

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF
WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Amendments to Appendices I and II of CITES

13th Meeting of the Conferences of the Parties
Bangkok, Thailand, October 2-14, 2004

A. Proposal

To annotate Euphorbiaceae in Appendix II to exclude artificially propagated specimens of cultivars of *Euphorbia milii* are not subject to the provisions of the Convention

The annotation to specifically read as following:-

“The artificially propagated specimens of cultivars of *Euphorbia milii* are not subject to the provisions of the Convention when they are:

(a) traded in shipments 100 or more plants;

(b) readily recognizable as artificially propagated specimens.”

B. Proponent

Thailand.

C. Supporting Statement

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Class : Dicotyledonae

1.2 Order: Euphorbiales

1.3 Family: Euphorbiaceae

Genera: *Euphorbia* L.

Species: *Euphorbia milii* Des Moul.

1.4 Scientific synonyms:

Euphorbia bojeri Hook.,

1.5 Common names: Crown of Thorns, Christ plants.

1.6 Code numbers: -

2. Biological Parameters

2.1 Distribution

Endemic to Madagascar.

2.2 Habitat availability

This species confined to Madagascar where it grows in an arid area.

2.3 Population status

Not applicable.

2.4 Population trends

Not applicable.

2.5 Geographic trends

Not applicable.

3. Utilization and Trade

3.1 National Utilization

Crown of Thorns is a common species of Euphorbiaceae. There are a large number of cultivars of *Euphorbia milii*, mostly of artificial intraspecific origin. Most cultivars of horticultural interest involve crosses between *E. milii* selected clone. More than two thousand different cultivars have been developed in Thailand, the common name is called in Thai “Poy Sean” (Chinese for eight saints), is known as a lucky-symbol plant. There is no recorded when the first plant of crown of thorns was introduced to this country, however it's believed that Chinese first brought the plant to Thailand and planted as a pot plant. Later on they are commonly cultivated throughout Thailand. For the past 20-30 years growers in Thailand have developed an array of variety with much larger flowers (the cyathophylls) than found in previous cultivars and many type of colour combinations.

3.2 Legal international trade

It is traded as young rooted cuttings with/without flowers. Thailand export of artificially propagated *Euphorbia milii* (cultivars) recorded 255,679 plants in 2001 and more than 783,319 plants in 2002 to different 36 countries.

3.3 Illegal trade

3.3.1 National illegal trade

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3.3.2 International illegal trade

International illegal trade in specimens of cultivars of *Euphorbia milii* (artificially propagated) occurring in small number, mostly tourist who is unaware of CITES documentation.

3.4 Actual or potential trade impacts

Exempting of the artificially propagated specimens of cultivars of *Euphorbia milii* may be affected to the wild population if they are in wild collected specimens. However wild collected specimens which generally exhibit characteristics of wild origin, specific descriptor and wild population distribution only in Madagascar. So far the cultivated species shall not assume that not a threatened species. Any failed in implementation on this species, could be accompanied with original range state permit.

3.5 Captive breeding or artificial propagation for commercial purposes (outside country of origin)

Crown of thorns; there are several methods of artificial propagation plants. Most popular and widely used among the plant growers are; stem cutting, grafting and seeding. They are quite easy to artificial propagation and trade in worldwide.

4. Conservation and management

4.1 Legal status

4.1.1 National

Trade control and harvested of wild-collected subject to legal control at the national level of the original range state to effect the protection of species.

4.1.2 International

Since, Euphorbiaceae spp. (succulent species only) was included in Appendices; except the artificially propagated specimens of cultivars of *Euphorbia trigona* and annotation with # 1 are not subject to the provisions of the Convention.

4.2 Species management

4.2.1 Population monitoring

Not applicable.

4.2.2 Habitat conservation

Not applicable.

4.2.3 Management measures

Not applicable.

4.3 Control measures

4.3.1 International trade

The artificially propagated specimens of cultivars of *Euphorbia milii* are subject to distinguished from the exhibit characteristics from wild origin, specimens should be; (a) artificially propagated (b) cultivated varieties (c) labeled (d) specimens from range state of wild original species subject to control by permits.

4.3.2 Domestic measures

Not relevant for this proposal.

5. Information on similar species

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6. Other comments

This species which large quantity in trade and common in cultivated area; should be exemption to the Convention.

7. Additional remarks

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8. References

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- Mabberley, D.J. 1993. *The Plant-Book*. A portable dictionary of the higher plants. Cambridge University Press. Great Britain; 707pp.
- Thitiprasert, W. and all. 2002. Annual Report 2001. Plant Varieties Protection Office, Department of Agriculture, Chatu Chak, Bangkok; 79 pp.
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- Crown of Thorns in Thailand on website <http://aggie.kps.ku.ac.th/ag-ext/crnthorn/index1/index2.htm>
- www.cites.org