

# Mukusi trees are growing more slowly



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Climate change is slowing the growth of the mukusi tree in Zambia, PhD candidate Justine Ngoma discovered. She studied the relationship between the size of the annual rings of felled trees and the temperature and rainfall.

Zambia is becoming hotter and drier. In future, the slowdown in growth could pose a threat to the Zambian timber industry. The wood of the mukusi tree, also known

as Zambezi teak, is used to make railway sleepers and furniture. The tree species grows in a small area in southern Zambia and the bordering regions of its neighbours Angola, Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe. The research was carried out in collaboration with Zambia's Copperbelt University, among others. The results were published in the scientific journal *Dendrochronologia*.  
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