

IX. CONSERVATION

(Edited by H.P. Nooteboom; continued from page 27)

The West German government has banned the import of all pitcher plants, *Nepenthes* spp., from wild populations as of 1 January 1987, except when they are for scientific research, and if the species is not rare. *Nepenthes rajah*, only known from the Kinabalu, is specifically mentioned, but as custom officers cannot be expected to distinguish it from other species, all have been banned. May other countries follow soon!

KHAN, M.K.b.M. 1988. *Animal conservation strategies*. In: Earl of Cranbrook (ed.), Malaysia (Key environments): 251-272, 5 fig., 2 tab., 2 app. — See Reviews and Bibliography.

CITES. The still increasing high exploitation levels and volumes of international trade in wild animals and plants, this in addition to the increasing loss of suitable habitats, may reduce populations of individual species to such a level that they risk to become extinct.

Many of the interesting species of orchids and cacti are, in part, safeguarded in National Parks and Nature Reserves. However, unscrupulous traders do not hesitate to smuggle these out of their sanctuaries and trade them on the European and American markets for high prices.

It is obvious that it is physically impossible for any country to control the taking and exporting of every animal and plant, irrespective of the quality of its wildlife regulations.

In 1972 21 parties signed the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of flora and fauna (CITES), which entered into force after the tenth ratification in July 1975. Now 102 nations are party to CITES.

CITES forms the legal international network for the control of the trade in endangered species and for an effective regulation of the trade in other, less endangered ones. The control system is based on export inspection by the producing (exporting) country and import inspection by the consuming (importing) country.

There are different degrees of regulation, based on the listing of species in any of three Appendices.

Appendix I includes those species that are threatened with extinction and for which trade must be subject to particularly strict regulations and is only authorized in exceptional circumstances.

Appendix II species are not necessarily now threatened with extinction, but may become so, unless trade is strictly regulated. This appendix also contains the so-called look-alike species, which must be controlled because of their similarity to more endangered species. Commonly traded plants such as orchids, cacti, and carnivorous plants are listed here.

Species in these two Appendices are regulated by all parties. Changes are made with majority decisions during the biannual Convention of Parties.

Appendix III includes species that are subject to regulation within a particular country and for which the cooperation of other parties is requested.

The Convention further provides a number of conditional exemptions. Among these are artificially propagated plants. For these, trade regulations are more lenient and inspection is only needed when it is suspected that wild plants are traded falsely documented as artificially propagated.

This is only a brief summary of the mechanisms of CITES. A detailed outline can be found in WUNSTEKERS, W. (1988), *The Evolution of CITES, a reference to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild flora and fauna*. 277 pp. CITES Secretariat, 6 Rue de Maupas, Lausanne, Switzerland.

Illegal trade in rare, valuable plant species, particularly orchids and cacti, still continues, as will be clear from the article below on the recent conviction in the U.K. of an orchid smuggler. CITES is one of the tools in the protection of flora (and fauna) which still remains us. See also VLIET, G.J.C.M. VAN (in press), *CITES, plant trade and botanic gardens*. 2nd International Botanic Gardens Congress, Réunion. — G.J.C.M. VAN VLIET.

Conservation of *Rafflesia* in Sabah. Dr. ISMAEL (UKMS) reports in *Trends in Ecology & Evolution* 3 (1988) 316–317, that in early 1988 a state-level Committee was set up to look into the conservation. It is composed of representatives of various government agencies, universities, and NGO's. The Committee will be responsible for:

- identification of priority areas for *Rafflesia* conservation (due to earnest searching 11 new localities have turned up),
- stimulating action to gazette these identified areas as *Rafflesia* sanctuaries,
- raising public consciousness on *Rafflesia* conservation,
- proposing ways to overcome apathy or resistance to conservation actions.

ISMAEL points out that the Committee will run into some problems, as there is the generally held belief among policy makers that conservation is an obstacle to development, and at the government level issues are not being dealt with as a matter of policy.

More power to the Committee!

More on *Rafflesia*. According to the Daily Express (12 April 1988) new moves are afoot to protect *Rafflesia*. Discussions with the Sabah Foundation have begun by the UKMS to create Sanctuaries at known sites, and to relocate specimens to more accessible places.

On the same page an article describes how the type locality in the Trusmadi Range of *Rafflesia tengku-adlinii*, discovered in December 1987, was destroyed by logging activities. Fortunately another locality has been discovered, otherwise the species would have become extinct before it was even described (cf. SALLEH & LATIFF, 1989)! This is merely an example of the fate that will befall so many others we won't ever know about at all with the ongoing destruction of the tropical rain forests.

