

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

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

PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE

1. This document has been prepared by the botanist of the Nomenclature Committee.

UNEP-WCMC Checklist of CITES species

2. The update of the UNEP-WCMC *Checklist of CITES species* was published in 2005. The review process during the production of the Checklist is quite short in order to ensure its prompt publication following a meeting of the Conference of the Parties. To facilitate this process the Nomenclature Committee is currently reviewing any outstanding issues in the run up to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
3. Plant groups for which the Nomenclature Committee has not recommended a standard reference:
 - a) *Cyathea* (514 spp.)

The UNEP-WCMC list includes a consolidated list of names. A decision is required whether further work needs to be done on this group. One possible reference source is *World Ferns* (Hassler and Swale, 2001). This checklist is available on CD-ROM. The Nomenclature Committee will consider whether this is a suitable reference source.

- b) Didiereaceae (11 spp.)
- c) *Anacampseros* (14 spp.)
- d) *Avonia* (10 spp.)

This group comprises a small number of succulent plant species in limited trade and the UNEP-WCMC list is being reviewed by the Nomenclature Committee.

- e) *Guaicum* (6 spp.)

Mexico and Germany prepared a list for the latest meeting of the Nomenclature Committee (Geneva, 2005) and it was included in the UNEP-WCMC *Checklist of CITES Species*. It would seem appropriate that this list now be submitted to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

4. Plant taxa listed at CoP13 which require consideration by the Nomenclature Committee:

a) *Hoodia*

Plants of Southern Africa (Germishuizen & Meyer, 2003) is a reference which is a standard within the region and its treatment has been included in the UNEP-WCMC *Checklist of CITES species*. It would seem appropriate that this list now be submitted for approval at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

b) *Gonystylus*

The Nomenclature Committee is in consultation with experts as regards the best way forward and seeks the help of the Plants Committee in securing expert advice from the region.

c) *Aquilaria*

and

d) *Gyrinops*

In the case of these Agarwood-producing genera the Nomenclature Committee is, again, in consultation with experts as regards the best way forward and seeks the help of the Plants Committee in securing expert advice from the region.

Update on CITES Checklists

5. **The *CITES Orchid Checklists***. Volume 4 of the Orchid Checklist covers the genera *Aerides*, *Coelogyne*, *Comparettia*, and *Masdevallia*. Following a detailed review, including distribution of draft text to the relevant regional representatives on the Plants Committee, this book has now been published. Prior to publication the text was also peer-reviewed by two independent experts who were not part of the production process. Copies of the published books have been sent to the CITES Secretariat for distribution to the Parties for their consideration.
6. The Institute of Botany, Vienna (Austria), is preparing in cooperation with relevant international experts, a checklist of the genus *Bulbophyllum* which has been placed on the CITES website for comments from the Parties. Austria will report on progress on this checklist.
7. As Volume 4 of the Orchid Checklist is completed, some research time will be available at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (United Kingdom) to devote to additional checklist work. A significant number of the major genera in trade have been covered by volumes 1 to 4 of the orchid checklists. It is therefore intended to prepare a volume which includes an update on earlier volumes and an additional list of traded taxa not included in the earlier checklists. Much of the research for this work has already been carried by the international Monocot Checklist project. This process would include validation of the proposed list by a panel of international experts. The Plants Committee will, as usual, be asked to recommend experts for this panel. A number of Parties have indicated that they urgently require an update of Volume 1 of the Checklist, which includes the widely-traded genera *Paphiopedilum* and *Phragmipedium*.
8. **The *CITES Cactaceae Checklist*, 1999**, was adopted as the standard reference for Cactaceae. This volume is now out of print. The cactus volume of the *Lexicon* (a successor to Backeberg's *Cactus Lexicon*) is now complete and can form the basis of a revised cactus checklist. The *Cactus Lexicon* is the most scientifically authoritative conspectus of the Cactaceae published for nearly a century. It comprises over 900 pages and weighs over 5 kilograms and is therefore not a user-friendly tool for CITES authorities. A revised cactus checklist, extracted from the *Lexicon* is a more practical option for day-to-day work and can be widely distributed to CITES users at low cost. A new edition of the *CITES Cactaceae Checklist* will also provide the opportunity for the checklist to be included on the Web, thereby making it available to a wider range of CITES users. The costs of preparing an extract from the *Cactus Lexicon* are being investigated with the editors. Work will start on the extract before the end of 2006. The draft text will be checked with a panel of experts to ensure that it is acceptable to the CITES Parties. It is unlikely that an update will be published in time for adoption at CoP14.

9. **The *CITES Aloe and Pachypodium Checklist*** was published in 2001. Since that time some important revisions have been carried out and new species published. Many of the species are native to Madagascar and are likely to be in demand for trade. Switzerland has been working on a document to summarize the most important revisions. An update of this draft has been submitted to the Nomenclature Committee. It would seem appropriate that this list be now submitted for approval at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Conclusion

10. The comments of the Plants Committee are welcome on:

- a) the work programme outlined in this document;
- b) recommendations for experts to consult on *Gonystylus*, *Aquilaria* and *Gyrinops*;
- c) recommendations for experts to review the proposed draft *Cactaceae Checklist*; and
- d) recommendations for experts to contribute to the revision of volume 1 of the *Orchid Checklist*.