CoP14

Documentation Center for Species Protection

(D.C.S.P.)

Recommendations on the Proposals for the

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DOCUMENTATION CENTER FOR SPECIES PROTECTION

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PRIMATES

Loridae

Proposal 14.1 by Cambodia

Nycticebus spp.

Slow lorises

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

DCSP view: Approve

The dramatic habitat loss of all species of slow lorises in all range states is probably the main cause for their extreme endangerment. In Cambodia, the area of natural forest is now just 6% of the original area. The situation is usually not much better in the other range states, above all because the fragmentation of forest areas further impedes genetic exchange. Another major handicap regarding the survival of these species is their low reproductive rate, with the female giving birth to one young about every 1.5 years. The animals are regularly traded. Almost all parts of the animal, including fur, brain and urine, are used, particularly in traditional Chinese medicine. Superstitious medicine claims that they can cure rheumatism, epilepsy, stomach diseases, asthma and wounds. The eyeballs are also used as sexual stimulants. The animals are also found occasionally in the international pet trade, particularly in Asian countries. Mortality rates in live transport are horrifically high. Illegal trade in these species is also on the rise. Illegal imports of this animal have also been observed to increase in Austria in recent years, particularly from Thailand. All trade in these highly endangered animals, of whatever kind, must be stopped. Locally, these animals have already become extinct are on the verge of extinction in many places. Appendix I listing is long overdue.

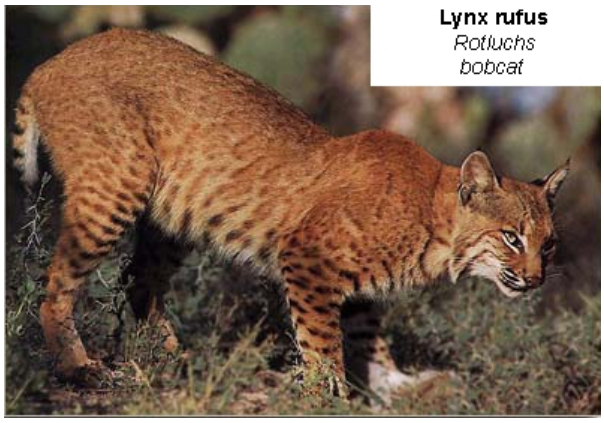
CARNIVORA

Felidae

Proposal 14.2 by the United States of America

Lynx rufus

Bobcat



Deletion from Appendix II

DCSP view: Oppose

The bobcat, occurring in several subspecies in North America, is the most common species of cat in North America and is widely distributed. The total population is estimated at approx. 1 million individuals. However, this figure must be treated with caution as the population densities of bobcat are

subject to severe regional fluctuation. Range overlap of different individuals and seasonal fluctuations further hinder reliable population figures. According to the Proposal, individual ranges vary between 3 and 60km²; according to some authors as large as 85km².

This Proposal was already made at the last Conference of the Parties, but was withdrawn. Some 1.5 million animals or bobcat derivates have been legally exported since 1980, with evidence of regular minor illegal trade.

It seems interesting that this Proposal only indicates figures for trade relevance and export quantities over lengthier periods but not for specific years. However, the Proposal from the last Conference of the Parties indicates that trade has increased greatly since 2001. It is not evidenced whether this increasing demand has a negative impact on the populations. Therefore, it is recommended to keep the bobcat in Appendix II and to keep trade in controlled, regulated channels.

Proposal 14.3 by Uganda

Panthera pardus

Leopard

Transfer of the population of Uganda from Appendix I to Appendix II with an annotation that reads as follows:
"1) for the exclusive purpose of sport hunting for trophies and skins for personal use, to be exported as personal effects; and
2) with an annual export quota of 50 leopards for the whole country."

DCSP view: Oppose

Uganda's proposal argues that the population sees leopards as a threat and does not benefit from these animals and that an export quota for sport hunters would increase the value of leopards for people.

All that it says concerning the population status is that it is not possible to count because of the wide distribution and seclusive lifestyle of leopards. This seems rather to be a sign that there cannot be that

many animals. On the other hand, Uganda gives figures for livestock kills. In 2002-2006 these were: 61 goats, 8 sheep and 24 calves. Uganda puts the value of these killed animals at 6,930,000 Uganda shillings, which is approx. 3050 euros or US$ 3950. That comes to 610 euros per year in the period indicated. The value of a leopard sport trophy is 1500 to 2000 euros. Uganda argues that this income could be used to pay for the damage and that the population would recognise the value of the animals. Following this line of argument, that would mean 3-4 and not 50 animals.

This proposal should be opposed in view of the poor scientific preparation alone. What is more, this transfer to Appendix II would mean a split listing, which would undermine protection efforts in other range states.

PROBOSCIDEA

Elephantidae

Proposal 14.4 by Botswana and Namibia

Loxodonta africana

African elephant

Maintenance of the populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe in Appendix II in terms of Article II, paragraph 2 (b), with the replacement of all existing annotations with the following annotation:

"1) The establishment of annual export quotas for trade in raw ivory is determined in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP12);

2) Trade in raw ivory is restricted to trading partners that have been certified by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Standing Committee, to have sufficient national legislation and domestic trade controls to ensure that the imported ivory will not be re-exported and will be managed in accordance with the requirements of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP12) concerning manufacturing and trade; and

3) The proceeds of the trade in raw ivory are to be used exclusively for elephant conservation and community development programmes."

DCSP view: Oppose

The situation of the African elephant has worsened gravely in the last ten years. Counts from 1998 revealed a total population of approx. 500,000 individuals, with 2006 counts confirming only 400,000 elephants in the wild. In the past five years alone, populations have been seen to decline the following range states: Namibia, Mozambique, Togo, Ghana, Gabun, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Senegal, Benin and Niger.

Illegal trade in ivory has increased considerably once again since the last Conference of the Parties, and now totals approx. 39,000kg. A key factor is the increasing market presence of China, where ivory prices have tripled in the past few years, with one ton of ivory now fetching US$ 750,000.

National control measures still are not working, with Botswana and South Africa counting among the hubs of international ivory smuggling.

According to Tanzania's proposal for downlisting from Appendix I to Appendix II, the criteria for Appendix I are no longer met. According to the Fort Lauderdale criteria, however, the population development must be observed over a period of two generations, which in the case of elephants means that the comparable period of observation is in the 50s. According to Tanzania's proposal, the size of the range decreased from 90% to approx. 49% of the area of Tanzania during this period.

The states of Botswana, Namibia and Tanzania want to empty their stocks of confiscated ivory for non-commercial purposes. The fact that this would have a disastrous impact on poaching and smuggling throughout the continent has already been amply proven in the past.

A few populations in Africa, including the Tanzanian population, have clearly increased since being listed in Appendix I in 1989. The elephants' social structure, however, is still disrupted as particularly the old and experienced leaders with large tusks are selectively poached. Allowing ivory trade would further aggravate this massive problem.

