

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-21 April 2011

Trade in Agavaceae native to Mexico and the United States of America

1. This informative document has been prepared by the United States of America and Mexico*.

Background

2. At the 18th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC18, Buenos Aires, 2009), the Management Authority of Switzerland submitted Document PC18 Doc. 21.1 *Trade in Agavaceae*, under the agenda item “Any other business.” Document 21.1 provided information about wild-collected specimens of North American (i.e., Mexico and the United States) Agavaceae species exported to the European Union. Accordingly, cold hardy species of Agavaceae are becoming increasingly popular for use in landscape and indoor plantings, thereby increasing the demand for such plants, in particular large mature specimens.
3. Included with Document PC18 Doc. 21.1, were photographs of wild-collected specimens of 12 species (Annex 1) of the genera: *Agave*, *Dasyilirion*, *Nolina*, and *Yucca* (family Agavaceae) that were exported to the European Union for the ornamental plant trade. None of the species included in Doc. 21.1 are listed in the Appendices of CITES.
4. At PC18, the Committee requested Switzerland to collaborate with Mexico and the United States to provide trade information on the species concerned, with a view to presenting a joint document on the issue at a future meeting of the Committee. Subsequently, the Management Authority of Switzerland provided trade data for specimens of species imported from Mexico and the United States to the respective Scientific Authorities.
5. The Scientific Authority of the United States is working on this issue with national customs and State officials, and the CITES Authorities of Mexico. The Scientific Authority of Mexico is working with national forestry agencies and the CITES Management and Enforcement Authorities

* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

of Mexico. Both Parties are seeking cooperation with other Parties with regards to obtaining import trade data of commercial shipments of specimens of non CITES-listed Agavaceae. Based on our review of Agavaceae in trade, we will determine whether any of the species are of conservation concern and warrant listing in the Appendices of CITES.

6. In this regard, the Scientific Authority of Mexico is conducting a study to evaluate the conservation status, use, and threats of *Yucca queretaroensis* in Mexico, in order to assess the pertinence of including it in the CITES Appendices following the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15), and to modify its current conservation status established on National Legislation (NOM-059 SEMARNAT-2010). Preliminary results will be presented at PC20 (2012).

Annex 1: Species reported in Document PC18 Doc. 21.1, *Trade in Agavaceae*, nomenclature, distribution, and conservation status information.

Species and authority	Accepted nomenclature	Distribution	Conservation status in the United States	Conservation status in Mexico under Mexico's National Legislation *
<i>Agave neomexicana</i> Wooton & Standley 1913	<i>Agave parryi</i> subspecies <i>neomexicana</i> (Wooton & Standley) B. Ullrich 1992	New Mexico and Texas, USA; and Coahuila, Mexico	Apparently secure in New Mexico, and imperiled in Texas (1994 review)	Not listed
<i>Agave parrasana</i> Berger 1906	Accepted	Coahuila, Mexico	NA	Pr = special protection
<i>Dasyllirion miquihuanense</i> Bogler 1998	Accepted	Nuevo León and Tamaulipas, Mexico	NA	Not listed
<i>Dasyllirion quadrangulatum</i> Watson 1879	Accepted	Northeast Mexico	NA	A = threatened
<i>Dasyllirion texanum</i> Scheele 1850	Accepted	Texas, USA; and Coahuila, Mexico	Secure (1992 review)	Not listed
<i>Yucca carnerosana</i> (Trelease) McKelvey 1938	Accepted	Northeast Mexico	NA	Not listed
<i>Yucca elata</i> (Engelmann) Engelmann 1882	Accepted	Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Texas, and Utah, USA; and Mexico	Secure (1988 review)	Not listed
<i>Yucca faxoniana</i> Sargent 1905	Accepted	Texas, USA; and Chihuahua and Coahuila, Mexico	Apparently secure (1992 review)	Not listed

Species and authority	Accepted nomenclature	Distribution	Conservation status in the United States	Conservation status in Mexico under Mexico's National Legislation*
<i>Yucca queretaroensis</i> Piña Luján 1989	Accepted	Queretaro and Hidalgo, Mexico	NA	Pr = special protection
<i>Yucca rostrata</i> Engelmann ex Trelease 1902	Accepted	Texas, USA; and Chihuahua and Coahuila, Mexico	Unknown	Not listed
<i>Yucca thompsoniana</i> Trelease 1912	Accepted	Texas, USA; and Mexico	Vulnerable (2002 review)	Not listed
<i>Yucca torreyi</i> Shafer 1908 Comment: DNA and morphological evidence supports <i>Y. torreyi</i> as a distinct species (Clary 1997).	Uncertain. Accepted: Kartesz (in press); Turner et al. 2003; and USDA 2000. Not accepted: Synonym of <i>Y. faxoniana</i> (Govaerts 2006); and synonym of <i>Y. treculeana</i> (Hess & Robbins 2002; ITIS 2011).	New Mexico and Texas, USA; and Mexico	Apparently secure (1996 review)	Not listed

^Conservation status in the United States: As reported by NatureServe. 2010. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia, U.S.A. On-line at: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>; accessed February 16, 2011).

* Conservation status in Mexico: native species of conservation concern are listed in the Official Mexican Standard NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010, under the General Wildlife Law (*Ley General de Vida Silvestre*), which is implemented by the General Direction of Wildlife (*Dirección General de Vida Silvestre* (DGVS)) of the Ministry of Natural Resources (SEMARNAT). DGVS is the CITES Management Authority for Mexico.

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