT |** *Schinziophyton rautanenii*



**MARULA | MAROELA |** *Sclerocarya birrea*

# Protected Trees of the Waterberg Quick Summary

EN



PEPPER-BARK TREE | PEPPERBASBOOM | *Warburgia salutaris*



REAL YELLOWWOOD | OPREGTE GEELHOUT | *Podocarpus latifolius*



RED IVORY | ROOI-IVOOR | *Phyllogeiton zeyheri*



SHEPHERD'S TREE | WITGAT | *Boscia albitrunca*



TORCHWOOD | GROENDORING | *Balanites maughamii*



VIOLET TREE | KRINKHOUT | *Securidaca longepedunculata*

Landowners, residents, and visitors to the Waterberg play a vital role in improving knowledge of protected tree species across the landscape. By joining iNaturalist and submitting observations, individuals can contribute valuable data on the presence, distribution, and condition of protected trees on private and communal land, as well as within conservation areas. This locally collected information helps to fill important data gaps, particularly in areas that are seldom surveyed by researchers.

Contributions from landowners are especially important, as many protected trees occur outside formally protected areas. Recording these species supports better landscape-scale conservation planning, assists with compliance and awareness of national legislation, and helps to identify priority areas for protection and management. Over time, repeated observations can also support monitoring of population trends, recruitment, and potential threats, strengthening long-term conservation outcomes for protected tree species in the Waterberg.

## How to Make a Good Observation

1. Get close to the tree you're observing, especially for leaves, seeds and fruit photos.
2. Focus: retake blurry photos.
3. Take multiple shots to show distinguishing features.
4. Trees should include the whole tree, leaves, underside of leaves, fruits and seeds and a close up of the bark.



# New to iNaturalist – Here's How to Use It

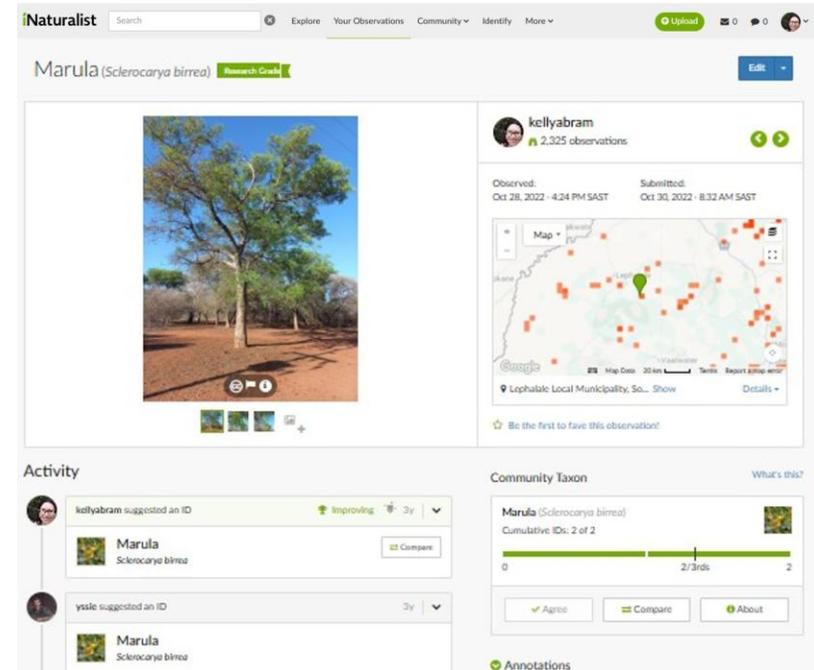
1. Create an account at inaturalist.org
2. Download the iNaturalist App onto your phone



