CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

Proposals resulting from reviews by the Plants Committees

A. Proposal

Delete *Darlingtonia californica* from Appendix II.

B. Proponent

Swiss Confederation.

C. Supporting Statement

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Class: Dicotyledonae

1.2 Order: Nepenthales

1.3 Family: Sarraceniaceae

1.4 Genus: *Darlingtonia*

1.4.1: Species: *Darlingtonia californica* Torrey

1.5 Scientific synonyms:

1.6 Common names: English: California pitcherplant, cobra lily
French:
Spanish:

1.7 Code numbers:

2. Biological Parameters

2.1 Distribution

USA, West Coast, from Oregon to North California on a 160 km long strip between Roseburg (Oregon) and Santa Rosa (California). Along the coast, it appears in northern Curry County and extends north sporadically to Sandlake in Tillamook County.

2.2 Habitat availability

From sea level to 2800 m.

2.3 Population status

In the center of its range from Del Norte-Trinity-Shasta-Siskiyou County (California) to Curry & Josephine County (Oregon) this species is rather abundant. It is not uncommon throughout this area to find several colonies numbering between 1000-3000 specimens with abundant habitat for expansion and few threats to their survival because many locations are very difficult to access (Rondeau, pers.comm. to von Arx, 1999).

At the southern limit of its range in Nevada County it is quite abundant and grows on remote sites; while in 3 nearby Counties (Butte, Plumas and Sierra) it has never been abundant, and it is now scattered and diminishing due to the combined effects of logging and succession into other vegetation types.

2.4 Population trends

Darlingtonia californica is stable in the Josephine-Curry County (Oregon), where it grows on ultramafic soils with plenty of light, water (diversion causing problems in some areas), and little competition from surrounding vegetation.

At the southern limit of its range in California (Nevada County) the colonies are quite extensive and moderately remote; uncontrolled logging with subsequent exposure of sites is a main threat at this time.

2.5 Geographic trends

Not applicable.

2.6 Role of the species in its ecosystem

Not applicable.

2.7 Threats

The decline of coastal populations is primarily caused by succession of vegetation, where trees and shrubs are invading habitats and shading out *Darlingtonia californica*. Combined with historic habitat alteration from farming and grazing, and overcollecting in some areas, it's not as plentiful as it once was.

Inundation resulting from seismic subsidence would also doom most populations occurring along the shores of coastal lakes, as these are all nearly at sea level. Survival along the coast may have always been tenuous between major earthquakes (Rondeau, 1999).

3. Utilization and Trade

3.1 National utilization

Specimens are seen for sale at local stores in northern California and southern Oregon, but only one major outlet "Home Depot" (Hardware, etc.) sells this species and other carnivorous plants on a regular seasonal basis.

3.2 Legal international trade

Almost none; 200 specimens from the USA to the UK, one shipment of 2500 specimens from USA to the Netherlands in 1988, 10 plants from the UK to the USA in 1994, and in 1996 65 specimens from Australia to various destinations and 100 specimens from USA to Japan in 1996. All these transactions related to artificially propagated specimens (WCMC, 1999).

3.3 Illegal trade

Not known on international level. Illegal harvesting apparently occurring on the national level.

3.4 Actual or potential trade impacts

Not applicable.

3.5 Captive breeding or artificial propagation for commercial purposes (outside country of origin)

Several nurseries in Europe, specialized in carnivorous plants, provide artificially propagated specimens. The plant reproduces easily through vegetative propagation.

4. Conservation and Management

4.1 Legal status

4.1.1 National

Some locations where *Darlingtonia californica* can be found are specifically protected, e.g. the "Alder bog" in Nevada County, California (DFFP, 1997).

4.1.2 International

Has been included in Appendix II since 1981.

4.2 Species management

4.2.1 Population monitoring

No information available.

4.2.2 Habitat conservation

No information available.

4.2.3 Management measures

No information available.

4.3 Control measures

4.3.1 International trade

See 4.1.2.

4.3.2 Domestic measures

No information available.

5. Information on Similar Species

None.

6. Other Comments

The management Authority of the United States of America provided the following comments:

Though it is generally not known to be declining in distribution or abundance, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service informs us that collection is a definite threat to this species and that it is likely that many of the plants in trade have been collected from the wild. International demand for *Darlingtonia californica* clearly exists due to documented international trade in artificially propagated specimens of this species. Though no legal trade in wild-collected plants has been recorded in recent years, we consider Appendix II to offer valuable protection to this species due to the potential for international trade in specimens collected from the wild.

7. Additional Remarks

Most, if not all trade in this species is from artificially propagated specimens as shown by the most recent CITES Annual reports and data from WCMC Trade database. Also if there is some trade at all in wild specimens, it would occur at a national or even only local level. Availability of cheap artificially propagated specimens in Europe keeps interest for specimens from the wild down. Also *Darlingtonia californica* is quite difficult to cultivate, especially because it needs hot weather but

cool environment for the root system, which is very difficult to create if the plants are kept in pots. The flower is beautiful, but the plant does not bloom often unless under very favorable conditions. Hence the species is only attractive to a few dedicated carnivorous plants amateurs. Finally, it reproduces easily by runners and is often traded between carnivorous plants enthusiast in this form, therefore there is no need for extraction of specimens from the wild.

The listing in Appendix II does not provide any further protection. Local or national measures, such as management plans should be taken to ensure proper protection to this species. (von Arx, 1999 pers. comm.).

The Plants Committee therefore recommends that this species be deleted from Appendix II.

8. References

von ARX, B, Chairman IUCN/SSC, Carnivorous Plant Specialist Group.

Rondeau, J.H. 37 Sunnyslope Ave., San Jose, CA 95127, 408-929-6529

World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC), Cambridge, UK. CITES Trade Database.

DFFP, (1997) Department of Forestry and Fire Protection of California; official response for timber harvesting plan evaluation process. August 29.