

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF
WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Amendments to Appendices I and II of CITES

13th Meeting of the Conferences of the Parties
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A. Proposal

To annotate Orchidaceae in Appendix II to exclude artificially propagated hybrids; exclusively under the condition that specimens are readily recognized artificially propagated and labeled.

The annotation to specifically read as following:-

“Artificially propagated specimens of Orchidaceae hybrids are excluded from the provisions of the Convention when:

- a) they are readily recognizable as artificially propagated specimens;
- b) they do not exhibit characteristics of wild-collected specimens;
- c) shipments are accompanied by documentation such as an invoice that indicates clearly the vernacular name of the orchid hybrids and is signed by the shipper.

Specimens that do not clearly meet the criteria for the exemption must be accompanied by appropriate CITES documents.”

B. Proponent

Thailand.

C. Supporting Statement

1. Taxonomy

- 1.1 Class : Monocotyledonae
- 1.2 Order: Orchidales
- 1.3 Family: Orchidaceae
- 1.4 Genera: approximately 796 genera, 17,500 species (i.e. *Aerangis* Reichb.f., *Ascocentrum* Schltr.exJ.J., *Brassavolai* R.Br., *Cattleya* Lindley, *Cymbidium* Sw., *Disa* P. Bergius, *Dendrobium* Sw., *Encyclia* Hook., *Epidendrum* L., *Laelia* Lindley, *Lycaste* Lindley, *Miltonia* Lindley, *Oncidium* Sw., *Phalaenopsis* Blume, *Renanthera* Lour., *Rhyncostylis* Blume, *Vanda* Jones ex R.Br., *Vandopsis* Pfitzer etc.).

Artificial hybrids (man-made hybrids): For the last 150 years orchids have been widely crossed in cultivation to produce over 110,000 hybrids. Orchid hybrids involve up to 20 distinct species from up to

nine distinct natural genera. The first hybrid was made in 1854 and detailed records have been maintained since that time. For the last 50 years this has been done by the International Registration Authority for Orchid Hybrids, since 1962 under the aegis of The Royal Horticultural Society. Over 3,000 new hybrids are being added annually.

- 1.5 Scientific synonyms: See Annex 1 of Prop.12.51
- 1.6 Common names: Orchid hybrids. (i.e. *Cattleya* hybrids, *Dendrobium* hybrids, *Vanda* hybrids etc.)
- 1.7 Code numbers: -

2. Biological Parameters

The biological parameters are not relevant for this proposal. The artificial hybrids of Orchidaceae are common in world floriculture production. They are traded in large quantity. In several countries they become industrial products.

In accordance with the Resolution Conf.9.24 (Rev. CoP12), Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II; Resolves that, when considering proposals to amend Appendices I and II, the following applies: paragraph small f) species of which all specimens in trade have been bred in captivity or artificially propagated should not be included in the appendices if there is no probability of trade taking place in specimens of wild origin.

Artificially propagated of orchid hybrids such as seed culture, tissue culture, meristem culture are very well-known worldwide in orchid's production area. Seedlings can be produced in large quantity. More than one million plants can produce which derives from one individual plant within a few years. Most products are treated as super market merchandise.

3. Utilization and Trade

3.1 National Utilization

Most of the orchid hybrids are popularly use as cut flowers and ornamental plants in many countries, i.e. Southeast Asia, Europe, USA, Japan, Korea, China, Australia etc.

3.2 Legal international trade

Artificially Propagated hybrids normally are traded in the form of seedlings, seedlings in flask, plants (with/without flowering) and cut flower. They are mainly produced by *in vitro* culture (Tissue culture, meristem culture and seed culture), following by division or cutting. According to the provision of the Convention; for all of the following Appendix-I species, seedling or tissue cultures obtained *in vitro*, in solid or liquid media, transported in sterile containers are not subject to the provisions of the Convention and for all of the following Appendix II species annotate with #8; Designates all parts and derivatives, except:

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- a) seeds and pollen (including pollinia);
- b) seedling or tissue cultures obtained in vitro, in solid or liquid media, transported in sterile containers;
- c) cut flowers of artificially propagated plants; and
- d) fruits and parts and derivatives thereof of artificially propagated plants of the genus *Vanilla*.

In 2002, Thailand exported orchid hybrids more than 26.4 millions plants. Those orchid hybrids are traded in high volume and easy to cultivate.

