

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



Twentieth first meeting of the Plants Committee  
Veracruz (Mexico), 2-8 May 2014

Regional matters

Regional reports

EUROPE

1. This document has been prepared and submitted by the regional representatives for Europe\*.

**General information**

2. Representatives: Dr Margarita Clemente and Dr Maurizio Sajevo

Alternates: Dr David Kikodze and Mr Paulo J.L. Carmo

Number of Parties in the region: 48

Names of the other institutions and NGOs contacted for CITES work during the period: IUCN, UNEP-WCMC. Intergovernmental Organization: European Commission.

**Difficulties of implementation encountered in the Region**

3. The answers received from the European Parties point out that the main problem seems to be related to Timber identification.
4. Several Parties highlighted that there is still illegal wild collection and trade of European flora, especially terrestrial Orchids and *Cyclamen*. Specimens are available also on the Internet via auction sites.
5. The Czech Republic alerts that growers collect seeds in Mexico, including the recently described *Aztekium waldezi*. Italy also noticed that the difficulties are related to internal EU trade of artificially propagated specimens of Appendix I taxa by nurseries not registered at Secretariat. Checks on parental stocks of Appendix I specimens declared of Pre Convention are also problematic.
6. Sweden points out that the Internet trade of Cacti is a major problem because of difficulties encountered by customs in controlling postal parcels. Sweden also highlighted that it is almost impossible to distinguish between different species entering the country.
7. Switzerland signals problems with finished products containing extract of *Orchidaceae* spp.
8. Some Parties still face problems with imports of *Encephalartos* spp. from South Africa because of difficulties in exchanging information on the origin of the plants.

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\* 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.

9. Some Parties face financial problems in implementing CITES.
10. Regarding Agarwood annotation #<sup>14</sup> the UK customs officials point out the difficulties to distinguish between agarwood powders exhausted and not exhausted.
11. The UK aims co-operation on identification of timbers and would value an increase in networking between all Parties carrying out research in this area and also facilitation in obtaining validated samples for use in such research.

#### **Support offered to CITES implementation in the Region**

12. Belgium will get from a Belgian trader, some comprehensive information on the cultivation of Pygeum (*Prunus africana*) in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This information can be of help in the process of the Review of the Significant Trade for this species.
13. Spain offered the Master's Degree Course on "Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade: The International Framework. The programme is organized by the International University of Andalusia with the collaboration of the CITES Authorities of Spain and the CITES Secretariat. The Master's Degree Course has already been given ten times and quality specialised training was given to 258 individuals from the following 72 countries. The on-campus stage of the 11th edition will take place 28th April to 11th July 2014.
14. During 2 years a Twinning partnership has been implemented between Turkish Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs and Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness for *Strengthening of Institutional Capacity on CITES implementations*. Regarding CITES plants in 2012 and 2013 the following activities have been accomplished: teaching in 5 Training Seminars (around 250 participants); participation in an expert working group to analyse the working practice of the Scientific Authority of Turkey and preparation of seven identification sheets.
15. Germany is preparing the third version of CITES wood ID It will again be available in four languages: English, French, Spanish and German. The new version include: *Aniba rosaeodora*, *Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp., *Araucaria araucana*, *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*, *Dalbergia* spp. from Eastern Madagascar, *Dalbergia* spp. from Western Madagascar, *Diospyros* spp., *Podocarpus* spp., *Pterocarpus santalinus* and *Taxus* spp. The program will be available as CD-ROM, which can be ordered at the German CITES Scientific Authority (BfN) at [schmitzh@bfn.de](mailto:schmitzh@bfn.de). An online version of the program is currently in preparation and will be ready in the course of 2014.
16. The German CITES SA will organize on 12/13 June 2014 an international training workshop in Hamburg/ Germany with a focus on the identification of the newly listed CITES timber species. The course is aimed at all interested colleagues from the European region involved in identification aspects of CITES timber issues. People interested to participate in this course may contact: Mr Hajo Schmitz-Kretschmer, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), Germany [schmitzh@bfn.de](mailto:schmitzh@bfn.de).
17. The Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea Protection is supporting the activity of the European Regional Representative with funding and logistic support. Italy is cooperating with the United Kingdom's Scientific Authority for the publication of CITES users guides.
18. Ireland held the Presidency of the European Council for the first half of 2013 during the negotiations and preparations of the Council Decision for CoP16 and spoke on behalf of the European Union and its Member States during the CoP.
19. Poland prepared an education path "CITES Plants". The guide (Rośliny CITES) was prepared by Mariola Kukier-Wyrwicka and Hanna Werblan-Jakubiec. The plants representing various families were selected and labelled. The path is intended for education of high school students. Bożena Dubielecka and Joanna Bogdanowicz have prepared expertise on "Issues of trade of CITES plants derived from cultivation – guidelines for realisation and enforcement of CITES regulations." Expertise was commissioned by Polish Department for Environment. The main focus of expertise was on cacti and other succulents, orchids, cycads, ferns and carnivorous plants.
20. The European Union granted or approved funding for the following projects:
  - Combating wildlife crime (1.7 Million EUR granted to ICCWC through Interpol)

