

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-21 April 2011

Regional reports

EUROPE

1. This document has been submitted by the regional representatives for Europe.*

General information

2. Representatives (authors of the report): Dr Margarita Clemente and Dr Maurizio Sajevo.
3. Alternates: Mr David Kikodze and Mr Paulo J.L. Carmo.
4. Number of Parties in the region: 46
5. Names of the other institutions and NGOs contacted for CITES work during the period: IUCN, UNEP-WCMC. Intergovernmental Organization: European Commission.

Difficulties of implementation encountered in the Region

6. Main problems within the region are related to Timber identification and measurements. In particular one country informed that timber quantity (by volume or by weight), is usually not measured by Customs officials on arrival, as these officials lack the knowledge to calculate or estimate the quantity. Instead of measuring the actual quantity imported, they simply copy in box 27 of the CITES import permit the amount already mentioned by the importer on the import permit. This means that we do not know the actual quantities imported.
7. Belgium has encountered a problem with a shipment of sawn wood of Bigleaf Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*). The shipment was covered by a CITES export permit but as EU legislation requires an import permit which was not presented to the Customs and it was seized. It appeared however that the plants contained in the shipment included a groove and, after checking with the CITES Secretariat, would therefore be excluded from annotation #. Belgium notes that the Conference of the Parties has adopted a number of Decisions relating to the implementation of the annotations for tree species in Appendices II and III [notably Decisions 14.149, 15.35 and 14.148 (Rev.CoP15)].
8. It would be good to ensure that, when the Plants Committee reviews the annotations, it is aware of the types of specimens that are now being traded without the need for CITES permits and certificates, in

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particular where there is doubt about whether or not such specimens are covered. Therefore, it would be worthwhile for the Plants Committee to check the adequacy of the annotation for the species which should be in conformity with the type of specimens that are exported by the countries of origin.

Support that can be offered to CITES implementation in the Region

9. Belgium, in the course of the next weeks, will get from a Belgian trader, some comprehensive information on the cultivation of pygeum (*Prunus africana*) in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This information can be of help in the process of the Review of the Significant Trade for this species.
10. Spain is offering the Master's Degree Course on "Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade: The International Framework. The programme is organized by the International University of Andalusia with the collaboration of the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities and the Carolina Foundation of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.
11. The General Objective of the programme is to provide specialised high quality training in the scientific bases, techniques and instruments that make it possible to implement and develop the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). It is appropriate for people who are involved or wish to become involved the implementation of CITES or the development of the scientific and technical work required for its operation at the executive level.
12. The Master's Degree Course has already been given nine times by the International University of Andalusia. Quality specialised training was given to 235 individuals from 68 countries (Albania, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Surinam, Tanzania, Thailand, Ukraine, Uganda, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe).
13. The on-campus stage of the 10th edition will take place from 4th April to 1st July 2011. Participants are expected from Abu Dhabi, Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guyana, Honduras, India, Iraq, Italy, Kenya, Kuwait, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Oman, Peru, Santa Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Syrian, Arab Republic, Uganda and Zambia.
14. Germany offered Identification of timber and Medicinal Plants; Providing training courses on identification of CITES timber species" and Medicinal Plants; Preparation and updating the CITESwoodID, a well established tool available in all CITES languages, which can be used for identifying or discriminating CITES timber species by morphological features; The next international training workshop for timber ID will be held in May/June 2011 in Hamburg/Germany.
15. The Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea Protection is supporting the activity of the European Regional Representative with funding and logistic support. Italy is cooperating with the United Kingdom's Scientific Authority for the publication of CITES and Cacti.
16. The 8th CITES European regional meeting-Plants will be held in Tbilisi in September 2011 organized by Georgia.

Other issues

17. Some countries claimed difficulties in communication with other Scientific and Management Authorities.
18. Spain organized 6 training courses on CITES addressed to the SEPRONA (Environmental Spanish Police).
19. Dr Clemente Muñoz, on behalf of the Plants Committee, attended at the "Ad hoc Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Meeting on an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)" Nairobi (Kenya), 5th – 9th October 2009 and Busan (Republic of Korea) 7th – 12th June 2010.

