

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



Thirteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 12-15 August 2003

Regional reports and updated regional Directories [Decisions 12.14 and 12.15]

North America

REGIONAL REPORT

Canada report

1. General information

Names of other institutions or NGOs' contacted for CITES work during the period.

CFS (Federal Canadian Forest Service),
DFO (Federal Department Fisheries and Oceans)
Many Provincial and territorial MAs and SAs
IUCN/SSC Carnivorous Plants Specialist Group
IUCN/SSC North American Orchid Specialist Group
SSC Plant Conservation Committee
etc.

2. List of items

Introduction

Follow-up on Agenda items since the latest meeting of the Plants Committee.

- a) **Regional directory.** One change comes with the resignation of the head of the Scientific Authority (Bertrand von Arx). Adrienne Sinclair, Advisor for Plants, will deal with issues on plants and participate at the PC meetings as an observer for Canada.
- b) **Transportation of live plants.** At PC12, the representative of North America was requested to continue the work done so far and liaise with IATA. Eric Raemdonck was contacted at IATA in Montreal and discussion resulted in an agreement to update text about CITES requirements and contacts to be provided in the IATA publication *IATA Perishable Handbook*. Suggestions were made to shorten sections including the lists of plants in trade and Management Authorities, as these were easily accessible on different websites. The relevant web links were provided instead. New text was also included about the role of CITES as well as the *Guidelines for transportation and preparation for shipment of live plants* which were discussed and adopted at PC12. The handbook should be available in June 2003 and the observer of Canada will present a copy (if available before the meeting). This concludes this part of the work needed on this topic. In the future, it could be valuable to ensure that all relevant organizations are made aware of the

existence of these guidelines. The Plants Committee will also want to stay in contact with IATA (Eric Raemdonck) in order to be able to continue to provide guidance and assistance for future updates of the Manual, which are done every two years.

Other activities reported by Canada

- a) Canada will continue its work on the non detriment findings (NDF). Presently a new system for targeting priority species has been put in place. Criteria used to select top priority species include presence in trade, status [COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) risk assessments and provincial ranks], and existence of media or public profile. NDFs will now be made or updated for these top priority species and eventually for all the remaining ones. To date, NDFs have been completed for American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), prickly-pear cacti (*Opuntia* spp.) and the monkey puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*). Provinces will be consulted on these reports for joint finalization.
- b) With regards to the **criteria review**, Canada has started a process in which it will review a small number of Canadian listed and non-listed species against the Criteria as described in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP12). Special emphasis will be put on trees.
- c) Major developments have been made on the Canadian CITES **website** (www.cites.ca). The description of the whole process of the preparation for CoP12 was posted as well as positions and other useful documents for the preparation of the past CoP. Soon new information will be provided about the forthcoming CoP13, such as the Calendar and import deadlines. Also a database of the "Control List" of all CITES listed species is now available with a variety of specific more extensive lists, such as all Canadian-listed species with all taxa included and level of risk assessed by the COSEWIC. Many other features are available about the implementation of CITES in Canada such as permits and possible exemptions.
- d) **Enforcement problems** have been identified with a product called ***Cistanche* root**, used in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). *Cistanche deserticola* is listed in Appendix II of CITES; however, it is difficult to distinguish between products of this species and other *Cistanche* species also used in TCM. Furthermore, most if not all of the *Cistanche* species are parasitic and do not have roots so awareness of these products needs to be improved.

