

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



Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

The attached information document has been submitted by the Chairman of Working Group on the Periodic Review of Plant Species included in the CITES Appendices of the Plants Committee.

Amendment of the Appendices

PERIODIC REVIEW OF PLANT TAXA IN THE APPENDICES UP TO COP15 PROGRESS REPORT & COMMENTS

1. This document has been prepared by the Chairman of Working Group on the Periodic Review of Plant Species included in the CITES Appendices of the Plants Committee.

Rationale

2. It is important for a positive conservation impact of the Convention with effective allocation of resources, as well as for the credibility of the Convention that CITES Appendices reflect the actual conservation needs, regulate relevant parts and derivatives and do not regulate species that do not benefit from such action or parts and derivatives thereof with no significant impact on harvest from the wild. Especially if the conservation status of a species has improved, or international trade shifts to other species and commodities, this should be reflected by CITES regulations as closely as possible.

Therefore the periodic review of the appendices is important.

Background

3. According to Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP13) on Establishment of Committees, under the first RESOLVES in Annex 2, paragraph h), the Plants Committee should undertake a periodic review of plant species included in the CITES Appendices by establishing a schedule for conducting the reviews, identifying problems, consulting Parties on the need to review specific species and seeking their assistance, and preparing and submitting amendment proposals resulting from the reviews, through the Depository Government, for consideration at meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
4. At its 51st meeting (Bangkok, 2004), the Standing Committee adopted comprehensive recommendations on the periodic reviews of the Appendices.
5. At its 15th meeting (Geneva, 2005), the Plants Committee agreed a list of taxa to be reviewed during the two intercessional periods between meetings of the Conference of the Parties (CoP13 and CoP15) and established an intersessional working group (WG). The list was modified after the meeting, at the request of the Chairman of the WG, and agreed via correspondence.
6. The Secretariat, through Notification No. 2005/037 of 19 July 2005, communicated to the Parties the list of candidate taxa for review agreed by the Plants Committee. Range States of these species were requested to send their comments on the need to review these species by 18 September 2005. The only reply was by Mexico.
7. After Notification to the Parties No. 2005/037, the Chairman of the WG specifically contacted a number of range States: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, India, Madagascar and Peru. Argentina, Brazil and Madagascar responded and submitted contributions, established contacts to national experts or requested further information.
8. At its 16th meeting (Lima, 2006), the Plants Committee finalized the selection of taxa to be reviewed up to CoP15. This was not yet submitted to the Standing Committee.
9. The Chairman of the WG asked for reports on the state of reviews, via e-mail of 14 March 2007, in order to prepare this progress report.

Progress report to CoP14

The list of taxa for review, as agreed by PC16, consists of 30 taxa with ca. 103 species. Of these, 8 taxa are reviewed; 7 taxa (28 spp.) need no further action, i.e. the review process, within one interval between CoPs, is completed for 23 % of the taxa (27% of the species).

For 10 taxa (10 spp.) responsibilities are assigned, but the state of reviews is not known to the Chairman of the WG and for 1 taxon (18 spp.), the review was postponed by the reviewer.

For 9 taxa (44 spp.), i.e. 30% of taxa (42% of spp.) it was not possible to identify voluntary reviewers and no range State or Party took responsibility, although Parties and regional representatives of the PC were made aware of the issue and various Parties were specifically contacted by the Chairman of the WG. It seems most uncertain, whether any progress can be made here up to CoP15 under the present conditions. These taxa are highlighted in the Annex to this document.

A number of proposals for consideration of CoP14, prepared by range States/reviewers, result from the periodic review of the Appendices. Range States in these cases prefer to directly submit proposals to the CoP rather than submitting reports to the PC for assessment and preparation of proposals by the PC. This proceeding highlights the potential role of range States and abbreviates the process of reviewing the Appendices.

A. Completed reviews.

- a) *Agave arizonica*: CoP14 Prop. 22: Deletion from Appendix I (United States of America).
- b) *Agave parviflora*: Current listing adequate, to be reported to PC.
- c) *Nolina interrata*: CoP14 Prop. 23: Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II, including all parts and derivatives (United States of America).
- d) *Pereskia* spp.: CoP14 Prop. 24: Deletion from Appendix II (Argentina).
- e) *Pereskiaopsis* spp.: CoP14 Prop. 25: Deletion from Appendix II (Mexico).
- f) *Quiabentia* spp.: CoP14 Prop. 24: Deletion from Appendix II (Argentina).
- g) *Shortia galacifolia*: CoP14 Prop. 28: Deletion from Appendix II (United States of America).

B. Completed reviews, action of PC required (preparation of proposals).

- h) *Podocarpus parlatorei*: Argentina, reports submitted to PC16 (Inf. 2 + 3).