Equally counterproductive is Botswana's effort to be allowed to trade in leather, skins and derivates for commercial purposes, too. This source of income is thus lost for elephant protection measures. It is also significant that the population of Botswana increased in particular because poachers in several neighbouring states, above all in the Etosha Pan, drove elephant herds over the border into Botswana.

Proposal 14.5 by Botswana

Loxodonta africana

African elephant

Amendment of the annotation to the population of Botswana to read as follows: "For the exclusive purpose of allowing in the case of the population of Botswana: 1) trade in hunting trophies for non-commercial purposes;

2) trade in hides for commercial purposes;

3) trade in leather goods for commercial purposes;

4) trade in live animals for commercial purposes to appropriate and acceptable destinations (and as determined by the national legislation of the country of import);

5) trade annually in registered stocks of raw ivory (whole tusks and pieces of not more than 8 tonnes) of Botswana origin owned by the Government of Botswana for commercial purposes only with trading partners that have been certified by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Standing Committee, to have sufficient national legislation and domestic trade controls to ensure that the imported ivory will not be re-exported and will be managed in accordance with the requirements of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP12) concerning manufacturing and trade; and

6) trade in registered stocks of raw ivory (whole tusks and pieces of not more than 40 tonnes) of Botswana origin owned by the Government for commercial purposes on a one-off sale immediately after the adoption of the proposal. Botswana will trade only with trading partners that have been certified by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Standing Committee, to have sufficient national legislation and domestic trade controls to ensure that the imported ivory will not be re-exported and will be managed in accordance with the requirements of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP12) concerning manufacturing and trade."

DCSP view: Oppose

See Proposal 14.4 by Botswana and Namibia

Proposal 14.6 by Kenya and Mali

Loxodonta africana

African elephant

A. Amendment of the annotation regarding the populations of Botswana, Namibia and South Africa to:

a) include the following provision:

"No trade in raw or worked ivory shall be permitted for a period of 20 years except for:

1) raw ivory exported as hunting trophies for non-commercial purposes; and

2) ivory exported pursuant to the conditional sale of registered government-owned ivory stocks agreed at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties"; and

b) remove the following provision:

"6) trade in individually marked and certified ekipas incorporated in finished jewellery for non-commercial purposes for Namibia".

B. Amendment of the annotation regarding the population of Zimbabwe to read:

"For the exclusive purpose of allowing:

1) export of live animals to appropriate and acceptable destinations;

2) export of hides; and

3) export of leather goods for non-commercial purposes.

All other specimens shall be deemed to be specimens of species included in Appendix I and the trade in them shall be regulated accordingly.

No trade in raw or worked ivory shall be permitted for a period of 20 years.

To ensure that where a) destinations for live animals are to be appropriate and acceptable and/or b) the purpose of the import is to be non-commercial, export permits and re-export certificates may be issued only after the issuing Management Authority has received, from the Management Authority of the State of import, a certification to the effect that: in case a), in analogy to Article III, paragraph 3 (b) of the Convention, the holding facility has been reviewed by the competent Scientific Authority, and the proposed recipient has been found to be suitably equipped to house and care for the animals; and/or in case b), in analogy to Article III, paragraph 3 (c), the Management Authority is satisfied that the specimens will not be used for primarily commercial purposes."

DCSP view: Support

The Proposal by Kenya and Mali considers the overall situation of the African elephant (see Proposal by Botswana). The aim is to suspend ivory trade for 20 years, the only right answer to the current development. Perhaps it will be possible to develop suitable control measures in individual African states during this period. Trade in other elephant products such as leather and skins should also remain restricted to non-commercial purposes. Previous concessions gained by Namibia, South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe (downlisting to Appendix II with annotations) are maintained. This must be seen as a compromise, without which the Proposal would not stand a chance anyway.

Proposal 14.7 by Tanzania

Loxodonta africana

African elephant

Transfer of the population of the United Republic of Tanzania from Appendix I to Appendix II with an annotation that reads as follows:

"For the exclusive purpose of allowing:

1) trade in registered stocks of raw ivory in whole tusks and pieces;

2) trade in live specimens for non-commercial purposes to appropriate and acceptable destinations; and

3) trade in hunting trophies for non-commercial purposes.

DCSP view: Oppose

See Proposal 14.4 by Botswana and Namibia

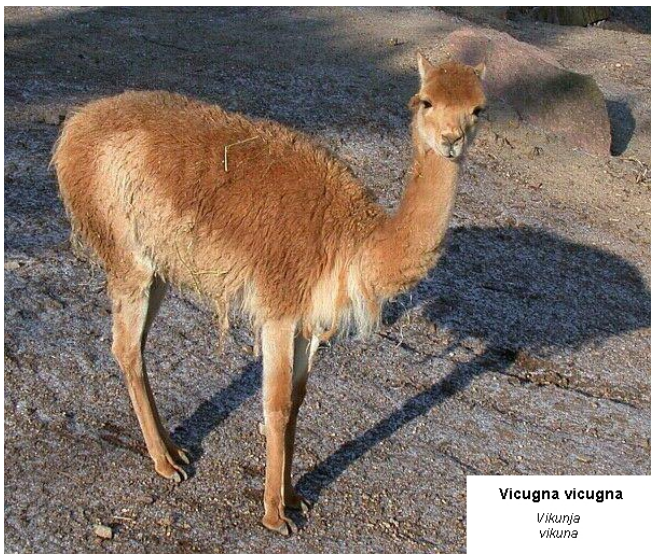
ARTIODACTYLA

Camelidae

Proposal 14.8 by Bolivia

Vicugna vicugna

Vicuña



Amendment of the annotation to the Bolivian population to read as follows: "Population of Bolivia (listed in Appendix II):

For the exclusive purpose of allowing international trade in wool sheared from live vicuñas, and in cloth and items made thereof, including luxury handicrafts and knitted articles.
The reverse side of the cloth must bear the logotype adopted by the range States of the species, which are signatories to the Convenio para la Conservación y Manejo de la Vicuña, and the selvages the words 'VICUÑA-BOLIVIA'. Other products must bear a label including the logotype and the designation 'VICUÑA-BOLIVIA-ARTESANÍA'. All other specimens shall be deemed to be specimens of species included in Appendix I and the trade in them shall be regulated accordingly."

DCSP view: Oppose

After decades of uncontrolled poaching and exploitation of vicuñas, national protection measures and Appendix II listing allowed the Central Andean populations to recover substantially. Today, approx. 75% of the original 400,000 strong population exists again. Nevertheless, the data supplied by Bolivia have not been drawn up seriously. Population development figures are indicated on the basis of approx. 20 per cent of the national population. In 5 of the 9 range areas surveyed, the individual statistics from 2006 have simply been copied, and even all 5 years in one area.

There are, however, general substantial objections to Bolivia's plan to round up wild vicunas in enclosures, shear them and then release them again. The method of treating wild mammals like pets bears numerous risks, that this Proposal fails to mention at all: Disruption of the social structure of a herd, miscarriages, separation of young animals from their mothers, and spreading of domestic animal

diseases to wild populations are risk factors that are only insufficiently known, but not surveyed either. Also, there are no details concerning mortality rates entailed by such measures.