Mexico report

1. In September 2002, Mexico attended the second Latin-American and Caribbean congress on Cactacea and other succulent plants (*Congreso Latinoamericano y del Caribe sobre Cactáceas y otras Plantas Suculentas*), in Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas. A presentation on the status of this taxon in CITES was made for the scientific community interested in the study, management and use of Cactacea. This community was also invited to participate in the collegial works requested by Mexico and coordinated by CONABIO, as the Scientific Authority (SA) of Mexico for CITES.
2. CONABIO encouraged Mexican cactus specialists to put together a project to survey the population status of Cactacea species listed in CITES Appendix I, following the request made by SEMARNAT-CONACYT (October 2002). A reply to this proposal is expected at the end of July 2003.
3. In November 2002, Mexico attended the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in Santiago de Chile.
4. The SA, in collaboration with the National Institute of Ecology (*Instituto Nacional de Ecología, INE*) put forward a new project proposal to study the population of *Guaicum sanctum* in Mexico, a project completed and approved by the Follow-up Committee for CITES in Mexico. The study is being conducted by the UNAM Ecosystem Research Centre (*Centro de Investigaciones en Ecosistemas*). It has been divided up in two stages, with an overall cost of USD 37,500. Up to now, USD 23,000 have been raised, which will be provided by CONABIO, the General Direction of Forest and Soils Management (*Dirección General de Gestión Forestal y de Suelos, SEMARNAT*) and the INE, and will be sufficient to cover the first stage of the study. Support from the United States Forest Service and the European Commission has also been requested and contact have been made with the German SA to raise the remainder.
5. The project will generate information on the current distribution, abundance, population dynamics, type of habitat and population viability of this species in order to define the management measures needed for its conservation. There already exists maps of potential distribution produced by GARP from information on distribution (plant collections) and these are being used to select sample sites.
6. The Law Implementation Authority (PROFEPA, *Autoridad de Aplicación de la Ley*) is conducting technical audits of the estates and companies linked to the exploitation of *Guaicum* to verify the implementation of national legislation on this subject.
7. The SA has organized two meetings with the Mexican Association of Orchidology (*Asociación Mexicana de Orquideología*), with a view to establishing contact with Mexican orchidologists and to inviting them to participate more actively in the implementation of the Convention.
8. Regular meetings are held between the different CITES authorities of Mexico: DGVS (SEMARNAT General Direction of Wildlife, *Dirección General de Vida Silvestre de la Semarnat*), CONABIO and PROFEPA; and between these and other related institutions, such as the National Forest Commission (*Comisión Nacional Forestal*), in order to look at topics of importance for Mexico within the context of CITES.
9. Mexico is participating in the translation into Spanish of the Identification Manual of Appendix-I Cactacea produced by Switzerland and it is estimated that half of the translation is already done.
10. The Management, Scientific and Law Implementation Authorities, in conjunction with other related departments, are convening and reviewing all available information on *Euphorbia antisiphylitica* and *Beaucarnea* spp. to determine their current status in Mexico and the relevance of proposing them for inclusion in the CITES Appendices.
11. Following a request from the Management Authority of the United States, the DGVS sent information related to the global Review of Significant Trade in Cycads.

