

Other tree species are

Adansonia digitata (Bombacaceae)

Mangifera indica (Anacardiaceae)

Parkia clappertoniana (Mimosaceae)

Northern Guinea Savanna

Grass species in general only grow to 7 or 8ft in height.

Examples of species (tree) are:

Parkia clappertoniana (Mimosaceae)

Protea elliotii (Proteaceae)

Terminalia macroptera

Acacia gourmaensis

Combretum nigricans

Azelia africana

Albizia zygia (Mimosaceae)

Pseudopongia microcarpa (Anacardiaceae) *Terminalia glaucescens* (Combretaceae) *Khaya*

senegalensis (Meliaceae) *Vitex doniana* (Verbenaceae) understory species (including climbers)

are *Dialium guineense* (Caesalpiniaceae) *Morelia senegalensis* (Rubiaceae) *Saba florida*

(Apocynaceae) *Opilia celtidifolia* (Oppiliaceae) *Azelia africana* (Caesalpiniaceae)

Grazing keeps the grass short in rocky hills; peculiar species are *Bombax costatum*

(Bombacaceae) *Steganotaenia* (Umbelliferae)

Acacia ataxacantha *Combretum* spp.

SUDAN SAVANNA

Considerably drier than the preceding one. Average annual rainfall is 20-40 ins, dry seasons lasting for seven months or more in a year with relative humidity as low as 25% during the dry season.

Tree species are mostly deciduous, with half of them being small leaved like the Acacia. About a quarter of the species are thorny in addition common species are:

Upper Storey

Balanites aegyptiaca (Zygophyllaceae)

Biospyros mespiliformis (Ebenaceae) *Ficus plantyphylla* (Moraceae)

Hyphaene thebaica (palmae)

Parkia clappertoniana

Adansonia digitata (Bombacaceae)

Khaya senegalensis (Meliaceae)

Tamarindus indica (Caesalpiniaceae)

Azadiracta indica (Neem)- (meliaceae)

Lower Storey/Shrub Species

Anona senegalensis (Annonaceae)

Ziziphus mauritiana (Rhamnaceae)

Guiera senegalensis (Combretaceae)

Xeromphis nilotica (Rubiaceae)

Climbers

Acacia ataxacantha (Mimosaceae) *combretum micraathum* (Combretaceae)

Bush fire is very common barks are resistance

Sahel Savanna

Sometimes called (thorny plant) fine-leaved, *Commiphora africana*

Acacia senegalensis, *Acacia nilotica*

Acacia laeta

Acacia seyal

Phoenix dactylifera (date palm) shrubs include

Calatropis procera (Asclepiadaceae)

Sahel savanna is found around Lake Chad region in Nigeria

Dicotyledonous families with petals free Almost free or Absent

- Annonaceae
- Combretaceae
- Sterculiaceae
- Malvaceae
- Euphorbiaceae
- Caesalpiniaceae
- Mimosaceae
- Papilionaceae
- Moraceae
- Meliaceae
- Sapindaceae

Annonaceae: sweetsop family (Named after the genus – *Annona*, the south American name of the genus). Small trees, shrubs or climbers flowers sepals 3, petal 3 +3 some economics and

common species yield fruit and seeds, *Annona* spp are variously known as the soursop, sweetsop, custard apple and they have all been introduced into West Africa from South America or West Indies e.g. *Cananga odorata* – perfume essence, *Monodora myristica*, *Annona senegalensis*, *Monodora tenuifolia*. *Annona senegalensis* (Ewe abo).

Combretaceae (Afara Family).

(After the genus *Combretum* the old Latin name of the genus).

Trees, shrubs or climbers some economic and common species; *Terminalia catappa* (Indian almond).

Terminalia superba and *T. invorensis* yield the timbers Afara and Idigbo which are exported in considerable quantities.

Combretum racemosum

Gouera senegalensis

Terminalia albida

Terminalia macroptera

Sterculiaceae – cocoa family

(After the genus *Sterculia*, from Latin meaning 'dung' referring to the odour of the flowers) some common and economic species.

Cocoa beans are the seeds of *Theobroma cacao* sp. seeds of *Cola nitida* and *Cola acuminata* are traded locally as kola nuts.

Mansonia altissima (black walnut)

Sterculia oblonga

Malvaceae – cotton family

(After the genus Malva, Latin derived from Greek, malacos (soft), referring to the skin softening properties of the leaves) shrubs and herbs common species: Hibiscus sabdariffa (Ewe, sapa) (okra) or Abelmoschus esculentus

H. mutabilis cotton (Gossypium biscalum

H. schizopetalus hisbiscus cannabis (jute fibre)

Euphorbiaceae Cassava Family

(After the genus Euphorbia, named by king Juba of Mauritania after his physician, Euphorbus, who first used the latex of North African species medicinally) manihot esculentus some economics species; include cassava, castor oil, rubber (Hevea biasilliensis) Rucinus cominumis.