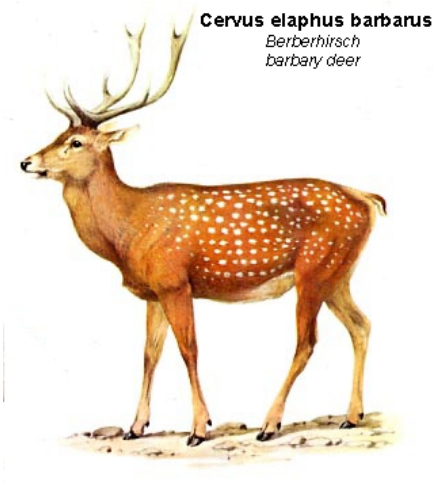
In addition, national control of illegal trade is extremely inadequate, as the Proponents themselves confirm.

Cervidae

Proposal 14.9 by Algeria

Cervus elaphus barbarus

Barbary red deer



Inclusion in Appendix I

DCSP view: Oppose

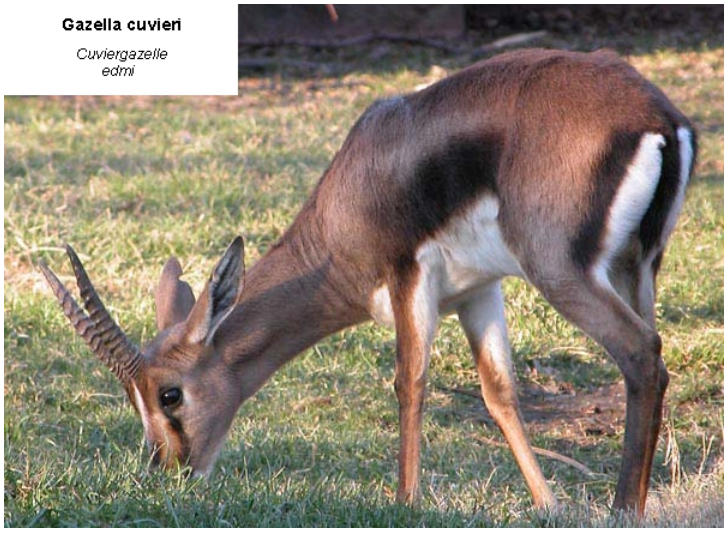
The Barbary red deer is a subspecies of the European red deer and lives in cork-oak forests in Tunisia, Algeria and formerly in Morocco. The Tunisian population is already listed in Appendix III. The Proposal refers to approx. 60 animals in Algeria. In truth, there are less than 200 animals in the complete range. The species has been brought to the verge of extinction by hunting. Today they are practically irrelevant for trade, as confirmed in the Proposal. The main threat to the Barbary red deer is loss of natural habitat and national poaching. Algeria must do its homework and take care of national protection. It is interesting to note that Tunisia, the second range state, does not appear as co-proponent.

Bovidae

Proposal 14.10 by Algeria

Gazella cuvieri

Cuvier's gazelle



Inclusion in Appendix I

DCSP view: Oppose

Cuvier's gazelle is found throughout the North African region in the Atlas Mountains. They live in very small herds of up to 6 animals or are loners. In Algeria there are approx. 500 animals, with some 2000 to 2500 animals in the complete distribution area. The largest population is found in Morocco, with approx. 1500 animals. The species was severely decimated by hunters in the first half of the 20th century. Today, their relevance in terms of trade is practically non-existent. Rather, the species is threatened by habitat destruction and habitat fragmentation. Tunisia has set up reserves for this species and listed them in Appendix III. Attempts are also under way here to improve the population by means of resettlement. Even if the species is listed in Appendix B in the European Union, a threat cannot be assumed due to trade. The species by no means meets the criteria for Appendix I listing.

If Algeria is satisfied with Appendix II listing, the EU will agree as a consequence.

Proposal 14.11 by Algeria

Gazella dorcas

Dorcas gazelle

Inclusion in Appendix I

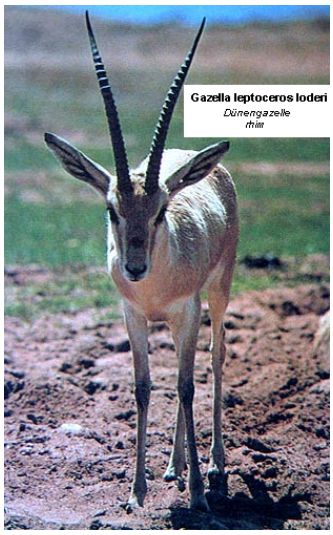
DCSP view: Oppose

The Dorcas gazelle has a wide range from the Mediterranean, the Sahel zone to the Red Sea and the south of Israel. It is perfectly adapted to life in the desert and could live its whole life without drinking water. Some 620 animals live in Algeria. The IUCN classifies the species as endangered. The Tunisian population is listed in Appendix III and the European Union lists the species in Appendix B. The main threat to the species is due to habitat loss and national poaching for food. International trade is not relevant. By no means does the species meet the criteria for Appendix I listing. If Algeria is satisfied with Appendix II listing, the European Union will agree as a consequence.

Proposal 14.12 by Algeria

Gazella leptoceros loderi

Rhim gazelle



Inclusion in Appendix I

DCSP view: Oppose

The Rhim gazelle was once the most common gazelle in the Sahara. In the 1970s, the population was extremely decimated. Today, the species in found in small numbers in Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Libya, Mali Niger, Sudan and Tunisia. The more southern ranges are uncertain. There are no firm data regarding the size of the population. Around the world there are some 250 animals in captivity, all part of a captive-breeding programme. Here, great efforts are being made to protect the species, classified as endangered by the IUCN. The Tunisian population is listed in Appendix III and the European Union lists the species in Appendix B. Because of its food-seeking habits, the Rhim gazelle is a migratory animal. Unfortunately, the main threat to the species is due to hunting by the starving population, particularly in crisis areas. No international trade is known. By no means does the species meet the criteria for Appendix I listing. If Algeria is satisfied with Appendix II listing, the European Union will agree as a consequence.

REPTILIA

CROCODYLIA

Alligatoridae

Proposal 14.13 by Brazil

Melanosuchus niger

Black caiman

Transfer of the Brazilian population from Appendix I to Appendix II

DCSP view: Oppose

The black caiman was exploited unchecked until as late as the 1970s. Subsequent conservation efforts and Appendix I listing led to massive recovery of the Brazilian populations. Because of the large range – the Amazonian region – the current number of individuals is certainly considerable. The Proposal should nevertheless be opposed for the following reasons:

1. There cannot be said to be Brazilian population. The entire Amazonian region – a vast system of rivers with no notable barriers – corresponds to the population, that thus covers all 8 range states (Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Surinam, French Guayana and Guayana). The condition of the populations in these countries is not mentioned in the Proposal.
2. The Proposal leads to a 3-way split listing as the Ecuadorian part of the population is already listed in Appendix II with a zero quota.
3. The claim that there has been no illegal trade in skins and products since 1980 is not true; such trade has been observed even in Austria.
4. The proposed species management method is interesting: "Sustainable hunting and transport to controlled abattoirs". The are no "farming" efforts.

