



NON-DETRIMENTAL FINDING OF VANDA COERULEA

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Vanda coerulea, also known as the blue orchid, is native of Southeast Asia where it grows in the Himalaya in the Himalaya foothills (India, Burma, China and Thailand at elevations of 800-1,000 meters above sea level). According to botanist William Griffith's of this unusual blue flower species in 1847, it sparked much excitement amongst orchid enthusiasts and hybridizer, who were eager to add this rare plant to their collections. The resulting unsustainable collection of plants for commercial markets led to rapid decimation of wild population. In order to protect remaining wild population, the intact habitat has been protected. Moreover, the restricted international trade of *Vanda coerulea* has been enacted.

Having been over collected on wild *Vanda coerulea*, in 1979 it was proposed by the Indian government included in the App.I. To be increased by artificially propagated, it was proposed to down the list from App.I to App.II by the Government of Thailand in 2004 which was adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

According to Res. Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13th), range state in each species shall be monitored and reviewed significantly. In 2007 CITES MA of Thailand in consultation with SA conducted study on NDFs of *Vanda coerulea* in Thailand. The conclusion of this study, *Vanda coerulea* is still found in the protected area. Nevertheless, some areas, the populations of this species were threatened by illegal harvesting. The artificially propagated *Vanda coerulea* by seed culture and tissue culture are common in this country and success commercial purpose. The activities for reintroducing such a species back to the wild have been carried out in Thailand. With this regard, some reintroduction project, which released by big plants sizes, are successful. According to Plant Act B.E. 2535 (1992), wild orchid were prohibited to export except those came from artificially propagated which have been done under the registered nurseries of the Act.

Even though the strength legislation could guarantee the export of the artificial propagated of orchid from Thailand would not be detriment to the survival of population, it is recommendation that conduction on NDFs of the blue orchids should sporadic reviewed due to the changing of the environment and the recovering of this species.