

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



Twenty-fifth meeting of the Plants Committee
Online, 2-4, 21 and 23 June 2021

ANNOTATIONS FOR APPENDIX-II ORCHIDS

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

- Member: representative for Europe (Ms. Moser) (Chair);
- Parties: Cambodia, Canada, China, India, Ireland, Madagascar, Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and
- Observers: International Union for Conservation of Nature; American Herbal Products Association, Forest Trends, and TRAFFIC.

Mandate

The in-session working group shall:

- a) consider priorities for additional research, as proposed in paragraph 8 of document PC25 Doc. 37;
- b) consider the amendment to annotation #4, as proposed by Switzerland in paragraph 11 of document PC25 Doc. 38, and the best way of contributing findings in this regard to the ongoing discussions in the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on annotations;
- c) consider the submission to the Conference of the Parties of the draft decisions contained in the Annex to the addendum of document PC25 Doc. 38; and
- d) report its recommendations to the Committee.

Recommendations

The working group recommends that the Plants Committee agree that:

1.
 - a) further research is needed and future areas of research could focus on food and medicinal plants, but the scope of the research should be appropriately narrowed;
 - b) in determining the scope of future research, the Plants Committee should seek cooperation with Parties and relevant non-Party stakeholders;
 - c) the focus might be on source countries that have wild harvest of medicinal/edible orchids and that field work is likely to be necessary to obtain accurate and sufficient field data to inform the discussions in CITES;
 - d) some issues may be addressed under future work on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP) and that no duplication of efforts should be ensured;

2. a) Switzerland consider submitting its proposal to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19);
 - b) future work on orchid annotations be undertaken in close collaboration with any Standing Committee discussions related to annotations;
 - c) the Plants Committee request the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on annotations to consider the proposal by Switzerland in the context of its currently ongoing discussions and provide its observations/recommendations to the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee.
3. the Plants Committee endorse submission to CoP19 of the draft decisions contained in the Annex to the addendum of document PC25 Doc. 38, with the revision to Decision 19.AA as follows (text proposed to be deleted are in ~~strike through~~ and proposed new text is underlined):

Directed to the Secretariat

- 19.AA Subject to availability of external resources, the Secretariat shall:
- a) consult with Parties and stakeholders and undertake a study to compile an overview of Appendix-II orchid taxa that are particularly affected by wild harvest for international trade to inform the following assessments:
 - i) an assessment of the conservation impacts of exempting artificially propagated ~~hybrids of certain~~ Appendix-II listed orchid taxa from CITES regulations, including as articulated in footnote annotation 10 of the CITES Appendices, including identification challenges and look-alike issues; and
 - ii) an assessment of the conservation impacts of exempting derivatives and/or finished products of certain Appendix-II listed orchid taxa from CITES regulations through amendments to annotation #4; and
 - b) report to the Plants Committee.

Directed to the Plants Committee

- 19.BB The Plants Committee shall consider the study as per Decision 19.AA, and make recommendations on how to improve CITES implementation for Appendix-II listed orchids to the Standing Committee or the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 19.CC The Standing Committee shall review any recommendations of the Plants Committee, and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.