

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Fourteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Windhoek (Namibia), 16-20 February 2004

Regional reports and updated regional directories (Decisions 12.14 and 12.15)

Europe

REGIONAL REPORT

General information

- a) Name of the representatives (authors of the Report): Dr. Margarita Clemente and Dr. Giuseppe Frenguelli
- b) Number of Parties in the region: 45
- c) Number of Parties responding to communications: 12
- d) Names of the other institutions, NGOs contacted for CITES work during the period: Adena, WWF, IUCN, UNEP- WCMC

1. Follow-up on agenda items since the 13th meeting of the Plants Committee

1.1 Significant Trade

No significant trade.

1.2 Review of the Appendices

Parties

- SPAIN: The chairman of the PC (Dr. Clemente) in collaboration with a contact group is preparing a document to be discussed during the PC meeting in order to establish, if possible, a joint mechanism for this process with the Animals Committee. The results on this issue will also be presented to the Standing Committee.
- CRITERIA: The chairman of the PC (Dr. Clemente) is involved actively in the process to implement Decision 12.97. She has prepared the compilation of the taxonomic reviews (181 pp) and the draft report to the Standing Committee. She has informed the Plants Committee members and organized the work to follow with the analysis of the results of the taxonomic reviews. Finally she has distributed the information to and requested comments from the European region.

1.3 CITES-Projects

Parties

- CZECH REPUBLIC: a) Application for MATRA (The Netherlands) project – assistance in implementing EC legislation and enforcement at the borders (Customs officers training, lectures, exchange of experts to train, etc.) – still being approved; b) Preparation of building up a CITES rescue centre both for plants and animals in Prague – under Prague's zoo and

botanical garden with great help from the Municipality of Prague, the Ministry of the Environment and the Czech Environmental Inspectorate.

- SLOVAKIA: The Project DANCEE 2001-2003 – Implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Related EU legislation.

1.4 Nursery Registration

Parties

- CZECH REPUBLIC: Three registered nurseries (cacti and succulents) no changes.
- SPAIN: The Spanish Management Authority follows supervising the nurseries.

1.5 Other

Parties

- CZECH REPUBLIC: a) TCM (Traditional Chinese Medicine) manual and identification brochure has been prepared by the Czech Environmental Inspectorate (in Czech language); b) close and successful cooperation with foreign experts (Dr. Lange – Germany, Jaap Reijngoud – the Netherlands, Dr. Grimm – Germany, Chinese CITES Scientific and Management Authorities in preparation and elaboration of an expert opinion concerning determination of a shipment with *Saussurea costus* (dried cut roots) from China; c) newly nominated rescue centre for plants – Botanical garden in Liberec – totally there has been three rescue centres for plants in the Czech Republic so far.

GERMANY: In December 2003, the second edition of the CITES Checklist of Succulent *Euphorbia* Taxa has been published by the Scientific Authority of Germany to cover numerous succulent *Euphorbia* species newly described.

- THE NETHERLANDS: a) Evaluation of tree species. b) Test the applicability of the new criteria for *Tillandsia xerographica*. c) Contribution to test the applicability of the new criteria for *Galanthus elwesii*.
- SLOVAKIA: Two scientific institutions were registered with the CITES Secretariat:

- SK 001 Východoslovenské múzeum v Košiciach
Hviezdoslavova 3, 041 36 Košice
- SK 002 Univerzita P. J. Šafárika
Šrobárova 2, 041 80 Košice

SLOVENIA: In November 2003, the Slovene Government adopted a Decree on the management and protection methods of trade in animal and plant species (OJ of RS no. 104/03). Through this regulation, Slovenia transposed the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations into its national legal system. Some stricter provisions are added to EU Regulations (e.g., the chapters on registration of nurseries, disposal of seized and confiscated specimens - transposition of Resolution Conf. 10.7, sanctions, etc.). Particular attention is given to competencies of authorities. With this regulation, Slovenia begun to use the same permit/certificate forms as the European Union.

- SPAIN: Spain also attended to the European workshop organized by Italy (Perugia, November 2003). Dr. Clemente, as European representative, collaborated with Dr Frenguelli in designing the agenda, she gave a presentation on the process included in Decision 12.97 and discussed with the participants on the implementation of this decision. Also she gave a presentation on the Plants Committee tasks. The Management Authority is following the control of the pre-Convention stocks of *Dalbergia nigra*, testing samples with DNA identification techniques.

