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

Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties Bangkok (Thailand), 2-14 October 2004

Eighth session: 7 October 2004: 14h05-17h00

Chairman: H. Dublin

Secretariat: T. De Meulenaer

D. Morgan M. Schmidt G. van Vliet

Rapporteurs: J. Caldwell

H. CorriganH. GillettT. Inskipp

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Amendment of the Appendices

60. Proposals to amend Appendices I and II

The delegation of Thailand presented proposal CoP13 Prop. 39 (Rev. 1), for a proposed annotation to the listing of *Euphorbia* in Appendix II regarding artificially propagated specimens of *Euphorbia milii*. The delegation of Thailand had discussed the status of the species in the wild with Madagascar, where it occurred, and had been assured that the species was not threatened. This was confirmed by the delegation of Madagascar. However, the latter were concerned about the identification of the artificially propagated cultivars in trade. The delegation of Thailand said that, given time, they could provide identification materials for all Parties. The proposal was supported by the delegations of Cambodia, Cuba, Guinea, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Senegal and Viet Nam.

Concerns about the proposal were voiced by the delegations of the Netherlands, on behalf of the 25 Member States of the European Community, and the United States of America, drawing attention to the fact that the taxonomy used in the proposal was incorrect as the plants intended to be excluded from the provisions of the Convention were in fact hybrids. They recommended the proposal be revised and submitted at CoP14.

The delegation of Switzerland supported the proposal but suggested an amendment to show the epithet in the format of a cultivar, that is as 'Milii'. After clarification from the botanist of the Nomenclature Committee, this was supported by the delegation of the Netherlands, on behalf of the Member States of the European Community, and agreed by the delegation of Thailand.

The delegation of the United States noted that this change might increase the scope of the proposal. The Chairman ruled the change was permissible under Rule 25.3, being a matter of precision and not altering the scope of the proposal. The delegation of the United States challenged the ruling. The Chairman asked the Committee to vote on the ruling in accordance with Rule 18. The result was 68 in favour, 10 against and there were 17 abstentions (see Annex). The Chairman's proposed ruling was accepted. The Committee then accepted the proposal, amended to refer to Euphorbia 'Milii'. The delegation of the United States wished to place on record that they did not agree with the acceptance of the amended proposal.

The Chairman then noted that the next three proposals, CoP13 Prop. 40, 41 and 42, were all related to the treatment under the Convention of artificially propagated hybrids of Appendix-II orchid species.

The delegation of Thailand introduced proposal CoP13 Prop. 40 to exclude all artificially propagated specimens of hybrids of Appendix-II orchid species from the provisions of the Convention, emphasizing the very large volume of trade in such specimens. The proposal was supported by the delegation of Qatar and opposed by the delegations of Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru, and the observer from Humane Society International.

The Chairman of the Plants Committee reported that her Committee was attempting to streamline the Appendices. However, she noted that this was a complicated process and had led to complex language that this proposal would simplify. She exhorted Parties to send all plant-related proposals to the Plants Committee prior to their submission to the Conference of the Parties, to ensure that technical problems could be solved, noting that the Plants Committee was at the Parties' disposal for this.

The delegation of the Netherlands, on behalf of the Member States of the European Community, supported the intent of the proposal. Recognizing the difficulty in framing a practical proposal, they suggested that a working group be formed to consider proposals CoP13 Prop. 40, 41 and 42 together. Such a group should include enforcement experts and regional representatives as well as representatives from the proponents. The delegations of Australia, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Kenya, Switzerland and the United States, and the observer from TRAFFIC supported the establishment of a working group. However, the delegations of Switzerland and the United States, along with the delegation of Mexico queried discussing all three proposals together, noting that proposal CoP13 Prop. 42 was of a different nature as it involved amendment of an existing annotation.

Taking these concerns into account, the Chairman established a working group to develop a single text based on proposals CoP13 Prop. 40 and 41. The working group comprised Australia, Colombia, Mexico, South Africa (Chairman), Spain on behalf of the European Community, Switzerland, Thailand, the United States, the Secretariat and TRAFFIC. The Chairman reminded the working group that any revised proposal should not extend the scope of the original proposals.

The Chairman suggested deferring discussion of Proposal 42 until the working group had reported back as discussion on Proposal 42 could be impacted by the outcome of the working group.

