

Sustaining the supply of traditional medicines



FRP project R8305






80% of Africans rely on traditional medicine ...

much of which is based on wild plants only found in remnant natural forest ...

40% of this is derived from tree bark



HIV/AIDS has increased urban demand for traditional medicine...

this has led to commercial collection and trade based on illegal harvesting from Forest Reserves.

Which in turn compromises the:

- Availability of preferred species
- Livelihoods for collectors and herbalists
- Health security

A group of people, including a man in a white shirt and several women in traditional African attire, are seated around a long white table in a meeting room. The room has large windows and a green door in the background. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box.

The CPWild project in RSA has shown that sustainable bark harvesting agreements are attractive to urban.

The institutionalisation of CFM provides an opportunity to extend the lessons learnt to other forests and countries..

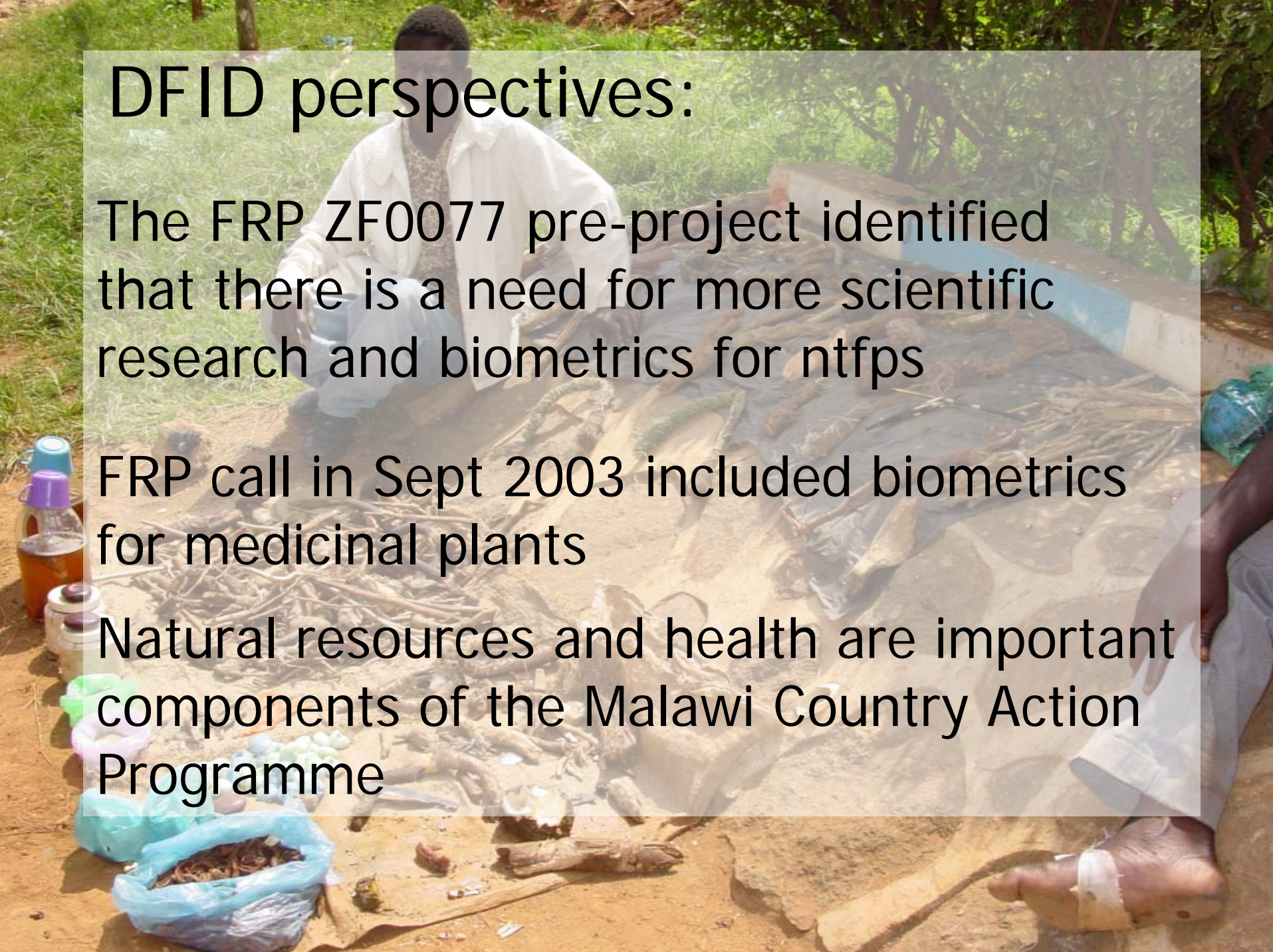
BUT the biology of the species and optimal harvesting prescriptions are not well understood.

