**Annual growth of *Pterocarpus angolensis* (kiaat) and other woodland species in Kavango, Namibia**

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The most preferred species for sawmilling in Namibia, and most of the southern African region, is *Pterocarpus angolensis* (kiaat). This species grows in north-eastern Namibia at the edge of its southern distribution area and has been harvested on a commercial scale since the 1940s. However, there is not enough information to determine if this exploitation is sustainable. This study aims at determining and measuring annual growth of kiaat in Namibia by measuring tree rings in the Kavango regions. The growth of kiaat will be compared with a few other woodland species from which increment cores are taken(*Burkea africana*, *Baikiaea plurijuga*, *Terminalia sericea* and *Schinziophyton rautanenii*). All increment cores are levelled with a core-microtome and then measured using a LintabTM with TSAP-Win software. A limited number of stem discs was collected to make comparable tree-ring analysis by manual counting (age-diameter relations). Regarding the other woodland species, we observed that *Terminalia* *sericea* is a pioneer species growing faster than *Pterocarpus* *angolensis*, *Baikiaea* *plurijuga* and *Burkea* *africana*. Our results also show significant growth variations among sample sites, often depending on the age of trees. Tree-ring series of kiaat were crossdated and local chronologies with a length of about 50 years could be established. These chronologies can be used for future dendroclimatological analyses and to fit into a larger network of *P. angolensis* chronologies around southern Africa.

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