

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



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

Periodic review of plant species included in the CITES Appendices

UPDATE ON RANGE-WIDE REVIEW OF *SCLEROCACTUS*

1. This document has been prepared by the United States of America<sup>\*</sup>.
2. There are 35 *Sclerocactus* taxa listed in the CITES Appendices (9 taxa in Appendix-I; 26 taxa in Appendix-II) (UNEP-WCMC), although the taxonomy and nomenclature of this genus, including the classification of species and subspecies within it, are a matter of debate (Anderson 2001; Heil and Porter 1994; Heil and Porter 2003). The distribution of most *Sclerocactus* taxa is within the United States, several taxa are found in both the United States and Mexico, and a few taxa are endemic to Mexico.
3. At the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP12; Santiago, 2002), the United States submitted proposals to transfer *Sclerocactus nyensis* and *Sclerocactus spinosior* subspecies *blainei* from Appendix II to Appendix I. The Parties adopted by consensus the proposal to transfer *S. nyensis* to Appendix I. However, the United States withdrew the proposal for *S. spinosior* subsp. *blainei* due to the taxonomic and nomenclatural uncertainty surrounding this taxon.
4. At the 15th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC15, Geneva, 2005), the United States, as a member of the working group for the periodic review of plant species included in the CITES Appendices, suggested and offered to review the genus *Sclerocactus* [PC15 WG3 Doc. 1 (Rev. 1)]. The Plants Committee adopted the working group's proposed list of taxa for review, with the addition of *Sclerocactus* species (PC15 Summary Record).
5. At PC17 (Geneva, 2008), the United States affirmed its commitment to review *Sclerocactus* species, subject to available funding (PC17 Summary Record).
6. The U.S. Scientific Authority has contracted with a botanical consultant to conduct a comprehensive range-wide review of *Sclerocactus*, including a thorough review of the literature, taxonomy, geographic distribution, and status in the wild.
7. Once the U.S. Scientific Authority has completed its review of the consultant's report, it will work with the Nomenclature Specialist to address any taxonomic issues that may need resolution prior to the United States completing the review of this genus. The United States anticipates having this work completed for discussion at 20th meeting of the Plants Committee.

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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.*

## Citations

Anderson, E. F. 2001. The Cactus Family. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon. 776 pp.

Heil, K. D. and J. M. Porter. 1994. *Sclerocactus* (Cactaceae): A revision. *Haseltonia* 2: 20-46.

Heil, K. D. and J. M. Porter. 2003. *Sclerocactus*. In: Flora of North America Editorial Committee, eds. Flora of North America North of Mexico. 27 vols. New York and Oxford. Vol. 4, pp. 193, 197-206. Available at: <http://www.fna.org/volumes>. Accessed February 2, 2011.