

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



Twentieth meeting of the Plants Committee
Dublin (Ireland), 22-30 March 2012

Regional reports

EUROPE

1. This document has been submitted by the regional representatives for Europe**.

General information

2. Representatives (authors of the report): Dr Margarita Clemente and Dr Maurizio Sajeva.
3. Alternates: Dr David Kikodze and Mr Paulo J.L. Carmo.
4. Number of Parties in the region: 48
5. Names of the other institutions and NGOs contacted for CITES work during the period: IUCN, UNEP-WCMC. Intergovernmental Organization: European Commission.

European Regional CITES Plants Meeting

6. The European regional meeting was organized by the Biodiversity Protection Service of the Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia. Georgian CITES Management Authority in Tbilisi, 19-22 November 2011.
7. The meeting was attended by representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Commission.
8. The main issues analysed were: Outcomes of the 19th Meeting of the CITES Plants Committee: Priorities for European Region; Updates and Country Reports; CITES Enforcement in the European Region; Update from countries on enforcement initiatives, confiscations, prosecutions, EU initiatives, capacity building for enforcement; Trade in Medicinal Plants, Cosmetics and Pharmaceuticals; Trade Regulations in the European Union; CITES Timber Trade; Trade in Bulbs and Preparation for the 20th Meeting of the Plants Committee and COP16.
9. The European Regional CITES Plants Meeting appreciates and commends: The CITES Authorities of Georgia for organising a highly successful and efficient meeting which brought together a wide range of

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** 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.

Parties and stakeholders involved in CITES trade related issues and explored innovative solutions to practical problems of CITES implementation in the region.

Results and Recommendations

10. The European Regional CITES Plants Meeting notes that within the European Region, the Parties present, identified the following areas to be of high concern:
 - the need for capacity building for Parties within the region which have recently joined the Convention;
 - the ability to accurately identify CITES species in trade and, in particular, timber and products containing parts and derivatives of CITES species;
 - the understanding and standardised interpretation and application of the annotations to CITES listings;
 - the continuing lack of human and financial resources available to effectively implement the Convention for plants;
 - the low level of enforcement resources allocated to plant issues;
 - the increase in trade in parts and derivatives for the medicinal, cosmetic, pharmaceutical and timber markets;
 - the problems associated with increasing trade in CITES material via postal shipments and by internet sales;
 - the need for specialised training and training materials for staff in new and developing types of CITES trade; and
 - the continuing illegal trade of cacti from South America destined for European countries.
11. The European Regional CITES Plants Meeting recommends:
 - that Parties in the Region, where possible, ensure that their delegations to CITES meetings include enforcement expertise, or as a minimum, ensure that advice from such experts is obtained when reviewing proposals to amend the Appendices and the practical application of annotations to listings, and that any such advice is forwarded to the Regional Representatives
 - that the UK Scientific Authority further develop its list of tests for the identification of CITES species traded as products and make it available to Parties in the Region and, if appropriate, submit it as an information document to the 20th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee.
12. The European Regional CITES Plants Meeting acknowledges:
 - that artificial propagation of CITES plant species does not necessarily provide the conservation and related benefits that can be provided by a well managed sustainable use programme.
13. The European Regional CITES Plants Meeting encourages:
 - Parties that have translated identification and capacity building material for their own use to distribute that material to countries that share the same language or consider adding value to such material by translation into additional languages
 - Parties, in the region, to co-operate with range states and the trade to obtain voucher samples of the major CITES timbers in trade and their products to build or enhance existing collections used for the identification of CITES species in trade.
14. The European Regional CITES Plants Meeting commends:
 - Georgia on the efforts it has taken to ensure effective implementation of the Convention for geophytes.

15. The European Regional CITES Plants Meeting recommends:

- that Georgia submits to the 20th Meeting of the Plants Committee, for its consideration its plans for the practical application of the CITES definition of artificial propagation to geophytes
- that a Party within the region prepare a document on marking procedures which might be applied to CITES listed geophytes traded as bulbs, tubers etc to support enforcement of the CITES listings
- that Georgia continue to have the participation of international experts in its development of CITES procedures for geophytes, including in the advisory panel for a proposed 5 year monitoring process.

Preparation within the region for the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

16. The European Regional CITES Plants Meeting recommends:

- that a European Regional meeting be convened, in good time before CoP16, with the aim to share views and information, and explore positions on documents and amendment proposals. This initiative would be very valuable in informing non European Union (EU) Parties on EU positions and proposals.

17. The European Regional CITES Plants Meeting kindly requests:

- the European Union representative to explore the possibility of supporting this initiative.

18. A CD-rom has been prepared by Dr. Sajeva and distributed to the European Parties. Copies of the CD-rom are available on request at the address: maurizio.sajeva@unipa.it