

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

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Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Doha (Qatar), 13-25 March 2010

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

A. Proposition

Inclusion of *Zygosicyos tripartitus* in Appendix II.

B. Proponent

Madagascar\*

C. Supporting statement

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Class: Dicotyledons

Subclass: Dilleniidae

1.2 Order: Violales

1.3 Family: Cucurbitaceae

1.4 Genus, species or subspecies, including author and year: *Zygosicyos tripartitus* Humbert 1944.

1.5 Scientific synonyms: ---

1.6 Common names: betoboky

1.7 Code numbers: ---

2. Species characteristics

2.1 Description

Diœcious herbaceous liana with branches growing out of a flattened globular tuber of 10 to 20 cm in diameter. Palmate leaves with thin petioles covered with small straight erect hairs. Solitary greenish-yellow male and female flowers. Obconical fruit. Elliptical seed.

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\* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

## 2.2 Distribution

This species, which is endemic to Madagascar, is found in the Southern Domain (up to Androy in the north) and in the centre: the Upper Mandrare Basin, the Manambolo Valley, the Mandrare Valley and Tranomaro.

Its range is fragmented.

## 2.3 Population

Nine hundred specimens have been counted in the Ambarazy and Andrahomana forests in the Tranomaro rural district.

## 2.4 Habitat

The species grows in dry forests on rocky ground. The plant grows only in relatively intact forests because it needs a lot of shade, and trees for support.

## 2.5 Conservation status

It has been given a "Vulnerable" (**VU**) conservation status based on our field observations in 2006.

## 3. Utilization and trade

### 3.1 National utilization

This species is an ornamental plant.

### 3.2 Legal international trade

The species is exported in the form of seedlings. This species is not subject to CITES regulations.

### 3.3 Potential trade impacts

According to the report by the CITES Management Authority, the number of exported specimens of this species has been increasing continuously. In 2004 and 2005, up to five times more specimens were exported than in 2003 (see table). The number continued to increase in 2006.

Years	2003	2004	2005	2006
CITES report	250	1,523	1,247	1,845

## 4. Protection status

### 4.1 Nationally

The species grows in unprotected areas, subjected to strong anthropogenic pressures.

### 4.2 Internationally

The species is not yet included in CITES Appendix II.

## 5. Comments by the country of origin

The very fragmented and localized range is an important factor behind the disappearance of this species. The species is also trampled on by cattle, which prevents its regeneration.

The inclusion of the species in Appendix II could be one way of controlling international trade.

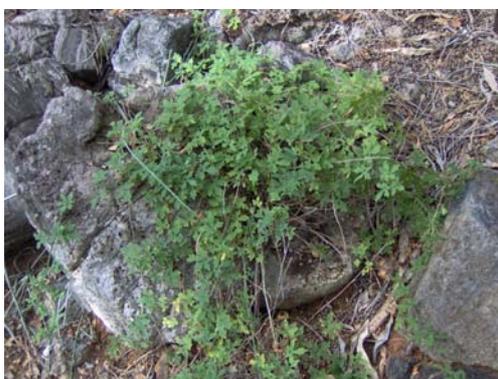
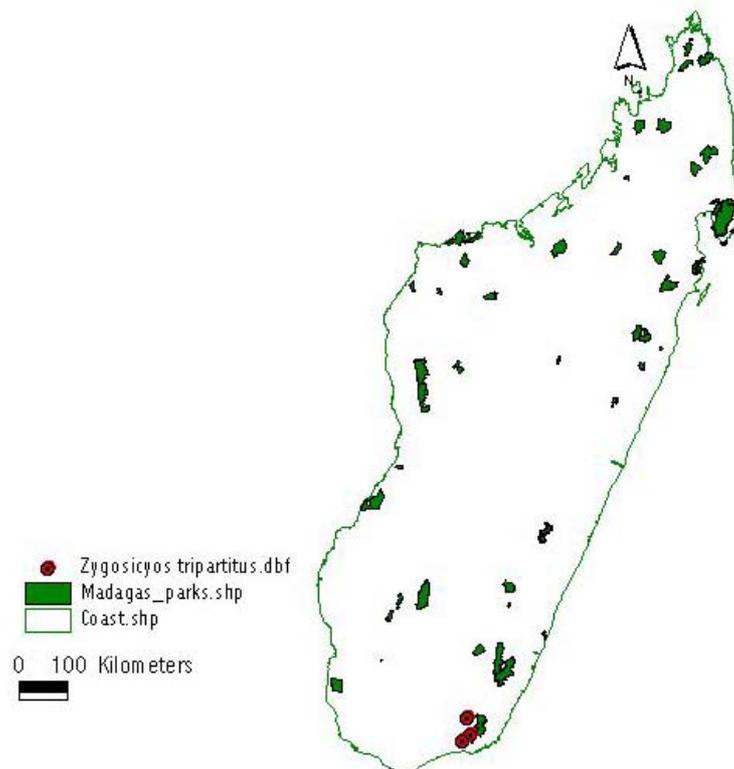
At the same time, the introduction of an artificial propagation programme would be desirable in order to strengthen the wild population.

6. References

MABBERLEY, D. J. 2000. The plant book. A portable dictionary of the vascular plants. Second EDITION. 858 p.

RAKOUTH, B. RAVAOMANALINA, H. RAKOTONAVALONA, A. 2007. Etude biogéographique et bioécologique de quelques espèces menacées dans le Sud de Madagascar dans le cadre de la CITES pour l'année 2006. Rapport final. Conservation International Madagascar.

**Map:** Geographical distribution of *Zygosicyos tripartitus*



**Photo 1:** *Zygosicyos tripartitus*, whole plant



**Photo 2:** *Zygosicyos tripartitus*, exportable size