



Biodiversity impact from ethnobotany in Kenya



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Background

Ethnobotany is the relationship between people and plants. Prevalent in traditional cultures such as in Kenya and uses plants for food, medicine, fuel, and other necessities.



Plant Use

Impact on Biodiversity

Medicine

- Disease treatment
- Pain relief
- Preventing infection

- Overharvesting
- Habitat loss
- Genetic erosion

Food

- Domestication for agriculture
- Food security
- Diverse diets

- Land degradation
- Habitat loss
- Genetic erosion

Charcoal Production

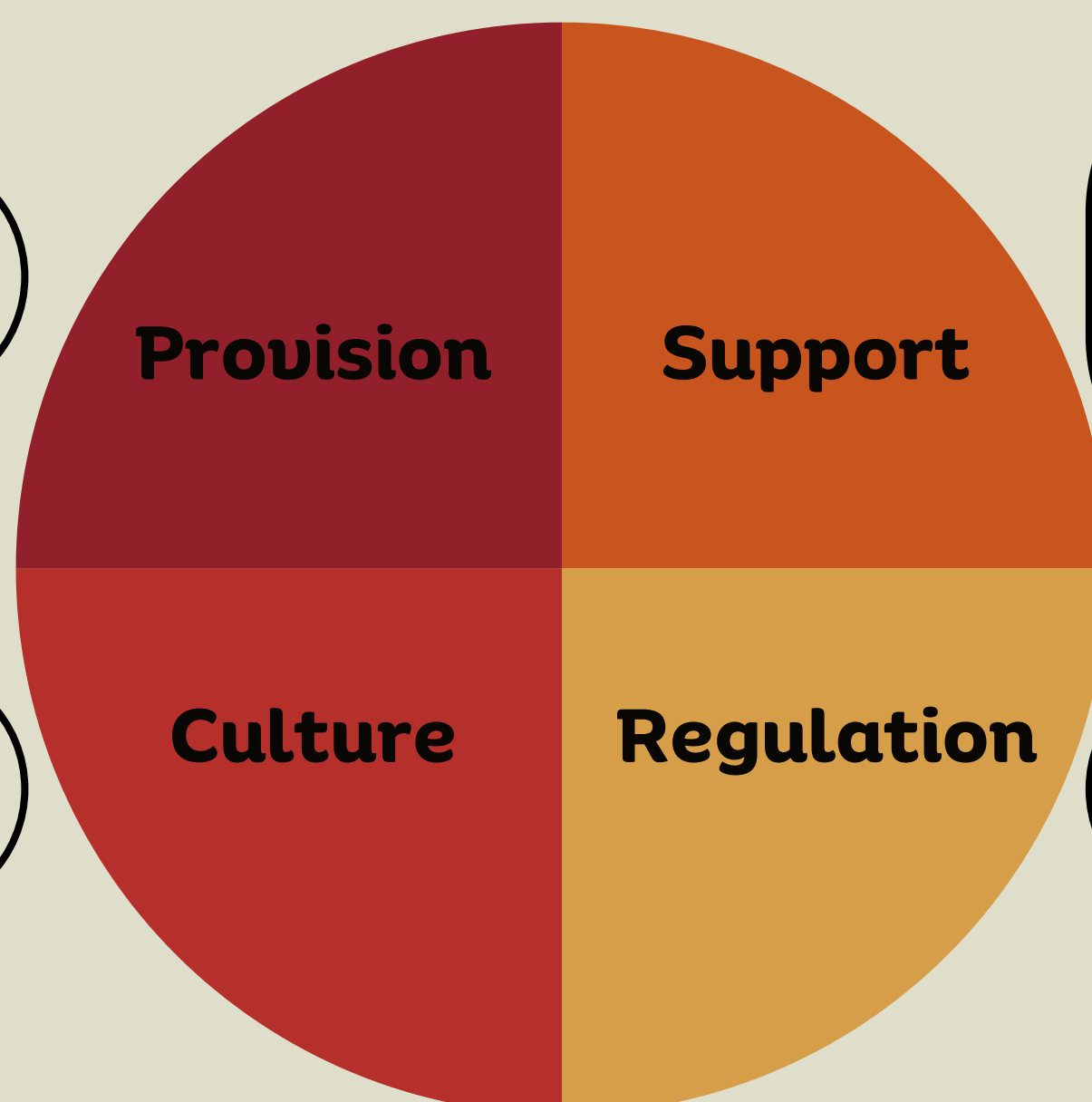
- Cutting and burning trees in kilns
- Fuel for cooking

- Deforestation
- Species loss
- Carbon stock loss
- Soil degradation

Ways to Prevent Biodiversity Loss

- Domestication of medicinal plants

- Increase education for Kenyan healers



- Use of crop rotation
- Reduce agriculture by monoculture
- Reforestation

- Implementing selective logging

Take-home message

Kenya faces the choice of implementing more environmentally practical options to retain the biodiversity of their ecosystems.