

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



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

Regional reports and updated regional directories (Decisions 12.14 and 12.15)

Africa

REGIONAL REPORT

General information

- a) Name of the Representatives (authors of the Report): Dr John Donaldson and Mr Quentin Luke
 - b) Number of Parties in the Region: 53
 - c) Number of Parties responding to communications: 8
 - d) Names of other institutions, NGOs contacted for CITES work during the period: TRAFFIC (East/Southern Africa), IUCN, FFI, Resource Africa, CRIAA
1. Follow-up on agenda items since last Plants Committee

1.1. Significant Trade

Parties

Species included in the Significant trade process are distributed across many African countries (Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Madagascar, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe). Several range States have submitted comments on the review of African species.

1.2 Review of the Appendices

Parties

Nothing to report.

1.3 CITES-Projects

Parties

- NAMIBIA: range States of *Harpagophytum* were requested to provide an update on the implementation of Decisions 12.63, 12.64, and 12.65. Namibia submitted a report to PC14 (document PC14 Inf. 14).
- SOUTH AFRICA: to comply with Decisions 12.63, 12.64 and 12.65, researchers evaluated the status of *Harpagophytum* in South Africa and a report was submitted to PC 14 (document PC14 Doc. 6.2).

- BOTSWANA: in response to Decisions 12.63, 12.64 and 12.65, a report has been submitted to PC14.

1.4 Nursery registration

Nothing to report.

1.5 Other

Nothing to report.

2. Communication with Parties in the African region

- a) Several range states were contacted to obtain the latest information on Management and Scientific Authorities in the African Region.
- b) The Management / Scientific Authorities in Southern Africa were contacted to encourage them to attend PC14 in Namibia.
- c) The representative for Africa (J. Donaldson) attended a meeting of the regional Devils Claw working group to discuss the current status of CITES Decisions. The meeting was attended by representatives from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe and the European Union.
- d) Lesotho requested information on meetings of the Plants Committee.
- e) The African representative (J. Donaldson) has been requested to work with the Management Authorities in South Africa and Mozambique to set up structures to manage trade in cycads from Mozambique. A meeting in Maputo is scheduled for April 2004.
- f) A meeting of African delegations was held during PC14. The meeting was attended by delegates from Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe. Suggestions for improved communication in the region were discussed at the meeting.

3. Capacity building activities

3.1 Training Seminars

None.

3.2 Education

TRAFFIC (East/Southern Africa) is running a capacity building programme in southern Africa.

3.3. Meetings

SOUTH AFRICA: a task team is dealing with preparations for CoP13. A meeting was held in Skukuza on 23 January 2004.

3.4 Contacts with specialists and/or NGOs

TRAFFIC (East/ southern Africa), Fauna and Flora International, Resource Africa, IUCN/SSC Red List officer, Cycad Specialist Group, and southern African Plants Specialist Group.

3.5 Financial support for the Africa rep as PC Vice Chairman

No progress has been made with securing funds for the work of the PC Vice Chairman.

4. Difficulties of implementation encountered in the region

4.1 Conservation issues

Parties

Nothing reported.

4.2 Technical Issues

Communication remains a major stumbling block. Despite letters and emails to Parties, there is generally a poor response. The capacity of African countries to deal with CITES relating to plants needs to be strengthened.

5. Other topics (medicinal plants, timber)

Parties

Botswana, Namibia and South Africa are concerned about increasing trade in *Hoodia*. Extracts have been found to have properties that assist with weight loss and pharmaceutical companies have been requesting large amounts of material. Cultivation trials are underway in Namibia and South Africa but most of the current harvesting is from wild sources. Representatives from the range States will meet at PC 14 to discuss a possible proposal to list *Hoodia* on the CITES Appendices.

6. Work to be done until next Plants Committee

- a) Report back from PC14 to Parties.
- b) Update the database.