C. Aborted reviews: Excluded from the list (PC16 WG2 Doc. 1).

- i) *Aloe arborescens*
- j) *Discocactus* spp.
- k) *Euphorbia ingens*
- l) *Euphorbia tirucalli*
- m) *Melocactus conoideus*
- n) *Melocactus deinacanthus*
- o) *Melocactus glaucescens*
- p) *Melocactus paucispinus*

D. Uncomplete reviews (see the Annex for further information).

- q) *Saussurea costus*: Germany (state not reported).
- r) *Euphorbia antisyphilitica*: Mexico (looking for experts).
- s) *Balmea stormae*: Costa Rica, Guatemala (state not reported).
- t) *Platymiscium pleiostachyum*: Costa Rica (state not reported).
- u) *Tillandsia harrisii*: Guatemala (state not reported).
- v) *Tillandsia kautskyi*: Brazil (state not reported).
- w) *Tillandsia sprengeliana*: Brazil (state not reported).
- x) *Orothamnus zeyheri*: South Africa (state not reported).
- y) *Protea odorata*: South Africa (state not reported).
- z) *Welwitschia mirabilis*: Namibia (state not reported).
- aa) *Sclerocactus* spp. (s. str.): United States of America (postponed due to unresolved taxonomy).

E. Not yet under review: No responsibilities and experts assigned.

- bb) *Dioscorea deltoidea*
- cc) *Agave victoriae-reginae*

- dd) *Tillandsia kammii*
- ee) *Tillandsia mauriana*
- ff) *Hedychium philippinense*
- gg) *Cycas beddomei*
- hh) *Didieraceae* spp.
- ii) *Euphorbia* spp. of Appendix I
- jj) *Aloe*, the Madagascan spp. of Appendix I

Identified problems

10. No funds are allocated to the task of reviewing the Appendices. Experts have to complete their work on a voluntary basis.
11. Whereas some range States showed great interest in the task, took responsibility, identified focal persons and experts and submitted reports to the Plants Committee and/or proposals to the CoP, others did not. It is still unclear, how range States can be better involved and what exactly should happen if they can't get involved up to a certain state of the review, which would have to be defined.
12. It became obvious, that this problem is even more pronounced in cases of "multi-national" taxa, e.g. species-rich genera that are represented by one or a few species in a considerable number of range States.
13. Schedule: For the limited amount of time up to CoP15, including deadlines for submitting proposals to amend the Appendices, reviews had to be started before the list of taxa for review was formally finalized by the PC; the list still has to be submitted to the Standing Committee, whereas a number of reviews are already completed.
14. The review process is currently characterized by:
 - a) a lengthy and complicated process of selection of taxa for review;
 - b) lack of incentives;
 - c) lack of funding;
 - d) unresolved responsibilities and competence of actors (range States, proponents of listings, Plants Committee, regional representatives, intersessional working group, focal persons, voluntary experts).

Comments

The Secretariat and the Animals and Plants Committees identified some shortcomings of the current guidelines for the periodic review of the Appendices and propose amendments (CoP14 Doc. 66).

It would be useful to have strong and binding mechanisms for keeping the Appendices up to date. This may include basically two different approaches:

- a) Strengthening the periodic review of the Appendices by improving the guidelines.
- b) Modifying the character of listings.

It can be hoped that the guidelines are improved during CoP14. One of the main problems seems to be the lack of incentives for reviewing the appendices. The idea under b) was therefore already brought up at earlier CoPs. For example, it was suggested that new listings should be valid only for a predefined term and then would need to be proposed again ("sunset clause"). Another, similar idea among the CITES community is that newly listed species should immediately enter a review process by the Animals and Plants Committees during for example, two intervals between CoPs, which may lead to definitive inclusion in the Appendix proposed or in a different Appendix or to extension of the review or exclusion from the Appendices, following standard criteria. Such ideas could maybe be further developed in a working group during CoP14.

Review of flora listings up to CoP15

Taxon	Appendix and year of listing	Number of species for higher taxa	Range State(s) / Territories	Country(ies) responsible for review	Contact person (e-mail address)	State of review
<u>Medicinal Plants</u>						
<i>Saussurea costus</i>	App. II (1975); App. I (1985)		India, Pakistan	Germany	Elisabeth Munzert (elisabeth.munzert@bmu.bund.de)	
<i>Dioscorea deltoidea</i>	App. II (1975, roots only); Annotation #1 (1985)		Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Thailand, Viet Nam	?		(no responsibilities and experts assigned)
<i>Euphorbia antisyphilitica</i>	App. II (1975, under succulent <i>Euphorbia</i> spp.)		Mexico, United States of America	Mexico	Hesiquio Benitez Diaz (hbenitez@xolo.conabio.mx), Patricia Davila Aranda (pdavilaa@servidor.unam.mx)	currently looking for an expert
<u>Timber Species</u>						
<i>Balmea stormae</i>	App. I (1975)		El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico	Costa Rica; Guatemala	Dora Ingrid Rivera (drivera@una.ac.cr; dora.ingrid.rivera@gmail.com), Migdalia Garcia (cites@conap.gob.gt)	

