

Harpagophytum spp.

IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS

This document has been submitted by the German Scientific Authority.

1. The 11th meeting the Conference of the Parties decided to review the trade in *Harpagophytum* species and directed two decisions to the Parties (Decision 11.63) and to the Plants Committee (Decision 11.111), respectively.
2. Germany implemented Decision 11.63 through document PC12 Doc. 8.1.2, reporting on the role of Germany as a major importing country of *Harpagophytum* crude drugs. However, Germany has no trade monitoring system in place for non-CITES species. Therefore, no official trade data are available. To implement Decision 11.63, an interview survey among German importers was carried out. German importers were interviewed and asked to report on their imports for the years 1999, 2000 and 2001. Trade was predominantly reported as being direct from Namibia to Germany. Imports from South Africa are few. Total German imports are 271 tons, 513 tons and 554 tons for 1999-2001 respectively.
3. At the 12th meeting the Conference of the Parties, the Parties adopted Decisions 12.63 - 12.65, relating to *Harpagophytum* spp. All three Decisions require range States of *Harpagophytum* spp., and in the case of Decision 12.64, importing States, to provide progress reports to the Secretariat regarding implementation of these Decisions. Decision 13.60 of the 13th meeting the Conference of the Parties focused on outstanding reports from importing countries related to 12.64.
4. Germany has already reported to the 14th meeting of the Plants Committee (Windhoek, 2004) of its actions to involve the devil's claw processing industry in sustainable use activities for this species.
5. Since 1999 the German Ministry of Environment is funding the Sustainably Harvested Devil's Claw Project which is administered by the Namibian NGO CRIAA and which supports the self-organization of local harvesters on the resettlement farm Vergenoeg in Omaheke in eastern Namibia. The conservation oriented aspects of the project aim at setting mutually agreed annual quotas for and by the harvesters which are based on a resource assessment which ensures sustainable utilization. On fenced permanent plots the regrowth after harvesting and the effects of rainfall are investigated over several years.
6. The German Scientific Authority has negotiated with the various actors of the German devil's claw industry which import the raw material and process it into phytomedicines. The aim was to identify a company which would be willing to (a) exclusively buy the sustainably collected Vergenoeg material under a long-term contract, (b) to support the community through certain mutually agreed activities, and (c) to start a promotion campaign in Germany and market their product as stemming from sustainable wild collection.
7. The market for devil's claw products is supplied by several German companies. All of them clearly would favour devil's claw material from cultivation. However, the domestication of devil's claw has proved to be difficult. Several companies are supporting commercial farmers in Namibia and South Africa to develop cultivation techniques, either through cuttings or seeds. The marketing of these German companies in journal advertisements is focussing strongly on the benefits of cultivation for the conservation of the resource.
8. Therefore, the identification of a German company which commits itself to the promotion of wild collected material was not easy. Only one phytopharmaceutical company in southern Germany with a broad spectrum of organic products expressed interest and negotiated a long-term buying contract with Vergenoeg. However, even this company is engaged in the development of cultivation techniques elsewhere.
9. The PR campaign mentioned under (6) was seen as the most prominent part of the industry commitment to promote the understanding in the public that wild collection should be supported by

the consumer if it is done sustainably and that only sustainable wild collection can ensure the income of the local harvesters. Such a campaign has not been started. One reason is that the annual production at Vergenoeg is not big enough to support a stand-alone product.

10. The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), WWF/TRAFFIC, and the IUCN Medicinal Plant Specialist Group are presently in the process to develop an *International Standard for the Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants* (ISSC-MAP). This process includes among other steps the testing of the Standard in various projects. It is planned to test the Standard for the sustainable collection of devil's claw on the Vergenoeg farm. The company mentioned under (9) is prepared to fund this process. It is hoped that the public awareness campaign can now be connected to this commitment.

CoP Decisions regarding *Harpagophytum* (Devil's Claw)

Decision 11.63

Directed to the Parties

In the light of increasing international trade in the roots of *Harpagophytum* spp. (devil's claw), the range and importing States should submit to the Secretariat all available information concerning the trade, management and biological status of *Harpagophytum* species and regulatory measures applying to them.

Decision 11.111

Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall: (a) review information submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 11.63; (b) summarize the biological and trade status of *Harpagophytum* species subject to international trade; and (c) prepare a report on the biological and trade status of *Harpagophytum* species, at least six months before the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, for consideration at that meeting.

Directed to Parties

Decision 12.63

Range States of *Harpagophytum* species that authorize the export of specimens of these species should provide an update on implementation of the policies and management programmes mentioned in the reports submitted in fulfilment of Decision 11.63 (cf. document PC12 Doc. 8.1) for consideration by the Plants Committee at its 14th meeting. Reports on progress with the implementation of this decision should be provided to the Secretariat 90 days before the 14th meeting of the Plants Committee for inclusion by the Secretariat in a report to that meeting.

Decision 12.64

Range States and importing States should negotiate with the devil's claw industry to obtain support for management programmes that promote sustainable use and the development of communities that are managing the resource. Assistance in this regard could, if necessary, be requested from the Plants Committee and the Secretariat. Reports on progress with the implementation of this decision should be provided to the Secretariat 90 days before the 14th meeting of the Plants Committee for inclusion by the Secretariat in a report to that meeting.

Decision 12.65

Range States should explore how processes and mechanisms in other international treaties can be used to provide support for sustainable resource use and fair trade, and should request the CITES Secretariat to provide assistance if required. Reports on progress with the implementation of this decision should be provided to the Secretariat 90 days before the 14th meeting of the Plants Committee for inclusion by the Secretariat in a report to that meeting.

Decision 13.60

Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall decide on what action is required for outstanding reports from the importing countries of *Harpagophytum*.