

SUCCESSING WITH CITES

sustainable and equitable Jatamansi trade from Nepal

TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network



ANSAB
Rich Biodiversity and
Prosperous Communities



IN CONTEXT:

PROJECT SUMMARY

Succeeding with CITES: Sustainable and equitable Jatamansi trade from Nepal (Jumla and Mugu districts)

Wild-harvested medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) underpin Nepal's traditional medicine systems and provide a critical source of income for low income rural communities of high mountain regions of Nepal . Over 300,000 Nepali households commercially harvest and

trade MAPs, with Jatamansi *Nardostachys grandiflora* harvested from Jumla and Mugu districts, consistently ranking as one of Nepal's most commercially valuable and heavily exploited species.

ABOUT THE JATAMANSI TRADE

over **300K households**
in Nepal harvest and trade in MAPs

between 100 and **500 tonnes**
of Jatamansi rhizomes are traded annually

Jatamansi harvest benefits **15,000 people**
with an average 25% of their yearly income

Between 100-500 tonnes of Jatamansi rhizomes are traded annually for medicinal and cosmetic use. The harvest of Jatamansi in nine districts provides at least 15,000 people with an average of 25% of their annual income. However, local income is potentially held back by low rates of value addition, a lack of direct access to international markets, and undercutting by largescale illegal export of rhizomes to India.

Jatamansi populations are declining owing to overharvesting for export and habitat loss, putting both species and livelihoods at risk.



CHALLENGES AND THE NEED FOR ACTION

Concern regarding Jatamansi declines led to the species' inclusion in CITES Appendix II and IUCN classification as Threatened. Nepal's Government has adopted various harvest and trade controls, including a ban on exports of unprocessed rhizomes. In 2017, the Government adopted an Act aimed at strengthening CITES implementation that unintentionally banned exports of all Appendix II listed species, including Jatamansi.

There are currently few economic incentives for sustainable sourcing, equitable benefit sharing, or CITES compliance. Although demand and price premiums for materials meeting sustainability, legality, and social criteria are growing, manufacturers marketing sustainable products frequently misunderstand CITES requirements and perceive CITES species as risky.

We are working with the Nepalese Government in operationalising CITES trade controls for MAPs, as well as providing training on production quality, value-addition, and the FairWild Standard to 2,000 Jatamansi harvesters, helping to simultaneously protect wild ecosystems, and improve local livelihoods from wild collection activities.



in June 1997, Jatamansi was included in CITES

Appendix II

project actions are responding to industry commitments to full

**sustainability
+ traceability**



FairWild

is a sustainability framework for the collection and trade in wild collected plants

ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS

This project will deliver positive conservation and management outcomes for Jatamansi and the alpine ecosystems in which the species occurs, positive livelihood outcomes for wild-harvesters, and improved product quality and profitability for producer enterprises in the short-term.

It will provide mechanisms for replicating project outcomes, supporting more sustainable and equitable trade in Jatamansi and other CITES-listed species and associated ecosystem conservation as well as livelihood outcomes in the long-term. Beneficiaries include: MAPs harvesters, producer enterprises, traders and manufacturers, government agencies, and consumers.

Partnership

The *Succeeding with CITES* project is implemented by: TRAFFIC, ANSAB, the Ministry of Forests and Environment of Nepal, the ProFound – Advisers in Development, the FairWild Foundation, the IUCN/SSC Medicinal Plant Specialist Group, the Department of Food and Resource Economics (University of Copenhagen), and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

1 capacities + tools

Harvest management, value-addition, negotiation and other knowledge, tools and skills produced and used by primary producers at project sites and by local enterprises

2 legislation

The legislation in Nepal regulating trade in Jatamansi and other CITES Appendix II-listed species is clarified and modified as necessary to enable sustainable trade

3 sustainability

Species and area sustainable management plans for Jatamansi conservation, harvest, use, and trade produced and implemented at the project harvest sites

4 certification

Roadmap for achieving third-party certification of sustainable harvest and equitable benefit sharing for trade in wild-harvested Jatamansi demonstrated in at least two districts and endorsed widely in Nepal

5 scaling up

Tools, materials, and roadmap for scaling up the project approach to other Jatamansi sourcing areas and other CITES-listed species in Nepal and Himalayas

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