

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



Fifteenth meeting of the Plants Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 17-21 May 2005

Regional reports

EUROPE

General Information

- a) Name of the Representatives (authors of the Report): **Margarita Clemente and Giuseppe Frenguelli.**
- b) Name of the Alternates: **Jonas Lüthy & Nika Debeljak.**
- c) Number of Parties in the Region: **45.**
- d) Number of Parties responding to communications: **7.**
- e) Names of the other institutions, NGOs contacted for CITES work during the period: **IUCN, UNEP-WCMC.**

1. Activities carried out regarding to:

1.1 Significant Trade

SPAIN: The Spanish Management Authority is doing a review of Custom information on timber species.

1.2 Nursery Registration

CZECH REPUBLIC: Three registered nurseries for cacti species are under control of the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection (SA): P-CZ-1001, P-CZ-1002, P-CZ-1003.

ITALY: One registered nursery for cacti has been registered and it is under the control of Management Authority.

SPAIN: The Spanish Management Authority follows supervising the nurseries.

1.3 Other:

ITALY: a) CITES Identification Guide – Tropical Woods, published in 2002 by Environment Canada, has been translated into Italian by the Department of Plant Biology of the Perugia University with the support of Italian CITES Management Authority; b) manual with Technical instructions on the import procedures and identification of the CITES timber species included in

the Annexes of Council Regulation 338/97 has been prepared by CITES Management and Scientific Authorities and State Forest Corps; c) the Italian Management Authority has convened a working group dealing with CITES timber species, with the main purpose of trying to provide possible solutions to the control of timber trade in Italy.

SPAIN: a) Pilot Project: Evaluation of *Prunus africana* in Equatorial Guinea for making non-detrimental findings; b) The Spanish Management Authority is following the control of the pre-Convention stocks of *Dalbergia nigra*, testing samples with DNA identification techniques.

SWITZERLAND: The Management Authority introduced DNA-analysis for inspection of shipments of *Galanthus* bulbs in 2004. The method is presently developed in Germany, as a project of the German Scientific Authority. The practicability and usefulness of this tool was clearly demonstrated and various big, commercial shipments of illegally traded, falsely declared bulbs were confiscated, totalling more than 200.000 bulbs of *G. woronowii*. Further, contamination of a shipment of wild-collected *G. woronowii* originating from Turkey, with the sympatric and morphologically quite similar species *G. rizehensis* was detected and this was notified to Turkey, where the case is followed-up, i.e. collection practice of *G. woronowii* will be improved, as communicated by the Scientific Authority of Turkey.

## 2. Communication with Parties in the European region

- a) Regular contacts with the Management and Scientific Authorities in the European Region.
- b) Preparation and distribution of the questionnaire to prepare the European Regional Report.

## 3. Capacity building activities

### 3.1 Training Seminars

CZECH REPUBLIC: Practical training for inspectors from Czech Environmental Inspectorate (Enforcement Authority) took place in Botanic Garden of Prague oriented on recognizing of CITES succulent species.

SLOVAKIA: a) At the end of the year 2004, training seminars for Civil Service staff (Slovak Environmental Inspection, District and Regional Offices) were organized by Ministry of Environment (MoE); b) in March 2005 training was organised by MoE for the Civil Service staff regarding new national act no. 15/2005 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein.

SPAIN: a) 5 training courses on CITES addressed to the SEPRONA (Environmental Spanish Police); b) 2 training courses on plants addressed to the Local Police of Madrid.

### 3.2 Education

CZECH REPUBLIC: a) a lecture for the Czech Botanic Society about CITES and plants was held on 1 November 2004 by Dr Jan Kucera; b) a lecture for the Czech Society for Orchids about CITES and plants was held by Dr Jan Kucera on 13 February 2005.

SPAIN: Organization of the Fifth Master's degree course in "Management, Access, Conservation and Trade of species: The International framework" with the International University of Andalusia. This Master's degree course aims to provide participants with the tools for understanding how CITES work. A total of 50 credits will be given for the complete course (500 hours: 400 lecture hours and 100 hours counted as work on the thesis to be presented). The course is appropriate for those who are involved, or wish to become involved in the implementation of CITES. The Master is directed by Prof. Dr Margarita Clemente Muñoz and will start in October 2005.

SWITZERLAND: The Management Authority published reports on the outcome of CoP13 and implications for plant traders and collectors in journals for orchid collectors, cactus & succulent plants collectors, in two major journals for professional gardeners, landscapers and garden centres and in the journal of the society of Swiss pharmacists.

THE NETHERLANDS: CITES introduction by the SA for university students biology. CITES introduction by the SA for staff of Netherlands embassies. Interview of the SA for newspaper on frictions between research and CITES.

### 3.3 Meetings

In the period between PC14 and PC15, two regional Meetings were organized: the first in Poland in April 2004, and the second in Italy in April 2005.

