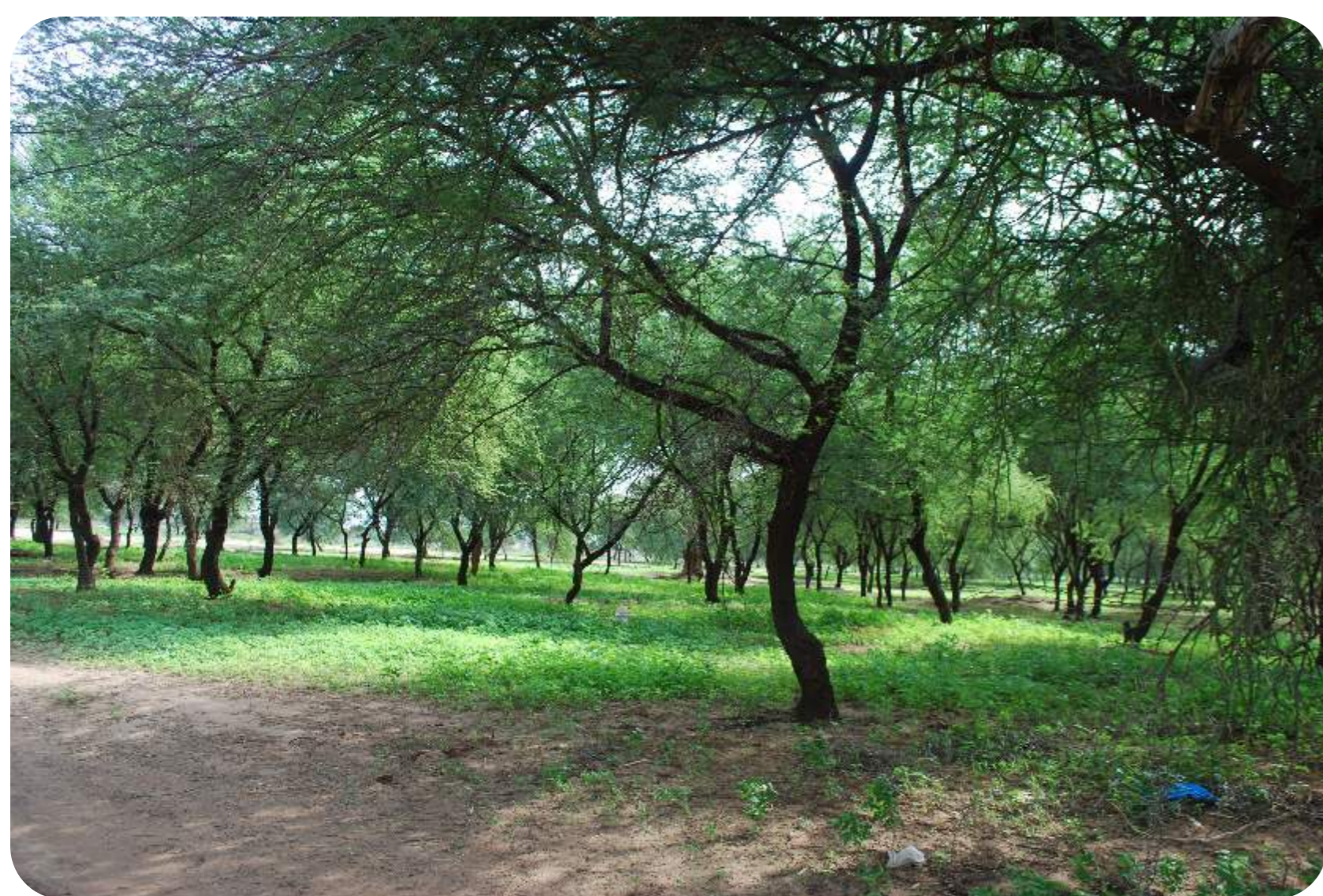




Vachellia nilotica

Family name: **Fabaceae**Common name: **Fabaceae**

Local name: (قروض, Garad) (سنت , Sunt)

**Wild, Native**

Role in Biodiversity

Although it is described as a highly invasive specie in many countries, in Sudan *Vachellia nilotica* is an agroforestry and urban forestry tree species, which provide fruits, timber, fodder, gums and other services such shade, and soil improvement. It is used for climate change mitigation, adaptation and phytomediation.