The delegation of Colombia presented proposal CoP13 Prop. 43 regarding the transfer of *Cattleya trianaei* from Appendix I to Appendix II, and outlined the measures taken to help recovery of the species. The delegation of Bolivia congratulated Colombia on their orchid conservation measures and strongly supported the proposal. This was echoed by the delegations of Ghana, the Netherlands, on behalf of the Member States of the European Community, Peru, Qatar and Venezuela. The delegation of the United States were concerned that only a quarter of the identified populations had been studied and that there was still some collection from the wild. They suggested that any decision should be deferred until CoP14, but indicated that they would not block a consensus. The Committee then accepted the proposal.

The delegation of Thailand introduced proposal CoP13 Prop. 44 concerning the transfer of *Vanda coerulea* from Appendix I to Appendix II, noting particularly the very limited demand for wild-collected specimens. The delegations of Cambodia, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar and Qatar strongly supported the proposal. The delegation of the Netherlands, on behalf of the Member States of the European Community, also supported the proposal, noting that the species had been in cultivation so long that the cultivated form had diverged from the wild one. They also explained that its status in the wild was uncertain in some parts of its range but inclusion in Appendix I was no longer relevant to its conservation. The proposal was accepted.

The delegation of China presented proposal CoP13 Prop. 45 regarding the addition of an annotation to the Appendix-II listing of *Cistanche deserticola*. The delegations of Indonesia, Kenya, South Africa, Switzerland, Tunisia and Viet Nam supported the proposal. The delegation of the Netherlands, on behalf of the Member States of the European Community, agreed with it in principle but wished to exempt finished, manufactured products. The delegation of China and the observer from TRAFFIC

pointed out that the majority of the trade, both legal and illegal, was in pharmaceutical products, and if these were excluded the main purpose of the listing would be lost. The delegation of the Netherlands, on behalf of the Member States of the European Community, agreed to withdraw their objection and the proposal was accepted.

The delegation of Madagascar presented proposal CoP13 Prop. 46 regarding the transfer of *Chrysalidocarpus decipiens* from Appendix II to Appendix I, noting that the main export trade was in seeds, which were exempted from control under the listing in Appendix II. They stated that the seeds were readily identifiable and that the population of the species was rapidly decreasing. The delegations of Bolivia, Egypt, Guinea, Kenya, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and the United States supported the proposal. The delegation of Switzerland, although not against the proposal, pointed out that the species did not occur in a protected area and was threatened by bushfires; action on the ground was required if it were to survive. The delegation of the Netherlands, on behalf of the Member States of the European Community, supported by the delegation of Dominica, opposed the proposal, noting that the main threat was habitat loss. They suggested that it would be preferable to retain the species in Appendix II with annotation to permit control of the trade in seeds. However, after some further discussion, they withdrew their objection and the proposal was accepted.

The summary report in document CoP13 Com. I Rep. 5 was reviewed.

In agenda item 40, the delegation of the United States wished to correct the first part of the second sentence to read <u>He stressed that the work being undertaken was not a revision of</u>. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago wished to change the second sentence in the second paragraph to read:

The delegations of Malaysia, particularly in relation to Naja spp., and the delegations of Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago, particularly in relation to Strombus gigas, expressed concerns regarding the current Review of Significant Trade, variously citing the consultation undertaken, the reliability of the trade data used in the selection of species and the punitive measures imposed.

In the third paragraph the delegation of Mexico requested that ", supported by the delegation of Mexico," be deleted from the first sentence.

In agenda item 51, the delegation of Malaysia noted that they had not supported the Secretariat's suggestion of adapting Resolution Conf. 11.16 and should, instead, be listed in the first line of the third paragraph. The delegation of the United States wished to amend the penultimate sentence of the second paragraph to read They were also concerned that these issues would remain unaddressed for too long if a decision were to be delayed so that a new resolution on ranching could be adopted and implemented. They also wanted to replace the phrase "for future paternal" in the penultimate sentence in the third paragraph with as future parental, and to replace 'thereof' at the end of the fourth paragraph with of this alternative definition of "artificially propagated". Their final request was to reword the first sentence of the final paragraph of agenda item 51, which would read The Chairman then established a drafting group comprising the original working group established by the Plants Committee and the representative of Africa to the Plants Committee to address the issue.

The summary report was adopted as amended and the session closed at 17h00.

Agenda item 60 – Result of the vote on the delegation of the United States' challenge to the Chairman's ruling.

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