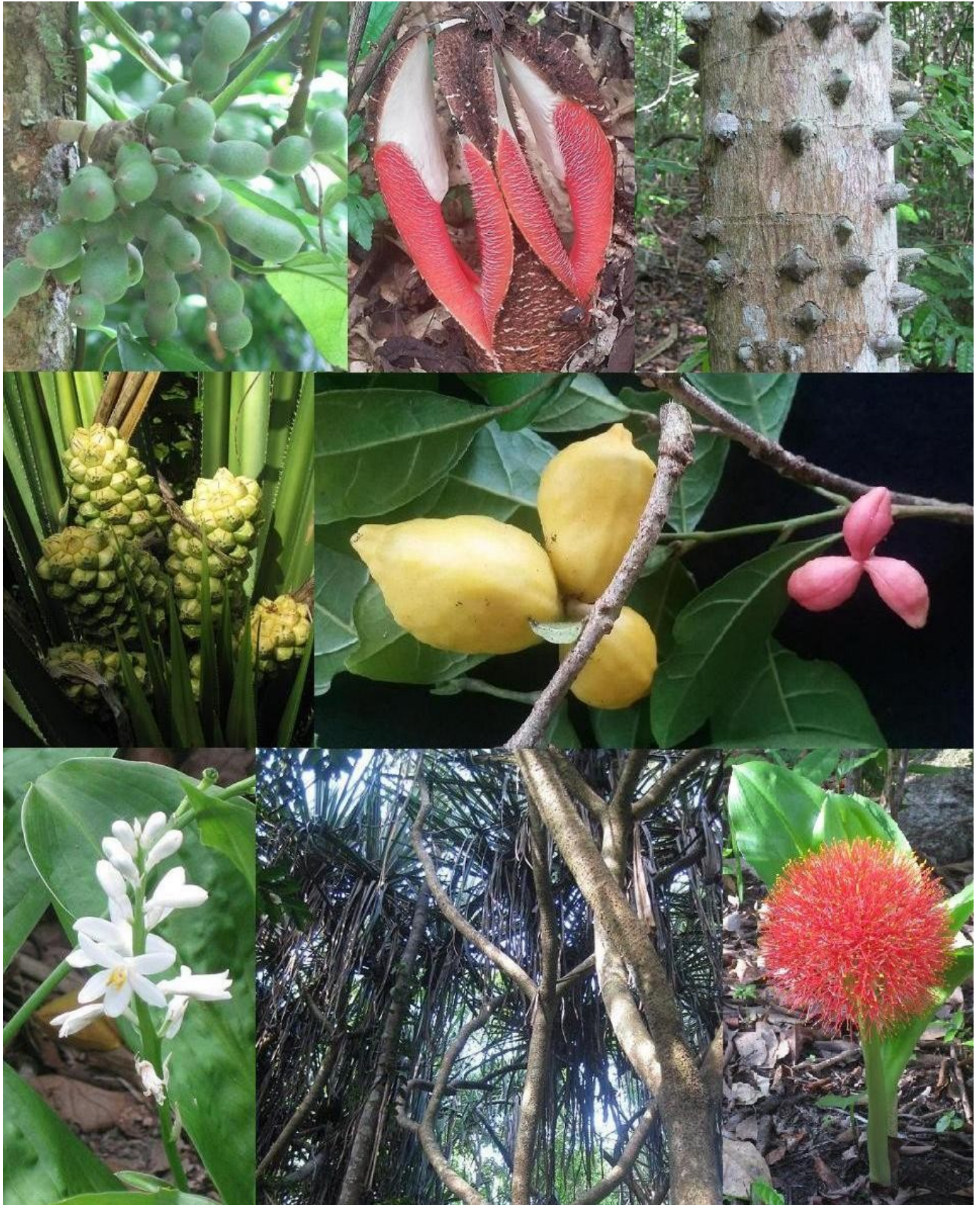


# A guide to the plants of the Kimboza-Ruvu region



# About this guide

## Purpose of this guide

Collate botanical and ecological information regarding plant species occurring in the Kimboza-Ruvu region and make it available to stakeholders interested in the forest environment.

## Who is it for?

It is produced by botanically semi-literate people and caters for like-minded folks who are interested in the natural history of Kimboza and Ruvu forests. In due course a Swahili version will be produced for local people who cherish their forests.

This guide is primarily aimed at:

1. a group of people currently setting up a restoration project aimed at linking the Kimboza Forest to the nearby Ruvu Forest.
2. students from the local university, SUA in Morogoro.
3. the occasional keen natural historian visiting the Kimboza-Ruvu region.