- ITTO-CITES Program for Implementing CITES Listings of Tropical Timber Species (5 Mio EUR granted to ITTO for the period 2012-2015)
  - Implementation of CoP16 decisions including Decision 16.53 on Non-detriment findings, Decisions 15.95 (Rev.CoP16) and 16.155-158 on Agarwood-producing taxa, Decision 16.152 Annex 3 (Action plan for *Diospyros* and *Dalbergia* in Madagascar), Decisions 16.13-16 on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Decision 16.58 on Physical inspection of timber shipments, Decisions 16.59-61 on the Identification manual and Decisions 16.161-163 on Annotations.
  - Species and monitoring of the status of several CITES-listed species (0.65 Million EUR granted to UNEP-WCMC).
21. The Netherland offered to organise the next Regional meeting. Montenegro is willing to organise a Regional meeting in the future.

#### **Other activities in the region**

22. UNEP-WCMC has been contracted to provide reports on the biological and trade data regarding a large number of species traded under CITES as well as a number of additional scientific matters relating to CITES implementation. The contract provided also for development of Species +, a new online resource providing comprehensive information on globally protected species to CITES and CMS Parties that was launched in November 2013.
23. TRAFFIC has been contracted to monitor the implementation and enforcement of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations (Regulations (EC) 338/97 and (EC) 865/2006), and to provide studies and assessments on particular topics.
- A training course for CITES 40 inspectors and officers of Corpo Forestale dello Stato was held in November 2013 including: identification of Cactaceae and Cycads, CITES woods and medicinal plants.
  - A joint seminar Corpo Forestale dello Stato and Custom was held in November for a better application of CITES at custom level.
  - A very big police operation was conducted in February-May 2013 related to illegal import from Chile of *Copiapoa* wild plants without any CITES permits; during operation were seized also other wild specimens (from Mexico and other countries) and were done checks in fair and exhibition. The activity has shown that illegal wild plants are smuggled in some EU Parties and then are easily distributed in all EU Parties mixed with artificially propagated plants during the fairs.

#### **Recent Publications**

- Kiehn M. and Benítez-Díaz H. (2013). International Trade in Endangered Plant Species in the Context of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* 99: 167–171.
- Rutherford C., Donaldson J., Hudson A., McGough H.N., Sajeva M., Shippmann U., Tse-Lawrence M. (2013). CITES and Cycads. A users' guide. Kew Publishing, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. ISBN: 978-1-84246-489-2.
- Sajeva M., McGough H.N., Garret L., Luethy J., Tse-Lawrence M., Rutherford C., Sajeva G. (2012). CITES and Cacti. A users' guide. Kew Publishing, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. ISBN: 978-1-84246-465-4.
- Sajeva M., Augugliaro C., Smith M.J., Oddo E. (2013). Regulating Internet Trade in CITES Species. *Conservation Biology* 27:429-430. DOI: 10.1111/cobi.12019

#### **Web-sites**

Photo identification guide of Greek CITES species, updated versions (only in Greek) are posted on the official Web site. <http://www.ypeka.gr> (<http://www.ypeka.gr/Default.aspx?tabid=596&language=el-GR>)

Information on work done by the SRG can be found under the following link:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/srg\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/srg_en.htm)

Reports prepared by UNEP-WCMC as a basis for SRG work:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/reports\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/reports_en.htm)

Spain CITES Web-site: <http://www.cites.es/es-ES/Paginas/default.aspx>

Switzerland CITES Web-site: [http://www.blv.admin.ch/themen/handel\\_wild/index.html?lang=en](http://www.blv.admin.ch/themen/handel_wild/index.html?lang=en)