

# "CITES NEWS" - PLANTS

*A Newsletter for the European Region of the CITES Plants Committee*

Issue 6

February 1998

Also produced in Spanish and French

This issue includes:

- **Seeds of Mexican Cacti**
- **CITES and the European Union**
- **Second Meeting of the European Region**
- **COP10 - Plant Proposals - Results**
- **Eighth Meeting of the Plants Committee**

Since our last issue we have been busy as usual, particularly with preparation for meetings. The most important was the **10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP10)**, held in Harare, Zimbabwe, June 1997. Had you seen the news coverage in Zimbabwe at that time you could be forgiven for thinking that CITES was an acronym for the Convention on International Trade in ELEPHANT species!



This was nicely illustrated in a conversation between a colleague from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (UK Scientific Authority for Plants), attending COP10, and her British friend now resident in Harare. The friend said: "I don't really understand why you are here... what has Kew Gardens got to do with elephants in Africa"?



However, we all know how important plants are (and we'll continue to do our best to make sure everyone agrees with us), and there was much work to be prepared to ensure satisfactory results for the plants proposals.

I am pleased to report the continuing strength of all the Parties in the European Region, once again illustrated by the participation at our **Second Meeting of the European Region** in Sofia, Bulgaria. We would like to express our gratitude to the Bulgarian authorities for their excellent organisation of this meeting, which gave us the perfect opportunity to exchange ideas and ensure a united approach to COP10.

Our next European Regional Meeting will be held in Prague. We look forward to seeing you there to continue the work necessary for presentation to the 9th Plants Committee Meeting. We are a very active region concerning CITES and it is necessary to maintain this position.

In November last year Jan de Koning and I participated in the **Eighth Meeting of the Plants Committee**, as did several of our European colleagues. Once again, this was a successful meeting and you will find a summary of the results on page 5. Thanks to the Chilean authorities for their superb organisation in an outstanding location. As a consequence, interesting discussions were held and very positive agreements reached.

At both meetings, in Bulgaria and Chile, we had the opportunity to visit areas of great botanical interest. For this we are very grateful to the hosting countries.

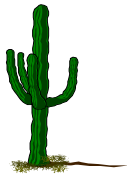
## **New Plants Committee Representatives**

Since COP10 the number of European representatives in the Plants Committee has expanded due to increasing number (32) Parties in the European Region. There are now two direct representatives - myself (Margarita Clemente - Spain) and Jan de Koning (the Netherlands) and two alternate representatives - Dieter Supthut (Switzerland) and Hanna Werblan-Jakubiec (Poland). Together we will co-ordinate a busy programme of work within the region.

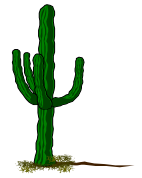
☺ We wish you all a fortunate 1998 ☺

*Margarita Clemente and Jan de Koning*  
Representatives for Europe

# SEEDS OF MEXICAN CACTI - ACQUISITION AND LEGAL TRADE



The proposal to include the seeds of Mexican cacti in Appendix II was adopted by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Zimbabwe, June 1997).



In the text below, Mr Felipe Ramirez Ruiz de Velasco updates the CITES Community on follow-up action in Mexico.

Cacti have always invoked a great interest from the moment when the first explorers of the New World introduced them into Europe. These plants are now threatened by habitat destruction and fragmentation and modification caused by human activities and various environmental phenomena.

Cacti are also threatened by large scale collection of specimens or seeds for commercial purposes. Such activities threaten natural regeneration, and as a consequence several populations of various species are threatened with extinction.

Several populations of Mexican cacti have been seriously subjected to habitat destruction and destructive collection of seeds, particularly in the case of *Ariocarpus bravoanus*, *Mammillaria pectinifera*, *Pelecypora strobiliformis* and *Turbincarpus ysabelae*. The collection of seeds of these species frequently destroys the plants. [Therefore, trade in seeds of Appendix-I cacti will not be possible for the next five years].

The State of Mexico has established 'Environmental Programme 2000' which will allow the acquisition of seeds of certain Mexican cacti, under a number of conditions. These conditions are part of a management programme that will consider: the status of the species in the wild; the biology and ecology of the species under management; and their recuperation. Basic information will include: flowering and fruiting time; system of management; methods for collecting, drying and storage; time of collecting; and methods to determine germination and survival percentage.

