

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Panama City (Panama), 14 – 25 November 2022

Species specific matters

Maintenance of the Appendices

PRODUCTS CONTAINING SPECIMENS OF APPENDIX-II ORCHIDS

1. This document has been submitted by the Standing Committee.\*
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.327 to 18.330 on *Products containing specimens of Appendix-II orchids*:

**18.327 Directed to the Secretariat**

*Subject to available resources, the Secretariat shall:*

- a) *assess the potential conservation impact of exempting orchid products and derivatives (wild and artificially propagated) from CITES controls, thereby completing the work already initiated on orchids used in the production of cosmetics and personal care products, and considering orchids used in other commodities (e.g. medicinals);*
- b) *where necessary and appropriate to complement the assessment under paragraph a), seek pertinent information from Parties and relevant stakeholder groups, including industry, such as*
  - i) *on the trade in orchid products from source to final product, including the identification of the major industry sectors involved in the trade;*
  - ii) *how non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings are made;*
  - iii) *traceability along the supply and value chains; and*
  - iv) *conservation concerns for wild populations; and*
- c) *analyse the information received under paragraphs a) and b) with a view towards potential conservation impacts of trade in products containing orchids and derivatives of orchids, highlight any knowledge gaps, and report to the Plants Committee.*

**18.328 Directed to Parties**

*Parties are encouraged to:*

---

\* *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.*

- a) *submit pertinent information as requested in Decision 18.327 to the Secretariat; and*
- b) *provide assistance to the Secretariat in reaching out to other stakeholders and user groups that may be able to support this work.*

**18.329 Directed to the Plants Committee**

*The Plants Committee shall:*

- a) *consider the outcomes of Decision 18.327;*
- b) *in consultation with the Standing Committee, as appropriate, review the current annotation for Appendix II-listed orchids, and suggest amendments; and*
- c) *make recommendations to the Standing Committee.*

**18.330 Directed to the Standing Committee**

*The Standing Committee shall consider the recommendations of the Plants Committee and make recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

3. At its 74th meeting (SC74, Lyon, March 2022), the Standing Committee considered document SC 74 Doc. 84 on the implementation of Decisions 18.327 to 18.330 on *Products containing specimens of Appendix-II orchids*. The document contained information relating to the documents considered by the Plants Committee at its 25th meeting (PC25, online, June 2021), including [PC25 Doc. 37](#) by the Secretariat, [PC25 Doc. 38](#) by Switzerland and Liechtenstein and [PC25 Doc. 38 Add.](#) by the Secretariat in collaboration with the regional representative of Europe. Together, these documents outlined the progress achieved in the implementation of Decisions 18.327 to 18.330.
4. Available information on the conservation impacts of potential exemptions of orchid specimens from CITES regulations was evaluated by the Secretariat and additional studies to address this matter further were proposed. Switzerland presented its intention to submit a listing proposal relating to exemptions of trade in specimens of five orchid species in document PC25 Doc. 38. In addendum [PC25 Doc. 38 Add.](#), the outcomes of intersessional consultations on products containing specimens of Appendix II-listed orchids were reported on.
5. The Plants Committee adopted the following recommendations and presented these to SC74:
  - a) Further research is needed on the potential conservation impact of exempting orchid products and derivatives (wild and artificially propagated) from CITES controls and future areas of research could focus on food and medicinal plants, but the scope of the research should be appropriately narrowed.
  - b) In determining the scope of future research, cooperation with Parties and relevant non-Party stakeholders should be sought/pursued.
  - c) The focus might be on source countries that have wild harvest of medicinal/edible orchids and field work is likely to be necessary to obtain accurate and sufficient field data to inform the discussions in CITES.
  - d) Some issues may be addressed under future work on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP) and no duplication of efforts should be ensured.
  - e) Switzerland to be encouraged to consider submitting its proposal to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
  - f) Future work on orchid annotations should be undertaken in close collaboration with any Standing Committee discussions related to annotations.
  - g) Consider the submission of draft decisions to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties as found in Annex 1 to the present document.
6. SC74 agree that future work on orchid annotations be undertaken in close collaboration with any Standing Committee discussions related to annotations, as per the recommendation of the Plants Committee

contained in paragraph 5 , subparagraphs f) of this present document. The Standing Committee furthermore agreed to submit to CoP19 the draft decisions contained in Annex 1 to the present document and to propose the deletion of Decisions 18.327 – 18.330.

### Recommendations

7. The Conference of the Parties is invited to:
  - a) adopt the draft decisions contained in Annex 1 to the present document; and
  - b) delete Decisions 18.327 to 18.330.

### COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat recommends that the draft decisions in the present document be adopted with amendments as per paragraph E below. Further, since all elements of Decisions 18.327 to 18.330 have either been implemented or carried forward in the new set of draft decisions, the Secretariat recommends the deletions of Decisions 18.327 to 18.330.
- B. The Secretariat thanks Switzerland for providing funds in support of the implementation of Decision 18.237 following the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee. The Secretariat commissioned research in support of the implementation of Decision 18.237, taking into consideration relevant agreements from PC25 on this matter.
- C. The outcome of this work is available in an information document to the present meeting. The report identifies 359 edible orchid species and compiles available information on international trade in food products that contain orchid specimens, and on the conservation impacts of such trade. The report suggests that various orchid genera are harvested from the wild at large scale (many millions of individuals annually) for Salep and Chikanda products. While Chikanda seems to be largely traded in regional markets and networks in central Africa, Salep seems to be available globally and also traded online. This international trade should be regulated under CITES, but little if any seems to be registered in the CITES database. Significantly, the document highlights that most of this international trade is being undertaken unregulated by CITES provisions and that regional depletions of some genera of tuberous orchids used in this trade appears to have occurred. The Secretariat believes that action should be taken to address this matter and that the Standing Committee should consider what action is required to bring this trade into line with CITES requirements.
- D. Concerning the proposed work by CITES bodies aimed at exempting derivatives and/or finished products of certain Appendix-II listed orchid taxa from CITES regulations: while the Secretariat understands that some Parties may seek to reduce the administrative burden of implementing certain aspects of the Convention, as a general rule the argumentation for this should be developed and proposed to the Conference of the Parties by the Parties concerned themselves.
- E. In the light of the above, the Secretariat recommends amendments to draft decisions 19.AA to 19.CC:

Proposed new text is underlined, proposed deletions are indicated in ~~strike through~~.

#### ***Directed to the Secretariat***

**19.AA** ~~Subject to availability of external resources, the~~ The Secretariat shall submit the outcomes of the study on international trade in edible orchids (information document CoP19 Inf. 9) for the consideration of the Standing Committee together with recommendations on how the Convention can be better implemented for the species concerned.:

- ~~a) consult with Parties and stakeholders and undertake a study to compile an overview of Appendix II orchid taxa that are particularly affected by wild harvest for international trade to inform the following assessments:~~

- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ i) an assessment of the conservation impacts of exempting artificially propagated Appendix II listed orchid taxa from CITES regulations, including as articulated in footnote annotation 10 of the CITES Appendices, including identification challenges and look-alike issues; and~~
  - ~~\_\_\_\_\_ ii) an assessment of the conservation impacts of exempting derivatives and/or finished products of certain Appendix II listed orchid taxa from CITES regulations through amendments to annotation #4; and~~
- ~~b) report to the Plants Committee.~~

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

~~**19.BB** The Plants Committee shall consider the study as per Decision 19.AA, and make recommendations on how to improve CITES implementation for Appendix II listed orchids to the Standing Committee.~~

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

~~**19.CC****19.BB** The Standing Committee shall review any the report referred to in Decision 19.AA and the recommendations of the Plants Committee Secretariat and identify actions that can be taken to improve the implementation of the Convention for species concerned, and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties accordingly.~~

DRAFT DECISIONS ON PRODUCTS CONTAINING SPECIMENS  
OF APPENDIX II ORCHIDS

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**19.AA** Subject to availability of external resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) consult with Parties and stakeholders and undertake a study to compile an overview of Appendix-II orchid taxa that are particularly affected by wild harvest for international trade to inform the following assessments:
  - i) an assessment of the conservation impacts of exempting artificially propagated Appendix-II listed orchid taxa from CITES regulations, including as articulated in footnote annotation 10 of the CITES Appendices, including identification challenges and look-alike issues; and
  - ii) an assessment of the conservation impacts of exempting derivatives and/or finished products of certain Appendix-II listed orchid taxa from CITES regulations through amendments to annotation #4; and
- b) report to the Plants Committee.

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

**19.BB** The Plants Committee shall consider the study as per Decision 19.AA, and make recommendations on how to improve CITES implementation for Appendix-II listed orchids to the Standing Committee.

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

**19.CC** The Standing Committee shall review any recommendations of the Plants Committee, and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.

TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING  
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OR DECISIONS

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding. The Secretariat proposes the following tentative budget and source of funding.

The Secretariat advises that the amended draft decisions could be accomplished within existing resources.