

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

Amendment of the Appendices

ORCHIDS: ANNOTATIONS FOR SPECIES INCLUDED IN APPENDIX II

1. This document has been submitted by the Chair of the Plants Committee on behalf of the Committee*.
2. At its 14th meeting (The Hague, 2007), the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decisions:

Directed to Parties and the Plants Committee

14.133 *Countries of export and import should make recommendations and prepare identification material on further exemptions for artificially propagated hybrids of Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II, taking into consideration the capacities of countries to implement and control such exemptions effectively. The results shall be sent to the Plants Committee, which shall evaluate them and adopt the appropriate measures.*

Directed to the Plants Committee

14.134 *The Plants Committee shall monitor and assess possible conservation problems arising from the implementation of the annotation to Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II and shall report on the issue at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

3. With Notification to the Parties No. 2008/045 issued on 15 July 2008, the Secretariat asked exporting and importing countries to send identification material and technical information for taxa exempt from CITES controls or that could be exempted in the future.
4. In order to fulfil Decision 14.134, Parties were invited in the same Notification to respond to a questionnaire. Seven Parties responded (Brazil, Canada, Madagascar, New Zealand, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America).
5. The Plants Committee established a working group at its 18th meeting to analyse the responses and agreed on the following:
 - a) On the basis of the analysis of the responses, the exemptions are acknowledged by the Parties. However, the Parties draw attention to the fact that exporters still need to apply for CITES export documents even when the shipments fulfil the exemption;
 - b) Considering the positive effects and the short time since the exemption came into force, and that some Parties may need more time to adopt the appropriate measures, the Committee proposes to maintain Decision 14.133.

* *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.*

- c) On the basis of the analysis of the seven responses, the responding Parties reported no conservation issues arising from the exemption; and
 - d) On the basis of available information, no conservation problems arising from the implementation can be identified. Considering the possibility of new taxa included in the exemption in the near future, and considering that some Parties are still adopting the appropriate measures to implement Decision 14.133, the Committee proposes to maintain decision 14.134.
6. Consequently, the Plants Committee recommends that Decision 14.133 y 14.134 be retained and that it report at CoP16, with the amendment included in the Annex to the present document.
7. The estimated budget for the implementation of both Decisions is USD 10,000.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat agrees that exporting and importing Parties should prepare identification materials for artificially propagated hybrids of Orchidaceae species included in Appendix II. In this regard, the Secretariat notes the excellent identification materials prepared by Switzerland, covering the orchid hybrids of the genera *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Phalaenopsis* and *Vanda*, which are being added to the Web-based Identification Manual database. The Secretariat has been informed that similar materials are being prepared by Switzerland for hybrids of the genera *Miltonia*, *Oncidium*, *Zygopetalum* and "Cambria".
- B. The Secretariat notes that the implementation of Decisions 13.98 and 13.99 and their continuation as Decisions 14.133 and 14.134 have not revealed any significant conservation problems arising from the implementation of the annotation to Orchidaceae species included in Appendix II.
- C. The Secretariat, therefore, does not believe Decisions 14.133 and 14.134 should be maintained and does not support the draft decisions. If implementation problems arise in the future, they can at any time be drawn to the attention of the Standing Committee by any Party.

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Orchids: annotations for species included in Appendix II

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

Directed to Parties

15.xx Countries of export and import should make recommendations and prepare identification material on further exemptions for artificially propagated hybrids of Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II, taking into consideration the capacities of countries to implement and control such exemptions effectively. The results shall be sent to the Plants Committee, which shall evaluate them and adopt the appropriate measures.

Directed to the Plants Committee

15.xx The Plants Committee shall monitor and assess possible conservation problems arising from the implementation of the annotation to Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II and shall report on the issue at the 1645th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.