

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.

IMPORTS OF *HARPAGOPHYTUM* IN GERMANY

1. This document has been prepared by the Scientific Authority of Germany.

**Introduction**

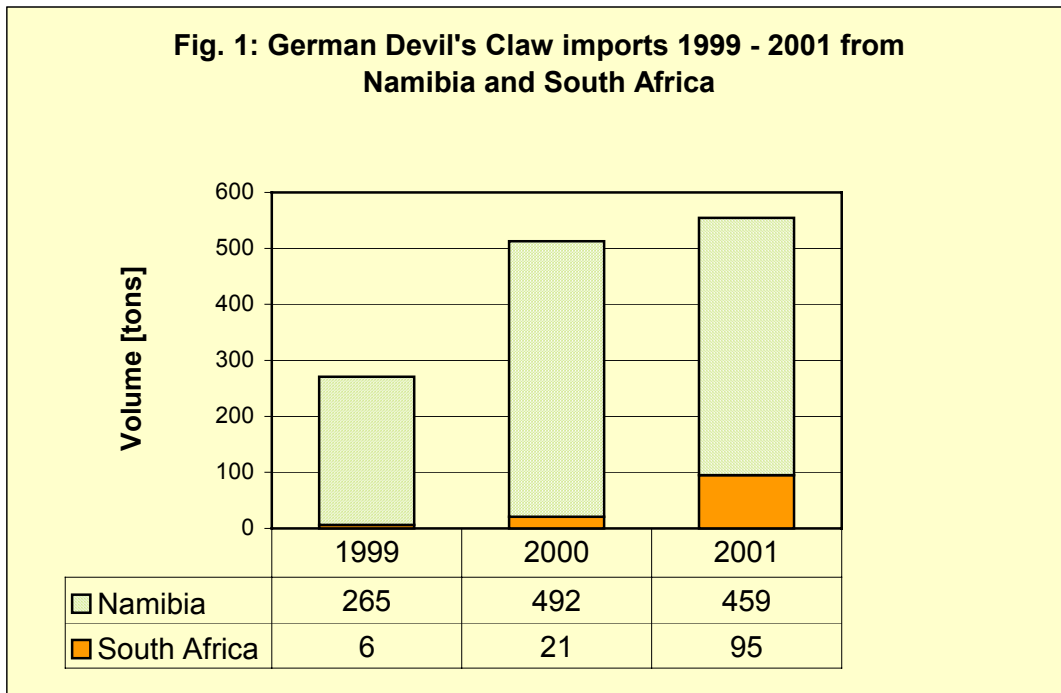
2. CoP11 decided to review the trade in *Harpagophytum* species and directed two decisions to the Parties (Dec. 11.63) and to the Plants Committee (Decision 11.111), respectively (see box 1).
3. Germany is a major importing country of *Harpagophytum* crude drugs, but has no trade monitoring system in place for these species. Therefore, no official trade data are available.
4. To implement Decision 11.63, an interview survey among German importers was carried out. Berit Hachfeld was commissioned in January 2002 to carry out this trade review. Seventeen German importers were interviewed and asked to report on their imports for the years 1999, 2000 and 2001. The data were refined during a symposium on Devil's Claw held in Windhoek 26-28 Feb 2002.

**Results**

5. Eight to ten German companies are covering the German *Harpagophytum* imports. Only two companies reported exports from both Namibia and South Africa. All other traders presently import from Namibia only.
6. Fig. 1 shows the imports as stated by German importers from the last three years. Trade is predominantly reported as being direct from Namibia to Germany. Imports from South Africa are few. It must be kept in mind that the South African imports may partly be re-exported material from Namibia or Botswana.

## Conclusion

7. The existing trade information leaves many questions unanswered. More transparency of the trade, its routes and volumes would be desirable for a resource management which aims at long-term sustainable utilization.
8. Germany has, however, no intention to put forward an amendment proposal for *Harpagophytum* species for CoP12.



### Box 1: CoP 11 decisions regarding the biological and trade status of *Harpagophytum* spp. (Devil's Claw)

#### *Decision 11.63*

Directed to the Parties

In the light of increasing international trade in the roots of *Harpagophytum* spp. (devil's claw), the range and importing States should submit to the Secretariat all available information concerning the trade, management and biological status of *Harpagophytum* species and regulatory measures applying to them.

#### *Decision 11.111*

Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall:

- a) review information submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 11.63;
- b) summarize the biological and trade status of *Harpagophytum* species subject to international trade; and
- c) prepare a report on the biological and trade status of *Harpagophytum* species, at least six months before the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, for consideration at that meeting.