## Harvest

The exploitation of seeds of wild cacti populations will be done by Unidades de Manejo y Aprovechamiento Sostenable de la Vida Silvestre (UMA) (=Units for the Management and Sustainable Utilisation of Wildlife) depending on the biology and ecology of the individual species of which the seeds will be harvested. Only those wild populations will be exploited for which quantitative and qualitative field data have demonstrated that they can sustain such exploitation.

**The success of the legal commercial trade in Mexican cacti will depend on the participation and support of all involved in the conservation, production and exploitation of this resource, on the national and on the international level.**

## Economic Benefits

This proposal will involve the local populations in the natural area of distribution of many Mexican cacti species of which the seeds can be exploited. It is logical that economic benefits resulting from this commercial operation will be returned to the UMA's of these communities. The management of the UMA's will involve governmental organisations, scientific institutions, non-government organisations and producers of Cacti, who will be responsible for the study of aspects such as propagation, distribution and conservation.

## Co-operation

An example of the activities undertaken for the conservation and exploitation of Cacti is a pilot project initiated by the Mexican Government in the State of Tamaulipas, in the valleys of Jaumave and Tula and the municipalities of Miquihuana, Bustamante and Pamillas. For the utilisation and conservation of this resource, co-operative agreements have been established between non-governmental organisations, the landowners and national authorities.

## Exchange

Seeds will also be available from nurseries in Mexico which have sufficient parental plants. These would be exchanged with other nurseries and would normally be used for artificial propagation and to increase the production of adult plants.

## Access

To enable access to the legal trade in Mexican cacti seeds it is proposed that seeds will be sold through public auctions. This will not only ensure immediate payment, higher prices and transparency of the trade process, but will also provide direct benefits to the rural producers and their buyers.

## Compliance

The seeds will be provided to the buyer in compliance with the Phytosanitary regulations of the country of destination and shipped in bags of security paper, closed with a security seal. The bags will be shipped in boxes or cushion envelopes to avoid damage and keep the seeds in good condition.

# EUROPEAN NEWS

## CITES and the European Union - New Regulations as of 1 June 1997



Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

Although not a Party in its own right, the European Union has been implementing the Convention since 1 January 1984 by means of Community Regulations. After extensive re-negotiation, the European Union Regulations implementing CITES entered into force on 1 June 1997. These new Regulations mean that EU countries take stricter measures than those required by the Convention.

The most important aspect of the new Regulations is the inclusion of four Annexes, A-D. For the first time they allow for the inclusion of non-CITES species, although at present the only non-CITES species are listed in Annex D.

- Annex A:** Species treated in a similar way to those included in CITES Appendix I. Includes CITES Appendix I species plus species in Appendix II and non-CITES species for which the EU takes stricter measures.
- Annex B:** Species treated in a similar way to those included in CITES Appendix II. Includes CITES Appendix II species, some Appendix III species, species for which the EU takes stricter measures which are not listed in Annex A, and AI species for which a reservation by EU Member States has been entered.
- Annex C:** Species treated in a similar way to those CITES Appendix III. Includes CITES Appendix III species, and AII species for which a reservation by EU Member States has been entered.
- Annex D:** Non-CITES species for which import levels into the EU are being monitored.

**Movement of all material listed in the Annexes is subject to the appropriate permits. You must consult your Management Authority in all cases.**

## Second CITES European Regional Meeting - Plants

At the kind invitation of the Bulgarian government, 38 delegates from 17 countries were able to meet and discuss problems and exchange ideas regarding CITES implementation in the European Union. Discussions centred on scientific, enforcement and policy matters within the European Region, and preparations for the 10th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties. A number of recommendations were made, including the following:

- All CITES Authorities in the Region should send the European Representative any relevant information to be included in updates of the Directory of Management and Scientific Authorities in the European Region - this should include the specialities of experts involved in plant issues.
- Parties of the European Region should be encouraged to continue their efforts to register nurseries and send appropriate information to the

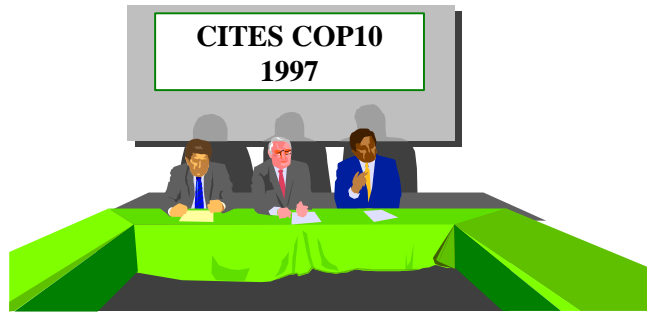
CITES Secretariat. A reminder: nursery registration is a voluntary process aimed at simplifying procedures for the issuance of export permits for CITES Appendix I artificially propagated plants. The system was developed to enhance the artificial propagation of Appendix I specimens and therefore reduce the pressure on wild populations.

