

CONVENTION SUR LE COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL DES ESPECES
DE FAUNE ET DE FLORE SAUVAGES MENACEES D'EXTINCTION



Vingt-sixième session du Comité pour les plantes
Genève (Suisse), 5 – 9 juin 2023

Annexes de la Convention

Annotations

ANNOTATION DE L'ALOÈS DU CAP (*ALOE FEROX*)

1. Le présent document a été préparé par le Secrétariat.
2. *Aloe ferox* est inscrit à l'Annexe II (dans le cadre de la liste générique des *Aloe* spp.) avec l'annotation #4, qui se lit comme suit :

Tous les produits et parties, sauf :

- a) *les graines (y compris les gousses d'Orchidaceae), les spores et le pollen (y compris les pollinies). La dérogation ne s'applique ni aux graines de Cactaceae spp. exportées du Mexique, ni aux graines de Beccariophoenix madagascariensis et de Dypsis decaryi exportées de Madagascar ;*
 - b) *les cultures de plantules ou de tissus obtenues in vitro et transportées en conteneurs stériles ;*
 - c) *les fleurs coupées provenant de plantes reproduites artificiellement ;*
 - d) *les fruits, et leurs parties et produits, des plantes acclimatées ou reproduites artificiellement du genre Vanilla (Orchidaceae) et de la famille Cactaceae ;*
 - e) *les tiges, les fleurs, et leurs parties et produits, des plantes acclimatées ou reproduites artificiellement des genres Opuntia sous-genre Opuntia et Selenicereus (Cactaceae) ;*
 - f) *les produits finis d'Aloe ferox et d'Euphorbia antisiphilitica emballés et prêts pour le commerce de détail ; et*
 - g) *les produits finis, issus de la reproduction artificielle, emballés et prêts pour le commerce de détail de cosmétiques contenant des parties et produits de Bletilla striata, Cycnoches cooperi, Gastrodia elata, Phalaenopsis amabilis ou Phalaenopsis lobbii.*
3. Le paragraphe f) de l'annotation #4 spécifie quels sont les parties et produits finis d'*Aloe ferox* exemptés des dispositions de la CITES.
 4. À sa 19e session (CoP19, Panama, 2022), la Conférence des Parties a adopté les décisions 18.323 (Rev. CoP19) à 18.326 (Rev. CoP19), comme suit :

À l'adresse du Secrétariat

18.323 (Rev. CoP19) *Le Secrétariat publie une notification aux Parties, demandant les informations suivantes:*

- a) *si l'amendement à l'annotation #4 a eu un effet sur le commerce international des spécimens d'Aloe ferox, et, si cela est le cas, de quelle manière ; et*
- b) *si l'amendement à l'annotation #4 a eu un effet sur la taille de la population, la répartition, le statut et le prélèvement d'Aloe ferox, et, si cela est le cas, de quelle manière.*

18.324 (Rev. CoP19) *Le Secrétariat compile les réponses fournies par les Parties conformément à la décision 18.323 (Rev. CoP19) et les transmet au Comité pour les plantes.*

À l'adresse du Comité pour les plantes

18.325 (Rev. CoP19) *Le Comité pour les plantes examine les informations compilées conformément à la décision 18.324 (Rev. CoP19) et les autres informations pertinentes disponibles concernant le statut, la gestion et le commerce international d'Aloe ferox, en vue de déterminer si la dérogation de la réglementation CITES portant sur les produits finis d'Aloe ferox conditionnés et prêts au commerce de détail a eu un effet sur les populations naturelles de l'espèce. En fonction des résultats de cet examen, le Comité pour les plantes formule des recommandations concernant l'inscription d'Aloe ferox pour examen à la 20e session de la Conférence des Parties.*

À l'adresse des Parties

18.326 (Rev. CoP19) *Les pays de l'aire de répartition, les pays consommateurs et les autres pays impliqués dans la gestion, la multiplication ou le commerce d'Aloe ferox sont encouragés à fournir des informations concernant le statut, la gestion et le commerce de cette espèce comme demandé dans la décision 18.323 (Rev. CoP19).*

