

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

**Proposals resulting from reviews by the Plants Committees**

A. Proposal

Delete *Shortia galacifolia* from Appendix II.

B. Proponent

Swiss Confederation.

C. Supporting Statement

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Class: Dicotyledonae

1.2 Order: Diapensiales

1.3 Family: Diapensiaceae

1.4 Genus: *Shortia*

1.4.1 Species: *Shortia galacifolia* Torr. & Gray

1.5 Scientific synonyms:

1.6 Common names: English: Oconee-Bells  
French:  
Spanish:

1.7 Code numbers:

2. Biological Parameters

2.1 Distribution

Endemic to a small part of the Appalachian Mountains, United States of America.

2.2 Habitat availability

Shady woods and stream banks with rich, humus enriched soils. Most abundant on deep ravine slopes with prevailing cool and humid conditions.

2.3 Population status

Despite its local distribution, the species is abundant at most of its few remaining sites.

2.4 Population trends

Some populations have been lost in the past because of multiple dam building projects and horticultural collecting (TNC, 1998).

2.5 Geographic trends

Not applicable.

2.6 Role of the species in its ecosystem

Not applicable.

2.7 Threats

Housing development, dam building, horticultural collecting in the past.

3. Utilization and Trade

3.1 National utilization

Horticultural collecting has been known from the past.

3.2 Legal international trade

None.

3.3 Illegal trade

Not known.

3.4 Actual or potential trade impacts

Not applicable.

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

The species can be easily propagated from seeds and cuttings. Not known to happen on a commercial scale.

4. Conservation and Management

4.1 Legal status

4.1.1 National

Listed as endangered in Georgia. The var. *galacifolia* is listed as endangered in North Carolina.

4.1.2 International

Has been included in CITES Appendix II since 1983.

4.2 Species management

4.2.1 Population monitoring

Not applicable.

4.2.2 Habitat conservation

Not applicable.

4.2.3 Management measures

Not applicable.

#### 4.3 Control measures

##### 4.3.1 International trade

No trade recorded for the period 1994 - 1997.

##### 4.3.2 Domestic measures

Not applicable.

#### 5. Information on Similar Species

Not applicable.

#### 6. Other Comments

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

Populations of *Shortia galacifolia* have been lost in the past due to horticultural collection and multiple dam construction projects. This species has a very limited distribution, but is locally common where it is found. It is listed as Endangered in Georgia and North Carolina and is considered Vulnerable by the IUCN. However, *S. galacifolia* is fairly widely cultivated and not known to be internationally traded. For these reasons, we could possibly support the recommendation of the Plants Committee to remove this species from Appendix II. The timing of our normal public consultation process is such that we could not make such a proposal ourselves. As an alternative, we could consider such a proposal for COP11 if it were submitted by the Depository Government, Switzerland.

#### 7. Additional Remarks

Because of the absence of international trade in wild-collected or artificially propagated specimens the Plants Committee recommends that this species be deleted from Appendix II.

#### 8. References

The Nature Conservancy. 1998. Oconee-Bells (*Shortia galacifolia*). Natural Heritage central Databases (NHCD) information provided via the Biodiversity Conservation data Source (BioSource) website.