

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

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Forty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Paris (France), 19-22 June 2001

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

*ARAUCARIA ARAUCANA*

1. The current listing of *Araucaria araucana* in the CITES Appendices has been the subject of debate. This includes a request from the Plants Committee to the Standing Committee to instruct the Secretariat to amend the current listing (see Annex). The Secretariat has therefore prepared this information document for the Standing Committee.
2. The current listing is as follows:
  - Appendix I: *Araucaria araucana* (the populations of Argentina and Chile)
  - Appendix II: *Araucaria araucana* (except the populations of Argentina and Chile).
3. *Araucaria araucana* was included in Appendix II when the Convention entered into force on 1 July 1975.
4. At its second meeting (San José, 1979) the Conference of the Parties approved a proposal by Chile to transfer its population to Appendix I.
5. At its 11th meeting (Gigiri, 2000) the Conference of the Parties approved a proposal from Argentina to transfer its population from Appendix II to Appendix I.
6. In the belief that the entire species was now included in Appendix I, the Secretariat initially deleted the species from Appendix II, in the revised Appendices.
7. Following receipt of a query from Switzerland regarding the status of its national population<sup>1</sup> it was realized that this deletion was incorrect because it implied an expansion of the adopted amendment to all populations of the species, i.e. including those that were not subject to the Argentine proposal. This would have been against the Rules of Procedure of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Rule 23, paragraph 6).
8. The Secretariat therefore corrected the Appendices by indicating that only the Chilean and Argentine populations were included in Appendix I and that any remaining populations were still in Appendix II.

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<sup>1</sup> *In its query, Switzerland referred to its national population of the species. Although it is not relevant for the current listing, the Secretariat has investigated whether naturalized populations exist in the world. Although many full-grown individuals in Switzerland, and elsewhere in the world, produce viable seeds it has not yet been demonstrated that naturalized individuals occur in Switzerland. C.A. Stace (1991; New flora of the British Isles) states that the species is very rarely self-sown, suggesting that naturalized individuals occur. These should, however, first develop into full grown specimens (which takes many tens of years) before a real self-sustaining 'introduced population' can be established. Trees have a much longer generation time than many other invasive species.*

9. When considering the above, the Secretariat noted that at least two aspects of the transfer or listing of geographically separate populations are not clear, or are subject to disagreement, specifically:
- a) What constitutes a 'geographically separate population'?
    - When does a group of living specimens become a 'geographically separate population'?
    - Does this term include specimens that have been introduced into a country where the species does not occur naturally (i.e. introduced populations)?
    - Should plants and animals held under 'controlled conditions' (e.g. in a zoo or nursery) be considered as geographically separate populations and, if so, does it make a difference whether or not they are held under such conditions in countries where they occur naturally (e.g. ranches)?
    - If specimens are introduced into a country where the species does occur naturally, do they form part of the population into which they have been introduced?
  - b) If specimens from a geographically separate population are exported when that population is included in one Appendix and it is then transferred to another, what is the (Appendix) status of the specimens that were exported and what is the status of their offspring?
10. The Secretariat intends to prepare a document on these subjects for consideration at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
11. With regard to the request of the Plants Committee that the Standing Committee instruct the Secretariat to delete *Araucaria araucana* from Appendix II, the Secretariat believes that this is not possible. Article XV of the Convention contains explicit provisions for the amendment of the Appendices. Changing of the current listings for this species is only possible after an amendment proposal, submitted by a Party, has been approved by the Parties, either through a postal procedure or at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
12. It should be noted that, if the Appendices were changed now to indicate that all populations of *Araucaria araucana* are in Appendix I, this would mean that Parties that would have entered a reservation against the amendment adopted at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties would not be able to do so, since this is only possible within 90 days after the meeting.



December, 19<sup>th</sup> 2000

<b>TO: KENNETH STANSELL, CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE</b> <b>FROM: MARGARITA CLEMENTE, CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE</b>
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Dear Chairman,

The Plants Committee in its tenth meeting thoroughly discussed the issue of *Araucaria araucana*, as presented in Doc. PC 10.9.1 and Doc. PC 10.9.1a.

The Plants Committee agreed unanimously that the intention at PC 9 meeting was to achieve the objective of listing of *Araucaria araucana* on Appendix I without exclusions to avoid in this way the split listing of the species.

After having discussed the history of inclusion of populations of *Araucaria araucana* in the Appendices, the Plants Committee believes that there is no other "population" of the species outside Chile and Argentina.

The Plants Committee therefore informs the Standing Committee of this opinion and requests that the Standing Committee directs the Secretariat to issue a notification which reflects the original intent of the proposal, supporting the position of Argentina and Chile to include the species in Appendix I. The Plants Committee requests that this subject be dealt with urgently out the session.

The Plants Committee is of the opinion that the discussion regarding naturalized populations in general, should be addressed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Criteria Working Group, which will be held in Spain, February/March 2001.

Yours Sincerely

Prof. Dr. MARGARITA CLEMENTE

ON BEHALF OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

c/c: Argentina, Chile,

Plants Committee Representatives [Africa: Mr. Luke (Kenya) & Mr. Donaldson, (South Africa);

Asia: Mr. Shaari (Malaysia) & Mr. Singh (India); Central and South America & Caribbean:

Mr. Forero (Colombia) & Ms Werkhoven (Surinam); Europe: Mr. De Koning (The Netherlands) &

Ms. Clemente (Spain); North America: Mr. von Arx (Canada); Mr. Leach (Oceania)]

Chairman CWG.