

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Buenos Aires (Argentina), 17-21 March 2009

Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

PROGRESS REPORT ON SEVEN ASIAN SPECIES OF MEDICINAL PLANTS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. Since its ninth meeting (PC9, Darwin, June 1999), the Plants Committee has been discussing trade in one or more of the following Asian species of medicinal plants: *Cistanche deserticola*, *Dioscorea deltoidea*, *Nardostachys grandiflora*, *Picrorhiza kurrooa*, *Pterocarpus santalinus*, *Rauvolfia serpentina* and *Taxus wallichiana*. Relevant background documents and summary records can be found on the CITES website at www.cites.org.
3. At its 15th (PC15, Geneva, May 2005), 16th (PC16, Lima, July 2006) and 17th (PC17, Geneva, April 2008) meetings, the Plants Committee discussed all seven species mentioned in paragraph 2 above. In documents submitted at PC15 and PC16, Germany put forward a series of recommendations that were designed to address its concerns about the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2(a) and 3, of the Convention as well as other Convention provisions (e.g. Article IV, paragraph 2, and Article VIII, paragraph 1) by various range States. It was noted at all three meetings that some of Germany's concerns might be addressed through the inclusion of one or more species in the Review of Significant Trade, while others fell outside the purview of the Plants Committee and might instead be brought to the attention of the Standing Committee.
4. The Plants Committee decided to include five of the seven species in the Review of Significant Trade: *Cistanche deserticola* (PC17), *Nardostachys grandiflora* (PC15), *Pterocarpus santalinus* (PC15), *Rauvolfia serpentina* (PC15) and *Taxus wallichiana* (PC15). The Committee later withdrew *Nardostachys grandiflora* from the Review because it was satisfied, based on information provided by range States, that Article IV, paragraphs 2(a) and 3, of the Convention were being properly implemented.
5. Decision 14.20, adopted at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14, The Hague, 2007), directed range States of the species mentioned in paragraph 2 above, as well as the regional representatives of Asia on the Plants Committee and the Secretariat, to ensure:
 - a) *implementation of regionally coordinated actions to improve the management of and prevent illegal trade in the seven species, including, inter alia, measures to combat illegal trade, regional capacity-building workshops and harmonization of regulations and legislation; and*
 - b) *submission of progress reports at the 17th and 18th meetings of the Plants Committee.*

6. In its background document for PC17 (document PC17 Doc. 8.6), the Secretariat stated that it had solicited progress reports under Decision 14.20 but had not received any responses from the range States or regional representatives of Asia on the Committee. The Secretariat added that it was not aware of any regional coordinated activities and was unclear as to what was expected of it in this connection. The Committee *agreed to ask the Secretariat to bring issues of non-compliance and illegal trade in the species concerned to the attention of the Standing Committee*. The Plants Committee further noted that issues related to non-detriment findings for some of the species were being dealt with under the Review of Significant Trade.
7. The 57th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC57) was held in Geneva in July 2008. As the decision taken at PC17 did not specify a particular SC meeting at which issues of non-compliance and illegal trade in the species concerned should be raised, and as there had been little time since PC17 for the Secretariat to engage with range States, the Secretariat decided not to include a related item in the SC57 agenda.
8. On 24 September 2008, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2008/058 drawing Parties' attention to special reporting requirements relevant to the Animals and Plants Committees that had been agreed at CoP14. Among other things, the Notification pointed out that Decision 14.20 directed the range States of the species concerned to report on progress in the implementation of regionally coordinated actions (e.g. measures to combat illegal trade, regional capacity-building workshops and harmonization of regulations and legislation) to improve the management of and prevent illegal trade in those species.
9. On 14 November 2008, the Secretariat received a national report from China responding to the above-mentioned Notification (see attachment, in English only). The Secretariat intends to make direct contact with other range States in February 2009 to learn whether any additional reports are already in preparation or might be prepared before PC18.
10. In its national report, China points out that it applies domestic measures that are stricter than the provisions of the Convention for certain imports, exports and re-exports, especially with regard to species which are 'sensitive' or in which there is significant trade. It states that there is no record of any legal international export of two species (*Rauvolfia serpentina* and *Nardostachys grandiflora*) from China and explains that wild collection in two other species is either prohibited (*Taxus wallichiana*) or carefully regulated (*Cibotium deserticola* – the Secretariat assumes that China meant to refer to *Cistanche deserticola*) in China. The permit procedures described by China appear consistent with those required by the Convention. China explains that a number of bilateral and regional consultations with and visits from other Parties concerning CITES trade, as well as one law enforcement seminar, have taken place since the year 2000.
11. On 24 November 2008, in the margins of a TRAFFIC network meeting being held in India, TRAFFIC International released the *Review of the Status, Harvest, Trade and Management of Seven Asian CITES-listed Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Species*. A pre-publication version of the *Review* was distributed at PC17 (document PC17 Inf. 10). TRAFFIC collaborated with the Species Programme of IUCN in preparing the *Review* and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation provided both financial and technical support. Contributors to the *Review* included government officials in a number of range States. The *Review* also made use of publicly available annual report trade data and Customs data that had been compiled and submitted by range States. Several range States had provided comments on draft species assessments that had been sent to them for review.
12. The dearth of written responses to Germany's recommendations to date and the non-submission of progress reports envisaged under Decision 14.20 would seem to show that more and different efforts are needed to obtain the engagement of range States regarding the concerns expressed in documents provided to the Plants Committee. More and different efforts also appear warranted to bring about any national and regionally coordinated actions that may be needed to improve the management of and prevent illegal trade in the seven species mentioned in paragraph 2 above.
13. The importance of organizing a regional meeting or workshop on this matter has been noted in previous documents provided to the Plants Committee. In addition, range States, representatives of Asia on the Plants Committee and the Secretariat have been directed under Decision 14.20 to ensure the implementation of regionally coordinated actions. The Secretariat has had some discussions with Germany about the organization of a regional workshop. Germany indicated that it might be able to

