

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



Sixteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Lima (Peru), 3-8 July 2006

Regional reports

EUROPE

General information

- a) Names of the Representatives (authors of the report): **Margarita Clemente** and **Giuseppe Frenguelli**
- b) Names of the Alternates: **Jonas Lüthy** and **Nika Debeljak**
- c) Number of Parties in the region: **45**
- d) Number of Parties responding to communications: **14**
- e) Names of the other institutions and NGOs contacted for CITES work during the period: **IUCN, UNEP-WCMC.**

1. Activities carried out:

1.1 Significant trade

AUSTRIA:

- a) There was no significant trade assessment during the period in question

(Period time: between PC15 and PC16). One significant seizure: 2004: *Turbinicarpus alonsoi*, 143 pieces, origin: Mexico;
- b) Review of the Appendices: there were no activities of the Management Authority regarding the review of the Appendices; and
- c) CITES projects in the region: Continuation of work on a CITES checklist for the genus *Bulbophyllum* (Orchidaceae) by the CITES Scientific Authority and Botanical Garden, University of Vienna.

Necessary funding to ensure the continuation of this work came through a grant by the Management Authority (Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Department II/4-Species Protection).

ITALY: The Italian Management Authority is working on a document aimed at developing a process to analyse the system of measurements for timber species and its implications for the implementation of the Convention.

LATVIA:

- a) 2005-2006 - 48 m³ *Pericopsis elata*; and
- b) CITES projects in the region: public awareness campaign carried out by the CITES Management Authority (focused on orchids spp.)

THE NETHERLANDS: Review of the Appendices:

The Scientific Authority of the Netherlands in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC, has been preparing a document for the review of tree species at the present meeting.

POLAND: Approximately, 1 500 specimens of cacti exported from South America were confiscated at Warsaw Airport.

SAN MARINO: Flora CITES.

SLOVAKIA: CITES projects in the region: twinning project SK03/IB/EN/01: Institutional and Capacity Building in the Environmental Sector.

SPAIN: The Spanish Management Authority reviewed of Customs' information on timber species.

SWITZERLAND: Review of the Appendices: chairing of Working Group 3 (coordination and reporting to PC).

1.2 Nursery registration

AUSTRIA: There were no nursery registration in Austria between PC15 and PC16.

ITALY: The Italian Management Authority supervises the nurseries and is currently studying the possibility of using a fast procedure for the issuance of permits for specimens coming from certified nurseries.

LATVIA: There are two National Botanical Gardens where CITES species are found and grown.

SPAIN: The Spanish Management Authority supervises the nurseries.

1.3 Other

GERMANY: Timber identification tool. The German Scientific Authority initiated and funded *CITESwoodID*, a computer-aided identification and description of CITES trade timbers. The project was carried out by wood anatomists of the Federal Research Centre for Forestry and Wood (BFH) and is available on CD-ROM. As a unique approach, it enables institutions and persons involved in controlling import as well as export of CITES wood and wood products to identify these by means of macroscopic characters that can be observed with the naked eye and a simple hand lens. The underlying database offers access to descriptions and illustrations of eight CITES-listed timber species and 41 timbers in trade that can be easily mistaken for CITES-protected timbers. *CITES woodID* offers a 'standard' and an 'advanced' working mode.

Following the completion of the CD-ROM, a practical training for CITES enforcement officers was conducted with the aim to explain how to use the CD-ROM.

Rapid DNA *Galanthus* identification. The German CITES Scientific A supported a research project aimed at developing a rapid species identification method on the basis of the species' unique DNA PCR-marker to identify most *Galanthus* species, which are found in legal and illegal commercial trade. For this purpose the DNA-based taxonomy of 320 accessions of different

Galanthus species from naturally occurring populations in Georgia, Greece, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine, as well as some accessions from herbarium specimens has been investigated.

Results:

- a) Species of the genus *Galanthus* are divided into five alliances: the *krasnovii*-, *nivalis*-, *elwesii*-, *woronowii*- and *alpinus*-group.
- b) The species *Galanthus nivalis*, *G. elwesii* and *G. woronowii*, which are important for commercial trade, are genetically clearly different and build monophyletic clades on the cpDNA and nrDNA analysis.
- c) Relationships based on the DNA data (*trnL-trnF* spacer and ITS) do not correspond with classification based on morphological data.
- d) The identification method is quick and cost effective and has provided evidence in detecting *Galanthus* species, falsely declared, when imported into Switzerland.

