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

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

Technical proposals for the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

ARTIFICIALLY PROPAGATED CUT LEAVES

1. The draft amendment proposal annexed to this document has been prepared by the Management Authority of Switzerland.

Background

2. At the 14th meeting of the Plants Committee (Windhoek, February 2004), Switzerland consulted with various Parties about the issue of artificially propagated cut flowers, as addressed in paragraph c) of annotation #1 of Appendices II and III, and cut leaves. The present regulation exempts cut flowers, whereas cut leaves fall under CITES regulations. However, markets and trade patterns of these commodities are very similar. This leads to some misinterpretation and inconsistency in enforcement. There was considerable support for the idea of harmonizing regulations for artificially propagated cut flowers and cut leaves.

3. After consideration of comments and suggestions, Switzerland has prepared a draft proposal presented in the Annex to this document, for consideration by the Plants Committee.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

A. Proposal

To amend the text of the current annotation #1 to read:

…

c) cut flowers and cut leaves of artificially propagated plants.

B. Proponent

Switzerland.

C. Supporting statement

1. Taxonomy

The following taxa of Appendix II are annotated with #1:

AGAVACEAE: *Agave victoriae-reginae*; AMARYLLIDACEAE: *Galanthus* spp., *Sternbergia* spp.; APOCYNACEAE: *Pachypodium* spp. (except the species included in Appendix I); BROMELIACEAE: *Tillandsia harrisii, Tillandsia kammii, Tillandsia kautskyi, Tillandsia mauryana, Tillandsia sprengeliana, Tillandsia sucrei, Tillandsia xerographica*; CARYOCARACEAE: *Caryocar costaricense*; CYATHEACEAE: *Cyathea* spp., CYCADACEAE: CYCADACEAE spp.; DIAPENSIACEAE: *Shortia galacifolia*; DICKSONIACEAE: *Cibotium barometz, Dicksonia* spp. (only the populations of the Americas; no other population is included in the Appendices); DIDIEREACEAE: DIDIEREACEAE spp.; DIOSCOREACEAE: *Dioscorea deltoidea*; DROSERACEAE: *Dionaea muscipula*; EUPHORBIACEAE: *Euphorbia* spp. (except the species included in Appendix I; succulent species only; artificially propagated specimens of cultivars of *Euphorbia trigona*, artificially propagated specimens of crested, fan-shaped or colour mutants of *Euphorbia lactea*, when grafted on artificially propagated root stock of *Euphorbia neriifolia*, and artificially propagated specimens of cultivars of *Euphorbia 'Milii'* when they are traded in shipments of 100 or more plants and readily recognizable as artificially propagated specimens, are not subject to the provisions of the Convention); FOUQUIERIACEAE: *Fouquieria columnaris*; JUGLANDACEAE: *Oreomunnea pterocarpa*; LEGUMINOSAE (Fabaceae): *Platymiscium pleiostachyum*; LILIACEAE: *Aloe* spp. (except the species included in Appendix I; also excludes *Aloe vera*, also referenced as *Aloe barbadensis* which is not included in the Appendices); MELIACEAE: *Swietenia humilis*, NEPENTHACEAE: *Nepenthes* spp.; OROBANCHACEAE: *Cistanche deserticola*; PALMAE (Arecaceae): *Neodypsis decaryi*; PORTULACACEAE: *Anacampseros* spp., *Avonia* spp., *Lewisia serrata*; PRIMULACEAE: *Cyclamen* spp.; PROTEACEAE: *Orothamnus zeyheri*, *Protea odorata*; ROSACEAE: *Prunus africana*; SARRACENIACEAE: *Sarracenia* spp. (except the species included in Appendix I); STANGERIACEAE: *Bowenia* spp.; THYMELAEACEAE (Aquilariaceae): *Aquilaria* spp., *Gyrinops* spp., *Gonystylus* spp.; WELWITSCHIACEAE: *Welwitschia mirabilis*; ZAMIACEAE: ZAMIACEAE spp. (except the species included in Appendix I); ZINGIBERACEAE: *Hedychium philippinense*.

