

Centurion Lake Declaration

Preamble

One of the major constraints identified at the Medicinal Plants Forum for Commonwealth Africa held in Cape Town in 2000 was the lack of suitable technical specifications and quality control standards for African medicinal plants and herbal medicines. The lack of such standards was considered to be a major constraint on regional and international trade and an important barrier to integrating traditional medicine into African public health services.

In an attempt to overcome this problem the ACP-EU Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE) in collaboration the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Co-operation (CTA) agreed to part finance a two phase project to prepare 50 herbal product profiles/standards for key African Medicinal Plants. These profiles will include most of the important African plants presently traded as well as others judged to be of sustainable long term importance. The profiles combine information normally contained in drug monographs with data usually found in medicinal plant trade specifications and quality control sheets.

CDE contracted the Phytomedicine Programme at the University of Pretoria to begin preparing these profiles in association with other medicinal plant specialists from African and Europe. A meeting to review progress on the first 23 herbal profiles was organised at Centurion Lake in South Africa in May 2005. Twenty seven experts were invited to the meeting who unanimously agreed to sign the following declaration.

DECLARATION

We the undersigned with a view to improving the health, safety, welfare and livelihood of the people of Africa hereby declare the intention:

- To establish an Association with a registered office in Mauritius to support the African herbal industry and regulatory authorities by developing quality control and quality assurance standards for African medicinal plants and herbal medicines.
- To offer membership of the newly formed association to any individual or organisations dedicated to the establishment of such standards and to the creation of an African Herbal Pharmacopoeia
- To jointly review and promote the 23 African herbal profiles currently being prepared by the Department of Phytomedicine, University of Pretoria. These herbal profiles include plants of African origin which are considered of regional and international importance and which can be sustainably sourced in Africa.
(See List A)
- To raise funds to prepare and disseminate a further 30 African herbal profiles selected by the founding members of the association at the Centurion Lake Hotel review meeting on May 2005. (See List B)
- To prepare and publish an African Herbal Pharmacopoeia as a living data-base drawn initially from the 53 herbal profiles mentioned in List A & B and to promote its use nationally and internationally.
- To help obtain international acceptance of these herbal standards and the subsequent herbal pharmacopoeia and to lobby health authorities throughout Africa

to use such standards to facilitate licensing safe and effective herbal medicines in Africa

- To promote capacity building in Africa for the establishment of regional training centres for certification, compliance and quality control of herbal medicines.
- To promote the safe, sustainable national and international trade in the fifty profiled African medicinal plants
- To carry out any other activities deemed by the members of the association as required to further the objectives of the Association.

Signed by

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