Mise en œuvre des décisions 18.323 (Rev. CoP19) et 18.324 (Rev. CoP19)

5. Conformément à la décision 18.323 (Rev. CoP19), le Secrétariat a publié la [notification No. 2023/021](#) le 2 mars 2023. Au moment de la rédaction du présent document, l'Afrique du Sud, l'Allemagne, l'Autriche, les États-Unis d'Amérique et la Suède avaient répondu au Secrétariat.
6. Conformément à la décision 18.324 (Rev. CoP19), le Secrétariat a compilé les réponses à la notification No. 2023/021 dans les annexes 1 à 5 du présent document (en gardant la langue et la présentation d'origines). Pour faciliter l'examen par le Comité des plantes, le Secrétariat a préparé une brève analyse des réponses reçues :
 - a) sur la question de savoir si l'annotation #4 modifiée a eu un effet sur le commerce international des spécimens d'Aloe ferox et, si tel est le cas, de quelle manière [paragraphe a) de la décision 18.323 (Rev. CoP19)] :
 - i) les Parties importatrices (Allemagne, Autriche, États-Unis d'Amérique et Suède) déclarent que les importations d'A. ferox sont restées comparables ou ont diminué depuis 2020. Toutefois, les données antérieures et postérieures à l'adoption de la dérogation ne sont que partiellement comparables et ne permettent pas de tirer des conclusions définitives en ce qui concerne le commerce international d'A. ferox, étant donné que le commerce de produits finis prêts pour le commerce de détail n'est plus soumis à la documentation CITES et n'apparaît plus dans les données disponibles ; et
 - ii) l'Afrique du Sud, l'un des deux seuls États de l'aire de répartition connus de l'espèce, signale que les informations ne sont pas concluantes. D'une part, plusieurs sociétés commerciales n'étaient plus opérationnelles à la suite de la pandémie de COVID-19, et d'autres sont encore en train de reconstituer leur clientèle. Le commerce d'A. ferox n'a pas augmenté dans la mesure prévue dans la proposition [CoP18 Prop. 55](#), en raison de cette interruption, puisque la dérogation prévue par l'annotation #4 ne couvre pas les extraits ou les produits finis, et aussi pour des raisons réglementaires qui sont indépendantes des dispositions de la CITES. D'autre part, l'environnement commercial favorable à un commerce rapide et aisé d'A. ferox se serait amélioré grâce à la dérogation, et le commerce semble à nouveau prendre de l'essor, en particulier sur les marchés de l'Est.

- b) sur la question de savoir si l'annotation #4 modifiée a eu un effet sur la taille de la population, la répartition, le statut et le prélèvement d'*Aloe ferox*, et, si tel est le cas, de quelle manière [paragraphe b) de la décision 18.323 (Rev. CoP19)] :
 - i) L'Afrique du Sud, l'un des deux seuls États de l'aire de répartition de l'espèce, signale qu'en raison du recul du commerce international d'*A. ferox* décrit ci-dessus, et de la forte concurrence avec le commerce d'*A. vera* (qui n'est pas inscrit aux Annexes de la CITES), il est peu probable que la base de ressources d'*A. ferox* ait changé radicalement au cours des trois dernières années. Elle ajoute que la récolte d'*A. ferox* a été effectuée de manière durable dans la majeure partie de la région et qu'il est peu probable que le commerce en cours ou en augmentation ait un impact sur la base de ressources ;
 - ii) L'Afrique du Sud signale également que la conservation de l'espèce est désormais soutenue par un plan de gestion de la biodiversité qui prévoit un plan de surveillance des ressources afin d'évaluer tout impact sur la base de ressources.
- c) D'une manière générale, les Parties ayant répondu ont également indiqué que la pandémie de COVID-19 est un facteur supplémentaire qui prête à confusion et gêne l'interprétation des informations disponibles et que la période écoulée depuis l'entrée en vigueur de l'exemption en 2019 pourrait être trop courte pour que les marchés et les populations d'espèces reflètent pleinement les effets du nouveau régime réglementaire.

