

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

A. Proposal

To list certain species of palm endemic to Madagascar in Appendix II.

B. Proponent

Madagascar

C. Supporting statement

1. Taxonomy

Class:	Liliopsida
Subclass:	Arecidae
Order:	Arecales
Family:	Areaceae (Palmae)

Subfamily: Ceroxyloideae
Tribe: Ceroxyleae
Genus, species,
author and year: *Ravenea rivularis* Jum. and H. Perrier (1913)
Scientific synonyms:
Vernacular names: *Gora* (Sakalava), *Bakaly*, *Vakaka* (Bara) and *Malio* (near Manera)

2. Biological parameters

2.1 Distribution

This species endemic to Madagascar is restrictively established in the central region of the southern part of the island, in particular along the Onilahy and Mangoky Rivers (Dransfield and Beentje, 1995). Its range is very limited.

2.2 Population

60 individuals distributed over 2 populations have been recorded (Dransfield and Beentje, 1995). They are located outside the Isalo National Park. This number, dating from 1995, has probably already diminished owing to the anthropogenic activities which threaten this region.

2.3 Habitat

The species grows in humid zones, along waterways and in dry forests or in gallery forests within grassy savannahs, lying at an altitude of between 350 and 750 m. (Dransfield and Beentje, 1995). For several years, this region has been suffering rapid and irreversible degradation owing to unbridled prospecting for sapphires and the bush fires which race through the savannahs every year.

2.4 Conservation measures

The species' conservation status is Critically Endangered.

3. Protection situation

3.1 National

Located outside protected areas.

3.2 International

Not yet in CITES.

Subfamily: Ceroxyloideae

Tribe: Ceroxyleae

Genus, species,
author and year: *Ravenea louvelii* Beentje (1994)

Synonyms: The species was named *Louvelii madagascariensis* by Jumelle and H. Perrier in 1912

Vernacular names: *Lakamarefo, siraboto*

2. Biological parameters

2.1 Distribution

This species endemic to Madagascar is restrictively established in a single location in the Andasibe region, in the eastern part of Madagascar (Dransfield and Beentje, 1995). Its range is very limited.

2.2 Population

A small population comprising some 20 stems was found by Dransfield and Beentje en 1995.

2.3 Habitat

The species lives in the humid forest at medium altitudes (800-1,000 m) on steep slopes in Andasibe. It is located outside the Andasibe National Park (Dransfield and Beentje, 1995) and is severely threatened by the degradation of its habitat owing to the practice of itinerant slash and burn agriculture.

2.4 Conservation measures

The species is classified as Endangered by IUCN.

3. Protection situation

3.1 National

Located outside protected areas.

3.2 International

Not yet in CITES.

Subfamily: Coryphoideae
Tribe: Borasseae
Sub-tribe: Hyphaeninae
Genus, species,
author and year: *Satranala decussilvae* Beentje and Dransfield (1995)
Synonyms:
Vernacular names: *Satranabe* (Betsimisaraka)

2. Biological parameters

2.1 Distribution

The genus is endemic to Madagascar. The species is known in a single location in the Mananara Biosphere Reserve in the eastern part of Madagascar (Dransfield and Beentje, 1995). It has a strictly limited range.

2.2 Population

30 adult stems, 40 young individuals and some plantlets were recorded by Dransfield and Beentje in 1995.

2.3 Habitat

The species grows in the humid forest at low altitudes (250-285 m), on shallow or rocky soils. The area of occurrence has the status of a protected area (Mananara Biosphere Reserve) (ANGAP, 2001), but this does not prevent the harvesting of seeds there for export.

2.4 Conservation measures

The species is classified as Endangered by IUCN.

3. Protection situation

3.1 National

Located in a protected area.

3.2 International

Not in CITES.

Subfamily: Arecoideae
Tribe: Areceae
Subtribe: Lemurophoenicinae
Genus, species,
author and year: *Lemurophoenix halleuxii* J. Dransfield (1991)
Synonyms:
Vernacular names: *Hovitra varimena*

2. Biological parameters

2.1 Distribution

The genus is endemic to Madagascar. The species is restrictively established on the Masoala peninsula and the surrounding area in the eastern part of Madagascar (Dransfield and Beentje, 1995). It has a restricted range.

