

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

A. Proposal

Transfer of *Dypsis decipiens* from Appendix II to Appendix I*.

B. Proponent

Madagascar.

C. Supporting statement1. Taxonomy

1.1 Class: Liliopsida

Sub-class: Arecidae

1.2 Order: Arecales

1.3 Family: Arecaceae (Palmae)

Sub-family: Arecoideae

1.4 Species: *Dypsis decipiens* Beentje and Dransfield (1995)

1.5 Scientific synonyms: Later named *Chrysalidocarpus decipiens* by Beccari in 1906 and then changed by that same author to *Macrophloga decipiens* in 1914.

1.6 Common names: English:
French:
Spanish:
Betsileo: Siharaleibe
Imerina: Betefaka, Manambe

1.7 Code numbers: ---

2. Biological parameters

2.1 Distribution

Endemic to Madagascar, this species is found in the central part of the island between Ankazobe and Fianarantsoa (Dransfield and Beentje, 1995). These regions are the most densely populated areas of Madagascar.

2.2 Population

Approximately 200 trees were recorded in nature by Dransfield and Beentje in 1995.

2.3 Habitat availability

This species grows along streams or in rocky areas in relic plateau forests (Dransfield and Beentje, 1995). Its habitat is very threatened by annual forest fires and human activities.

* Note from the Secretariat: according to the standard nomenclature adopted by the Conference of the Parties, the correct name for this species is *Chrysalidocarpus decipiens*.

2.4 Conservation measures

This species is classified as endangered by IUCN.

3. Utilization and trade

3.1 National utilization

The terminal bud is harvested for food (heart of palm), which kills the tree. The leaves are used to combat erosion in the region of Betsileo.

3.2 Legal international trade

This species is exported in the form of seeds or seedlings. Because this species is listed in CITES Appendix II, its seeds are not subject to CITES regulations. No statistical data are available from the Madagascar authorities concerning exports or countries of destination.

3.3 Actual or potential trade impacts

The number of trees in the natural environment is already low, and adult trees do not necessarily produce fruit every year. In addition to local use, which is very destructive, the plant grows very slowly, and regeneration is rather difficult in rocky areas. Because the harvesting and export of seeds have not been subject to regulation until now, collectors tend to collect all the seeds they find without leaving any seeds for natural regeneration. Exports could lead to an absence of natural regeneration and the decline or even the disappearance of natural populations, which is a short-term threat to this species.

4. Conservation and management

4.1 National

This species grows in non-protected areas subject to heavy human pressure.

4.2 International

This species has been listed in CITES Appendix II since 1975 under the name *Chrysalidocarpus decipiens*.

5. Comments from the country of origin

The limited number of wild populations indicates that the species is becoming extinct. As a protection measure, it is suggested that all gathering in the natural environment be prohibited. Even sustainable exploitation seems to be impossible given existing threats. At the same time, implementation of a programme of artificial reproduction would be desirable in order to reinforce the wild population.

6. References

Dransfield, J. and Beentje, H., 1995. *The Palms of Madagascar*. Royal Botanical Garden, Kew and the International Palm Society. HMSO Norwich Print Services, Kew (175 pp.).

CITES, 2000. *Rapport annuel Année 2000*, CITES. CITES Management Authority for Madagascar, Antananarivo.

CITES, 2001. *Rapport annuel Année 2001*, CITES. CITES Management Authority for Madagascar, Antananarivo.

IUCN, 2000. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.