Recommandations

7. Le Comité pour les plantes est invité à :

- a) examiner le présent document et ses annexes ;
- b) évaluer si la dérogation pour *Aloe ferox* prévue au paragraphe f) de l'annotation #4 a eu un effet sur les populations naturelles de l'espèce ; et,
- c) sur la base de ce qui précède, formuler des recommandations concernant l'inscription d'*A. ferox* pour examen lors de la 20e session de la Conférence des Parties.

Maria Isabel Camarena Osorno

Subject: Aloe ferox - Notif. No. 2023/021 / Dec. 18.323

From: Rose Martin <Martin.Rose@bmk.gv.at>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 2:46 PM
To: Martin Otto Hitziger <martin.hitziger@cites.org>
Cc: Hoffmann Daniela <Daniela.Hoffmann@bmk.gv.at>; Leitner Birgit <Birgit.Leitner@bmk.gv.at>; ENV-CITES@ec.europa.eu
Subject: Aloe ferox - Notif. No. 2023/021 / Dec. 18.323

Sie erhalten nicht oft eine E-Mail von martin.rose@bmk.gv.at. [Erfahren Sie, warum dies wichtig ist](#)

Dear Martin,
(EU Commission in cc)

in relation to Notification No. 2023/021 regarding Decisions 18.323 to 18.326 (Rev. CoP19) on *Annotation of Cape aloe (Aloe ferox)* Austria can provide the following information:

Legal trade

Aloe ferox was the only traded CITES listed *Aloe* species in Austria in the last 10 years. Products imported from South Africa and Switzerland and concerned mainly finished products for cosmetic or homeopathic use. Since the change of the annotation, only one CITES-relevant import was realised in 2020 from Switzerland. Finished products of *Aloe ferox* packaged and ready for retail trade are still traded within Austria and are available on the market. Trade volumes are difficult to compare due to the effect of the Covid pandemic on overall trade. Nevertheless, when adjusting for that, we estimate that the trade level is comparable. Given that no other CITES-listed *Aloe* species in was in trade before the change, we have not seen a shift in trade.

Illegal trade

Seizures were dominated by *Aloe ferox* derivatives, but included other *Aloe* species (mainly live). The *Aloe ferox* derivatives were products ordered online, send to the consumers by post. Given that these were all finished products packaged and ready for retail trade, there have been no seizures of *Aloe ferox* derivatives since the change of the annotation.

Kind Regards from Vienna
Martin

Republic of Austria
Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology
Dept. V/10 - National Parks, Nature Conservation & Species Protection

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CITES Management Authority

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Maria Isabel Camarena Osorno

Subject: FW: Antw: New Notification to the Parties to CITES
Attachments: Aloe-ZA.jpg; Aloe-ferox-ZA.docx

From: David Harter <David.Harter@BfN.de>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 11:06 AM
To: Martin Otto Hitziger <martin.hitziger@cites.org>
Cc: FG-II12 <FG-II12@BfN.de>; Karin Hornig <Karin.Hornig@BfN.de>; Mario Sterz <Mario.Sterz@BfN.de>
Subject: Antw: New Notification to the Parties to CITES

Hello Martin

The German CITES Authorities do not have unambiguous insight whether the amendment of annotation #4 to exclude finished products from CITES controls has impacted the international trade in *Aloe ferox* specimens. In the attached data that our MA colleagues kindly have aggregated, imports into Germany (being one of the most important import countries) are provided for the period of three years before to three years after the amendment took place.

Due to the exemption, finished products are not included in this figure anymore since the CoP19 decisions went into effect, so it is not possible to see if there has been a possible increase in trade. Please also note that for this analysis imports that were termed cosmetics on export permits but were obviously no finished products have been added/included into the appropriate commodity term extract/medicine.

