

CSSA Conservation Policy

Introduction

The prior Policy Statement was antiquated and dated back to an era when field collecting by hobbyist was not entirely discouraged. A new Statement was drafted that expressly discourages all field collection except for limited scientific studies, rescue operations, government sanctioned breeding programs and the like. The new Statement directly references and incorporates the IOS Code of Conduct. Important legislation (The America Endangered Species Act) and treaties (CITES) are expressly referenced. In short, the Conservation Policy Statement is taking a strong stand against the sale and showing of field collected plants.

Conservation Policy Statement

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) is the national organization for the study, education, and promotion of cacti and succulents. The popularity of cacti and succulents, their availability online, and their increased monetary value have critically endangered their populations in the wild. The conservation of these unique plants and their habitats is of critical concern.

Existing Policies and Guidelines

CSSA shall adhere to:

- ▶ All national and international guidelines, treaties, and laws regarding the protection of cacti, other succulents, and their habitats.
- ▶ The Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) treaty and the American Endangered Species Acts for both plants and animals.
- ▶ The International Organization for Succulent Plant Study (IOS) Code of Conduct.
- ▶ Specific conservation policies of the applicable State or other local jurisdictions.

CSSA Show and Sale Policies

- ▶ CSSA will not accept field collected plants in its competitive shows; plants in question will be evaluated by a review team upon entering.
- ▶ CSSA functions will not allow the sale, purchase, or promotion of habitat-collected plants.

- ▶ CSSA encourages its affiliate societies to adopt or incorporate CSSA Conservation Policies in developing their own missions and show and sale policies.

Commercial Selling

- ▶ CSSA endorses and promotes vendors which produce sale plants from seed, cuttings or other artificial means.
- ▶ CSSA discourages the use of nurseries and online vendors that sell field collected plants.

Legal Initiatives

- ▶ CSSA will work with our appropriate government agencies to modernize laws regarding the sale of plants across international borders, especially for hybrids.
- ▶ CSSA will endorse and promote state laws and policies pertaining to the rescue of plants due to urban or agricultural encroachment.
- ▶ CSSA will assist in the development of procedures to conserve and disseminate rescued plants.



Eriosyce napina subsp. *lembckeii*. A little cactus of Atacama Region that is a species in danger.

Photo: Rescuti - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=64463623>