

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

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

B. PROPONENT

Madagascar and Swiss Confederation

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Magnoliopsida (Dicotyledoneae)
12. Order: Euphorbiales
13. Family: Euphorbiaceae
14. Species: *Euphorbia primulifolia* Baker (1881)
var. *begardii* Cremers (1985)
var. *primulifolia*

141. Synonyms: *E. subapoda* Baillon

15. Common Names:

16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: The species is endemic to Madagascar's High Plateau. It is found primarily in the centre of the country. One of the two subspecies, (*var. primulifolia*), is found farther to the north, while the other, (*var. begardii*), occurs more frequently in the south, particularly in Isalo National Park and on the plateau of the Horombe. The species has a wide range (Supthut, D & B von Arx, 1992).
22. Population: The majority of the localities surveyed support very large populations, involving tens of thousands of plants. The various population levels are high (up to 25 specimens/m²). The species is thus abundant when the substrate is favourable (Supthut, D & B von Arx, 1992).

E. primulifolia var. *primulifolia*

Soamahamanina (NR 1, 65 km west of Tana): very abundant, approx 15-20 specimens/m²
Idem (NR 1, west of Tana): very abundant, up to 25 specimens/m²
Ambatonapoaka (NR 1, west of Tana): fine population, many young plants
Mt Ibity region: abundant, approx 400 m², 4-5 specimens/m²
Mt Ibity, col with Mt Kiboy: large population

E. primulifolia var. *begardii*

Horombe Plateau (NR 13, 65 km south of Ihosy): healthy population, good regeneration
Isalo Massif (NR 7, 98 km southwest of Ihosy): large population
Abundant flowering has been observed on a number of occasions. Moreover, the large number of young plants indicates that the populations are successfully regenerating (undoubtedly as a result of the species' inclusion in Appendix I).
Sustainable exploitation of these populations, primarily through the collection of some of the young plants and seeds, would appear to be acceptable.

23. Habitat: *E. primulifolia* is regularly found on lateritic soil devoid of all vegetation. On granitic peaks, it prefers black earth. Occasionally, particularly in the case of *E. primulifolia* var. *begardii*, the plant finds shelter close to or even under clumps of herbaceous plants. Since the plant spends much of the year underground, it is largely protected from the pressures common in Madagascar, including prairie fires. However, it can be assumed that it can withstand only a moderate amount of trampling. Finally, it should be noted that agricultural or forestry operations constitute the only real threat to this plant. Since this species thrives in sunny locations, plantings of Eucalyptus modify the local conditions, particularly in the undergrowth, and lead to the disappearance of the populations. Elsewhere, the intensive farming (rice) occasionally performed on sites favourable to *E. primulifolia* leaves the soil unsuitable for the development of the species.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: A very limited number of plants of this species are used as ornamentals. No roadside sales of wild specimens were observed in the course of project S-52.
32. Legal International Trade: There has been virtually no further trade in this species in the past two years (1991-1992).

321. Wild Plants

Statistics drawn from Madagascar's annual reports (1991-1992)

6 wild specimens were exported for scientific purposes (herbaria); parts of herbarium mountings were returned to Madagascar.

WCMC statistics, based on annual reports from the various Parties (1989-1990)

	1989	1989	1990	1990
	Import	Export	Import	Export
West Germany	218	301	--	100
United States	--	25	3*	--
United Kingdom	--	2	--	--
Japan	--	25	--	--
Netherlands	2	--	--	--
Reunion	--	3	--	--
Switzerland	--	10	--	--

Exports: reported by Madagascar
Imports: reported by importing country
* confiscated plants

Data prior to transfer to Appendix I (1989) WCMC

	1984	1985	1986	1987
Denmark	--	--	300	--
Japan	110	20	10	--
United Kingdom	--	40	--	--
United States	--	--	50	100

322. Artificially Propagated Plants

Very few plants are artificially propagated (seedlings) at the present time in Madagascar. Propagation, in particular by means of seedlings, is possible, but is relatively slow.

33. Illegal Trade: No illicit exports have been reported recently by either the Malagasy authorities or the importing countries.

