

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



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

General introduction on the operation of the Plants Committee [Decision 12.16]

Europe

REGIONAL REPORT

General information

- a) Name of the Representatives (authors of the Report): **Dr Margarita Clemente** and **Dr Giuseppe Frenguelli**
- b) Number of Parties in the Region: **45**
- c) Number of Parties responding to communications: **14**
- d) Names of the other institutions, NGOs contacted for CITES work during the period: **Adena, WWF, IUCN, UNEP- WCMC.**

1. Follow-up on agenda items since last Plants Committee

1.1 Significant Trade

Parties

AUSTRIA: There was no significant trade during the period time (Period time: between 12th and 13th PC).

ITALY: Import: Orchidaceae, Cactaceae, Cycadaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Liliaceae, Leguminosae (*Pericopsis*). The Scientific Authority has carried numerous contacts with manufacturers in order to better understand the present and future commercial trends and the procedures set up or planned to safeguard the timber species.

UNITED KINGDOMK: Review of the plant species listed in Appendix II from Madagascar. The project is twofold:

- a) To carry out an analysis of trade in plant species from Madagascar in order to assist the CITES Management and Scientific authorities of Madagascar.
- b) To provide recommendations on the sustainable trade in wild-collected plants and on the commercial propagation of species with horticultural interest or those used for their derivatives.

This is being carried out on the basis of an overview of trends in trade of Appendix II plant species from Madagascar, previous actions of the CITES authorities of Madagascar, recommendations of the Plants and Standing Committees, current concerns about compliance with the provisions of Article IV paragraphs 2a) and 3, institutional and administrative arrangements related to implementation of Article IV for exports of Appendix II species, and the close effectiveness of relevant national legislation and its implementation. The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew have completed a desktop survey to:

- a) Review the trade data available in the CITES database held at the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC-UNEP), regarding species occurring in Madagascar and on the trade to and from Madagascar.
- b) Identify key species.
- c) Collect information on cultivation.
- d) Assess conservation status.

And participated in the Workshop held in Madagascar in May 2003, full details of work to date and the workshop are given in document PC13 Doc. 12.2.1.

1.2 Review of the Appendices

Parties

AUSTRIA: There were no activities of the Management Authority regarding to the review of the Appendices.

ITALY: Italy is not going to propose any changes.

SLOVAKIA: *Alphabetical Checklist of CITES fauna and flora species with Slovak names of these species.*

SPAIN: The chairperson of the PC (Dr Clemente) in collaboration with a contact group from the Animals Committee has prepared a document to be discussed during the PC meeting in order to establish, if possible, a joint mechanism for this process with the Animals Committee.

1.3 CITES-Projects

Parties

AUSTRIA: Financial support for the continuation of the work related to a CITES Checklist for the genus *Bulbophyllum* (Orchidaceae). A precursor for this checklist (database with roughly 6.000 names) could be finished.

SLOVAKIA: Implementation of CITES and the Related EU Legislation; sponsored by Danish government (DANCEE).

THE NETHERLANDS: The Netherlands Scientific Authority works with the Scientific Authority of Turkey and the Scientific Authority of Georgia on a scientific basis for the sustainable harvest of geophytes in Turkey and Georgia.

1.4 Nursery Registration

Parties

AUSTRIA: There was no nursery registration in Austria in the period time because there was no application for that.

CZECH REPUBLIC: Three registered nurseries for Cacti species in the Czech Republic are under control of the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection (Scientific Authority).

ITALY: The Scientific Authority, after visiting nurseries producing and exporting plants included in Appendix I, judges that 1 could benefit from this measure. Implementation has not yet started. Future registrations are probable.

SPAIN: The Spanish Management Authority follows supervising the nurseries.

SWITZERLAND: Continued inspections of P-CH-1001 by the Swiss Management Authority.

THE NETHERLANDS: No applications.

UNITED KINGDOM: No United Kingdom nurseries are supervised under this scheme.

1.5 Other

Parties

GERMANY: Supporting a project "International trade in African Blackwood (*Dalbergia melanoxylon*)", carried out by FFI and published by FFI.

Preparation of a proposal to include *Caesalpinia echinata* in Appendix II. A new edition of the Checklist of Succulent Euphorbia, including the more recently described taxa. The new edition will include a country list.

