AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Ten-Year Review Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Deletion of Caryocar costaricense from Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The United States of America.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Magnoliopsida (Dicotyledonae)

12. Order: Theales

13. Family: Caryocaraceae

14. Species: Caryocar costaricense Donn. Smith 1913

15. Common Names: English:
French:
Spanish: Ajo, Ají, Ajillo, Caballo-kup, Manu, Plomillo

16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: This tree used to be considered an endemic of Costa Rica (Prance and da Silva, 1973), where it has been collected from the province of Puntarenas: Golfo Dulce region, hills above Palmar Norte, Esquinas Forest, Río del Volcán, Valle Diquís. However, it was later reported from Panama (Prance, 1976), where it has been collected from the mountains above Puerto Obaldía (San Blas). Thus its known range now extends to eastern Panama. Holdridge and Poveda (1975) comment that the Caryocar in the Chocó of Colombia appears to be the same species, but this may have been identified as C. amygdaliferum Mutis by Prance (1976).

22. Population: Allen (1956) stated that C. costaricense was very common in hillside forests throughout the Golfo Dulce area. Hartshorn and Poveda (1983) consider it frequent in Corcovado National Park, Costa Rica. Little regeneration of the species has been seen in mature forest in the park, and virtually nothing is know about its ecology (Hartshorn, 1983). Dr. W. Burger (in litt. to B. MacBryde, 20/06/75) considered the species poorly known rather than selectively endangered by trade, because 50 m tall trees are seldom collected scientifically; Prance (1976) had not seen a fruit collection of it. Dr. Burger speculated that the species might be endangered by habitat loss, including the lack of sufficient forest for reproduction of a possibly widely dispersed species (Burger in litt. to MacBryde, 26/06/75).

23. Habitat: It is a species of lower montane forests and tropical wet forests, to at least 1370 m. In Corcovado National Park, it occurs in a wide variety of habitats: freshwater swamps, alluvium, plateau, and ridges (Hartshorn, 1983).

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: The wood is moderately hard and heavy, and has been used for railroad crossties, house posts, framing, mill-foundation timbers, and general heavy construction. It has a local reputation of great durability in contact with the ground (Allen, 1956; Hartshorn, 1983).

32. Legal International Trade: No evidence (Oldfield, 1988). According to the Costa Rican Dirección General Forestal [in litt. to IUCN Threatened Plants Unit (TPU), 1980], there is no trade from Costa Rica in this species.

33. Illegal Trade: None known.

34. Potential Trade Threats: Unknown. There had been timbering in the area now conserved as Corcovado National Park, which is most accessible by sea (IUCN, 1989).

4. Protection Status

41. National: An interdepartmental Commission was set up to analyze the situation for this and other native species regulated by CITES, together with other potentially threatened species in Costa Rica (Costa Rican Dirección General Forestal in litt. to TPU, 1980).

42. International: Unknown. Resolution Conf. 2.19 does not appear to support the CITES listing of this species in Appendix I, considering its expanded range, ecological amplitude, relative abundance in known populations, and the apparent lack of international trade interest in it.

43. Additional Protection Needs: Unknown. The species is not one of the plants Costa Rica included in the Annex to the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere [OEA/Ser.A/74a (SEPF); cf. Prance and Elias, 1977]. Panama is also a Party to the Western Hemisphere Convention, but has not listed plants.

5. Information on Similar Species

Caryocar includes 15 species ranging from Costa Rica to southern Brazil and Paraguay; it is most abundant in the Guianas and Amazonia (Prance, 1976). The genus is predominantly lowland, with one species in forested uplands of Venezuela.

Closely related to C. costaricense is C. amygdaliferum of Colombia and Panama. The wood of that species is used as a commercial timber in Colombia, and the fruit as a fish poison. Several species' timber may be used for ship-building, and/or have edible fruits, and/or have seeds used as an oil source (Mabberley, 1987).

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

None; to be sought.

7. Additional Remarks

Resolution Conf. 4.26 encourages completion of the 10-year review.

8. References

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