

# **Inter-linkages between human health and Biodiversity in Africa**

## **Traditional medicine and indigenous knowledge**

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**PROMETRA – International**  
**(Traditional Healer)**



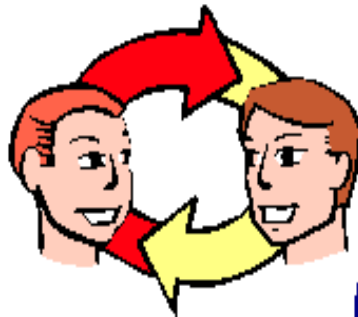
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**Student of  
African spirituality**



**Traditional healer  
by calling (1978)**



**Dr. Sekagya;**



**Dental surgeon by  
training.(1987-1992)**

**6 yrs apprenticeship  
in trad. medicine  
(1993- 1998)**



# **PROMETRA INTERNATIONAL**

**Is an International Organization dedicated to the Preservation and Restoration of African Traditional Medicine and Indigenous Science.**

**It is an institution of scientific and cultural research, medical practice and an instrument for African integration and international relations. It has twenty-seven (27) chapters throughout Africa, Europe, Caribbean and USA.**





# PRO.ME.TRA INTERNATIONAL

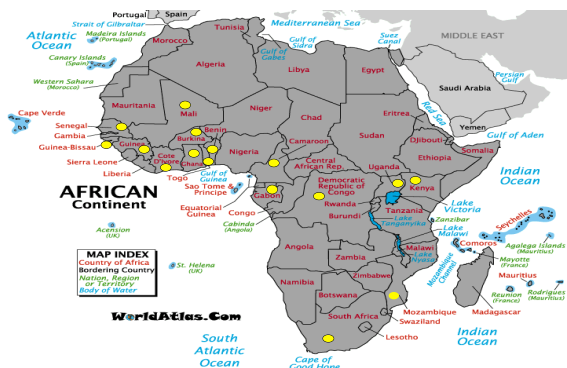
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# **Inter-linkage between traditional medicine and biodiversity**

- **A new terminology but an old practice**
- **It is the essence of traditional medicine practice in its totality**
- **One can not talk of TM without referring to biodiversity**

# **Traditional Medicine in its Totality**

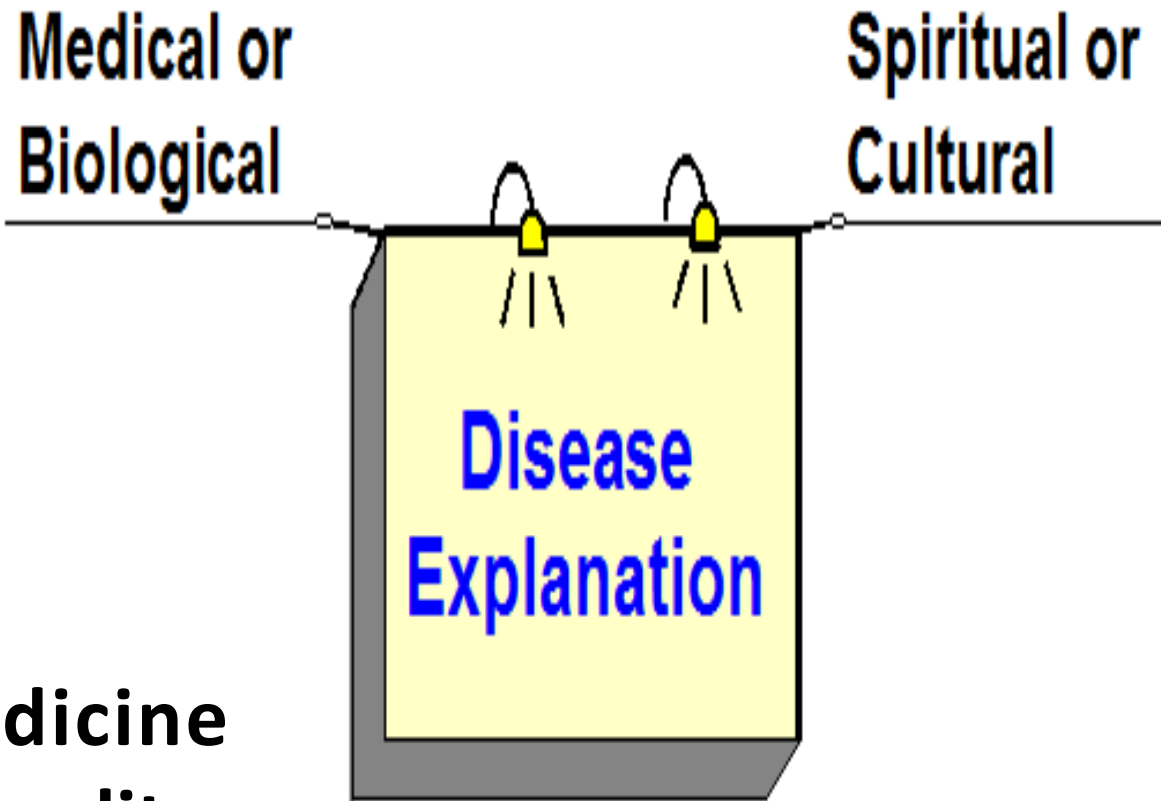
- **Traditional medicine is the sum total of all knowledge and practices, whether explicable or not, used in diagnosing, preventing, and eliminating physical, mental, spiritual or societal imbalances. It relies exclusively on practical experience and observation handed down from generation to generation, verbally, in writing or otherwise (WHO, 1978).**

