

## REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

1. This document has been prepared by the Chair of the Working Group on the Periodic Review (Patricia Dávila), with the assistance of the Scientific Authority of Mexico .

### Background

2. At the 15th meeting (Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties amended Decision 14.131 (Rev. CoP15), which currently reads as follows:

*The Plants Committee shall:*

- a) *analyse trade data and conservation status of succulent Euphorbia species (except those species currently included in Appendix I);*
  - b) *prepare a revised list of succulent Euphorbia species that meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) for inclusion in Appendix II;*
  - c) *prepare proposals for consideration at the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties that provide for the deletion of Euphorbia species from Appendix II that do not meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15), are frequently traded and can be clearly identified by non-specialists; and*
  - d) *determine the need for identification material for species retained in Appendix II.*
3. In order to comply with Decision 14.131 (Rev. CoP15), during the nineteenth meeting of the Plants Committee (PC19; Geneva, 2011), the Chair of the Working Group on the Periodic Review introduced document [PC19 Doc. 14.2 \(Rev. 1\)](#), titled “*Euphorbia* spp. [Decision 14.131 (Rev. CoP15)]”. The document presents the background on the current listing of *Euphorbia* spp. in CITES Appendices and, most importantly, it includes a trade analysis of *Euphorbia* spp. listed in Appendix II from data provided by UNEP-WCMC for the period 2000-2008; species included in the Review of Significant Trade, as well as those included in list B of document PC18 Doc. 16.1.2, were eliminated from the analysis. As a result, four lists of euphorbias were established:
    - a) Species eliminated from the trade analysis (specified in Annex 1 of the document);
    - b) Species that did not record trade (Annex 2 of the document);
    - c) Species at low risk by trade (specified in Annex 2 of the document);
    - d) Species at potential risk by trade (specified in Annex 4 of the document).

Based on the results of the trade study, the Plants Committee recommended to: a) suggest that species included in Annexes 1 and 4 remain listed in Appendix II; b) begin a process of consultation with the range States of the species included in Annexes 2 and 3, raising the possibility of deleting them from Appendix II, taking into account their conservation status and possible look-alike problems; c) prepare in conjunction with the Secretariat a draft Notification to the Parties to be used for that consultation; and, d) present the results of that consultation at the 20th meeting of the Plants Committee.

4. The PC19 decided to incorporate the recommendations of document [PC19 Doc. 14.2 \(Rev. 1\)](#) into the mandate of PC19’s Working Group of periodic review of plant species included in the Appendices ([PC19 WG09](#)). In this regard, and based on the recommendations of PC19 WG09, the Plants Committee agreed on the following:

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*The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

- a) Not to consider in the Periodic Review the species included in Annexes 1 and 4 of document PC19 Doc. 14.2 (Rev. 1);
- b) Request the Secretariat to send a Notification to range States, regarding the possibility of deleting certain taxa of Appendix-II succulent *Euphorbia* in Annex 3 of document PC19 Doc. 14.2 (Rev. 1), and to request information about the conservation status and possible look-alike concerns regarding these taxa;
- c) Prepare such notification in conjunction with the Secretariat;
- d) The intersessional working group will provide an update of the consultation with range States at PC20.
- e) Note that, given the number of range States, the number of taxa involved and the complexity of the task mandated in Dec. 14.131, it would be extremely difficult to accomplish the work during this intersessional period [PC19-PC20]. Deleting such species would require the preparation of numerous proposals for consideration at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the parties (CoP16). If range States were unable to prepare such proposals for the CoP, according to the Decision, the Plants Committee was expected to prepare proposals for consideration and this would be difficult to accomplish during the intersessional period. And,
- f) To give due consideration to the implications of deleting individual species which most likely would result in implementation challenges (e.g. laundering of wild specimens, trade in listed species as non-listed ones).

