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

Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Doha (Qatar), 13-25 March 2010

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

A. Proposal

Inclusion of the seeds of *Dypsis decaryi*[*] in Appendix II.

B. Proponent

Madagascar[**]

C. Supporting statement

1. Taxonomy

1.1	Class:	Liliopsida
	Subclass:	Arecideae
1.2	Order:	Arecales
1.3	Family:	Arecaceae
	Subfamily:	Arecoidea
	Tribe:	Areceae
	Subtribe:	Dypsidinae
1.4	Genus, species or subspecies, including author and year:	*Dypsis decaryi* (Jum.) Beentje & Dransf.1995.
1.5	Scientific synonyms:	*Neodypsis decaryi* Jumelle. in 1933
1.6	Common names:	Laafa (Ranopiso)
1.7	Code numbers:	---

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* *Note from the Secretariat: according to the standard nomenclatural reference adopted by the Conference of the Parties, this species is named* Neodypsis decaryi.

** *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

2. Species characteristics

2.1 Description

Solitary palm, 3 to 6 m high, 30 to 40 cm in diameter. Tristichous leaves, 55 to 97 folioles on each side of the rachis. Third-order interfoliar inflorescences. The fruit is an ovoid to subglobular drupe,15 mm x 12 mm, rounded apex, fibrous endocarp.

Smooth ovoid **seeds**, 1 to 1.5 cm in diameter, brown in colour at maturity.

2.2 Distribution

This species is found only in southern Madagascar, in particular in parcel No. 3 of the Andohahela National Park, which is made up of transitional forest (area of about 800 ha). Therefore, it has a very limited range in Madagascar.

2.3 Population

The number of wild populations, counted by Beentje and Dransfield, is estimated at about a hundred. In 2006, 120 plants were counted in the peripheral area of parcel No. 3 of the park (collection area).

2.4 Habitat

The species grows in dry forests, xerophytic scrubland and transitional forests on rocks or rocky soil, at an altitude of 80 m to 600 m.

2.5 Conservation measures

In accordance with the IUCN criteria for evaluating threats and based on our observations in 2006, the species has been given a “Vulnerable” (**VU**) conservation status.

3. Utilization and trade

3.1 National utilization

The leaves are used for thatching. The fruits are edible and used to make fermented drinks. The plant as a whole is used for ornament.

3.2 Legal international trade

The species is exported in the form of seeds. It is already included in CITES Appendix II, but its seeds are not yet subject to CITES regulations.

3.3 Potential trade impacts

The large-scale harvesting by collectors of seeds for export could lead to the absence of natural regeneration outside the park, which, in the long term, would constitute a serious threat for the species.

Years	2003	2004	2005	2006
CITES report	-	-	-	341 kg (seeds) 2 (seedlings)

4. Protection status

4.1 Nationally

The species grows inside and outside parcel No. 3 of the Andohahela National Park.

4.2 Internationally

The species is already included in CITES Appendix II.

5. Comments by the country of origin

The limited number of wild populations outside the Andohahela Park must be managed in a sustainable manner. Therefore, its seeds should be subject to CITES regulations and from now on only the seedlings produced through *ex situ* propagation should be exported.

The *ex situ* propagation operations should also be strengthened and popularized in order to ensure the survival of the species.

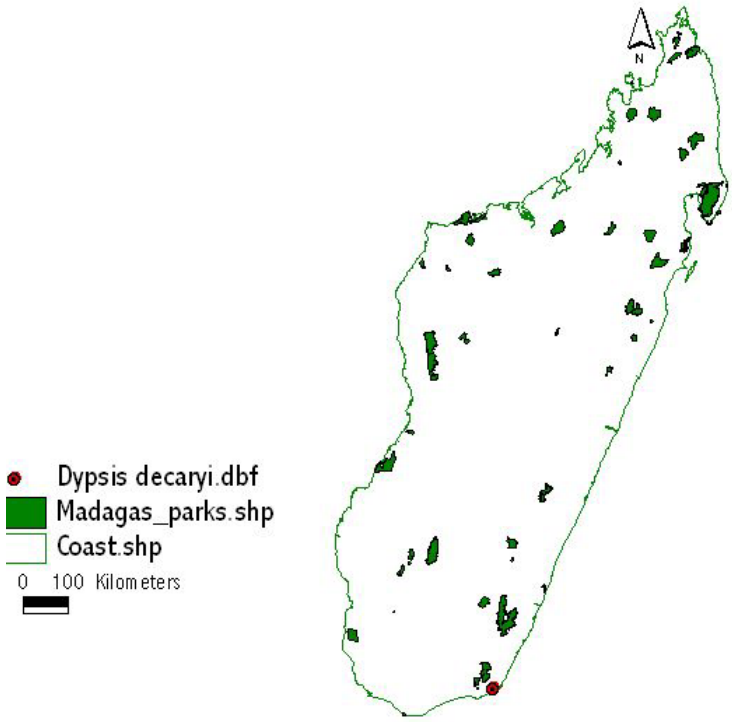
6. References

DRANSFIELD, J. & BEENTJE, H., 1995. The palms of Madagascar. Royal Botanic Garden, Kew and the International Palm Society. HMSO Norwich print services, Kew, 175p.

RAKOTOARINIVO, M., 2005. Royal Botanic Garden, Kew. 2006. Royal Botanic Garden, Kew. Rapport non publié.

RAKOUTH, B. RAVAOMANALINA, H. RAKOTONAVALONA, A. 2006. Etude biogéographique et bioécologique de quelques espèces menacées dans le Sud de Madagascar dans le cadre de la CITES pour l'année 2005. Rapport final. Conservation International Madagascar.

Map: Geographical distribution of *Dypsis decaryi*



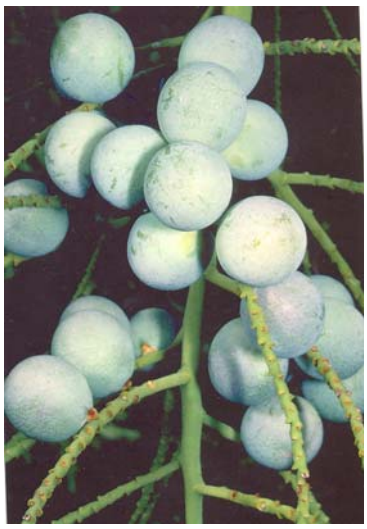


Photo 1: *Dypsis decaryi,* in fruit (Dransfield, 1995)

Photo 2: Infructescence of *Dypsis decaryi* (Dransfield, 1995)