20. Spain is supporting constantly the work done by Dr. Clemente Muñoz as European Representative and Chairman of the Plants Committee with funding and logistic support in order to get this job is done appropriately. Thirteen documents were prepared by the Chairman of the PC with the collaboration of other representatives and presented at 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Doha (Qatar), 13th to 25th March 2010: Report of the Plants Committee Chair; Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity; International expert workshop on non-detriment findings. Report of the Animals and Plants Committees; Non-detriment findings for timber, medicinal plants and agarwood; Review of Significant Trade in specimens of plant species from Appendix II; Species trade and conservation. Agarwood-producing taxa; *Swietenia macrophylla*; *Taxus cuspidata*; *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *D. granadillo* and *D. stevensonii*; *Euphorbia* spp.; Cactaceae and Orchidaceae: review of annotations; Tree species: annotations for species included in Appendices II and III and Orchidaceae: annotation for species included in Appendix II

Activities carry out by Intergovernmental Organizations: The European Commission

21. The Commission adopted the 2009 and 2010 Annual Action Programme implementing the Thematic Strategy Paper for the Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, including Energy (ENRTP).

22. Funding has been provided to the CITES Secretariat for two large and important CITES projects:

500.000 EUR available for implementation of the CITES CoP 15 decisions

A total of 2.500.000 EUR for a CITES capacity building project (running until end 2012), focusing on capacity building to MAs, SAs and EAs in developing countries. This project will be implemented through regional workshops, including a focus on NDF implementation. Based on the assessment needs from countries, follow up implementation projects on e.g. NDFs and implementation/enforcement can be set up to support countries in CITES implementation. Additional funding for a second phase for in-country support is presently in preparation.

23. The ITTO-CITES timber project, with 2,4 million EUR supported by the Commission, is presently in implementation with regional workshops held on *Gonystylus* spp. (Asia), *Pericopsis elata* (Africa) and *Swietenia macrophylla* and *Cedrela/Dalbergia* in Latin America. The Commission is considering a second substantial contribution to this project. The proposal would include tree species other than timber-producing species (*Prunus africana*, Agarwood species).

24. The Scientific Review Group of the European Union with the CITES Scientific Authorities of the 27 Member States meets regularly (usually 4 times a year) in order to discuss scientific aspects of the CITES implementation, including the importation into the EU of several plants and timber species. The Group also works inter-sessionally to deliver advice on scientific issues.

25. The European Commission has concluded a number of contracts in order to ensure assistance in CITES implementation, enforcement and scientific matters. UNEP-WCMC has been contracted to provide the trade data which the Member States and the Commission need to implement Community legislation. The contract provides for reviews and studies of species as well as the EC wildlife trade database which contains up-to-date information on the species and the legislative framework in the EC. They are also responsible for synthesis of Member States' annual reports. TRAFFIC has been contracted to assist the Commission in the management of the CITES website, and to provide studies and assessments on particular topics.

26. The Commission is now carrying out the revision of the implementing regulations and further guidance.

27. The European Union has already reflected the changes to the Appendices agreed during the last Conference of the Parties in the Annexes to Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97.

Publications

28. Several publications on CITES are included in the Annex.

CLEMENTE M (2009). *Orchid conservation and trade: are these concepts incompatible?. In: Pridgeon A M, Suarez JP (eds) Proceedings of the Second Scientific Conference on Andean Orchids. Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja, Loja, Ecuador, pp 46 -55.*

(http://www.margaritaclemente.com/img/1fame_1264268836_a.pdf)

Informatore Botanico Italiano, **40** (Suppl.2), 2008 – Thematic Issues on CITES.

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Copies can be requested from sajeva@unipa.it.

Manuale CITES per gli Orti Botanici (Italian version of The CITES Manual for Botanic Gardens. Available on the Web-site of Botanic Gardens Conservation International (www.bgci.org)).