

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



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

Regional matters

Regional reports

EUROPE

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

General information

2. Representatives: Mr Paulo Carmo and Mr Maurizio Sajevo. Alternates: Mr David Kikodze and Ms Ursula Moser.

Number of Parties in the region: 49

3. Names of the other institutions and NGOs contacted for CITES work during the period: IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, TRAFFIC.

Difficulties of implementation encountered in the Region

4. The answers received from the European Parties point out that the main problem seems to be related to Timber identification and related annotations
5. Trade in musical instruments which contain CITES listed timber (namely *Dalbergia* spp.) is also a problem encountered by almost all the parties contributing to this report.
6. Several Parties highlighted that there is still illegal wild collection and trade of European flora, especially terrestrial Orchids.
7. There is still illegal trade in Cacti and Orchids. Lack of independent experts on these taxa is a problem in some Parties.
8. Switzerland signals problems with cosmetics and finished products containing extract of *Orchidaceae* spp.
9. Some Parties face financial problems in implementing CITES.
10. Belgium highlights that Export quota for timber should always be in RWE (Round Wood Equivalents). Conversion factors based on scientific evidence should be available. Otherwise separated quota for logs, sawn wood, veneer could be envisaged

* 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.

11. The Internet trade in CITES listed plants needs more attention both at the Regional and International level.
12. Most Parties underline the need to spread out the knowledge of the CITES Convention among the general public and hope that information campaigns will be issued in the near future

Support offered to CITES implementation in the Region

13. Azerbaijan: The Botanical Institute holds the planned events on protection and restoration of consecutive works in the Red Book of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
14. Austria prepared two reports: "Identification of wild and artificially propagated plants" and a risk-assessment when illegally imported live plants are most likely to show up at Austrian entry points. The first report was circulated within the EU. After CoP17 Austria held an event in Vienna to inform the musical instrument industry and musicians about the changes and improve the dialogue. A second event took place at the end of April.
15. Belgium: Presentations on Musical instruments (NL); Timber import (NL); African Custom officers (FR) - (NL: in Dutch language, FR: in French); Leaflets on Orchids, Cacti and Souvenirs; Workshop for Frontline Customs Officers Working at Airports.
16. Georgia undertook the review of the plants in trade, in co-operation with the CITES Nomenclature Specialist and with support by the German International Cooperation Society (GIZ). Training of approximately 120 enforcement officers customs officers and representatives of the Environmental Supervision Department (responsible for control of domestic trade) was conducted with the support of Flora and Fauna International (FFI) and German International Cooperation Society (GIZ).
17. European Union: 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. Under this contract, another training session for scientific and management authorities of the EU Member States on the database and on NDFs for timber have been organised (8 November 2016). TRAFFIC has been contracted to monitor the implementation and enforcement of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations, and to provide studies and assessments on particular topics.

The following projects are currently being funded by the EU:

- Strengthening capacity in developing countries for sustainable wildlife management and enhanced implementation of CITES wildlife trade regulations, with particular focus on commercially-exploited aquatic species (August 2013 - March 2017, EUR 1.3 million granted to the CITES Secretariat) (http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20130914_shark_ray.php).
- Combating wildlife crime (2013-2015, 1.7 Mio EUR granted to ICCWC through Interpol) (http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-1428_en.htm).
- Support to the Secretariat for the implementation of CoP16 decisions (August 2013 – March 2017, 0.7 Mio EUR).
- Species+ and monitoring of the status of several CITES-listed species (0.65 Mio EUR granted to UNEP-WCMC).
- The Commission approved in 2015 a project to finance a program jointly carried out by CITES and UNODC to strengthen law enforcement and reduce the demand for illegal wildlife products in South East Asia (through a EUR 5 million grant).
- The Commission approved in 2016 a project for supporting sustainable management of tree species (EUR 7 million) and conservation of the African elephant (EUR 1 million) through CITES and the African Elephant Fund – The Commission and CITES Secretariat are still negotiating the contract for this project to start its implementation in 2017.
- Support to the Secretariat for the implementation of CoP17 decisions and further capacity building for developing countries – The Commission approved in March 2017 an allocation of EUR 2.25 Mio for

which CITES Secretariat still needs to develop the detailed project document for 3 years (envisaged starting date around June 2017).