provide a resource person but that otherwise there was no provision in its 2009 budget to support such a workshop. It further indicated that the situation might be different in 2010 (e.g. it might be able to provide not only a resource person but also some financial support). In the meantime, there is a possibility of addressing medicinal plant trade during a broader CITES capacity-building workshop for South and Southeast Asia that is planned for the second half of 2009, using external funds provided by the European Union. The Secretariat has also considered the possibility of organizing a workshop in South Asia that would address both CITES legislation (making possible use of some existing Japanese external funds) and medicinal plant trade. Range States have not yet expressed their views on the holding of a regional meeting or workshop. TRAFFIC has offered to assist with fund-raising for a regional workshop on medicinal plants.

14. In the Secretariat's view, further efforts to implement Decision 14.20 involving direct and detailed consultations with range States and the representatives of Asia on the Plants Committee should be undertaken before issues of non-compliance and illegal trade in the species concerned are brought to the attention of the Standing Committee, as requested by the Plants Committee.

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CMS 中华人民共和国濒危物种进出口管理办公室
 THE ENDANGERED SPECIES IMPORT & EXPORT MANAGEMENT OFFICE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

ACTION *make copy done*

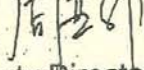
14. Nov. 2008

REPLY FILE

Dear Sir / Madam

As per requested by the Secretariat, China has prepared a report in replying to Notification No. 2008/058. Herewith we send you a Facsimile of the report. We will also send you an electronic version by email simultaneously.

Best regards,

ZHOU Yafei 
 Standing Deputy Director General
 CITES Management Authority of China

National report of China about Notification No. 2008/058
(Information to be submitted for consideration of plant committees)

b). *Cistanche deserticola*, *Dioscorea deltoidea*, *Nardostachys grandiflora*, *Picrorhiza kurrooa*, *Pterocarpus santalinus*, *Rauwolfia serpentina* and *Taxus wallichiana*

I. Management of CITES-Listed species in China

According to CITES and *Regulations on the Import and Export Management of Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora*, China has all along taken stricter measures of trade control than CITES. Imports, exports or re-exports of specimens of CITES-listed species require an import, export, or re-export permit issued by the CITES Management Authority, and the Customs shall clear the imports, exports or re-exports after examining the pertinent permit.

If importing, exporting, re-exporting specimens of CITES-listed species, or exporting specimens of National Key Protected Wild Species, only after making non-detriment findings (NDF) by the central forest authority or its agencies, can the CITES Management Authority check and send out license according to relevant regulations. More strict measures have been taken especially for significant trade and sensitive species.

I. *Cibotium deserticola*

A. For wild specimens

As for an application for exporting Chinese traditional medicine containing few *Cibotium deserticola*, China CITES MA will issue permit as long as the applicant can provide relevant documents such as contract and sales invoice to prove legal origin. Whereas, as for raw material, the CITES MA will organize experts to evaluate the devastating effects on nature resources before making administration permit, then made a decision according the advice of experts. Generally, the experts will suggest not issuing permits.

B. For artificially propagated specimens

Anyone applying for an export permit of artificially propagated specimen should submit to the CITES Management Authority relevant documents, including related situations of nurseries (if not registered), sales invoice with nurseries, CITES certificate of origin from the Provincial Forestry Department where the applicant is located,

approval document from the State Forestry Administration.

II. *Rauvolfia serpentine*

Rauvolfia serpentine has been listed in the name-list of national key-protected wild plant, and belongs to the second-class national protected plants. To date, there has no record of international trade in china.

III. *Nardostachys grandiflora*

Up to now, no record of international trade exists.

IV. *Taxus wallichiana*

Taxus wallichiana has been listed in the name-list of national key-protected wild plant (first-class), and the collecting, selling and purchasing of its wild specimens are strictly prohibited according to *Regulations on the Protection of Wild Plants*. If the collecting of wild plants is necessary for some special purposes such as scientific research, cultivation or cultural exchanges, the unit concerned must apply for a collecting permit to the department of wild plants administration under the State Council or an agency authorized thereby. As for exporting artificially propagated specimens of *Taxus wallichiana*, China has made a stricter management all through according to CITES and *Regulations on the Import and Export Management of Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora*.

2. Coordination with other countries and regions

- Ever since 2000, tripartite talks on information exchanging and enforcement collaboration between China Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao are held each year.
- In 2005, china successfully hosted the Silk Road CITES Implementation and Enforcement Seminar. Members from Nepal, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and china CITES MA attended the seminar. Some Scientific Authorities and relevant law enforcement agencies from other CITES parties were also invited to attend the seminar.
- An active exchange of views between China and Thailand CITES MA unfolded concerning fulfilling CITES obligations and beating illegal international trade.
- China has received the visits for many times from other CITES parties, such as Tanzania, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Nepal and India, discussing how to fulfill CITES obligations, and how to beat illegal international trade.

c) Orchidaceae

In order to strengthen the management of import and export trade, facilitate the Custom and other enforcement officers' monitoring and regulatory work, China CITES MA published *identification manual for Orchids in trade in China* in July, 2008. 222 species (including varieties) of orchids commonly seen in international trade were included in this *Identification Manual*. In addition, other species that may be less common in international trade but are more seriously threatened by smuggling or over exploited within the country are also included in order to facilitate identification.