

# How to Keep Safe when Beekeeping



**Salome from Kenya, wearing a homemade bee suit**

Additional images provided by Paul Latham

## Bee stings

Bees can sting and stings can be dangerous. Treat bees gently and with respect at all times.

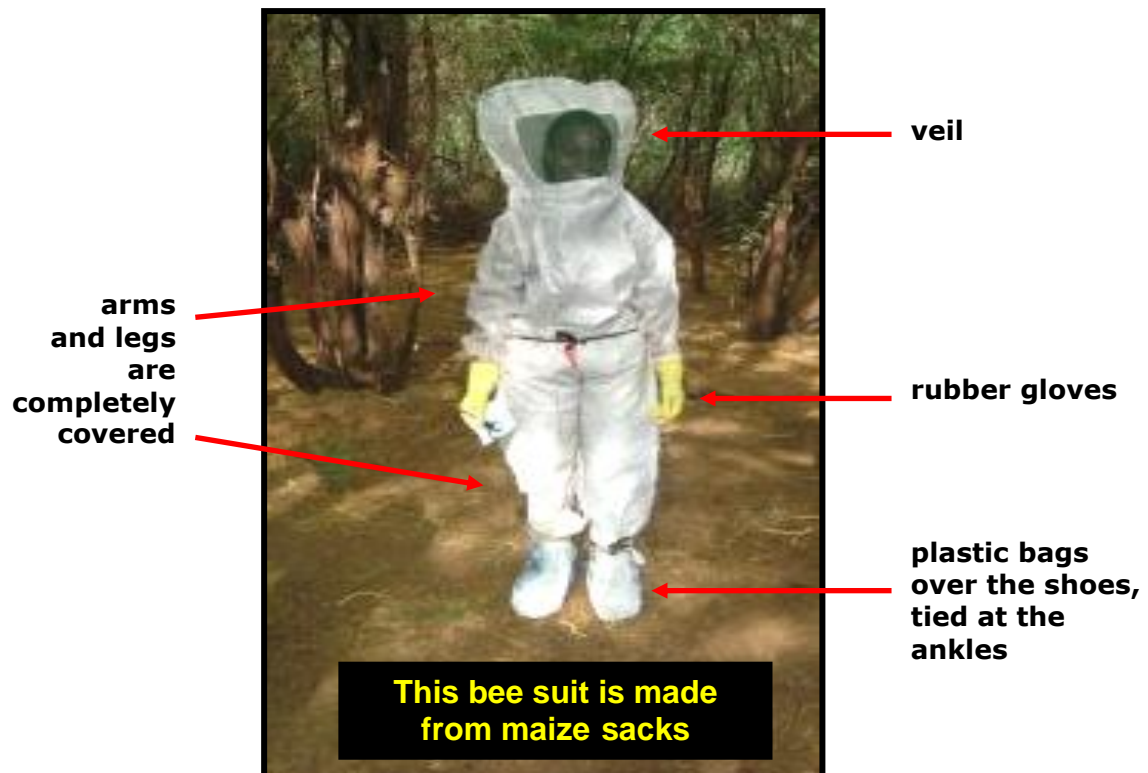


### REMEMBER

- Each of these worker bees has a sting
- Every sting gives off a smell that warns other bees of danger
- The smell attracts other bees to sting in the same place
- Cover the sting with smoke to hide the smell from other bees
- Scratch out sting from your skin as quickly as possible

## Protective clothing

Always wear good protective clothing that covers your whole body. These bee suits are made from inexpensive local materials:





If you cannot make a bee suit, make a simple veil, like the one shown in the next section.

Wear very thick clothes.

Keep beekeeping clothes clean so the smell of any stings is washed away.

## Subduing the bees

Smoke is essential to subdue the bees. There are many ways of smoking and there are many sorts of smokers:

Be safe. Use plenty of smoke to subdue the bees.





## Do not work alone

Always go to the bees with another person. Be sure all your equipment is prepared.



### REMEMBER

- Do not open a hive without a good reason
- Be gentle when opening the hives
- Work quickly and quietly
- Use plenty of smoke
- Only open hives when the temperature is cool
- This will usually be in the early morning or the evening
- Opening in the evening allows the whole night for bees to settle again
- Bee safe