#### Actions taken

5. On September 21st 2011, the Secretariat issued [Notification No. 2011/038](#) on the *Periodic review of species included in the CITES Appendices*. Through paragraph 9 of such Notification, the Plants Committee invited range States to consider the possibility of deleting certain taxa of succulent *Euphorbia* from Appendix II, and requested information about the conservation status and possible look-alike concerns regarding the following taxa (as decided by the PC19 WG09):

1	<i>E. abdelkuri</i>
2	<i>E. actinoclada</i>
3	<i>E. adjurana</i>
4	<i>E. albertensis</i>
5	<i>E. ambovombensis</i>
6	<i>E. ambroseae</i>
7	<i>E. amygdaloides</i>
8	<i>E. angularis</i>
9	<i>E. angustiflora</i>
10	<i>E. anoplia</i>
11	<i>E. antiquorum</i>
12	<i>E. arbuscula</i>
13	<i>E. arida</i>
14	<i>E. asthenacantha</i>
15	<i>E. atrox</i>
16	<i>E. avasmontana</i>
17	<i>E. balsamifera</i>
18	<i>E. barnardii</i>
19	<i>E. baylissii</i>
20	<i>E. bourgaeana</i>
21	<i>E. brachyphylla</i>

22	<i>E. brakdamensis</i>
23	<i>E. breviarticulata</i>
24	<i>E. brevirama</i>
25	<i>E. brevitorta</i>
26	<i>E. brunellii</i>
27	<i>E. bubalina</i>
28	<i>E. buruana</i>
29	<i>E. capsaintemariensis</i>
30	<i>E. clandestina</i>
31	<i>E. classenii</i>
32	<i>E. clivicola</i>
33	<i>E. complexa</i>
34	<i>E. confinalis</i>
35	<i>E. cooperi</i>
36	<i>E. cremersii</i>
37	<i>E. cryptospinosa</i>
38	<i>E. cumulata</i>
39	<i>E. cuneata</i>
40	<i>E. cuprispina</i>
41	<i>E. cylindrica</i>
42	<i>E. cylindrifolia</i>

43	<i>E. davyi</i>
44	<i>E. decaryi</i>
45	<i>E. decidua</i>
46	<i>E. deightonii</i>
47	<i>E. desmondii</i>
48	<i>E. dilobadena</i>
49	<i>E. dissitispina</i>
50	<i>E. dregeana</i>
51	<i>E. dumeticola</i>
52	<i>E. duseimata</i>
53	<i>E. echinus</i>
54	<i>E. ecklonii</i>
55	<i>E. eilensis</i>
56	<i>E. elegantissima</i>
57	<i>E. ellenbeckii</i>
58	<i>E. enormis</i>
59	<i>E. epiphylloides</i>
60	<i>E. erythroculcollata</i>
61	<i>E. espinosa</i>
62	<i>E. eustacei</i>
63	<i>E. evansii</i>
64	<i>E. excelsa</i>
65	<i>E. eyassiana</i>
66	<i>E. fanshawei</i>
67	<i>E. fasciculata</i>
68	<i>E. fiherenensis</i>
69	<i>E. filiflora</i>
70	<i>E. fimbriata</i>
71	<i>E. flanagani</i>
72	<i>E. fortissima</i>
73	<i>E. fortuita</i>
74	<i>E. franckiana</i>
75	<i>E. francoisii</i>
76	<i>E. fruticosa</i>
77	<i>E. furcata</i>
78	<i>E. fusiformis</i>
79	<i>E. galgalana</i>
80	<i>E. gariepina</i>
81	<i>E. gemmea</i>
82	<i>E. gentiles</i>
83	<i>E. globulicaulis</i>
84	<i>E. graciliramea</i>
85	<i>E. graniticola</i>
86	<i>E. greenwayi</i>
87	<i>E. griseola</i>
88	<i>E. groenewaldii</i>

