AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Ten-Year-Review Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of *Astrophytum asterias* from Appendix I to Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

The Swiss Confederation and Mexico.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Magnoliopsida (Dicotylédones)

12. Order: Caryophyllales (Cactales, Chenopodiales, Centrospermae)

13. Family: Cactaceae

14. Species: *Astrophytum asterias* (Zuccarini) Lemaire

15. Synonym: *Astrophytum asterias* (Zuccarini)

16. Common Names:

17. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

A small wild population exists in the United States (Texas), but the majority of the plants are found in Mexico. These populations appear to have become rare and consequently may be endangered (Supthut, 1993). These plants are still clearly subject to some pressure, but the maintenance of these populations would in no way modify the status of the species under the national legislation prohibiting all exports of wild plants. It is thus the responsibility of the governments of the countries concerned to ensure stricter application of the national laws for the protection of nature and species. At the same time, artificial propagation should be promoted both within the country of origin and elsewhere.

The (often unreasonable) difficulties encountered in obtaining the necessary export permits for Appendix I plants, even those artificially propagated, may lead producers to abandon this mass propagation and thus have the unfortunate consequence of renewing the demand for wild plants. Fortunately, large quantities of artificially propagated plants (seedlings) are still available from wholesale nurseries.

No trade in wild plants has been observed in recent years. The lack of information on trade in wild plants is understandable, since trade in wild Appendix I species is prohibited. In addition, it will be noted that no information is available on illegal or confiscated shipments. The present proposal for transfer to Appendix II has been discussed at the 3rd, 4th and 5th meetings of the Plants Committee, which, in view of

the problems associated with export permits, supports the present proposal. It recognizes that its primary aim is to promote trade in these artificially mass propagated plants, to minimize the pressure on wild plants.

3. Trade Data

The data below indicate that the number of plants in trade has already begun to decline. This may be attributable to a number of factors, possibly including saturation of the market, although it is more likely the simple inclusion of the species in Appendix I that alarms producers. The exporting countries are: Brazil, the Netherlands and the United States. It should also be noted that the information provided in the annual reports is often of limited quality and accuracy. The number of artificially propagated plants in trade may thus be much higher.

As regards seeds, the figures show that none have been exported from Mexico. All exports are from the United States. We note, however, a sharp increase in exports of seeds, indicating the potential market for artificially propagated plants. It should be noted that no other country controls trade in seeds. Simple inclusion of the species in Appendix I thus in no way restricts the illicit trade in seeds. The country of origin remains responsible for management and effective surveillance to prevent the disappearance of its wild populations.

a) Live Plants (WCMC, 1993)

1989

IMP	EXP	Quant	Purp	W/A
AT	DE	2500	C	A
AT	NL	2500	C	A
DE	CH	200	C	A
DE	JP	1	T	A
DE	US	1	C	A
IT	US	3	C	A
US	BR	2400	C	A

1990

IMP	EXP	Quant	Purp	W/A
DE	BR	1723	C	A
IT	BR	640	C	A
IT	US	1		C
JP	BR	650	C	-
JP	BR	425	C	A
NL	BR	2813	-	A
NL	BR	2188	C	A
RO	BR	300	C	A
SE	DE	1	C	A
US	BR	3645	C	A
US	JP	230	C	-

1991

IMP	EXP	Quant	Purp	W/A
CH	DE	3	-	A
CH	NL	216	-	A
GB	US	100	C	A
NL	BR	180	C	A
TH	BR	24	C	A

1992

IMP	EXP	Quant	Purp	W/A
GB	MT	30	C	A

b) Seeds (WCMC)

1989 (total US exp 980)

IMP	EXP	Quant	Purp
DE	US	60	C
FR	US	40	C
GB	US	400	C
IT	US	460	C
YU	US	20	C

TOT US 980

1990 (Total US exp 1480)

IMP	EXP	Quant	Purp
AU	US	40	C
BE	US	100	C
DE	US	60	C
FR	US	20	C
GB	US	420	C
IT	US	200	C
MT	US	100	C
NL	US	320	C
NZ	US	120	C
TH	US	100	C

TOT US 1480

1991 (total US exp 5450)

IMP	EXP	Quant	Purp	W/A
AR	US	20	C	A
AT	US	200	C	A
AU	US	740	C	A
BE	US	140	C	A
BS	US	20	C	A
CA	US	300	C	A
CH	US	20	C	A
DE	US	540	C	A
DK	US	30	C	A
FR	US	210	C	A
GB	US	1510	C	A
GR	US	20	C	A
IN	US	500	C	A
IT	US	440	C	A
JP	US	40	C	A
MT	US	100	C	A
NZ	US	300	C	A
TH	US	320	C	A

TOT US 5450

Purpose: C = commercial
S = scientific

Source: A = artificially propagated
- = not indicated

4. Protection Status

5. Information on Similar Species

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

7. Additional Remarks

8. References

Supthut, D. (1993) comm. pers.

WCMC (World Conservation Monitoring Centre) (1993), Cambridge, UK.

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