Conviction for orchid smuggling. British newspapers and television gave a considerable amount of coverage to the conviction at the Old Bailey of a Mr. HENRY AZADEHDEL, Nottingham, U.K., on 6 June 1989 for smuggling orchids, mainly *Paphiopedilums*, from South-east Asia and South America. He imported the plants in violation of the U.K. national legislation designed to implement the regulations of CITES (see article above). He got a 12-months jail sentence (unfortunately 8 suspended) and £ 20,000.00 in fines and costs (plus another £ 200.00 for an undeclared leopard skin and jewelry). The conviction, the first of its kind in Britain, was hailed as a breakthrough for nature conservation. In less than 3 years he had made more than £ 250,000.00 from his illegal dealings, so the fine is less than 10%, which he may well regard as acceptable overhead costs for his business. The maximum sentence in Great Britain is 2 years in prison, or an unspecified fine, or both, so he came off lightly. Hopefully a precedent has now been set. AZADEHDEL said

FLORA MALESIANA

ISSUED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE RIJKSHERBARIUM, LEYDEN, HOLLAND AND THE KEBUN RAYA INDONESIA
(BOTANIC GARDENS OF INDONESIA), BOGOR, JAVA, SPONSORED BY THE FOUNDATION FLORA MALESIANA

Leiden, 26 January 1990

Dear Sir / Madam,

In the Flora Malesiana Bulletin Vol. 10 on pages 70 and 128 it has been stated that Dr. G.J. Braem would have been 'convicted' for orchid smuggling in The Netherlands. As it turns out, this has not been the case, and an apology is in order.

Fact is, that Dr. Braem tried to import wild orchids without the proper papers. The subsequent verdict of 10 March 1986 by the Circuit Court in Haarlem, The Netherlands, literally translated reads: 'Guilty without application of punishment. Removal from the state of seizure.', i.e. this is not a conviction in the legal sense of the word, but a sentence; the plants were confiscated and ordered to be sold.

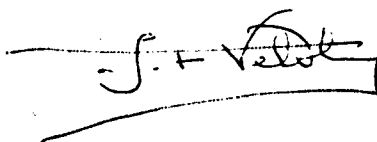
Dr. Braem informed us that the claim 'that the German authorities are taken a closer look at' him 'cannot be kept upright any more'.

It is therefore obvious that we must apologize to Dr. Braem for these unintentional errors and have to regret any inconvenience he may have suffered therefrom. From this event Dr. Braem's personal or scientific integrity should not be doubted.

As the Flora Malesiana Bulletin will probably not appear before next summer, and as we wanted to clear up this matter as soon as possible, it seemed most expedient to notify you of this correction in this way.

Please insert this letter with p. 128 of the Flora Malesiana Bulletin 10/2.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J.F. Veldkamp', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large 'J' and a prominent 'V'.

(Dr. J.F. Veldkamp)
Editor Flora Malesiana Bulletin

that he will give up the hobby he had indulged in since the age of 7, and that he cannot stand the sight of an orchid anymore. We will see.

AZADEHDEL had surreptitiously tried to obtain precise information where to collect his material through conversations with the staff in Kew. The latter became suspicious and alarmed the authorities. After a first control when AZADEHDEL entered the U.K. and was caught carrying wild orchids without a permit, the custom officers raided his house where they found hundreds of species worth another £ 42,000.00. Under the law the plants were confiscated and have found a shelter in the Kew Gardens. It has been suggested that they would be replanted in their country of origin, but this sadly seems a venture with little future, for once the localities of such rare species are known, viz. the Paph mentioned below, others will soon be at them again. For the latest developments, see page 134.

Investigation procedures are also underway in Germany against a Mr. NEBOYSCHA POPOW, Wolfsburg, caught in a similar act involving hundreds of thousands of DM. The authorities are also taking a closer look at his associate, Dr. G.J. BRAEM, already convicted before for orchid smuggling in the Netherlands (see Fl. Males. Bull. 10, p. 70). *Paphiopedilum henryanum* from China with a suspicious collecting history was named after AZADEHDEL by BRAEM. AZADEHDEL used this in his defense to show how appreciated he was in scientific circles! Other recent interesting records are *P. sangii* Braem from Celebes, *P. schoseri* Braem from Bacan, and *P. topperi* Braem from 'Kilimantan'.

A Dutchman is suspected of having stolen the last specimens of the magnificent *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum* from the Kinabalu National Park. He rather suddenly left Sabah a day before scheduled, and so was missed by the police, who had set up a trap at the airport to catch him red-handed.

What we can do in prevention? At least to be wary of visitors to our institutes who display an extraordinary interest (financially and/or intellectually) in species of value to collectors, be it orchids, carnivorous plants, succulents, aroids, rhodos, or whatever, and to keep them away from specimens, labels, fieldbooks (and unsuspecting colleagues). We should also refuse to publish articles written about suspicious finds of new taxa, unless the authors can make absolutely clear that they are not involved in any hanky-panky. To evade this censure some have started their own journal (cf. *Schlechteriana*), but we can of course refuse to publish in it, or cite it. It is important to keep vigilance and send any information on illegal trade and activities of smugglers to the national Management Authorities for CITES, or to the plant officer at the CITES Secretariat, 6 Rue de Maupas, Lausanne, Switzerland.

It is to be hoped that similar trials and convictions will produce a deterrent effect, but without setting up such a witch hunt that serious scientific field work and collecting will be affected. We must make it clear to the authorities how to distinguish between the 'good' and the 'bad' guys. One way to do this is to plan and execute collecting trips in a close collaboration with local colleagues, who will know best how to deal with the prevailing situation. — J.F. VELDKAMP.