MOLDOVA: During on June, 27, 2001 period only ~~??S~~ certificates on import and export of animals have been given, but there was no case of issuing the Permit/Certificate CITES for plants.

SWITZERLAND: Continued work on contributions to the CITES Identification Manual (in preparation: The genus Pachypodium & the Euphorbias and Aloes of CITES Appendix I).

THE NETHERLANDS: Follow up of Decision 12.10: develop proposals to amend the Appendices on the basis of the Contribution to an evaluation of tree species using the new CITES Listing Criteria: meeting with NGO's and mid term planning for tree species. See document PC13 Doc. 14.2 (Rev.1).

2. Communication with Parties in the European region

- a) Regular contacts with the Management and Scientific Authorities in the European Region.
- b) Preparation, printing and distribution of Proceedings of the 12th meeting of the Plants Committee to the Management and Scientific Authorities in the European Region.
- c) Distribution of the Draft Agenda of the 13th Plant Committee meeting asking for suggestions.
- d) Preparation and distribution of the questionnaire to prepare the European Regional Report.

3. Capacity building activities

3.1 Training Seminars

Parties

AUSTRIA: The Management Authority didn't make any trainings-seminars for the Scientific Authority in the period time.

CZECH REPUBLIC: Practical training for inspectors from Environment Inspectorate (Enforcement) took place in Botanic Garden of Liberec oriented on recognizing of CITES plant species.

ITALY: Workshop, Perugia, 7 February 2003, organized by the University of Perugia and the Ministry of the Environment of Italy: The role of CITES in the conservation of the wildlife.

MOLDOVA: Participated in the Training Seminar with implementation CITES Convention in Community Independent States (CIS), Moscow, May, 1996.

POLAND: 1999 – training seminar on CITES regulations and specimens identification (5 days) for custom officers, boarder CITES – co-ordinators, Central Board of Custom workers. 2002 - training seminar on CITES regulations and specimens identification (3 days) for custom officers, phytosanitary boarder guard services, police. 2003- training seminar on the enforcement and implementation of the EU Regulations on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora (Vilm, Germany). Seminar on identification of medical plants – training for custom officers- in preparation.

SLOVAKIA:

- 24-26/10/2001: Introduction to CITES, general information about structure and capacity building of CITES in Slovakia, smuggling methods, fraud and money laundering.
- 16-18/09/2002 Introduction to the new CITES Act No 237/2002.
- 23-25/09/2002 Introduction to the new CITES Act No 237/2002.
- 01-03/10/2002 Introduction to the new CITES Act No 237/2002.
- 07-09/10/2002 Introducing the methods of identification of different CITES species of animals and plants and using ID manuals and Green Parrot.
- 10/10/2002 Introduction to the new CITES Act No 237/2002.
- 21-25/10/2002 Introducing the CITES legislation and the methods of identification of different CITES species of animals and plants and using ID manuals and Green Parrot.
- 24-28/03/2003 Introducing to CITES, national and EU legislation and enable the police officer to undertake the necessary procedures in connection with wild life crime investigation, providing information on smuggling methods and undertake control of permits. Familiarize officers with some of the more common CITES species and items in order to assist him/her in knowing when a shipment might be covered by CITES.
- 31/03-04/04/2003 Overall introduction to CITES, national and EU Legislation and enable the police officer to undertake the necessary procedures in connection with wild life crime investigation, providing information on smuggling methods, fraud and money laundering.

SPAIN:

The International University of Andalucía, in Spain, has organized the IV Masters Degree in **“Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade: The International Framework”**. The course counted on a strong cooperation of the CITES Authorities in Spain and was directed by Prof. Dr Margarita Clemente (Full Professor at the University of Córdoba, Spain), Chair of the CITES Plants Committee and member of the Spanish Scientific Authority. Special mention has to be made of the collaboration of the CITES Scientific Authorities (Fauna and Flora) of the United Kingdom, and Forensic Laboratory and CITES Scientific Authority of United States of America for their kind contribution to the Masters course funding the travels of their officers to give lectures in the Masters Degree course.

The course (400 hours) was held at the University headquarters in Baeza, province of Jaén, during April 21 to July 4, 2003. Twenty six participants from eighteen countries attended the course (Argentina, Botswana, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Russian Federation, Spain, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand and Uganda). All participants were granted by the International University of Andalucía.