POLAND: The 5th European Regional CITES Plants Meeting was held in Warsaw, 13-16 April 2004. The meeting was directed by Dr Hanna Werblan-Jakubiec, Director of Warsaw University Botanic Garden, Alternate member of Plants Committee for the European region with the support of National Fund for Nature Conservation and Water Management, Poland, Ministry of Environment of Republic of Poland, Warsaw University Botanic Garden, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and Department of Nature, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands. 70 participants attended the meeting coming from 21 countries: Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia & Montenegro, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom, Ukraine, and representatives from the CITES Secretariat. The delegates and participants to 5th European Regional CITES Plants Meeting recommended:

1. Ensure input of the Parties within the region to the Regional Representatives and improve support of government / institute to the Regional Representative;
2. Establish a system of contact persons to liaise with the Regional Representatives (contact person register);
3. Produce manual and events calendar for Regional Representatives and their Alternates;
4. Re-establish publication of European CITES newsletter on regular basis (UK);
5. To encourage EU member states and the EU Commission to fund translation and distribution in Europe of the Polish CITES manuals;
6. To regularly continue regional European meetings and invite Slovenia to host the next meeting;
7. The organising committees for the next European Regional CITES Plants Meeting facilitate the attendance of the delegates from countries with economy in transition;
8. To establish European CITES library – in the manner that every country is requested to send any plants CITES related materials to this library located in Royal Botanic Gardens Kew;
9. To establish closer co-operation system between Polish Management Authority and other governmental bodies and Polish botanic gardens;
10. Regarding timber, it is recommended closer co-operation links and communication system be established between CITES Management Authorities and/or CITES Scientific Authorities and NGOs, timber traders and Enforcement Authorities, and to exchange information on timber trade in the European Region;
11. CITES Management Authorities and/or CITES Scientific Authorities to contact traders in order to create a CITES timber samples reference collection and to establish efficient identification procedures;
12. Netherlands SA & MA and Georgia SA & MA to co-operate to improve the sustainability of the trade in *Galanthus* and *Cyclamen* between the two countries;

13. National Scientific and Management Authorities and the European Commission to facilitate training seminars for all CITES involved staff and experts for the new member states and candidate member states;
14. MA and SA to spread information among amateur plant societies and/or private collectors to improve mutual understanding and co-operation for better implementation of CITES.

ITALY: Organized by Italy's CITES Management Authority, Ministry of Environment and Territory, and by the Department of Plant Biology of University of Perugia, the Workshop on Management and Enforcement of the CITES timber trade in the European Region was held in Perugia (Italy) from 11 to 13 April, 2005, with the purpose of sharing experiences and promoting initiatives on timber trade management and related issues.

The Workshop was coordinated by Dr Giuseppe Frenguelli, member of PC, Dr Margarita Clemente, chairman of PC and Mr Noel McGough, member of Nomenclature Committee, with a financial support from the Italian Ministry of Environment and Land protection.

Participating in this workshop were government representatives from Albania, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and representatives from the CITES Secretariat, CITES Plants Committee, European Commission, TRAFFIC Europe, ATIBT as well as experts on timber related issues.

The participants at the workshop approved the following recommendations:

*Directed to CITES Parties within the European Region:*

- Work with your timber trade organisations and involve industry;
- Nominate a timber contact person in your Management Authority, Scientific Authority and Enforcement Agency to link with other countries;
- Share information on ports of entry and trade patterns in the region;
- Share training materials and manual;
- Co-ordinate on training workshops;
- Prepare a training workshop programme and manual that can be used as a core training material across the region;
- Run an annual European CITES and Timber training workshop for national trainers to attend;
- Make additional efforts to identify the major companies involved in trading CITES listed timber and wood products, including efforts to identify and inform traders in ramie processed products who are often not connected to the standard timber trade associations through which information on CITES controls are normally disseminated, and many of which remain ignorant of CITES requirements.

*Directed at Range States:*

- Consider the listing of tree species on Appendix III to help curb illegal trade;
- Share information, with other Parties, on their forestry legislations and their needs and experiences in making non detriment findings.

*Directed to the Standing Committee and Plants Committee*

- To review whether it would be appropriate to re-establish the CITES Timber Working Group to allow it to review a range of implementation issues;
- Plants Committee to prepare possible revised terms of reference for the Timber Working Group and address them to the Standing Committee;
- In cooperation with the World Customs Organisation, review and harmonise HS codes related to CITES needs including identification of specific codes for CITES tree species.

*Directed to the Plants Committee:*

- Establish a simple standard mechanism for measuring timber volume;
- Establish a simple standard mechanism for converting the timber product to round wood equivalents;
- Simplify and standardise the annotations for CITES timber listings;
- Identify best practice in non detriment finding.