Environment and Growing

Vachellia nilotica grows in a range of soils, including heavy clay soils and saline conditions. It tolerates drought or flooded conditions for several months of the year.

Growth requirements:

- Average annual temperatures 15°-28°C.
- pH ranging from 5.0-8.
- Annual rainfall of 200-1500 mm.



Reproduction and Communication

Vachellia nilotica is reproduced by seeds. Flowers are bisexual. They are bright and sweetly scented to attract the main pollinators, particularly bees. Trees flower and produce seed pods abundantly after 5-7 years.



Life span

Vachellia nilotica life span range is 30 to 60 years.



Size

This species can grow up to 2.5–20 metres high

Parts

Young branches are green while the stem is dark brown to black.

[Edit / Translate](#)

Leaves pinnae, dark green.

Fruits are white-grey, thick pods, strongly constricted.

Roots are deep and extensive root system.

Flower bright golden-yellow-head.

Oval, black.

INTRODUCTION

Tree

Vachellia nilotica, Thorn mimosa, is an evergreen tree native to the arid and semi-arid regions of Africa and western Asia. It is widely distributed in the zone from semi-desert to low rainfall woodland savanna on clay and sandy soils. It is characterized by a single-stem with upright and flattened or rounded and spreading crown. *Vachellia nilotica* is a source of food, medicine and many other commodities for the local people in Africa and Asia. The tree is also exploited commercially for the resin that exudes from the trunk, and also for the tannins obtained from the bark and seedpods.

In Sudan, *Vachellia nilotica* which is known locally as Garad or Sunt, is very common along the River Nile and its tributaries. Trees usually grow as pure stands of natural riverine forests in mayas ecosystem where depressions get filled in the rainy season by rains or by flood. The wood of this tree is multipurpose while the fruits are most commonly used in tradition medicine.

LIVELIHOODS / CULTURE

Cultivation

Vachellia nilotica forests grow naturally in Sudan and most of them are considered reserved forests. The total area of reserved forests in the Blue Nile is 7,122 acres, the reserved forests in Sennar State have a total area of 15,877,430 acres, and the reserved forests in Gezira State are 12,346,153 acres. There are also reserved forests on seasonal rivers and creeks, such as Khor Limon, Khor Matarfa, and Umm Tribat in the Hajj Abdullah section of Gezira, Khor Abu Habal, and Khor Kiliks in the White Nile State, and other creeks and valleys in most areas of Sudan. The reserved *Vachellia nilotica* riverain forests are managed by the Forest National Corporation (FNC).

Cultural Value

- The tree trunks are good timber for boat making, buildings roofs, windows and doors as well as a good fuel wood and charcoal.
- Bark and young pods produce tannin used for leather manufacture.
- Forests have been managed on a 20-30 year rotation producing termite resistant timber especially suitable for railway sleepers.
- Pods and shoots are used as forage for camels, sheep and goats, especially in Sudan, where it is said to improve milk.

Medicinal and health uses

- Fruit maceration and fumes are used orally to treat cough, sore throat, and rheumatic pain while raw fruits and bark are externally used to treat injuries and wounds by the Kababeesh tribe in northern Sudan
- Leaf and fruit poultices are used to treat abscess while fruit decoction is used to treat Corona virus in Melit area (North Darfur).
- Fruit poultices are used to treat fever and joint pain by the Flata tribe in the Blue Nile state.

Cultural Expressions

Villages named after it:

Um Sunot, Abu Sunot

[Sunt forest in Khartoum](#)

THREATS

Climate Change is the global threat for *Vachellia nilotica*. Regional threats include overgrazing and overcutting for fuelwood and timber.

Some pests and diseases attack living trees such as:

- Fusarium oxysporum, which causes damping off in seedlings.
- Various species of Aspergillus, Penicillium, Rhizopus and Geotrichum cause dieback in seedlings.
- Some stem and seeds borers.

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