

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

Sixteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Lima (Peru), 3-8 July 2006

Regional reports

AFRICA

General information

- a) Names of Representatives: David L.N. Hafashimana and Beatrice Khayota*
- b) Names of Alternates: Quentin Luke and Koffi Akpagana*
- c) Number of Parties in the region: 52
- d) Number of Parties responding to communication: 9
- e) Names of institutions and NGOs for CITES work during the period: Nature Kenya

1. Activities carried out

1.1 Review of Significant Trade

BOTSWANA: Two small exports of *Harpagophytum* were made to South Africa (535 kg) and France (1kg).

KENYA, ZAMBIA and MALAWI submitted comments on Significant Review process for *Prunus africana* and *Euphorbia candelabrum* as requested by the Secretariat.

The Management Authority presented a paper to the Board of Conservation Committee seeking authority to export a balance of 22,860 kg of *Prunus africana* belonging to Mr Jonathan Leakey.

MADAGASCAR: With regard to the implementation of CITES Action Plan, field studies of about 20 species of succulent plants in the south started this year. Many of this species are in Appendix II and some in high demand in international trade. Information on succulents in international trade has been submitted to EU on several occasions.

There was *Prunus africana* extract export by Indena.

* Authors of the report.

SOUTH AFRICA submitted comments on the Significant Review process for *Aloe ferox*, *Pachypodium bispinosa*, *P. succulentum* and *Euphorbia stellata* as requested by CITES Secretariat. Based on the current information and the fact that SA has no problem with implementation of Article IV of the Convention with regard to these species, their removal from Significant Review process is recommended.

UGANDA submitted a Non-detriment findings report on *Prunus africana* to the Scientific Authority of the EU

1.2 Nursery registration

MADAGASCAR: *P. africana* nurseries include CIRAD culture, Site pilote Sofia culture and CNARP *in-vitro* culture.

Commercialized plants and nurseries of registered operators have been visited and stocks identified and counted.

1.3 Other activities

BOTSWANA carried out an inventory of *Hoodia* species. Results indicated that there were two dominant species, *H. currorii* and *H. gordonii*. It was recommended that there should be no wild harvesting.

Trials on the cultivation of *H. gordonii* from seed were successfully carried out and there are plans to promote commercial farming with the biggest challenge being limited availability of seeds.

MADAGASCAR: With regard to *P. africana*, communication tools have been developed, inventory/potential study undertaken in Sofia. Farmers have been trained in improved banking and a Draft Bill on *Prunus* specified. The implementation of the Action Plan is on the CITES web site.

KENYA carried out a National inventory of *Aloe turkanensis*, *A. scabrifolia* and *A. secundiflora*. Species distribution was mapped and populations quantified as the basis for developing national guidelines for the utilization of the *Aloe* species.

Guidelines for artificial propagation of *Aloe* species for trade have been presented to the Office of the Attorney General for approval and gazette.

Further work has been undertaken with regard to *Osyris lanceolata* (East Africa sandalwood). These include, preliminary survey on the exploitation, developing guidelines on sustainable utilization, formation of the National Sandalwood Task force and withdrawal of movement permits.

ZAMBIA: During PC 15 Zambia reported that there was going to be survey to establish the existence of *Hoodia*. Evidence so far indicates non-existence of the species. Devils claw has been reported to exist and traded and the Management Authority is working with customs to verify trade, followed by assessments to establish its existence, distribution and abundance.

ZIMBABWE: a single export of 160 kg of sun dried *Hoodia lugardii* was made to the USA. However, all exports of *Hoodia* have been suspended until a non-detriment findings has been completed. Consultations with other southern African countries on implementation of annotation # 9 are ongoing. There is no propagation of *Hoodia* in Zimbabwe.

2. Communication with the Parties

The Draft Agenda for PC16 was distributed to all SA, MA and plant experts in the region for their comments and input.

Request for CITES related information with regard to trade, conservation, capacity building etc. was made.

Contacts were requested to confirm if they were the current plant experts and if not to forward information to the relevant persons.

3. Capacity building

3.1 Training

BOTSWANA carried out training on growing of Hoodia from seed for the local people.

MADAGASCAR is currently training customs and operators, on trade in six provinces.

ZAMBIA participated in the 5th CITES Masters at UNIA, Spain.

ZIMBABWE: TRAFFIC conducted training for the Management Authority, law enforcement officers and customs official in June 2006 on CITES implementation in Zimbabwe. The focus of the training was on identification of species in trade in southern African region. More effort to improve CITES implementation at various levels, through the formation of local CITES Technical Committees, made up of all stakeholders are planned as a follow up to the capacity building programme.

3.2 Meetings

BOTSWANA: A *Harpagophytum* management meeting was held in Gaborone by all relevant stakeholders to plan for the harvesting season.

MADAGASCAR held a meeting in Sofia region to discuss the implementation of the Action Plan.

SOUTH AFRICA: A meeting was held in Johannesburg, to discuss Hoodia annotation implementation procedures and labelling. Unfortunately Namibia could not attend and therefore an agreement on the annotation for Hoodia could not be reached before this meeting.

The South Africa government departments responsible for nature conservation in Hoodia range had a meeting with members of the Hoodia industry to discuss the way forward. It was agreed that CITES export permits would only be issued after the range countries had agreed on the implementation of the annotation.

KENYA: Several meetings have been held to discuss and develop strategies for the sustainable management of *Osyris lanceolata*.

4. Implementation issues

4.1 Conservation

Inadequate resources to undertake research such as non-detriment findings, plant inventories and monitoring of plant species in international trade. More resources are needed for capacity building in CITES implementation in general.

4.2 Technical

Response to communication is still a challenge. Of the 52 Parties in the Region, 17 do not have e-mails and out of 110 plant experts contacted, only 9 responded with 31 messages bouncing back.

5. Work to be done by the next meeting of the Plants Committee

Share with the Parties the outcomes of PC16

Continue to review and update the plant experts database in the region.