3. Take a photo (or record a sound) of an organism using the app.

4. You will get a suggested identification. The app automatically records the date/time and location.

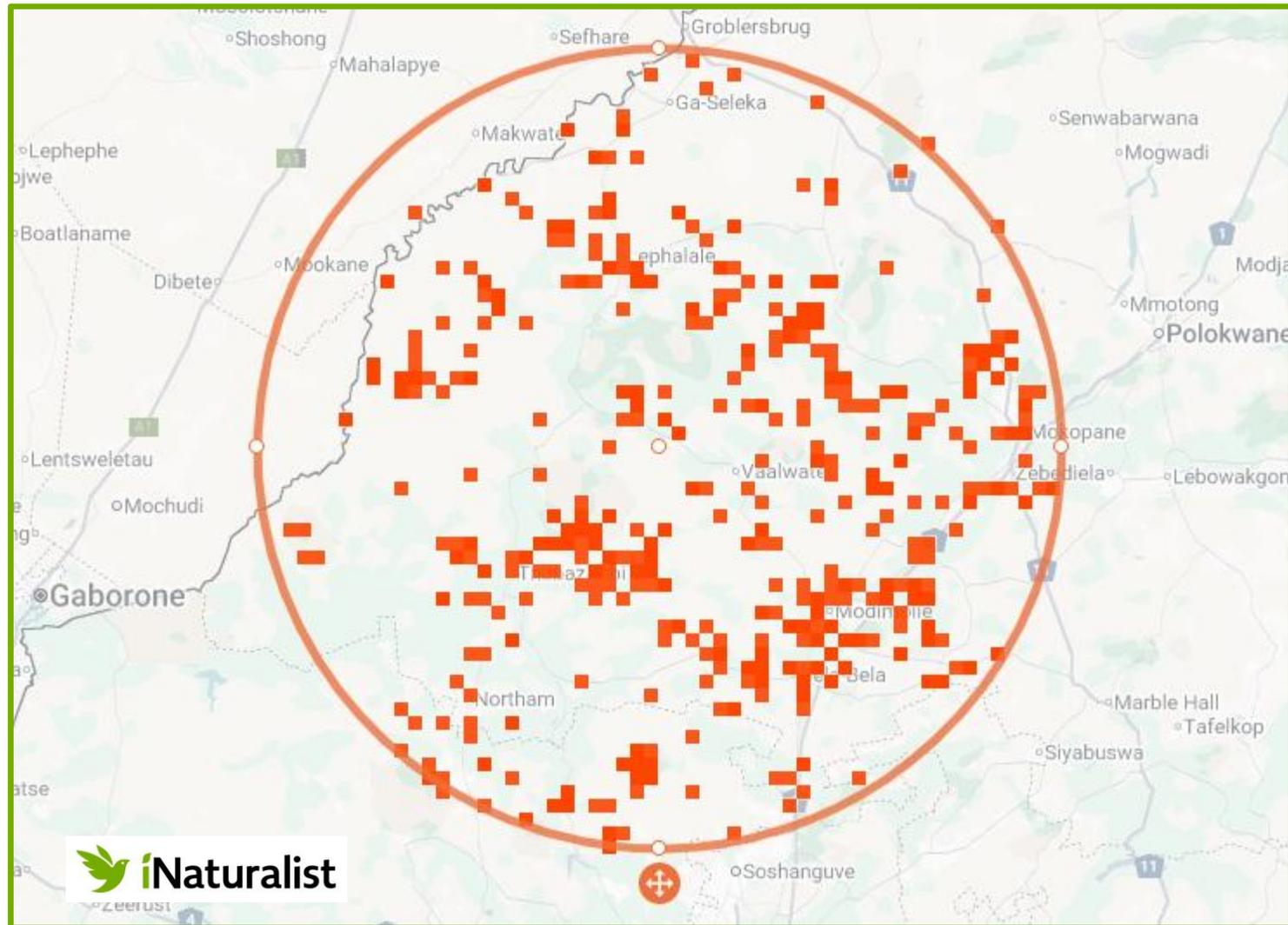
5. The uploaded observation is visible to the iNaturalist community, who can confirm and correct identifications. (Observations with consensus on the ID are shared with other databases used for science and conservation.)



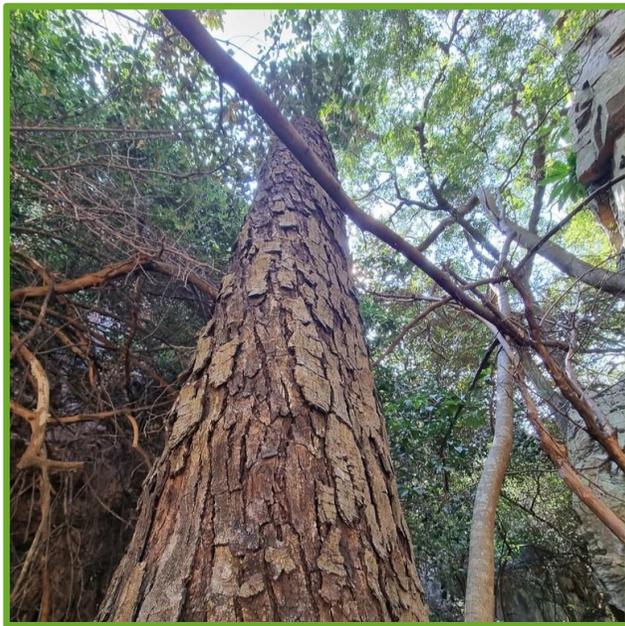
6. All information can be accessed through the desktop platform on your account and you can keep track of what you have seen. You can even upload images manually and check community identifications.