- A proposal for an international network to be considered at the 3rd meeting of the European region - Management Authorities in consultation with their Scientific Authorities should designate rescue centres for plants in the European region.

For a copy of the Proceedings and Directory, contact: Margarita Clemente (see back page for address).

**The Third CITES European Regional Meeting - Plants, will be held in Prague, Czech Republic, August/September 1998.**

# COP10 - PLANT PROPOSALS - RESULTS



Taxa	Proposal	Proponent(s)	Result
<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i> and natural hybrids with <i>Swietenia humilis</i> - (Logs, sawn wood, whole veneer sheets, plywood sheets).	AII	USA and Bolivia	Rejected
<i>Hydrastis canadensis</i> - Golden Seal, with annotation <sup>1</sup>	AII	USA	Adopted
<i>Nardostachys grandiflora</i> - (roots only), with annotation <sup>1</sup>	AII	India	Adopted
<i>Picrorhiza kurroo</i> - (roots only), with annotation <sup>1</sup>	AII	India	Adopted
Seeds of Appendix II Wild-Collected Cacti, with annotation <sup>2</sup>	AII	Mexico	Adopted
<i>Protea odorata</i>	AI → AII	South Africa	Adopted
<i>Orothamnus zeyheri</i>	AI → AII	South Africa	Adopted
<i>Lewisia tweedii</i>	Delete	USA	Adopted
<i>Camellia chrysantha</i>	Delete	China	Adopted
'Supermarket Plants': Annotations to Cactaceae spp, Euphorbia spp. <sup>3</sup> and Cyclamen spp. <sup>4</sup> Appendix II.	Annotation	Denmark	Adopted
Amend of annotations #1, #2, #4 and #8 to include "Cut flowers of artificially propagated plants".	Annotation	Switzerland on behalf of Plants Committee	Adopted
Amend annotation (#3) relating to <i>Panax quinquefolius</i> - American Ginseng: "Designates roots, rhizomes or rootstocks, and specimens recognisable as being parts thereof".	Annotation	Switzerland on behalf of Plants Committee. Additional amendments by USA	Adopted
Reword annotation (#5) relating to parts and derivatives of Timber: "designates logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets"	Reword annotation	Switzerland on behalf of Standing Committee	Adopted

## Annotations

<sup>1</sup> "Whole and sliced roots and parts of roots, excluding manufactured parts or derivatives such as powders, pills, extracts, tonics, teas and confectionery".

<sup>2</sup> "Include in Appendix II seeds of Mexican cacti originating in Mexico".

<sup>3</sup> Concerning Cactaceae and Euphorbiaceae - "Exclude from Appendix II artificially propagated specimens of cultivars": *Hatiora* × *graeseri*, *Schlumbergera* spp., *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii*, *Opuntia microdasys*, *Euphorbia trigona*.

<sup>4</sup> "Exclude from Appendix II artificially propagated specimens of cultivars except when traded as dormant tubers": *Cyclamen persicum*.

