



To Proposal 17.58

Thank you Madame Chair.

The baobab, or “tree of life“, is the greatest succulent plant in the world. The US and European markets for fruit derivatives is heavily expanding owing to its characteristics as a “super-food”. Powder made from the fruits is traded as a weight-loss miracle drug. It actually has positive effects on intestinal health and antipyretic properties.

Because of massive human interference in the trees’ ecosystem through excessive removal of fruits, seeds and young plants, a significant increase in the average age of baobab populations can be observed. Given that the international demand for baobab products will increase, a placement under full protection through CITES for this small range endemic species of *A. grandidieri* is vitally necessary. IUCN also classifies this species as “endangered”.

So we have a win win situation:

- 1.) First for the tree
- 2.) Second for the people in Madagascar and
- 3.) Third for the control by the Authorities from Madagascar.

So DCSP recommends a strongly support

Excerpt from the Summary record of the
ninth session of Committee I
29 September 2016: 14h00 - 17h40
Chair: K.Gaynor (Ireland)

Proposal CoP17 Prop. 56 to include *Guibourtia tessmannii*, *G. pellegriniana* and *G. demeusei* in Appendix II was introduced by Gabon and the European Union, adding that subsequent to the recommendation to accept CoP17 Prop. 55 in the previous session, they now proposed using the annotation agreed for that proposal here.

Brazil, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Senegal, the United States of America, the **Documentation Centre for Species Protection** and the Species Survival Network supported the proposal.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo welcomed the proposal, but noted that *Guibourtia demeusei* was widely distributed in their country and also subject to a national moratorium on logging. They asked that the proposal be amended to remove *G. demeusei*. The European Union and Gabon replied that it was difficult to distinguish the three species in trade and they therefore considered that *G. demeusei* qualified for inclusion in Appendix II for look-alike reasons under Criterion A of Annex 2b of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16) on Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II. Proposal CoP17 Prop. 56 to include *Guibourtia teesmanni*, *G. pellegriniana* and *G. demeusei* in Appendix II, with the annotation previously accepted for proposal CoP17 Prop. 55, was accepted.



Thank you Madame Chair.