The course was given by 81 Lecturers from 13 countries. In addition to the CITES experts from the Spanish Scientific Authority (Spanish Ministry for the Environment and Directorate General for Nature Conservation) and Management Authority (Ministry of the Economy–General

Secretariat for Foreign Trade), other participating experts came from the Scientific or Management Authorities of Argentina, Chile, Italy, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America; the CITES Secretariat; the European Commission; the Plant Genetic Resources Secretariat of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO); the Spanish Office for Climate Change; COFIDES; Spanish Agency for International Co-operation (AECI); Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) of Spain; the University of Córdoba; the Polytechnic University of Madrid; the University of Reading, United Kingdom; the Autonomous University of Barcelona; the Rey Juan Carlos University-UNESCO Chair; the Castilla-La Mancha University; the Catholic University of Ávila; the Spanish Environmental Police (SEPRONA); the British and Spanish Customs Authorities; the Forensic Laboratory of USA; National Gene Bank of Spain; the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, United Kingdom; the Botanic Garden of Córdoba; the National Museum of Natural Science, Madrid; the Spanish Environmental Science Institute; The Spanish Oceanographic Institute; Spanish Ministry of Science and Technology; ATECMA; UNEP-WCMC; Pharmamar; IUCN-World Conservation Union; Biodiversity Foundation of Argentina and Greenpeace, among others.

Practical training for the participants took place at the Botanic Garden of Córdoba, the Fuengirola Zoo, the Jerez Zoo, the Customs Office of Madrid, Cazorla Natural Park, with the participation during the training of the staff members of these institutions and also the participants visited the Doñana National Park.

The students undertook tests weekly and nowadays they are preparing their thesis in their respective countries. The thesis works (equivalent to 100 hours of teaching) deal with specific topics studied during the Masters Program. The submission of this work is a prerequisite to obtain the Master's degree.

THE NETHERLANDS: Participation of the Netherlands Scientific Authority in an IUCN seminar on listing criteria and an IUCN seminar on harmonization of red lists in Europe.

UNITED KINGDOM: The United Kingdom Scientific Authority for plants (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) is involved in the following capacity building initiatives:

- a) Development of a series of standard reference manuals on various CITES topics - Production of the first pack, 'CITES and Plants: a User's Guide', was funded by the United Kingdom CITES Management Authority (Dept. for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs - defra) and the CITES Secretariat with collaboration from the Córdoba Botanic Gardens, Spain, the University of Palermo, Italy and Leiden Botanic Garden, the Netherlands. It was published in 1999 and is available in English, French and Spanish. A completely revised Defra funded version of 'CITES and Plants' on CD-Rom will be published in 2003 with a new title 'CITES and Succulents'. These have been expanded to form standard reference texts in the form of PowerPoint presentations. Copies of the English versions of these presentations will be available at PC13.
- b) Enforcement tools to assist with the implementation of CITES - The United Kingdom is concentrating on the listing of tree species on the Appendices, such as ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) on Appendix III. A simple step-by-step guide for United Kingdom Customs officials has been produced for ramin and is available as a template for enforcement agencies throughout the EU. Where possible, the packs are designed so that they can be easily adapted for other species in trade e.g. *Swietenia macrophylla* Appendix II listing.
- c) CITES Checklists - The latest titles available in this series of CITES Checklists are - *Aloe* and *Pachypodium*, Carnivorous Plants (*Nepenthes*, *Sarracenia* and *Dionaea*) and Orchids (*Aerangis*, *Angraecum*, *Ascocentrum*, *Bletilla*, *Brassavola*, *Calanthe*, *Catasetum*, *Miltonia*, *Miltonioides*, *Miltoniopsis*, *Renanthera*, *Renantherella*, *Rhynchostylis*, *Rossioglossum*, *Vanda* and *Vandopsis*).
- d) Joint United Kingdom's Police and Customs CITES Training course - the first joint United Kingdom CITES training course for police and customs was hosted at RBG, Kew in March 2003. This week-long course covers identification of plants and animals in trade, role of the United Kingdom CITES Scientific Authorities, role of NGOs in tracking trade and reading of the Annexes.

- e) Police Wildlife Liaison Officers - The United Kingdom's Scientific Authority provides CITES training for police officers who have been nominated to coordinate CITES issues in their region.