- SWEDEN: Three botanical gardens have been added to the list of scientific institutions entitled to the exemption provided by Article VII, paragraph 6, of the Convention.

2. Communication with Parties in the European region

- a) Regular contacts with the Management and Scientific Authorities in the European Region.
- b) Preparation, printing and distribution of the proceedings of the 13th meeting of the Plants Committee to the Management and Scientific Authorities in the European Region.
- c) Distribution of the draft agenda of the 14th meeting of the Plant Committee with request for suggestions.
- d) Preparation and distribution of the questionnaire to prepare the European regional report.

3. Capacity building activities

3.1 Training seminars

Parties

- GERMANY: In October 2003, a training seminar for importers and traders of CITES protected medicinal and aromatic plants has been carried out by the German CITES Scientific Authority. In the seminar fundamental questions concerning the trade in CITES protected medicinal plants, the pharmaceutical nomenclature, and the recognizability of drugs in trade have been discussed. In April 2003 both the German Scientific and Management Authorities took part in CITES training seminars which were held in Sofia, Bulgaria, for Bulgarian CITES personnel. One of the main topics was strengthening the role of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences as CITES Scientific Authority. This was part of a European Union funded Twinning Project between Austria and Bulgaria.
- IRELAND: In October 2003 a CITES training seminar was held in the National Botanic Gardens for Conservation staff from National Parks and Wildlife along with Customs and Excise Enforcement Officers. Ireland has also recently produced an up-to-date CITES information leaflet that is currently being delivered to staff throughout the country.
- POLAND: In November 2003, the Ministry of the Environment organized a three-day training seminar for 40 officers of Customs, police, veterinary and phytosanitary border control involved in the enforcement of CITES.
- SLOVENIA: the Slovene Management Authority organized a 3-day training seminar for Customs as a follow-up on the 2002 seminar. Mr Franz Boehmer (German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation) and Mr Guy Clarke (British Customs and Excise) participated as trainers. The main goal of the seminar was to train Customs officers for effective control at future European Union borders. Thirty five Customs officers went through main aspects of CITES and European Union Regulations. During the seminar, the participants received substantial practical training on document checking, fraud, derogations, etc. Particular attention was given to practical determination of plants as well as parts and derivatives thereof that enter international trade. Among 11 national experts that participated in this seminar, the director of Ljubljana botanical garden provided a very comprehensive presentation on CITES plants. In August, the Slovene Management Authority attended the training seminar for criminal police. During the presentation, information on trade in plants was provided. In September, the representative of the Slovene Management Authority gave a presentation on CITES implementation in Slovenia at the training seminar for Croatian Criminal police.
- SPAIN: Training on identification of CITES timbers addressed to SEPRONA (environmental Spanish police).

3.2 Education

Parties

- CYPRUS: A leaflet was produced and circulated for public information purposes on CITES.
- ITALY: In preparation a Manual for management of timber trade (in Italian). The Italian Ministry of Environment and Land protection is supporting a PhD grant at the University of Perugia on CITES issues.

THE NETHERLANDS: CITES training of Phytosanitary Service Staff by Scientific Authority.
- POLAND: Publication: CITES – Plants and general CITES information- manual + CD WWF campaign: Media campaign called "Don't buy from smugglers". Collecting money for a rescue centre for animals seized at Polish borders. Educational campaign focussed on tourists. Similar campaign against illegal trade of endangered plants species will be organized by WWF Poland and Warsaw University Botanic Garden next year.
- SLOVAKIA: 15,000 copies of a new leaflet informing about CITES in general has been produced in co-operation with Slovak Environmental Inspection (SEI) with the financial support from DANCEE CITES project. One CITES exhibit is permanent in zoo Bojnice, two others are travelling around the Customs offices in Slovakia.

