

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



Thirteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 12-15 August 2003

Significant trade in plants

Implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.8

CYCADS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. The Plants Committee had previously identified Cycadales spp. as a priority for review under the Review of Significant Trade (Resolution Conf. 12.8).
3. The Secretariat has contracted TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa (TSA) to conduct the research phase of the review of Cycadales spp. Research was initiated in December 2002 and will be completed in the second half of 2003. The final report will be presented for consideration by the Plants Committee at its 14th meeting.
4. The review necessitates the research of a large number of taxa (297 species) occurring in 55 range States. Although information will be presented on a range-State basis, the report will not be structured following the standard format for all range States owing to the number of species and range States involved. The consultant's intention is to structure the information for range States in two ways. A summary page will be prepared for each of the major range States that are actively exporting cycads following the standard significant trade report format, and a summary table will be provided for the remaining range States. The consultant is concerned that, at the time of writing, only 30 per cent of range States had responded to its request for information, and has requested the Secretariat to urge those range States that have not yet responded to do so in a timely manner.
5. TSA produced an interim report with an update on project progress and highlighting specific problems related to acquiring and presenting the information required in the report. This report is presented as an Annex to the present document.

CITES Significant Trade Review of Cycads

TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa - South Africa Office (TSA)

Interim Report, June 2003

This interim report to the CITES Secretariat and the Plants Committee first covers progress in terms of the planned activities and programme of work, followed by a brief outline of some of the findings.

Activities and programme of work

- 1. Analyse trade data provided by UNEP-WCMC to the CITES Secretariat, and collate additional existing trade data from exporting and importing countries, and from other sources, where available. Summarize what is known about trends in the trade, quotas, trade volumes, and the source of specimens in trade taking into account previous work undertaken on the species pursuant to Resolution Conf. 12.8 [previously Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev)]. Include available information on illegal trade in the species.**

WCMC provided data on gross exports, gross imports, and comprehensive trade data for the period 1977 – 2001. All data have been analysed. Analyses include overall trade volumes and identifying the main exporting and importing countries as well as trade histories for particular species. Most CITES trade records refer to artificially propagated material although it is clear from other sources that trade in wild collected specimens has taken place.

There are no great surprises in the WCMC data, nor any strong indications of non-compliance. Most of the records refer to artificially propagated specimens of either Appendix 1 or Appendix 2 species. This is not surprising since the CITES records reflect the legal trade. Where there are apparent anomalies, these have been followed up and we have also tried to track down records of illegal trade. Trade records are also being compared to information on the availability of different species in cultivation. This should help to identify species that are apparently traded as artificially propagated specimens when, in fact, the traders classify these species as difficult to propagate.

A report for seeds is included as an example of what has been obtained from WCMC records. There are only 22 records of seed exports from wild sources. Fourteen records are for scientific purposes, two for botanic gardens, three for captive breeding (B) and one where no purpose is specified. Only four countries registered trade in wild harvested seed (CN, MX, KY, ZA). Volumes were between 9 and 125 seeds which is consistent with the purpose. Seven records were for Appendix 2 species, the remainder for Appendix 1. These are surprisingly low numbers for wild collected seed and certainly do not reflect the trade. E.g. there are no records of seed harvesting of *Encephalartos* although cycad specialists know that substantial harvests and exports took place between 1994 and 2000.

- 2. In undertaking the reviews and preparing the report, consult relevant authorities in the range states (CITES and Forestry Authorities) for information about the legal protection, status, biology and management of the species in their countries, and consult as appropriate with other relevant experts, the TRAFFIC Network and IUCN. The letters will be translated as appropriate and sent by the CITES Secretariat.**

Letters were sent (via the Secretariat) to all Parties and follow up letters were sent to all range States by TSA. The letters requested specific information on trade, conservation status, biology, species management and steps taken to comply with Article IV of the Convention. To date there has been a relatively poor response to these letters from range States. The requested date for replies was 5 April 2003 but by 10 May 2003 only 16 responses had been received from 55 range States (Table 1).

Further analysis of the response groups (Table 1) showed that only 17 countries actively traded in cycads (total trade of > 1000 plants over several years) and fewer than ten range States had significant levels of trade. It is of concern that six of these States have not responded. Further approaches have been made to obtain information from these States, especially Australia, South Africa and Colombia, which have indigenous cycad species that are threatened by trade.

Cycad specialists and TRAFFIC offices have also been contacted to obtain further information. These contacts have supplied valuable information on the biology and status of cycad species and they have been able to clear up several anomalies in the CITES reports. For example, trade records showed an export of wild *Chigua* specimens from Ecuador to the USA, whereas *Chigua* is endemic to Colombia. Officials in the US together with cycad specialists in the US and Colombia were able to provide a history for this particular transaction. What is still missing is data on illegal trade, which would help to indicate where there may be problems in terms of compliance with CITES.

TABLE 1. Data obtained from the CITES management authorities in Cycad range States. Columns represent the number of indigenous cycad species, records of exports in the WCMC database between 1987 and 2001, total trade of > 1000 units, and whether the range State has submitted a full response, partial response, or no response. Shaded blocks represent States where important information is lacking due to missing or inadequate responses.