**TIP**  
Make sure your content licence is set to either No Copyright (CC0), Attribution (CC BY), and Attribution-NonCommercial (CC BY-NC) in your account setting to make sure your data can be provided to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility as well as other databases.

# Current iNaturalist Map of Protected Trees within the Waterberg



AFRICAN ALMOND | ROOISTINKHOUT | *Prunus africana*



The African Almond, also known as the Red Stinkwood, is a rare and localised tree species in the Waterberg. It occurs in sheltered ravines in the higher-altitude areas of the landscape [2].

This evergreen tree is usually single-stemmed and can reach heights of up to 20 m. The bark is dark, thick, and rough, often forming block-like patterns. The leaves are large, simple, and arranged alternately or in a spiral, tapering to a pointed tip. They are leathery in texture and characteristically glossy. Flowering occurs from March to May, producing small, inconspicuous clusters of white flowers [2, 3].

The bark, leaves, and wood may emit a distinctive almond-like scent and contain toxic compounds that release cyanide. Extracts from the bark are used internationally in a variety of patented medicinal products [3].

Not yet recorded on iNaturalist.

APPLELEAF or RAIN TREE | APPELBLAAR | *Philenoptera violacea*



Appleleaf or rain tree is a tree species in the legume family (Fabaceae). The common name “rain tree” is derived from a distinctive phenomenon in which droplets of water fall from the tree and collect on the ground beneath it, even during dry conditions. This effect is caused by spittle bugs (*Ptyelus grossus*) that infest the tree and feed on its sap. After extracting sugars and salts, the insects excrete excess fluid, which is released as nearly pure water and appears as gentle “rain” beneath the canopy [3].

Appleleaf is a medium-sized species (max 12m) with a sparse crown, and its trunk and main branches are typically crooked in form. The leaves are unevenly compound, consisting of one to two pairs of lateral leaflets and a single terminal leaflet. Mature leaves are shiny above and grey-green in colour below. The bark is pale and characteristically flakes off in large, irregular discs. The bark exudes a sticky red sap when cut. The flowers are mauve to violet and pea-shaped during September to December [3, 4].

Appleleaf commonly occurs in riverine and floodplain grasslands. It grows on alluvial soils and Kalahari sands. It is an excellent fodder tree for cattle and game. It also an excellent pollen and nectar source for honey bees [4].



The Assegai Tree is a distinctive and culturally important tree species native to South Africa and one of the few indigenous representatives of its genus. Although more commonly associated with Afrotropical forests along the eastern parts of the country, the species also occurs in forested ravines and sheltered kloofs within the Waterberg, where suitable moist microhabitats are present [2].

The tree is recognised by its simple, opposite, leathery, large oval leaves with finely toothed margins, from which the species name *dentata* is derived. Its bark is grey to dark brown and becomes rough with age. The small, white to creamy flowers are borne in clusters from December to February and are followed by fleshy, pale-yellow fruits that are eaten and dispersed by birds and other wildlife [2,3].

Within the Waterberg, the presence of *Curtisia dentata* is of particular conservation interest, as populations are often scattered and limited to specific habitats.



The Baobab is one of Africa's most iconic and culturally significant tree species and forms an important component of the northern savanna landscapes. Instantly recognisable by its massive trunk and distinctive, often sparsely branched crown, the Baobab is renowned for its exceptional longevity, with some individuals living for hundreds to thousands of years.

Ecologically, Baobabs play a critical role in their environment. Their large, hollow trunks can store vast quantities of water, helping the tree survive prolonged droughts while also providing refuge for a wide range of animals, including birds, bats, reptiles, and insects. The flowers, which open at night (October to December), are primarily pollinated by bats and contribute to complex ecological interactions, while the nutrient-rich fruit supports both wildlife and local communities.

In South Africa, the Baobab is a protected tree species due to its ecological, cultural, and heritage value. It is often associated with traditional knowledge and local history, serving as meeting places, landmarks, and sources of food and medicine [3]. Despite their resilience, Baobabs are vulnerable to threats such as land transformation, damage from development activities, and climate-related stress.

