

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



Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

A. Proposal

To amend the annotation to Orchidaceae spp. in Appendix II to read as follows:

Artificially propagated hybrids of the following genera are not subject to the provisions of the Convention, if conditions, as indicated under a) and b), are met: *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Phalaenopsis* and *Vanda*:

- a) Specimens are readily recognizable as artificially propagated and do not show any signs of having been collected in the wild such as mechanical damage or strong dehydration resulting from collection, irregular growth and heterogeneous size and shape within a taxon and shipment, algae or other epiphyllous organisms adhering to leaves, or damage by insects or other pest; and
- b)
 - i) when shipped in non flowering state, the specimens must be traded in shipments consisting of individual containers (such as cartons, boxes, crates or individual shelves of CC-containers) each containing 20 or more plants of the same hybrid; the plants within each container must exhibit a high degree of uniformity and healthiness; and the shipment must be accompanied by documentation, such as an invoice, which clearly states the number of plants of each hybrid; or
 - ii) when shipped in flowering state, with at least one fully open flower per specimen, no minimum number of specimens per shipment is required but specimens must be professionally processed for commercial retail sale, e.g. labelled with printed labels or packaged with printed packages indicating the name of the hybrid and the country of final processing. This should be clearly visible and allow easy verification.

Plants not clearly qualifying for the exemption must be accompanied by appropriate CITES documents.

B. Proponent

Switzerland, as Depositary Government, at the request of the Plants Committee.

C. Supporting statement

1. Taxonomy

- 1.1 Class: Monocotyledonae
- 1.2 Order: Orchidales
- 1.3 Family: Orchidaceae

1.4 Genus and species: hybrids of the genera *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Phalaenopsis* and *Vanda*.

2. Background

At CoP12, the United States of America submitted a proposal to exempt certain artificially propagated orchid hybrids from CITES. This proposal was amended and exemption of artificially propagated hybrids of the genus *Phalaenopsis*, with a number of requirements for shipments, was adopted.

At CoP13, Thailand and Switzerland independently submitted proposals to exempt additional taxa of artificially propagated orchid hybrids from CITES. The proposal submitted by Thailand applies to plants in sterile or flowering state; identification is based on uniformity in size and healthiness within a minimum number of plants of the same hybrid, packed separately within a shipment. The proposal submitted by Switzerland applies only to flowering specimens, without a minimum number; identification is based on flowers, labels, packages and a healthy state. Both proposals were discussed in a working group and modified. This led to the adoption of two annotations for Orchidaceae spp. in Appendix II, applying to the genera *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Phalaenopsis* and *Vanda*.

As the two annotations apply to the same genera and certain elements of the two annotations are in parallel, the Plants Committee, at its 16th Meeting in Lima, Peru (3-8 July 2006), established a working group with the mandate to draft a merged annotation for Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II and agreed with the wording that is proposed here for adoption by the CoP.

3. Conclusion

The amended annotation, as proposed here, has to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP13) and Article XV of the Convention.