

Some of you may have read this article recently when I posted it on the chat group. It was published by Business Insider SA on 10th November 2021. I thought it would be an extremely useful document to have available for all owners as two of the new species are found on Grietjie and will therefore be of importance. I also added the full list of the other 48 protected species found in South Africa and highlighted which of those are also found on the reserve. I have taken the liberty of changing the layout of the original document.

These trees will soon be protected in SA – and disturbing them could land you in jail



Left to right: *Berchemia zeyheri*, *Diospyros mespiliformis*, *Schinziophyton rautanenii* (Images: Wikimedia Commons) and *Umtiza listeriana* (Image: PlantZAfrica - SANBI, Creative Commons)

- **Four more species are likely to be added to South Africa's list of protected trees, as per a proposal by the minister of forestry, fisheries, and the environment.**
- **The list currently contains 48 species of trees.**
- **It's illegal to cut, damage, or disturb these trees protected under the National Forests Act.**
- **And those caught, without explicit permission, could spend up to three years behind bars.**

Four more trees are likely to soon become protected in South Africa under the National Forests Act. Cutting, disturbing, damaging, or removing protected trees could land offenders in jail for up to three years.

The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment, Barbara Creecy, intends to add four more species to South Africa's list of protected trees. [A government gazette published on Monday](#) calls for public comment on Creecy's proposal.

"The species are proposed for addition to the existing list of protected tree species after evaluation by an expert panel, on the basis that they are keystone species and vulnerable to particular threats in specific parts of their distribution range," notes the gazette bearing Creecy's signature.

South Africa's list of protected trees [currently contains 48 species](#), from the iconic Camel thorn, *Acacia erioloba*, to the Outeniqua yellowwood, and *Podocarpus falcatus*. Trees indigenous to dense forests in the Western Cape, to hardy species which dot the arid Namaqualand can be found on this list.

Now, four more trees are likely to gain their protection status.

Red Ivory- *Berchemia zeyheri* (Image: Wikimedia Commons)



[Berchemia zeyheri](#), commonly known as Red Ivory in English, Rooihout in Afrikaans, and munia-niane in Tshivenda, is one such species which Creecy wants added to the list.

Red Ivory usually grows in dense groups with other trees, reaching 15 metres in height. It's evergreen to semi-deciduous and is commonly found in Limpopo, where, according to the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), its fruit is picked and sold on the street.

Wood from the tree has also been used to craft durable furniture, while its leaves and fruit are favoured by birds, bushbuck, and people alike.

Jackalberry- *Diospyros mespiliformis* (Image: Wikimedia Commons)



[*Diospyros mespiliformis*](#), better known as African ebony or jackal-berry, can grow 25 metres high, with a trunk circumference of 5 metres and dense evergreen canopy. It produces a fleshy oval fruit, yellow-green in colour, and is sought after by nyalas, impalas, warthogs, baboons, and hornbills.

Jackal-berry trees are found throughout Africa and, locally, are common on savannas or savanna woodlands, like the Kruger National Park, where it can be found growing on termite mounds.

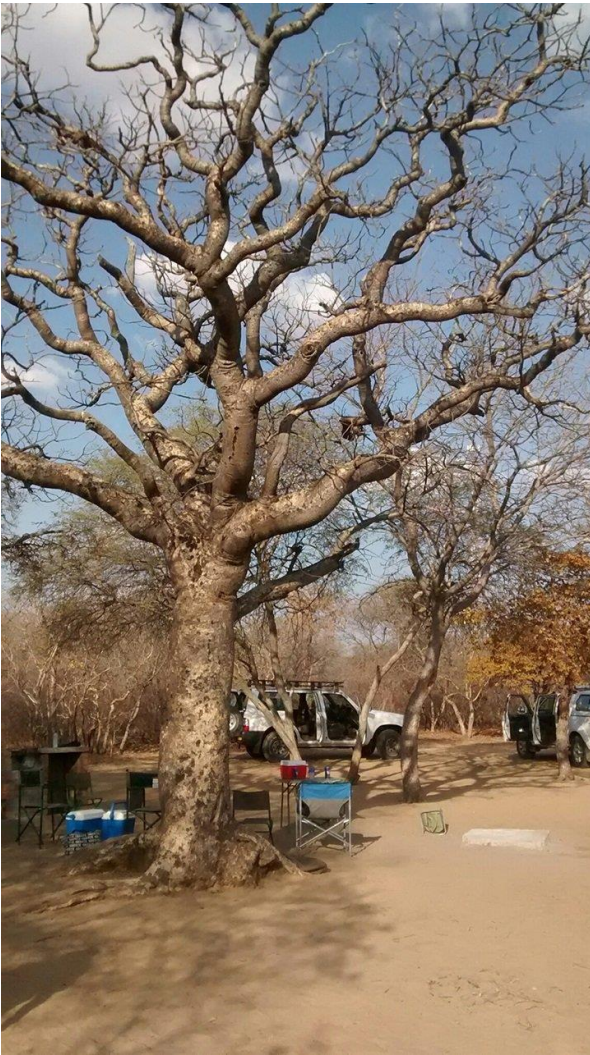
Umtiza- *Umtiza listeriana* (Image: PlantZAfrica - SANBI, Creative Commons)