Range State	No of Species	Recorded Export	Export > 1000	Full response	Partial response	No response
Australia	70	YES	YES			X
Mexico	45	YES	YES		X	
South Africa	39	YES	YES			X
Vietnam	22	YES	YES		X	
China	19	YES	YES	X		
Colombia	17	YES	YES			X
Thailand	12	YES	YES		X	
Indonesia	7	YES	YES		X	
India	5	YES	YES			X
Costa Rica	4	YES	YES			X
Brazil	3	YES	YES			X
Malaysia	3	YES	YES			X
Honduras	2	YES	YES			X
Dominican Republic	1	YES	YES			X
Japan	1	YES	YES	X		
Sri Lanka	1	YES	YES			X
USA	1	YES	YES	X		
Mozambique	12	YES	NO			X
Panama	12	YES	NO			X
Swaziland	10	NO	NO			X
Peru	9	NO	NO	X		
Guatemala	8	NO	NO			X
Cuba	7	YES	NO	X		
DRC	6	YES	NO			X
PNG	6	YES	NO			X
Myanmar	5	NO	NO	X		
Tanzania	5	NO	NO			X
Kenya	5	YES	NO			X
Philippines	5	YES	NO		X	
Ecuador	4	YES	NO			X

Range State	No of Species	Recorded Export	Export > 1000	Full response	Partial response	No response
Uganda	4	YES	NO			X
Bahamas	3	NO	NO			X
Belize	3	NO	NO			X
Puerto Rico	3	NO	NO	X		
Venezuela	3	YES	NO			X
Zimbabwe	3	YES	NO			X
Angola	2	NO	NO			X
Nicaragua	2	NO	NO			X
Benin	1	NO	NO			X
Bolivia	1	NO	NO			X
Cayman Is	1	YES	NO	X		
Central African Republic	1	NO	NO			X
Comores	1	NO	NO			X
El Salvador	1	NO	NO			X
Ghana	1	NO	NO			X
Jamaica	1	NO	NO			X
Nigeria	1	NO	NO			X
Seychelles	1	NO	NO			X
Togo	1	NO	NO			X
Zambia	1	NO	NO			X
Madagascar	1	YES	NO			X
Malawi	1	YES	NO	X		
Sudan		NO	NO			
Federated States of Micronesia		NO			X	

3. Collate information on the current exploitation and trade policies and practices in the range States of Cycadales spp. listed in Appendix II with a view to describe compliance with Article IV of CITES. Summarize the status of Cycadales spp. listed in Appendix II throughout its range, and compile the information on a range State basis.

A summary document is being prepared for each range state. The summary comprises information supplied by the range State together with information supplied by the IUCN/SSC Cycad Specialist Group, TRAFFIC, and other organisations or individuals. To date, there has been no response in terms of Compliance with Article IV because all the range States who have responded has no record of trade in wild collected cycads. Australia is known to have exported wild collected plants (e.g. *Macrozamia moorei*), but no response has been received from Australia.

The report format requires that information is compiled on a range State basis. Due to the large number of range States (55) and number of cycad species (297), the intention is to structure the report for range States in two ways. 1) A summary page (as outlined under point 4, below) will be prepared for major range States that have an active trade in cycads (13 States), and 2) a summary table will be provided for the remaining States.

4. Produce a report on trade in Cycadales spp. listed in Appendix II, referring to CITES Parties and territories only using terminology accepted by the United Nations, and without the use of

automatic numbering of paragraphs. References in the report may only relate to sources of information in the public domain.

1. *Summary (including recommended category and the basis for categorization)*

The CITES status of all cycads has been summarised in a table. The table also highlights inconsistencies in the current listing and taxa that need to be reviewed.

2. *The biology and conservation status of cycads*

The document being compiled comprises information on the global distribution of cycads and identifies all range States. It summarises information from the IUCN/ SSC Cycad Action Plan (2003), which provides an IUCN Red List assessment for 297 species. The assessment also summarises the biology of all cycad taxa and identifies groups with similar biologies. This makes it possible to see whether groups are dealt with consistently in the CITES appendices. A graphic summary of the Red List status is given in Figure 1.

The remainder of the report will follow the format requested by the Secretariat, i.e.

3. *Population distribution, status, trend and threats by range State*

4. *Conservation and management*

- *Habitat protection*
- *Regulation of wild harvesting*
- *Regulation of trade*
- *Monitoring*
- *Basis of non-detriment findings*

5. *Overview of trade*

- *International trade*
- *Domestic trade*

6. *Other relevant information, including on captive breeding / artificial propagation*

7. *References*

Draft pages have been compiled for the 13 States where significant trade has been recorded. These will be revised as more information is acquired.

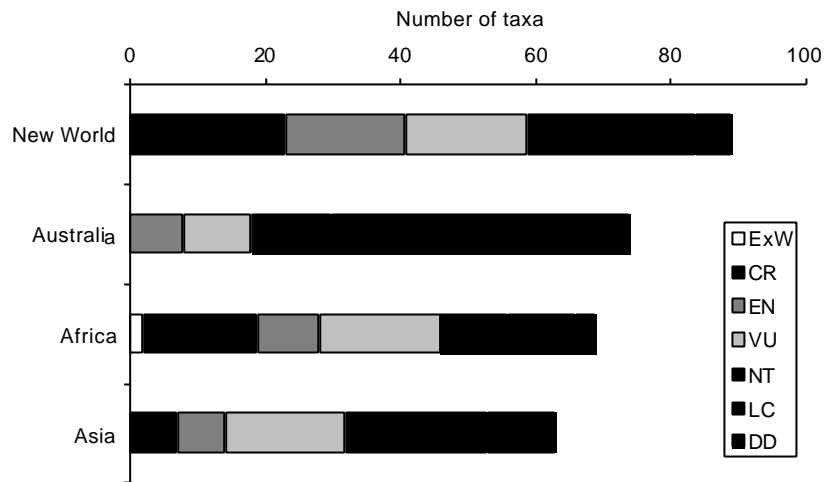


Fig. 1. The diversity and threatened status of the world cycad flora ranked according to the four main regions of diversity. Red List categories of Extinct in the Wild (EW), Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU), Near Threatened (NT), Least Concern (LC) and Data Deficient (DD) follow the IUCN/ SSC 2001 criteria. After Donaldson (2003).