89	<i>E. gueinzii</i>
90	<i>E. hadramautica</i>
91	<i>E. handiensis</i>
92	<i>E. herrei</i>
93	<i>E. heterospina</i>
94	<i>E. hopetownensis</i>
95	<i>E. hypogaea</i>
96	<i>E. immerse</i>
97	<i>E. inaequispina</i>
98	<i>E. inarticulate</i>
99	<i>E. inornata</i>
100	<i>E. jansenvillensis</i>
101	<i>E. juglans</i>
102	<i>E. kalisana</i>
103	<i>E. keithii</i>
104	<i>E. knobelii</i>
105	<i>E. lamarckii</i>
106	<i>E. lavrani</i>
107	<i>E. ledienii</i>
108	<i>E. longispina</i>
109	<i>E. longituberculosa</i>
110	<i>E. lupulina</i>
111	<i>E. lydenburgensis</i>
112	<i>E. maleolens</i>
113	<i>E. marsabitensis</i>
114	<i>E. mayuranathanii</i>
115	<i>E. memoralis</i>
116	<i>E. migiurtinorum</i>
117	<i>E. mitriformis</i>
118	<i>E. monadenioides</i>
119	<i>E. moratii</i>
120	<i>E. mosaica</i>
121	<i>E. namibensis</i>
122	<i>E. namuskluftensis</i>
123	<i>E. neriifolia</i>
124	<i>E. nigripina</i>
125	<i>E. obesa</i>
126	<i>E. officinarum</i>
127	<i>E. opuntioides</i>
128	<i>E. parciramulosa</i>
129	<i>E. pentops</i>
130	<i>E. perangusta</i>
131	<i>E. persistens</i>
132	<i>E. persistentifolia</i>
133	<i>E. phillipsiae</i>
134	<i>E. phillipsioides</i>

135	<i>E. phosphorea</i>
136	<i>E. pillansii</i>
137	<i>E. platycephala</i>
138	<i>E. platyclada</i>
139	<i>E. plumerioides</i>

140	<i>E. polyacantha</i>
141	<i>E. ponderosa</i>
142	<i>E. proballyana</i>
143	<i>E. pseudoburuana</i>
144	<i>E. quadrangularis</i>

6. Additionally, on November 10th<sup>h</sup>, 2011, the Secretariat issued [Notification No. 2011/049](#) on the *Information to be submitted for the 20th meeting of the Plants Committee and the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee*. Through paragraph 1 g) of such Notification, Parties were asked to: review their collection, management and analysis of trade data for species of Aloe and *Euphorbia*; to identify reasons for inaccuracies and incomplete data; and, to put in place mechanisms to correct them and report to the Secretariat.

#### Progress achieved

7. No responses were received regarding paragraph 9 of Notification No. 2011/038.
8. Only Australia responded to paragraph 1 g) of Notification No. 2011/049, stating that they maintain a trade database (the Permits Administration Database, PAD) that administers and records all permit data, and that through the Australian environmental law, the country regulates the import and export of all CITES material. Such law requires that permits are issued for the import and export of all Aloe and *Euphorbia* (whole plants, parts and derivatives), except those subject to specific exemptions and the general Plantae exemptions. On the other hand, Australia reports low levels of trade in both Aloe and *Euphorbia*; and mentions that their management of trade data for these species is satisfactory and should have minimal inaccuracies. Additionally, Australia provides annual reports on trade to the Secretariat for publishing in the CITES trade database.
9. The Secretariat contracted a consultant (Mr. James E. Grogan) to develop the study “Assessment of trade and conservation of succulent *Euphorbia* spp. and review their listing in Appendix II (Decision 14.131)”, which is included as an Annex to this document.

In summary, the study includes:

- a) Background information on CITES documents and references related to the listing of euphorbias in the Appendices.
- b) Information on the natural range, morphology and taxonomy of succulent *Euphorbia*.
- c) A review and analysis of the conservation status of succulent *Euphorbia*.
- d) An analysis of the UNEP-WCMC trade records for succulent *Euphorbia* during the period 1990-2010, detailing: the methods followed, based on a precautionary approach; the obtained results; and, a concrete proposal to modify the listings contained in document [PC19 Doc. 14.2](#).
- e) An analysis of the similarities among species of succulent *Euphorbia*, as well as look-alike issues posed by other genera. And,
- f) Conclusions and recommendations directly related to the mandate of Decision 14.131 (Rev. CoP15).

