



## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2016/035

Geneva, 1 April 2016

CONCERNING:

A call for additional members for the intersessional working group  
of the Plants Committee on Annotations for Appendix-II orchids:  
Exemption of finished products of orchids from CITES provisions

1. The Plants Committee at its 22nd meeting (Tbilisi, October 2015) established an intersessional working group on Annotations for Appendix-II orchids: exemption of finished products of orchids from CITES provisions, comprising Parties and non-governmental observers present at that meeting. Its membership was preliminary.
2. The preliminary membership and terms of reference of the working group, as agreed by the Plants Committee, are provided in the Annex to this Notification.
3. As requested by the Plants Committee, this Notification:
  - a) seeks additional expressions of interest from Parties to participate in the intersessional working group, encouraging a wide representation from range States as well as from importing, exporting and re-exporting countries; and
  - b) asks Parties to communicate with relevant non-governmental organizations and industries to identify additional working group members from these stakeholders. Parties are requested to communicate the names and contact information of these additional members (additional Parties, NGOs, orchid conservation researchers, researchers groups and industry) to the working group Co-Chairs, Adrienne Sinclair ([adrienne.sinclair@canada.ca](mailto:adrienne.sinclair@canada.ca)) and Ursula Moser ([Ursula.Moser@blv.admin.ch](mailto:Ursula.Moser@blv.admin.ch)).
4. Parties are kindly requested to provide information to the Co-Chairs by **1 May 2016**.

**Intersessional working group of the Plants Committee on  
Annotations for Appendix-II orchids: exemption of finished products  
of orchids from CITES provisions**

Membership

Preliminary membership of the intersessional working group:

Chair: Representative of North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) and Switzerland (Ms. Moser);

PC Members: Representative of Asia (Ms. Zhou);

Parties: Canada, China, Czech Republic, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: ITC, UNCTAD, UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, FTS Botanics, Species Survival Network, and TRAFFIC.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference of the intersessional working group are as follows:

- a) The intersessional working group will develop a questionnaire taking into consideration previous discussions and work on this topic; to seek information on the trade in orchid parts and derivatives (wild and artificially propagated) in consideration of the potential conservation impact of exempting orchid products from CITES controls.
- b) The questionnaire will ask Parties to provide available information on: the trade in orchid products from source to final product, including the identification of the major industry sectors involved in the trade; how NDFs are made; traceability along the trade chain; and trade reporting. It will also request information on orchid parts and derivatives used in products, sectors involved (cosmetics, nutritional supplements, traditional medicine, foodstuffs –in particular flours-etc.), and conservation concerns for wild populations.
- c) The questionnaire will be transmitted to the Parties via a Notification and emphasize the importance of responses from range States, with a sufficient deadline for responding.
- d) Subject to the availability of funding, the intersessional working group may also consider actions to enable a full analysis of the potential conservation impact of orchid exemptions. These may include developing case studies on key orchid species identified in trade as finished products, including the 39 species identified in the Annex of document PC22 Doc. 22.1, as well as the two cases of orchid foodstuffs outlined in PC22 Inf. 6, a workshop(s), or a study on trade data sources.
- e) Based on the information obtained from the Notification, as well as other information from the potential actions identified above, and other appropriate sources, the intersessional working group will analyse the risk of trade in orchid products to conservation and provide its conclusions about such risk.
- f) The working group will also consider and highlight the knowledge gaps of the orchid species in trade. Consider identification, nomenclature and distributional information gaps where these are found to exist, and highlight these to the wider orchid research community and traders. During trade events and forthcoming international meetings and workshops (e.g. the international orchid conservation congress IOCC6-Hong Kong May 16-20, 2016).

- g) The working group will conduct its work via electronic means.
- h) At its 17th meeting, the Conference of the Parties shall review the outcomes of the work undertaken by the working group, and evaluate the need for continuing such a working group. If maintained, the working group will report its findings to the 23rd and 24th meetings of the Plants Committee (PC23 and PC24) as appropriate, with the request that PC23 and PC24 report to the Standing Committee for its consideration, and to inform the Standing Committee working group on annotations.