# **Traditional Health Practitioner (healer)**

- **Traditional health practitioner (THP) include; herbalists, spiritualists, bone setters, etc. recognized by the community as competent to provide health care.**
- **They use Biodiversity based on social, cultural, religious and knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs prevalent in the community regarding physical, mental, spiritual and social well-being, and the believed causes of disease and disability.**

Medical or  
Biological

Spiritual or  
Cultural



Disease  
Explanation

**Traditional Medicine  
has its own rationality,  
its own logic, and its  
own system.**

- **Evaluating TM in strictly scientific terms is very limited, inadequate and, at times, impossible, since TM is both material and non-material**
- **The totality of TM includes therapeutic procedure which takes into account the Physical, Psychological, Ethical, Subtle and Spiritual dimensions of the human being. It may not be reduced to only pharmacopoeia**



# **PROMETRA Uganda**

- **Founded 2000 to respond to poor health of rural communities through utilization of trad. Medicine, indigenous knowledge & science**
- **Philosophy;**
  - **Harness nature to promote health**
- **Has a Trad. Medicine Forest School that brings together traditional healers for Self-Proficiency training to strengthen their capacity, preserve biodiversity resources and influence policy on traditional medicine.**

# **PROMETRA Uganda**

- **Provides an opportunity to THs to share knowledge and improve their practice to effectively address local health challenges**
- **University students and authorities, interact, share and understand TM practice within its practitioners' natural environment.**

# The inter-linkages

- **Human Health**
- **Plant Health**
- **Animal Health**
- **Environmental Health**
- **Food, Nutrition & food security**
  - Increased food production
  - Traditional local food crops
  - Food crops that are medicinal
  - Fish farming
- **Bee farming and honey packing**
- **Local increase in income**
- **Local livelihood**

- **Medicine;**  
**(non-material)**
  - Cultural values, diversity and inter-cultural health systems
  - Spiritual values
- **Herbal medicine**
  - Medicinal tree Nursery
  - Value addition
  - Processing
- **Community clinic**
- **Respect and reevaluating local values, traditional knowledge and practices**



**Class 1: Trains in plant identification in relation to the diseases treated.**



**Class 2: Trains in Human anatomy in relation to general disease management.**

**Traditional Birth Attendants**



**Spiritualists**



**Traditional Bonesetters**



**Herbalists**



**Class 3: Specializes in a particular disease management.**

**Traditional Mental Specialists**





# Class







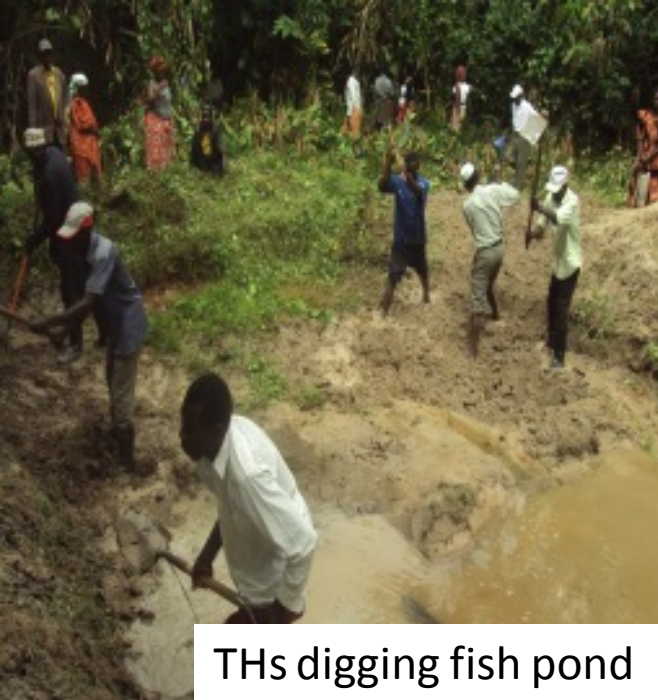
**Trainees experiencing soil potting as a hands on practical session**



