

## A comparison of cultivation and wild collection of medicinal and aromatic plants under sustainability aspects

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### Abstract

With the increased realization that many wild medicinal and aromatic plant (MAP) species are being over-exploited, a number of agencies are recommending that wild species be brought into cultivation systems. Others argue sustainable harvest to be the most important conservation strategy for most wild-harvested species, given their contributions to local economies and their greater value to harvesters over the long term. Besides poverty and the breakdown of traditional controls, the major challenges for sustainable wildcollection include: lack of knowledge about sustainable harvest rates and practices, undefined land use rights and lack of legislative and policy guidance. Identifying the conservation benefits and costs of the different production systems for MAP should help guide policies as to whether species conservation should take place in nature or the nursery, or both



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Medicinal and aromatic plants are used as plants themselves or parts of plants or can be processed by distillation to become essential oils. They are used in pharmacy, cosmetology, perfumes and the food industry among others. With increased demands for the resources available, a number of important plant species have become scarce in areas where they were previously abundant. If their collection and use is not regulated, some species may become threatened with extinction. In recent years, the use of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) has increased greatly in western countries, but also in pl... Classification of medicinal plants is organized in different ways depending on the criteria used. International standard for sustainable wild collection of medicinal and aromatic plants (issc-map). 1. This document has been prepared by the German Scientific Authority for Plants. 2. The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), WWF/TRAFFIC, and the IUCN Medicinal Plant Specialist Group are presently developing an International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-map). 3. An introduction to this process was given at the 15th meeting of the Plants Committee (Geneva, 2005): [www.cites.org/common/com/PC/15/X-PC15-10-Inf.pdf](http://www.cites.org/common/com/PC/15/X-PC15-10-Inf.pdf). Medicinal plant materials must be stored under specified conditions in order to avoid contamination and deterioration. Avoid formation of moulds, which may produce aflatoxins. Materials that need to be stored at temperatures other than room temperature should be stored at low temperatures to avoid decomposition of phyto constituents or deterioration of quality. Schippmann, U.; Leaman, D. and Cunningham A. B.(2006).A comparison of cultivation and wild collection of medicinal and aromatic plants under sustainability aspects. p. 75-95. In: R.J. Bogers, L.E. Craker, and D. Lange (eds.), Medicinal and aromatic plants. Proc. Frontis Workshop on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Wageningen, The Netherlands, 17-20, April 2005.