

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



Twenty-third meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 22 and 24-27 July 2017

Species specific matters

Maintenance of the Appendices

PERIODIC REVIEW
(agenda item 29)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Chair: the acting representative of North America (Ms. Camarena Osorno);

Parties: Canada, Estonia, Mexico, Portugal, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, American Herbal Products Association, IWMC World Conservation Trust and TRAFFIC.

Mandate

Concerning agenda item 29.2:

In accordance with paragraph 2 b) of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17):

- a) identify a list of plant taxa to review during the next two intersessional periods between the 17th meeting [CoP17 (2016)] and the 19th meeting [CoP19 (2022)] of the Conference of the Parties, based on outputs indicated in paragraphs 7 to 10 of document PC23 Doc. 29.2.
- b) taking into account paragraphs 4 and 5 of document AC29 Com. 7, consider possible funding necessary to continue with the Periodic Review; and
- c) agree on ways to facilitate the periodic reviews, as suggested in paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17).

Concerning agenda item 29.3:

Review the information presented in document PC23 Doc. 29.3, and make recommendations to the Committee regarding the listing in the Appendices of *Hedychium philippinense*, clearly specifying the reference to the criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

Recommendations

Concerning paragraph a) of the mandate:

1. The working group discussed the Annex to document PC23 Doc. 29.2, specifically outputs 1, 3 and 4, and selected the following 7 species as candidates for potential review under Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17) during the next two intersessional periods from CoP17 to CoP19 (2022). Where a range State has volunteered to conduct the review, this is indicated in bold in the table. The working group noted that some range States were present at the 23rd meeting (PC23), but not present in the working group, and may express interest to undertake a review during the Plenary.

Taxon	Appendix	Range State(s)
Output 1:		
1) <i>Ariocarpus retusus</i>	I	Mexico
2) <i>Ceratozamia hildae</i>	I	Mexico
3) <i>Encephalartos concinnus</i>	I	Zimbabwe
4) <i>Encephalartos manikensis</i>	I	Mozambique and Zimbabwe
Output 3:		
5) <i>Melocactus paucispinus</i>	I	Brazil
6) <i>Abies guatemalensis</i>	I	Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, El Salvador
Output 4:		
7) <i>Caryocar costaricense</i>	II	Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

2. The working group recommended the Plants Committee to convey Output 1 in the Annex to PC23 Doc. 29.2 to the Secretariat and the Standing Committee for further consideration of the reported trade in these Appendix I species, noting that some trade has only been reported by exporting countries and not importing countries, and therefore may not have actually taken place.
3. Furthermore, and though relevant to this process, the working group acknowledged that the species identified under Output 2 (document PC23 15.3, Annex 2) are being considered at length by the Review of Significant Trade Working Group, and therefore agreed not to review those species at this time.

Concerning paragraphs b) and c) of the mandate:

4. The working group offered the following recommendations on possible funding sources to continue with the Periodic Review:
 - a) Ask the Standing Committee's Finance and Budget Sub-Committee to consider allocating funds specifically for the Periodic Review process, including providing support to range States for conducting the reviews;
 - b) Encourage the Secretariat to seek external funding for the Periodic Review process, including support to range States for conducting the reviews, as necessary;
 - c) Seek linkages between Periodic Review and other CITES-funded initiatives, such as capacity building. The working group believes that the Periodic Review process provides a useful tool for increasing understanding of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) and serves as an introduction for the preparation of species proposals to amend the Appendices; and
 - d) Identify synergies between other on-going regional and global initiatives for assessing species status, that may provide opportunities to gather information of relevance to a periodic review, including, but not limited to: regional meetings/activities, initiatives of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), Specialist Groups of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), botanical gardens, the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other related entities and organizations.

5. In order to facilitate the periodic reviews, the working group recommends the following actions in addition to the activities in paragraph 4 in Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17):
- a) PC regional representatives are requested to reach out to range States within their region to encourage them to conduct periodic reviews. During a review process, the regional representatives are also requested to help facilitate communication among range States;
 - b) the Secretariat is requested to include within the letters informing range States of the species selected for review a specific reference to databases that provide information on the species, such as the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, Species+ and the CITES Trade Database;
 - c) The Secretariat, in addition to informing the range States, will also inform a wider network, including:
 - i) PC regional representatives;
 - ii) The Directors of the CITES Masters Course in Andalucía (as potential topics for research by masters students) and other relevant academic institutions;
 - iii) The Secretariats of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other relevant treaties and organisations; and
 - iv) Organisations with relevant species and trade expertise, such as IUCN (including the relevant Specialist Groups), UNEP-WCMC, TRAFFIC, and others as appropriate;
 - d) The Secretariat is requested to create a Periodic Review webpage on the CITES website linked to a future database and to Species+ to inform Parties and the wider CITES community of the process and the species involved. The Secretariat is requested to create additional resource materials on the Periodic Review for inclusion in the CITES Virtual College (including an overview of the review process outlined in Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17), as well as examples of previous reviews;
 - e) Encourage range States to inform and invite universities with relevant expertise within their country and region to contribute, where appropriate, to ongoing periodic reviews, noting that a periodic review could constitute a student thesis project; and
 - f) Once range States agree to conduct a Periodic review under Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17), they are encouraged to engage with relevant stakeholders (e.g. NGOs, species experts and industry groups) with information on the status and trade in selected species, as appropriate, and invite them to participate in the ongoing review.

Concerning the mandate for document PC23 Doc. 29.3:

6. The working group considered the initial draft submitted by the Philippines in document PC23 Doc. 29.3 on *Hedychium philippinense*. The working group encourages Philippines to continue the compilation of information, and submit a revised document for consideration of the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC24); furthermore, the working group encourages Philippines to take into account the recommendations in the paragraphs 4 and 5 above.