

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



Seventy-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 6–10 November 2023

Species conservation and trade

Flora

PRODUCTS CONTAINING SPECIMENS OF APPENDIX II ORCHIDS (ORCHIDACEAE SPP.)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Plants Committee.
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.246 to 19.248 on *Products containing specimens of Appendix II orchids (Orchidaceae spp.)*, as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

19.246 *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *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;*
- b) *subject to availability of external resources, 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 (after CoP19, footnote annotation P3) 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*
- c) *report to the Plants Committee.*

Directed to the Plants Committee

19.247 *The Plants Committee shall consider the studies as per Decision 19.246 and make recommendations on how to improve CITES implementation for Appendix-II listed orchids to the Standing Committee or to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.248 *The Standing Committee shall review any recommendations of the Plants Committee, and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.*

Progress in the implementation of Decision 19.246

3. Regarding paragraph a) of Decision 19.246, at the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC26; Geneva, June 2023), the Secretariat introduced document P26 Doc. 30 that included the study titled *A Review of the Edible Orchid Trade* and its supplementary material; both of which are available as [Annexes to document PC26 Doc. 30](#).
4. With funding provided by Switzerland, the Secretariat had commissioned in April 2022 the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (RBG Kew) to undertake the study above. The study lists orchid species known to be edible; compiles information on international trade in food products that contain orchid specimens; analyses whether this trade appears in the CITES Trade Database; and reviews available information on the conservation impacts of such trade.
5. Regarding paragraph b) of Decision 19.246, at PC26, the Secretariat drew the Plants Committee's attention to the unregulated international trade in tuberous orchid products and invited the Committee to comment on the draft terms of reference for the study referred to in Decision 19.246 paragraph b). See Annex 3 to document PC26 Doc. 30.
6. The Secretariat estimates that the cost of the study mentioned in paragraph b) of Decision 19.246 is USD 40,000. At the time of writing, these external resources remain to be identified (see Notification to the Parties [No. 2023/024](#) on *Status of funding for the implementation of valid Decisions after CoP19*).

Progress in the implementation of Decision 19.247

7. At PC26, the Plants Committee invited the Secretariat to consider the comments made by the Committee as it finalizes the terms of reference for the study referred to in Decision 19.246 paragraph b).
8. The Plants Committee considered the study entitled *A Review of the Edible Orchid Trade* and made recommendations relating to the development of identification manuals; the need for additional support for ongoing red list assessments for tuberous orchids and the need to understand regional differences in trade in tuberous orchids. These recommendations were also directed to the Standing Committee for its consideration.
9. Regarding Decision 19.248, the Plants Committee based on its consideration of the study entitled *A Review of the Edible Orchid Trade* recommended that the Standing Committee (see summary record PC26 SR, item 30):
 - a) emphasize the need for identification manuals and training;
 - b) urge Parties and other donors to support red list assessments for tuberous orchid taxa in international trade;
 - c) urge Parties to regulate the trade in tuberous orchids as is currently required under the Convention;
 - d) request the Secretariat to issue a Notification to Parties inviting them to provide information on:
 - i) trade volumes;
 - ii) manuals and regulations relating to trade in tuberous orchid, including domestic trade;
 - iii) enforcement challenges; and
 - iv) other relevant information related to trade in tuberous orchids, including any capacity-building needs; and
 - e) consider the study on edible orchids and responses to the Notification to prioritize issues relating to trade in tuberous orchids to be addressed, and to propose recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP20), including any draft decisions, as appropriate.
10. In accordance with Decision 19.248, the Standing Committee is requested to review any recommendations of the Plants Committee. The Secretariat notes that the responses to the proposed Notification in paragraph 9 d) will only be available for consideration by the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee. The study

referred to in paragraph b) of Decision 19.246 will only be available for consideration by PC27 and subsequently SC78, if funds are secured well in advance of PC27 to allow adequate time for the study to be ready for PC27.

Recommendations

11. The Standing Committee is invited to agree to the following recommendations of the Plants Committee. The Standing Committee is invited to agree to:
 - a) emphasize the need for identification manuals and training;
 - b) urge Parties and other donors to support red list assessments for tuberous orchid taxa in international trade;
 - c) urge Parties to regulate the trade in tuberous orchids as is currently required under the Convention;
 - d) request the Secretariat to issue a Notification to Parties inviting them to provide information on:
 - i) trade volumes;
 - ii) manuals and regulations relating to trade in tuberous orchid, including domestic trade;
 - iii) enforcement challenges; and
 - iv) other relevant information related to trade in tuberous orchids, including any capacity-building needs; and
 - e) consider the study called for in paragraph b) of Decision 19.246, if available; the Plants Committee's recommendations on the study, and any responses to the Notification at its 78th meeting and propose recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP20), including any draft decisions, as appropriate.