

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

### 50<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee Geneva, Switzerland. 5-19 March 2004

#### REPORT OF REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

Report on activities in the Southern African Region, submitted by South Africa

#### 1. SUBREGIONAL MEETING ON *Harpagophytum*

The meeting took place in Windhoek, Namibia on 23 and 24 September 2003 and was attended by representatives from:

- Botswana
- Namibia
- South Africa

The objectives of the meeting were to obtain feedback from the various national Devil's Claw working groups regarding developments in their countries and, pursuant to decisions taken at the Regional Devil's Claw Conference (Windhoek, Namibia, 28th February 2002) and the Ad Hoc Regional Devil's Claw Working Group meeting (28th November 2002), to determine the structure and terms of reference of a regional Devil's Claw working group for the range states.

Outcomes:

- The first official meeting of the RDCWG is scheduled to take place in Namibia during February or March 2004 depending on the ability to raise sufficient funds for this. Namibia was tasked to organise this first meeting and to circulate invitations.
- The main purpose of the first official meeting of this group would be to develop clear terms of reference for this group.
- General principles accepted by the workshop for the sustainable development of devil's claw: Management and sustainable utilization of the resource; regional collaboration, knowledge generation and information sharing; commercial and economic viability and social justice.
  - Regional collaboration is required:
    - to set up national stakeholder working groups, with a view to forming a regional working group within the next year;
    - to ensure that there should be no export of genetic material without prior informed consent, pending the development of national access legislation;
    - to harmonise regional accreditation, certification, standards and quality control;
    - to identify and strengthen existing networks and institutions which support the sustainable development of Devil's Claw; and
    - to encourage the formation of trade associations with the aim of bringing economic benefits to our countries.
  - Research should be undertaken in order to:
    - repatriate publicly generated knowledge;
    - build research capacity in the range states; and
    - encourage public private partnerships

- Cultivation
  - Cultivation has the potential to both conserve and overwhelm the wild gathered resource.
  - Notwithstanding the above, space and opportunities should be provided for all types of production.
  - There is a role for government in setting policy and supporting research particularly with regards to small holders.
  - The market for Devil's Claw should be managed to diminish the impact of extreme market conditions.
- CITES
  - Communication between regional and national representatives is essential.
  - Listing and trade controls are only acceptable where they contribute to sustainable development.
  - CITES should promote awareness that listing does not mean that trade is unsustainable.

## **2. SUBREGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE FOR MIKE**

The steering committee meeting took place on 15 January 2004 in the Kruger National Park, South Africa and was attended by representatives from:

- Botswana
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- South Africa
- Zimbabwe.

Zambia tendered their apologies for not attending.

The objective of the meeting was to reflect on implementation of MIKE in the subregion.

Issues addressed were among others the following:

- Country reports on the implementation of MIKE
- Discussion of the practical implementation of the programme and problems encountered with implementation
- Coordination of cross-border surveys.

## **3. SUBREGIONAL MEETING ON IVORY TRADE ISSUES**

The meeting took place in the Kruger National Park, South Africa from 13 to 14 January 2004 and was attended by representatives from:

- Botswana
- Namibia
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Zimbabwe

Zambia tendered their apologies.

The purpose of the meeting was to share experiences gained during the ivory sale in 1999 and to do initial planning for the upcoming sale.

The meeting was also used to consult on various issues including:

- Report back on the workshop on economic incentives and trade policy
- Preparations for the following meetings:
  - Plants Committee
  - Animals Committee
  - 50<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee
  - 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties