

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Ten Year Review Proposal

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of *Didicicia cunninghamii* from Appendix I to Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

**SWITZERLAND**

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Class: Monocotyledonae

1.2 Order: Orchidales

1.3 Family: Orchidaceae

1.4 Genus: *Didicicia*

1.4.1. Species: *cunninghamii* King et Prain ex King et Pantling

1.5 Common names:

2. Biological data

2.1. **Distribution:** *D. cunninghamii* is a monotypic orchid that occurs in the sub-alpine to alpine Himalayas of Sikkim (Lachen Valley) and Uttar Pradesh (Gahrwal, up to 4000 m altitude).

2.2 **Population status:** The Red Data Book of Indian Plants (Hjara 1987) records the species as endangered, mentioning that the species has been collected in Garhwal Himalaya, seventy years after its discovery in Sikkim, without specifying the purpose of this collecting.

3.3 In 1978 (unpublished manuscript Smithsonian Institution) the species was not known in cultivation.

Protection status

4.1 **National:** India forbids the export of all wild-collected orchids. Only the export of a controlled number of artificially propagated specimens of orchids is permitted. The recent declaration of the Valley of Flowers as a National Park, offers additional protection to some of the populations (Hajra, 1987)

4.3 **Additional protection needs:** Hajra (1987) mentions the need for this species to be reproduced by tissue culture, for possible reintroduction in the wild.

5. Information on similar species: This is the only species in the genus *Didiciea*.
6. Comments from country of origin: During the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Kyoto, 1992) this species was also proposed for transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II. India opposed this transfer, promising that it would undertake a population study. Taking account of this promise, the Swiss Government withdrew the proposal. At the moment of discussion of the proposal at the fifth Plants Committee meeting (16-20 May 1993, results of population studies were not available, and it was indicated that such a study had not yet been carried out.
7. **Additional remarks:**
8. **References**

Hajra, P.K. 1987. *Didiciea cunninghamii*. In: Red Data Book of Indian Plants, Vol. 1: p. 247-248.