It may be true that the size of the back caiman population already corresponds to sustainable use, but only a uniform regulation for this population, that includes 8 member states, makes sense, with a parallel management programme. Otherwise this would encourage conditions as they were in the 70s.

SAURIA

Helodermatidae

Proposal 14.14 by Guatemala

Heloderma horridum charlesbogerti

Guatemalan beaded lizard

Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I

DCSP view: Support

This reptile species, that was only described in 1988, and that is related to the "Gila Monster", counts among the most endangered reptile taxa in the world. The wild population of this species, that now lives in an area of just 240km², is estimated to be approx. 200 individuals. In the 90s, the subspecies was already believed to be extinct. 90% of its original habitat, dry forests in an isolated Guatemalan valley region, has already been destroyed, and the remaining populations are severely fragmented. The animals are often killed because of superstition and unnecessary fear of their poison. It is obvious that the main threat is posed not by trade but by habitat destruction. Considering this minimal population size, harvesting even a few animals threatens the population's survival. Thanks to strict national protection, there is no legal trade with the exception of a few zoo specimens. Because the animals are exposed to the incredible interest of reptile keepers, they are regularly illegally exported, fetching, as they do, a price of approx. US$ 2000 in the USA.

ELASMOBRANCHII

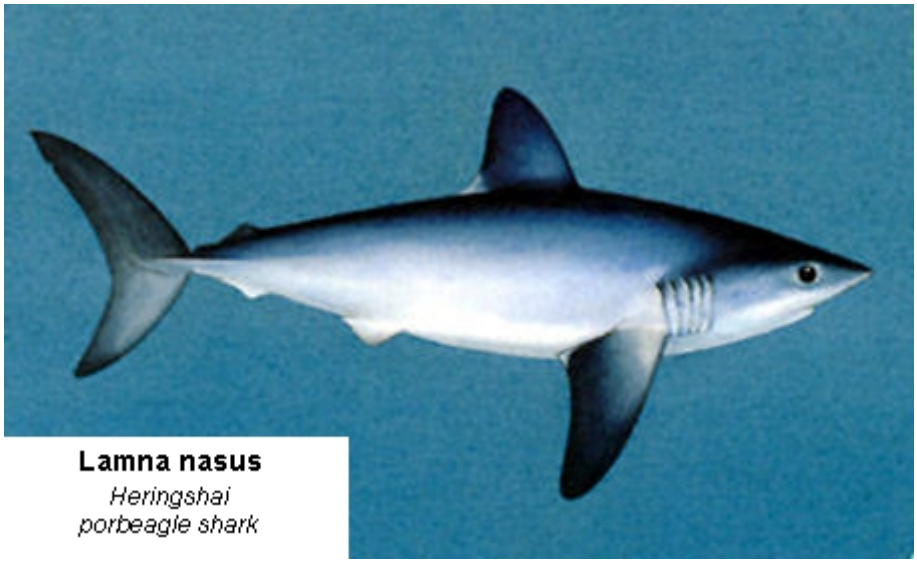
LAMNIFORMES

Lamnidae

Proposal 14.15 by Germany **on behalf of the European Community Member States acting in the interest of the European Community**

Lamna nasus

Porbeagle



Inclusion in Appendix II, with the following annotation:

"The entry into effect of the inclusion of Lamna nasus in Appendix II of CITES will be delayed by 18 months to enable Parties to resolve the related technical and administrative issues, such as the possible designation of an additional Management Authority."

DCSP view: Support

Unlike most commercial sea fish, sharks have an extremely low reproduction rate. The porbeagle shark has a generation time of at least 20 years, bearing only one or two young every one to two years. The decline of this ocean species that occurs in temperate seas around the world is due exclusively to fishing for meat and fins. In the northern hemisphere, the decline of the respective populations has been documented to amount to between 50 and 90% over the last three generations. The porbeagle shark has become largely extinct in the Mediterranean. Exploitation in southern seas, on the other hand, is completely uncontrolled. Due to the decline, it is no longer possible to achieve the exports of several thousand tons per year and export country that were achieved in previous decades.

Appendix II listing is urgently recommended, and we can also expect to see the necessity of Appendix I listing in the next few years.

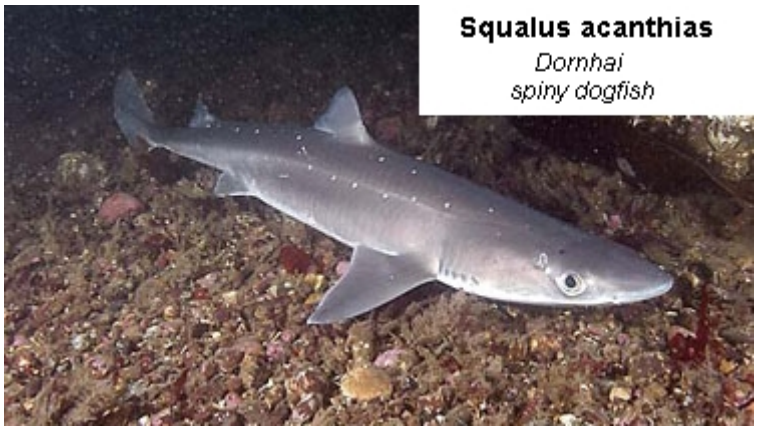
SQUALIFORMES

Squalidae

Proposal 14.16 by Germany on behalf of the European Community Member States acting in the interest of the European Community

Squalus acanthias

Spiny dogfish



Inclusion in Appendix II, with the following annotation:

"The entry into effect of the inclusion of Squalus acanthias in Appendix II of CITES will be delayed by 18 months to enable Parties to resolve the related technical and administrative issues, such as the possible designation of an additional Management Authority."

DCSP view: Support

The situation of the spiny dogfish, that also occurs in temperate seas around the world, is similar to that of the Atlantic porbeagle shark. This species is also caught for its meat (known as “rock salmon”, “huss” or “huss tail”, etc.) and fins. The spiny dogfish also has an extremely low reproduction rate (2-11 young every 2 to 3 years, with a generation time of approx. 10 years). Having its habitat in coastal waters, it is exposed to further risks due to pollution and dragnet fishing.

The NE Atlantic population suffered a decline of 95% in the twentieth century, with the NW Atlantic population being decimated by 75% in just ten years. Japanese fishing fleets are even more efficient, achieving a decline of more than 99% of the NW Pacific stock. Here again, an Appendix I listing will soon have to be considered.

