

State of the World's Plants 2017

Plant Conservation Policies and International Trade

Plant conservation policies and International Trade

In this section we considered which plants appear to be threatened as a result of unsustainable or illegal trade. Using data from Heathrow confiscations and the recent literature we highlight the illegal trade in orchids as a focus for concern.

Headline metric

The figure of 31,517 is based mainly on the figure of 26,567 for Orchidaceae reported in the world checklist of selected plant families <http://apps.kew.org/wcsp/incfamilies.do>. A CITES source summary table is available on the CITES website: <https://www.cites.org/eng/disc/species.php>. The numbers of species on the CITES appendices are also constantly revised as new species are listed, others delisted or moved from one appendices to the other as information becomes available these are they are all then formally listed on the appendices at a conference of parties, all new orchids species are automatically included in the CITES Appendices. Other references for the number of orchid species there are Givnish, T. J., et al. (2015). Orchid phylogenomics and multiple drivers of their extraordinary diversification. *Proc. Biol. Sci.* 282 (1814). doi: 10.1098/rspb.2015.1553 and emonocot.org.

How countries implement the CITES convention and how to find out what's listed on CITES

Each country implements CITES in its own way under National laws for example in the US it's the Lacey Act. In 2008 The Lacey Act and the 2008 Farm Bill expanded protection to a broader range of plants and plant products not just

CITES species. Also within the EU, each member state. In the European Union the CITES Appendices are replaced by Annexes A, B, C and D. Commission Regulation 2017/160, which came into effect on 20th January 2017 and provides a complete list of species controlled by CITES under the EU regulations. You can find out if a species is controlled under CITES by visiting the [UNEP-WCMC website species+](#). Guideline for how countries develop and implement CITES legislation can be found on https://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Legislation/guidelines_legislation.pdf

Plants confiscated at Heathrow (Report Figure 3, page 85)

To take a snapshot view of illegal trade in plants in the UK we reviewed data on plant seizures from Heathrow Airport during 2016. Data were sourced and collected by Guy Clarke OBE from the CITES team, BorderForce Heathrow.

Useful Links:

CITES – Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Geneva: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) CITES Website:

<https://www.cites.org/>

CITES publications: <https://www.cites.org/eng/resources/publications.php>

TRAFFIC Wildlife Trade: <http://www.traffic.org/trade/>

UNEP-WCMC Species + website: <http://www.speciesplus.net/>

CITES Resources and Data at Kew: <http://www.kew.org/science/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/policy-work/cites/cites-resources>

For supplementary information for this chapter please contact sotwp@kew.org