

(2) For an Appendix-II or -III species, the disposal of the specimen in an appropriate manner that benefits enforcement and administration of the Convention.

(d) *Consultation process.* FWS and APHIS may consult with the Management Authority in the country of export or re-export and other relevant governmental and nongovernmental experts before making a decision on the disposal of confiscated live specimens that have been forfeited or abandoned to the FWS, APHIS, or CBP.

§ 23.79 How may I participate in the Plant Rescue Center Program?

(a) *Purpose.* We have established the Plant Rescue Center Program to place confiscated live plants quickly to prevent physical damage to the plants.

(b) *Criteria.* Institutions interested in participating in this program must be:

(1) Nonprofit, open to the public, and have the expertise and facilities to care for confiscated exotic plant specimens. A participating institution may be a botanical garden, arboretum, zoological park, research institution, or other qualifying institution.

(2) Willing to transfer confiscated plants from the port where they were confiscated to their facilities at their own expense.

(3) Willing to return the plants to the U.S. Government if the country of export has requested their return. The U.S. Government will then coordinate the plants' return to the country of export.

(4) Willing to accept and maintain a plant shipment as a unit until it has received authorization from us to incorporate the shipment into its permanent collection or transfer a portion of it to another participating institution.

(c) *Participation.* Institutions wishing to participate in the Plant Rescue Center Program should contact the U.S. Management Authority (see § 23.7). They must provide a brief description of the greenhouse or display facilities, the names and telephone numbers of any individuals authorized to accept plants on behalf of the institution, and the mailing address where the plants should be sent. In addition, interested institutions must indicate if they are limited with regard to the type of

plants they are able to maintain or the quantities of plants they can handle at one time.

Subpart G—CITES Administration

§ 23.84 What are the roles of the Secretariat and the committees?

(a) *Secretariat.* The Secretariat is headed by the Secretary-General. Its functions are listed in Article XII of the Treaty and include:

(1) Arranging and staffing meetings of the Parties.

(2) Performing functions as requested in relation to listings in the Appendices.

(3) Undertaking scientific and technical studies, as authorized by the CoP, to contribute to implementation of the Convention.

(4) Studying reports of the Parties and requesting additional information as appropriate to ensure effective implementation of the Convention.

(5) Bringing to the attention of the Parties matters relevant to the Convention.

(6) Periodically publishing and distributing to the Parties current editions of the Appendices as well as information on the identification of specimens of species listed in the Appendices.

(7) Preparing annual reports to the Parties on its work and on the implementation of the Convention.

(8) Making recommendations for the implementation of the aims and provisions of the Convention, including the exchange of scientific and technical information.

(9) Performing other functions entrusted to it by the Parties.

(b) *Committees.* The Parties have established four committees to provide administrative and technical support to the Parties and to the Secretariat. The CoP may charge any of these committees with tasks.

(1) The Standing Committee steers the work and performance of the Convention between CoPs.

(i) This committee oversees development and execution of the Secretariat's budget, advises other committees, appoints working groups, and carries out activities on behalf of the Parties between CoPs.