

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of *Aloe helenae* and *Aloe suzannae* from Appendix II to Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

Madagascar and Swiss Confederation.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Liliopsida (Monocotyledoneae)
12. Order: Liliales
13. Family: Liliaceae
14. Species: *Aloe helenae* P. Danguy (1929)
Aloe suzannae R. Decary (1921)
15. Common Names:
16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: These two arborescent species are endemic to southern and southwestern Madagascar:
 - *A. helenae* in the Fort Dauphin region, where only 2-3 localities are known,
 - *A. suzannae* in the Amboasary region (south) and near Itampolo (southwest).
22. Population: In both cases, the populations consist of less than a half dozen adult individuals. No regeneration has been observed (Supthut, D & B von Arx, 1992).
23. Habitat: *A. helenae* and *A. suzannae* are found on sandy shores, generally in thorny brush. In some cases, they find shelter on large rocks (*A. suzannae* near Behara) or on exposed ground near lagoons (*A. helenae* near Vinahibe), but these are atypical cases attributable to the destruction of their original natural environment.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: These species are not found in national trade.
32. Legal International Trade
 321. Wild Plants: No known exports. However, the seeds of these species may be available in parts of Europe and in the United States, an unfortunate situation for the wild populations, in view of their small size.

322. Artificially Propagated Plants: Madagascar's nurseries currently hold fewer than half a dozen plants (*A. suzannae*), all produced from wild seed.

34. Potential Trade Threats

341. Live Specimens: Given the extremely distressing situation of these species and their limited numbers, it is essential that all exports be prohibited.

342. Parts and Derivatives: Seeds must remain in the country.

4. Protection Status

41. National: Trade in wild plants listed in the Appendices of CITES is prohibited. A forest decree (Ord 75-014) regulates collection and trade. Artificially propagated plants are not subject to this restriction.

42. International: The taxa have been listed in Appendix II since 1975.

43. Additional Protection Needs: The extremely distressing situation of these two species necessitates rapid and effective reaction on the part of the appropriate authorities. In fact, a project for the collection of seeds, artificial propagation and reintroduction or reinforcement of the existing populations would be advisable. At the present time, these relics are often too isolated to ensure proper pollination and thus regeneration of the population. Similarly, genetic mixing might be considered to avoid genetic degeneration due to the isolation of the populations, which will otherwise lead inevitably to the disappearance of the species.

In addition, protected areas should be created and managed to ensure the long-term conservation of the species, and perhaps in time permit further sustainable commercial exploitation. The forest fires and destruction which are irrevocably altering the last refuges of these species must therefore be halted at once.

5. Information on Similar Species

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

This proposal is designed to alert the authorities and organizations responsible for the protection of Madagascar's wildlife so that effective measures can be taken at once to avoid the extinction of these two species. These pilot projects could then be repeated with other species.

7. Additional Remarks

8. References

Reynolds, GW (1958). Les Aloes de Madagascar [The Aloes of Madagascar]. *Le naturaliste malgache*, vol X (special volume). 156 pp. Institut de recherche scientifique de Madagascar, Tananarive.

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



