

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



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

Follow-up of CoP12 Decisions

*Harpagophytum* spp. [Decisions 12.63-12.65]

IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS IN NAMIBIA

1. This document has been prepared by the Management Authority of Namibia.
2. At the 12th meeting the Conference of the Parties (Santiago, 2002), the Parties adopted three Decisions relating to *Harpagophytum* spp. as follows:

*Directed to Parties*

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.*

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.*

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.*

4. Regarding decision 12.63, Namibia undertook a national devil's claw situation analysis. The main objectives of the situation analysis were as follows:
  - a) To identify the critical features of the occurrence, harvesting of and trade in Devil's claw to enable the Namibian Government to develop appropriate policy and take legislative decisions that would contribute to improve resource management and benefit those involved in the harvesting of and trade in *Harpagophytum* in Namibia; and

- b) To put in place mechanisms to ensure that Namibia's trade in devil's claw on the international market was sustainable and that it received fair payment.
5. To meet the main objectives of the national situation analysis, the following interrelated surveys were carried out in 2002:
  - a) Resource survey;
  - b) Socio-economic survey; and
  - c) Market survey.
6. The resource survey has provided some preliminary baseline information on the status of *Harpagophytum* in Namibia, i.e. the distribution and density of *Harpagophytum*. Namibia will continue to collect biological and trade data in order to improve management strategies.
7. Concerning Decisions 12.64 and 12.65, the Management Authority is in the process of drafting a Bill on regulating access to genetic resources and protecting associated indigenous knowledge. Additionally, a programme is under development to provide a technical support framework for biotrade initiatives with emphasis on domestic enterprise development and value-addition. Both of these initiatives will be applicable to trade in *Harpagophytum*.
8. The Namibian Devil's Working Group met regularly and arranged *inter alia* a workshop with Namibia *Harpagophytum* traders and exporters in order to explore ways on how to ensure sustainability and value addition to this resource. The working group also met with counterparts from Botswana and South Africa to foster co-operation in the field of Devil's Claw management and conservation within the subregion.