

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release (prepared August 1, 1979) Inez Connor 202/343-5634

STATUS OF SHRUB IN COSTA RICA BEING REVIEWED UNDER ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

In response to a petition from a botanist at the National Museum in Costa Rica, the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is reviewing the status of a shrub in northwestern Costa Rica to determine whether it should be proposed as an endangered or threatened species.

The plant being reviewed, Costa Rican jatropha (Jatropha costaricensis), grows up to 15 feet tall, and is found in a dry, thorny woodland near Playas del Coco, in Guanacaste Province. Its habitat is restricted to a few acres, where it is threatened by the proximity of housing, cattle trampling, and the cutting of trees.

The Service is seeking views and information from the Government of Costa Rica on the status of this species. Other interested parties are invited to submit factual information on its status, distribution, population trends, threats, or other pertinent data. All information submitted will be considered, along with data now on file, to determine whether the Costa Rican jatropha should be proposed as endangered or threatened, or withdrawn from further consideration.

The notice of the status review was published in the July 31, 1979, Federal Register. Interested parties should submit information to the Director (OES), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, by November 1, 1979.

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