

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of *Euphorbia cremersii* from Appendix II to Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The Republic of Madagascar and the Swiss Confederation.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Magnoliopsida (Dicotylédones)
12. Order: Euphorbiales
13. Family: Euphorbiaceae
14. Species: *Euphorbia cremersii* Rauh & Razafindrazira (1991).
 141. Sub-species: var. *cremersii*
form. *viridiflora* Rauh (1991)

15. Common Names:

16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: Species endemic in the North-West of Madagascar. It is found in the dry forest south of Maevatanana and in the primary forest of Ankarafantsika near the Eaux et Forêts station, on sandy soils. It has also been reported in the Bongolava.
22. Population: Three locations are currently known; two of them were documented as part of CITES project S-52 (Supthut, D & B. von Arx, 1992). The first one was confirmed orally by the Malagasy people (South of Maevatanana). The second was discovered during this mission (Ankarafantsika). On the other hand, the location of Bongolava has not been visited recently. The population of the Ankarafantsika location is locally abundant in the forest, i.e. a maximum of one or two hundred specimens have been observed. The population is healthy and includes many young plants.
23. Habitat: This species occurs on sandy soils, mostly in rather dense undergrowth. Apart from harvesting for commercial purposes, this species is threatened by deforestation and fires which irrevocably destroy its habitat. This species needs the shade provided by the undergrowth; in direct sunlight after the destruction of the forest, it disappears quickly. The population occurring in the Natural Reserve No.7 of Ankarafantsika is protected against fire. But, in spite of the surveillance of the reserve, wild collecting remains a potential threat.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: This species resembles *Euphorbia moratii*, *E. cylindrifolia*, *E. ambovombensis*, and its name is sometimes used to export these Appendix-I species. Small quantities are traded internationally. The plants are collected in the wild and sold after some time in a nursery.

32. Legal International Trade:

321. Wild-taken plants: As this species is included in CITES Appendix II, it is exported in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. The exported specimens are all of wild origin.

Export Statistics of Madagascar: (Madagascar annual report/DS)

Year	1991	1992
France	10	0
Germany	180	100
Japan	20	10
Switzerland	0	1
United Kingdom	100	100
United States of America	0	57
TOTAL	310	258

In view of the small numbers of plants in the wild populations, the exported quantities are of concern and are certainly detrimental to the survival of the species.

WCMC statistics (Annual Reports from Various Parties 1989-1991)

No data available. The species was described in 1991 only.

322. Artificially Propagated Plants: Nil.

33. Illegal Trade: No illegal export has been reported. However, it can be assumed that very similar plants of Appendix-I species (*E. moratii*) are illegally exported under this name.

34. Potential Trade Threats

341. Live Specimens: This species looks very much like *Euphorbia moratii* and is therefore very attractive to collectors, even more so because until recently it was unknown. The export of this species has strongly increased since 1991, the year of its description. There are no truly artificially propagated plants.

342. Parts and Derivatives: The seeds of Appendix II species are not subjected to CITES controls.

4. Protection Status

41. National: The trade in the wild plants listed in the CITES Appendices is prohibited without authorization in Madagascar. A forestry decree (Ord. 75-014) controls the harvest and trade. Artificially propagated plants are not covered by this prohibition.
No sale of this species was observed during the two missions under project S-52 (Suphtut, D & B. von Arx, 1992)
42. International: This plant is currently included in CITES Appendix II.
43. Additional Protection Needs: The creation of protected areas is necessary for the survival of the scarce populations of this species. The inclusion of this species in Appendix I should definitively discourage trade in wild-taken plants. In parallel, it would be desirable to promote the artificial propagation of the species to supply the demand, mainly from abroad.

5. Information on Similar Species

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

The species should normally have been included in Appendix I with all the geophytic *Euphorbia* listed in 1989. However, at that time, *E. cremersii* was not yet described. This proposal is thus an up-dating rather than an entirely new proposal.

7. Additional Remarks

8. References

- Andrianampianina, J. (1987). Statut es parcs et réserves de Madagascar. p. 27-30. IN: Priorités en matière de conservation des espèces à Madagascar. Documents occasionnels de la commission de la sauvegarde des espèces (SSC = . UICN, Gland
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- Mackinnon, J & K. MACKINNON (1987). Etude du réseau des aires protégés du domaine afro-tropical: l'exemplaire malgache, p. 21-26. IN: Priorités en matière de conservation des espèces à Madagascar. Documents occasionnels de la Commission de la sauvegarde des espèces (SSC). UICN, Gland
- Rauh, W. (1991) New and little known Euphorbias from Madagascar. In *Euphorbia Journal* 7:23-27
- Suphtut, D. & B. von ARX (1992). Madagascar 92: Rapport de Mission (Projet CITES S-52, 1ère partie) 50 pp. Non publié.
- WCMC (1991) Review of Significant trade in species of plants listed on Appendix II of CITES (1983-89)