Caesalpinaceae (Pride of Barbados family)

(After the genus Casalpinia, named after Caesalpino, a sixteenth centering italian professor). This family and minosaceae and papilionaceae are closely related having a pod as their fruit and the tree belong to the order.

Leguminosae, obtained from the proper term for pod, the legume mostly trees and shrubs

Introduced species are

Caesalpinia pulcherrima (pride of Barbados) introd from Asia (for shade and ornament) Delonix regia (flame of the forest) of flamboyant for shade and ornaments).

Tamannidus indica (Indian tamnind cultivated for its sour fruit.

Afzelia spp. (After the Swedish professor Afzelius who stayed in siera Leone at the end of the 18th century) e.g. A Africana cassia spp e.g. C. senna piliosigma thonningi (Abafe).

Mimosaceae (Acacia Family).

(After the genus *mimosa* from Greek “a mimic” referring to the touch-sensitive leaves common examples :- *Mimosa pudica* sensitive plant).

Acacia spp (*Acacia* means point or thorny e.g. *A. albida*, *A. nilotica* an Italian naturalist) e.g. *A. Zygia*.

Parkia spp (after Mungo Park, the explorer) locust beans e.g. *P. clappertoniana* (formerly *P. filicoidea*).

(After Mungo park and clapperton brother (explorers))

P. biglobosa, *P. bicolor*

Papilionaceae (Cowpea Family)

(from *papilio*- abutterfly, referring to the shape of the corolla).

Common species: include edible beans eg *cajauns* *cajan* (pigeon pea): *ewe otiti*

Vigna unguiculata (cowpea)

Arachis hypogea (groundnut)

Voandzeia geocarpa (Bambara groundnut) *Baphia nitida*.

Crotalaria naragutensis

Abrus precatorius (ewe mesin mesin)

Moraceae (Breadfruit Family)

(After the genus, *morus*, the classical name of the mulberry)

Common species

Morus alba and *M. nigra* (white and black mulberries)

Milicia excelsa (iroko tree)

Treculia Africana (Breadfruit)

Ficus carpensia (ewe opoto)

Meliaceae (Mahogany Family)

(After the genus, melia, the greek name of the genus)

Common species

Azadirachta indica (nleem)

Swietenia spp. (American mahoganies)

Cedrela spp. (American cedars)

Khaya spp cafrican mahogany eg sapeles utile, omu khaya senegalensis

Pseudocedrela kotschyi (Ewe onigbegi).

Sapindaceae (Akee apple family)

After the genus sapindus, the soapberry, from latin "soap

e.g. *Blighia sapida*

lacanodiscus cupanioides (Ewe nka)

dicoty ledonous families with joined

petals and a superior ovary

1. Sapotaceae
2. Apocynaceae
3. Solanaceae
4. Convolvulaceae
5. Bignoniaceae
6. Acanthaceae
7. Verbenaceae

Sapotaceae (sheabutternut family)

(from sapota, a mexicen name)

Common species

Butyrospermum parkii (sheabutternut, whose kernel yield edible oil, shea butter or shea oil)

Apocynaceae (frangipani family)

Ornamental species introduced from south America the West Indies e.g. *Nerium oleander* (oleander)

Lochnera spp.

Solanaceae (Tobacco Family)

(from Latin word *solanum* meaning “quieting” referring to sedative drug properties of some species).

Important species: include

Capsicum annuum (Red pepper)

C. frutescens (Hot Chillies)

Solanum indicum (solanaceae)

(*Lycopersicon esculentum*)

Tomato, *Solanum melongena* (garden egg)

Solanum tuberosum (potato) Irish potato

Nicotiana glauca (tobacco)

Cannabis sativa (india hemp)

Convolvulaceae- sweet potato family

(After the genus *Convolvulus*, a name referring to the twining habit of the plant)

Common species

Cuscuta australis (dodder)

Ipomoea batatas (sweet potato)

Ipomoea aquatica

Bignoniaceae (Jacaranda Family)

(After the genus *Bignonia*, named after Abbel Bignon, court Librarian to Louis XIV of France)

Most species are climbers and include *Tecoma stans* (yellow tecomia)

Newbouldia laevis (Ewe Akoko)

Verbenaceae (Teak family)

Species include *Strobilanthus kunzei* *Gmelia arborea* (Gumbar) introduced from Asia as a shade and fuel tree and for making paper.

Dicotyledonous families with joined petals and an inferior ovary

Dicotyledonous families with joined petals and an inferior ovary

1. **Cucurbitaceae**
2. Rubiaceae
3. Compositae

Cucurbitaceae: (Ground Family)

(After the genus *Cucurbita*, Latin for “a gourd”) climbing and prostrate herbs with tendrils introduced species include *Cucumis sativus* (cucumber)

Cucurbita pepo (pumpkins and squashes) *Sesuvium portulacastrum* (purslane) *Colocynthis vulgaris* (bitter melon) seeds eaten as egusi.

C. citrullus (water melon)

Telfaria siceraria (calabash)

Rubiaceae- Abura Family

(After the genus *Rubia*, Latin for “red” because of red dye extracted from the roots of the plant.)

Common species include;