[*Umtiza listeriana*](#), or simply Umtiza, localised and endemic to South Africa, is found only in a small area in the Eastern Cape. Part of the legume family, this rare evergreen tree grows up to 12 metres and produces oblong leaves 20 to 60 mm long.

Umtiza also produces fruit which matures into brown and woody pods. It's found in the forested kloofs of the Eastern Cape, in the East London, Kentani, and King William's Town Districts. Rapid human expansion in these areas threatens Umtiza, with the species recently being restored in the Umtiza Nature Reserve.

Manketti tree- *Schinziophyton rautanenii* (Image: Wikimedia Commons)



The [Schinziophyton rautanenii](#), best known as the Manketti tree or Mongongo nut, is not endemic to South Africa, but can be found in northern Limpopo. It's a large spreading tree which usually grows to between 15 to 20 metres tall, with grey to pale golden-brown bark.

The Manketti tree's light grey-green fruits are covered in velvety hairs, while its hard seeds produce an edible oil.

"No person may cut, disturb, damage or destroy any protected tree or possess, collect, remove, transport, export, purchase, sell, donate or in any other manner acquire or dispose of any protected tree except under a license granted by the Minister," notes the gazette.

Anybody caught transgressing these laws could "be sentenced to a fine or imprisonment for a period of up to three years, or to a fine and such imprisonment."

(Compiled by Luke Daniel)

SCHEDULE A- THE LIST OF PROTECTED TREE SPECIES UNDER THE NATIONAL FORESTS ACT,
1998 (ACT NO. 84 OF 1998)

Found on Grietjie	Botanical name	English common names	Other common names Afrikaans (A), Sepedi (P), Sesotho (S), Setswana (T), Tshivenda (V), isiXhosa (X), isiZulu (Z), Xitsonga (XT)	National tree number
	<i>Acacia erioloba</i>	Camel thorn	Kameeldoring (A)/Mogohlo	168
	<i>Acacia haematoxylon</i>	Grey camel thorn	Vaalkameeldoring (A)/Mokholo (T)	169
X	<i>Adansonia digitata</i>	Baobab	Kremetart (A)/Seboi (NS)/Mowana (T)/Ximuwu (XT)	467
	<i>Azelia quanzensis</i>	Pod mahogany	Peulmahonie (A)/Mutokota (V)/Inkehli (Z)	207
X	<i>Balanites subsp. maughamii</i>	Torchwood	Groending (A)/Ugobandlovu (Z)	251
	<i>Barringtonia racemosa</i>	Powder-puff tree	Poeierkwasboom (A)/Iboqo (Z)	524
X	<i>Boscia albitrunca</i>	Shepherd's tree	Witgat (A)/Mohlôpi (NS)/Motlhôpi (T)/ Muvhombwe (V)/Umgqomogqomo (X)/Umvithi (Z)	122
	<i>Brachystegia spiciformis</i>	Msasa	Msasa (A)	198.1
X	<i>Breonadia salicina</i>	Matumi	Mingerhout (A)/Mohlomê	684
	<i>Bruguiera gymnorhiza</i>	Black mangrove	Swartwortelboom (A)/isiKhangati (X)/IsiHlobane (Z)	527

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	<i>Cassipourea swaziensis</i>	Swazi onionwood	Swazi-ueihout (A)	531.1
X	<i>Catha edulis</i>	Bushman's tea	Boesmanstee (A)/Mohlatse (NS)/Igqwaka (X)/Umhlwazi (Z)	404
	<i>Ceriops tagal</i>	Indian mangrove	Indiese wortelboom (A)/isinkaha (Z)	525
	<i>Cleistanthus schlechteri</i> var. <i>schlechteri</i>	False tamboti	Bastertambotie (A)/Umzithi (Z)	320
	<i>Colubrina nicholsonii</i>	Pondo weeping thorn	Pondo-treurdoring (A)	453.8
X	<i>Combretum imberbe</i>	Leadwood	Hardekool (A)/Mohwelere-tšhipi (NS)/Motswiri (T)/Impondondlovu (Z)	539
	<i>Curtisia dentata</i>	Assegai	Assegaai (A)/Umgxina (X)/Umagunda (Z)	570
X	<i>Elaeodendron transvaalensis</i>	Bushveld saffron	Bosveld-saffraan (A)/Monomane (T)/Ingwavuma (Z)	416
	<i>Erythrophysa transvaalensis</i>	Bushveld red balloon	Bosveld-rooiklapperbos (A)/Mofalatsane (T)	436.2
	<i>Euclea pseudebenus</i>	Ebony guarri	Ebbeboom-ghwarrie (A)	598
	<i>Ficus trichopoda</i>	Swamp fig	Moerasvy (A)/Umvubu (Z)	54

