

CoP17 Prop. 61. [South Africa] Inclusion of Natal Ginger *Siphonochilus aethiopicus* (populations of Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe) in Appendix II

Although Natal Ginger *Siphonochilus aethiopicus* has a large historical distribution range across tropical and sub-tropical Africa, some populations are declining under pressure of trade for mainly traditional medicinal use. With populations under pressure in South Africa, stocks in neighbouring countries have been accessed for export mainly to South Africa but also to other regional neighbours.

The trade has been poorly documented, mainly because it is used for informal local and regional medicinal use rather than overtly for international commercial trade. The species is listed as endangered in the South African Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) Regulation list. Permits are required for harvesting, possession and trade thus providing local protection.

It is unclear if the species meets the criteria for listing in the Appendices. However, it does appear that monitoring of populations and regulation of cross-border trade is required. Inclusion in the Appendices will provide conservation benefit to the species, allowing South Africa and its neighbours to co-operate more closely in regulating the trade and enforcing management measures. It should be noted that this proposal is limited to *S. aethiopicus* populations in Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

Cross-border trade has not thus far been controlled and is likely to pose a significant challenge: it may be necessary for inspectors to be provided with identification materials to assist with monitoring and regulation.

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