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Natural Capital and Plant Health - Diversity and Livelihoods

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LDN Standard 1:

- Considering the impact of plantations of exotic species on native biodiversity and natural resources in Africa for example (Eucalyptus, Gravillea...), it would be essential to stress the importance of *conserving and using in a sustainable way the native/indigenous woody and herbaceous plant species*
- If ecosystem services are mentioned in this paragraph, they should appear in the title of this standard
- I would rename “sustainable management” to “*sustainable management and use*”. Indeed, non-detrimental activities to plant resources will support livelihoods through selling NTFPs (e.g. honey, oils, essential oils, nuts, sap, gum, medicinal components, fruits...) and give incentives to local populations to grow and conserve these native species further. Activities should include:
 - propagating and planting *native woody and herbaceous plants*
- producing NTFPs which can be directly used by local communities and/or sold by them to generate a sustainable income. In this regard, it would be essential to help local communities by analysing value chains and help them (i) access the market for the NTFPs they produce (e.g. contact pharmaceutical companies, perfume companies, restaurants, eco-lodges) and (ii) get their products certified (e.g. organic, fair trade) so that local communities can get premiums for the NTFPs they produce

LDN Standard 8:

- This standard should be Standard 2 – to help with the flow.
- In the title: “sustainable use of natural resources”, instead of “Resource Efficiency”
- Beware of plantations of exotic species as shown in the “Eligible projects” of the attached “LDN Fund at glance”. Plantations of e.g. *Eucalyptus* have a huge environmental impact, e.g. depletion of water resources, and this can present a conflict with this LDN standard and with LDN standard 1.

General comment:

I think it would be essential to keep referring to the UNCCD convention which has been leading on the creation of this Impact Investment Fund. Conclusions of the description of each LDN standard should therefore refer back to the global context of the UNCCD convention, which would justify the creation of each standard.