# 8TH MEETING OF THE CITES PLANTS COMMITTEE - CHILE

Summary of Recommendations	Responsibility
<b>Follow up to Seventh meeting of the Plants Committee</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate with Nepalese Authorities regarding species included in Appendix III.</li> <li>• Report on <i>Cephalotus follicularis</i> at PC9.</li> <li>• Continue dialogue with Turkey regarding Salep trade.</li> <li>• Follow-up issue of illegal trade of cycads in South Africa.</li> <li>• Inform the relevant countries of the results of responses concerning the tree fern project.</li> <li>• Collect information on harvesting levels, cultivation, trends and trade in carnivorous plants.</li> <li>• Publish report on trade in South African Succulents, by end February 1998.</li> <li>• Report on bulb trade from Georgia to be presented to PC9.</li> </ul>	Secretariat Oceania Secretariat Secretariat Secretariat USA & Canada TRAFFIC The Netherlands
<b>Significant Trade</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on status of Phase II of project on the Orchid Trade in Thailand, to PC9.</li> <li>• Provide Germany with information on CITES listed medicinal plants in the region.</li> <li>• Provide PC9 with a progress report regarding the trade in <i>Prunus africana</i>.</li> <li>• Consider at PC9, the annotation of the Appendices, to remove “rainsticks” from control.</li> </ul>	Sig. Trade Co-ordinator Regional Reps Secretariat Chile
<b>Review of the Appendices</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the role of the PC in its review of amendment proposals - the quality of information.</li> <li>• Prioritise the Review: 1) Timber sp., 2) 1973/76 taxa, 3) 1979 taxa, 4) 1983 taxa.</li> <li>• Prepare document on the trade in tree ferns, for discussion at PC9.</li> </ul>	Plants Committee Secretariat/Chair Working Group
<b>Checklists and nomenclature</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide Nomenclature Committee with expert names for Vol. 3 of the CITES Orchid Checklist.</li> <li>• Seek external funds for publication of CITES Orchid Checklist Volume 3.</li> </ul>	Delegates Vice-Chair Nomenclature
<b>CITES Identification Manual for Plants</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide timber samples to be used in the production of timber ID sheets.</li> <li>• All Parties with national manuals to contact Chair of ID Manual Committee.</li> <li>• Ensure MAs prepare ID sheets for taxa proposed for inclusion in Appendices.</li> <li>• Distribute first set of ID sheets in early 1998.</li> <li>• Assist with ID sheets for <i>Prunus africana</i>.</li> <li>• Compile existing information regarding cacti seeds &amp; send to Chair of ID Manual Committee.</li> <li>• Provide Chair of ID Manual with ID sheets within one month of PC8.</li> <li>• Provide Chair of ID Manual with ID sheets within one year of PC8.</li> </ul>	Parties Parties Delegates Chair of ID Manual Germany Mexico India USA
<b>Other plant projects</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss future actions, including new projects, regarding studies on rare Mexican cacti.</li> <li>• Summaries the three reports of field studies on Succulents of Madagascar &amp; report to PC9.</li> <li>• Begin project on <i>Aloe vera</i> var. <i>vera</i> in 1998 and provide progress report to PC9.</li> <li>• Produce project proposal regarding <i>Fitzroya cupressoides</i>, and seek outside funding.</li> </ul>	Secretariat & Mexico Switz., Canada, Sec. Italy, Morocco, UK Argentina, Chile
<b>Technical issues</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue work on the harmonisation of annotations to plant species in the medicinal trade.</li> <li>• Document to ensure awareness of regulations for purchase of seeds from AI listed Mexican cacti.</li> </ul>	Germany Mexico
<b>Trade in medicinal plants</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send German consultant, data on the use, cultivation and trade of European medicinal plants.</li> </ul>	Delegates
<b>Nursery registration</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform the Secretariat on national programmes for nursery registration.</li> </ul>	Parties
<b>Training initiatives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide UK with written comments on CITES Plants Slide Pack.</li> <li>• Circulate details of Masters course on CITES implementation.</li> </ul>	Delegates Spain, Secretariat
<b>Public awareness</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send USA ideas on how to streamline information exchange between Management Authorities.</li> <li>• Produce promotional material to show the benefits of an AII listing, for conservation and trade.</li> </ul>	Delegates Europe, N. Am, TRAFFIC
<b>Timber issues</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress report to PC9 on sustainable production and trade studies of <i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>.</li> <li>• Send regional representatives the report on the evaluation of timber species.</li> </ul>	Brazil The Netherlands
<b>How to improve CITES implementation for plants</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss and exchange ideas with Chair of Animals Committee.</li> </ul>	Chair - PC

MA = Management Authority, PC = Plants Committee

# DIARY 1998

## 3 - 6 March

Standing Committee  
Department of the Environment,  
Transport and the Regions,  
One Great George Street  
Conference Centre,  
London, UK

## 13 April - 4 July

Master's Degree on the  
Management, Conservation and  
Control of Species Subject  
to International Trade,  
International University of  
Andalucía, Spain  
Email: cr1clmum@uco.es

## 4 - 15 May

4th Meeting of the Conference  
of the Parties to the Convention  
on Biological Diversity,  
Bratislava, Slovakia