**Trainees arranging their filled pots in the nursery**







THs digging fish pond



Introducing fingerlings



Feeding of the fish



Harvesting of fish



Harvested fish



Shared fish





**PU- Demonstration Apiary**



**PU-donating beehives to village groups**





**Front view of the three rooms of the new face-lifted community clinic structure**



**Interior view of the community clinic dispensing room**



**Side view of new community clinic with the dispensing window open**



**The dispensing window**



















**Trench making and mulching of the banana growing demonstration plot**



**The mulched section of the banana demonstration plot**



**Trench management in the banana demonstration plot**



**The current status of the banana plants in the demonstration plot**





**Germinated pieces of yams ready for planting**



**Traditional healers demonstrating the traditional way of planting yams**



**Each trainee is just ready to plant a piece of yams**



**The current status of the yam demonstration plot**







- Establishment of a pilot facility for processing Trad Medicine



# Processing Facility of Traditional Medicines









# Establish a beekeeping enterprise at Buyijja

- 6 people trained in commercial insect beekeeping
- trained & formed 14 beekeeping Community groups.
- Procured & installed 25 modern beehives
- We hope to supply organic Honey









# Training traditional healers about bee-keeping, honey as a medicine and income generation project

- Women & youth interested
- organic farming
- Environment conservation
- Is medicine
- Is nutritious
- Source of money
- Preservative of medicine
- Increased bee population
- Improved field yields
- Sustained source of Honey







# **TM Networks in various regions**

**(Still in pockets of project activities)**

- **Rapid assessment methods to evaluate population and threat of natural resources developed in India**
- **Development of livelihood enterprises based on traditional knowledge of health care products**
  - **Establishment of producer companies, a co-operative style business by local community members in India and Eastern Africa (ICIPE Kenya)**
- **Self-proficiency training method developed by PROMETRA International**
- **Protection of community knowledge through;**
  - **Community Knowledge Registers (CKRs)**
  - **Bio-cultural community Protocols (BCPs)**
  - **Databases such as Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)**

- **Self help in Primary Health Care through Home Herbal Gardens in India and Uganda (PROMETRA)**
- **Participatory documentation, rapid assessment and validation methods of traditional health practices targeting specific community health problems developed in India by FRLHT (Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions)**
- **Promotion of inter- or cross- cultural learning and knowledge sharing among practitioners**
  - **Intercultural hospitals in Chile - South America**
  - **Learning exchange of traditional healers networks promoted in Asia, Africa and Latin America by;**
    - **COMPAS, Equator Initiative, FRLHT (Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions)**
- **Natural resource conservation programs (Medicinal Plant conservation areas in India and Uganda (PROMETRA)**



# **Afro-Asian Learning Exchange and Training May 2010 at PROMETRA-Uganda Forest Training School.**



**home herbal gardens, organic farming  
and livestock raising.**





# Training on Documentation and Rapid Assessment of Local Health Traditions





## INTERACTIVE MEETINGS WITH AUTHORITIES AND UNIVERSITIES.



# **Role and Strategies for strengthening Traditional Medicine**

- **legal framework for practice and use of TM**
- **Address tensions between therapists due to ideological differences**
- **Loss of traditional knowledge and practices**
- **Loss of indigenous species of biodiversity**
- **Displacement of indigenous species by non-indigenous invasive species**
- **Traditional health assessment methodologies**

# **Strategies for strengthening TM**

- **Enhance its integration its knowledge and practices into the development process.**
- **Support appropriate research and documentation of theories/philosophies and non-pharmacological approaches of the traditional health care system**
- **Regulatory guidelines to protect both the biodiversity and the local health traditions**







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# Thank you



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