

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



Seventeenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 April 2008

NOMENCLATURAL MATTERS

1. This document has been submitted by the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee.
2. UNEP-WCMC Checklist of CITES species

The latest update of the UNEP-WCMC *Checklist of CITES species* was published in 2005. UNEP-WCMC is in the process of preparing for publication the next edition of the checklist. The Plants Committee specialist on botanical nomenclature is working with UNEP-WCMC to check the text on behalf of the Plants Committee. Some nomenclatural issues may arise from this process.

3. Plant groups for which the Conference of the Parties has not adopted a standard reference:
 - a) *Cyathea* (514 spp.)

The UNEP-WCMC list includes a consolidated list of names and a decision is required as to whether further work needs to be done on this group at this time. One possible reference source is *World Ferns* (Hassler and Swale, 2001-). This checklist is available on CD-ROM. It was discussed at the 16th meeting of the Plants Committee and included in the work programme agreed at 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14). The PC Nomenclature specialist is seeking recommendations for experts to review this publication so that a recommendation may be submitted at the 18th meeting of the Plants Committee.

- 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. The names used in the UNEP-WCMC list are being reviewed.

4. Plant groups included in Appendix II at CoP13 (Bangkok, 2004) which require consideration by the Plants Committee:
 - a) *Gonystylus*

No standard reference has been adopted approved for this group. Guidance is sought from experts in the region with regard to the best way forward. It may be the case that it is not appropriate to adopt a standard reference at this time.

b) *Aquilaria* and *Gyrinops*

In the case of these Agarwood-producing genera, guidance is sought from experts on the group with regard to the best way forward. It may be the case that it is not appropriate to adopt a standard reference at this time.

5. Plant groups included in the Appendices at CoP14 which require consideration by the Plants Committee:

No family or generic plant taxa were included in the Appendices at CoP14.

6. Update on other-CITES checklists

a) **The CITES orchid checklists:** A number of Parties have indicated that they urgently require an update of Volume 1 (published in 1995), which includes the widely traded genera *Paphiopedilum* and *Phragmipedium*. This option was included in the work programme submitted at CoP14. A first draft of a revised Volume I has been prepared by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, based on the *World Checklist of Monocotyledons* (not published yet). This draft document is now being reviewed by international experts. Recommendations for additional experts, particularly from range States, to review the draft list are requested from the Plants Committee.

b) **The CITES cactus checklist:** The work programme submitted at CoP14 included a proposal to produce a new edition of the checklist based on the recently published *Cactus Lexicon*. Discussions are taking place with the editors of the *Cactus Lexicon* with the hope that will allow the project to move ahead, subject to available funding.

7. Cycad nomenclature

World list of cycads: Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP14) states that the CITES standard reference is "A *World List of Cycads* (D.W. Stevenson, R. Osborne and K.D. Hill, 1995; In: P. Vorster (Ed.), *Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Cycad Biology*, pp. 55-64, Cycad Society of South Africa, Stellenbosch) and its updates accepted by the Plants Committee, as a guideline when making reference to names of species of Cycadaceae, Stangeriaceae and Zamiaceae."

A world list of cycads is now hosted on the website of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, Australia and maintained by Ken Hill. The PC nomenclature specialist has consulted Dr John Donaldson, Chairman of the IUCN SSC Cycad Specialist Group and former member of the Plants Committee, who suggested the following options:

a) Maintaining the printed version as the CITES reference. The latest version (2007) has just been published as part of the Cycad 2005 proceedings (*Memoirs of New York Botanical Garden* 97) and the next version will be published as part of the proceedings of the current meeting (probably in October 2009). The list is only fully updated every three years, so that the latest version (2007) is probably as up to date as possible.

b) Posting the World list (with version numbers) on the cycad Specialist Group website. This would mean that the Conference of the Parties could adopt a particular version that was the most up to date at the time of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Plants Committee is asked to consider which of these options would best suit CITES needs. It might indeed be possible to do both, which would make the list available as a hard copy and on the Web, and therefore more accessible to CITES Parties.

8. Decision 14.18: Harmonization of nomenclature and taxonomy with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements

This decision is directed to the Secretariat and states, that:

In close cooperation with the nomenclature specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees, the Secretariat shall, in the implementation of its memoranda of understanding or cooperation, or programmes of work with other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements,

continue to consider ways of harmonizing the taxonomy and nomenclature of species included in their respective provisions. The Secretariat shall report and make recommendations on this matter at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Bearing in the mind the need for specialist of the CITES Parties and that CITES nomenclature should form a stable basis for CITES decision making, the Plants Committee is asked to consider how best, and to what degree, such harmonization should take place.

9. Summary

The Plants Committee is asked to:

- a) Recommend relevant experts to review *World Ferns* (Hassler and Swale, 2001-).
- b) Consider whether it is necessary to adopt standard references for *Gonystylus*, *Aquilaria* and *Gyrinops* at this time.
- c) Recommend relevant experts to review the draft text of the revised orchid checklist Volume 1, which contains the genera *Cattleya*, *Cypripedium*, *Laelia*, *Paphiopedilum*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Phragmipedium*, *Pleione* and *Sophranitis*.
- d) Consider options for updating the CITES standard reference for Cycads to a Web version based reference, published version or, if possible, both.
- e) Consider how best and to what degree harmonization of nomenclature and taxonomy should take place across the biodiversity-related MEAs.