*Directed to European Union Member States and EU Commission:*

- Encourage funding of CITES- forestry practise crossover projects;
- Use CITES Enforcement Working Group and CIRCA information network as a venue for information sharing, with a view to improving enforcement;
- Consider funding of full time enforcement specialist seconded from an EU Member State;
- The establishment of a full-time timber trade specialist within the European Commission CITES office;
- Use the available facilities, e.g. EU TWIX, to disseminate data and information on import permits and notifications issued and received and on seizures made amongst the EU member States;
- In cooperation with the WCO, review and harmonise HS codes related to CITES needs including identification of specific codes for CITES tree species;
- [Promote regional and other meetings/workshops where forest botanists, national and regional CITES staff convene to discuss and agree measures to promote sustainable management of timber tree species].

*Directed to the European Regional Representative on the Plants Committee:*

- Prepare a training workshop programme and manual that can be used as a core training material across the region;
- Organise a second European CITES and Timber Workshop which should include a training seminar, updates from Parties in the Region and a session on the preparation of non detriment statements and the disposal of confiscated timber, and analyse risk analysis related to the timber trade;
- Establish a network of wood identification labs within the European Region.

*Directed to the CITES Secretariat:*

- Encourage CITES Secretariat to complete the Identification Manual sheets for timber species in the three CITES working languages.
- [Promote regional and other meetings/workshops where forest botanists, national and regional CITES staff convene to discuss and agree measures to promote sustainable management of timber tree species].

SPAIN: a) Participation in the CoP13: Dr Clemente attended to CoP13 as part of the Spanish delegation to accomplish her duties as Plants Committee Chairman; b) Dr Clemente held a working meeting with Dr David Morgan (CITES Secretariat) to prepare the tasks in charge of the Plants Committee and discuss the draft Agenda of the PC15. Córdoba, Spain November 2004; c) Participation of the Spanish MA in the Workshop on Capacity Building for Implementation of CITES Appendix II Listing of Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) Pucallpa, Peru, 18-21 May 2004; d) Participation of the Dr Clemente in the International Symposium "Wild flora ex situ conservation under the framework of the CBD" (Cordoba, Spain, 8 April 2005) with the lecture "The sustainability of species under CITES: Case studies"; e) Participation of the Dr Clemente and the Spanish Management Authority in the Workshop on Management and Enforcement of the CITES timber trade in the European region. Perugia-Italy. 11 to 13 April 2005.

THE NETHERLANDS: Mesoamerican workshop on strategies for the sustainable use and management of timber tree species subject to international trade, Nicaragua, February 2005, chaired by the NL SA. Regional Plants meeting in Warsaw 2004: contribution of the NL SA on improving of regional communication; contribution of the NL SA on artificial propagation of *Tillandsia xerographica* in Guatemala.

#### 3.4 Contacts with specialists and/or NGOs

ITALY: Association of Timber importers.

SPAIN: UNEP-WCMC to gather information on export and import. Association of Timber importers to gather information on the local offer of timber species included in CITES. GREENPEACE to gather information on the possible existences of *Fitzroya cupressoides* in the local market.

#### 3.5 Capacity building activities

SWITZERLAND: Following CoP13, the Management Authority submitted illustrated identification material for the now exempted, flowering and labelled orchid hybrids to the Secretariat, in three languages of the Convention, at the end of 2004.

#### 4. Difficulties of implementation encountered in the region

Technical Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC: Difficulty with import of orchids from South-East Asia. There are many species which are described in IPNI database but are not listed in CITES databases (UNEP-WCMC, CITES Orchid Checklist). We are not sure how we can qualify these imports – uncertainty in recognition some of the species according to CITES nomenclature.

ITALY: Difficulties on the identification of tropical imported timbers.

SPAIN: Identification of timbers and medicinal plants

#### 5. Other topics related to CITES

SPAIN: The Spanish Management Authority is starting the control of *Fitzroya cupressoides*, *Swietenia* spp., *Gonystylus*, *Pericopsis elata* and others, testing samples with DNA identification techniques and microscopically.

6. Work to be done until next Plants Committee

ITALY: Organization of a training course on timber identification.

SPAIN: a) Participation in a CITES seminar in Perú. Collaboration with the Peruvian Authorities to implement the inclusion of *Swietenia macrophylla* in the Appendix II and the inspection of nurseries; b) Organization of the Program of Ph degree on "Management, Access and Conservation of the Biodiversity" in collaboration with the International University of Andalucia and the University of Cordoba.

7. Others

CZECH REPUBLIC: 584 roots of *Panax ginseng* from Russian Federation were captured in March 2004 at the airport of Prague – Ruzyne. Specimens were seized and confiscated, because of falsely declared species without any CITES documents.

ITALY: Italian Ministry of Environment and Land protection is supporting the work done by Dr Frenguelli as European Representative in the Plants Committee with funding and logistic support.

SPAIN: Spain is supporting constantly the work done by Dr Clemente as European Representative and Chairman of the Plants Committee with funding and logistic support in order to get this job be done appropriately.