

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



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

Significant trade in plants

Implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.8

TRADE IN PLANTS FROM MADAGASCAR (DECISION 12.73)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat and TRAFFIC International.
2. At its 11th meeting (Langkawi, September 2001), the Plants Committee agreed to a proposal by the Secretariat to undertake a country-wide Review of Significant Trade for Madagascar, covering all Appendix-II listed animal and plant species in the country. The Secretariat contracted the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew to undertake the part of the review concerning plant species.
3. At its 12th meeting (Santiago, 2002), the Conference of the Parties confirmed this decision by adopting Decision 12.73, directed to the Plants Committee as follows:

The review of plants in Madagascar shall be conducted by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (the Scientific Authority for plants of the United Kingdom). The Royal Botanic Gardens is recommended to undertake a workshop in Madagascar, if possible, to discuss the results of the review.

4. In compliance with Decision 12.73, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew undertook the review of Malagasy plants in trade, as reported at the 13th meeting of the Plants Committee (Geneva, August 2003) (see document PC13 Doc. 12.2.1). As part of the review, a database of Malagasy plant species in international trade was developed based on information recorded in the CITES trade database held by UNEP-WCMC and information provided by a panel of experts. A preliminary analysis of the information in the database classified the native taxa contained therein into five categories of conservation concern.
5. A copy of the database was provided to the Management Authority and the Scientific Authority for plants of Madagascar. Summary reports from the database were also provided as background documents to a workshop held to assist in the development of a CITES-programme for Madagascar to improve the implementation of Article IV. Participants in this workshop, held in Antananarivo, Madagascar, in May 2003, agreed on the elements of a CITES action plan. The workshop was organized by the Secretariat, the CITES Management Authority of Madagascar and TRAFFIC International (the consultants undertaking the country-wide Review of Significant Trade for animals running in parallel with the review of plants and responsible for drafting the CITES action plan). The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew participated in the workshop as did the newly designated Malagasy Scientific Authority for Plants (the Department of Plant Biology of the University of Antananarivo).
6. On the basis of the outputs from the May workshop, a draft action plan for the reform of Madagascar's wildlife export trade was prepared and circulated to the Animals and Plants Committees and the Malagasy Management Authority for comment. Following more extensive stakeholder consultations, held in Madagascar in September and October 2003, a final version of the action plan was agreed by the Malagasy Management Authority and the other major stakeholders.

The plan sets out a series of actions needed under five principal axes: national policy; legislation; needs of the CITES Scientific Authority; management procedures; and enforcement. It identifies the principal actors for each axis and classifies each of the actions by dividing them into short-term, medium-term and long-term as well as giving a general indication of the resources needed to carry them out.

7. As the action plan is developed in more detail, the Malagasy CITES Authorities may require assistance in determining appropriate milestones by which to assess its state of implementation, with reporting formats and timetables developed.
8. To complement the action plan, the consultants have prepared a funding and implementation strategy identifying likely sources of support. The framework for donor support for environmental activities in Madagascar for the next five years is the third phase of the Environmental Programme (PEIII). PEIII will run for five years from inception. It provides rolling support for the Environmental Action Plan (PAE), adopted by the Government of Madagascar in 1989. The donor community has identified environmental governance and enforcement as issues that need to be addressed, with inadequate implementation of CITES noted as a key area of weakness. Improving governance at all levels from the local to the national will be a major focus of PEIII, providing an important opportunity for implementation of the action plan.
9. The major donors to PEIII, which include *inter alia* GEF, UNDP, the World Bank, USAID, KFW, *Coopération Française*, WWF and CI, have different (though often overlapping) remits and interests. Different elements of the action plan fit more closely with some of these remits than others. Obtaining funding for implementation of the plan will therefore require a strategic approach in matching elements of the plan to the specific interests of particular donors.
10. At least some funding is currently more or less assured for implementation of the action plan. For example, funding being made available by US-AID in support of 'Sustainable Environment and Forest Ecosystems Management in Madagascar' contains explicit reference to improvements in CITES implementation.
11. The action plan for the reform of Madagascar's wildlife export Trade is provided as an information document. The Plants Committee is asked to consider how it wishes to be kept informed of future progress with the action plan. The Plants Committee may also consider advising the CITES Authorities of Madagascar concerning the further implementation of the action plan as indicated in paragraph 7 above.