Nevertheless, what could be seen from the data is that those commodities terms that are not affected by the exemption has been used less often since the CoP19 decision than in the years before.

We have no information whether the changed annotation has affected the population size, distribution, status and harvest of *Aloe ferox*.

Best wishes

David

Dr. David Harter (Mr.)
(on behalf of)
Division of Plant Conservation
Scientific Authority to CITES Germany - Flora
German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
Konstantinstr. 110 | 53179 Bonn | Germany
Phone: +49 228 8491-1442
Email: david.harter@bfn.de
Web: www.bfn.de/en

>>>

Von: CITES <no_reply@cites.org>

An: <david.harter@bfm.de>

Datum: 02.03.2023 09:40

Betreff: New Notification to the Parties to CITES

The following Notification to the Parties was posted on the CITES website on 02 March 2023:

Notification to the Parties N° 2023/021:

[Decisions 18.323 to 18.326 \(Rev. CoP19\) on Annotation of Cape aloe \(Aloe ferox\)](#)

The Notification can be viewed on the page below:

<http://cites.org/eng/node/135177>

CITES Secretariat
International Environment House
11 Chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Chatelaine, Geneva
Switzerland
Fax: +41-22-797-34-17
Email: info@cites.org
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Imports of Aloe ferox from South Africa into Germany
Update: 17.03.2023

Description	Unit	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Cosmetics	NO	2040	2489	1143	364 ¹⁾	0	0
Extracts/medicine	KG	32666	46181	66463	82784	24674	26930
	L	11056	13122	6522	6615	9305	2225
Powder/wax	KG	11504	17754	16437	5969	5039	2200
Leaves/dried plants	NO	6600	0	3150		120	3240
	KG				57	2011	

¹⁾ granted in 2019, imported in 2020

Maria Isabel Camarena Osorno

Subject: CITES Decision 18.323 to 18.326; Aloe ferox

Importance: High

From: Michele Pfab <M.Pfab@sanbi.org.za>

Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 3:13 PM

To: Martin Otto Hitziger <martin.hitziger@cites.org>

Cc: SANBI \28010632b\29 [SANBI ORG] <c.mbizvo@sanbi.org.za>; Malepo Phoshoko <MSPhoshoko@dfre.gov.za>; Mpho Tjiane <mtjiane@dfre.gov.za>; Tasneem Variawa <T.Variawa@sanbi.org.za>

Subject: FW: CITES Decision 18.323 to 18.326; Aloe ferox

Importance: High

Sie erhalten nicht oft eine E-Mail von m.pfab@sanbi.org.za. [Erfahren Sie, warum dies wichtig ist](#)

Dear Martin,

Please receive below our response to the CITES Secretariat's call for information in relation to the *Aloe ferox* annotation. Please accept my apologies for missing the deadline. We are really quite overwhelmed on this side, especially at this time of the year. I sincerely hope that you will still be able to use the information.

Regards,
Michele

Michèle Pfab

Scientific Co-ordinator: Scientific Authority
Biodiversity Research, Assessment and Monitoring Division
South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
Pretoria National Botanical Garden
2 Cussonia Avenue, Brummeria, Pretoria
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Web Site address: www.sanbi.org

<https://www.sanbi.org/biodiversity/science-into-policy-action/science-authority/>

<https://www.sanbi.org/biodiversity/building-knowledge/applied-biodiversity-research/sustainable-trade-in-wildlife-products/>



From: Tasneem Variawa <T.Variawa@sanbi.org.za>

Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2023 9:54 AM

To: Michele Pfab <M.Pfab@sanbi.org.za>

Cc: Mpho Tjiane <mtjiane@dfre.gov.za>; Malepo Phoshoko <MSPhoshoko@dfre.gov.za>; Neil Crouch <N.Crouch@sanbi.org.za>

