

AFRICA'S AMAZING TREES

Faedherbia albidia: 'Green gold' helps crops flourish in barren places so much that farmers in Niger say one tree has the fertiliser value of ten cows. Called Gao tree in the Sahel, Ana tree in South Africa, or Winter thorn because dry season leaves protect crops from harsh sun.

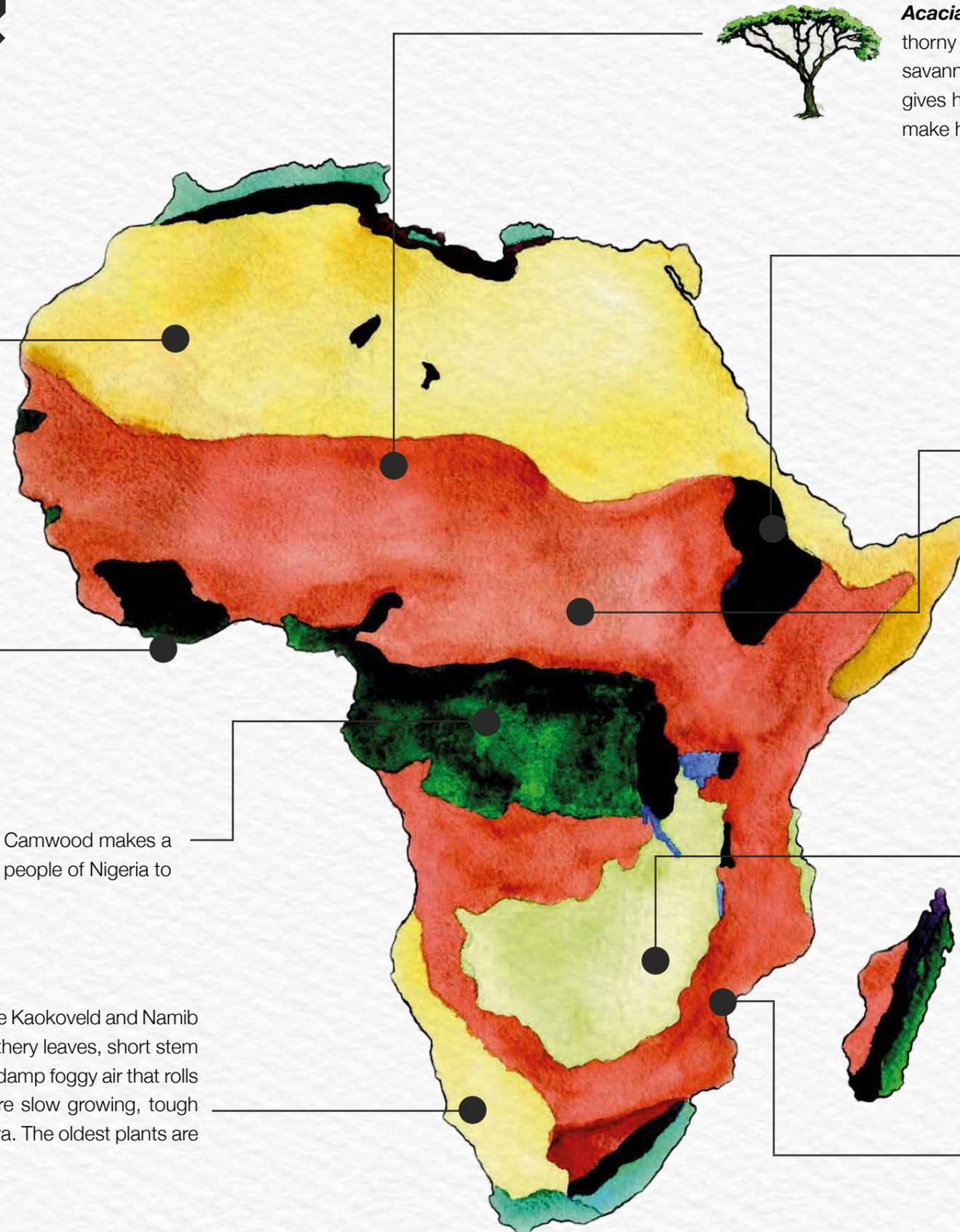


Triphyophyllum peltatum: A curious plant of the West African rainforest. It goes through three stages in its life, each with a different leaf shape. In the second stage, it uses long sticky leaves to catch insects, which it eats!



Baphia nitida: The heart and bark of Camwood makes a red dye, traditionally used by the Igbo people of Nigeria to paint Uli designs on walls and skin.

Welwitschia, or tree tumba is a dwarf tree of the Kaokoveld and Namib deserts in the south west tip of Africa. With leathery leaves, short stem and deep tap roots they collect water from the damp foggy air that rolls in from the Atlantic Ocean each night. They are slow growing, tough and survive fire, thirsty antelope, rhino and zebra. The oldest plants are over 2,000 years old.



Acacia tortillis: Animals need rough tongues to eat from the thorny branches of the hardy Umbrella Thorn Acacia of the savannah! Its leaves, flowers and seedpods are well-protected! It gives humans medicine, charcoal, food, and flowers to help bees make honey.

Rosa abyssinica: Africa's only native rose lives in the Highlands of Ethiopia. It is known as Kaga in Amargna, Qaqawwii in Oromiffa, and Dayero in Somali. The fruits are tasty and rich in vitamins, but take care not to eat too much: stomach-ache and tingling teeth result!



Prunus africana: This is another mountain lover, it grows in east, southern and central Africa, but only above 800 m altitude! In the rose family, this beautiful tree has a marvellous scent, hard dark wood. Its thick fissured bark is a centuries old medicine now used globally to treat prostate cancer

Brachystegia (Miombo): lives on the Zambezi plateau of Africa. It gives only gentle shade, so a huge diversity of grasses and herbs can live beneath its crown. It spreads by "explosive dehiscence" or seed-pod explosion, by which seeds can be thrown up to 25 metres from the tree!



The **anti-parasite tree** grows in the Namibian desert. It is an Acacia. Wildlife chew the bark to treat themselves.