3.3 Meetings

Parties

- ITALY: The Italian Scientific and Management Authorities organized in Perugia, 6-8 November 2003, a meeting on "The role of the Scientific Authorities on Plants of the European Region for a better implementation of CITES" in cooperation with the Perugia University and the Chairman of PC Dr Margarita Clemente, and with a financial support from the Italian Ministry of Environment and Land protection. The following themes have been presented and discussed by participants from 13 European countries: organization of the Scientific Authorities in Europe, Review of the criteria for amendments of Appendices, Scientific collaboration with the Enforcement agencies, Perspectives of the European Union's enlargement.
- THE NETHERLANDS: a) PC13, August 2003, Geneva, Switzerland; b) Regional Plants Meeting, November 2003, Perugia, Italy.
- POLAND: Meeting of CITES Management and Scientific Authorities and Customs with representatives of TRAFFIC Europe on (June 2003, Poland, Warsaw) on the management of wildlife trade *CITES Implementation Project - End of Project Meeting* (October 2003, Slovakia) organized by the Danish Cooperation for Environment in Eastern Europe (DANCEE) which was the platform for exchange of experience on implementation and enforcement of CITES in neighbouring countries. Preparation of the fifth European Regional CITES Plants Meeting in Warsaw-Debe, Poland, 14-16 April 2004 (more info: www.biol.uw.edu.pl/CITES/).
- SLOVAKIA: DANCEE project Implementation of CITES and the Related European Union legislation – End of Project Regional CITES Conference 20-22 October 2003, Donovaly.
- SWEDEN: Participation in informal meeting in Perugia, Italy, November 2003.

3.4 Contacts with specialists and/or NGOs

Parties

- AUSTRIA: Collection of all literature dealing with the genus *Bulbophyllum* - descriptions, floras, keys etc.; establishing contacts with experts of the genus on a worldwide basis, as pre-condition for a consensus about accepted names for the checklist.

- CZECH REPUBLIC: The Czech CITES Scientific Authority has good contacts with specialists, sometimes they co-operate on certain topics (scientific, expert opinion) and they are contracted.
- ITALY: WWF, specialists in timber.
- THE NETHERLANDS: a) Consultation of importers and enforcement on the feasibility of the Swiss proposal to exempt small snowdrops (*Galanthus* spp.) shipments. b) Consultation of experts and importers on artificial propagation of *Tillandsia xerographica*.
- POLAND: TRAFFIC-Europe and WWF-Poland.
- SLOVAKIA: Slovak Union of Nature and Landscape Protection – local association Orchidea (SZOPAK Orchidea) has prepared the new publication about Orchids of Slovakia, which has been published with the financial support from DANCEE CITES Project. This publication has been printed in 3,000 copies and distributed to all CITES enforcement authorities and other relevant institutions.
- SPAIN: Contact with specialists and/or NGOs: Adena, WWF, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC.
- SWEDEN: Contact with specialist in our botanic gardens when controlling cacti and orchid imports.

4. Difficulties of implementation encountered in the region

4.1 Conservation issues

Parties

- CZECH REPUBLIC: Some recently described species of cacti are cultivated in the Czech Republic, but there is no legal instrument allowing the conviction of cultivators guilty from illegal off-take of the seeds or plants from their country of origin (presumption of innocence).
- GERMANY: The German Scientific Authority for CITES has started a project to identify the species of the Appendix-II listed genus *Galanthus* by methods of genome fingerprinting. The project aims at providing a rapid and definite diagnosis of *Galanthus* species in non-flowering trade forms. The research projects regarding the sustainable use of devil's claw (*Harpagophytum*) in southern Africa funded by German authorities is entering its final phase. One project was finalized by a publication which will be presented at PC14. The second part, carried out by the Namibian NGO CRIAA, has recently been extended for two more years. It comprises long-term permanent plot investigations and will produce recommendations for sustainable harvesting levels and methods.
- THE NETHERLANDS: Illegal trade in wild-collected *Paphiopedilum* (in flasks) from Viet Nam (see documents on CIRCA: COM29/14).

4.2 Technical Issues

Parties

- CZECH REPUBLIC: Control body (the Czech Environmental Inspectorate) is not allowed to enter houses or private properties without previously informing the owner and without his agreement.
- ITALY: Difficulties with the identification of tropical imported timbers.
- SPAIN: Identification of timbers.
- SWEDEN: Identification of various plant species, inclusive timber.

5. Work to be done before the 15th meeting of the Plants Committee

Parties

- ITALY: Regional workshop on timber and medicinal plants trade.
- THE NETHERLANDS: Prepare proposal on regional communication.

6. Others

Parties

- ITALY: Italian Ministry of Environment and Land protection is supporting the work done by Dr. Frenguelli as European representative in the Plants Committee with funding and logistic support.
- SPAIN: Spain is constantly supporting the work done by Dr. Clemente as European representative and Chairman of the Plants Committee with funding and logistic support.
- SWEDEN: An aim for 2004 is to build a stronger organization for CITES plant issues. An ease in the regulations for artificially propagated specimen under certain conditions as in the case of the genus *Phalaenopsis* is welcome.