Where possible, training on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and CITES is combined so as to give a better overview and understanding of how the two Conventions work and to highlight areas of possible collaboration.

3.2 Education

Parties

AUSTRIA: CITES issues are regular part of University courses in conservation biology (University of Vienna).

POLAND: 2002- brochure about conventions and agreements ratified by Poland – CITES. CITES PLANTS – identification manual for customs (in Polish language) – in preparation. CITES TIMBER – identification manual for customs (in Polish language) – in preparation. CITES – general information – identification manual + CD for customs (in Polish language) – in preparation.

THE NETHERLANDS: Members of the Scientific Authority assisted wildlife inspectors, customs and police in the determination of species in seized shipments and contributed to training of wildlife inspectors.

The Netherlands Scientific Authority provided a training of several days to Scientific Authority of Hong Kong in March 2002, and to the newly appointed Scientific Authority of Slovenia in March 2003.

3.3 Meetings

Parties

AUSTRIA: In the course of a presentation of a study on "Alien species in Austria", also the corresponding activities and strategies of CITES were presented.

ITALY: Regular Meetings of the CITES Scientific Review Group of the European Union. Regular Meetings with Italian Management Authority, Enforcement Agency, Scientific Authority for Animals and representatives of the timber trade groups.

MOLDOVA: Have organised the Seminar with the support and participation of the representatives from "DANAGRO" A/S, Denmark, Chisinau, July, 2001. Participated in the regional meetings in Slovakia, Latvia, Estonia.

POLAND: Meetings with Orchids and Cacti Societies organised by Warsaw Botanical Garden.

THE NETHERLANDS: The Netherlands Scientific Authority organized in co-operation with the CITES-Secretariat and with financial support from the government, the 12th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee in Leiden, Netherlands, 13-17 May 2002.

Participation of the Scientific Authority of the Netherlands in a contact meeting of CITES enforcement in the Netherlands.

- The Netherlands Scientific Authority provided, with financial support from the government, a regional representative for Europe in the Plants Committee, Dr Ir. Jan de Koning, for the period until the 12th Conference of Parties in November 2002.
- Three representatives of the Netherlands Scientific Authority attended a five-day European Regional Seminar for plants in Turkey in April 2001, which was chaired by Dr Ir. de Koning of the Netherlands's Scientific Authority.

3.4 Contacts with specialists and/or NGOs

Parties

AUSTRIA: Intensive contacts with specialists in *Bulbophyllum* (Orchidaceae) through the checklist project leader to ensure the continuation of this project Continuous information about CITES in the context of orchid and cacti exhibitions.

ITALY: Contacts with botanic gardens and with specialist in Cacti and orchids.

MOLDOVA: We are actively collaborating with different NGO's regarding the implementation of the convention and public informing regarding the preservation of the animals and plants included in the CITES Convention and in the Red Book of Republic of Moldova. Having the support of the "Fagus" Center and REC Moldova have been published some informative books as "Biodiversity legislation" and "The species protected by state". We have organised a Working Group for CITES implementation from different institutions (inspections, customs, police, veterinary etc.) and collaborated with him, and specialists from different countries in region: Hungary, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Belarussia, Slovakia etc.

POLAND: Consultations with specialists advises regarding non-detrimental findings.

SPAIN: Adena, WWF, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC.

SWITZERLAND: UNEP-WCMC.

THE NETHERLANDS: The Netherlands Scientific Authority has given scientific and technical support, technical and scientific advice to the Management Authorities and Scientific Authorities of several third countries and providing advice to several other Scientific Authorities of Member States on the import of certain species from certain countries.

4. Difficulties of implementation encountered in the region

4.1 Conservation issues

Parties

AUSTRIA: No conservation issues were reported during the period time.

MOLDOVA: Difficulties of the implementation CITES is in organising a Rescue Center to look after the welfare of living specimens, in particular those that have been confiscated. We haven't necessary identification manuals and others literature on national language. We also have difficulties in organizing training and seminars for ecological inspectors, custom's representatives, phyto/quarantine - public health services representatives etc, we cannot find means for their carrying out and haven't financial support for seminars organization and national law translated in England.

THE NETHERLANDS: Import of artificially propagated plants from east European countries.

4.2 Technical Issues

Parties

AUSTRIA: No technical issues were reported during the period time.

