



ANNEX 3



Photo: Arvind Vaisani

Harpagophytum procumbens

REPORT OF THE *HARPAGOPHYTUM* WORKING GROUP

**PC12 WG *Harpagophytum*****Report of the CITES Plants Committee**

This report summarises the information provided in terms of Decision 11.63 and reviews all available data on the biological and trade status of *Harpagophytum* species subject to international trade, as required by Decision 11.111. Reports were received from Germany (cf. PC 12 8.1.2) and the range states, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa (cf. PC 12 8.1), and Zimbabwe.

The trade data show that the total trade for all southern African countries has increased to ca. 700 tonnes per annum in 2001, with 92 % of the trade originating in Namibia, 5 % from Botswana, and 3 % from South Africa. Germany is the main importing country. There are discrepancies in these trade figures, which indicate that current permit systems are not tracking all trade.

The overall population status of *Harpagophytum* spp. affected by trade is unknown, but research is either underway (Namibia) or planned (Botswana and South Africa) to provide better information on the resource. Available information suggests that the resource is heavily utilised in some areas but is not affected by trade throughout its range in southern Africa. The vast range of Devil's Claw in southern Africa makes it very difficult to manage the resource and enforce policy but the range states either have policies and management programmes in place, or are in the process of developing them.

The Plants Committee concludes that *Harpagophytum* represents an excellent example of a plant resource where implementation of suitable management practices can result in sustainable use of the wild resource for commercial purposes and raises important issues related to property rights, fair trade, and the reliance of poor communities in the range states on a plant resource. To achieve sustainable use requires harmonised policies dealing with conservation and sustainable utilisation of Devil's Claw in all the range states, effective enforcement of permits and quotas, standardised monitoring of trade and harvesting, and research to develop sustainable harvesting methods. The reports submitted in response to Decision 11.63 show that good progress has already been made in this regard by the range states although there are still substantial gaps in the available information on biological status and trade, and many of the policies that have been developed are only entering the implementation phase.

In the light of the information received and the discussions held at PC12, the Plants Committee has agreed upon the following recommendations.

1. Range states are requested to provide an update on the trade and biological status of *Harpagophytum* spp. affected by trade, and the implementation of policies and management programmes, in time for the Plants Committee that precedes CoP13.
2. Given the problems associated with monitoring trade, and the potential benefits of being able to track trade in material of wild and cultivated origin, there may be benefits for Range states from an Appendix III listing. However, the usefulness of such a listing is not widely appreciated among stakeholders involved in the Devil's Claw trade and the Secretariat should provide information on the application of Appendix III to the Range states.
3. Range states are encouraged to negotiate with the Devil's Claw industry to obtain support for management programmes that promote sustainable use and the development of communities who are managing the resource (and the Plants Committee is willing to assist in this regard).
4. The range states should also look at other international treaties to explore support for sustainable resource use and fair trade.