

Succulents and CITES

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CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora) aims to regulate and monitor the international trade in selected species of plants and animals to ensure that such trade does not endanger the survival of populations in the wild. Up to May 2009, 175 countries signed the Convention. CITES is an international treaty to which only countries may become a Party. Each Party is required to appoint one or more Management Authorities, and at least one Scientific Authority. The Management Authority, always a government department, executes the provisions of the Convention and is responsible for issuing CITES permits. Through this control system all parties assist in maintaining the listed rare and threatened species in the wild. CITES allows trade in wild specimens up to a level that is not detrimental for the survival of the species in the wild, that is, a use of nature commonly referred to as sustainable use. IOS is already co-operating with CITES, namely with the official checklists published by IOS experts. It is the opinion of the author that more co-operation between IOS and CITES authorities could contribute to a better implementation of CITES with regards to succulent plants.