



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
International Affairs
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: IA
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/DMA/PLA 7-17

May 4, 2022

Dear U.S. Importer / Exporter / Re-exporter of specimens, parts, and/or products containing Pygeum:

This letter is addressed to possible U.S. importers, exporters, and re-exporters of specimens, parts, and/or products containing Pygeum (*Prunus africana*). We have prepared this letter in response to a large number of recent seizures in Europe of products containing this species, which were exported or re-exported from the United States in violation of the requirements under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The species *Prunus africana*, also called Pygeum or African cherry, has been protected under CITES since February 16, 1995. The species is included in Appendix II of CITES, meaning that it may be traded internationally as long as the required permits and certificates have been issued by the relevant national CITES office. The CITES listing covers live and dead plant specimens of *Prunus africana*, as well as all parts and products except seeds and seedling or tissue culture. The listing also covers bark and any products made from the bark. Domestic sales and purchases (commercial transactions within the United States) of *Prunus africana* that has been traded internationally in accordance with CITES or that originated in the United States and has never been traded internationally are not affected by the Appendix-II listing.

Imports of *Prunus africana* into the United States

In order for a shipment of *Prunus africana* 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. Shipments of *Prunus africana* specimens, parts, or products to be imported into the United States must be imported through a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) designated port for plants and be inspected and cleared prior to being allowed to enter the United States. Contact information for foreign CITES authorities can be found at: <https://cites.org/eng/parties/country-profiles/national-authorities>.

Exports and re-exports of *Prunus africana* from the United States

In order for a shipment of *Prunus africana* 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. You can download the application forms for U.S. CITES permits and certificates from our website at: <https://fws.gov/epermits> (Application Form: 3-200-32). Shipments of *Prunus africana* 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 prior to export/re-export. If you are in the business of importing, exporting, or re-exporting CITES-regulated plants and plant products, USDA regulations (found at 7 CFR 355) require that you possess a valid USDA Protected Plant Permit. If you have questions regarding the application process for the Protected Plant Permit or PPQ Form 621 (Application for Protected Plant Permit to Engage in the Business of Importing, Exporting or Re-exporting Terrestrial Plants), please call (301) 851-2046 or Email: PPQCITESESAPermits@usda.gov

We look forward to working with you to ensure that the United States is appropriately implementing this CITES listing. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact us at: Email: managementauthority@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Mary Cogliano, Acting Chief
Division of Management Authority

cc: American Herbal Products Association

cc: CITES Secretariat
CITES Management Authority of Belgium
CITES Management Authority of the Netherlands
CITES Management Authority of Norway
CITES Management Authority of Switzerland