

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Plants Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-21 April 2011

Annotations

DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF ANNOTATIONS TO THE LISTINGS  
OF PLANT TAXA IN THE APPENDICES

1. This document has been submitted by the North American region<sup>\*</sup>.
2. Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev.CoP15) on *Inclusion of species in Appendix III* and Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev.CoP15) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II* both make clear that, when a species is included in Appendix II or Appendix III without a substantive annotation, the listing shall be interpreted to include all readily recognizable parts and derivatives. Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev.CoP15) further recommends that "Parties submitting proposals that contain substantive annotations ensure that the text is clear and unambiguous," and that "annotations that specify the types of specimens included in the Appendices should be used sparingly, as their implementation is particularly challenging, especially where there are identification problems or where the purpose of trade has been specified."
3. Nonetheless, a review of the Appendices shows that fewer than 20 of the plant taxa listed in Appendices II and III are unannotated and that the Appendices contain 17 substantive, plant-specific annotations.
4. The large number of documents and working groups in the Plants Committee considering issues related to annotations demonstrates that the application and implementation of annotations is becoming increasingly complex and challenging.
5. We believe that it would be useful for the Parties to examine how plant annotations are currently being developed and applied, and consider how this process might be improved to ensure that plant annotations are easy to understand, that they are necessary to achieve effective control of trade in the species, and that they are enforceable.
6. To achieve this, we recommend that the Plants Committee, as part of its work on annotations, also undertake a review that will:
  - Examine the purpose, meaning and function of annotations;
  - Consider appropriate and reasonable procedures for developing annotations, including how the Plants Committee could assist in this process;

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<sup>\*</sup> *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

- Explore modifying the listing proposal format, contained in Annex 6 to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15), to add a section where the proponent would explain the rationale for including an annotation to the proposed listing, when applicable, and discuss the practical implementation of the listing if adopted; and
- Provide recommendations on this issue to the Conference of the Parties.