In 1999, interviews were conducted with a village artisan, Mr. Baba Jarra, in Janjangbureh, The Gambia, West Africa. Mr. Jarra was respected as the most knowledgeable member of the village in local medicine. These interviews produced a transcript covering thirty-seven local plants with uses ranging from medicine, to crafts, to magic. For the present study, I identify nine of these plants, report Mr. Jarra’s claims as to their uses, and determine whether or not the same uses have been documented in previous research, focusing especially on medicinal applications.

This study covers nine plants: *Adansonia digitata* L. (Baobab), *Azadirachta indica* (Neem), *Ziziphus mauritiana* (Tomborrong), *Lippia multiflora* (Sisiliñamo), *Acacia sieberiana* (Naning-Kayo), *Ceiba pentandra* (Cotton Tree), *Mitragyna inermis* (Jungo), *Daniellia oliveri* (Santango), and *Combretum glutinosum* (Jambakato). The plants of interest thus far are three that had not been previously documented: *Ziziphus mauritiana* (Tomborrong), *Mitragyna inermis* (Jungo) and *Acacia sieberiana* (Naning-Koio). This can lead to future studies in ethnobotany, folk medicine, and ethnopharmacology.

**Jungo (Mitragyna inermis)**

**Local Uses:**
- Medicine - treats wounds, relieves sores from childbirth

**Documented Uses:**
- Agricultural - livestock food
- Construction - firewood, utensils, furniture, roofing
- Medicine - treats liver ailments, treats fevers, stomach pains, rheumatic pains, treats boils, larvicidal, molluscicidal, radical scavenging activities, antimalarial
- Nutrition - antioxidents

**Naning-Kayo (Acacia sieberiana)**

**Local Uses:**
- Medicine - toothaches, stomach pains

**Documented Uses:**
- Agriculture - fodder for livestock
- Construction - firewood
- Medicine - treats gonorrhoea, syphilis, rheumatism, acne, and eye diseases, antimicrobial, antiviral, antidiarrheal, infusions for backpain, treats inflammations

**Tomborrong (Ziziphus mauritiana)**

**Local Uses:**
- Medicine - high blood pressure

**Documented Uses:**
- Construction - fencing for corral, wood, used as hedges
- Food - ripe fruit eaten raw/stewed, young leaves eaten, powder from fruit used in baking to make jam and bread, used to make chutney, jam, jelly, soups, gruel, mixed with water to make drink, porridge, traditional cakes
- Magic - used to make spirit called Kachasu
- Medicine - antilulcer, antibacterial, antioxidant, poultices on sores and cuts, treats asthma, liver problems, fever, inhibits high fat content, stops diarrhea, laxative, treats gingivitis, alleviates gout and rheumatism, antimicrobial, eye lotion, immune stimulant, anticancer, painkiller, tonic, removes flu-like symptoms, antiperspirant, astringent, antifungal, sedative, treats nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pains relating to pregnancy
- Nutrition - source of linoleic acid, iron, calcium, magnesium, zinc, protein, vitamin C, fructose, glucose, galactose, citric, malic, and malonic acid

**FUTURE PLANS**

The next steps of this project would be to complete plant reports for the remaining 28 plants from the transcript. Following this would be a compilation of all of the plant reports into an informational booklet. This would serve as a guide from which further research in herbal medicine can be conducted.