ITALY: The Italian Management Authority, in cooperation with the State Forestry Corps, Customs Agency and Ministry of Productive Activities, organized a permanent display at the departure gates of the International Airport 'Roma Fiumicino'. Two large panels written in Italian and English were placed in the entrance hall of the airport; besides some basic information about CITES, the main purpose of the panels is to bring the attention of the public on the possibility of transporting animals or plants illegally. At the same location, small guides are also available for tourists. They contain a short description and introduction to CITES and an overview of CITES souvenirs from the main tourist destination. In the last pages of the guide important information is given about various cases where permits are needed, the consequences in case of lack of CITES documents and examples of some of the CITES specimens that are most commonly confiscated. Moreover the guide contains the details of the Management Authorities of those States therein mentioned and the two last pages consist of a short section of games for children, called 'Learn how to play'. The display is supported by the projection of video images of the illegal capture collection and transport of CITES animals and plants. There is also a permanent exhibition of seized specimens that contributes to drawing the attention of the public on the display.

SAN MARINO: San Marino accepted as CITES Party on 22 July 2005, and the Convention entered into force on 20 October 2005.

SPAIN:

- a) Pilot Project: Evaluation of *Prunus africana* in Equatorial Guinea for making non-detriment findings was completed and guidelines for a Management Plan were designed.
- b) The Spanish Management Authority is following the control of the pre-Convention stocks of *Dalbergia nigra*, testing samples with DNA identification techniques.

2. Communication with Parties in the European region

- a) Regular contacts with the Management and Scientific Authorities in the European Region.
- b) Preparation and distribution of the questionnaire to prepare the European regional report.

3. Capacity-building activities

3.1 Training seminars

AUSTRIA: No trainings seminars for the Scientific Authority in the period in question were carried out by the Management Authority.

ESTONIA: 5-6 December 2005: A training seminar on the identification of plants and animals and on CITES-related legislation was organized by the Ministry of Environment for enforcement officers in Estonia.

ITALY: The Italian Management Authority is organizing a course for the Enforcement Corps to acquire an in-depth knowledge on the new Operational Handbook for enforcement officers in Estonia.

LATVIA:

- a) Training seminars on wild orchids; and
- b) Training seminars for Customs officers (including timber spp.)

THE NETHERLANDS: Training course on botanical issues and CITES by the Chairman and Secretary of the Scientific Authority of the Netherlands for staff of the Phytosanitary Service.

Presentations of the Scientific Authority of the Netherlands on CITES trade in *Tillandsia*, *Galanthus* and *Cyclamen* at the fifth CITES Master Course in Baeza, Spain.

POLAND: Two training seminar for Customs officers and Phytosanitary Services.

PORTUGAL: A training seminar for CITES Enforcement staff was held on the Madeira Region from 13 to 17 February 2006 (dedicated to species identification and other enforcement matters). This seminar was promoted by the regional Management Authority with the support of the national CITES Authorities.

SLOVAKIA: A training seminar was organized on CITES legislation in Slovakia in the context of the above-mentioned twinning project. Training was organized mainly for people from animal rescue (rehabilitation) centres.

SPAIN: Participation with lectures on plant issues in a CITES seminar in Peru organized by the CITES Secretariat and Spain and directed to the Peruvian CITES Authorities.

SWEDEN: Sweden held one seminar (8-10 February 2006) where the main objective was cooperation and communication between authorities involved in CITES matters – Police, Customs, Scientific Authorities, Management Authorities, prosecutors, County administrative boards and inspection. There were about 140 participants. Colleagues from Great-Britain were invited as guests and gave talks about plant and Customs issues.

SWITZERLAND: preliminary timber seminar with Customs administration.

3.2 Education

AUSTRIA: Incorporation of CITES elements in university courses (University of Vienna).

Presentation of CITES elements for (commercial) gardeners (Austrian Gardening Society; done by members of the University of Vienna as part of the Scientific Authority).

ITALY: Following an agreement with the Rome Zoo *Fondazione Bioparco di Roma*, the Ministry of Environment and Land Protection, together with the *Corpo Forestale dello Stato*, has organized a permanent display entitled *Furti di Natura* (stolen nature), located inside the zoo itself in the centre of Rome. The exhibition consists of different seized CITES specimens displayed in showcases and focuses on the illegal capture, collection and trade of specimens and on the way in which this can affect the global conservation of biodiversity. The display aims to inform and create a greater awareness of the link between the millions of live specimens that are 'stolen' from nature every year for the pet market, fur traders, plant nurseries and the timber industry and the threat that this represents for nature conservation. Even though this display is open to the wider public, it targets particularly students and teachers of primary and secondary schools. To this purpose an 'educational kit' has been produced, consisting of small suitcases containing all kinds of educational material (e.g. puzzles, drawings, games with animals and plants) that are

given every time a school visits the display. As a follow-up to this initiative, the *Fondazione Bioparco di Roma* will create a separate website entirely dedicated to the illegal trade in animal and plants.

