

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



Fourteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Windhoek (Namibia), 16-20 February 2004

Checklists and nomenclature

PROGRESS REPORT

1. This document has been prepared by the Scientific Authority for flora of the United Kingdom.

Resolution Conf. 12.11

2. In Resolution Conf. 12.11 on the Standard nomenclature, the Conference of the Parties adopted the *Checklist of CITES species*, compiled by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, 2001 and its updates accepted by the Nomenclature Committee meeting as the standard reference for species included in the Appendices. At the discussion in the Nomenclature Committee in association with PC13 it was the view of those present that, in the case of plants, the taxon-based checklists should retain their status as the master lists, or have at least equal status as the UNEP-WCMC Checklist. The Plants Committee supported this view. Resolution Conf. 12.11 would need to be amended to reflect this. The representative for flora of the Nomenclature Committee in cooperation with the CITES Secretariat will prepare an amendment to Resolution Conf. 12.11 to this effect. Parties may wish to consider whether the same amendment should be applied to animals and should forward their views to the representative for fauna of the Nomenclature Committee.

Update on CITES Checklists

3. **The CITES Orchid Checklists:** Volume 4 of the Orchid Checklist covers the genera *Aerides*, *Coelogyne*, *Comparettia*, *Lycaste*, *Ida* and *Masdevallia*. The final draft will be distributed to experts in March 2004. The Plants Committee is asked to recommend experts, in particular from the range States of the orchids concerned, to comment on the draft text. If there are no delays in the production and publication process, the CITES Orchid Checklist Volume 4 will be published in time for the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in October 2004.
4. A pdf file of combined CITES Orchid Checklist Volumes 1, 2 and 3 is now accessible on the website of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew at www.kew.org. Further checklists will be added as agreements from copyright holders are obtained.
5. The Institute of Botany, Vienna (Austria) is preparing, in cooperation with relevant international experts a checklist of the genus *Bulbophyllum* which it will submit to the Nomenclature Committee for approval. Austria will report on progress on this checklist under agenda item 12.4.
6. The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, United Kingdom, in cooperation with a global network of orchid experts is working on a checklist of world Orchidaceae as part of the Monocot checklist project. The database already includes some 25,000 accepted names and about 45,000 synonyms. Authorities, places of publication and distributions are also included. It is hoped that this global checklist will form an important reference source for CITES. It has the potential to form the scientific core on which future standard references are to be based.

7. **The CITES Euphorbia Checklist (1997)** compiled by Städtische Sukkulente-Sammlung, Zürich, Switzerland and produced by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation was adopted as the standard reference for species of succulent Euphorbia. Since its publication a range of new species have been described. The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation has funded a second edition of the checklist which was published in December 2003. The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation is to be warmly thanked for its continued support of the programme of the Nomenclature Committee.
8. **Tree-ferns:** The revision of the listing of tree-ferns with the annotation 'Dicksonia spp., populations of the Americas' has led to some confusion. Germany has produced the document *Dicksonia species of the Americas*, which indicates that *Dicksonia berteriana*, *D. externa*, *D. sellowiana* and *D. stuebelii* are the only species subject to control. Once again the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation is to be warmly thanked for its continued support of the programme of the Nomenclature Committee. This list has now been supplied to the CITES Secretariat for distribution.

Priorities for the future

9. The budget line for nomenclature was deleted at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Nomenclature issues are now included in the budget line 'Support for Scientific Authorities'. This budget line is restricted and funds vital project work. It is therefore essential that the nomenclature programme be, if possible, totally funded from external sources. However some core funding will be required to lever funds from other sources. The following areas are recommended as priorities.
 - a) **The CITES Cactaceae Checklist 1999** was adopted as the standard reference for Cactaceae. This volume is now effectively out of print with less than 50 copies remaining in stock. The Cactus volume of the Lexicon is presently being updated and can form the basis of a revised Cactaceae Checklist. The Lexicon itself will form a vital reference but it will be an expensive publication outside the budget of most CITES Authorities. A new edition of the CITES Cactaceae checklist will also provide the opportunity for the checklist to be included on the web making it available to a wide range of CITES users. The Cactus Checklist is of the most widely used CITES Checklists it is therefore imperative that the Parties have access to an updated version. Updating this list is therefore proposed as the main priority for future publications.
 - b) **Orchid Checklist - *Bulbophyllum***. The Austrian Government has committed funds to support the development of this checklist. Some additional funding from the Secretariat will secure the future of the checklist and support the commitment of the Government of Austria. Support for this work is therefore proposed as a second priority for future publications. The Government of Austria is to be warmly thanked for its support of the programme of the Nomenclature Committee.
 - c) **Orchid Checklist – Remaining Taxa in Trade**. A significant number of the major genera in trade have been covered by volumes 1 to 4. It would seem useful to produce a volume which includes an update on earlier volumes and an additional list of traded taxa not included in the earlier volumes. Much of the research for this work has already been carried out for the Monocot checklist project (see paragraph 6) and all that is required is a small amount of funds to facilitate the production of a checklist suitable for CITES users. This process would involve checking of the proposed new text by a panel of international experts. The Plants Committee would, as normal, be asked to recommend experts for this panel. Support for this work is therefore proposed as a third priority for future publications.

Transparency in the working practises of the Nomenclature Committee

10. Discussion at the 13th meeting of the Plants Committee and at the 19th meeting of the Animals Committee revealed that a number of participants were not fully conversant with the workings of the Nomenclature Committee. As a means to address this problem the Plants Committee set up a working group to look into the terms of reference and procedures of the Nomenclature Committee. This unintentionally has given rise to some problems as it seems inappropriate for the working group of a CITES technical committee to review the terms of reference of another CITES Committee. A stepwise approach to deal with the transparency issue has therefore been adopted. The representative for fauna on the Nomenclature Committee is preparing a document which clarifies the

workings of the Nomenclature Committee. If ready in time for the present meeting, it will be distributed as an information document.

11. The CITES Committee of the Mexican Management Authority has informed the representative for flora of the Nomenclature Committee that it wishes the Terms of Reference and procedures of the Nomenclature Committee to be made more clear and transparent and that the clarification document mentioned in paragraph 10 above would be a useful first step. The Swiss Authorities have indicated that they wish a process to be put in place that allows the impact of any nomenclatural changes to be made as clear as possible to Parties in order to allow them to make informed decisions on the adoption of references. Once the clarification document is produced, the Plants Committee will be in a better position to decide whether it wishes to recommend revisions to the Terms of Reference and procedures of the Nomenclature Committee. It is important to find a solution that is acceptable to all Parties and ensures the continuance of the good working relationship between the Nomenclature Committee and the Plants and Animals Committees.

Conclusion

12. The comments of the Plants Committee are welcome on:
 - a) The proposed priorities outlined for the work of the Nomenclature Committee (Flora);
 - b) The process proposed to improve the understanding and transparency of the workings of the Nomenclature Committee; and
 - c) Recommendations for experts to review the Text of Volume 4 of the Orchid Checklist