

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



Twelfth meeting of the Plants Committee
Leiden (The Netherlands), 13-17 May 2002

Follow-up of CoP11 Decisions

Harpagophytum spp.

COMMON STATEMENT BY THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE REGIONAL
DEVIL'S CLAW CONFERENCE, WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA
28 FEBRUARY 2002

We the participants in the conference, being representatives of the various stakeholders in our communities and countries, recognise the importance of the contribution of Devil's Claw to the health sector and to sustainable development, specifically the contribution to the livelihoods of the most marginalised communities in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa (the range states).

The sustainable development of the Devil's Claw rests on the following key concepts:

- Management and sustainable utilisation of the resource;
- Regional collaboration, knowledge generation and information sharing;
- Commercial and economic viability and,
- Social Justice.

We agree to the following principles:

1. In the area of regional collaboration participants agreed:

- to set up national stakeholder working groups, with a view to forming a regional working group within the next year;
- 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.

2. On aspects of research participants agreed that there is a need to:

- repatriate of publicly generated knowledge;
- build research capacity in the range states; and

- encourage public private partnerships.

3. With respect to the cultivation of Devil's Claw participants agreed that:

- cultivation has the potential to both conserve and overwhelm the wild gathered resource;
- notwithstanding the above, that 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; and
- the market for Devil's Claw should be managed to diminish the impact of extreme market conditions.

4. With regards to CITES participants agreed that:

- 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; and
- we seek to delay considering the listing of Devil's Claw pending the outcome of ongoing research initiatives.

In seeking to promote the achievement of the above, we have agreed to the following:

- formation of representative multi-stakeholder national working group;
- the establishment of a multi-stakeholder regional working group;
- the promotion of a resource centre concept to service the information and networking needs of stakeholders; and
- to seek out funding to support the above objectives;

In conclusion, collaboration between all stakeholders is necessary for the sustainable development of Devil's Claw and that the issues pertaining to Devil's Claw are not exclusive and may be applicable to a broad range of natural resources.