## BUSHMAN'S TEA | BOESMANTEE | *Catha edulis*



Bushman's Tea is an evergreen shrub or small to medium-sized tree that occurs naturally in parts of southern Africa, including a small area of the Eastern Waterberg where suitable conditions exist [2]. It is typically found along drainage lines, forest margins, and rocky slopes, favouring well-drained soils and sheltered habitats.

The species is characterised by its glossy, leathery leaves with finely toothed margins and its upright growth form. Small, white to creamy flowers (August to November) are borne in clusters and develop into winged capsules containing seeds. The leaves of *Catha edulis* have long been used traditionally to prepare a mild stimulant tea in North Africa, giving rise to the common name "Bushman's Tea," and the plant holds cultural and ethnobotanical significance in several communities [3,4].

Ecologically, *Catha edulis* contributes to habitat complexity by providing shelter and food resources for insects and birds. As a protected tree species in South Africa, it is vulnerable to overharvesting and habitat disturbance, particularly where it occurs in accessible or fragmented landscapes.

## BUSHVELD RED BALLOON | BOSVELD-ROOIKLAPPERBOS | *Erythrophysa transvaalensis*

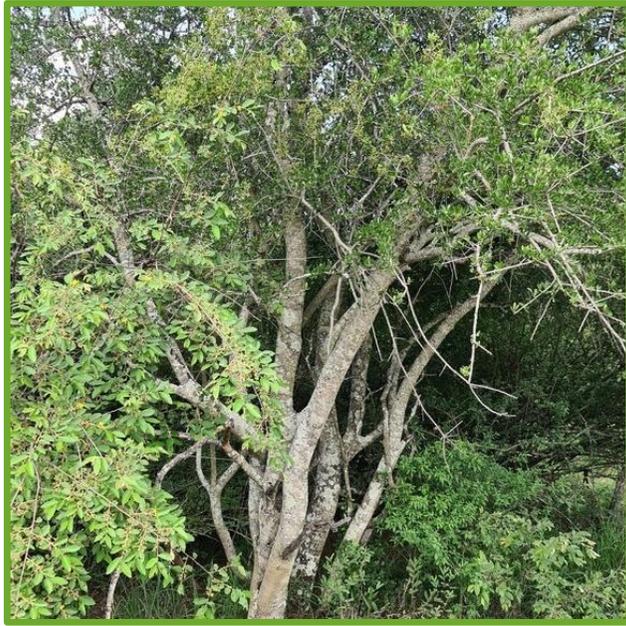


The Bushveld Red Balloon is a distinctive and eye-catching shrub or small tree near-endemic to South Africa. It is characteristic of bushveld habitats and occurs in parts of Limpopo, including the Waterberg, where it is typically found on rocky slopes [2].

This species is best known for its striking, inflated red to orange seed capsules, which give rise to the common name "Red Balloon." These papery capsules are highly visible in the landscape and contain glossy black seeds. The leaves are compound with toothed leaflets, and the plant produces small, pink and yellow flowers (October to December) before the capsules develop [2,1].

Ecologically, *Erythrophysa transvaalensis* contributes to bushveld biodiversity by providing food and shelter for insects and other small fauna. Its bright seed capsules may also play a role in seed dispersal and add seasonal visual interest to the landscape. Due to its restricted distribution and specialised habitat requirements, the species is sensitive to habitat transformation and disturbance [1].

**BUSHVELD SAFFRON | BOSVELD-SAFFRON |**  
***Elaeodendron transvaalensis***



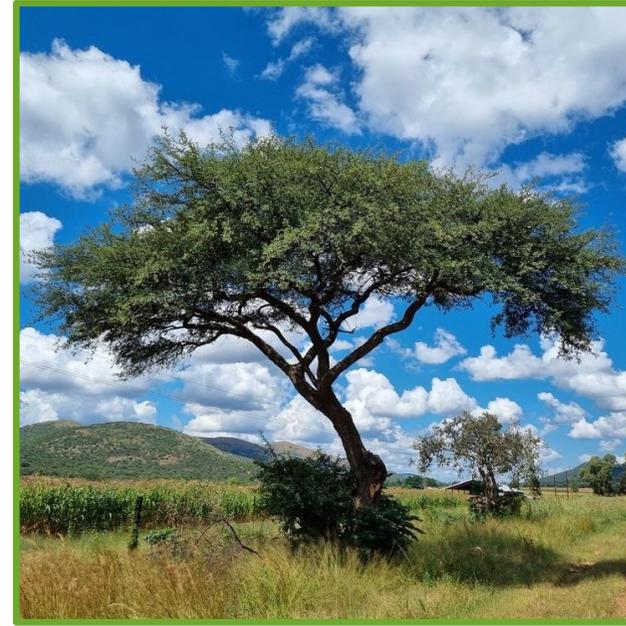
Bushveld Saffron, is a semi-deciduous tree or large shrub characteristic of bushveld and woodland habitats in northern South Africa. In the Waterberg, it often occurs in termitaria and alluvial soils, often in mixed bushveld where it contributes to the structural diversity of the vegetation [2].

