AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of Dionaea muscipula in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

The United States of America.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

   10. Division: Magnoliophyta (angiosperms; flowering plants)
   11. Class: Magnoliopsida (dicotyledons)
   12. Order: Nepenthales
   13. Family: Droseraceae
   14. Species: Dionaea muscipula Ellis 1770
   15. Genus: Dionaea Ellis (one species; see Wood 1960)
   16. Common Names:
       English: Venus fly-trap
       French: attrape-mouches
       Spanish: Atrapamoscas

2. Biological Data

   21. Distribution: (mapped e.g. by Kral, 1983; Schnell, 1976)

       USA: Endemic to the coastal plain of North Carolina into South Carolina; original
       range extending SW - 320 km. Frantz (1991) maps historic and present North
       Carolina range.

   22. Population: Continued decline; main two areas left are State public land in North
       Carolina, in both of which poaching occurs. The State of North Carolina is

   23. Habitat: Intermediate wetland zone: between wet bongs of evergreen shrubs
       ("pocosins") and dry sandy regions of longleaf pine-wiregrass savannas. Natural
       fires were a factor in creating a relatively open habitat favourable to Dionaea.
3. **Trade Data**

31. **National Utilization and Legal International Trade:** Collecting wild plants without landowner consent is illegal in both States. In North Carolina, the permission must be in writing and dated, and expires after half a year.

The number of wild plants entering the internal trade remains unknown. In the 1981 U.S. proposal of this species for Appendix II (COP3), 1.4-4.5 million plants were estimated to be sold annually within the country, the majority considered of wild origin. Recently a major European importer surmised that most of his plants were of wild origin. In 1990 (the only year with complete data), North Carolina exported 1,077,227 flytraps (mostly bulbs; 200,000-300,000 whole plants), and South Carolina none.

32. **Artificial Propagation Considerations:** The species can be readily propagated artificially, by a diversity of traditional and modern methods, which are generally known.

33. **Illegal International Trade:** Poaching is considered minimal in South Carolina (where perhaps at present only 10% of the population (plants) occur). In North Carolina, collections seem to be frequent and widespread. The results can be seen at depleted and extirpated sites, and even in enforcement actions against repeat offenders.

   North Carolina recently elevated the species to Special Concern status, and adopted new regulations with much higher fines. South Carolina can levy fines and impose imprisonment.

4. **Protection Status**

41. **National:** The repeated taking of plants illegally in the two State natural areas that harbour the largest and best remaining populations of this remarkable species is a main reason for the present CITES proposal. Some offenders continue to poach *Dionaea* despite as many as 20 encounters with enforcement authorities. It is simply too easy and too lucrative for collecting to stop. Enforcement is difficult and perforce limited, and market demand consistent.

42. **International:** None. The United States (22/10/65) included *Dionaea* in an informative, non-official list for awareness by Parties to the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere (CNWH) (OAS, 1967; cf. Orejas-Miranda, 1976; Coolidge, 1949). The European Community (EC) has decided to monitor imports, which will start some time after COP8.

43. **Additional Protection Needs:** A decade ago, the United States proposed this species for CITES Appendix II, but ultimately withdrew it prior to consideration at COP3. The information on this species has improved; its status in the natural environment continues to decline from habitat loss. The State of North Carolina has undertaken several significant steps to evaluate its deterioration in the field, and discourage poaching. The EC has felt the need to monitor imports. The United States considers inclusion in Appendix II likely to aid this species by discouraging overharvest, and encouraging the production of the species by artificial propagation.
5. **Information on Similar Species**

*Dionaea* is monotypic, with only the species *D. muscipula*, one of the most remarkable and well-known plants in the world. There are many published sources to recognize it. Even as a bulb, it is characteristic without much training, and it has been marketed in that form to a willing public.

6. **Comments from Countries of Origin**

The United States values this 5-month review process by Parties to stimulate and additional comments, which are welcome. (They may be sent directly to the U.S. Management Authority at telefax 703-358-2281).

7. **Additional Remarks**

The species can be robust in nature, as well as easy to cultivate and propagate. Many plants in trade have been removed from the wild, grown for a while, and then sold. Inclusion in Appendix II should discourage such half-way measures. There is every reason to believe that the world’s interest in this species can be fully supplied properly, from sources meeting completely the exacting criteria of CITES.

8. **References**