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	<i>Leucadendron argenteum</i>	Silver tree	Silwerboom (A)	77
	<i>Lumnitzera racemosa</i> var. <i>racemosa</i>	Tonga mangrove	Tonga-wortelboom (A)/isiKhaha-esibomvu (Z)	552
	<i>Lydenburgia abbottii</i>	Pondo bushman's tea	Pondo-boesmanstee (A)	407
	<i>Lydenburgia cassinoides</i>	Sekhukhuni bushman's tea	Sekhukhuni-boesmanstee (A)	406
	<i>Mimusops caffra</i>	Coastal red milkwood	Kusrooimelkhou (A)/Umthunzi (X)/Umkhakhayi (Z)	583
	<i>Newtonia hildebrandtii</i> var. <i>hildebrandtii</i>	Lebombo wattle	Lebombo-wattel (A)/Umfomothi (Z)	191
	<i>Ocotea bullata</i>	Stinkwood	Stinkhout (A)/Umhlungulu (X)/Umnukane (Z)	118
	<i>Ozoroa namaquensis</i>	Gariiep resin tree	Gariiep-harpuisboom (A)	373.2
X	<i>Philenoptera violacea</i>	Apple-leaf	Appelblaar (A)/Mphata (NS)/Mohata (T)/isiHomohomo (Z)	238
X	<i>Pittosporum viridiflorum</i>	Cheesewood	Kasuur (A)/Kgalagangwe (NS)/Umkhwenkwe (X)/Umfusamvu (Z)	139

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	<i>Podocarpus elongatus</i>	Breede River yellowwood	Breëriviergeelhout (A)	15
	<i>Podocarpus falcatus</i> (<i>Afrocarpus falcatus</i>)	Outeniqua yellowwood	Outniekwageelhout (A)/Mogôbagôba (NS)/Umkhoba (X)/Umsonti (Z)	16
	<i>Podocarpus henkelii</i>	Henkel's yellowwood	Henkel se geelhout (A)/Umsonti (X)/Umsonti (Z)	17
	<i>Podocarpus trifolium</i>	Real yellowwood	Regte-geelhout (A)/Mogôbagôba (NS)/Umcheya (X)/Umkhoba (Z)	18
	<i>Protea comptonii</i>	Saddleback sugarbush	Barberton-suikerbos (A)	88
	<i>Protea curvata</i>	Serpentine sugarbush	Serpentynsuikerbos (A)	88.1
	<i>Prunus africana</i>	Red stinkwood	Rooistinkhout (A)/Umkhakhase (X)/Umdumezulu (Z)	147
	<i>Pterocarpus angolensis</i>	Wild teak	Kiaat (A)/Morôtô (NS)/Mokwa (T)/Mutondo (V)/Umvangazi (Z)	236
	<i>Rhizophora mucronata</i>	Red mangrove	Rooiwortelboom (A)/isiKhangathi (X)/Umhlume (Z)	526
X	<i>Sclerocarya birrea</i> subsp. <i>caffra</i>	Marula	Maroela (A)/Morula (NS)/Morula (T)/Umganu (Z) /Nkanyi (XT)	360

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	<i>Securidaca longepedunculata</i>	Violet tree	Krinkhout (A)/Mmaba (T)	303
	<i>Sideroxylon inerme</i> subsp. <i>inerme</i>	White milkwood	Witmelkhout (A)/Ximafana (X)/Umakhwelafingqane (Z)	579
	<i>Tephrosia pondoensis</i>	Pondo poison pea	Pondo-gifertjie (A)	226.1
	<i>Warburgia salutaris</i>	Pepper-bark tree	Peperbasboom (A)/Molaka (NS)/Mulanga (V)/isiBaha (Z)	488
	<i>Widdringtonia cedarbergensis</i>	Clanwilliam cedar	Clanwilliamseder (A)	19
	<i>Widdringtonia schwarzii</i>	Willowmore cedar	Baviaanskloofseder (A)	21