The leaves are leathery in texture and greyish green in colour. The leaves are alternate, often clustered and may appear whorled and towards the branch ends. Small, greenish-white flowers (September to April) are produced in clusters and are followed by fleshy, oval fruits that ripen from green to yellow or orange. These fruits are eaten by birds and other wildlife, playing an important role in seed dispersal [3].

Ecologically, *Elaeodendron transvaalensis* provides food (game and livestock browse the leaves), shelter, and nesting opportunities for a range of species [3].



**CAMEL THORN | KAMEELDORING |** *Vachellia erioloba*



The Camel Thorn is a large, slow-growing tree species that is well adapted to arid and semi-arid environments. It occurs in parts of the Waterberg, particularly in areas with sandy soils, or along water courses (including dry river beds) and is a characteristic species of open savanna and woodland landscapes [4].

The species is easily recognised by its broad, spreading crown, paired straight thorns, and grey to dark brown bark that becomes deeply fissured with age. The finely divided leaves give the tree a light, feathery appearance, while the bright yellow flowers (July to September) are produced in dense, rounded clusters. These develop into large, crescent-moon shaped velvety-grey seed pods that provide an important food source for a wide range of wildlife, including antelope, birds, insects, and small mammals [3].

Camel Thorn plays a key ecological role by providing shade, nesting and roosting sites, and by enriching soils through nitrogen fixation. In dry environments, it functions as a keystone species, supporting biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, particularly during periods of drought [4].



CHEESEWOOD | KASUURBOOM | *Pittosporum viridiflorum*



Cheesewood is an attractive evergreen tree that occurs in higher-lying areas of the Waterberg [2].

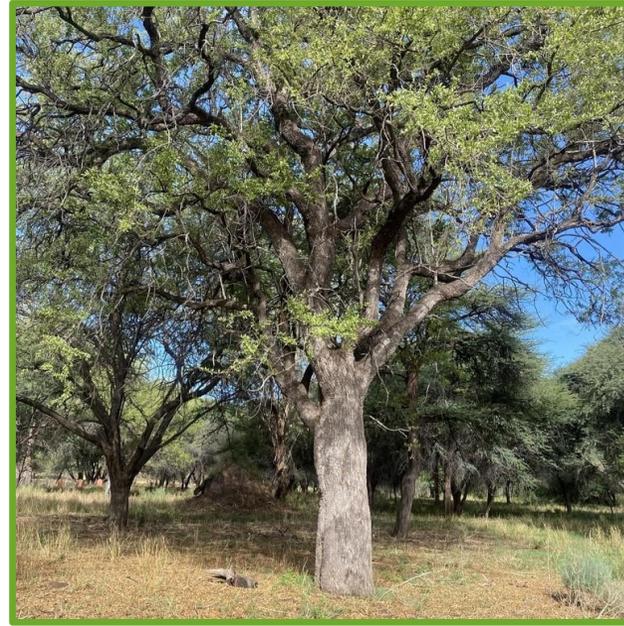
The tree is easily recognised by its dense, rounded crown and glossy, dark green leaves with slightly wavy margins. Small, fragrant cream to yellow-green flowers (September to December) are produced in clusters and are followed by bright yellow-orange capsules that split open to reveal bright red seeds, which are dispersed by birds [4].

The name “Cheesewood” refers to the pale, soft wood, while the Afrikaans name *Kasuurboom* reflects the resinous scent released when the bark or leaves are crushed [4].

Ecologically, *Pittosporum viridiflorum* plays an important role in ecosystems by providing food and shelter for birds, insects, and other wildlife. Its dense foliage makes it a valuable nesting and roosting tree, while the flowers support pollinators. Cheesewood is a protected tree species in South Africa due to its ecological importance and past exploitation for timber and medicinal use [4].



