

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



Seventy-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee
Lyon (France), 7 - 11 March 2022

Species specific matters

Maintenance of the Appendices

PRODUCTS CONTAINING SPECIMENS OF APPENDIX-II ORCHIDS:
REPORT OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

1. This document has been submitted by the Plants Committee.*
2. At its 18th meeting (Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.327 to 18.330 on *Products containing specimens of Appendix-II orchids*:

18.327 Directed to the Secretariat

Subject to available resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) *assess the potential conservation impact of exempting orchid products and derivatives (wild and artificially propagated) from CITES controls, thereby completing the work already initiated on orchids used in the production of cosmetics and personal care products, and considering orchids used in other commodities (e.g. medicinals);*
- b) *where necessary and appropriate to complement the assessment under paragraph a), seek pertinent information from Parties and relevant stakeholder groups, including industry, such as*
 - i) *on the trade in orchid products from source to final product, including the identification of the major industry sectors involved in the trade;*
 - ii) *how non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings are made;*
 - iii) *traceability along the supply and value chains; and*
 - iv) *conservation concerns for wild populations; and*
- c) *analyse the information received under paragraphs a) and b) with a view towards potential conservation impacts of trade in products containing orchids and derivatives of orchids, highlight any knowledge gaps, and report to the Plants Committee.*

* *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.*

18.328 Directed to Parties

Parties are encouraged to:

- a) *submit pertinent information as requested in Decision 18.327 to the Secretariat; and*
- b) *provide assistance to the Secretariat in reaching out to other stakeholders and user groups that may be able to support this work.*

18.329 Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall:

- a) *consider the outcomes of Decision 18.327;*
- b) *in consultation with the Standing Committee, as appropriate, review the current annotation for Appendix II-listed orchids, and suggest amendments; and*
- c) *make recommendations to the Standing Committee.*

18.330 Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall consider the recommendations of the Plants Committee and make recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

3. At its 25th meeting (PC25, online, June 2021), the Plants Committee considered the following documents relating to the implementation of Decisions 18.327 to 18.330 on *Products containing specimens of Appendix-II orchids*: document [PC25 Doc. 37](#) by the Secretariat, document [PC25 Doc. 38](#) by Switzerland and Liechtenstein, and the addendum to document PC25 Doc. 38 by the Secretariat in collaboration with the regional representative of Europe (Ms. Ursula Moser).
4. Based on the findings and recommendations contained in the documentation referred to in the paragraph *supra*, at PC25, the Plants Committee established an in-session working group chaired by the representative of Europe (Ms. Moser)¹ on Annotations for Appendix-II orchids.
5. Based on document [PC25 Com. 4](#), the Committee adopted the following recommendations:
 - a) The Committee agreed that 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 Committee agreed to seek cooperation with Parties and relevant non-Party stakeholders.
 - c) The Committee agreed that 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) The Committee agreed that some issues may be addressed under future work on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP) and that no duplication of efforts should be ensured.
 - e) The Committee encouraged Switzerland to consider submitting its proposal to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
 - f) The Committee recommended that future work on orchid annotations be undertaken in close collaboration with any Standing Committee discussions related to annotations.

¹ The full membership, mandate and recommendations of the in-session working group is available at [PC25 Com. 4](#).

- g) The Committee requested 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.
- h) The Committee agreed to submit to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties draft decisions that are contained in Annex of the present document.

Updates regarding external funding for the implementation of Decision 18.237

- 6. In document [PC25 Doc. 37](#), the Secretariat estimated that the implementation of Decision 18.327 would require USD 100,000 to commission a study and undertake additional expert and range State consultations (see Notification [No. 2020/032](#)). These funds were not secured in their entirety, but Switzerland generously provided USD 40,000 towards the execution of Decision 18.327. In the context of Decision 18.327 and pursuant to identified knowledge gaps regarding the conservation impacts of trade in wild orchid specimen and recommendations formulated at PC25, the Secretariat is currently commissioning research on the conservation impacts of trade in products of wild-harvested edible orchid species, with a focus on Salep and Chikanda. The results of this research are expected to be available in time for the documentation deadline of CoP19.

Recommendations

- 7. In accordance with Decision 18.330, the Standing Committee is invited to:
 - a) agree that future work on orchid annotations be undertaken in close collaboration with any Standing Committee discussions related to annotations, as per the recommendation of the Plants Committee contained in paragraph 5, subparagraphs f) and g) *supra*;
 - b) consider the draft decisions contained in the Annex to the present document and to advise whether Decisions 18.327 to 18.330 on *Products containing specimens of Appendix-II orchids* can be considered completed; and
 - c) make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting (CoP19).

DRAFT DECISIONS ON *PRODUCTS CONTAINING
SPECIMENS OF APPENDIX-II ORCHIDS*

19.AA *Directed to the Secretariat*

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 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.

19.BB *Directed to the Plants Committee*

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.

19.CC *Directed to the Standing Committee*

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