

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



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. Proposal

Inclusion of *Cyphostemma laza* in Appendix II.

B. Proponent

Madagascar*

C. Supporting statement

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Class: Dicotyledons

Subclass: Rosidea

1.2 Order: Rhamnales

1.3 Family: Vitaceae

1.4 Genus, species or subspecies, including author and year: *Cyphostemma laza* Descoings, 1931.

1.5 Scientific synonyms: ---

1.6 Common names: laza, lazambohitra

1.7 Code numbers: ---

2. Species characteristics

2.1 Description

The plant has an elongated conical trunk which can reach 1 to 2 m in height; climbing stems with thick bark, with numerous, very prominent, elongated brown lenticels; numerous, compound, odd-pinnate, strong, cylindrical leaves with oval stipules; pubescent flowers; fruit: ovoid, red to reddish-brown at maturity; ovoid seeds.

* *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 two regions of the Island: in the north (Antsiranana) and in the south (Toliara).

2.3 Population

About 250 plants have been counted in the Andoharano forest north of Toliara, in the Tongobory forest in Betioky and in the Elomaka forest in Amboasary Sud (collection areas).

2.4 Habitat

This species grows in forest remnants on rocky ground or in low deciduous forests on red sand or in xerophytic thickets dominated by *Alluaudia*, as well as in degraded forests with Euphorbia and Leguminosae. Its area of distribution is threatened by anthropogenic pressures.

2.5 Conservation measures

It has been given a “Vulnerable” (VU) conservation status in accordance with the IUCN threat evaluation criteria (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. It is not yet listed in CITES Appendices, so it is not subject to any regulations.

3.3 Potential trade impacts

According to the existing data, the number of plants intended for international trade has been increasing continuously since the year 2003.

Years	2003	2004	2005	2006
CITES report	419	1 177	2 487	7 814

The uncontrolled, large-scale exploitation of the species for international trade poses long-term threats to this species.

4. Protection status

4.1 Nationally

Almost all specimens of this species grow in unprotected areas which are subjected to strong anthropogenic pressures such as fire and the extraction of building stones.

4.2 Internationally

The species is not yet included in CITES Appendix II.

5. Comments by the country of origin

This proposal aims to protect the remaining wild populations of this species by making its exploitation and export the subject of an international regulation.

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. 2006. Etude biogéographique et bioécologique de quelques espèces menacées dans le Sud de Madagascar dans le cadre de la CITES pour l'année 2005. Rapport final. Conservation International Madagascar.

Map: Distribution of *Cyphostemma laza*

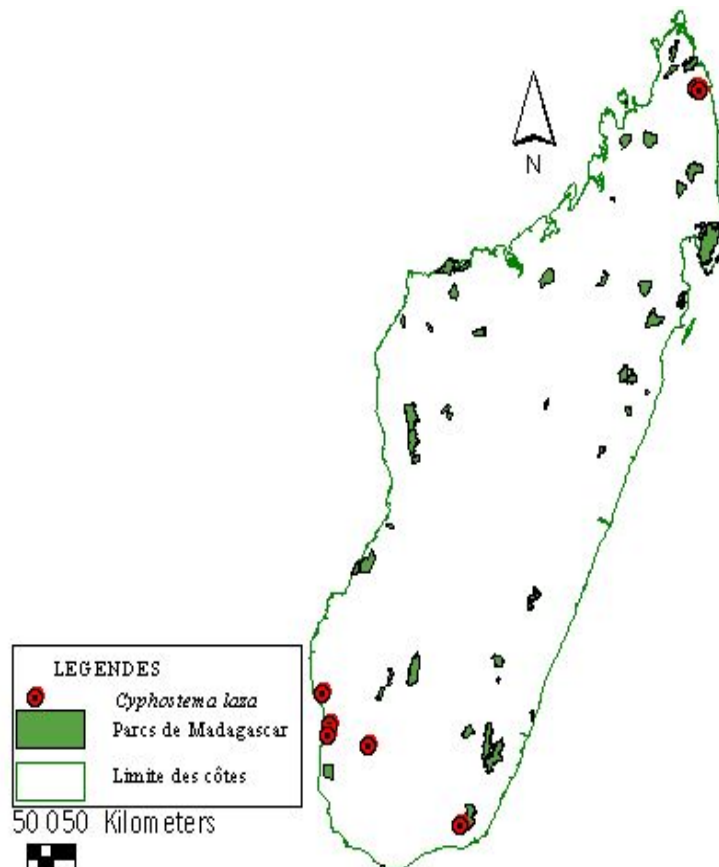




Photo 1: *Cyphostemma laza*, adult specimen



Photo 2: *Cyphostemma laza* in fruit