DFID perspectives:

The FRP ZF0077 pre-project identified that there is a need for more scientific research and biometrics for ntfps

FRP call in Sept 2003 included biometrics for medicinal plants

Natural resources and health are important components of the Malawi Country Action Programme



Study sites

Zambia

Mwekera

Kaloko

Malawi

Zomba Mountain

Liwonde

Forest ecosystem

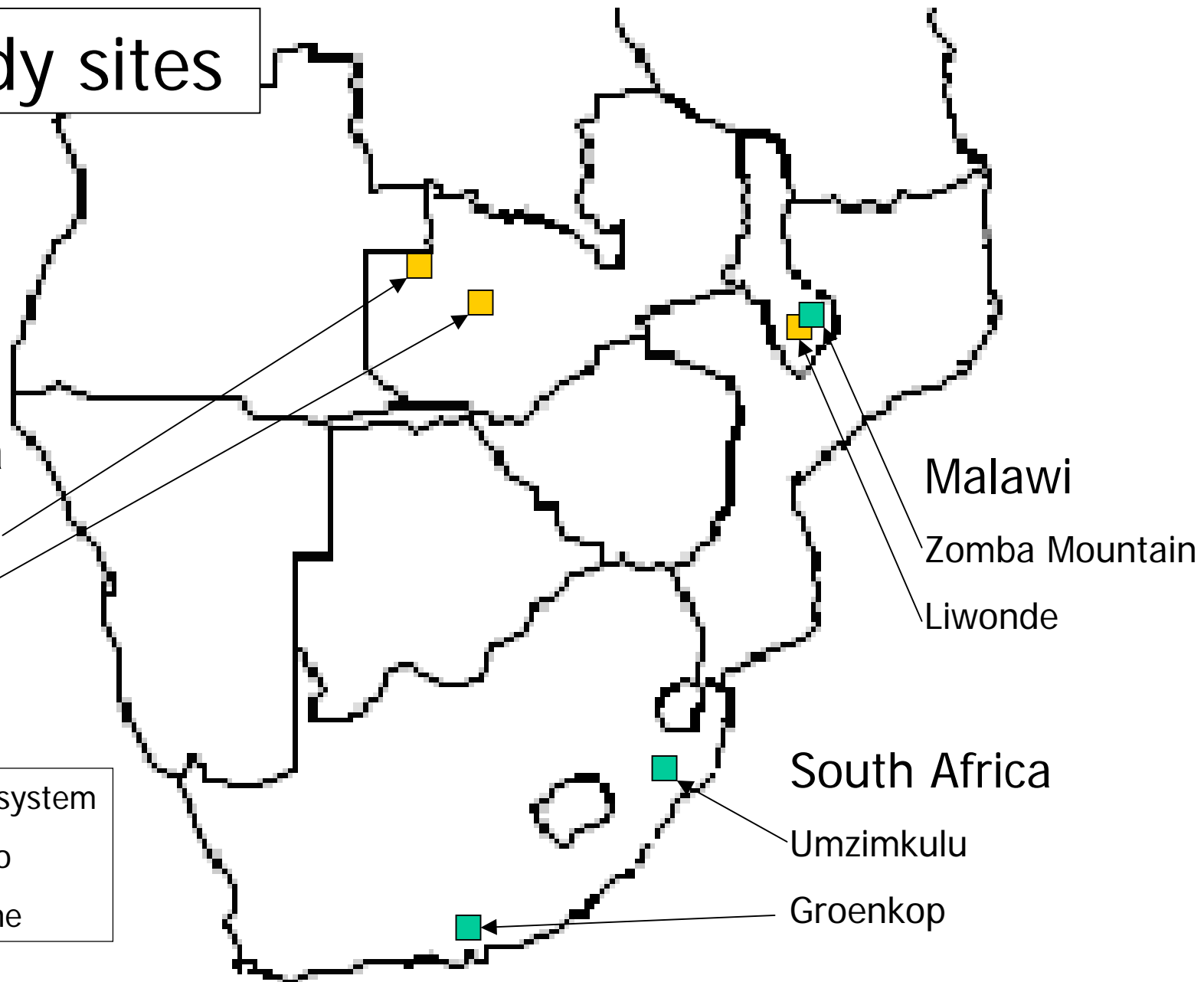
■ Miombo

■ Montane

South Africa

Umzimkulu

Groenkop



Research activities

- Development of sampling methods for rare trees
- Creation of bark volume tables and estimation methods
- Experiments to determine species response to bark wounding
- Wound pathology
- Development of simple yield models to help decide on optimal harvesting regimes
- Collection of traditional knowledge of best methods for bark removal

Species have different responses to bark harvesting:

Response	Harvesting	Future harvests
Tree dies	Cut mature trees, harvest all bark, use timber	Regeneration of large trees
Bark regrowth slow – no coppice ability		
Bark regrowth slow – coppice ability		Coppice shoots
Bark regrowth fast	Remove narrow strips of bark from stems of mature trees	Repeated removal of bark strips

Getting results into practice

- Develop 'toolkit' for use by forest managers so they can develop management plans in collaboration with bark collectors
- Incorporate 'toolkit' into CFM procedures in each country
- Develop training materials and run courses with forestry training colleges in each country
- Project completion workshop for SADC region
- Dissemination of 'toolkit' by FAO
- Academic papers for international forestry community





Many thanks!