

Inclusion of *Zygosicyos tripartus* in Appendix II

Proponent: Madagascar

Summary: *Zygosicyos tripartus* is a succulent plant from Madagascar in the gourd family or Cucurbitaceae. It has a swollen, tuber-like stem or caudex up to 30 cm in diameter from which extend vine-like branches that may reach five metres in length. The plant has a relatively wide distribution in central and southern Madagascar, extending over several thousand square kilometres, and appears to be at least locally numerous, although apparently only occurs in relatively intact forest. The area in which it occurs is affected by a range of factors, including forest clearance for agriculture, overgrazing, fuelwood collection and manufacture of charcoal. It is not known to what extent the species is affected by these. The species is not known to be used locally. It is in some demand internationally as a horticultural plant, grown chiefly by specialist collectors of succulents. The CITES Management Authority of Madagascar records the export of some 5000 specimens in the period 2003–2006. It may be assumed that some or all of these were wild-collected plants. The species has been offered for sale recently in Europe and the USA at moderate prices (EUR30–70, USD150).

Analysis: *Zygosicyos tripartus* is a relatively widespread and at least locally abundant plant in central and southern Madagascar. If local population estimates are at all representative of its range as a whole, the species is likely to have a substantial wild population. The species is in demand in the international horticultural trade and has been recorded as exported in moderate quantities from Madagascar in recent years. Much or all of this export is likely to have been in the form of wild-collected plants. There is no information on the impact of collection for export on wild populations. Collection to meet current levels of export may possibly be leading to local depletion, but it seems unlikely that regulation is required to prevent the species becoming eligible for inclusion in Appendix I in the near future, or to prevent harvest for trade reducing the overall population to a level at which its survival might become threatened by continued harvest or other influences.

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
<p>Madagascar</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> <u>Taxonomy</u> <u>Range</u> <u>IUCN Global Category</u> <i>Not assessed</i> </p>

Supporting Statement (SS)	Additional information
Biological and trade criteria for inclusion in Appendix II (<i>Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14) Annex 2 a</i>)	
<u>A) Trade regulation needed to prevent future inclusion in Appendix I</u>	
<p>Has a fragmented distribution in southern and central Madagascar. Known from the upper basin of the Mandrare, the Manambolo valley and Tranomaro. 900 individuals were counted in the Ambarazy and Andrahomana forests in the Tranomaro commune.</p> <p>Grows on rocky ground in dry forests and is only found in relatively intact forest. It grows in unprotected areas, subject to strong pressures.</p> <p>Based on field work in 2006, the species was regarded as meeting the criteria for "vulnerable" under the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria.</p> <p>Recorded exports are 250 in 2003; 1523 in 2004; 1247 in 2005; 1845 in 2006.</p>	<p><i>Records in the GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility) database are from numerous sites in an area of around 4000 km² in south-eastern Madagascar (GBIF, 2010). It is not known what proportion of the range of the species this comprises.</i></p>
<u>B) Regulation of trade required to ensure that harvest from the wild is not reducing population to level where survival might be threatened by continued harvest or other influences</u>	
	<p><i>No local use of the species is known.</i></p>
Inclusion in Appendix II to improve control of other listed species	
<u>A) Specimens in trade resemble those of species listed in Appendix II under <i>Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14) Annex 2 a</i> or listed in Appendix I</u>	
<u>B) Compelling other reasons to ensure that effective control of trade in currently listed species is achieved</u>	
Other information	

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Threats

Natural habitats in Madagascar are affected by fire, charcoal and fuelwood extraction, over-grazing and conversion to agriculture. It is not known to what extent these affect this species.

Conservation, management and legislation**Captive breeding/artificial propagation**

The species may be propagated by seeds or by cuttings (Bihrmann, undated).

Other comments**Reviewers:**

TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa

References:

Bihrmann (undated). <http://www.bihrmann.com/caudiciforms/subs/zyg-tri-sub.asp>

GBIF (2010). Locality data for *Zygyosicyos tripartus*. <http://data.gbif.org/species/>. Viewed 1 January 2010.