- a) The Italian Management Authority organized meetings with primary school children; and
- b) It published a guide entitled "To the conscious trade of wild fauna and flora included in CITES and in the EU Wildlife Trade Regulation".

LATVIA: seminars for teachers and pupils. The Natural History Museum of Latvia (NHM) has an educational programme about CITES. NHM and the Botanical Garden of the University of Latvia have botanical clubs for children. The Nature Protection Board, in collaboration with NHM, has issued a placard and brochure about orchids and other CITES related plants in Latvia and organized their presentation.

THE NETHERLANDS: CITES introduction for new members of the Scientific Authority of the Netherlands.

POLAND: Publications [*CITES Educational Pack for Teachers*, *CITES Timber-A Key to Identification* (produced by Environment Canada) and *CITES Plants – A Guide*] translated by, or prepared by, the Warsaw University Botanic Garden and published on-line in Polish (www.garden.uw.edu.pl).

SAN MARINO: Contacts were made with timber and medicinal plant importers, nurseries and gardeners to inform them about the provisions of CITES.

SLOVAKIA: A new CITES leaflet regarding European Union legislation is in preparation (Twinning project SK03/IB/EN/01: Institutional and Capacity Building in the Environmental Sector).

SPAIN:

- a) Fifth Master's course in 'Management, Access, Conservation and Trade of species: The International framework' with the International University of Andalucía from 3 October to 16 December 2005. This Master's course provided participants with the tools for understanding how CITES works. Twenty-four participants from 19 Parties (Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Hungary, Indonesia, Kuwait, Mexico, Nepal, Nicaragua, Peru, Spain, Sri Lanka, Surinam, United States of America, Viet Nam and Zambia) attended the Master's course directed by Prof. Dr Margarita Clemente Muñoz; and
- b) PhD Programme of on 'Management, Access and Conservation of the Biodiversity' in collaboration with the International University of Andalucía and the University of Córdoba. Forty-seven participants from 27 Parties (Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Kenya, Kuwait, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Slovenia, Spain, Surinam, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe). The programme is directed by Prof. Dr Margarita Clemente Muñoz.

3.3 Meetings

ITALY:

- a) Dr Frenguelli attended the invitation sent from INDENA, to visit the Milan factory with the Spanish Scientific Authority in October 2005;
- b) Lecture given by Dr Frenguelli on orchid trade at the 14th European Orchid Conference held in February 2006 in Padua, Italy; and
- c) Dr Frenguelli organized a workshop with the support of the Italian Botanical Society on the implementation of the CITES European Regulations.

THE NETHERLANDS: Meetings of Scientific and Management Authorities of the Netherlands in preparation of 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

SLOVENIA: The representatives of the Slovene Management and Scientific Authorities attended the meeting of the European Union Scientific Review Group, Management Committee and Enforcement Group in Brussels.

SPAIN:

- a) Dr Clemente responded positively to the invitation of the CITES Authorities of Chile to visit, at the end of August, the main habitats of *Fitzroya cupressoides*, *Araucaria araucana*, and *Pilgerodendron uviferum*. She held several working meetings with the CITES Authorities, indigenous communities (Peuenches), nursery men and journalists, and gave a lecture on CITES at the Universidad Católica of Santiago de Chile;
- b) Dr Clemente responded positively to the invitation of INDENA to visit the Milan factory with the Italian Scientific Authority in October 2005; and
- c) Dr Clemente attended a meeting in Curitiba (March 2006) with Brazilian colleagues from IBAMA to discuss the situation of the mahogany in Brazil and to learn the progress made with the implementation of Appendix II. She also had a meeting with the Brazilian Minister of the Environment on the same issue.

SWEDEN: Regular meetings were held with the County Administrative Boards, which is responsible for inspection activities. A first meeting was held with the Botanic Gardens in February 2006. Those contacts will be furthered and one subject under discussion is a rescue centre for plants.

3.4 Contacts with specialists and NGOs

AUSTRIA: Seminars for amateur groups (cacti, orchids) about CITES (by members of the University of Vienna as part of the Scientific Authority).