34. Potential Trade Threats

341. Live Specimens: Some producers have been successful in propagating *E. primulifolia* artificially in large quantities and relatively rapidly in accordance with Resolution Conf. 8.17 (from seeds). However, to minimize the pressure on wild populations, the circulation of these artificially propagated specimens should be facilitated, in particular by the transfer of the species to Appendix II. It should be noted in passing that artificially propagated plants are readily identifiable and that the species itself is clearly distinguishable from the other geophytic Euphorbias. Effective monitoring and promotion of nursery propagation of the species, particularly in Madagascar, would be desirable as well. At the same time, "bulk exporters" must be severely dealt with. Finally, given the number and size of the wild populations, rational exploitation guaranteeing the continuing maintenance of these populations would appear to be quite feasible. Once again, this obviously implies a good knowledge of the number of plants held in nurseries and strict observance of the export quotas established by the Scientific Authority, as based on accurate field data. Some of these data are already available and could be improved by additional data.

342. Parts and Derivatives: While the seeds of species listed in Appendix I are subject to CITES regulation as well, no information on this species is available. It should be noted that very few Parties control the seeds of Appendix I species. It should also be noted, however, that it is relatively difficult to collect the seeds of *Euphorbia* in the field, since the fruit is very small and releases even smaller seeds. A concerted effort is therefore required. In addition, immature seeds have virtually no ability to germinate. It can thus be assumed that, even if some seeds are collected, enough remain for proper regeneration of the wild population.

4. Protection Status

41. National: Trade in wild plants listed in the Appendices of CITES is prohibited without authorization in Madagascar. A forest decree (Ord 75-014) regulates collection and trade. Artificially propagated plants are not subject to this restriction. As indicated above, these laws appear to have halted roadside sales of wild specimens. It should be noted, however, that most recognized horticulturists rarely comply with this law and collect wild plants for their nurseries without authorization. In the past, after a brief period in these establishments, which often bear little resemblance to horticultural centres, the plants were exported as "artificially propagated" with the support of the authorities. However, this no

longer appears to be case: all exported Appendix II plants are believed to be wild. Monitoring of export quotas may, however, still be required.

42. International: This plant has been listed in Appendix I since 1989; consequently, wild plants cannot be exported. However, this measure also prevents the free movement of artificially propagated plants, which, if promoted, could reduce the pressure on the wild populations.
43. Additional Protection Needs: This species is of potential value for trade and was at one time heavily collected in the wild, resulting in a severe decline in its wild populations. Its transfer to Appendix I virtually eliminated these activities. In this connection, a number of wild populations have shown excellent regeneration (Supthut, D & B von Arx, 1992). Since nurseries are well supplied with parent plants to produce the seeds required for artificial propagation, and artificially propagated specimens are already in circulation, pressures on wild populations are not expected to intensify, particularly if the authorities exercise effective control. On the other hand, rapid changes in the living environment of these species as a result of trampling by livestock, in particular, represent a much more serious threat to these still vigorous wild populations. A number of protected areas should be defined in which grazing would be made very extensive. Similarly, the ability of the species to regenerate under extreme conditions should also be scientifically monitored.

5. Information on Similar Species

This species is quite different from the other representatives of its genus. It cannot be confused with other species.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

This proposal is designed to promote international trade in artificially propagated species, in order to reduce the pressure on wild specimens. Applications for collection and export permits must, of course, be subject to extremely close scrutiny. The number of specimens to be exported each year may also be subject to a maximum quota, based on current and future data. In addition, nursery activities will be subject to systematic monitoring.

7. Additional Remarks

8. References

Jenkins, M D (1990). *Madagascar: profil de l'environnement* [Madagascar: Environmental Profile]. 439 pp. IUCN & WCMC, Gland, Switzerland & Cambridge, United Kingdom.

Supthut, D & B von ARX (1992). *Madagascar 92: Rapport de mission* [Mission Report] (CITES Project S-52, Part 1). 50 pp. Unpublished.

WCMC (1991). *Review of significant trade in species of plants listed on Appendix II of CITES (1983-89)*.

Proposed amendment by the United States of America (1989), "Transfer of *Euphorbia* subgenus *Lacanthis* (and their natural hybrids) from Appendix II to Appendix I".