RAJIFORMES

Pristidae

Proposal 14.17 by Kenya, Nicaragua and the United States of America

Pristidae (all species of the family)

Sawfish

Inclusion in Appendix I

DCSP view: Support

The seven known species of sawfish populate the temperate zones of the Atlantic and the South Pacific. Their distribution is concentrated in shallow marine habitats and brackish water, and some are found in freshwater areas. Large populations of many species were known until the middle of the twentieth century.
The principal threat is due to destruction and pollution of their habitat and conventional fishing methods around the world – fishing with all kinds of nets. Because of their sawlike rostrum, these shark-like rays often get entangled in the nets. Trade in high-priced fins and sawlike nose as trophies still play an important role, with some countries of origin still trading thousands of derivates per year. Well-preserved rostra are offered for sale for US$ 2000-7000, with fins costing up to US$ 3000 in the Asian region.
These manifold threats posed by humans have already caused several species of sawfish to disappear in large areas. In the western Mediterranean and in the east Atlantic, off Sri Lanka and the Philippines these species are probably already extinct; in the Gulf of Mexico, on many North and Central American coasts, and in numerous Asian coastal areas, sawfish are rare one-off finds. In view of the population trends, the Pristidae family should already have been listed in Appendix I at the end of the 20th century.

ACTINOPTERYGII

ANGUILLIFORMES

Anguillidae

Proposal 14.18 by Germany on behalf of the European Community Member States acting in the interest of the European Community

Anguilla anguilla

European eel

Inclusion in Appendix II

DCSP view: Support

In terms of its extraordinary biology, the European eel is unique anywhere in the world. All individuals belong to a single meta-population, that spawns in the Sargasso Sea. The larvae reach the European and North African coasts after approx. 3 years in the Gulf Stream; after a number of stages they move inland through the major flowing waters. After approx. 10 to 25 years they return to the Sargasso Sea, to spawn and die there. This life-cycle makes the European eel particularly vulnerable to overfishing, pollution and barriers in their migration routes (above all hydropower stations). While traditional consumption of this fish in Europe is declining, the unrestrained overfishing of eel stocks is due to export of glass eels (one of the juvenile stages), that now accounts for almost 90 per cent of all exports. Approx. 500 million glass eels were exported to Asian markets since 1995. All “captive-breeding” is based on wild catches, usually in the glass eel stage. At the current rate of exploitation, the European eel would become extinct in ten years. There is an urgent necessity of controlling international trade.

PERCIFORMES

Apogonidae

Proposal 14.19 by the United States of America

Pterapogon kauderni

Banggai cardinalfish

Inclusion in Appendix II

DCSP view: Support

The threat to this extraordinarily beautiful fish is almost exclusively the international pet trade. The range in Indonesia is now only 5500km², with the total population now counting just 2.4 million specimens. In recent years, up to approx. 900,000 individuals have been harvested from the wild every year. Natural reproduction cannot keep pace with this exploitation. Although these mouth breeders have been captive bred, 99.9% are still being taken from the wild. The life expectancy of this species is max. 4 years in captivity, and no more than 2 years in the wild. In some ranges, the species is already extinct. Another compounding factor is the high mortality rate during transport, with many of the fish already badly damaged by cyanide fishing. The appearance of this attractive little fish is so unique that there is practically no look-a-like problem.

ARTHROPODA

CRUSTACEAE

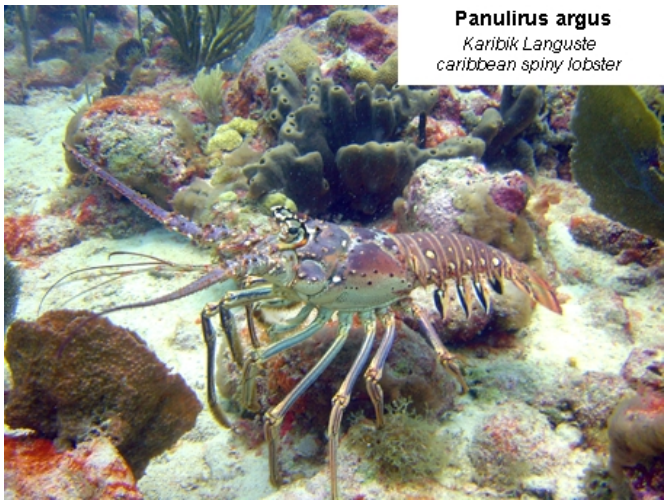
DECAPODA

Palinuridae

Proposal 14.20 by Brazil

Panulirus argus and Panulirus laevicauda

Caribbean spiny lobster and smoothtail spiny lobster



Inclusion of the Brazilian populations in Appendix II

DCSP view: Support

The main reason for the decline of the lobster populations is certainly overfishing. In 1991 production was still at a level of 11,068t, which was a record. Since then, production has been declining continuously, and currently totals some 6000t - with an increasing demand. Populations have been reduced by up to 90% locally. Fishermen are fishing at ever greater depths in order to meet the demand as best possible. Because these species rely exclusively on natural reproduction, there is lack of adult animals to ensure adequate offspring. The main customers for Brazilian lobsters are the USA, France and Japan. Brazil expects Appendix II listing to allow better management of trade but above all to stop illegal trade.

CNIDARIA

ANTHOZOA

GORGONACEAE

Corallidae

Proposal 14.21 by the United States of America

Corallium spp.

Red coral

Corallium rubrum
Rote Edelkoralle
red coral

Inclusion in Appendix II

DCSP view: Support

All 26 species of red coral are vulnerable or endangered. 450mt were harvested in 1984. Since then, the annual harvest has been declining dramatically and now totals just 28mt, despite improving fishing methods at ever greater depths down to 1500m. Overfishing of this species is so severe that the jewellery trade now grinds all waste produced in jewellery making, mixing this powder with synthetic resins to make a red coral paste. Destruction of the ecosystem by current harvesting methods is already dramatic and must not be played down. From the EU's standpoint, the main species involved is Corallum rubrum. Spain tried but failed to get Corallum rubrum listed in Appendix I as early as 19... Because demand is on the rise and natural reproduction simply cannot keep pace, it is high time to list all red coral species in Appendix II. Corallum rubrum would even meet the criteria for Appendix I listing.

FLORA

AGAVACEAE

Proposal 14.22 by the United States of America

Agave arizonica

Arizona agave

Deletion from Appendix I

DCSP view: Support

Scientific findings from recent years regarding this species have shown that this species is a first-generation hybrid of Agave chrysantha and Agave toumeyana spp. bella. These two species are very common and by no means endangered. Hybridisation between these two species produces germinable seeds that form "Agave arizonica". This hybrid, however, is not capable of reproduction.

Proposal 14.23 by the United States of America

Nolina interrata

San Diego bear-grass

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II, including all parts and derivates

DCSP view: Oppose

This species is very similar to Nolina recurvata, the "pony tail palm" frequently sold at gardening centres and that is artificially reproduced on a massive scale. The fact is that the range in California is limited to nine populations, with one in Mexico with a total of 9000 wild specimens. In some ranges, the species is on the verge of extinction. The is currently no trade in this caudex plant thanks to the Appendix I listing; downlisting would cause trade to start again immediately, which was already the case before 1983, hence the risk. The plant is extremely slow-growing and not suitable for indoor cultivation, although San Diego bear-grass is propagated for home cultivation. It is far too early for downlisting to Appendix II. It would be necessary for the USA to stabilise the population and above all to stop ongoing habitat loss due to urbanisation.

