AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Ten-Year-Review proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of *Cattleya skinneri* Bateman from Appendix I to Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

The Mexican United States and the Swiss Confederation.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Monocotyledonae

12. Order: Orchidales

13. Family: Orchidaceae

14. Genus: *Cattleya*

141. Species: *Cattleya skinneri* Bateman

15. Synonyms: *Cattleya skinneri* Bateman var. *oculata* Hort. ex Linden & Rodigas; *Epidendrum huegeianum* Rchb. F.

16. Common Names: English:
French:
Spanish: "Guaria morada", Flor de San Sebastián" (Costa Rica), "Candelaria" (Guatemala and Mexico)

17. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: *Cattleya skinneri* has been reported from the South of Mexico (States of Oaxaca and Chiapas) to Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

22. Population: *Cattleya skinneri* has a vast distribution (1,650 km), numerous populations, a high population density, large presence in cultivation and a large number of known genes. The abundance in Mexico has been estimated as between 100,000 and 10,000,000, (Soto Arenas, 1994).

The species is very variable in the size and shape of its flowers, as well as in colour.

23. Habitat: The species has a large distribution from the South of Mexico to Costa Rica, in all kinds of tropical forests, from wet to dry, along the Pacific, at an altitude between 500 and 5,000 m. These areas have been frequently deforested to provide new zones for agriculture, husbandry and urban development. At

present, the species is reported in remaining forests along gullies and hillsides with inaccessible slopes. It is also common on trees that are used for shade in pastures, coffee plantations, gardens and public parks.

It is a species widely cultivated by the local inhabitants of the whole region.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: *Cattleya skinneri* has been declared the national flower of Costa Rica, a country where it has been traditionally cultivated as an ornamental plant. It is easy to cultivate and it produces large specimens in the field as well as in gardens. Specimens of this species are frequently displayed in local exhibitions, in particular in Costa Rica and Guatemala.

Plants of *Cattleya skinneri* plants are traded in local markets, most of them being produced by vegetative division of plants semi-cultivated or cultivated on trees by the local inhabitants.

32. Legal International Trade: The legal international trade in wild plants is practically non-existent because the flowers do not last long.

The ease of getting higher quality clones makes it very desirable to propagate. Some of these clones are highly appreciated in the United States of America.

WCMC recorded the following data on the international trade in artificially propagated plants:

Year	Specimens	Flasks	Seeds
1985	27		
1986	13	1	1*
1987	92		
1988	3929**		
1989	3799**		
1990	164		2*
1991	977		
1992***	2		

* Number of shipments
** Mainly from the Netherlands
*** Incomplete data

33. Illegal Trade: No data available.

34. Potential Trade Threats

4. Protection Status

41. National:

411. Costa Rica: Decree No. 20265-MIRENEM, published on 20 March 1991, prohibits trade and national and international transport of non-wood species of wild plants protected by CITES and includes the whole family Orchidaceae, among other plants; this excludes the specimens produced in registered nurseries.

412. Guatemala: Decree 4-89 of the National Congress of Guatemala and its regulations, authorize only the export of artificially propagated orchids, an activity regulated by the Consejo Nacional de Areas Protegidas (CONAP).

413. Mexico: Norma Oficial Mexicana NOM-059-ECOL-1994, published on 16.05.94, includes *Cattleya skinneri* as a threatened species. The law prohibits the collection of wild specimens for trade purposes. Artificial propagation is officially promoted.

42. International: *Cattleya skinneri* Bateman has been listed in CITES Appendix I since 1975.

43. Additional Protection Needs: It is necessary to include the conservation of the species in the legislation of countries of origin such as Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

5. Information on Similar Species

Vegetatively, the species may be mistaken for *Cattleya aurantiaca* (Bateman) Don, which grows in the same habitat in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. In addition, both species hybridize in Guatemala and their natural hybrid *Cattleya guatemalensis* Moore, is largely cultivated, in particular in Guatemala. This hybrid is found in all its intermediate forms and colours.

The other species of the region with similar vegetative aspects are: *Cattleya bowringiana* Veitch from Mexico, Guatemala and Belize; *Cattleya patinii* Cogn. from Costa Rica and Panama; and even *Epidendrum ciliare* L. with a large distribution throughout the neotropical area. All these species are included in CITES Appendix II.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

Although the populations are scarce in Costa Rica, the species is widely cultivated. As indicated in the decree which protects all orchid species in Costa Rica, artificial propagation is officially supported.

The fact that *Cattleya skinneri* Bateman is listed in Appendix I makes the international trade in artificially propagated specimens difficult.

In Guatemala, the trade in the clone "Heti Jacobs" is practically impossible and only plants produced from meristem culture in the United States of America are available. In Mexico the species is very rare in trade.

7. Additional Remarks

The transfer of this species from Appendix I to Appendix II will facilitate and encourage the production of higher clones of *Cattleya skinneri* Bateman, without representing a threat to the numerous wild and semi-cultivated populations widely distributed throughout the range.

8. References

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