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 the seeds of *Beccariophoenix madagascariensis* in Appendix II.

B. Proponent

Madagascar*

C. Supporting statement

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Class: Liliopsida

Subclass: Arecidae

1.2 Order: Arecales

1.3 Family: Arecaceae

Subfamily: Arecoideae

1.4 Genus, species or subspecies, including author and year: *Beccariophoenix madagascariensis* Jum. H. Perrier (1915).

1.5 Scientific synonyms: ---

1.6 Common names: Maroala, Manarano (Betsimisaraka) / Sikomba (Antanosy)

1.7 Code numbers: ---

2. Species characteristics

2.1 Description

The tree can reach 12 m in height and 25 to 30 cm in diameter; the leaves are 6 to 8 m long; small, yellow unisexual flowers; fruit: blackish purple drupes at maturity.

Ovoid **seeds** (1 seed per fruit), brown in colour, contain numerous raphides.

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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 eastern regions of the island (Eastern Domain): Ranomafana Est, Andasibe Mantadia, Vondrozo, Sainte Luce and Mandena, Fort Dauphin. These regions of Madagascar are affected the most by *tavy*.

2.3 Population

Only three subpopulations have been found in the wild; 16 adult specimens were found in Saint Luce.

Its distribution is very fragmented, with only about 10 adult plants found on average on other sites.

2.4 Habitat

The species grows in coastal forests and lowland dense humid forests, on white sand, at an annual temperature of 23.35° C, with an annual rainfall of 1680 mm. Its area of distribution is threatened by annual bush fires (*tavy*).

2.5 Conservation measures

The species is in the “Critically Endangered” (**CR**) category of the Red List (2005).

3. Utilization and trade

3.1 National utilization

Adult specimens are cut down in order to collect the terminal bud (palm cabbage). The species is widely used as an ornamental plant.

3.2 Legal international trade

The species is exported in the form of seeds or seedlings. It is included in CITES Appendix II but its seeds are not yet subject to CITES regulations.

3.3 Potential trade impacts

There are already very few plants in the wild. Since the collection and export of seeds are so far not subject to any regulations, collectors tend to collect everything they find without leaving any seeds on the ground. Therefore, exploitation could lead to the decline and disappearance of populations in the wild, which would, in the short term, pose a serious threat to the species.

Years	2003	2004	2005	2006
CITES report	-	-	200 (number of seeds) 2 kg (seeds)	3 (seedlings)

4. Protection status

4.1 Nationally

The species grows in areas subjected to strong anthropogenic pressures. Some specimens of this species grow in the Andasibe-Mantadia National Park.

4.2 Internationally

The species is already included in CITES Appendix II.

5. Comments by the country of origin

The limited number of wild populations indicates that the species is endangered. This proposal seeks to regulate the collection of seeds in the wild with a view to protecting the species. At the same time, the introduction of artificial propagation and the reinforcement of *ex situ* and *in situ* management activities for this species would be desirable in order to strengthen the wild population.

6. References

DRANSFIELD, J. & BEENTJE, H., 1995. The palms of Madagascar. Royal botanical Garden, Kew and the International Palm Society. HMSO Norwich print services, Kew, 175p.

RAKOTOARINIVO, M., 2005. Etude démographique de Beccariophoenix madagascariensis Jum. Et H. Perrier (Palmae) à Sainte Luce (Fort Dauphin) en vue de la conservation de l'espèce. Mémoire de DEA, option Ecologie Végétale. Faculté des Sciences. Université d'Antananarivo. 88p.

Map: Geographical distribution of *Beccariophoenix madagascariensis*

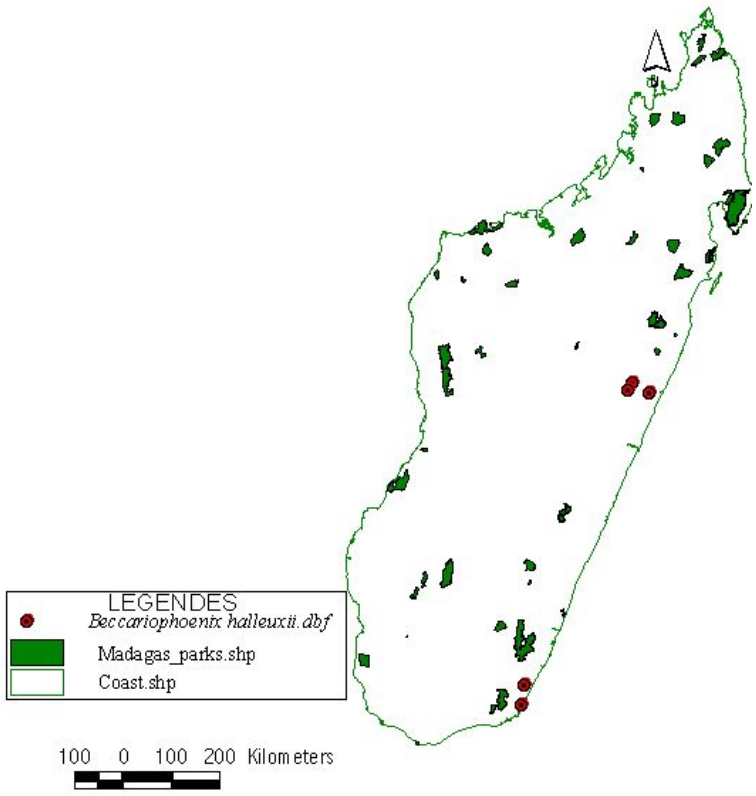

Photo 1: Seeds of *Beccariophoenix madagascariensis* in Vohimana (c.a. 2,5 cm in diameter)

Photo 2: *Beccariophoenix madagascariensis,* adult specimen in Vohimana