2.2 Population

Two populations comprising a small number (50) of individuals have been found (Dransfield and Beentje, 1995).

2.3 Habitat

The species is found in the dense low-altitude (250-450 m) humid forest located in a protected area, the Masoala National Park (Dransfield and Beentje, 1995; ANGAP, 2001).

2.4 Conservation measures

The species is classified as Endangered by IUCN.

3. Utilization and trade

3.1 Legal international trade

Seeds and plantlets exported (ONE *et al.*, 1997).

This species is one of the most sought-after on the international market (ONE *et al.*, 1997).

4. Protection situation

4.1 National

Located in a protected area.

4.2 International

Not in CITES.

Subfamily: Arecoideae
Tribe: Areceae
Subtribe: Masoalinae
Genus, species,
author and year: *Marojejya darianii* J. Dransfield and N. W. Uhl (1955)
Synonyms:
Vernacular names: *Ravimbe*

2. Biological parameters

2.1 Distribution

The genus is endemic to Madagascar. The species is known in a single site, in the region near to Maroantsetra in the eastern part of the island (Dransfield and Beentje, 1995). Its range is scattered.

2.2 Population

2.3 Habitat

The species grows in swamps and flats and is also found at altitudes ranging from 400 to 450 m. (Dransfield and Beentje, 1995). The sites of occurrence lie outside protected areas, and the practice of itinerant slash and burn agriculture, known locally as *tavy*, could lead to the disappearance of the species within a short time.

2.4 Conservation measures

The species is classified as Critically Endangered by IUCN.

3. Utilization and trade

3.1 Legal international trade

According to ONE *et al.* (1997), this species is much sought-after on the international market. Although it is cultivated in Madagascar (ONE *et al.*, 1997), harvesting of the seeds from the wild still continues.

4. Protection situation

4.1 National

Located outside protected areas.

4.2 International

Not in CITES.

Subfamily: Arecoideae
Tribe: Cocoeae
Subtribe: Beccariophoenicinae
Genus, species,
author and year: *Beccariophoenix madagascariensis* Jum. and H Perrier (1915)
Synonyms:
Vernacular names: *Manarano, Manara, Maroala* (Andasibe), *Sikomba* (Antanosy)

2. Biological parameters

2.1 Distribution

The genus is endemic to Madagascar. The species is restrictively established in the eastern part of Madagascar, in particular in Mantadia and in the Fort Dauphin region in the south (Dransfield and Beentje, 1995). Its range is fragmented.

2.2 Population

Fewer than 20 adult stems have been detected, both in Mantadia and in Fort Dauphin.

2.3 Habitat

The species is found in the humid forest at medium altitudes (900-1,200 m) in Mantadia and in the forest which grows on the white sands of Fort Dauphin (Dransfield and Beentje, 1995). While the few stems in Mantadia are located within a protected area, those in Fort Dauphin are not, and consequently the vegetation is threatened by clearing, excessive harvesting and, in the near future, by large-scale mining for ilmenite.

2.4 Conservation measures

The species is classified as Critically Endangered by IUCN.

3. Utilization and trade

3.1 Domestic use

The species is much sought-after locally for making boxes, and for its edible palm-heart. Whenever the latter is harvested, this always causes the death of the plant. In addition, the young leaves are used to make hats known as *manarano*, intended for export (Dransfield and Beentje, 1995).

3.2 Legal international trade

The species is much sought-after on the international market (ONE *et al.*, 1997).

4. Protection situation

4.1 National

4.2 International

Not in CITES.

4.3 Other urgent protection-related measures

It is recommended that a small protected area should be created in the area accommodating the small sub-population in the Fort Dauphin region.

Subfamily: Arecoideae
Tribe: Cocoeae
Subtribe: Butiinae
Genus, species,
author and year: *Voanioala gerardii* J. Dransfield (1989)
Synonyms:
Vernacular names: *voanioala* (Betsimisaraka)

2. Biological parameters

2.1 Distribution

The genus is endemic to Madagascar. The species only grows in the eastern part of the island on the Masoala peninsula (Dransfield and Beentje, 1995). Its range is very limited.