United States report

1. **CoP12**—The United States submitted five proposals to amend Appendices I and II for consideration at CoP12. These proposals were:
 - a) Prop. 46: Tonopah fishhook cactus (*Sclerocactus nyensis*), transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I owing to rarity and limited distribution of the species, and threat to the species owing to the collection of seed from the wild. The proposal was adopted.
 - b) Prop. 47: Blaine's pincushion cactus (*Sclerocactus spinosior* ssp. *blainei*), transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I owing to rarity and limited distribution of the species, and threat to the species owing to the collection of seeds from the wild. This proposal was withdrawn owing to confusion over the taxonomy of this cactus. The United States suggested that an overall review of the genus *Sclerocactus* may be warranted, to address questions related to taxonomy and to determine whether current listings accurately reflect the status of the species. Many Parties concurred that such a review should be undertaken.
 - c) Prop. 48: Santa Barbara dudleya (*Dudleya traskiae*), transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II owing to the lack of a threat from international trade and existing protections under national law, as well as limited access to the area where it occurs. The proposal was adopted.
 - d) Prop. 51: Annotation of Orchidaceae spp. to exempt artificially propagated hybrids of certain Appendix-II genera. At PC11 in Langkawi, a working group discussed the possibility of exempting certain artificially-propagated hybrids of Appendix-II orchids from CITES controls. The United States and the American Orchid Society were asked to work on this issue and develop a document for PC12. At PC12 in Leiden, the United States submitted a draft proposal, developed in collaboration with the American Orchid Society, to annotate the genera *Cattleya*, *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Oncidium*, *Phalaenopsis* and *Vanda*. The Plants Committee encouraged the United States to complete the proposal and submit it for consideration at CoP12. At CoP12, a number of range countries, particularly for the neotropical genera, expressed concerns about enforcement, but indicated support for a more limited proposal as a 'test case' for such an approach. The proposal was amended to include only *Phalaenopsis*; the annotation allows application of this exemption only to commercial shipments meeting certain limited conditions. This amended proposal was adopted.
 - e) Prop. 53: Maquire's bitter-root (*Lewisia maquirei*), deletion from Appendix II owing to lack of trade in wild-collected specimens.
2. **Artificially-propagated orchid hybrids in the genus *Phalaenopsis*** — The United States has been working with the American Orchid Society and United States commercial orchid growers to develop identification materials that can be used by enforcement officials in applying the annotation to exempt trade in artificially propagated *Phalaenopsis* hybrids, adopted at CoP12.
3. **American ginseng** — In February 2003, the Management Authority and Scientific Authority of the United States conducted a three-day workshop at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri, on the status and management of American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), which was attended by Federal and State agency representatives. Representatives of the herbal products industry and academic researchers gave presentations to the group. The workshop was arranged to exchange information derived from current research on the status of the species, the impact of harvest, population genetics, and the impact of other factors (e.g. herbivorous animals). Industry representatives presented information on ginseng trade within the United States. There was also a discussion of production systems for American ginseng, which are varied, as they apply to CITES requirements for artificial propagation and implications of different production systems relative to making non-detriment findings on exports. The workshop resulted in a number of recommendations for future actions to be taken by government agencies and others to further improve management and control of trade in American ginseng. Information on the workshop can be found at <http://international.fws.gov/animals/ginindx.html>.
4. On 21 May 2003, the United States CITES Authorities held a public meeting in Lexington, Kentucky, with the assistance of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, to obtain information from the general public on American ginseng. About 40 persons attended the meeting, primarily representing

ginseng dealers and growers (i.e. persons who produce some form of cultivated ginseng). The day-long meeting yielded significant information on research and outreach needs, as well as information on the production systems used for American ginseng and practical experience with the species.

5. Information derived from the workshop and public meeting will be used in developing the necessary findings required for exports of American ginseng, an Appendix-II species, and for guiding future actions to ensure that exports are derived from sustainable harvest programmes.
6. **Bigleaf mahogany** — United States CITES Authorities are working closely with other Federal agencies to facilitate implementation of the listing of bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) in Appendix II. Regular meetings have included representatives from several United States government departments (including Agriculture, Interior, Justice, State and Treasury) as well as the Office of the United States Trade Representative and the Environmental Protection Agency. These meetings have focused on implementation and enforcement, as well as identifying potential sources of funding for a meeting of the Mahogany Working Group.
7. As a major importer, the United States has been proactive in its outreach to industry. An information packet was developed for distribution to nearly 400 businesses based in the United States, and their associations, that import or re-export mahogany wood and wood products, to explain the new permit requirements. A mahogany fact sheet is being developed for distribution at trade association conferences. A mahogany website is also under construction.
8. In addition, the United States has contacted all mahogany range States to inquire about their preparations for implementation of the listing and to determine whether the United States can support their preparations in any way. Various United States agencies are collaborating to identify potential mechanisms for providing capacity building, training and other technical assistance.
9. **Cycads** — On 5 April 2003, the United States Scientific Authority provided information to TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa for the Review of Significant Trade in cycads. Information was provided on *Cycas micronesica*, *Zamia amblyphyllidia*, *Zamia integrifolia*, *Zamia portoricensis* and *Zamia pumila*, which are native to the United States and its territories.