

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



Seventeenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 April 2008

PERIODIC REVIEW / *EUPHORBIA* SPECIES
(Agenda items 11 and 14)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Chairman: Switzerland;

Members: The representative of Europe (Mr Sajevo);

Parties: Argentina, France, Germany, South Africa, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, United States of America;

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, European Commission, IUCN, TRAFFIC.

Mandate

1. Analyse trade data and conservation status of succulent *Euphorbia* species (except those species currently included in Appendix I);
2. Prepare a revised list of succulent *Euphorbia* species that meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14) for inclusion in Appendix II;
3. Prepare proposals, if relevant, for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Plants Committee that provide for the deletion of *Euphorbia* species from Appendix II that do not meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14), are frequently traded and can be clearly identified by non-specialists; and
4. Determine the need for identification material for species retained in Appendix II.

These tasks are to be included in the mandate of the working group established under item 11.

1. Make a proposal on the appropriate listing of *Agave parviflora* and *Podocarpus parlatorei* and, if required, on further action.
2. Make a proposal on how to proceed with taxa that are not yet under review (Annex 1, paragraph E) and taxa for which no reports on the state of review are available (Annex 5);
3. Propose an alternative approach for the remaining taxa and for future reviews;
4. Identify ways to conduct the review in the short, medium and long term; and

5. Identify sources of funding to conduct the reviews.

Results and Recommendations

1. The WG recommends to deal with Agenda Items 11 and 14 separately.

PERIODIC REVIEW

2. The WG recommends to retain *Agave parviflora* in Appendix I.
3. The WG informs the PC that:
 - a) Argentina is considering submitting a proposal to CoP15 to downlist *Podocarpus parlatorei* from Appendix I to Appendix II with an appropriate annotation for parts and derivatives.
 - b) South Africa is preparing Proposals for delisting *Orothamnus zeyheri* and *Protea odorata* from Appendix II for consideration of CoP15.
 - c) Namibia is preparing a report on the review of *Welwitschia mirabilis* for consideration of PC18.
 - d) The review of *Euphorbia antisiphilitica* by Mexico is under way and the review of *Agave victoriae-reginae* will probably be initiated in the near future.
 - e) The Netherlands are offering to review *Cycas beddomei*.
 - f) A possible voluntary expert for the review of the 10 Madagascan *Euphorbia* spp. in Appendix I was identified and France will ask for his cooperation.
4. In order to achieve more progress up to PC18, the WG recommends that
 - a) The Secretariat shall publish a Notification to Parties as soon as possible and raise awareness of taxa that are still not under review. The Notification should contain a list of these taxa and a schedule. Further, it should contain a call for voluntary financial contributions for contracting experts for the review of taxa, for which no voluntary experts can be identified by the PC. Parties should inform the Secretariat, if they identify or contract experts for the review of species.
 - b) If funds should become available, the Secretariat shall consult with the chairs of the PC and the intercessional WG and select taxa for review and experts to be contracted, and make according contracts.
5. The WG will coordinate and monitor the Periodic Review and submit a report to PC18.
6. The WG recommends that the PC should apply for the allocation of funds to the Periodic Review of plant taxa at CoP15. The PC should draft guidelines up to CoP15, indicating under which circumstances experts may be contracted for reviews of plant taxa.

EUPHORBIA SPP.

7. The WG points out that the genus *Euphorbia* was substantially amplified: According to recent studies of DNA sequence data, most of the smaller "satellite genera" around the huge genus *Euphorbia* nest deep within the latter. Consequently these taxa, namely the never generally accepted genus *Chamaesyce* as well as the smaller genera *Cubanthus*, *Elaeophorbium*, *Endadenium*, *Monadenium*, *Synadenium* and *Pedilanthus* were transferred to *Euphorbia*. The genus *Euphorbia* in this new, amplified sense is equal to the entire subtribe *Euphorbiinae* of the family Euphorbiaceae. A considerable number of additional succulent species may thus fall unintentionally under CITES regulations. The WG therefore recommends to investigate, whether one or several subgeneric units of the genus *Euphorbia* in the new, amplified sense correspond to the former listing and, if possible, narrow the listing of succulent *Euphorbia* spp. in Appendix II down to this subgeneric taxon or those subgeneric taxa.

8. The WG will undertake some work intersessionally:
 - a) Analyze the trade data provided in PC17 Doc. 14 (Annex).
 - b) Identify species for possible exclusion from Appendix II, based on this and all other available, relevant information.
 - c) Prepare a list of candidate species for possible delisting for consideration of PC18 and submit a report containing this list and all other available, relevant information.
9. The WG recommends that following PC17, the Secretariat shall publish a Notification to Parties as soon as possible, asking Range States of succulent *Euphorbia* spp. to indicate, as far as possible, species that are actually or potentially negatively impacted through harvest from the wild for international trade. Parties should report their findings to the Secretariat until 6 month before PC18 and the Secretariat shall gather this information and forward it to the chair of the WG.