LATVIA:

- a) The Nature Protection Board and State Environmental Service had a meeting with the Ministry of Environmental Protection to discuss primarily a new legislation draft;
- b) The Natural History Museum has good collaboration with State Environmental Service; and
- c) The Botanical Garden of University of Latvia and the Latvian Botanical Society serve as advisers for CITES plants.

THE NETHERLANDS: Meetings of the Scientific Authority of the Netherlands with NGOs in preparation of 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

POLAND: A working group (Polish Ministry of Environment, Customs Office, Zoos and Botanic Gardens and NGOs) was established to work on draft regulations for Polish rescue centres for CITES specimens.

SPAIN:

- a) Collaboration with the Peruvian Authorities and specialists to implement the inclusion of *Swietenia macrophylla* in Appendix II and the inspection of nurseries; and
- b) UNEP-WCMC to gather information on export and import. Association of Timber Importers to gather information on the local offer of timber species included in CITES. GREENPEACE on the timber illegal trade.

SWEDEN: Has a close contact with TRAFFIC Sweden.

SWITZERLAND: Botanical Garden of Osnabrück (Germany): DNA analysis of *Galanthus* bulbs.

4. Implementation problems encountered in the region

4.1 Technical issues

AUSTRIA: No implementation problems were reported during the period in question.

LATVIA:

- a) Conservation issues; and
- b) Technical issues. Lack of highly-educated experts on timber species and few nature protection inspectors.

ITALY:

- a) Identification of timber species and medicinal plants; and
- b) Relationship with other Management Authorities.

POLAND: Lack of appropriate regulations for rescue centres for plants and animals.

SPAIN: Identification of timber species and medicinal plants.

SWITZERLAND:

- a) Conservation issues: Again serious irregularities (false declarations, mislabelling of packages) in *Galanthus* trade, detected through DNA analysis and identification of species. Packages from the Netherlands with bulbs declared as *G. nivalis* were composed of three different taxa and possibly originate from the Caucasus region. A report is in preparation; and
- b) Technical issues: Shipments exported from a country of the European Union, originating in a different country within the EU, and possibly also in countries outside the EU, can not be traced, as they are traded without CITES documents within the EU.

5. Other topics related to CITES

THE NETHERLANDS: The Scientific Authority of the Netherlands in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC is developing strategies for sustainable use and management of tree species subject to international trade.

SPAIN: The Spanish Management Authority started the control of *Fitzroya cupressoides*, *Swietenia* spp., *Gonystylus*, *Pericopsis elata* and others, testing samples with DNA identification techniques and microscopy.

SWEDEN:

- a) Medicinal plants: The Swedish authorities are planning to carry out inspection activity in 2007 regarding trade in health shops and other places where medicinal plants may be on sale. Before the inspections are carried out, they are planning to conduct an information campaign aimed at traders. They will also train inspectors and this may be an activity to carry out in cooperation with other Member States in the same situation. It would very much facilitate enforcement if Member States could cooperate and produce training material together as well as information for traders. This may be a question for the European region.
- b) Timber: The Swedish authorities are planning to launch an information campaign aimed at traders in 2007.

SWITZERLAND: CITES implementation for timber has been substantially improved in close co-operation with Customs.

6. Work to be done by the next meeting of the Plants Committee

AUSTRIA: Finalizing the work on the CITES *Bulbophyllum* checklist

ITALY: Organization of the European Regional CITES Plants meeting, 18-21 October 2006, in Perugia, Italy.

SAN MARINO: Registration of medicinal plant and timber companies.

SPAIN: Organization of the Sixth Master's course in 'Management, Access, Conservation and Trade of species: The International Framework' with the International University of Andalucía from 8 January to 31 March 2007.

7. Others

GERMANY: Trade study of Merbau (*Intsia* spp.). The Scientific Authority of Germany has commissioned TRAFFIC International to carry out a review on population status, harvesting, trade in and management of the heavily-traded timber species Merbau. Results of the study will be made available to the Plants Committee as well as to relevant authorities in the range States. Depending on the results of the review the conduct of workshop in the region of origin may be considered.

ITALY: The Italian Ministry of Environment and Land protection is supporting the work done by Dr Frenguelli as European Representative on the Plants Committee with funding and logistic support.

SPAIN: Spain is constantly supporting the work done by Dr Clemente as European Representative and Chairman of the Plants Committee with funding and logistic support in order to get this job done effectively.