It is not a flora for expert botanists. However, the tablet version will have links to the electronically available original scientific information. Thus this guide will allow experts to rapidly access the primary sources. Currently, the main sources are cited at the end of each species account as well as known voucher specimens inclusive of their storage locations.

## How the guide is structured

Species are listed by botanical names (**in red** = strict endemic, **in purple** = near endemic, **in green** = introduced spp). For each record the local (in bold) or Swahili name is given below the scientific name. Synonyms of scientific names previously given to species in the region are also provided in brackets when known.

For each species a basic botanical description is given and illustrated by drawings and photographs. Striking characteristics are highlighted and these should allow for a quick identification of species encountered exhibiting distinct and remarkable features.

Information relating to the distribution, status and habitat requirements are provided where it is available. Ecological information is also provided whenever it is available, however for most species very little is known. Species that can be used in forest restoration are highlighted. Each profile summarizes the uses made of the respective plants in East Africa and locally by Luguru people.

## What species are included

Currently profiles for about of 70% of the 360+ species known to exist in the region are available. They include all species that are found in natural and secondary vegetation, inclusive of introduced species.

## Species profiles can be downloaded as a zip file (march 2022)

As this guide expands and is updated the zip file containing the species profiles will be uploaded on an irregular basis.

Also available are two files that compile the profiles of:

1. Kimboza endemic species
2. Species that are near endemics in the Kimboza-Ruvu region.

Also provided is a provisional list of species thought to be occurring in the Kimboza-Ruvu region.

Much of this guide is based on information and images available on the internet. So many thanks to them all.

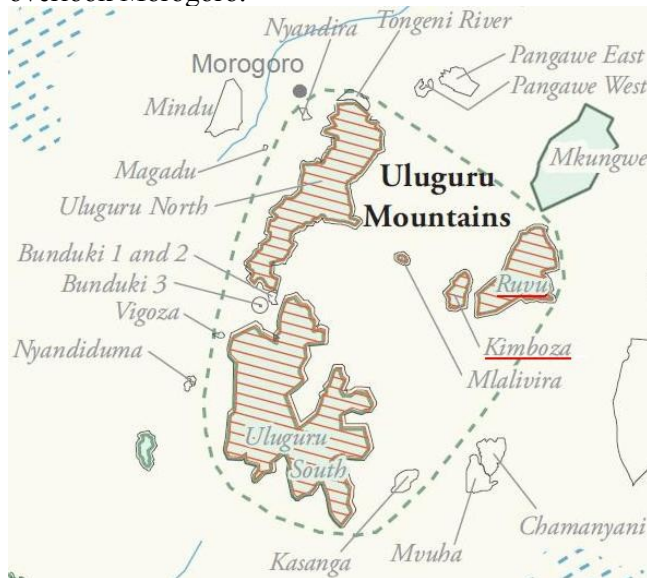
Key sites that have been used include:

Beentje, H. (1994) Kenya trees, shrubs and lianas.  
Flora of Mozambique  
GBIF  
Plants of the World  
Prota  
Useful Tropical Plants

# The Kimboza-Ruvu region

## Where is the Kimboza and Ruvu region?

Kimboza-Ruvu region is situated central eastern Tanzania 60 km to the East of the town of Morogoro, itself 200 km to the West of Dar es Salaam. It lies at the eastern base of the Uluguru Mountains that overlook Morogoro.



The area is inhabited by the Luguru people most of whom are subsistence farmers.

## Vegetation of the Kimboza and Ruvu region

Little is left of the natural habitats of the lower parts of the Uluguru Mountains. A few protected areas remain as small islands of mostly disturbed vegetation here and there in the agricultural landscape. Two of the remaining important and species rich forests are Kimboza Forest and the nearby and much larger Ruvu Forest. Kimboza harbours a number of strict endemic taxa and is of great biodiversity value. The Ruvu Forest is less well-known.

## Conservation initiatives in the Kimboza and Ruvu region

In recent years Charles Kilawe, from the local university SUA, has carried out research on the endemic and iconic gecko. In the process he has initiated fire protection measures to prevent further forest destruction from yearly fires originating from the surrounding farmland.

A forest restoration initiative is currently been established to increase the area under forest and ultimately aimed at linking the Kimboza and Ruvu forests along the Ruvu River gorge.

The aerial photo below clearly shows how Kimboza is a forest island in a sea of farmland dotted with highly degraded small stands of trees.



The unique biodiversity of the Kimboza-Ruvu region has been investigated by many researchers for several decades and has been reviewed in details (Binggeli 2020)

## Tourism information

A main road from Morogoro bisects the nature reserve and Kimboza can be reached by private vehicle or public buses.

