

# Cites, Traffic, USFW — Are You Caught in the Alphabet Soup?

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In our June, 1987 issue of CPN, we published proposed pages for a CITES inspection manual that covered some *Sarracenias*, and on P. 42 we also mentioned in a single sentence that USFW was considering placing all *Sarracenias* on Appendix II of CITES.

Well, what does that all mean? In this very brief article, I hope to succinctly review what all those initials are about and where we seem to stand with some CP. Some of this may seem hard to follow on first scan since several of the agencies seem to be in a race with one another and yet appear to be cooperating in other aspects. And then you will see that some things can go one way, but not another, and on and on.

**THE PLAYERS**—On the assumption that one must be somewhat conversant in the tongue of all that is going on, here is the list of organizations and their initials—We will see what they do later on:

**CITES**—Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

**WWF**—World Wildlife Fund.

**TRAFFIC**—Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna In Commerce.

**IUCNNR**—International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

**USFW or FWS**—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish and Wildlife Service. (FWS seems preferred by the folks in Washington.)

**ESA**—Endangered Species Act, passed by US Congress.

The key letters of the names of the organizations that go to make up the abbreviations, sometimes pronounceable acronyms, are in bold type.

**THE SCENARIO**—For all practical purposes as far as positive achievements go, it all started with the IUCNNR which had its main impetus in Europe and which may still be active although I rarely see it mentioned except in some books of European origin (most recently in 1984, Briggs and Walters, *Plant Variation and Evolution* out of Cambridge). However, a low key but well-endowed conservation organization, the WWF—Usually appended with the country's chapter, such as WWF-U.S.—established TRAFFIC (Also often appended, eg TRAFFIC (U.S.A.) to cooperate with the IUCNNR to monitor commercial trade in threatened or endangered species. Since then, CITES was established and TRAFFIC and the WWF efforts seem most directed to it. Meanwhile, and parallel at least partially with all this, the United States Congress passed the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The former organizations worked mostly with international trade, while the latter Act was mainly domestic and perhaps more broad in outlook in that the intent was to establish any degree of danger to a species and encourage its conservation by direct methods if possible as well as trade regulation interstate.

So, in essence today, we have CITES with help from WWF and its TRAFFIC program on the international scene, and the US Threatened and Endangered Species Act on the domestic scene. The latter is administered under the auspices of the FWS, which in turn is under the Department of the Interior. Now, FWS provides considerable interaction and cooperation with CITES, but the inspection process at US ports of entry is under control of the Department of Agriculture! So far, all is familiar in Washington.



CITES is kind of a biological United Nations — There are approximately 87 countries cooperating with the Convention and it has a ruling Secretariat. At called Convention meetings, decisions are made to place plants in one of several categories. These are called Appendices, Appendix I being those plants now considered threatened with extinction if unlimited trade is allowed, and Appendix II being those plants not now necessarily threatened but which could become so. Essentially, to engage in **international** (note emphasis) trade in these listed species, one must include with the recipient nation's required sanitation certificate and any import permit, a special permit by the exporting government authority that trade of that shipment of plants will not threaten wild populations. The hope is that this would most commonly be due to their having been propagated or collected from developing areas under monitoring and permits.

Presently, three US CP are on the list, all Appendix I: *S. oreophila*, *S. alabamensis* ssp. *alabamensis* and *S. jonesii* (The latter two also known as *S. rubra* ssp. *alabamensis* and *S. rubra* ssp. *jonesii* respectively). Other CP around the world include *Cephalotus*, *Nepenthes rajah*, and a few other *Nepenthes* spp. On Jan. 12, 1987, I received a letter from FWS stating that TRAFFIC (No longer just a monitoring service of WWF, apparently!) had recommended placing "...most species and natural hybrids of *Sarracenia*..." in Appendix II (not I), and requested comments, the letter signed by Charles W. Dane, Chief, Office of Scientific Authority. To date, this is still a proposal being discussed, and if accepted, they must decide which species and hybrids be placed on Appendix II. One other note from the CITES scene—I received a letter dated 19 June 1987 from FWS along with a memo describing a loophole in the CITES rules (Ah, politics!) allowing a commercial shipper to obtain only one permit for a particular species under CITES to be shipped to anyone and to make useable copies rather than having to obtain separate permits for each shipment, thus alleviating some stress for commercial dealers.