CACTACEAE

Proposal 14.24 by Argentina

Pereskia spp. and *Quiabentia spp.*

Leaf cacti and Quiabentia

Pereskia horridus
Peruanischer Laubkaktus
horridus rose cactus

Deletion from Appendix II

DCSP view: Support

Many people do not even perceive these cactus shrubs and cactus trees as cacti, given that these species differ totally from other cacti in their appearance. There is therefore absolutely no look-alike problem. Pereskia has 16 species, Quiabentia just 2. There is practically no international trade, including illegal trade, and not one of these species of these two genera is endangered or even vulnerable. Although some species have a small range, the only interest in them, if any, is scientific. The little local trade in these species is restricted to leaves and fruits. It should be mentioned that this senseless Appendix II listing by CITES has caused many cactus-lovers to doubt the seriousness of the Convention. CITES has been ridiculed and not taken seriously. It is high time to put an end to this counterproductive state of affairs.

Proposal 14.25 by Mexico

Pereskiopsis spp.

Leaf-bearing cacti

Pereskiopsis spathulata
Blatträgerkaktus
leaf-bearing cacti

Deletion from Appendix II

DCSP view: Support

Once again, this Proposal shows that some specimens are senselessly listed in Appendix II.

1. No species of Pereskiopsis is endangered in any way.
2. There is practically no trade in these 8 species. Cactus-lovers have little interest in these species - if at all, then only as a grafting base.
3. There are no look-alike problems whatever.

It is high time to delete this genus from Appendix II.

CACTACEAE and ORCHIDACEAE

Proposal 14.26 by Switzerland

Cactaceae spp. (#4) and *Orchidaceae spp.* (#8) in Appendix II, and all taxa annotated with annotation #1

Merging and amendment of annotations #1, #4 and #8 to read:

"Designates all parts and derivatives, except:

a) seeds, spores and pollen (including pollinia), except seeds of Mexican Cactaceae spp. originating in Mexico;

b) seedling or tissue cultures obtained in vitro, in solid or liquid media, transported in sterile containers;

c) cut flowers and cut leaves (excluding phylloclades and other stem parts, and pseudobulbs) of artificially propagated plants;

d) fruits and parts and derivatives thereof of naturalized or artificially propagated plants of the genera Vanilla (Orchidaceae), Opuntia subgenus Opuntia, Hylocereus and Selenicereus (Cactaceae);

e) separate stem joints (pads), stem sections and flowers and parts and derivatives thereof of naturalized or artificially propagated plants of the genera Opuntia subgenus Opuntia, and Selenicereus (Cactaceae);

f) finished products that are packaged and ready for retail trade (excluding whole or grafted specimens, seeds, bulbs and other propagules) of Aloe spp., Aquilaria malaccensis, Cactaceae spp., Cibotium barometz, Cistanche deserticola, Cyclamen spp., Dionaea muscipula, Euphorbia spp., Galanthus spp., Orchidaceae spp. and Prunus africana; and

g) non-living herbarium specimens for non-commercial purposes."

DCSP view: Support

a. Because more than 80% of international cactus seed demand is supplied from cacti originating in Mexico, at least legal harvesting of cactus seeds should be prohibited in Mexico. This would prevent plundering.

b. Seedlings and tissue cultures obtained in vitro cannot be the object of the Convention.

c. Cut flowers and cut leaves of artificially propagated plants cannot be the object of the Convention.

d. Vanilla (Orchidaceae), Opuntia subgenus Opuntia, Hylocereus and Selenicereus (Cactaceae) are cultivated in masses on plantations outside their natural ranges.

e. Australia will probably be happy to export "prickly pear" cacti.

f. Because finished products are usually produced in countries in which the plants are also cultivated on plantations, this annotation also makes sense. If trade in finished products of these species is allowed, then trade will also be very interested to see that the "raw material suppliers" do not become extinct.

g. Scientific purposes also serve the protection of the specimens.

Proposal 14.27 by Switzerland

as Depositary Government, at the request of the Standing Committee

Adonis vernalis, Guaiacum spp., Hydrastis canadensis, Nardostachys grandiflora, Panax ginseng, Panax quinquefolius, Picrorhiza kurrooa, Podophyllum hexandrum, Pterocarpus santalinus, Rauvolfia serpentina, Taxus chinensis, T. fuana, T. cuspidata, T. sumatrana, T. wallichiana, Orchidaceae spp. in Appendix II and all Appendix-II taxa (Agave victoriae

reginae, Aloe spp., Anacampseros spp., Aquilaria spp., Avonia spp., Beccariophoenix, Bowenia spp., Caryocar costaricense, Cibotium barometz, Cistanche deserticola, Cyathea spp.,

Amendment of the annotations to these taxa to read as follows:

– For Adonis vernalis, Guaiacum spp., Nardostachys grandiflora, Picrorhiza kurrooa, Podophyllum hexandrum, Rauvolfia serpentina, Taxus chinensis, T. fuana, T. cuspidata, T. sumatrana and T. wallichiana:

"Designates all parts and derivatives except:

a) seeds and pollen; and

b) finished products packaged and ready for retail trade."

– For Hydrastis canadensis:

"Designates underground parts (i.e. roots, rhizomes): whole, parts and powdered."

– For Panax ginseng and P. quinquefolius:

"Designates whole and sliced roots and parts of roots."

– For Pterocarpus santalinus:

"Designates logs, wood-chips, powder and extracts."

– For Orchidaceae spp. in Appendix II and all Appendix-II taxa (*Agave victoriae-reginae, Aloe spp., Anacampseros spp., Aquilaria spp., Avonia spp., Beccariophoenix madagascariensis, Bowenia spp., Caryocar costaricense, Cibotium barometz, Cistanche deserticola, Cyathea spp., Cycadaceae spp., Cyclamen spp., Dicksonia spp., Didiereaceae spp., Dionaea muscipula, Dioscorea deltoidea, Euphorbia spp., Fouquieria columnaris, Galanthus spp., Gonystylus spp., Gyrinops spp., Hedychium philippinense, Lewisia serrata, Neodypsis decaryi, Nepenthes spp., Oreomunnea pterocarpa, Orothamnus zeyheri, Pachypodium spp., Platymiscium pleiostachyum, Protea odorata, Prunus africana, Sarracenia spp., Shortia galacifolia, Sternbergia spp., Swietenia humilis, Tillandsia harrisii, T. kammii, T. kautskyi, T. mauryana, T. sprengeliana, T. sucrei, T. xerographica, Welwitschia mirabilis,*

Zamiaceae spp.) and Appendix-III taxa (Gnetum montanum, Magnolia liliifera var. obovata, Meconopsis regia, Podocarpus neriifolius, Tetracentron sinense) annotated with #1:

"Designates all parts and derivatives, except:

a) seeds, spores and pollen (including pollinia);

b) seedling or tissue cultures obtained in vitro, in solid or liquid media, transported in sterile containers;

c) cut flowers of artificially propagated plants; and

d) fruits and parts and derivatives thereof of artificially propagated plants of the genus Vanilla."

