

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



Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Compliance and enforcement issues

REPORTING ON TRADE IN ARTIFICIALLY PROPAGATED PLANTS

1. This document has been submitted by Switzerland.

Background and guidelines

2. Article VIII, paragraph 7 (a), of the Convention requires Parties to submit annual reports on trade in specimens of the species included in Appendices I, II and III. Paragraph 6 (b) specifies the information that has to be provided. In Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP13) (National reports), Parties are urged to submit their annual reports in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*.
3. The main objectives of such reporting are:
 - a) to enable monitoring of the extent of international trade in all species included in the CITES Appendices and the identification of detrimental trade; and
 - b) to enable monitoring of the implementation of the Convention and the detection of potentially illicit trade.
4. The general principles suggest that information on trade in manufactured products is of limited use. It is considered acceptable if such records are summarized. Regarding plants, reporting should be at the species level or, if this is not possible, at the generic level for taxa included in the Appendices by family. Artificially propagated Appendix-II orchid hybrids may be reported as such. Reports should distinguish between plant specimens of wild and of artificially propagated origin.
5. Regarding enforcement for plants, Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP13) (Regulation of trade in plants) recommends that Parties ensure that enforcing agencies utilize *inter alia* annual reports to detect illegal trade.
6. A number of artificially propagated plants are exempted from CITES controls because there is no evidence of a conservation benefit or negative impact on enforcement. Consequently the following trade is not reported:
 - a) Seedling or tissue cultures, obtained *in vitro*, in solid or liquid media, transported in sterile containers, of most annotated taxa (Appendix II) and of all orchids, including taxa listed in Appendix I;
 - b) Artificially propagated specimens of cultivars of *Cyclamen persicum*, if not traded as dormant tubers;

- c) Artificially propagated specimens of cultivars of *Euphorbia trigona*, artificially propagated specimens of crested, fan-shaped or colour mutants of *Euphorbia lactea*, when grafted on artificially propagated root stock of *Euphorbia nerifolia*, and artificially propagated specimens of cultivars of *Euphorbia* 'Mili' when they are traded in shipments of 100 or more plants and readily recognizable as artificially propagated specimens;
 - d) Certain cultivars and mutants of Cactaceae¹;
 - e) Artificially propagated specimens of hybrids of the genera *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Phalaenopsis* and *Vanda* under certain circumstances; and
 - f) Certain *Taxus* spp., if traded as whole artificially propagated plants in pots or other small containers, if accompanied by a label or document stating the name of the taxon or taxa and the text 'artificially propagated';
7. Decision 13.90 (Reporting requirements) directs the Secretariat to identify ways to reduce the reporting burden on Parties by analysing possibilities for harmonization and technical improvements.

Rationale

- 8. Trade in various plant taxa has shifted away from wild-collected specimens and today consists to an overwhelming proportion of artificially propagated specimens, often even improved for cultivation purposes by selection or altered by hybridization, and mass-produced on an industrial scale through the application of modern techniques (meristemming).
- 9. Regardless of this development, reporting by Parties (in annual reports) continues to include such trade in artificially propagated specimens. Considerable resources have to be allocated to this reporting. This raises the urgent question of effectiveness of such activity, i.e. benefit to the conservation of wild flora. Analysis of the current situation seems appropriate and ways to reduce the reporting burden on Parties by streamlining and focusing reporting on species with conservation needs, wherever possible, should be discussed.

Draft decisions

- 10. The following draft decisions in the Annex are therefore submitted for discussion and adoption.

¹ Artificially propagated specimens of the following hybrids and/or cultivars are not subject to the provisions of the Convention:

- *Hatiora x graeseri*
- *Schlumbergera x buckleyi*
- *Schlumbergera russelliana x Schlumbergera truncata*
- *Schlumbergera orssichiana x Schlumbergera truncata*
- *Schlumbergera opuntioides x Schlumbergera truncata*
- *Schlumbergera truncata* (cultivars)
- *Cactaceae* spp colour mutants lacking chlorophyll, grafted on the following grafting stocks: *Harrisia 'Jusbertii'*, *Hylocereus trigonus* or *Hylocereus undatus*
- *Opuntia microdasys* (cultivars).

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat questions whether an investigation of the completeness or usefulness of data relating to trade in artificially propagated plants would be beneficial. Such data are only included in the CITES trade database if they are provided in a suitable electronic format, which means that a significant amount of data was not included for many years. Parties moreover have an obligation under the Convention to report on their trade in artificially propagated plants, regardless of the usefulness of such data.
- B. The Secretariat therefore does not support the draft decisions but suggests that it might be instructed to report to the Standing Committee on ways in which data on trade in artificially propagated plants could be summarized. Any cost implications arising from the Secretariat's support to the Standing Committee have already been included in the costed programme of work.

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Directed to the Secretariat

- 14.XX The Secretariat shall consult UNEP-WCMC to:
- a) investigate the quality of data relating to trade in artificially propagated plants, e.g. the degree of completeness; and
 - b) identify cases where the compilation of trade data pertaining to artificially propagated plants has contributed to a significant extent to the detection of illegal trade or to any other analysis related to the conservation of wild flora.
- 14.XX The Secretariat shall analyse the text of relevant Resolutions, guidelines and other documents in order to identify recommendations and other elements related to reporting on artificially propagated plants. The Secretariat shall list options for limiting or simplifying reporting on trade in artificially propagated plants.
- 14.XX The Secretariat shall report its findings to the Plants Committee prior to its XXth meeting.

Directed to the Plants Committee

- 14.XX The Plants Committee shall assess the usefulness of reporting on trade in artificially propagated plants. It shall analyse in what manner, for which groups of plants, etc., such reporting could be limited or simplified.
- 14.XX The Plants Committee shall report on its findings at the XXth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and submit draft text to amend the Resolutions and guidelines concerned, where appropriate.