

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



Twenty-second meeting of the Plants Committee
Tbilisi (Georgia), 19-23 October 2015

Interpretation and implementation of the convention

Species trade and conservation

Standard nomenclature

REVISED NOMENCLATURE FOR TWO SPECIES OF MALAGASY PALMS (ARECACEAE)

1. This document has been submitted by the United States of America.*
2. In July 2015, the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the Plant inspection authority in the United States, raised concerns to the U.S. Management Authority regarding the use of outdated nomenclature in the CITES Appendices for two species of Madagascar palms.
3. The species are: *Chrysalidocarpus decipiens* (butterfly palm) and *Neodypsis decaryi* (triangle palm), both of which are endemic to Madagascar.
4. The scientific names for these species were changed 20 years ago to *Dypsis decipiens* and *Dypsis decaryi*, respectively. Although these names are included as synonyms in the [Checklist of CITES Species](#) and in [Species+](#), as with all other CITES-listed species, synonyms are not included in the [CITES Appendices](#) such that these species may not appear to be listed in the CITES Appendices. This is concerning because most people first look in the Appendices to determine whether a species is regulated under CITES.
5. Both species are widely cultivated and traded as *D. decipiens* and *D. decaryi*, which are the names used most widely by the nursery industry for approximately the last ten years. We note that the [Catalogue of the Vascular Plants of Madagascar](#) (CVPM) also includes *D. decipiens* and *D. decaryi* as the accepted nomenclature, with *Chrysalidocarpus decipiens* and *Neodypsis decaryi* noted as their synonyms, respectively. The CVPM is an online flora that is administered by the Missouri Botanical Garden (St. Louis, Missouri, USA) in collaboration with the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris, France) and Madagascar species experts.
6. The United States has shared this information with the CITES Scientific Authority of Madagascar to seek their views on this nomenclatural issue and we look forward to discussing this at the meeting.
7. The United States requests the CITES Nomenclature Specialist to evaluate the nomenclature changes requested by the United States and provide guidance on this nomenclatural matter.

* *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.*