10. The study's main conclusions regarding the mandate of Decision 14.131 (Rev. CoP15) are<sup>1</sup>:

Mandate of Decision 14.131 [Rev. CoP15]	Conclusions
a) Analyze trade data and conservation status of succulent <i>Euphorbia</i> species (except those species currently included in Appendix I).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Total trade of succulent euphorbias (period 1990-2010) has remained relatively stable over this time period.</li> <li>– Two indeterminate taxa (<i>E. spp.</i> and <i>E. hybrid</i>) plus three species exempted from Appendix II (with certain characteristics; <i>E. lactea</i>, <i>E. 'Mili'</i>, <i>E. trigona</i>) dominate international trade.</li> <li>– The remaining species recorded in trade during this period represented only ~12% of total trade. That is, most species are traded at relatively low volumes.</li> <li>– Artificially propagated specimens represent up to 99% of total recorded trade.</li> <li>– The conservation status of this large group is poorly defined. Coverage by the IUCN Red List is incomplete and quite possibly seriously inadequate. Threat levels for many species, especially those with highly restricted natural ranges, are likely understated or unidentified.</li> </ul>
b) Prepare a revised list of succulent <i>Euphorbia</i> species that meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. oP15) for inclusion in Appendix II.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 199 succulent <i>Euphorbia</i> species should be retained on Appendix II due to potential risk posed by trade in wild-collected specimens (see Annex 2 section 2 of the study for the complete list).</li> </ul>
c) Prepare proposals for consideration at the 16 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties that provide for the deletion of <i>Euphorbia</i> species from Appendix II that do not meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15), are frequently traded and can be clearly identified by non-specialists.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Based on trade information, the study identified 509 species from Appendix II that show either, no risk or no trade (see Annex 2, sections 3 &amp; 4). However, Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) requires consideration of other factors such as potential look-alike issues (par. 9 of Annex 6) when elaborating a delisting proposal.</li> </ul>
d) Determine the need for identification material for species retained in Appendix II.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Several factors make the succulent <i>Euphorbia</i> a difficult group for CITES to regulate (e.g. intrageneric splitting based on succulence).</li> <li>– Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15), Annex 2b states that species may be included in Appendix II if "... specimens of the species in the form in which they are traded resemble specimens of a species included in Appendix II".</li> <li>– The study identified many examples of look-alike taxa (see Annex 3 of the study).</li> <li>– Whether a subset or all succulent <i>Euphorbia</i> as currently defined will be retained on Appendix II, identification materials for distinguishing species are necessary to facilitate the work of CITES authorities and customs officials.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> The complete conclusions can be consulted in the Annex of this document.

## Recommendations to the Plants Committee

11. The Plants Committee is invited to:

- a) Take note of the findings and conclusions of the cited study;
- b) Bear in mind that any proposed changes to the current listing of *Euphorbia* spp. in the Appendices must also consider new *Euphorbia* species as well as taxonomic changes that have been proposed for genera that phylogenetically belong within *Euphorbia*, including *Elaeophorbia*, *Endadenium*, *Monadenium*, *Synadenium* and *Pedilanthus*.
- c) Not to consider the deletion of non-wild-collected and non-traded *Euphorbia* species from Appendix II, since there is a significant challenge posed by look-alike cases, in addition to lack of precise information on conservation status for the majority of them.
- d) Consider that based on the progress here described, the mandate of Decision 14.131 (Rev. CoP15) can be considered as fulfilled.

## Acknowledgments

12. The Chair of the Working Group on the Periodic Review and the Mexican Scientific Authority thank and congratulate Mr. Grogan for developing the study "Assessment of trade and conservation of succulent *Euphorbia* spp. and review of their listing in Appendix II (Decision 14.131)", which has resulted in fundamental progress towards complying with Decision 14.131 (Rev. CoP15).