<i>Platymiscium pleiostachyum</i>	App. I (1975); App. II with Annotation #1 (1990)		Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua	Costa Rica	Dora Ingrid Rivera (drivera@una.ac.cr ; dora.ingrid.rivera@gmail.com)	
<i>Podocarpus parlatorei</i>	App. I (1975)		Argentina, Bolivia, Peru	Argentina	Alejandro Brown (abrown@proyungas.com.ar), Pedro G. Blendinger (blendinger@birdecology.com.ar)	reports submitted to Chairman 16 and 22 February 2006, submitted by Chairman to PC16 (PC16 Inf. 2 and PC16 Inf. 3). PC 16 took no further action, such as, for example, drafting a proposal. Action required by PC.
<u>Ornamental Plants, small taxa</u>						
<i>Agave arizonica</i>	App. I (1983)		United States of America	United States of America	Patricia Ford (Patricia_Ford@fws.gov)	CoP14 Prop. 22 (United States of America): Deletion from Appendix I
<i>Agave parviflora</i>	App. I (1983)		Mexico, United States of America	United States of America	Patricia Ford (Patricia_Ford@fws.gov)	Review completed, current listing adequate.
<i>Agave victoriae-reginae</i>	App. II (1983)		Mexico			(no responsibilities and experts assigned)
<i>Nolina interrata</i>	App. I (1983)		Mexico, United States of America	United States of America	Patricia Ford (Patricia_Ford@fws.gov)	CoP14 Prop. 23 (United States of America): Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II, including all parts and derivatives
<i>Tillandsia harrisii</i>	App. II (1992)		Guatemala	Guatemala	Migdalia Garcia (cites@conap.gob.gt)	
<i>Tillandsia kammii</i>	App. II (1992)		Honduras			(no responsibilities and experts assigned)
<i>Tillandsia kautskyi</i>	App. II (1992)		Brazil	Brazil	Celso do Lago Paiva (celsodolago@hotmail.com)	
<i>Tillandsia mauriana</i>	App. II (1992)		Mexico			(no responsibilities and experts assigned)
<i>Tillandsia sprengeliana</i>	App. II (1992)		Brazil	Brazil	Celso do Lago Paiva (celsodolago@hotmail.com)	
<i>Tillandsia sucrei</i>	App. II (1992)		Brazil	Brazil	Celso do Lago Paiva (celsodolago@hotmail.com)	
<i>Shortia galacifolia</i>	App. II (1983)		United States of America	United States of America	Patricia Ford (Patricia_Ford@fws.gov)	CoP14 Prop. 28 (United States of America): Deletion from Appendix II

<i>Orothamnus zeyheri</i>	App. I (1975); App. II with Annotation #1 (1997)		South Africa	South Africa	Sonja Meintjes (smeintjes@deat.gov.za)	
<i>Protea odorata</i>	App. I (1975); App. II with Annotation #1 (1997)		South Africa	South Africa	Sonja Meintjes (smeintjes@deat.gov.za)	
<i>Welwitschia mirabilis</i>	App. I (1975); App. II with Annotation #1 (1990)		Angola, Namibia	Namibia	Elly Hamunyela (ehamunyela@africaonline.com.na)	
<i>Hedychium philippinense</i>	App. I (1975); App. II with Annotation #1 (1992)		Philippines			(no responsibilities and experts assigned)
Ornamental Plants, big taxa						
<u>Cactaceae</u>						
<i>Pereskia</i> spp.	App. II (1975, under Cactaceae spp.)	16 spp.	AN, AR, BO, BR, CO, CR, CU, DO, EC, GF, GT, GY, HN, HT, MX, NI, PA, PE, PR, PY, SR, SV, TT, US, UY, VE, VI, WI	<i>P. saccharosa</i> , <i>P. aculeata</i> , <i>P. nemorosa</i> : Argentina	<i>P. saccharosa</i> , <i>P. aculeata</i> , <i>P. nemorosa</i> : Roberto Kiesling (robertokiesling@darwin.edu.ar)	PC 16 Inf. 6 (Mexico): Review of <i>P. lychnidiflora</i> ; PC 16 Inf. 7 (Chairman): Review of <i>P. aculeata</i> , <i>P. nemorosa</i> and <i>P. sacharosa</i> in Argentina. CoP14 Prop. 24 (Argentina): Deletion from Appendix II
<i>Pereskiopsis</i> spp.	App. II (1975, under Cactaceae spp.)	6 spp.	GT, HN, MX	Mexico	Hesiquio Benitez-Diaz (hbenitez@xolo.conabio.mx), Patricia Davila-Aranda (pdavilaa@servidor.unam.mx)	PC 16 Inf. 6 (Mexico): Review of the genus <i>Pereskiopsis</i> in Mexico. CoP14 Prop. 24 (Mexico): Deletion from Appendix II
<i>Quiabentia</i> spp. (to be approved by PC)	App. II (1975, under Cactaceae spp.)	2 spp.	Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay	<i>Q. zehntneri</i> : Brazil; <i>Q. verticillata</i> : Argentina	<i>Q. zehntneri</i> : Marlon Machado (machado@sysbot.unizh.ch); <i>Q. verticillata</i> : Roberto Kiesling (robertokiesling@darwin.edu.ar)	PC 16 Inf. 7: Review of <i>Quiabentia verticillata</i> in Argentina. CoP14 Prop. 24 (Argentina): Deletion from Appendix II

