

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
Bangkok, Thailand, October 2-14, 2004

A. Proposal

To transfer of *Vanda coerulea* from Appendix I to Appendix II

B. Proponent

Thailand.

C. Supporting Statement -

1. Taxonomy

- 1.1 Class: Monocotyledonae
- 1.2 Order: Orchidales
- 1.3 Family: Orchidaceae
- 1.4 Genus: *Vanda*
- 1.5 Species: *Vanda coerulea* Griff. ex Lindl.
- 1.6 Scientific synonyms: None
- 1.7 Common names: Blue Vanda
- 1.8 Code numbers: None

2. Biological Parameters

2.1 Distribution

Northeast India, South China, Myanmar and Thailand.

2.2 Habitat availability

Open forest at approximately 800 - 1,700 meters above sea level. Epiphytic on deciduous stunted trees e.g. *Shorea* spp.

2.3 Population status

In India : The species is reported to widely distribute in large area of Assam.
In China: Large population is reported in undisturbed forests of Yunnan, Guizhou province.
In Myanmar : Large population is found in various forests over Shan state.
In Thailand: The species has a scattered distribution over 500 kilometers range in western (Kanchanaburi) to northern (Chiang Mai) province.

2.4 Population trends

The species has a scattered distribution over large area of the four range states. China population is large and still undisturbed. The population in India and Thailand has been recovered from over exploitation in the past. Myanmar population is showed some signs of reduction from collecting.

2.5 Geographic trend

Not applicable

2.6 Role of the species in its ecosystem

Not applicable

2.7 Threats

The species has been heavily collected for community use in Myanmar.

3. Utilization and Trade

3.1 National utilization

Collected in Meamer by community traders. Very few collections in the other range states.

3.2 Legal international trade

There was a trade reported of wild specimen in 1997. However, it might be a nursery grown specimen that had been poorly cared. Most specimens in international trade over the past 10 years have been artificially propagated of highly improved cultivars from Thailand. Malaysia exported only 2 lots of artificially propagated specimen.

3.3 Illegal trade

Not applicable.

3.4 Actual or potential trade impacts

Not applicable.

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

Very few nurseries in Malaysia and USA.

4. Conservation and Management

4.1 Legal status

4.1.1 National

Export of wild collected specimens is prohibited in all range state by domestic legislation.

4.1.2 International

Included in Appendix I since 1979.

4.2 Species management

4.2.1 Population monitoring

A CITES Scientific Authority of Thailand conduct sporadic monitoring of Thai and Myanmar population.

4.2.2 Habitat conservation

The species is found only in protected forest of the range states.

4.2.3 Management measures

A recovery plan; reintroduction of seedlings to the area where seed pod was collected, has been executed after 30 years of natural recovery period in Thailand.

4.3 Control measures

4.3.1 International trade

According to CITES regulation.

4.3.2 Domestic measures

Collection of wild specimen is prohibited by law in all range state.

5. Information on Similar Species

None

6. Other Comments

In consultation with the range states, only Myanmar replied to confirm that population is stable and consider being large. The taxon distributes over the area of over 10,000 sq. km in the country without any serious threat. No response from other two range states regarding the status of species as well as its conservation strategy. However, the taxon may be listed in Appendix III for a range state if only one range state prefers a strict control.

7. Additional Remarks

The species is popular to be used as a stud plants; thus only elite clones are in demand. The probability to select a good clone from wild population is extremely low. Thus, only selected improved population is in the commercial demand.

The taxon does not met any criteria for being in Appendix I, since the wild population is large and found over a large area of four range states. Its habitat in China and Myanmar are of high quality. India and Thai populations have been recovered for over 25 years after highly elite clones were successfully selected and propagate and the taxon has been in Appendix I.

The species may be confused in trade with its hybrids. A similarity of appearance of the wild collected specimen and the poorly grown specimen of artificially propagated plant from developing countries also causes a large burden for the management authority of both importing and exporting countries. Enforcement should be diverse to concentrate more on the trade of the qualified endanger species.

8. References:

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