

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

---

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

Strategic and administrative matters

SYNERGY BETWEEN CITES AND THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)

1. This document has been submitted by the Plants Committee.
2. Decision 13.8 regarding the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation directs the Plants Committee to: *link its activities and collaborations with the CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), especially regarding target XI 'No species of wild flora endangered by international trade', and with other CBD-related issues.*
3. The Plants Committee at its fifteenth meeting in Geneva (Switzerland), 17-21 May 2005, considered the scope of its work against all the targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. The results of the general deliberations are presented in Annex 1 of this information document.
4. The Plants Committee will continue to develop a strategy to further demonstrate its activities particularly in the context of the GSPC target XI.
5. In the context of the discussions during its fifteenth meeting, the Plants Committee also considered Notification to the Parties No.2005/017 of 6 April 2005 which outlines the conclusions of the Secretariat with respect to the findings and recommendations of the Vilm report (SC53 Doc. 8) and offers the following comments for consideration by the Standing Committee:
6. The Plants Committee notes the desired changes identified in the Vilm report and suggests the desired change on "improving communication both nationally and internationally" is also appropriate at the regional level.
7. The Plants Committee notes the activities identified as particularly relevant towards achieving the desired changes and suggestion in addition, under "General recommendations", the recommendation for *improving communication between the two Conventions on areas of overlap* and, under "Linking CBD to CITES approaches", the recommendation for *encouraging CBD to take advantage of CITES expertise* are also relevant toward achieving the desired changes for improved cooperation and synergy between CITES and CBD.

Activities of CITES and especially the CITES PC in the context of the GSPC

<b>(A) Understanding and documenting plant diversity</b>		
(1) A widely accessible working list of known plant species, as a step towards a complete world flora.	Yes	Work of the Nomenclature Committee, Periodic review of the Appendices and significant trade process. CITES Checklists produced for various groups of plants including orchids, cacti, other succulents and bulb genera.
(2) A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, at national, regional and international levels.	Yes	The routine work of Scientific Authorities, the Plants Committee, and the Significant Trade process create data which should or could contribute to this process.
(3) Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience.	Yes	Article 4 and best practice examples, e.g., <i>Guaiaacum</i> . Setting quotas and non-detriment findings.
<b>(B) Conserving plant diversity</b>		
(4) At least 10 per cent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.	No	
(5) Protection of 50 per cent of the most important areas for plant diversity assured.	No	
(6) At least 30 per cent of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity.	No	
(7) 60 per cent of the world's threatened species conserved <i>in situ</i> .	Yes	Identifying App. I species helps in establishing protected areas.  When there is sustainable use <i>in situ</i> (e.g. <i>Harpagophytum</i> ) it provides an incentive for <i>in situ</i> conservation.  Making use of Res. Conf 13.9 (cooperation between Parties with <i>ex situ</i> breeding operations and those with <i>in situ</i> conservation programmes) helps <i>in situ</i> conservation.  Listing species in App. II requires a NDF for any trade that explicitly promotes <i>in situ</i> conservation.  Listing species in Appendix I aims to eliminate trade as a threat to <i>in situ</i> populations.  Listing in CITES appendices may require management that also benefits non-target species <i>in situ</i> (e.g. management & Ramin).
(8) 60 per cent of threatened plant species in accessible <i>ex situ</i> collections, preferably in the country of origin, and 10 per cent of them included in recovery and restoration programmes.	Yes	Listing has created higher motivation for conservation work as opposed to simple collecting. Because they are listed, seeds of cacti in Mexico are cultivated <i>in situ</i> instead of flowing out of country.  Make use of Res. Conf 13.9 (cooperation between Parties with <i>ex situ</i> breeding operations and those with <i>in situ</i> conservation programmes).
(9) 70 per cent of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained.	No	

(10) Management plans in place for at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems.	No	Conf. 13.10 Trade in alien invasive species.
<b>(C) Using plant diversity sustainably</b>		
(11) No species of wild flora endangered by international trade.	Yes	Everything CITES does contribute to this target.
(12) 30 per cent of plant-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed.	Yes	Annotations in CITES enable regulation of certain target commodities, and through NDF's, CITES regulations promote sustainable use of the species listed in the Appendices.
(13) The decline of plant resources, and associated indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, halted.	Yes	Non-detriment findings contribute to the sustainable use of CITES listed species.
<b>(D) Promoting education and awareness about plant diversity</b>		
(14) The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, educational and public –awareness programmes.	Yes	Training courses, web pages, technical reports, slide packs, CD-ROMs, training officer, capacity building unit.
<b>(E) Building capacity for the conservation of plant diversity</b>		
(15) The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy.	Yes	Training courses, web pages, technical reports, slide packs, CD-ROMs, training officer, capacity building unit.
(16) Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels.	Yes	CITES is a network. Regional directories are an expression of the network.