

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Fourteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Windhoek (Namibia), 16-20 February 2004

Follow-up of CoP12 Decisions

Harpagophytum spp. [Decisions 12.63-12.65]

IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS IN BOTSWANA

1. This document has been prepared by the Management Authority of Botswana.

Policies

2. Grapple Plant is a legally controlled under the Agricultural Resources Conservation Act of 1974 and the accompanying Grapple Plant Regulation 3(1) of 1977. There are currently three types of permits used, namely: the Extraction permit, Transfer certificate, and the Export permit.
3. The Botswana Cabinet has approved that the Forestry Act be amended to be CITES compliant and the drafting instructions are with the Attorney General's Chambers for further development. All twenty three (23) pieces of legislation dealing with the environment will be reviewed and harmonized.
4. There has been some restructuring of government Departments. Departments dealing with environmental issues have been put under one roof. However the management functions of grapple plant still lies with the Agricultural Resources Board (ARB), which has now moved from Ministry of Agriculture to Ministry of Environment, Wildlife & Tourism.
5. The development of the Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) policy is still in progress but some Community Based Organisations (CBOs) are already operational in natural resources other than grapple plant.

Management programmes

6. The collaboration of ARB with The German Development Service to develop a 3-year project on ecological surveys is now in a final stage. An officer has been earmarked from Germany for the post of Senior Conservation Ecologist to come and develop veld products database and inventory of all veld products.
7. During the harvesting season of 2002 and 2003 a total weight of 22,047 and 9938 Kg was harvested in Botswana respectively, especially in the main four (4) Districts where grapple plant is found in abundance (Table 1). Table 1 shows that there were no extraction permits issued in Kweneng District during the 2003-harvesting season due to market problems.

Table 1: Data on permits and amount of grapple plant purchased

DISTRICT	Number of extraction permits		Number of transfer certificates		Dry weight (kg)	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
Southern	302	541	188	399	4836	9938
Kweneng	1058	*na	738	*na	10473	*na
Kgalagadi	607	795	259	-	6124	-
Gantsi	148	131	-	*na	614	*na
TOTAL	2115	1467	1185	399	22047	9938

Source: Agricultural Resources Board, 2003 Gaborone

N.B. No harvesting permits were issued in Kweneng District during 2003 due to the problem of market.

Grapple plant exports for the year 2002 and 2003

Importing Country	Year 2002	Year 2003
Namibia	816 Kg	1.5 Kg
Hong Kong	0	1 Kg
France	0	400 grams
Germany	27000 Kg	0
South Africa	130 Kg	3000.6 Kg
Totals	27,946 Kg	3,003.35 Kg

8. For the past two years Botswana has been having problems with its grapple plant market. There has been little trade on processed Devil's Claw and export permits issued were only for commercial samples. There has been no export of raw products.
9. Endless efforts are being pursued to alert border posts or gates on illegal cross border trade of devil's claw and any other flora.

Additional activities

10. Many projects envisaged to be undertaken did not materialize due to lack of funding. Either the funds were relocated elsewhere or something cropped up that diverted the funds.
11. The Devil's Claw industry in Botswana is very small. It is limited to two supplies and pharmacies.
12. It is still being sort out to find out how processes and mechanisms in other treaties such as the Biodiversity Convention and the Convention on Desertification can be used to provide support for sustainable resource use and fair trade.