A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of *Gentiana kurroo* in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

India.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Dicotyledoneae

12. Order: Gentianales

13. Family: Gentianaceae

14. Scientific Name: *Gentiana kurroo* Royle, Ill. Bot. Himal. Mts. 278. t. 68. f. 2. 1840

15. Scientific Synonyms: None

16. Common Names:

English: Indian Gentian
French:
Spanish:
Beng. &
Hindi: Karu, Kutki
Bombay: Pakhanbhad, Phashanveda
Kashmir: Nilkanth
Punjab: Nilakil, Nilkant

16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Population Status: Exact status not known. However, recent surveys have not recorded this plant from U.P. Himalayas.

22. Population Trend: Endangered.

23. Distribution: North-west Himalayas, Kashmir to U.P. (Garhwal).

24. Habitat Availability: Subtropical to temperate and extending up to alpine Himalayas at altitudes between 1000-5000 m.

25. Geographic Trend: North-western Himalayas.

26. Threats: Endangered due to habitat destruction and over-exploitation for the rhizome.

3. Utilization and Trade:

31. National Utilization: The rhizomes of this plant are used in Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine, as a tonic and for urinary troubles.

32. Legal International Trade:

33. Illegal Trade: It is reported to be exported but exact figure not known.

34. Actual Potential Trade Impact: The roots and rhizomes are medicinally used as bitter tonic for improving appetite and stimulating gastric secretion. The drug is also administered in fever and urinary complaints.

35. Captive Breeding or Artificial Propagation (outside country or origin): Not known.

4. Conservation and Management:

41. Legal Status:

411. National: Export of the plant, portions and its derivatives is now prohibited under Export (Control) Order.

412. International: None so far.

42. Species Management:

421. Population Monitoring: Some monitoring being undertaken.

422. Habitat Conservation: No specific conservation strategy has been implemented but *in situ* conservation exists through its presence in a number of protected areas within its range.

423. Management Measures: Further *in situ* conservation strategies being examined and research undertaken into cultivation and propagation and its promotion.

43. Control Measures:

431. International Trade: Exact data not known.

432. Domestic Measure: It is reported that the plant takes considerable time for flowering and the roots attaining marketable size which are hindrances for its easy propagation and growth. Collection is being banned from wild sources. Strategies are being drawn up to conserve the species *in situ* and *ex situ.*

5. Information on Similar Species

51. Similarity in Appearance: The rhizomes and roots of *Picrorhiza kurrooa* Royle ex Benth. is reported to possess similar property and uses as those of *Gentiana kurroo.* However, *Picrorhiza kurrooa* is characterised by rhizomes remaining covered with withered leaf bases, oblanceolate leaves and many flowered inflorescence whereas the rhizomes of *Gentiana kurroo* are generally longitudinally wrinkled, twisted and devoid of withered leaf bases, leaves lanceolate and solitary or a few flowered inflorescence.

52. Nature of Specimen in Trade: Rootstocks (rhizomes) which are stout, finger like, and brownish.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

7. Additional Remarks

Description: Small decumbent, perennial herbs, stem simple upto 30 cm long. Rootstock stout, cylindric, brownish, generally longitudinally wrinkled and twisted. Leaves radical and cauline, linear-oblong to narrow lanceolate. Flower solitary or in few flowered raceme, sky-blue. Fruits ca 2 cm long.

8. References

Anonymous 1956. *The wealth of India, C.S.I.R., New Delhi.* Vol. 4: 123-125.

Clarke, C.B. 1885. In Hook.f., *Fl. Brit. India* 4: 117.

Shah, N.C. 1983. Endangered Medicinal and Aromatic Taxa in *An assessment of Threatened plants of India* eds. S.K. Jain & R.R. Rao pp. 40-41.