DCSP view: Support

If approved, this seemingly confusing Proposal actually makes work far easier for the enforcing authorities as it reduces the amount of annotations, making them more comprehensible.

1. The annotation for Adonis vernalis to T. wallichiana is sufficient and commendably simplified.
2. The annotation for Hydrastis canadensis defines precisely what is traded.
3. The annotation for Panax ginseng and P. quinquefolius is now equally precise.
4. The annotation for Pterocarpus santalinus is now equally precise.
5. The annotation for Orchidaceae spp. to Tetracentron sinense, previously with #1, specifies clearly the trade exceptions and facilitates enforcement.

DIAPENSIACEAE

Proposal 14.28 by the United State of America

Shortia galacifolia

Oconee bells

Shortia galacifolia
Shortie
oconee bells

Deletion from Appendix II

DCSP view: Support

The species has been listed in Appendix II since 1983. The small natural distribution area is in North America in the Appalachian Mountains. A large portion of the population was destroyed by construction of a hydropower station in the 1960s. However, the population has meanwhile recovered and there is no national or international trade in wild plants. The demand among nurseries is easily supplied by means of artificial cultivation. What is more, the plant is strictly protected in the states of Georgia and North Carolina and the populations are monitored.

Deletion from Appendix II of CITES is justified.

EUPHORBIACEAE

Proposal 14.29 by Switzerland

Euphorbia spp. in Appendix II

Amendment of the annotation to Euphorbia spp. included in Appendix II to read as follows:

"Succulent, non pencil-stemmed, non-coralliform, non-candelabriform species only, with shapes and dimensions as indicated, except the species included in Appendix I:

a) pencil-stemmed succulent Euphorbia spp.: whole plants with spineless, erect stems of up to 1 cm diameter and a length of more than 25 cm, unbranched or predominantly branching from near the base, leafless or with small leaves;

b) coralliform succulent Euphorbia spp.: whole plants with spineless, multiply branched, occasionally sharply pointed stems with a diameter of up to 3 cm and more than 50 cm length, leafless or with unconspicuous or ephemeral leaves; and

c) candelabriform succulent Euphorbia spp.: whole plants with angled or winged stems and paired spines, confined to the edges, at least 3 cm diameter and more than 50 cm length, unbranched or branching."

DCSP view: Withdraw

Of the approx. 900 succulent Euphorbia, 328 species are currently traded. The idea behind this Proposal is that a vast majority of species totally unaffected by trade are unnecessarily covered by the listing. Of the 328 species in trade, the majority is not endangered either. Although this Proposal should be welcomed in terms of the idea, it must be said that the Proposal should be rejected for two reasons:

1. Such wording is asking too much of the enforcing authorities, and will not mean much even to the scientific authority in this imprecise and rather vague form.
2. There would have to be an accompanying checklist listing all succulents to be protected in Appendix II.

LEUMINOSAE

Proposal 14.30 by Brazil

Caesalpinia echinata

Brazil wood

Inclusion in Appendix II, including all parts and derivates

DCSP view: Support

Brazil wood gave its name to the country as the national tree. Its range is limited to the Atlantic coastal forests. As a result of exploitation of the tree, these unique dry forests were depleted unchecked since the 16th century, with the effect that 93% of the stock is now destroyed. The severely fragmented range of Brazil wood is now restricted to a little more than 100km² in south-east Brazil.

While the timber was originally used for more purposes, including as exotic timber and for dye production, the it is used only for building musical instrument bows. Although violin bows are mostly made of carbon fibre, professional musicians prefer Brazil wood bows for their acoustic properties. Inexpensive Brazil wood bows are available for as little as € 300. Annual global demand is approx. 200m³ of Brazil wood.

Cultivation of Brazil wood and other protection efforts have been carried out for more than 30 years now, but there is still frequent wild harvesting and illegal trade. In view of the current population development, we can already expect to see Appendix I listing become necessary.

Proposal 14.31 by Germany **on behalf of the European Community**

Member States acting in the interest of the European Community

Dalbergia retusa and *Dalbergia granadillo*

Cocobolo and granadillo

Inclusion in Appendix II

DCSP view: Support

Both trees are found from Mexico to Panama. Primarily, this Proposal is concerned with Dalbergia retusa, that is severely threatened by deforestation and already extinct in some parts of its range. Cocobolo is used as carving wood for tourist souvenirs in the range states. But the wood is also used as attractive exotic timber in North America and in musical instrument building. There is plantation cultivation in practically all range states. However, up to 100-year-old trees are still harvested from the wild, chiefly by private and not state-owned forest areas. The tree is very slow-growing but cultivation would still pay off thanks to the great value of the timber. There are national protection efforts and it would be important to direct trade interest to sustainably cultivated Cocobolo by listing it in Appendix II. Dalbergia granadillo can only be distinguished from Dalbergia retusa by means of DNA analysis, so both species should be listed in Appendix II in view of the look-alike problem.

Proposal 14.32 by Germany **on behalf of the European Community Member States acting in the interest of the European Community**

Dalbergia stevensonii

Honduras rosewood

Inclusion Appendix II

DCSP view: Support

Honduras rosewood occurs above all in broadleaf, evergreen swamp forests in Belize and neighbouring regions in Guatemala and Mexico. There is no afforestation or plantation cultivation. In some areas, up to 80% of trees have been cleared. The rare timber is used above all as tonewood for marimba bars in instrument building. The marimba is comparable to a vibraphone or xylophone, although it does not have any metal parts and a wider range.

It is to be feared that the tree will soon be on the verge of extinction if no trade controls are implemented in the form of Appendix II listing in the spirit of prevention.

MELIACEAE

Proposal 14.33 by Germany **on behalf of the European Community**
Member States acting in the interest of the European Community

Cedrela spp.

West Indian cedar

Inclusion in Appendix II

DCSP view: Support

Cedrela odorata has been added to CITES Appendix III by Peru and Colombia. This cigar box wood is is great demand around the world because of its resistance to decay and insects, with demand constantly increasing. However, this high-quality wood is becoming increasingly scarce, on the one hand due to heavy deforestation of the range forests and on the other hand due to excessive wild harvesting. The species is thus already very rare in many range states of Central and South America. This popular tree has also been accidentally introduced into several countries in Africa, Asia, Oceania and Australia and is cultivated on plantations. It is not possible to distinguish plantation-grown or wild timber. Protection in the form of a CITES Appendix II listing is required to prevent further over-exploitation. Illegal trade in this species is vast, but 90% of all Peruvian Cedrela odorata is illegally harvested from the wild. In Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala, the situation is similarly totally out of control. Often, such trees are also felled in NAtional Parks. All other Cedrela species must also be protected in view of the great look-alike problem in accordance with Article II, 2(b) of the Convention.

