

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



Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Doha (Qatar), 13-25 March 2010

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

EUPHORBIA SPP.

1. This document has been prepared by the Chair of the Plants Committee on behalf of the Committee*.
2. Switzerland submitted a proposal at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (The Hague, 2007) to amend the inclusion of *Euphorbia* species in Appendix II in order to exclude certain species (proposal CoP14 Prop. 29, <http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/14/prop/E14-P29.pdf>). After discussion during the meeting, the proposal was withdrawn. However, Decision 14.131 was adopted and the Plants Committee was directed to:
 - a) *analyse trade data and conservation status of succulent Euphorbia species (except those species currently included in Appendix I);*
 - b) *prepare a revised list of succulent Euphorbia species that meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14) for inclusion in Appendix II;*
 - c) *prepare proposals for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties that provide for the deletion of Euphorbia species from Appendix II that do not meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14), are frequently traded and can be clearly identified by non-specialists; and*
 - d) *determine the need for identification material for species retained in Appendix II.*
3. The Plants Committee worked on this issue during its 17th and 18th meetings, recommended measures with regard to *Euphorbia antisiphilitica* (see proposal CoP15 Prop. 25) and requested that the intersessional working group established on this issue carry on its work and report the Committee at its 19th meeting.
4. Consequently, the Committee recommends that the Decision be retained and updated, as indicated in the Annex, so that results may be submitted at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
5. The estimated budget for the implementation of this decision is USD 30,000.

* *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.*

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat agrees with the recommendation by the Plants Committee in paragraph 4 and with the proposed draft decision presented in the Annex. The Secretariat also agrees with the requested budget in paragraph 5.
- B. As mentioned in document CoP15 Doc. 55 on *Trade in epiphytic cacti (Cactaceae spp.)*, the Secretariat proposes the adoption of the following draft decision to address jointly the matter of *Euphorbia* spp. and the genera of epiphytic cacti concerned:

Review of *Euphorbia* spp. and epiphytic cacti listed in Appendix II

Directed to the Plants Committee

15.XX The Plants Committee shall:

- a) analyse trade data and conservation status of succulent *Euphorbia* species (except those species currently included in Appendix I), and of *Disocactus*, *Epiphyllum*, *Hatiora*, *Lepismium*, *Pseudorhipsalis*, *Rhipsalis* and *Schlumbergera* species;
 - b) prepare a revised list of succulent *Euphorbia* species and, of *Disocactus*, *Epiphyllum*, *Hatiora*, *Lepismium*, *Pseudorhipsalis*, *Rhipsalis* and *Schlumbergera* species that meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14) for inclusion in Appendix II;
 - c) prepare proposals for consideration at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties that provide for the deletion from Appendix II of *Euphorbia* species and of *Disocactus*, *Epiphyllum*, *Hatiora*, *Lepismium*, *Pseudorhipsalis*, *Rhipsalis* and *Schlumbergera* species ~~from Appendix II~~ that do not meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14), ~~are frequently traded and can be clearly identified by non-specialists~~; and
 - d) determine the need for identification material for species retained in Appendix II.
- C. The new proposed text is underlined and sections strike through are proposed for deletion. The Secretariat proposes to delete the words "*are frequently traded and can be clearly identified by non-specialists*" from the draft decision because:
- a) If the Plants Committee conducts a review of *Euphorbia* species, it may as well propose deletion of all those that do not meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II, and not just the ones that are frequently traded.
 - b) The words "can be clearly identified by non-specialists" seem superfluous as, if it were not the case, these species would be considered as "look alike" species and should therefore be retained in Appendix II in compliance with Article II, paragraph 2 (b), of the Convention.
- D. The Secretariat also suggests allocating the same budget of USD 30,000 requested for the implementation of these draft decisions as per paragraph 5 of the present document, but for the species of epiphytic cacti concerned by this draft decision. The total for undertaking the review on all these taxa would be estimated in USD 60,000.
- E. The Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties add the requested funds to the external funds column under activity 8 of the costed programme of work.
- F. The comments made by the Secretariat on document CoP15 Doc. 62 on *Periodic Review of the Appendices*, are highly relevant to the matter discussed in the present document. The review of euphorbias and of epiphytic cacti listed in Appendix II could follow the procedure laid on in the Periodic Review of the Appendices.

DRAFT DECISION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

NB: Text to be deleted is ~~crossed out~~. Proposed new text is underlined.

***Euphorbia* spp.**

Directed to the Plants Committee:

- a) analyse trade data and conservation status of succulent *Euphorbia* species (except those species currently included in Appendix I);
- b) prepare a revised list of succulent *Euphorbia* species that meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14) for inclusion in Appendix II;
- c) prepare proposals for consideration at the ~~15th~~ 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties that provide for the deletion of *Euphorbia* species from Appendix II that do not meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14), are frequently traded and can be clearly identified by non-specialists; and
- d) determine the need for identification material for species retained in Appendix II.