

CoP17 Prop. 50. [Mexico] Inclusion of all species of Ponytail Palms in the genus *Beaucarnea* in Appendix II

Beaucarnea species, known as Ponytail Palms (although not strictly palms), occur in Mexico and northern parts of Central America (possibly as far south as northern Nicaragua). According to the Kew Plant Checklist there are nine accepted species: *Beaucarnea compacta*, *B. goldmanii*, *B. gracilis*, *B. guatemalensis*, *B. hiriartiae*, *B. pliabilis*, *B. recurvata*, *B. sanctomariana* and *B. stricta*. Two other species listed as synonyms (*B. inermis*, *B. purpusii*) are sometimes recognized as separate species. *Beaucarnea* species feature in the horticultural plant trade, with *B. recurvata* the main species in trade. It is still frequently traded under the synonym *Nolina recurvata*.

The sizes of wild populations of *Beaucarnea* species in their relatively wide range are not known. Illegal trade in seed has been reported for the establishment of nursery populations and in plants for the horticultural trade but this volume of trade is unknown. The impact of trade on wild populations is not known. However, this genus is well known as an ornamental plant, cultivated widely both within its range State (Mexico) and elsewhere. Artificial propagation is thought to be able to provide both large plants for sale and source material (seeds) for propagation in adequate quantities to meet market demands. The species seems likely not to meet the criteria for inclusion in Annex 2a of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16) and It is not clear that inclusion in Appendix II will provide significant conservation benefit to the species.

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