Subject: RE: CITES Decision 18.323 to 18.326; Aloe ferox

Importance: High

Dear Michele

I have spoken to three industry members as well as our colleagues at CapeNature and DEDEAT and have summarised the feedback as follows:

a) *On whether, and if so how, the amended annotation #4 has impacted the international trade in Aloe ferox specimens*

Essentially it is too soon to tell. Shortly after the annotation took effect at the end of 2019 (26/11/2019), countries were hit with Covid-19 restrictions which greatly impacted businesses, including the *A. ferox* industry. According to one source, several companies did not survive whilst those that did are still trying to get back to pre-covid levels and are working on re-building their customer bases. Whilst there appears to be no perceived/actual growth in the international trade of *Aloe ferox* over the past three years since the annotation came into effect, two of the companies who are involved solely in the manufacture and sale of finished products have stated that it is much easier to do business internationally. Without the hassle of needing to have inspections done and wait for CITES permits, the lead time to fulfil orders has decreased significantly and it is now convenient and more cost-effective to ship unit and bulk products out in a timely manner. It is also easier for marketing purposes as samples can be sent out more freely. One company has expanded its distribution network to several new countries and whilst this may not directly be due to the amended annotation, the exemption of finished products definitely supports the growth of this market. Suppliers of raw products remain hopeful that the exemption will get more companies (locally and internationally) interested in *A. ferox* and promote further growth in the finished product industry as was initially intended with the revised annotation. (According to one supplier there are other regulations such as the EUs [2021 regs](#) regarding botanical species containing hydroxyanthracene derivatives (e.g., aloin) that hamper Aloe business (specifically food and beverage?) expansion at this stage. Eastern markets however appear to be on the rise).

There are only two years of reporting data available on the CITES trade database post 2019. Industry in the Western Cape is primarily responsible for the manufacture and export of finished product (i.e., 'Product, shipped singly or in bulk, requiring no further processing, packaged, labelled for final use or the retail trade in a state fit for being sold to or used by the general public'), with the Eastern Cape issuing permits for raw materials (i.e. extract and powder) only. According to Cape Nature, the use of the term finished product has been dropped on permits and in reports (for 2020/2021) but specimen descriptions like "cosmetics, juice, tea", which should/could fall into the definition of "finished product" as provided in the Appendices, still appears in some of the reports. This may be due to the fact that certain 'finished products' like medicines may not comply with the very narrow definition of being "fit for sale" etc. and perhaps still need to be packaged, labelled etc. for final consumer use. Exports of derivatives (which could also include such type of finished product) are also still reported. This will make it a little more complicated to determine a clear impact of the revised annotation. In general, finished products (for consumer use) are no longer being regulated and this is good for business but due to the short time frame since the annotation came into effect, and the impact of Covid, it is not possible to fully gauge any real change to the international trade in *A. ferox*. Another year or two worth of reports (i.e. 2022/23) including analysis of the volumes / quantities reflected in each report will provide a better picture in time.

b) *On whether, and if so how, the amended annotation #4 has affected the population size, distribution, status and harvest of Aloe ferox*

According to industry members, the trade in *A. ferox* parts and products is relatively stable and slowly getting back to pre-Covid levels. The CITES trade data supports this. Harvest of the resource base is therefore unlikely to have changed drastically over the past three years. The impact of Covid has hampered business expansion but the industry also remains in tough competition with *Aloe vera* (which for all intents and purposes is excluded from national and international regs.). Suppliers of *A. ferox* raw materials and value-added products to be used in the manufacture of consumer goods have reportedly not experienced a surge in demand for these goods since the annotation took effect. Producers of finished goods have also not reported a drastic increase in the demand for raw materials to manufacture finished product. The harvest of *A. ferox* is nevertheless carried out in a sustainable manner across most of the region and ongoing/increased trade, particularly in finished products is unlikely to impact the resource base. The species conservation is now also supported by a Biodiversity Management Plan (that makes provisions for a resource monitoring

plan to assess any changes to/impacts on the resource base). The harvest of *Aloe ferox* in South Africa remains sustainable but (a lot) more time is needed to assess the effect (if any) of the amended annotation on the populations.