Further details of taxonomy are contained in the proposals to list the above taxa in Appendix II.

The following taxa of Appendix III are annotated with #1:

GNETACEAE: *Gnetum montanum* (Nepal); MAGNOLIACEAE: *Magnolia liliifera* var. *obovata* (Nepal); PAPAVERACEAE: *Meconopsis regia* (Nepal); PODOCARPACEAE: *Podocarpus neriifolius* (Nepal); TROCHODENDRACEAE (Tetracentraceae): *Tetracentron sinense* (Nepal).

2. Biological data

These parameters are not applicable for this proposal, since it does not refer to wild-collected specimens. Further details on corresponding wild populations are however contained in the proposals to list the above taxa in Appendix II.

3. Utilization and trade

3.1 National utilization

A country-by-country account of national utilization would not be meaningful. However, apart from reported international trade, there is information on substantial domestic production and use of cut leaves for the floriculture industry. The Netherlands, for example, provided data on substantial domestic production and use of cut leaves of *Cycas revoluta* and *Zamia* spp. (CITES-Commissie, 2004).

3.2 Legal international trade

UNEP-WCMC provided the data of all trade in leaves (1982-2002) stored in the Trade Database. These data have been analysed. Taxa involved and volumes of traded specimens have been determined.

Reported trade in leaves and reporting of purpose of trade starts in 1982, reporting of the source (wild-collected versus artificially propagated) starts in 1990. Early reported trade in leaves was mainly in *Banksia* spp. that was exported from Australia. However the genus *Banksia* was deleted from the Appendices in 1985, along with *Conospermum*, which was reported with lesser frequency. Export of leaves of *Cycadaceae* spp. from Japan was reported (without source) from 1983 up to 1993 and leaves of *Aloe ferox* from South Africa appeared in 1983 and are still reported. Since 1991 the source of these *Aloe* leaves has been given as wild-collected. Snce 1984, exports of leaves of *Macrozamia* spp. from Australia have been reported and since 1987 also *Bowenia serratula*. Reporting of exports of wild-collected fronds of *Calochlaena dubia* from Australia started in 1990 and from the same year onwards, the source of *Macrozamia* leaves has been given as wild-collected. From 1995, the source of *Bowenia* leaves has been indicated as wild-collected. In one occasion (1995), exports of *Zamia* leaves from Mexico and *Cycas* spp. from Thailand, the latter in low quantities, were reported as well as one shipment of wild-collected fronds of *Dicksonia antarctica* that was exported from Australia in 1999. Wild-collected leaves of Australian *Macrozamia*, *Bowenia* and *Calochlaena* were last reported in 2000. In the same year, *Calochlaena* was deleted from Appendix II. Reporting of exports of wild-collected leaves of *Aloe ferox* from South Africa continues up to the most recent available data (2002).

In 1999, significant reporting of trade in artificially propagated leaves starts (see Annex 1). Export of artificially propagated cut leaves of *Cycas revoluta*, *C. circinalis* and *C. thouarsii* and also of *Zamia* spp. from Costa Rica to many countries is reported up to the most recent available data (2002).

In conclusion, actual reported trade is principally composed of artificially propagated Cycad leaves that are exported from Costa Rica and of wild-collected *Aloe ferox* leaves that are exported from South Africa. Cycad fronds are used in the floriculture industry, along with cut flowers (the latter is exempted from CITES if artificially propagated). According to information that was provided by the Scientific Authority of Germany (Bundesamt für Naturschutz, 2004) and originates from Traffic South Africa, dry *Aloe* leaves are harvested from dead plants, which disintegrate into hollow stem segments with leaves still attached. This commodity is used in the flower arranging industry.

Apart from commercial trade in leaves, some scattered reports on very heterogeneous material traded for scientific purposes, appear in the data.

