

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Buenos Aires (Argentina), 17-21 March 2009

Regional reports

EUROPE

Note: This report has been submitted by the regional representatives for Europe*.

1. General information

- a) Names of the Representatives (authors of the report): Dr Margarita Clemente and Dr Maurizio Sajevo.
- b) Names of the Alternates: Dr Jonas Luethy and Dr Nika Debeljak).
- c) Number of Parties in the region: 45
- d) Number of Parties responding to communications: 30
- e) Names of the other institutions and NGOs contacted for CITES work during the period: IUCN, UNEP-WCMC. Intergovernmental Organization: European Commission.

2. Activities carried out

- a) The European representatives and alternates received feedback from 30 countries within the region. Most of responding countries gave information useful to build up a complete directory of the Region (see Annex 2).
- b) A peculiar aspect of the European Region is that out of 45 countries 14 joined CITES during the last ten years. This may create a gap in exchange of information and several of the new European parties are looking for more co-operation.
- c) Most of the European countries show difficulties in identification of timber species but at the same times there are countries within the region able to supply ID material and tools.
- d) The same applies to other issues like identification of exotic species, distinguishing between artificially propagated and wild plants, where to the difficulties of some countries the expertise of other may be of help. The European Region has a very high potential for capacity building and scientific expertise, and may give a high impact contribute to CITES implementation.

* *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.*

- e) With the aim to improve co-operation and exchange of information the European Regional CITES Plants Meeting was organised in Lampedusa (Italy), from 7 to 9 October 2008. Thirty one delegates, representing 12 European countries (Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), the United States of America, the CITES Secretariat, and the European Union Commission, attended the meeting. Austria and Sweden sent reports which were presented by the European Representative (MS).
- f) During the meeting several issues were discussed and the participants released 11 recommendations that are reported in Annex 1. A CD-ROM with the list of participants, the presentations, the recommendations and all relevant information on the Meeting is available from European Representative (Dr.Sajeva).

Recommendations from the European Regional CITES Plants Meeting

(Lampedusa, Italy 7-9 October 2008)

1. ***Prunus africana***

Directed to:

Plants Committee

- a) In the case of further significant trade studies, on high value, widely distributed species, workshops with range States, in full co-operation with importing countries, should be organised as soon as possible to allow time to implement recommendations.

2. ***Encephalartos* spp.**

Directed to:

Scientific Authorities of Parties within the Region

- a) Should co-operate with experts in the range States to develop user-friendly colour identification manuals on *Cycads* in trade.

3. **Herbarium Specimens**

Directed to:

Parties within the Region

- a) Should encourage their scientific institutions to work with their scientific partners in range States to register in the CITES system their national herbaria and research institutes.

4. **Periodic review**

Directed to:

Parties within the Region

- a) Should encourage their scientists to work with the Chair of the Periodic Review Working Group to review the status of listings on the Appendices.

Directed to:

Plants Committee

- b) Should review the process for funding the Periodic Review for plants and make recommendations for the CoP.

5. **European directory**

Directed to:

Parties within the region

- a) Should work with the European Representative (Prof. Maurizio Sajeve) to provide contacts for plant experts within their country.

- b) Such data should be collated and published on the CITES website prior to the next CoP.

Directed to:

The Regional Representatives

- a) Should establish a European Forum for CITES plants issues on the CITES Secretariat website.

6. Trade in cacti and succulents

Directed to:

Management Authorities and Enforcement Authorities within the region

- a) Should inspect all imports of cacti and succulents from Peru, Bolivia and Chile.
- b) Should immediately communicate details of any seizures of cacti and succulents in the Region to other Enforcement Agencies and range States.

7. Timber identification and measurement

Directed to:

German Scientific Authority

- a) Commend the German Scientific Authority on the production of the latest update of the CITESWoodID CD-ROM and encourage them to distribute to all CITES Authorities in the Region and liaise with the Secretariat to publish it on the CITES website.
- b) Encourage Germany to carry out more training workshops within the Region and range States.
- c) Encourage Germany to continue to update and review the CITESWoodID CD-ROM on an ongoing basis as it has proven to be a practical and useful tool for Enforcement Authorities in the 45 Parties in the Region.

Directed to:

Parties within the Region

- a) Should submit their protocols for timber measurement to the Inter-sessional Working Group on Identification and Measurement by the next meeting of the Plants Committee.
- b) Should co-ordinate their capacity building initiatives and inform the Regional Representatives of their activities and plans in order that this information be included in the Regional Reports.
- c) All capacity building material should be copied to the Secretariat and the Regional Representatives to be published on the relevant websites, including the Canadian Wood Identification Manual.

Directed to:

Regional Representatives

- a) Should prepare a bibliography of capacity building materials for the next regional meeting.

Directed to:

Inter-sessional Working Group on Identification and Measurement

- a) Should ensure that any recommendations include the standardisation of the measurement and descriptive codes of timber products.

8. DNA testing

Directed to:

United Kingdom

- a) Commend the UK on the pilot study on *Gonystylus* spp. and encourage them to support further work in this area which compliments and enhances that carried out by Germany.

Directed to:

Parties in the Region

- a) Are encouraged to review and co-ordinate the establishment and authentication of relevant timber reference samples for CITES.

Directed to:

Germany and the United Kingdom

- a) Review available resources, expertise, capacity building and reference samples for timber identification and create a reference database to inform the Parties within the Region.

9. Nursery registration

Directed to:

Plants Committee

- a) Review and revise Conf. Resolution 9.19 on nursery registration on a timescale to allow, if required, a revised Resolution to be put to the next meeting of the CoP.

10. Capacity Building

Directed to:

Parties in the Region

- a) Recognises the importance and major contribution of the International Master's course organised by the International University of Andalucía (UNIA), Spain to training and capacity building within Europe.
- b) Extend expertise and resources available in the European Region to all Parties utilising the resources of the Capacity Building Unit of the CITES Secretariat and the web platform UNIA.

11. Future meetings

Directed to:

Parties in the Region

- a) Encourages Parties to support the attendance at future Regional meetings and workshops of CITES staff working on plant issues of all countries within the Region, to ensure full representation.

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