

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of the Guatemalan population of Eriopsis biloba from Appendix II to Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The Republic of Guatemala.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Angiospermae
12. Order: Orchidales
13. Family: Orchidaceae
14. Species: Eriopsis biloba Lindl.
15. Common Names: English:
French:
Spanish: sin nombre común
16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: In rain Guatemala premontane forests in Alta Verapaz and Izabel at an altitude between 1,000 and 1,600m. Known also from Costa Rica to Brazil, but very scarce in all countries.
22. Population: Very rare in Guatemala, where it was discovered less than 10 years ago and almost extinct in the wild. Probably less than 100 wild plants.
23. Habitat: Rain forests of middle altitude. Terrestrial but the majority of forests which could provide a suitable habitat have already been destroyed to produce timber or for coffee cultivation.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Ornamental plant.
32. Legal International Trade: None.
33. Illegal Trade: Plants collected without licences and illegally exported by traders to sell them to other countries.

34. Potential Trade Threats: Live specimens collected from forests for trade without licences to neighbouring countries. It is a very attractive species. Also threatened through destruction of its habitat by tree cutting.

4. Protection Status

41. National:

a) In theory, law requires licences for cutting trees in forests. Most of the population is on private land.

b) Orchid collection without licences is prohibited.

42. International: Listed in CITES Appendix II.

43. Additional Protection Needs: Control export of wild plants from Guatemala. Stimulate reintroduction and protection projects for the few remaining populations.

5. Information on Similar Species

None in Guatemala.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

None.

7. Additional Remarks

None.

8. References

Bechtel, H., P. Cribb y E. Launert, 1981. The manual of cultivated orchid species. MIT Press.