LEADWOOD | HARDEKOOL | *Combretum imberbe*



The Leadwood is one of southern Africa’s most iconic and ecologically important tree species and is a characteristic feature of savanna and bushveld landscapes. It is easily recognised by its deeply fissured grey bark and dense, extremely hard wood, which gives the species its common name.

Leadwoods are exceptionally slow-growing and long-lived, with some individuals believed to be several hundred years old. This slow growth makes the species particularly vulnerable to disturbance, as damaged or removed trees take generations to replace. Ecologically, Leadwoods provide valuable habitat for a wide range of species. Old and hollow trees offer nesting and roosting sites for birds, bats, and small mammals, while fallen trunks and branches contribute to soil health and nutrient cycling.

Leaves are simple, opposite with a wavy smooth margin. Flowers are cream to yellowish (November to March) often at the ends of the branches and the pods are four-winged typical of the Bushwillow family [1].

In South Africa, the Leadwood is a protected tree species due to its conservation importance and susceptibility to overexploitation, particularly for firewood and charcoal. Within the Waterberg, Leadwoods often occur in open savanna in the lower-lying areas on flat terrain [2].



## MANKETTI | WILDE OKKERNEUT | *Schinziophyton rautanenii*



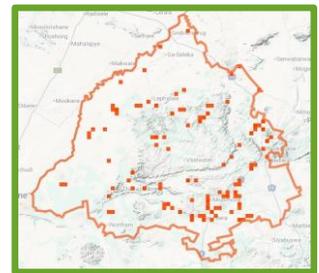
The Manketti also known as the Mongongo or Manquette tree, is a large, slow-growing tree native to southern Africa and occurs in parts of the Waterberg where suitable sandy soils are present. It is a characteristic species of dry woodland and savanna systems and is well adapted to hot, semi-arid conditions [3].

Manketti trees are recognised by their broad, rounded crowns and large, distinctive leaves. The tree produces hard-shelled fruits containing highly nutritious seeds, commonly known as mongongo nuts. These seeds are an important food source for a wide range of wildlife, including birds and mammals, and have long been harvested by people for their high protein and oil content [3].

Leaves are distinctive hand-shaped with a spray of about 5 leaves and the flowers are yellowish loose sprays (October to December). Fruit are egg-shaped, pale yellow and velvety [3].

Ecologically, *Schinziophyton rautanenii* plays an important role in nutrient-poor sandy ecosystems. Its deep root system helps stabilise soils and access groundwater, while leaf litter contributes to soil enrichment.

## MARULA | MAROELA | *Sclerocarya birrea*



The Marula is one of the most well-known and culturally significant tree species in southern Africa and is a characteristic component of savanna and bushveld landscapes, including the Waterberg. Widely valued for its ecological, cultural, and economic importance, the Marula is a medium to large deciduous tree that is easily recognised by its spreading crown and pale, mottled bark.

Marula trees produce small, greenish-yellow flowers during September to November followed by distinctive, plum-sized fruits that ripen to a yellow colour. The fruits are rich in vitamin C and are consumed by a wide range of wildlife, including elephants, antelope, birds, and insects, as well as by people. The seeds contain nutritious kernels, and various parts of the tree are traditionally used for food, beverages, medicine, and cultural practices [4]

Ecologically, Marula plays a key role in savanna ecosystems by providing food resources during critical seasonal periods and offering shade and habitat for numerous species. The species is dioecious, with male and female flowers occurring on separate trees, making the presence of mature individuals important for successful reproduction and population stability [3].

In South Africa, the Marula is a protected tree species due to its high cultural value and vulnerability to overharvesting, particularly of fruit, bark, and wood.



The Pepper-bark Tree is one of South Africa's most threatened and culturally important indigenous trees. Although now rare and highly localised, it occurs in parts of Limpopo.

This evergreen tree is recognised by its dark, rough bark and glossy, aromatic leaves, which release a strong peppery scent when crushed. Small, greenish-yellow flowers develop into fleshy fruits that turn dark purple when ripe and are eaten by birds. The species grows slowly and is typically associated with moist forests [3,4].

The Pepper-bark Tree is renowned for its powerful medicinal properties and has been extensively harvested for traditional medicine, particularly its bark. Unsustainable harvesting, combined with habitat loss, has led to severe population declines across its range, making it one of the most threatened tree species in South Africa [3,4].

*Warburgia salutaris* is a protected tree species and is listed as Endangered nationally. Recording and monitoring any individuals in the Waterberg are critically important for conservation.

