

Is Arnica montana strictly protected?

...this question and other aspects of animal and plant conservation and the underlying species conservation legislation can now be easily addressed by searching the

Internet Database WISIA-online at www.wisia.de.

Overlooking the great number of species conservation conventions, ordinances and regulations valid for Europe or even for Germany only, is a difficult task. Besides the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora** (CITES), which is implemented by **EC Regulation No 338/97**, there are the **EC Birds Directive** and the **EC Habitats Directive**, as well as the German national regulations in the **Federal Nature Conservation Act** (BNatSchG) and in the **Federal Ordinance on the Conservation of Species** (BArtSchV).

WISIA-online helps identify the protection status of a given plant or animal species. This internet tool presents, for the first time, a synoptic view of the diverse field of species conservation legislation.

A permanent up-date of data is guaranteed by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz) as soon as one of the species conservation regularizations on which *WISIA-online* is based will be amended.

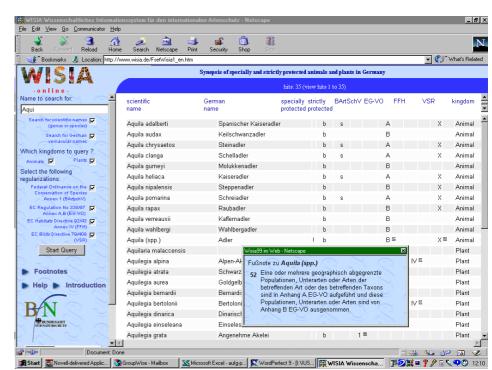
Search

Queries in WISIA-online may be executed using either the full scientific name or only a part of it. Search for German vernacular names is possible, too.

Queries to WISIA-online will generate an alphabetical species list with the following information:

- ! scientific name of the species resp. genus,
- ! German vernacular name,
- ! protection status: specially or stricty protected,
- ! annexes of the species conservation regularizations covered by WISIA online,
- ! indication: plant or animal

Some regularizations limit the scope of protection of species and genera by additional legal requirements.



These annotations and amendments are provided by *WISIA* online as footnotes to the annexes of the regularization. A complete list of annotations used in *WISIA*-online is available and can be printed.

The search can be restricted to animals or plants or to single regularizations. All outputs can be either printed or saved in a file for further use. The user interface of *WISIA* online is available in both German and English.

Who needs WISIA-online?

With WISIA-online the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation provides a continuing service for everyone concerned with species conservation. It is a useful tool for customs officers, companies trading in animals and plants, animal breeders and plant nurseries, associations, and generally for the interested public.

Wisia-online in figures

! Table 1 shows the number of genera and species specially or strictly protected (besonders or streng geschützt) covered by *WISIA-online*. The database holds information on animals of 1407 genera and 7218 species; on the plant side it contains 2821 species from 1034 genera.

On all animal groups, except stone corals, you will find information on species level. Some species-rich plant genera, however, were not broken down on species level: Aloe, Ceropegia, Crocus, Fritillaria, Iris, Lilium, Nepenthes, Scilla, Tulipa, Cactaceae, Cyathea, Dicksonia, and Orchidaceae. The family of

Orchidaceae alone, which is included as a whole in CITES Appendix II, contains an estimated 17,500-30,000 species worldwide. No complete standard reference list for this plant family exists. A breakdown of higher plant groups down to species level is always provided (1) if their protection status is differentiat ed by text annotations, and (2) for those taxa that fall into the highest protection level of being strictly protected.

Table 1: Number of genera and species specially or strictly protected						
		specially protected	strictly protected			
Animals	genera	1 304	103			
	species	6 203	1 215			
Plants	genera	1 023	11			
	species	2 150	671			

Table 2: Number of genera and species covered by the species conservation regularizations contained in WISIA-online							
		EC Regulation No 338/97 Annexes A+B	Habitats Directive Ann. IV	EC Birds Directive	BArtSchV		
Animals	genera	841	37	278	311		
	species	4 756	291	641	1 767		
Plants	genera	968	0	-	66		

! Table 2 summarizes the number of genera and species included in the species protection regularizations which are contained in *WISIA-online*. The CITES-EC Regulation No 338/97 alone, which implements CITES in the European Union, covers 4756 animal species in its annexes A and B.

Publication of the printed version

In parallel to the internet presentation of WISIA-online, a printed version ("Bekanntmachung der besonders und streng geschützten Tier- und Pflanzenarten gemäß § 20a Abs. 5 des Bundesnaturschutzgesetzes") has been pulished on 20. February 2001 as annex in 'Bundesanzeiger', which is the official German organ for legislative publications.

The publication offers an alphabetical compilation

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Source for printed version

The publication "Bekanntmachung der besonders und streng geschützten Tier- und Pflanzenarten gemäß §20a Abs. 5 des Bundesnaturschutzgesetzes" was edited by the German Federal Ministry of Justice as annex of *Bundesanzeiger*, vol. 53 no. 35a.

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Price: DM 36,80 for private customers.

of the animal and plant species that are specially or strictly protected. Due to their common data source *WISIA-online* and its printed version provide equal information. The printed list comprises 283 pages. Animals and plants are listed separately.

WISIA-online was realized in cooperation with Verlag für Interaktive Medien (V.I.M.).

If you want to create a link to *WISIA-online*, please use http://www.wisia.de and inform us at wisia@bfn.de.