2.2 Population

Fewer than 10 individuals have been detected, including only one adult stem (Dransfield and Beentje, 1995).

2.3 Habitat

The species lives in the dense humid forest in flats and at low altitudes (400 m) on the Masoala peninsula (Dransfield and Beentje, 1995). This forest lies within the Masoala National Park.

2.4 Conservation measures

The species is classified as Critically Endangered by IUCN.

3. Utilization and trade

3.1 Domestic use

Domestic use of the species consists of removal of the palm-heart (Dransfield and Beentje, 1995). It should be noted that this is fatal to the palms.

3.2 Legal international trade

The species is much sought-after on the international market (ONE *et al.*, 1997).

4. Protection situation

4.1 National

Inside a protected area.

4.2 International

Not yet in CITES.

4.3 Other urgent protection-related measures

It is recommended that a small protected area should be created in the area accommodating the small subpopulation in the Fort Dauphin region.

5. General comments on the palm species

5.1 Utilization and trade

5.1.1 Legal international trade

Owing to the large size of the adult stems, which makes transporting them difficult and costly, these taxa are exported in the form of seeds and plantlets (ONE *et al.*, 1997). However, large quantities of seeds are harvested from the wild, with much of this harvesting taking place inside protected areas, in violation of the laws in force.

These are non-CITES taxa and their names do not appear in the annual reports of the Malagasy authorities. Consequently, no data are available on either the volume of exports or the countries of destination.

5.1.2 Potential trade impact

The use of palms as exported ornamental plants does not appear to present an immediate risk to the individuals, since because of their large size the palms are exported in the form of seeds or young plantlets. Nevertheless, the utilization of these species does represent potential threats which might lead to their elimination. Not all adult stems necessarily bear fruit every year and the harvesters attempt to gather the greatest possible number of available seeds in order to make the greatest possible profit. As natural regeneration is difficult and the plantlets grow slowly, excessive harvesting will in the short or long run lead to the disappearance of the species.

6. Protection situation

6.1 National

Most of the populations of these species are growing at sites outside protected areas (*Ravenea rivularis*, *R. louvelii*, *Marojejya darianii*, *Beccariophoenix madagascariensis*) but even when the species are inside protected areas (*Satranala decussilvae*, *Lemurephoenix halleuxii*, *Voanioala gerardii*, *Beccariophoenix madagascariensis*), their seeds and plantlets are illegally collected, preventing their natural regeneration.

6.2 International

These species are not listed in the CITES Appendices.

6.3 Other urgent protection-related measures

It would be desirable to set up a medium-term artificial propagation programme, on the one hand to reinforce the wild populations and on the other to satisfy the demand on the international market. In any event, the harvesting of palm-hearts from these species must be banned.

7. Comments by the country of origin

Given the very low numbers in the wild populations of these species, their restricted range and the threats facing them, these species meet the conditions for listing in Appendix I; if they were to be placed in Appendix II, their seeds would not be subject to CITES regulation. Furthermore, this proposal is intended to inhibit once and for all any harvesting of any part of these plants from the wild. Consequently, promotion of artificial propagation with reintroduction, or of reinforcement of the populations in decline, would be extremely desirable.

8. References

- ANGAP, 2001. Plan de gestion de Réseau National des Aires Protégées de Madagascar. Ministère de l'environnement, Madagascar, 112p.
- CITES, 2000. – Rapport annuel Année 2000, CITES- Organe de Gestion CITES de Madagascar, Antananarivo.
- CITES, 2001. – Rapport annuel Année 2001, CITES- Organe de Gestion CITES de Madagascar, Antananarivo.
- Dransfield, J. & Beentje, H., 1995. – The palms of Madagascar. Royal Botanical Garden, Kew and the International Palm Society. HMSO Norwich print services, Kew, 175p.
- IUCN, 2000. - Red Data Book
- Mabberley, D. J., 1997. - The Plant Book. A portable dictionary of the vascular plants. Cambridge, Payot, Lausanne, 260p.
- ONE, UNEP, ANGAP, 1997. – Monographie nationale sur la biodiversité. Ministère de l'environnement, Ministère des Eaux and Forests. Antananarivo, 324p.