Although the Pepper-bark Tree occurs just outside the District's boundary it has been included in case there are unrecorded trees in the Northern section of the Waterberg.



Real Yellowwood is one of South Africa's most iconic and ecologically important indigenous forest trees. It is typically associated with Afrotemperate forests but also occurs in forested kloofs, sheltered valleys, and moist ravines within the Waterberg, where suitable cool and moist conditions persist [2].

This evergreen tree can grow to a considerable size and age, often forming a tall, straight trunk with fissured bark and a dense, dark green crown. The leaves are narrow, leathery, and glossy, while the small, inconspicuous flowers develop into fleshy, yellow to purple cones (July to September) on female trees [2,3].

Ecologically, *Podocarpus latifolius* plays a key role in forest ecosystems by providing long-term structural stability, shade, and habitat for a wide range of species. Mature Yellowwood trees are particularly valuable, offering nesting sites.

Real Yellowwood is a protected tree species in South Africa due to its historical exploitation for timber and its slow growth rate. In the Waterberg, the species is often restricted to specific microhabitats, making it especially vulnerable to disturbance [3].

## RED IVORY | ROOI-IVOOR | *Phyllogeiton zeyheri*



Red Ivory is a striking indigenous tree species characteristic of bushveld and woodland landscapes in northern South Africa, including the Waterberg. It typically occurs in rocky areas, ridges, and well-drained soils, where it forms part of mixed bushveld vegetation [2].

The species is recognised by its dark, often rough bark and dense, rounded crown. The leaves are simple and glossy with a mid-vein and side-veins that have a herringbone pattern. Small greenish-yellow flowers are produced in clusters in September to December. These are followed by oval fruits that ripen to a reddish or purplish colour and are eaten by many species of birds and other wildlife, aiding in seed dispersal [2,4].

Red Ivory is renowned for its dense, and richly coloured wood, which was historically highly valued for carvings, tool handles, and furniture. Due to overexploitation and its slow growth rate, the species became increasingly rare in many areas [4].

In South Africa, Red Ivory is a protected tree species because of its ecological importance and vulnerability to harvesting.



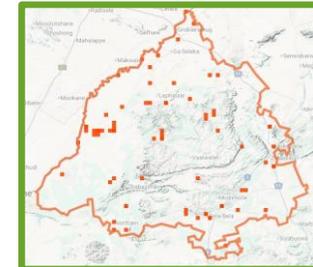
## SHEPHERD'S TREE | WITGAT | *Boscia albitrunca*



The Shepherd's Tree is a hardy, evergreen species well adapted to the dry savanna and bushveld of southern Africa, occurring in parts of the Waterberg, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas. Its resilience to drought and poor soils makes it a characteristic tree of open plains and sandy landscapes [4].

It is easily recognised by its pale, smooth to slightly rough bark and dense, rounded crown. Leathery grey-green leaves are retained year-round, providing valuable forage and shade during dry seasons. Small greenish-yellow flowers (August to October) are followed by round, yellow fruits eaten by birds, mammals, and livestock [1,2,4].

Ecologically, the Shepherd's Tree is vital in dryland ecosystems. Its deep root system accesses underground water, stabilises soils, and enables survival during prolonged droughts, while offering shade, shelter, and food for wildlife. In South Africa, it is a protected species due to its ecological importance and vulnerability to overuse especially for fuel and fodder [4].



**TORCHWOOD | GROENDORING | *Balanites maughamii***



Torchwood or Greenthorn is well known for its tall, straight trunk and distinctive, flaking bark, as well as for the oily wood from which its common name is derived. It is often found along rivers [4].

The species typically grows as a medium to large tree. Its leaves are simple and leathery, and small greenish-yellow flowers are produced in clusters (September to November). These develop into oval fruits that turn yellow when ripe and are eaten by birds and mammals. The tree has very noticeable spines that are green in colour and are simple or forked [3].

Torchwood has long been valued for its wood, which is rich in oils and was traditionally used as a natural torch or firelighter and for traditional medicine and carving timber. This historical use, combined with slow growth rates and habitat loss, has made the species vulnerable in parts of its range.

In South Africa, Torchwood is a protected tree species due to its ecological and cultural significance.

**VIOLET TREE | KRINKHOUT | *Securidaca longepedunculata***



The Violet Tree is a distinctive small to medium-sized tree or shrub that occurs in savanna and bushveld habitats across northern South Africa, including the Waterberg. It is typically found on sandy soils, and open woodland where it is well adapted to dry conditions [2].

