CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Amendments to Appendices I and II of the Convention

A. PROPOSAL

Delist *Camellia chrysantha* from Appendix II.

B PROPONENT

SWITZERLAND

C SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

1.0	Division:	Angiospermae
1.1	Class:	Dicotyledonae
1.2	Order:	Theales
1.3	Family:	Theaceae
1.4	Genus:	*Camellia*
1.5	Species:	*chrysantha* (Hu) Tuyama
1.5.1	Synonyms:	Theopsis chrysantha Hu,
		Camellia chrysantha var. microcarpa Mo & S.Z. Huang
		C. nitidissima var. nitidissima
1.6	Common Name:	Jinhua cha (Chinese), Queen of Camellia (English).

2. Biological Data

2.1 Distribution: *Camellia chrysantha* has a restricted distribution occurring in China where it is confined to Nanning, Youngning, Fangcheng, Fusui and Long'an counties of the Guangxi region. It is also reported from Vietnam.

2.2 Population: It is described as rare in the China Red Data book (1992).

2.3 Habitat: In China it is occurs in moist shady forested gullies and along the stream sides of hills and mountains from 50 - 500 metres. Soils are mainly sandstone and shale. *C. chrysantha* prefers shaded habitats with high relative humidity (78-83%) but can tolerate bright sunlight.

3. Trade Data

3.1 National Utilisation: *C. chrysantha* was first described in 1965 and was immediately recognised for its ornamental qualities together with its breeding and hybridisation potential for the horticultural trade.

Trade within the UK is negligible. Only two nurseries in the UK listed *C. chrysantha* in 1992/93 and in 1993/94 this species is listed as *C. nitidissima* var. *nitidissima*. It is reported that the biggest distributor of camellias in the UK sells only five plants per year (Piers Trehane pers. comm. 1994). In Germany the 1990 Pflanzen Einkaufsführer has only one nursery listed for *C. chrysantha*.

3.2 Legal International Trade: In 1986 two plants were exported from Japan to the Netherlands, in 1987 (source-artificially propagated; purpose-trade), China exported eight plants to Japan (source and purpose not stated). In 1990 the United States of America exported one plant to Canada and one plant to Spain (source-artificially propagated; purpose-trade). These are the only exports recorded (WCMC 1994).
Imports reported for 1990 stated that Denmark imported 2 plants from Japan -source given as indeterminate, while a total of 14620 plants were imported to Austria from Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands (source-artificially propagated; purpose-trade). Imports reported for 1991 stated that 30,720 plants (source-artificially propagated; purpose-trade) were imported to Austria from Denmark, Germany, Europe and the Netherlands (WCMC 1994).

3.3 Illegal Trade:
No reported instances of illegal trade.

3.4 Potential Trade Threats: These are negligible at present. The main threats to this species comes from forest destruction, the collection of seedlings and predation of fruits by animals including rats. This species is widely in cultivation outside China and material available for horticultural purposes is reported to be artificially propagated.

Chang Huang Ta (1984) highlighted the chemical properties of camellias, they contain tannic acid in the pericarp of the capsules and this is useful as an adhesive and in the coagulation of concrete. In addition, the leaves contain Xanthin, Theobromin, glycosides, oleic acid and esters all important to the pharmaceutical industry, while the roots of *C. oleifera* are used in the treatment of broken bones and limbs and *C. chrysantha* and *C. longipedicellata* are used for treating dysentery. The flowers of C. chrysantha can be used as a food dye and the leaves may be used in tea making.

The timber is also used for carving.

4. Protection Status

4.1 National: According to the recent edition of the China Red Data book nature reserves have been established within its distribution areas. Any outlying localities are protected by the forestry and environmental sectors. The Red Data book suggested that the predation of fruits by animals be controlled and noted that this species.

4.2 International: Listed on Appendix II of CITES since 1985.

4.3 Additional Protection Needs:

5. Information on similar species and hybrids

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

7. Additional Remarks

Camellia chrysantha is considered a curiosity plant because of its yellow fragrant flowers. Although it is easily propagated from cuttings in the nursery, as a garden plant it is difficult to maintain and so deemed not very suitable for such environments. However, this species is valuable to hybridisers who use this species to develop new varieties. In addition the systematics of the group has yet to be decided.

8. References

Chang Huang Ta & Bartholomew, B. (1984). *Camellia*. Batsford.

Anon (1985). CITES proposal to list *Camellia chrysantha* on Appendix I. Fifth CITES Conference of the Parties, Argentina.

Fu Li-kuo & Jin Jian-ming (editors) (1992). China Red Data Book - Rare and Endangered Plants. Vol. I. Science Press Beijing, New York.

WCMC (1994). World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge - Data-dump for *Camellia chrysantha.*