Please let me know if there is anything you would like further clarity on. I have attached here my communication with Cape Nature and two industry members for your info.

Thank you,
Tasneem

Tasneem Variawa

Botanist: Scientific Authority Support

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[SANBI/scientific-authority](http://www.sanbi.org/scientific-authority)

[SANBI/sustainable-wildlife-use-and-trade](http://www.sanbi.org/sustainable-wildlife-use-and-trade)



From: Michele Pfab <M.Pfab@sanbi.org.za>

Sent: Tuesday, 07 March 2023 17:10

To: Tasneem Variawa <T.Variawa@sanbi.org.za>

Cc: Mpho Tjiane <mtjiane@dfpe.gov.za>; Malepo Phoshoko <MSPhoshoko@dfpe.gov.za>; Neil Crouch <N.Crouch@sanbi.org.za>

Subject: FW: CITES Decision 18.323 to 18.326; Aloe ferox

Hi Tasneem,

Please see attached request from the CITES Secretariat. We have less than two weeks to respond with something. Please give this some thought and let me know tomorrow when you are ready to discuss our approach.

M

Michèle Pfab

Scientific Co-ordinator: Scientific Authority
Biodiversity Research, Assessment and Monitoring Division
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<https://www.sanbi.org/biodiversity/building-knowledge/applied-biodiversity-research/sustainable-trade-in-wildlife-products/>

From: Carmel Mbizvo <C.Mbizvo@sanbi.org.za>
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 2:37 PM
To: Theresa Frantz <T.Frantz@sanbi.org.za>; Michele Pfab <M.Pfab@sanbi.org.za>
Cc: Gail Van Aswegen <G.VanAswegen@sanbi.org.za>
Subject: FW: CITES Decision 18.323 to 18.326; Aloe ferox

Dear Theresa and Michele,

Please can we assist with the below request for information on Annotation of Cape aloe.

Kind regards,
Carmel

From: Martin Otto Hitziger <martin.hitziger@cites.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Carmel Mbizvo <C.Mbizvo@sanbi.org.za>; secretariat.scientificauthority <secretariat.scientificauthority@sanbi.org.za>
Cc: Maria Isabel Camarena Osorno <isabel.camarena@cites.org>; David Morgan <david.morgan@un.org>; Thea Henriette Carroll <thea.carroll@un.org>
Subject: CITES Decision 18.323 to 18.326; Aloe ferox

Dear Ms Mbizvo,

I hope you are doing well. Please note that the Secretariat published [Notification 2023/21](#) to invite Parties to contribute information relevant to Decisions 18.323 to 18.326 (Rev. CoP19) on *Annotation of Cape aloe* (*Aloe ferox*). Considering South Africa is one of only two range States to the species, we would appreciate any information that South Africa has on this matter.

With kind regards,
Martin Hitziger

MARTIN HITZIGER

Associate Plant Species Officer/
Official adjunto de especies de plantas/
Administrateur associé chargé des espèces de plantes

Scientific Services/Servicios Científicos/Services Scientifiques
CITES Secretariat/Secretaría CITES/Secrétariat CITES

E: martin.hitziger@un.org T: +41(0) 22 917 97 54



Maria Isabel Camarena Osorno

Subject: Sweden's response to notification 2023/021

From: Erik.Dalarud@jordbruksverket.se <Erik.Dalarud@jordbruksverket.se>
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 3:32 PM
To: Martin Otto Hitziger <martin.hitziger@cites.org>
Cc: Marie Dahlström <marie.dahlstrom@regeringskansliet.se>; Selam.Petersson@jordbruksverket.se;
Negar.Aslund@jordbruksverket.se
Subject: Sweden's response to notification 2023/021