ORCHIDEACEAE

Proposal 14.34 by Switzerland

Orchidaceae spp. in Appendix II

Amendment of the annotation to Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II to read as follows:

"Artificially propagated hybrids of the following genera are not subject to the provisions of the Convention, if conditions, as indicated in paragraphs a) and b) below, are met: Cymbidium, Dendrobium, Miltonia, Odontoglossum, Oncidium, Phalaenopsis and Vanda:

a) Specimens are readily recognizable as artificially propagated and do not show any signs of having been collected in the wild such as mechanical damage or strong dehydration resulting from collection, irregular growth and heterogeneous size and shape within a taxon and shipment, algae or other epiphyllous organisms adhering to leaves, or damage by insects or other pest; and

b) i) when shipped in non flowering state, the specimens must be traded in shipments consisting of individual containers (such as cartons, boxes, crates or individual shelves of CC-containers) each containing 20 or more plants of the same hybrid; the plants within each container must exhibit a high degree of uniformity and healthiness; and the shipment must be accompanied by documentation, such as an invoice, which clearly states the number of plants of each hybrid; or

ii) when shipped in flowering state, with at least one fully open flower per specimen, no minimum number of specimens per shipment is required but specimens must be professionally processed for commercial retail sale, e.g. labelled with printed labels or packaged with printed packages indicating the name of the hybrid and the country of final processing. This should be clearly visible and allow easy verification.

Plants not clearly qualifying for the exemption must be accompanied by appropriate CITES documents."

DCSP view: Support

The species listed above are offered for sale as hybrids in huge numbers all over the world, very often as intergeneric hybrids or multigeneric hybrids. These hybrids are easily distinguishable by scientific authorities, there are no look-alike problems. Hybrids cannot be the object of the Convention.

a. This wording says everything
b. (i) this wording also says everything

   (ii) ditto. One positive aspect here is that the tourists would no longer be discriminated compared to trade. Any person can now carry a single hybrid meeting the above criteria over the border without the need for CITES documents.

A long overdue proposal that should definitely be approved. Particularly in this respect, CITES was already ridiculous and totally unrealistic. The above hybrids are sold by every DIY market and any upmarket food store, but previously required CITES export documents to transport them from one country to another - within the EU even additionally CITES import documents. It can only be hoped that this counterproductive nonsense is now put to an end.

Proposal 14.35 by Switzerland

as Depositary Government, at the request of the Plants Committee

Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II

Amendment of the annotation to Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II to read as follows:

"Artificially propagated hybrids of the following genera are not subject to the provisions of the Convention, if conditions, as indicated under a) and b), are met: Cymbidium, Dendrobium, Phalaenopsis and Vanda:

a) Specimens are readily recognizable as artificially propagated and do not show any signs of having been collected in the wild such as mechanical damage or strong dehydration resulting from collection, irregular growth and heterogeneous size and shape within a taxon and shipment, algae or other epiphyllous organisms adhering to leaves, or damage by insects or other pest; and

b) i) when shipped in non flowering state, the specimens must be traded in shipments consisting of individual containers (such as cartons, boxes, crates or individual shelves of CC-containers) each containing 20 or more plants of the same hybrid; the plants within each container must exhibit a high degree of uniformity and healthiness; and the shipment must be accompanied by documentation, such as an invoice, which clearly states the number of plants of each hybrid; or

ii) when shipped in flowering state, with at least one fully open flower per specimen, no minimum number of specimens per shipment is required but specimens must be professionally processed for commercial retail sale, e.g. labelled with printed labels or packaged with printed packages indicating the name of the hybrid and the country of final processing. This should be clearly visible and allow easy verification.

Plants not clearly qualifying for the exemption must be accompanied by appropriate CITES documents."

DCSP view: Support

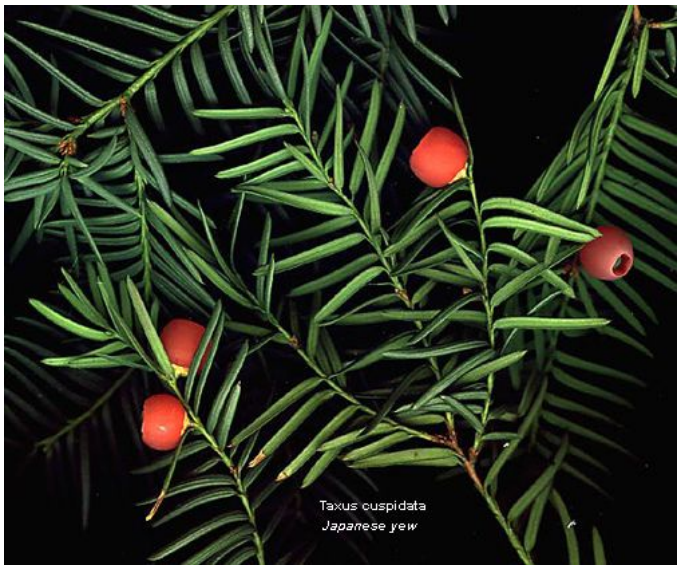
The only difference between this Proposal and Proposal 14.34 by Switzerland is that the genera Miltonia, Odontoglossum and Oncidium are missing. If the higher-level proposal by Switzerland does not receive the necessary approval, then at least this Proposal should be approved. In all other respects, see the comments regarding Proposal 14.34.

TAXACEAE

Proposal 14.36 by the United States of America

Taxus cuspidata

Japanese yew



Amendment of the listing in Appendix II by:

1. Deleting the phrase "and infraspecific taxa of this species"; and

2. Annotating to read as follows:

"Specimens of hybrids and cultivars are not subject to the provisions of the Convention."

DCSP view: Support

Many hybrids are made of Taxus cuspidata, the species is also mass-reproduced from vegetative cuttings. The pharmaceutical industry uses this plant to extract chemical derivates, particularly for production of psychopharmaceuticals. Taxus cuspidata is also in demand in the homeopathic industry. Because hybrid plants and artificially reproduced plants are not harvested from the wild, they cannot be the object of the Convention.

Proposal 14.37 by Switzerland

as Depositary Government, at the request of the Standing Committee

Taxus chinensis, T. cuspidata, T. fuana and T. sumatrana

A. Deletion of the annotation to Taxus chinensis, Taxus fuana and Taxus sumatrana in Appendix II that reads:

"Whole artificially propagated plants in pots or other small containers, each consignment being accompanied by a label or document stating the name of the taxon or taxa and the text ‘artificially propagated’, are not subject to the provisions of the Convention"; and

B. Amendment of the annotation to Taxus cuspidata to read:

"Artificially propagated hybrids and cultivars of Taxus cuspidata in pots or other small containers, each consignment being accompanied by a label or document stating the name of the taxon or taxa and the text ‘artificially propagated’, are not subject to the provisions of the Convention."

DCSP view: Support

If Proposal 14.36 is approved, this Proposal must also logically be approved.

DCSP WISHES ALL PARTICIPANTS EVERY SUCCESS AT THE CONFERENCE!