

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



Twenty-second meeting of the Plants Committee  
Tbilisi (Georgia), 19-23 October 2015

Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

Proposals for possible consideration at CoP17

ANNOTATIONS FOR APPENDIX-II ORCHIDS  
(Agenda item 22.1)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Chair:	Representative of North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) and Switzerland (Ms. Moser);
PC Members:	Representative of Asia (Ms. Zhou);
Parties:	Canada, China, Czech Republic, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and
IGOs and NGOs:	ITC, UNCTAD, UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, FTS Botanics, Species Survival Network, and TRAFFIC.

Mandate

To draft the terms of reference for an intersessional working group of the Plants Committee on annotations for Appendix-II orchids addressing, *inter alia*, the relationship between the Plants Committee's intersessional working group on annotations for Appendix-II orchids and the Standing Committee's Working Group on annotations.

Recommendations:

The WG recommends to the Plants Committee to adopt the following mandate for the intersessional working group on the exemption of finished products of orchids from CITES:

Composition of the IWG

1. The Plants Committee at its 22nd meeting will form the preliminary membership of the intersessional working group on the exemption of finished products of orchids from CITES provisions, comprising Parties and non-governmental observers present at that meeting.

2. The Plants Committee will agree on Co-chairs.
3. The Secretariat will be asked to prepare and distribute a Notification to the Parties seeking additional expressions of interest from Parties to participate in the intersessional working group encouraging a wide representation from range states, importers, exporters and re-exporters.
4. The Notification should also ask Parties to communicate with relevant non-governmental organizations and industries to identify additional working group members from these stakeholders. The Parties will communicate the names and contact information of these additional members (additional Parties, NGOs, orchid conservation researchers, researchers groups, and industry) to the working group (co-)chairs.

#### Terms of Reference for the IGW

1. The intersessional working group will develop a questionnaire taking into consideration previous discussions and work on this topic, to seek information on the trade in orchid parts and derivatives (wild and artificially propagated) in consideration of the potential conservation impact of exempting orchid products from CITES controls.
2. The questionnaire will ask Parties to provide available information on: the trade in orchid products from source to final product, including the identification of the major industry sectors involved in the trade; how NDFs are made; traceability along the trade chain; and trade reporting. It will also request information on orchid parts and derivatives used in products, sectors involved (cosmetics, nutritional supplements, traditional medicine, foodstuffs –in particular flours- etc.), and conservation concerns for wild populations.
3. The questionnaire will be transmitted to the Parties via a Notification and emphasize the importance of responses from range States, with a sufficient deadline for responding.
4. Subject to the availability of funding, the intersessional working group may also consider actions to enable a full analysis of the potential conservation impact of orchid exemptions. These may include developing case studies on key orchid species identified in trade as finished products, including the 39 species identified in the Annex of document PC22 Doc. 22.1, as well as the two cases of orchid foodstuffs outlined in PC22 Inf. 6, a workshop(s), or a study on trade data sources.
5. Based on the information obtained from the Notification, as well as other information from the potential actions identified above, and other appropriate sources, the intersessional working group will analyze the risk of trade in orchid products to conservation and provide its conclusions about such risk.
6. The group will also consider and highlight the knowledge gaps of the orchid species in trade. Consider identification, nomenclature and distributional information gaps where these are found to exist, and highlight these to the wider orchid research community and traders. During trade events and forthcoming international meetings and workshops (e.g. The international orchid conservation congress IOCC6-Hong Kong May 16-20, 2016).
7. The working group will conduct its work via electronic means.
8. The working group will report its findings to the 23rd and 24th meetings of the Plants Committee (PC23 and PC24) as appropriate, with the request that PC23 and PC24 report to the Standing Committee for its consideration, and to inform the Standing Committee working group on annotations.