

Khaya ivorensis

Scientific name: *Khaya ivorensis* (A. Chev.).

Family: Meliaceae.

Distribution and conservation status: most abundant in evergreen forests, but also found in moist semi-deciduous forests, in areas with 1600-2500 mm annual rainfall; **VU** due to forest degradation and loss.

Common names: Lagos mahogany (English), Oganwo (Yoruba), Onu (Igbo), Obolo (Edo).

Fruits/seeds: fruits are erect, nearly globose, woody capsule 5-7 cm in diameter, greyish brown and dehiscent by 5 valves. The seeds are disk-shaped or quadrangular, strongly flattened 2.5 cm x 3.5 cm, narrowly winged round the margin and brown in colour.

Fruiting time: June - October.

Seed extraction method: remove seeds from the pod.

Type of seed: recalcitrant with hypogeal germination.

Sowing method: direct sowing.

Sowing medium: forest top soil.

Germination period: 10-13 days.

Germination percentage: 100% for fresh seeds.

Vegetative reproduction: stem cuttings from seedlings less than 2 years reported to be successful.

Planting: full shade.

Growth and development: average height of saplings and stem diameter are 4.5 m and 8 cm, respectively after 4 years. Mass production of seeds is reported to occur every 3-4 years.