Sie erhalten nicht oft eine E-Mail von erik.dalarud@jordbruksverket.se. [Erfahren Sie, warum dies wichtig ist](#)

Dear Secretariat,

In response to notification 2023/021, we would like to provide the following information from Sweden regarding the trade in Aloe Ferox:

Our analysis of current trade statistics reveals that Sweden predominantly imports derivatives and extracts of Aloe Ferox, with no recorded exports of the species. Trade levels have experienced natural fluctuations over the years, making it challenging to establish a causal link to the change in annotation. Notably, we have recorded import entries in 2013, 2015, 2018, 2019, and 2020.

Although there has been a slight decrease in import volumes since 2018, it remains difficult to determine if this is part of the natural fluctuation or directly linked to the change in annotation.

Over the past decade, a few seizures have been made, including 180 capsules by customs in August 2016 and 30 capsules from the US in 2015. The majority of imports originate from South Africa, with a smaller quantity from Switzerland. These imports are mainly for commercial purposes and are of wild origin. Aloe Ferox is likely imported as a preparation for the health food trade.

In summary, based on the available data, we cannot provide conclusive information on how the change in annotation impacts the population size, distribution, status, or harvest of Aloe Ferox

Kind regards,

Erik Dalarud

Swedish CITES Management Authority
Swedish Board of Agriculture



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
International Affairs
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: IA
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/DMA/ PLA 7-01

March 28, 2023

Martin Otto Hitziger
Associate Scientific Support Officer, Science Unit
CITES Secretariat
International Environment House
11 Chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva
Switzerland

VIA EMAIL: martin.hitziger@un.org

Dear Martin:

This letter provides the U.S. response to Notification to the Parties No. 2023/021 - Decisions 18.323 to 18.326 (Rev. CoP19) on Annotation of Cape aloe (*Aloe ferox*), which requests information on the experience of Parties in implementing Annotation #4 following its amendment at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18; Geneva, August 2019) to exclude finished products packaged and ready for retail trade from the Appendix-II listing of Cape aloe (*Aloe ferox*).

Because finished products packaged and ready for retail trade are no longer covered under the CITES listing and therefore do not require CITES documents in international trade, the United States does not have trade data for import of such commodities. However, we are aware that there are several United States-based distributors of *A. ferox* finished products. The CITES Trade Database reports U.S. imports of wild-sourced extracts, leaves, and powder directly from South Africa; and a small quantity of artificially propagated live plants (UNEP-WCMC CITES Trade Database 2023). Additionally, the United States is not a major exporter of specimens of *A. ferox*. For the period 2015 to 2019, South Africa reported exports to the United States of derivatives of *A. ferox* totaling 72,637 g, 12,442.89 kg, and 216,690 ml. For 2020 and 2021, South Africa reported 45 and 1,000 unreported units of derivatives, respectively, compared to 1,625 unreported units of derivatives for 2016-2019 (UNEP-WCMC CITES Trade Database 2023).

We note that the revised Annotation #4, and the resulting exclusion of finished products of *A. ferox* packaged and ready for retail trade from the listing, has been in effect for little more than

three years (since November 26, 2019), most of which was during a worldwide pandemic. We suggest contacting the IUCN SSC Cactus and Succulent Plant Specialist Group to determine if they are able to provide additional information on the population size, distribution, status, and harvest of *A. ferox*. Additionally, we are hopeful that the range States of *A. ferox* can provide more useful information for the species, including concerning the implementation of the Biodiversity Management Plan and a monitoring plan for *A. ferox*, to help inform discussions on the effect of the amended annotation on the conservation of the species.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding the above information and we look forward to discussing this issue more at the upcoming 26th meeting of the Plants Committee.

Sincerely,

Rosemarie Gnam, Head
Division of Scientific Authority
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Sincerely,

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AZIZ

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Naimah Aziz, Head
Division of Management Authority
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service