

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



Tenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Shepherdstown, West Virginia, United States of America, 11 – 15 December 2000

Follow up of CoP11 Decisions

HARPAGOPHYTUM SPP.

This document has been prepared by the Scientific Authority of Germany.

1. Document Com. 11.11 requests that "the range and importing countries shall submit to the Secretariat all available information concerning the trade, management, regulatory measures and biological status of *Harpagophytum* species". As a major importer of Devil's Claw, Germany will actively contribute to this process. Monitoring of imports is, however, difficult since the species is not covered by any conservation legislation.
2. Following the decision taken at CoP11 the German Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety has provided R&D funds to investigate options for the sustainable harvest of Devils Claw (*Harpagophytum procumbens*).
3. Recently two projects were commissioned. The first is a follow-up of research carried out in 1998-1999 in Namibia when distribution and population status of DC were investigated through field work and questionnaires. The new project will aim at comparing the impact of harvesting on Devil's Claw populations in communal areas and on commercial farms. This will be done in Namibia, Botswana and South Africa. The contract will be coordinated by scientists from the University of Cologne in collaboration with researchers from institutions in the range countries. The project will probably be finished in late 2001.
4. The second project will be carried out by CRIAA, a development NGO in Namibia. In the framework of their ongoing "Sustainably Harvested Devil's Claw Project", carried out by CRIAA in Omaheke, the following objectives will be pursued: (i) to identify harvest methods which allow optimum regeneration of the plant; (ii) to develop a simple and yet accurate method to identify the annual sustained yield for a potential harvest area; (iii) to assess the impact of rain fall fluctuations on the population status of the species. This will be done by the establishment of permanent plots. This project will run until late 2003.
5. Both projects will be carried out in close collaboration with the authorities and institutions in the countries concerned. Hopefully this can be linked with other ongoing research in the range countries.