

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



Fifteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 17-21 May 2005

PERIODIC REVIEW OF PLANT SPECIES INCLUDED IN THE CITES APPENDICES

The working group comprised observers from Chile, Mexico, Netherlands, Switzerland [J. Luthy (Chairman)], United States of America, UNEP-WCMC, IWMC-World Conservation Trust and TRAFFIC.

The WG had two meetings. It operated in a very productive atmosphere and a consensus on all taxa was reached. The WG analyzed Appendices I and II according to guidelines and recommendations contained in document PC15 Doc. 11, focusing on “pre CoP10 - listings” and on higher taxa. Further, UNEP-WCMC provided trade data for most of the discussed taxa.

The WG drafted a list of “candidate taxa for review”, for consideration of the PC, without prioritizing or debating on further action to be taken. This list is included below. For convenience, the taxa were categorized as follows: 1) medicinal plants; 2) timber species; 3 a) ornamental plants of small genera or individual species; and 3 b) ornamental plants of families and big genera.

The list of “candidate taxa for review” contains approximately 20 species in groups 1 - 3 a). *Euphorbia antisiphilitica* is included on request of one range State, Mexico, with the idea that it could possibly be exempted from CITES in the future. Regarding the inclusion of African taxa and *Cycas beddomei* (India), the observer of South Africa, and member of the IUCN Cycads specialist group, was consulted and agreed.

The big higher taxa, included in group 3 b), need some comments.

Cactaceae

Mexico is presently reviewing Mexican taxa listed in Appendix I and a number of taxa have been assessed already (see PC15 Doc. 5.5). The issue of leaf-bearing cacti that were proposed for delisting at CoP12, which was supported by Mexico, was reconsidered. Mexico, as an important range State, proposed to review the two genera *Pereskia* and *Pereskiaopsis*. The United States consider reviewing the genus *Sclerocactus*, with several species native to its territory, listed in Appendix I.

Cycads

There seems to be no obvious need for reviewing Cycad taxa, with the exception of *Cycas beddomei* from India that is listed in Appendix I. Several species are presently included in the Review of Significant Trade.

Tree-ferns

The listing of the genus *Dicksonia* in Appendix II has been reduced to the American populations at CoP12. There seems to be no obvious need for further reviews.

Euphorbias and Aloes

Only a limited number of species of both genera is actually traded in significant quantities. It seems however that it would not be feasible for enforcement reasons to exclude species that are not in trade, which would lead to split-listings. A review of these genera would hence prove difficult to follow-up. What can be done however is reviewing species within these genera that are listed in Appendix I, in order to figure out, whether they meet the criteria. One species of *Aloe*, *A. thorncroftii*, has been delisted from Appendix I to Appendix II at CoP 12 and according to the observer from South Africa there is no need to further revise South African *Aloe* species of Appendix I, for the time being. The remaining species of *Aloe* (17 spp.) and *Euphorbia* (10 spp.) that are listed in Appendix I are all native to Madagascar.

Nepenthes

There are no information that suggest the need for a review.

Orchidaceae

The PC already came to the conclusion that reducing the listing of orchids in Appendix II to the relevant genera proved to be “mission impossible”. The approach of the PC now is to exclude artificially propagated hybrids. Several species are proposed for the Review of Significant Trade. Two species of Appendix I have been delisted to Appendix II at CoP 13 (*Cattleya trianaei*, *Vanda coerulea*). Only one further species of Appendix I, *Peristeria elata* from Central America, seems to deserve review.

List of “candidate taxa for review”

Medicinal Plants

Saussurea costus – App. II (1975); App. I (1985)
Dioscorea deltoidea – Appendix II (1975, roots only); Annotation #1 (1985)
Euphorbia antisiphilitica – Appendix II (1975, under succulent *Euphorbia* spp.)

Timber Species

Balmea stormiae – App. I (1975)
Platymiscium pleiostachyum – App. I (1975); App. II with Annotation #1 (1990)
Podocarpus parlatorei – App. I (1975)

Ornamental Plants, small taxa

Agave arizonica – App. I (1983)
Agave parviflora – App. I (1983)
Agave victoriae-reginae – App. II (1983)
Nolina interrata – App. I (1983)
Tillandsia spp.: *T. kammii*, *T. kautskyi*, *T. mauryana*, *T. sprengeliana*, *T. sucrei*, *T. harrisii* – App. II (1992)
Shortia galacifolia – App. II (1983)
Orothamnus zeyheri – App. I (1975); App. II with annotation #1 (1997)
Protea odorata - App. I (1975); App. II with annotation #1 (1997)
Welwitschia mirabilis – App. I (1975); App. II with annotation #1 (1990)
Hedychium philippinense – App. I (1975); App. II with annotation #1 (1992)

Ornamental Plants, big taxa

Cactaceae: the genera *Pereskia* and *Pereskiaopsis* – App. II (1975, c. 18 spp.) and *Sclerocactus* (App. I/II. App. I: 1 sp. 2003, all other 1983, 8 spp. + 1 ssp.; all other App. II, 1975)
Cycads: *Cycas beddomei* – App. II (1977); App. I (1987)
Didieraceae spp. – App. II (1975, 11 spp.)
Euphorbia spp.: All species of App. I (10 spp., Madagascar)
Aloe spp.: All Madagascan species of App. I (17 spp.)
Orchidaceae spp.: *Peristeria elata* – App. I (1975)