WWF: small grants for plant conservation on islands. The World Wild Fund for Nature is making available a small number of grants not exceeding Swiss Fr. 5,000 each for work on conservation of island plants and floras. Applications will be considered for: — the rescue of individual threatened endemic plants; these should have some special interest, e.g. be highly endangered, or have economic use (e.g. as medicines), or be of special scientific value. Proposals should include arguments for both *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation;

- sustainable utilization of island endemic plants;
- creation of protected areas for clusters of threatened endemic species and/or unique vegetation types;
- assessment in the field of which species or vegetation types are endangered (only applicable for floras with an important endemic element and where an assessment has not been made recently).

In each case the applicant should show that the project has been accepted by the conservation authorities for the island concerned.

In deciding allocations, WWF will favour applications that:

- will result in long-lasting conservation (e.g. by showing a commitment from conservation authorities to follow up the project after the initial work is done);
- are likely to draw in other, preferably larger, funds for conservation;
- include a component to develop the interest of local people in the conservation of the plant(s) concerned;
- enhance the field conservation experience of the applicant;
- do not include salaries or consultant fees for the applicant.

Applicants should use the standard application form for WWF International projects, which can be obtained from Project Screening Department, WWF International, Avenue du Mont Blanc, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland. Please write at the top Project 3334, Small Grants for Plant Conservation on Islands. Include a copy of your Curriculum Vitae.

If your application is for an island that is part of a country where WWF has a National Organisation, you are advised to check with that before making an application, since the National Organisations, not WWF-International, fund projects in their own countries.

These grants are part of the Joint IUCN-WWF Plant Conservation Programme, which was designed 'to assert the fundamental role of plants in all conservation activities'.

Ten Indonesian (environment) organizations have launched a protest against the issuing of a concession to American-owned Scott Paper. This paper-producing firm wants to start an enormous *Eucalyptus* plantation North of Merauke, Irian Jaya. The total concession area is 790,000 hectare, one and a half times the size of Bali. With the project of Astra Scott Sellulosa, a joint venture of Scott Paper and Astra Group, an amount of US\$ 654 million is involved. The plans foresee a production of 1,000 ton of wood pulp as well as 4,000 ton of wood chips every day. The concession would be given for 30 years. According to TEMPO, an Indonesian weekly, 95% of the pulp would be exported to Korea, Japan, and the U.S.A. The ten protesting organizations argue that the scheme means a disaster for the forests of Irian Jaya and will cause serious social disturbance in the region among the Papuan Auyu tribe. A few years ago the same area has been declared unfit for transmigration by Euroconsult, a Dutch consultancy firm, because of the relatively dense population which is active in cultivation of Sago and tapping of rubber.

CRIBB, R. 1988. *The politics of environmental protection in Indonesia*. Centre of South-east Asian Studies Working Paper 48, Monash University, Clayton (Vict.) 3168, Australia. 35 pp, 2 maps, 2 fig. Au\$ 5.00.

See Reviews for a discussion of this excellent account of the state of affairs. Recommended to all with an interest in the environment and in nature conservation in Indonesia.

The Palawan situation. Palawan, a 400 km long narrow mountain range with few lowland, is one of the last places in the Philippines with virgin forest. The population has been low for a long time, up to 1960 about 160,000 people. But after that time the Government settled the Ibaloi in Palawan, because in their area a dam was built, and many landless rural poor from other islands settled in Palawan in search for a piece of land to cultivate. Their activities resulted in heavy erosion. Also the forests were given out in concession. In North Palawan large areas already have been cut without any reforestation. In the Bacuit Bay logging has lead to pollution of the hitherto crystal-clear sea water, and to heavy damage to the coral reefs and thus to fishery and tourism. Economic analyses tell that, with continuing logging, losses in fishery and tourism will amount to US\$ 40 million over a period of ten years. In twenty years 60% of the forest will be cut, and in 25 years Palawan be devoid of forest if logging is not halted. The original population, a tribe of Bataks, of which only 400 are left, have petitioned the government to stop logging and to declare a tract of rain forest between the Mauyon and Tarabanan rivers as a nature reservation where no other people are allowed to enter but for those that are invited by them. This is one of the examples where the original population is threatened by logging instead of profiting from it.

A strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan has been made, with funds from the European Community. All problems raised by so-called 'development' are discussed and lines are set for a solution. The plan was not based on a sound scientific knowledge of the flora and fauna, and nature conservationists and biologists are not happy with the proposed system of nature conservation areas. Well, biologists will not be disappointed, nothing has happened with the plan. On the base of the old one a new one has been made by Filipinos. There are no signs, however, that the plan will be implemented. Friends of the Earth in Italy, the Philippine Haribon Society, and the Asia-Pacific Peoples Environment Network are collecting a million signatures for a petition to President Aquino to prohibit further logging on Palawan. I fully agree with them and I hope that logging on Palawan will be halted for the benefit of its people.