3.3 Illegal trade

3.3.1 National illegal trade

The artificially propagated of orchid hybrids are not controlled or regulated by national level in many country. In some country like Thailand, orchid hybrids are very common in local market.

3.3.2 International illegal trade

The international illegal trade has found in small case in some parties. Most tourist are lacking in information form authority or unawareness on CITES documentation.

3.4 Actual or potential trade impacts

The impact trade of artificially propagated orchid hybrids is not related to these entities, but concerning only of the parents of taxa included in the Appendices, which may be small in number for the wild population, especially wild collected specimens for hybridization purpose. The identification problems between species and hybrids of some specimens may occasionally occur for those who is not in this field (common problems). The wild collected specimens, mostly being an unhealthy plant, specific exhibit characteristics of wild origin. Capacity building, documentation declared (invoice), consultant and cooperation with the original range state of specimens will solved these problems.

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

The artificial propagation of hybrids for commercial purpose is now running worldwide i.e. Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, China, Korea, Japan, Australia, United State, Canada, New Zealand, Africa, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, France etc.

4. Conservation and management

4.1 Legal status

4.1.1 National

Recently, many Parties banned export of wild collected orchids i.e. Thailand since, 1998; India since, 1999 etc.

4.1.2 International

In accordance with the Resolution 11.11 (Regulation of trade in plants) following;-

Regarding hybrids

DETERMINES that:

- a) hybrids shall be subject to the provisions of the Convention even though not specifically included in the Appendices if one or both of their parents are of taxa included in the Appendices, unless the hybrids are excluded from CITES controls by a specific annotation in Appendix II or III (see annotation ⁰608 in the Interpretation of Appendices I and II); and
- b) regarding artificially propagated hybrids:
 - i) plant species or other taxa listed in Appendix I shall be annotated (in accordance with Article XV) if the provisions relevant to the most restrictive Appendix are to apply;
 - ii) if a plant species or other taxon listed in Appendix I is annotated, an export permit or re-export certificate shall be required for trade in specimens of all artificially propagated hybrids derived from it; but
 - iii) artificially propagated hybrids derived from one or more unannotated Appendix-I species or other taxa shall be regarded as being included in Appendix II and entitled therefore to all exemptions applicable to artificially propagated specimens of species listed in Appendix II;

Regarding flaked seedlings

RECOMMENDS that flaked seedlings of orchid species listed in Appendix I be interpreted as being exempt from CITES control, taking into account the provisions of Article VII, paragraph 4, and Article I, paragraph (b) (iii), and agreeing to a derogation from Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev.) for this exemption;

Regarding enforcement for plants

RECOMMENDS that Parties ensure that:

- a) enforcement officers are adequately informed of CITES requirements, procedures governing inspection and clearance of CITES plant specimens, and procedures necessary for the detection of illegal trade;
- b) enforcing agencies obtain access to materials and expertise enabling identification of plant specimens in trade, including whether the specimen is of wild or artificially propagated origin;
- c) enforcing agencies utilize annual reports, plant health documents, nursery catalogues and other sources of information to detect possible illegal trade; and

d) enforcing agencies maintain close liaison with the Management and Scientific Authorities for the purpose of setting and implementing enforcement priorities;

To concerning the illegal trade and misidentify between orchids hybrids and orchid species which listed in Appendices when they are in traded.

4.2 Species management

4.2.1 Population monitoring

4.2.2 Habitat conservation

4.2.3 Management measures

Not relevant for this proposal.

4.3 Control measures

4.3.1 International trade

The Orchid hybrid plants and derivatives, mostly ship between states to state usually accompanied with the government documentation of plant health control (Phytosanitary Certificate) from the original country of the specimens. This document also needs to declare botanical name. The specimens must be in good healthy plants and high quality. Any shipment must be accompanies with the proper of shipper documents (invoices), good labeled of specimens and packaged. Investigation and cooperation with the range state of original specimens is needed.

4.3.2 Domestic measures

The artificial propagation of hybrids may be subject to controls or regulated at the national level to protection of the wild orchid species. National Registration and Certified are recommended (Nurseries Registration, Import/ Export company registration, specimens certified).

5. Information on similar species -
6. Other comments -
7. Additional remarks -
8. References

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