The forestry runs a camp site at the edge of the forest that has basic facilities and local food is available from the mission's 'cafe' across the road.

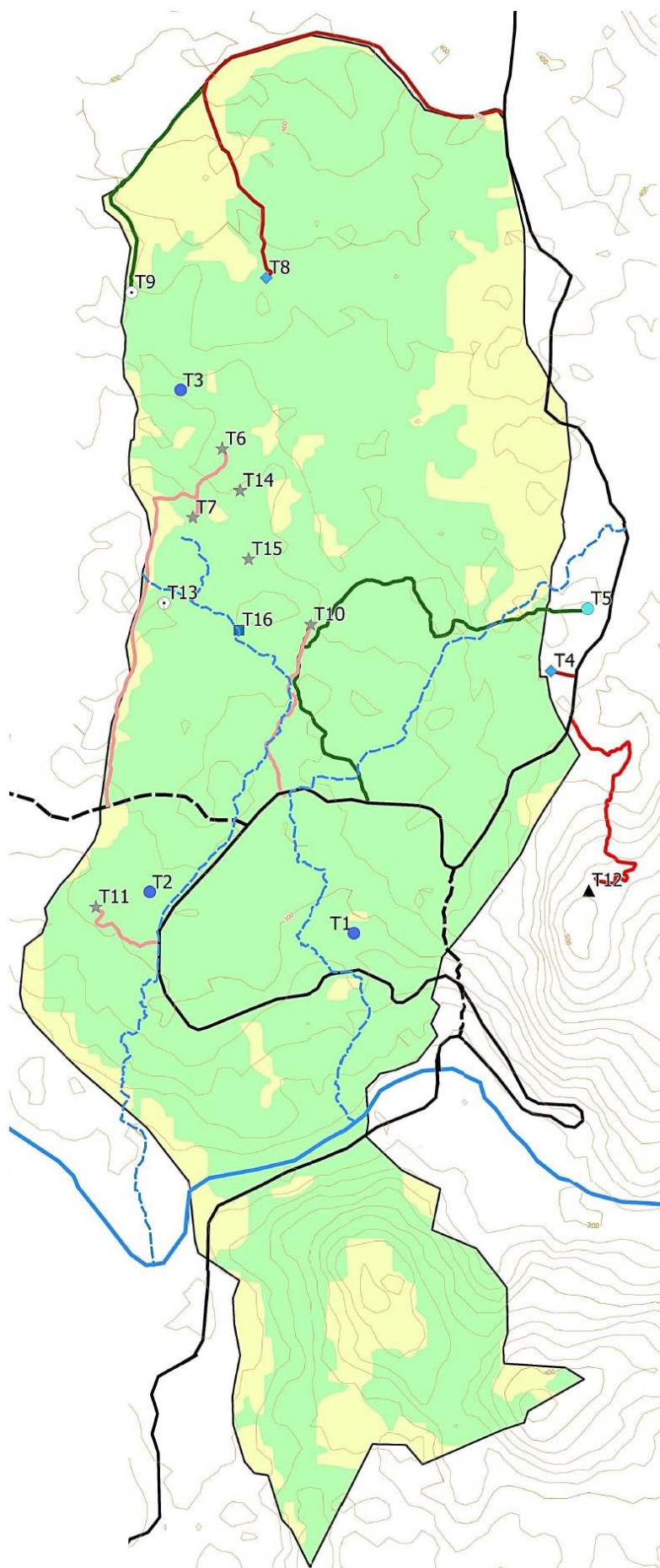
Trail guides are available but note that locally more or less nobody speaks English.



# Kimboza trails

A number of trails inside and around Kimboza forest have been established. Get a guide at the campsite or enquire at the mission cafe.

Trails and main ecotourism features of Kimboza.



## Landcover

- Dense vegetation
- Open vegetation

## Tourism Attraction

- Historical caves
- Water spring
- Butterfly breeding site
- View point
- Mysterious snake pond
- Kimboza campsite
- Gecko view point

## Trails

- View point
- Cultural historical sites
- Striking endemic flora and fauna
- Water spring
- Stream
- River
- Roads
- KFR boundary

- T1 Gecko view point 1
- T2 Gecko view point 2
- T3 Gecko view point T 3
- T4 Water spring I
- T5 Kimboza Campsite
- T6 Dago la njiwa
- T7 Choka wahawi
- T8 Water spring II
- T9 Butterflies breeding site
- T10 Mapango yenye milango minane
- T11 Dago la majambazi
- T12 Forest view point
- T13 Butterfly breeding site
- T14 Cave I
- T15 Cave II
- T16 Mysterious snake pond