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Technical Notes on Timber Construction

Edited By: P. Soni, Lecturer,
Department of Architecture,
University of Nairobi.

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1 Introduction

(a) Timber Species in East Africa

These fall into four groups: indigenous and exotic; each divided into Broad leaved (or hardwood) species and Conifers (or softwood) species.

Indigenous Broad Leaved Species

This group includes such species as Mvule, EA Camphor, African Mahogany, Muninga, and many others most of which are used for joinery than building.

Indigenous Conifers

This group includes such species as Podo and Cedar. Podo is more commonly available than Cedar.

Exotic Broad Leaved Species

The main species are ubiquitous "saligna gum" and "grevilla" from Australia. The eucalypts have been mainly used for poles and could be converted in such forms suitable for construction.

Exotic Conifers

These include Cypress and Pine and are extensively grown in EA. Cypress is the main construction timber in EA.

(b) Naming of Timber Species

An indigenous timber may have ten or twenty vernacular names in addition to trade names and it's botanical name. Reference should be made elsewhere for this purpose.