In the US and **interstate** (note emphasis) control, the Act has had its ups and downs, sometimes moving with alacrity, at others with a yawn. The problems are several. The T & E Species Office of FWS must first scrap for funding from Congress each session or even each year. This has varied considerably. Secondly, with limited scientific staff and an understandably conservative approach, the Office must first prove a species threatened and/or endangered by the numbers, then propose it in the Congressional Record, and from there—Ah, politics! So far, *S. oreophila* among our CP has been the only one to make it although various *Sarracenia*s are being studied. Still, many other non-CP species in dire straits have been successfully proposed, and the Office is to be given credit.

What this boils down to, as of this moment at writing, is that considering local and/or State conservation, theft and trespass laws, you may not ship *S. oreophila* interstate or internationally without a special permit. However, you may ship the two *S. rubra*s interstate, but not internationally without the CITES approved permit. The same goes for CP spp. of other nations in turn. By the way, the Convention and Act also pertains to plant parts, such as leaves, rhizomes, seed, etc.

What follows is personal comment—I hope this clarifies the issue to some degree for you. I have used a minimum of dates and abbreviated history somewhat so it could be followed. As of this writing (July, 1987), the above seem to be the facts, but the CITES/TRAFFIC action on "most" *Sarracenia*s and their hybrids is being considered and may be passed as you read this. The T&E Office may have achieved more success. My personal opinion is that both the US national and CITES/TRAFFIC international efforts are commendable and should be seriously considered by all sensitive CP enthusiasts. But, I do wish all organizations concerned would get their act together into a somewhat more unified effort that would provide clarity of intent and action. For instance, are these "most" *Sarracenia*s and hybrids truly fitted for Appendix II, or is it simply a matter of making it easier on ports of entry inspectors? The latter should not be too readily denied since this was the purpose of placing the entire family *Orchidaceae* on the CITES list several years ago, and world renowned



orchid authorities howled and rightfully are still howling. As we (humanity collectively) destroy an area of tropical forest daily equal to a small State, orchids and bromeliads and other desirable plants dry in the sun and die rather than be exported to growers in other countries.

A second request and wish I have is that somehow an effort be made to eliminate politics and power-plays for funding and a key place in the control circus. To deny that these problems exist is futile—All of us CPN'ers around the world know that when a government bureaucracy or any large organization of even a private nature come into the picture, power politics and competition for limited funding inevitably come up. I think the plants, the various scientists and officials of these organizations, and us, would all be better served by a more open and concerted effort in practice, not just in word.

If nothing else now, I can expect a flood of indignant letters, brochures, pamphlets, etc. from officials of these various organizations—And that is to the good! The more information of a certain nature we can get, or total "information" to weed through and look for truth, the better they and we will be served. I will share it with you. By the way, for the record, I have approached at least two dozen officials in all these organizations for CPN articles. All I received were "somedays" and "Too busy right now" or no comment at all, thus passing up an important CP information outlet—CPN—to get their point across. That is not good PR, ladies and gentlemen!

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## **Changes in Regulations Effecting International Trade in Carnivorous Plants**

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Far reaching changes in the international laws governing world trade in carnivorous plants became effective worldwide on the 22 October 1987. These changes follow a recent meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora held in Ottawa, Canada during July 1987. CITES is concerned with the conservation of wildlife and is best known for effectively banning international trade in leopard skins, ivory and crocodile products. However CITES also concerns plants, especially orchids, cacti, other succulents and many carnivorous plants. The most endangered species are listed on Appendix I and world trade in wild collected plants and their derivatives on this list is totally prohibited. Those species considered threatened but not in immediate danger of extinction are listed on Appendix II. Species on this list may be traded but only if accompanied by the appropriate documents. The standard CITES licence which is issued by all member states party to the Convention requires information on the numbers and names of species requested, whether the plants are wild or artificially propagated and the intended use by the importer or exporter. Use categories include trade, personal, scientific or educational purposes.

All licences are issued by Management Authorities in the countries of origin and a selected list of these is given in Table 1. Under the CITES Convention many member states also appoint Scientific Authorities who give further advice to the Management Authorities on the biology of the species on the Appendices. In the United Kingdom the Scientific Authority for plants is the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. CITES is enforced in the UK by



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