BELGIUM: Difficulties on the control and the identification of goods at the customs especially within Belgium (control of the nurseries and of the expositions) due to the lack of personnel (especially for politically reasons).

Difficulties on the control of cactus' seeds imported in Belgium, particularly on the seeds imported from the United States of America for which the importers don't ask for a certificate of importation.

MOLDOVA: Problem is that customs officers often have no enough expertise to identify CITES specimens properly.

SLOVAKIA: There was not botanist at the Scientific Authority in previous years, since 1st July this year was employed one botanist.

SPAIN: Identification of Timbers.

SWITZERLAND:

- a) Shipments re-exported from member countries of the European Union after having been moved inside the Union from the country of first destination to other member countries. Obvious difficulties in maintaining the chain of permits and tracking shipments back to their country of origin.
- b) Continued use of the Phytosanitary Certificate for re-export by phytosanitary services of various countries.
- c) Application of the exemption for *Phalaenopsis* hybrids.
- d) Use of the Phytosanitary Certificate for (re-)exports of *Araucaria araucana* by phytosanitary services of various countries.

THE NETHERLANDS: Artificially propagated *Tillandsia xerographica* from Guatemala and the Philippines. See document PC13 Inf. 5.

UNITED KINGDOM: Identification of Timbers - identification of timber is a priority issue in the UK given the increase in timber species listed on Appendix III and enforcement needs arising from numerous seizures in the UK of controlled species, in particular ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.). The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, as the United Kingdom's Scientific Authority for plants, provides an identification service through the Wood Anatomy section of the Jodrell Laboratory at Kew. The experts on staff have access to an extensive collection of vouchered tree specimens (controlled and non-controlled species) and are at present collating a comprehensive collection of CITES-controlled species for identification purposes

- Trade in artificially propagated plants with Switzerland.

5. Other topics (medicinal plants, timber)

Parties

MOLDOVA: Following our dates, a big number of medicinal plants which contain parts of plants from the countries of Asia is imported, but unfortunately our customs offices are not equipped with corresponding determinants for animals and plants, and also we do not have the opportunity to translate to the native language the corresponding literature.

UNITED KINGDOM: Medicinal Plant Trade - The United Kingdom's Scientific Authority and enforcement agencies have noticed an increasing trend in the trade in medicinal plants whereby ingredient lists on packaging are being altered to hamper detection of controlled plant species. This trend includes sending amended packaging and ingredients separately to the United Kingdom where they are assembled, using packaging with controlled ingredients crossed out or the controlled substances deliberately omitted from the ingredients list. These methods of avoiding detection will make enforcement of medicinal plants increasingly difficult to implement. RBG, Kew is also working on developing identification tests for CITES-controlled medicinal species, such as ginseng, where it will be possible to identify whether the part and derivative in trade is a controlled product or not.

6. Work to be done until next Plants Committee

Parties

AUSTRIA: Continuation of work on the Bulbophyllum-checklist project.

THE NETHERLANDS: Regional workshops on tree conservation. See document PC13 Doc.14.2 (Rev.1).

SWITZERLAND: Continued work on various draft resolutions, e.g. ongoing consultations of parties concerned.

UNITED KINGDOM: Assist in testing CITES criteria.

7. Others

Parties

BELGIUM: In Belgium, during 2001 and 2002, 754 plants were confiscated during 10 requisitions among which there were mini-orchids from Costa Rica (3 requisitions).

ITALY: Organizing a Round Table in October 2003 on "The role of the Scientific Authorities on Plants of the European Region for a better implementation of CITES".

MOLDOVA: The Ministry plans several actions under the Convention, as follows:

- a) improving the administrative capacity of the Management Authority (through forming a CITES office) and other agencies (Customs, police, veterinary and phytosanitary services)
- b) designing a data base and software for maintaining records of trade
- c) organizing a rescue Centre to look after the welfare of living specimens, particularly those that have been confiscated. Some legislative acts related to CITES Convention have been recently presented to the Government for adoption: "Law for completion of the Law on Animal Kingdom", "Regulation on creation, registration, completion, keeping, export and import of the animals and plants from wild fauna and flora collections ", "Law on Red Book of Moldova".

SWITZERLAND: Activities of the Swiss Management Authority are published yearly in a printed report "Annual Report on the Implementation of CITES in Switzerland " that can be obtained from Management Authority of Switzerland (www.cites.ch).