

**TRAFFIC Recommendations on the Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices at CoP15**

	<b>Species</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
31	ORCHIDACEAE s pp. included in Appendix I	<p>CoP15 Prop. 31 [United States of America] Amend the annotation to the listing of Orchidaceae included in Appendix I, as follows: Delete the current annotation, which states: <i>For all of the following Appendix-I species, seedling or tissue cultures obtained in vitro, in solid or liquid media, transported in sterile containers are not subject to the provisions of the Convention.</i></p> <p>Replace with the following new annotation:                      "For all of the following Appendix-I species, seedling or tissue cultures obtained <i>in vitro</i>, in solid or liquid media, and transported in sterile containers are not subject to the provisions of the Convention only if the specimens meet the definition of 'artificially propagated' agreed by the Conference of the Parties".</p> <p>The intent of this proposal is to clarify that plant material propagated <i>in vitro</i> and transported in sterile containers must comply with the definition of artificially propagated (<i>Resolution Conf. 11.11 Rev. CoP14</i>) if it is to qualify for exemption from CITES provisions in terms of various species annotations. Although this clarification is consistent with the aforementioned Resolution, it should be recognized that it may not be possible under all circumstances to ensure that <i>in vitro</i> material meets this definition. A flasks specimen is distinguishable from any other kind of specimen and is clearly not a wild-collected species, but assessing whether such specimens meet the definition of 'artificially propagated' as set out in the aforementioned Resolution is not straightforward and cannot be done merely by inspecting a specimen or shipment. Strict implementation may therefore be an enforcement challenge. However, it is advisable for the sake of consistency and clarity that this proposal be adopted.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>