18. Portugal: Portuguese CITES Authorities regularly organise capacity building activities directed to the different law enforcement agencies involved in CITES.
19. Serbia: the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia published "Plants of international importance in the flora of Serbia" (see section publication) which aims to present the current knowledge about plant species in Serbia, which are important beyond the borders of country, and to highlight the basic documents governing the protection of plant species at global and European level (particularly in the EU). The topic of publication is "internationally important Serbian plants" that are listed in one of the following four international regulations: The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43 / EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora); Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats); The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES Convention; EU Wildlife Trade Regulation (Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein).
20. Spain: 12th edition of the UNIA Master's degree in Management and Conservation of Species in Trade: The International Framework
21. Switzerland: presentations on CITES for Hortus Botanicus Helveticus, University of Bern, Swiss Federal Customs, Enforcement officers. Summarized report on the case studies on selected orchids in trade on behalf of the working group on annotations for annex II orchids. Case studies on selected orchid species, identification guide to Malagasy tree species. Funding and translation of "CITES and Timber – a guide to CITES-listed tree species" from English into French. (Hardcopies and online version). Updating the online version of "CITES and TIMBER – A guide to CITES-listed tree species". Anatomical identification of Malagasy precious wood in CITES Appendix II.
22. The *CITES Non-detriment Findings Guidance for Perennial Plants* prepared by the German Scientific Authority (known as 9-step Guidance for Perennial Plants) had been/is being translated into several European languages (i.e. ES, PT, IT, GE).

Recent Publications

Djordjević, V., Tsiftsis, S., Lakušić, D., Stevanović, V. (2016): Niche analysis of orchids of serpentine and non-serpentine areas: Implications for conservation. – *Plant Biosystems* 150(4): 710-719.

Djordjević, V., Tsiftsis, S., Lakušić, D., Jovanović, S., Stevanović, V. (2016): Factors affecting the distribution and abundance of orchids in grasslands and herbaceous wetlands. – *Systematics and Biodiversity* 14(4): 355-370.

Djordjević, V., Tomović, G., Lakušić, D. (2010): *Epipactis purpurata* Sm. (Orchidaceae) – a new species in the flora of Serbia. – *Archives of Biological Science, Belgrade* 62(4): 1175–1180.

Djordjević, V., Jovanović, S., Stevanović, V. (2014): *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Orchidaceae), a new species in the flora of Serbia. – *Archives of Biological Science, Belgrade* 66(3): 1227–1232.

Djordjević, V., Jakovljević, K., Stevanović, V. (2016): Three Taxa of *Epipactis* (Orchidaceae–Epidendroideae) New for the Flora of Serbia. – *Phyton-annales Rei Botanicae* 56(1): 77–89.

Djordjević, V. (2016): *Epipactis muelleri* (Orchidaceae-Neottieae), a Species New to the Flora of Serbia. – *Phyton-annales Rei Botanicae* 56(2): 303–312.

Jersáková, J., Traxmandlová, I., Ipser, Z., Matthias, K., Pellegrino, G., Schatz, B., Djordjević, V., Kindlmann, P., Renner, S.S. (2015): Biological flora of Central Europe: *Dactylorhiza sambucina* (L.) Soó. – *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 17(4): 318–329.

Publications on *Pericopsis elata* (Afromosia) by Nils Bourland (Belgium).

RBG Kew (2016). The State of the World's Plants Report – 2016.

Badalamenti O., Carra A., Oddo E., Carimi F., Sajeva M. (2016) Is in vitro micrografting a possible valid alternative to traditional micropropagation in Cactaceae? *Pelecypora aselliformis* as a case study. - *SpringePlus* 5: 201-204 8 (doi: 10.1186/s40064-016-1901-6)

McGough HN, Kikodze D, Wilford R, Garrett L, Deisadze G, Jaworska N, Smith MJ. (2014). Assessing non-detrimental trade for a CITES Appendix II-listed plant species: The status of wild and cultivated *Galanthus woronowii* in Georgia *Oryx*. 48: 345-353.

Vaglica V., Sajeva M, H.N. McGouh, Hutchinson D., Russo C., Gordon A.D., Ramarosandratana A.V., Stuppy W, Smith M.J. (2017): Monitoring internet trade to inform species conservation actions. - *Endangered Species Research* 32:223-235 (doi: 10.3354/esr00803).

Web-sites

– EU:

Information on work done by the SRG can be found under the following link:

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

– Portugal:

CITES Web-site: <http://www.icnf.pt/portal/cites>

– Spain:

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

– Switzerland:

CITES Web-site <https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/en/home/import-und-export/import/importe-aus-der-eu.html>

– UK:

<https://stateoftheworldsplants.com/>

<http://www.kew.org/kew-gardens/whats-on/state-of-the-worlds-plants-symposium-2017>