

## **The Importance of Wild Harvested *Thymus* spp. (thyme) in the High Atlas Mountains, Morocco**

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### **Summary**

The importance of the harvesting of wild species to rural subsistence communities worldwide is underestimated and undervalued. Until recently, studies have tended to concentrate on economically valuable plant and animal species, that is, those species that are gathered for trade in the monetary market. Collection for use within households and for non-monetary exchange is often “hidden”, as it is extremely difficult to quantify and value. Wild resources are often vital to a community’s survival, both physically, by providing food security and nutritional value, and culturally.