

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



Tenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Shepherdstown (United States of America), 11–15 December 2000

Regional reports and reports on regional meetings

NORTH AMERICA

A) General Information

- ◆ Name of the Member (author of the Report): **Bertrand von ARX, Canada**
- ◆ Number of Parties in the Region: **3 (Canada, Mexico, United States of America)**
- ◆ Number of Parties responding to communications: **3**
- ◆ Names of other institutions or NGO's contacted for CITES work during the period.
 - American Orchid Society (AOS),
 - AITB (Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux),
 - CFS (Canadian Forest Service),
 - IUCN/SSC Carnivorous Plants SG,
 - IUCN/SSC North American Orchid SG
 - SSC Plant Conservation Committee
 - etc.

B) List of the Items

Introduction

A general consideration is that although a great deal of work was performed in all three Parties in various topics related to implementation of CITES, only few activities were performed specifically at the regional level.

This is certainly the consequence of good communication between the relevant "plant people" from SA, MA, Plants Committee Member and other Organisations involved in CITES issues in the region.

FOLLOW-UP ON AGENDA ITEMS SINCE LAST PLANTS COMMITTEE

⇒ **COP11**

Most activities were directed towards preparation and assessment of Appendix amendment proposals for taxa both native and/or in trade (or not) in the Region.

Numerous bilateral consultations were held and a specific meeting was held in Arlington, USA to prepare and co-ordinate work before COP. Delegations from all three Parties attended and considerable work was done.

⇒ **Regional Directory**

Several changes occurred since COP11. In Mexico major changes in staffing at both MA and SA level occurred. Also modifications regarding organisation of MA and SA occurred in the US. In Canada, following the retirement of Dr. Charles Dauphine, the SA will also see some modification in the coming months.

⇒ **CITES Carnivorous Plant Checklist**

After many years of work on this checklist, a further delay prevented the list to be presented at the COP. However, after going once more through the taxonomy and nomenclature of the genus *Nepenthes*, it was possible to provide the Secretariat with a final Draft to be considered at this meeting.

A full set of Red List Criteria for the latest edition of the IUCN Red Book 2000, was provided for *Byblis* spp., *Darlingtonia californica*, *Drosera muscipula*, *Nepenthes* ssp., *Sarracenia* spp.

Following the delisting of *Byblis* spp., *Darlingtonia californica* at COP11, the Checklist was once more amended to reflect this decision.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

The only meeting were "plants persons" of all 3 Parties attended was the 19th North American Regional CITES Meeting, Arlington, Virginia, USA 11-13 January 2000.

Other "trilateral" meetings were held, but without direct input from Plant people.

A positive impact of the listing of Plant proposals early in the Agenda at COP11, resulted in much more time devoted in discussions on plant issues. Previously little time was left after lengthy presentations on animal issues.

The discussions on difficulties related with enforcement on plants showed that in many cases, the scope and differences occurring in the plant world puzzle colleagues not directly involved in plant issues.

Among others, the difficulties resulting from this huge amount of specimens in trade due to the ability to propagate plants artificially by the millions in a very short period; the difficulty to identify many listed taxa in the absence of proper ID-Material, or the complexity of the trade in medicinal plants as parts or derivatives difficult to identify.

Work in Parties

Several documents - which will be presented at this meeting - show the work accomplished in each Party to improve the implementation of CITES on plant related matters. A summary of important activities is provided below for each Partie.

USA

- New species proposals are presented for discussion by the Plants Committee and possible submission at the next COP.
- Further research on taxa for which proposals were withdrawn at COP11 – due to lack of information - is done and results should be available soon.
- DSA provided representative sample roots of wild and woodsgrown ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) and mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) to the CITES Medicinal Plant Training Unit for use in developing identification sheets.

- The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Division of Management Authority (DMA) is revising the current CITES regulations (50 CFR Part 23) to bring written rules into conformity with current CITES provisions, and to enhance ability to implement them. These regulations will simplify procedures and reduce paperwork while still ensuring effective species conservation.
- **Plant Conservation Alliance Medicinal Plant Working Group** - The DSA is facilitating the Medicinal Plant Working Group (MPWG), a group of representatives from industry, government, academia, Native American tribes, and environmental organizations joined together to conserve medicinal plants native to the United States under the umbrella of the Plant Conservation Alliance (PCA). The PCA is a consortium of ten US federal government Member agencies and over 165 non-federal Cooperators that serves as the North American Plant Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. Additional information on the group is available at <http://www.nps.gov/plants/medicinal/>.
- Timber, survey on Medicinal Plants and CITES Outreach are other important topics.

Canada

- Several issues were raised by enforcement people. Close collaboration between different sectors, experts and NGOs allowed to progress in various cases including enforcement of *Saussurea* (identification and nomenclature problems), exemption of artificially propagated seedlings in sterile containers without medium or the trade of specimens labelled as “self-crossed” in order to qualify as “hybrids” and thus be exempted from CITES.
- While working on identification difficulties of Nopal (Cacti extract), a gap was identified with the absence of a clear definition of the subgenus *Opuntia* which is exempted from CITES provisions in an annotation regarding cacti. Solutions were suggested.
- It was also noticed that many CITES listed species are currently sold through Internet. A short and quick survey seems to reveal that no documentation is ever issued for such plants. This kind of trade should be investigated in the future.
- A final draft of the Carnivorous Plants Checklist was produced. The data collected on threat level of the various taxa listed were also published in the IUCN Red List 2000. Further, the information compiled in the Checklist will help to review both genus *Sarracenia* and *Nepenthes* and suggest relevant amendments to improve the listing of those taxa.

Mexico

The Mexican authorities nominated a new alternate to the Representative of the Region: Dr. Patricia Davila Aranda. She is with the Scientific Authority.

Several meetings were held with representatives of SEMARNAP (Environmental Minister) and CONABIO (governmental institution that will be in charge of CITES in the near future). In these meetings, strategies were discussed and new priorities defined.

Also work is been done on cacti issues, timber (Mahogany, *Guaiacum*), and on medicinal plants.

BvA/10.2000