

Origin products from African Forests: A Kenyan pathway to prosperity and green inclusive growth?

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The *lightning* point!

In many countries people collect and sell products from forests - sometimes their livelihoods depend on it.

Sometimes the products are of high quality

- linked to *the place*
- linked to *the people*

} *Terroir*



Geographical Indication (GI) is based on terroir, and can

- provide value added to origin forest products
- link rural livelihoods to niche markets
- provide incentive for ecosystem stewardship



Important to know!

Geographical indications (GI):

Special type of intellectual property right;
collectively held by producers;
product quality characteristics are results of
the cultural and natural environment.



Teatrekker.com



E-commerce.it

A renaissance of GI

- 2006 EU regulations opened up the EU GI system
- and fueled the ongoing development of GI systems elsewhere
- also in Africa with untapped potential for GI products

VALOR project: *"Lets go to 3 African countries, team up with local experts and researchers, and investigate GI potential products – also from the forest!"*

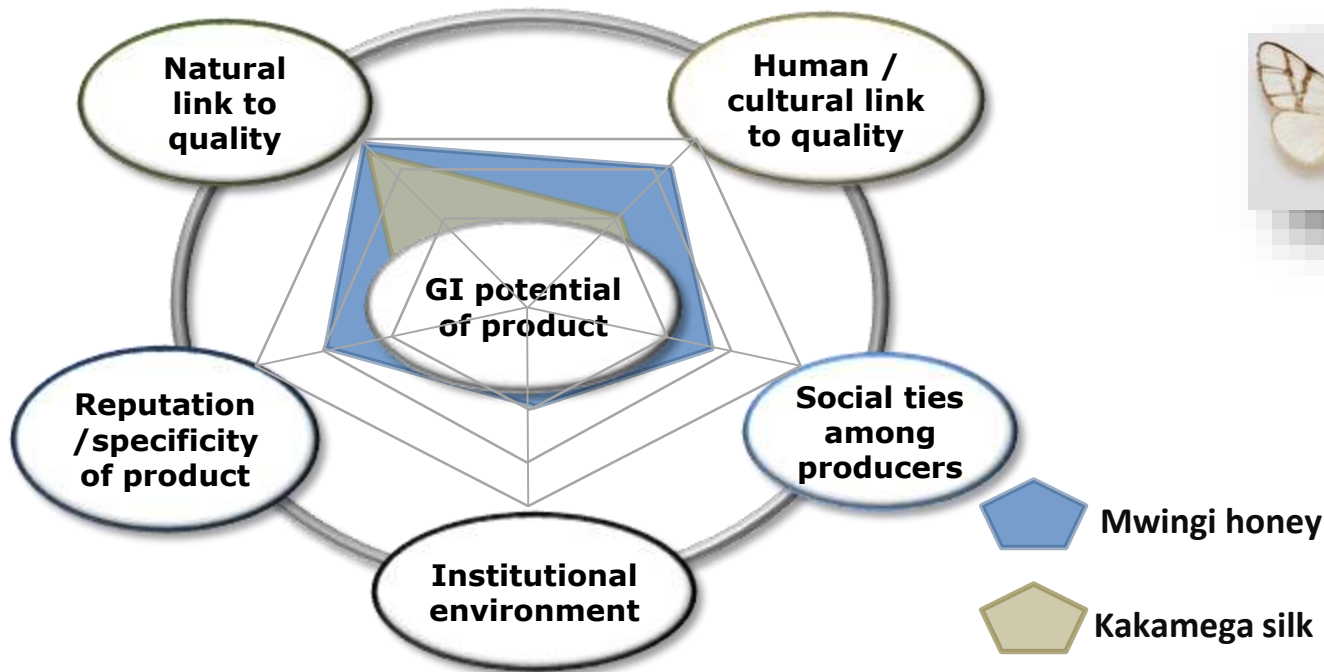


Honey and Forest Silk in Kenya

Case study of each product

- Honey from Mwingi subcounty
- Wild silk from Kakamega county

GI potential assessed according to five elements (figure)



"Linking forest biodiversity to sustainable livelihoods"



The *way forward* for Kenyan forest GIs

Needed:

- Capacity building for uniform quality (processing)
- Strong producer organizations
- A GI legislative and policy framework
 - member of ARIPO with GI mandate

Strengths:

- A rich and diverse natural setting
- Likewise, rich and diverse culture
- Consumer awareness of origin products



Forest GI products that has succeeded

Argan oil – the liquid gold of the Berbers,
empowering women in Morocco



Bonghwa Pine mushroom – supporting
mountain villages in South Korea



The success of Oku white honey

- Unique ecosystem
- Traditional beekeeping
- White color and distinct taste
- Very good reputation



After GI registration

- Increased prices and production
- Stronger cooperatives
- Rural development
- Environmental awareness