## 9 - 14 June

2nd Planta Europa Conference,  
Swedish University of  
Agricultural Sciences,  
Uppsala, Sweden  
Email (for booking information):  
Conference@slu.se

## 22 - 23 June

International Symposium  
on the Conservation of Medicinal  
Plants in Trade in Europe  
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew,  
Richmond, UK  
Email: TRAFFIC\_Europe@  
compuserve.com

## August/September

(to be confirmed)  
Third CITES European  
Regional Meeting - Plants,  
Prague  
Czech Republic

**The Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES will be held in November 1999**

**Master's Degree on the *Management, Conservation and Control of Species Subject to International Trade*, International University of Andalucía, Spain, 13 April - 4 July 1998.** This course is designed for Scientific and Management Authorities of Spanish speaking Parties; customs officers, phytosanitary services, police, staff of universities, zoos, botanic gardens, research centres and conservation organisations both governmental and non-governmental. The aim is to provide a solid base on topics of both flora and fauna, for example:

- Management and sustainable use in trade
- CITES: history, objectives, contents, procedures
- Nomenclature - basic principles
- Identification techniques
- Artificial propagation & captive breeding
- Rescue centres for confiscated flora and fauna
- Other legislation/conventions relating to CITES
- Public awareness and education
- The role of NGOs and trade associations

*For further details please contact:*

Margarita Clemente (See back page for address)

**International Symposium on the *Conservation of Medicinal Plants Traded in Europe*, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK, 22 - 23 June 1998.** A two day event, organised by TRAFFIC Europe in collaboration with IUCN and WWF. The purpose of the symposium is to disseminate the results of a number of recent medicinal plant trade surveys and discuss the findings with representatives of nature conservation organisations, governments, the pharmaceutical industry and others. Following this, the main aim will be to establish long-term conservation strategies for wild medicinal plant species in trade.

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**Planta Europa - the second European conference on wild plant conservation, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden, 9 - 14 June 1998.**

Through participation in workshops, the conference will explore seven themes closely related to the core activities of Planta Europa:

- Important plant areas
- Identifying threatened species
- Forestry and its impact on flora
- Agriculture and its impact on flora
- The importance of taxonomy for conservation
- Conservation of lower plants
- European policies and conservation of flora

It will also review the progress of the Planta Europa network and develop its future programme of activities.

*Further information:*

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**Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 4 - 15 May, Bratislava, Slovakia.** Discussion will focus on a key issues relating to biological diversity including:

- Status and trends of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and options for conservation and sustainable management
- Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity
- Forest biological diversity
- Agricultural biological diversity
- A core set of biodiversity indicators
- Biosafety issues
- Benefit sharing matters

*Further information:*

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Email: [chm@biodiv.org](mailto:chm@biodiv.org)  
Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org>

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

**CITES Orchid Checklist Volume 2**

Roberts, J.A., Allman, L.R., Beale, C.R., Butter, R.W., Crook, K.R., McGough, H.N. (1997). Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK. pp 312

For the genera *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium* (selected sections), *Disa*, *Dracula* and *Encyclia*.

All text in English, French and Spanish.

✉ Kew Enterprises, RBG Kew  
Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB  
UK

Fax: +44 (0)181 332 5161  
Price: UK Sterling £8.50 + postage and packing.

**CITES Proceedings of the Seventh Meeting of the Plants Committee, San José, Costa Rica, 11 - 15 November 1996** pp 97 + annexes.

Editor: Margarita Clemente, Jardín Botánico de Córdoba.

Produced in Spanish and English.

Spanish version: Dirección General de Conservación de la Naturaleza, Ministerio de Medio Ambiente.

English version: CITES Secretariat.

Available from: CITES Secretariat

**The CITES Checklist of Succulent Euphorbia Taxa (Euphorbiaceae)**

Carter, S. and Eggle, U. (1997). German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation pp 70.

All text in English, French, German and Spanish.

Landwirtschaftsverlag  
D-48084 Münster, Germany

Fax: +49 25 01/801 801  
Price: DM 19.80

**Proceedings of the Second European Regional CITES Meeting of Management, Scientific and other Authorities involved in CITES Plant Issues, Sofia, Bulgaria, 14-16 April 1997** pp 33 + annexes.

Editor: Margarita Clemente, Jardín Botánico de Córdoba.

Produced in English.

Published by: Dirección General de Conservación de la Naturaleza.

Available from: Jardín Botánico de Córdoba

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