

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

Proposals resulting from reviews by the Animals and Plants Committees

A. Proposal

To amend the explanation to annotations #1, #2, #4 and #8 in section 11. of the Interpretation of Appendices I and II to include the following exemption:
'cut flowers of artificially propagated plants'

B. Proponent

The Swiss Confederation on behalf of the Plants Committee.

C. Supporting Statement

1. Taxonomy

1. Taxonomy: Flora

2. Justification

Currently the Interpretation of Appendices I and II contains two references to exemptions concerning cut flowers.

The first one, in # 7 of section 11 of the Interpretation of Appendices I and II applies ONLY to Appendix-II species of the family Orchidaceae, and reads as follows:

7 Designates all parts and derivatives, except:
c) cut flowers of artificially propagated plants.

The second, in section 12, reads as follows:

As none of the species or higher taxa of FLORA included in Appendix I is annotated to the effect that its hybrids shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of Article III of the Convention, this means that artificially propagated hybrids produced from one or more of these species or taxa may be treated with a certificate of artificial propagation, and that seeds and pollen (including pollinia), cut flowers, seedling or tissue cultures in sterile containers are not subject to the provisions of the Convention.

Consequently for the family ORCHIDACEAE, all cut flowers of artificially propagated plants are exempted from CITES controls, whereas, for all other plant families, this exemption only applies to hybrids that have in their parentage a parent of a species included in Appendix I.

The Plants Committee discussed this issue at its seventh meeting (San José, Costa Rica, 11-15 November 1996) and concluded that it preferred these annotations to be unambiguous. The difference in approach with regard to Appendix-I hybrids and Appendix-II species might create confusion to those that have to implement the Convention without being familiar with the reasons for these two different annotations. The Plants Committee deemed it appropriate to extend the current annotation applicable to orchids only to all taxa included in the appendices, noting that this extension would have no negative effect on wild populations of taxa currently included in the appendices, since these are not traded for their cut flowers.