3.3 Illegal trade

There is anecdotal evidence of unreported trade in artificially propagated cut leaves. Some unreported trade is in *Zamia floridana* and *Z. pumila* (Büchi, 1995). The proponent consulted inspectors at the border. They report imports of artificially propagated cut leaves of *Cycas revoluta* from Italy to Switzerland as well as of Cycad fronds from the Netherlands. Because inspectors usually make no difference between artificially propagated cut flowers and cut leaves, no objections have ever been made for such shipments that are not covered with CITES permits.

3.4 Actual or potential trade impacts

This proposal only refers to leaves that are harvested in a non-detrimental manner from artificially propagated, cultivated plants.

3.5 Artificial propagation for commercial purposes (outside country of origin)

According to reported trade, Costa Rica is a main exporting country of leaves of *Cycas* spp. These are not native to the Americas and no impact on natural *Cycas* populations can be inferred (see under 3.2, above). Further, Cycad fronds are also produced in the Netherlands and in Italy (see under 3.1, above). The list could probably be extended to other countries, if data would become available.

4. Conservation and management

4.1 Legal status

The taxa that are annotated with #1 have been included in Appendix II of CITES at different meetings of the Conference of the Parties. This information can be obtained from the proceedings of these meetings as well as from the "Annotated CITES Appendices and Reservations", compiled by UNEP-WCMC. Artificially propagated cut leaves of taxa that are annotated with #1 currently need CITES documents.

4.2 Species management

Not relevant for this proposal.

4.3 Control measures

Enforcement follows the same principles and guidelines as for cut flowers.

5. Information on similar species

The CITES Identification Manual provides identification material for *Sarracenia* leaves and for Cycad fronds.

6. Other comments

Cut leaves of artificially propagated plants of many plant taxa are in international trade. Most of these taxa are not included in the CITES Appendices. Such cut leaves are used in florist shops along with cut flowers. Whereas cut flowers of artificially propagated plants of taxa that are annotated with #1 in the Appendices, are exempt from CITES, cut leaves of the same taxa are not covered by this exemption and have to be traded under CITES regulations.

This constitutes an inconsistency, which may lead to certain enforcement problems. Experience shows, that CITES is not consistently implemented in the sector of artificially propagated cut leaves. In practice, such specimens are often treated the same way as cut flowers and (incorrectly) considered as exempt from CITES.

As harvesting of leaves is normally done in a non-destructive way, there is no detrimental impact, even if specimens actually would be collected from natural populations, which is not the case for the

material under consideration here. Gathering of trade data in this context is therefore not very meaningful for species conservation.

This proposal only refers to cut leaves from artificial propagation. There seems to be no obvious risk for wild populations, if cut leaves from artificial propagation are exempted from CITES.

7. Additional remarks

Considering the fact, that cut flowers of artificially propagated plants of taxa annotated with #1 are already exempt from CITES and that there are no reports on specific enforcement problems related to this exemption, it can be expected that exemption of artificially propagated cut leaves should similarly create no new enforcement problems.

8. References

Büchi, W. (1995): Neue Pflanzenliste. Botanische und Handelsnamen von kontroll- und nicht kontrollpflichtigen Schnittblumen und Schnittgrün. Eidg. Pflanzenschutz-dienst Zürich.

Bundesamt für Naturschutz (Scientific Authority of Germany) (2004): Information on commodities of *Aloe ferox*.

CITES Identification Manual (Flora).

CITES-Commissie (Scientific Authority of the Netherlands) (2004): Figures on cut leaves, provided by the Dutch flower traders.

CITES Secretariat: Reports on CoP's.

UNEP-WCMC (2004): Data on reported trade in leaves.

UNEP-WCMC (2003): Annotated CITES Appendices and Reservations.


reported commercial trade in leaves
400000
350000
300000
250000
200000
150000
100000
50000
0
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
W
A