

CoP17 Prop. 52. [United States of America] Transfer fishhook cacti *Sclerocactus spinosior* ssp. *blainei* (= *S. blainei*), *S. cloverae* (CITES-listed synonym of *S. parviflorus*), and *S. sileri* from Appendix II to Appendix I

Cacti in the genus *Sclerocactus* are slow-growing, short, cylindrical, spiny plants occurring in south-western USA and northern Mexico, with the majority of species endemic to the USA, including those covered by this proposal. Current CITES taxonomy recognizes 20 species; eight species and one subspecies are included in Appendix I, the remainder are in Appendix II under the general listing for Cactaceae. A provisionally accepted revised taxonomy recognizes the taxon currently listed as *Sclerocactus spinosior* ssp. *blainei* as *S. blainei* and splits *S. cloverae* from *S. parviflorus*. This nomenclature is followed in this analysis.

Although it is clear that these three taxa have restricted geographical coverage and relatively small populations it appears that the dominant impact on their survival is habitat rather than trade related. In fact it appears that there has been almost no trade in these taxa recorded during the period of their listing in Appendix II. As such, the listing criteria are not clearly met and there are no obvious benefits to the species of an Appendix I listing. It would appear the current Appendix II listing is adequate to allow for ongoing regulation and monitoring of any international trade and should be retained.

REJECT