The species is easily recognised by its twisted, often crooked trunk and branches, from which the Afrikaans name *Krinkhout* is derived. The leaves are simple and grey-green, and the tree produces showy, fragrant purple to violet flowers that appear mainly in spring and early summer (October to November). These flowers are an important nectar source for insects. The fruits are distinctive winged structures that aid wind dispersal and are pinkish-green in colour [2,3].

The Violet Tree has a long history of traditional use, particularly for medicinal purposes, with the roots and bark being widely used in traditional medicine. This extensive use, combined with habitat loss, has placed pressure on wild populations [3].

In South Africa, the Violet Tree is a protected tree species due to its cultural importance and vulnerability to overharvesting.

# References and Credits

- [1] Grant, R. and Thomas, V. (2005): Sappi Tree Spotting, Bushveld including Pilanesberg and Magaliesberg. Jacana. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.
- [2] The Waterberg Tree Group (2024): Trees and Shrubs of the Waterberg. (Self published).
- [3] Van Wyk, B., van Wyk, W. and van Wyk B. (2000): Photographic guide to Trees of Southern Africa. Briza.
- [4] Venter, F. and Venter, J. (2005): Making the most of Indigenous Trees. Briza. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.

Pages	Common Name	Afrikaans Name	Scientific Name	Image Credits Sourced from iNaturalist		
				Left	Middle	Right
5 / 11	African Almond	Rooistinkhout	<i>Prunus africana</i>	Reuben Heydenrych	Reuben Heydenrych	Reuben Heydenrych
5 / 11	Appleleaf or Rain Tree	Appelblaar	<i>Philenoptera violacea</i>	Alex Dreyer	JA Heymans	Pauline Rico
5 / 12	Assagai Tree	Assegai	<i>Curtisia dentata</i>	Reuben Heydenrych	Reuben Heydenrych	Reuben Heydenrych
5 / 12	Baobab	Kremetartboom	<i>Adansonia digitata</i>	Nicole Wienand	Lukas Lindenthal	ONG OeBenin
5 / 13	Bushmen's Tea or Khat	Boesmantee	<i>Catha edulis</i>	Simon Attwood	Simon Attwood	Simon Attwood
5 / 13	Bushveld Red Balloon	Bosveld-rooiklapperbos	<i>Erythrophysa transvaalensis</i>	Reuben Heydenrych	Malcolm Douglas	Richard Gill
6 / 14	Bushveld or Anthill Saffron	Bosveld-saffraan	<i>Elaeodendron transvaalensis</i>	Pieter Bester	Reuben Heydenrych	Reuben Heydenrych
6 / 14	Camel Thorn	Kameeldoring	<i>Vachellia erioloba</i>	Reuben Heydenrych	Reuben Heydenrych	Reuben Heydenrych
6 / 15	Cheesewood	Kasuurboom	<i>Pittosporum viridiflorum</i>	Reuben Heydenrych	Reuben Heydenrych	Reuben Heydenrych
6 / 15	Leadwood	Hardekool	<i>Combretum imberbe</i>	Lars J Jonsson	Eugene Troskie	Scott Richardson
6 / 16	Manketti	Wilde Okkerneut	<i>Schinziophyton rautanenii</i>	Patemoshela Kashikola	Byron Goris	i_c_riddell
6 / 16	Marula	Maroela	<i>Sclerocarya birrea</i>	Kelly Abram	Kelly Abram	Kelly Abram
7 / 17	Pepper-bark Tree	Peperbasboom	<i>Warburgia salutaris</i>	jherridge	jherridge	Magdastlucia
7 / 17	Real Yellowwood	Opregte-geelhout	<i>Podocarpus latifolius</i>	Barend-wa-teacher	Reuben Heydenrych	NT Moolman
7 / 18	Red Ivory	Rooi-Ivoor	<i>Phyllogeiton zeyheri</i>	Reuben Heydenrych	Reuben Heydenrych	Reuben Heydenrych
7 / 18	Shepherd's Tree	Witgat	<i>Boscia albitrunca</i>	Reuben Heydenrych	Reuben Heydenrych	Reuben Heydenrych
7 / 19	Torchwood	Groendoring	<i>Balanites maughamii</i>	Ross Hawkins	Troos van der Merwe	Nick Helme
7 / 19	Violet Tree	Krinkhout	<i>Securidaca longepedunculata</i>	JA Heymans	d_jerome	i_c_riddell

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iNaturalist Species Maps: [www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org) iNaturalist Community Observations. Accessed on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026