

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Ten-Year-Review Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of *Leuchtenbergia principis* from Appendix I to Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

Swiss Confederation (Switzerland) and Mexico

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Magnoliopsida (Dicotylédones)
12. Order: Caryophyllales (Cactales, Chenopodiales, Centrospermae)
13. Family: Cactaceae
14. Species: *Leuchtenbergia principis* Hooker
15. Common Names:
16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

This species, which is native to Mexico, appears to have an extensive range. The species has been listed in Appendix I since 1983. No trade in wild plants has been observed in recent years. However, large quantities of artificially propagated plants (seedlings) are available from wholesale nurseries (Supthut, 1993). The wild populations are very widely dispersed; as a result, large-scale collection is unlikely and unprofitable. However, since several cases of illicit exports have been reported, it is important that the countries concerned (Mexico) apply all the measures required to protect their wild populations. The protection of these wild populations is dependent on the application of national legislation and not on international trade. The capsules (fruit) contain numerous seeds. One parent plant produces an average of 2-3 capsules (more if hand pollinated), approximately 500 seeds. This species grows very quickly from seedlings; the plants flower and are marketable within two years (Supthut, 1993). The (often unreasonable) difficulties encountered in obtaining the necessary documents 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. 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 - Statistics (WCMC)

a) Live Plants

1989

<u>IMP</u>	<u>EXP</u>	<u>Quant</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Purp</u>	<u>W/A</u>
CH	DE	100	P	C	A
DE	JP	2	P	C	A
US	MX	1	P	-	I

1990 (no exports reported)

1991

<u>IMP</u>	<u>EXP</u>	<u>Quant</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Purp</u>	<u>W/A</u>
IT	ZA	180	P	CA	

Purpose

C = commercial

W/A

A = Artificially propagated

W = Wild

I = Illegal (confiscated)

According to WCMC data for the period 1989-1991, a single wild plant was seized in 1989. No further wild plants are reported in the statistics. The lack of information on trade in wild plants is understandable, since trade in wild Appendix I species is prohibited. At the same time, the small numbers of plants reported suggest that the inclusion of this species in Appendix I restricts the trade in artificially propagated plants, and thus hampers conservation of the wild populations. 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.

b) Seeds

1989 (tot US exp:1200)

<u>IMP</u>	<u>EXP</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Purp</u>
AU	US	100	C
BE	US	120	C
DE	US	240	C
FR	US	220	C
GB	US	280	C
IT	US	220	C
NL	US	20	C
TOT	US	1200	

1990 (tot US exp: 6920)

<u>IMP</u>	<u>EXP</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Purp</u>
AU	US	1140	C
BE	US	1000	C
DE	US	40	C
GB	US	1380	C
GR	US	2000	C
IN	US	20	C
IT	US	1180	C
JP	US	100	C
SE	US	60	C
TOT	US	6920	

1991 (tot US exp: 34,120)

<u>IMP</u>	<u>EXP</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Purp</u>
AU	US	100	C
BS	US	20	C
CA	US	100	C
DE	US	700	C
FR	US	100	C
GB	US	380	C
IL	US	20	C
IN	US	100	C
IT	US	1100	C
JP	US	1000	C
NL	US	30,000	C
TH	US	500	C
TOT	US	34,120	

Purpose

C = Commercial

As regards seeds, the figures show that none have been exported from Mexico (or that none have been observed leaving 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 imported 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.

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 Center) (1993), Cambridge, UK.