<i>Sclerocactus</i> spp.	App. I: 1 sp. 2003, 8 spp. 1983; all other App. II (1975, under Cactaceae spp.)	18 spp.	Mexico, United States of America	United States of America	Patricia Ford (Patricia_Ford@fws.gov)	PC16 WG2 Doc. 1: Tentative. Review postponed due to unresolved taxonomy.
<i>Discocactus</i> spp.	App. I (1992)	6 spp.	Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay	Brazil	Marlon Machado (machado@sysbot.unizh.ch)	PC16 WG2 Doc. 1: Excluded from Review.
<i>Melocactus conoideus</i>	App. I (1992)		Brazil	Brazil	Marlon Machado (machado@sysbot.unizh.ch)	PC16 WG2 Doc. 1: Excluded from Review.
<i>Melocactus deinacanthus</i>	App. I (1992)		Brazil	Brazil	Marlon Machado (machado@sysbot.unizh.ch)	PC16 WG2 Doc. 1: Excluded from Review.
<i>Melocactus glaucescens</i>	App. I (1992)		Brazil	Brazil	Marlon Machado (machado@sysbot.unizh.ch)	PC16 WG2 Doc. 1: Excluded from Review.
<i>Melocactus paucispinus</i>	App. I (1992)		Brazil	Brazil	Marlon Machado (machado@sysbot.unizh.ch)	PC16 WG2 Doc. 1: Excluded from Review.
<u>Cycads</u>						
<i>Cycas beddomei</i>	App. II (1975); App. I (1987)		India			(no responsibilities and experts assigned)
<u>Didieraceae</u>						
<i>Didieraceae</i> spp.	App. II (1975)	11 spp.	Madagascar			(no responsibilities and experts assigned)
<u>Succulent Euphorbias</u> (see also under Medicinal Plants)						
<i>Euphorbia</i> , the spp. of Appendix I	App. I (1 sp. 1995, all other 1990)	10 spp.	Madagascar			(no responsibilities and experts assigned)
<i>Euphorbia ingens</i> (to be approved by PC)	App. II (1975, under succulent <i>Euphorbia</i> spp.)		Malawi, South Africa, Zimbabwe			PC16 WG2 Doc. 1: Excluded from Review.

<i>Euphorbia tirucalli</i> (to be approved by PC)	App. II (1975, under succulent <i>Euphorbia</i> spp.)		Angola, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe			PC16 WG2 Doc. 1: Excluded from Review.
<u>Aloes</u>						
<i>Aloe</i> , the Madagascan spp. of App. I	App. I (1995)	17 spp.	Madagascar			(no responsibilities and experts assigned)
<i>Aloe arborescens</i> (to be approved by PC)	App. II (1975, under <i>Aloe</i> spp.)		Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Zimbabwe			PC16 WG2 Doc. 1: Excluded from Review.
<u>Orchids</u>						
<i>Peristeria elata</i>	App. I (1975)		Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Costa Rica	Dora Ingrid Rivera (drivera@una.ac.cr; dora.ingrid.rivera@gmail.com)	

WG3-participants (focal persons)

Chile (Rafael Bustamante, Miguel Angel Trivelli)
Mexico (Hesiquio Benitez, Patricia Davila)
Namibia (Elly Hamunyela)
the Netherlands (Chris Schürmann)
Thailand (Manit Jaichagun)
the United States of America (Patricia Ford)
IWMC (Jaques Berney)

TRAFFIC (David Newton, Sabri Zain)
UNEP-WCMC (Harriet Gillett)

volunteers (ad personam mandates, in chronological order)

Dora Ingrid Rivera (Costa Rica)
~~Marlon Machado (Brazil)~~
Roberto Kiesling (Argentina)

Alejandro Brown (Argentina)
Celso do Lago Paiva (Brazil)
Pedro G. Blendinger (Argentina)
Elisabeth Munzert (Germany)
Migdalia Garcia (cites@conap.gob.gt)
Sonja Meintjes (smeintjes@deat.gov.za)