



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Washington, D.C. 20240



March 29, 2006

In Reply Refer To:  
FWS/DMA PLA 7-17

Dear U.S. Importer / Exporter / Re-exporter of specimens, parts, and/or products of *Hoodia* spp.:

This letter is addressed to possible U.S. importers, exporters, and re-exporters of specimens, parts, and/or products of *Hoodia* spp. We are posting this letter on our Website at <http://www.fws.gov/international/> and <http://www.fws.gov/international/cites/cites.html>. We have also provided a copy of the letter to the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA) for posting on their Website. Please be informed that, effective January 12, 2005, all species of *Hoodia* were listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This listing was adopted by the CITES Party nations at the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP13), which was held in October 2004. The listing covers live and dead plant specimens of *Hoodia* spp., as well as all parts and products. It should be noted that the *Hoodia* Appendix-II listing includes the following annotation:

*'Designates all parts and products except those bearing the label: "Produced from Hoodia spp. material obtained through controlled harvesting and production in collaboration with the CITES Management Authorities of Botswana/Namibia/South Africa under agreement no. BW/NA/ZA xxxxxx".'*

However, the CITES Secretariat recently informed us that Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa have not concluded the agreement referenced in the annotation. Until such an agreement is reached, the exemption referenced in the annotation does not apply and may not be used for *Hoodia* spp. in international trade. Currently, in each case where a shipment of *Hoodia* spp. specimens, parts, or products is traded internationally, the shipment must be accompanied by a CITES document. Domestic sales and purchases (commercial transactions within the United States) of *Hoodia* spp. are not affected by the Appendix-II listing.

## **Imports of *Hoodia* spp. into the United States**

In order for a shipment of *Hoodia* spp. specimens, parts, or products to be legally imported into the United States, it must be accompanied by a CITES Appendix-II permit or certificate issued by the CITES Management Authority in the exporting country, or in the case of a re-export to the United States, by the CITES Management Authority in the re-exporting country. This is true regardless of whether the exporting or re-exporting country is in the native range of the *Hoodia* spp. or not. It is also true regardless of whether the *Hoodia* spp. is from wild origin or artificially propagated (cultivated). Shipments of *Hoodia* spp. specimens, parts, or products to be imported into the United States must go through a U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) designated port for plants. For shipments of parts or



products, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will inspect and clear the shipments prior to their entering the country. For shipments of live specimens, APHIS inspects and clears the shipments. Please note that the mailing addresses, telephone numbers, fax numbers, and Email addresses of the Management Authorities of the 169 CITES Party countries, as well as those of the authorities in the non-Party countries that are competent to issue CITES comparable documents, are available on the CITES Secretariat's Website at [http://www.cites.org/common/directy/e\\_directy.html](http://www.cites.org/common/directy/e_directy.html).

### **Exports and re-exports of *Hoodia* spp. from the United States**

In order for a shipment of *Hoodia* spp. specimens, parts, or products to be legally exported or re-exported from the United States, it must be accompanied by a U.S. CITES Appendix-II permit or certificate issued by this office, the U.S. CITES Management Authority. To export naturalized wild *Hoodia* spp. from the United States, the exporter must first obtain a U.S. CITES Export Permit issued by this office; to export artificially propagated *Hoodia* spp. from the United States, the exporter must first obtain a U.S. CITES Certificate of Artificial Propagation issued by this office; and to re-export wild or artificially propagated *Hoodia* spp. from the United States, the exporter must first obtain a U.S. CITES Re-export Certificate issued by this office. You may download the applications forms for U.S. CITES permits and certificates from our Website at: <http://www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-32.pdf>. Shipments of *Hoodia* spp. specimens, parts, or products to be exported or re-exported from the United States must go through an APHIS designated port for plants and be inspected and cleared by APHIS.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that the United States is properly implementing this CITES listing. When we learn that Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa have reached the agreement cited in the *Hoodia* spp. annotation (see above), we will inform you of such. We are in the process of developing a Medicinal Plants Web page, which will include useful information about international trade in *Hoodia* spp. and other CITES-listed medicinal plant species. Please watch for the new Web page in the coming weeks at: <http://www.fws.gov/international>.

If you have any questions, please contact us at: tel: 703-358-2095, fax: 703-358-2298, or Email: [managementauthority@fws.gov](mailto:managementauthority@fws.gov). If you have specific questions about APHIS designated ports for *Hoodia* spp., or other *Hoodia* spp. enforcement matters, please contact Mr. Mark Thurmond, with APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine, at: tel: 301-734-8891, fax: 301-734-5276, or Email: [mark.thurmond@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:mark.thurmond@aphis.usda.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/ Peter O. Thomas

Peter O. Thomas, Chief  
Division of Management Authority

cc: American Herbal Products Association

cc: CITES Secretariat  
CITES Management Authority of Botswana  
CITES Management Authority of Namibia  
CITES Management Authority of South Africa  
CITES Management Authority of Zimbabwe  
CITES Management Authority of Australia  
CITES Management Authority of Germany