AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of *Aconitum ferox* in Appendix II.

B. PROPOSENT

India.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. **Taxonomy**

   11. **Class:** Dicotyledoneae
   12. **Order:** Ranales
   13. **Family:** Ranunculaceae
   14. **Scientific Name:** *Aconitum ferox* Wall. ex Seringer in Mus. Helv. 1: 160, t. 15, ff. 43-44. 1823
   15. **Scientific Synonyms:** None.

2. **Common Names:**

   - English: Indian Aconite
   - French: Katbish
   - Spanish: Bacchanag
   - Beng.: Katbish
   - Guj.: Vacchanag
   - Hindi: Bacchanag bish, Mahoor, Mitha zahar
   - Kan.: Vasanabhi
   - Lepcha: Nyiene
   - Mal.: Vatsanabhi
   - Mar.: Bachnag
   - Tam.: Vashanabi
   - Tal.: Ativasanabhi

3. **Code Numbers:**

2. **Biological Data**

   21. **Population Status:** Listed in Red Data Book of Indian Plants, vol.1 as "vulnerable".
   22. **Population Trend:** Endemic to Himalaya; the present level of exploitation for the roots is considered to be pushing the species towards endangered category.
   23. **Distribution:** Kashmir to Sikkim, Nepal, Bhutan.
   24. **Habitat Availability:** Himalayan moist forests, amongst shrubs at altitude *ca* 2100-3800 m.
   25. **Geographic Trend:** Himalayas; from north-west (Kashmir) extending eastward to Bhutan.
26. **Threats:** Becoming endangered due to excessive collection of roots for medicinal uses.

3. **Utilization and Trade:**

31. **National Utilization:** It is a chief source of 'India Aconite' of commerce used for curing many diseases and also as arrow poison.

32. **Legal International Trade:**

33. **Illegal Trade:** Raw materials as well as extract is exported but the quantities are not known.

34. **Actual Potential Trade Impact:** Has high potentiality in trade as the plant is a chief source of "Indian Aconite" having high trade demand and the plant is endemic to Himalayas. Present exploitation levels are seriously depleting stocks.

35. **Captive Breeding or Artificial Propagation (outside country of origin):** Not known.

4. **Conservation and Management:**

41. **Legal Status:**

411. **National:** Export of plant and its derivatives is prohibited under Export (Control) Order.

412. **International:**

42. **Species Management:**

421. **Population Monitoring:** Being undertaken to some degree.

422. **Habitat Conservation:** No specific conservation strategy is implemented so far but certain areas of its occurrence are included under different declared protected areas.

423. **Management Measures:** Measures for *in situ* conservation are being undertaken and attempts made to develop and promote cultivation.

43. **Control Measures:**

431. **International Trade:**

432. **Domestic Measures:** Due to over-exploitation the species is under severe threat. So, measures are being undertaken to protect the plant in its natural habitat, to ban the collection from the wild source and to attempt large scale cultivation as well as *ex situ* propagation.

5. **Information on Similar Species**

51. **Similarity in Appearance:** Commercial Crude 'A. ferox' or 'Indian Aconite' available in the market is a mixture of number of *Aconite* spp. mainly *A. ferox*, *A. deinorrhizum*, *A. laciniatum*, *A. atrox*, *A. spicatum*, *A. heterophyllum* and *A. balfourii* of which *A. ferox* constitutes the chief source. All species have high medicinal potentiality, thus the genus *Aconitum* is being considered for Appendix II of CITES.

52. **Nature of Specimen in Trade:** Root and extracted alkaloid.
6. **Comments from Countries of Origin**

61. **Range States:** Himalayan range of Nepal and Bhutan. Listed as an important medicinal plant traded from Nepal (Nepal-UK Forestry Research Project).

7. **Additional Remarks**

**Description:** Biennial, erect herb with tuberous roots. Leaves palmately 5-fid, 8-15 cm in diam., lobes 5, ovate, wedge-shaped, acuminate, deeply incised. Flowers 2-3 cm long, blue, uppermost sepal 2-2.5 x 0.8-1 cm with short acute beak; upper lateral sepals ovate, ca 10 x 3 mm. Petal heads somewhat S-shaped ca 6 mm long; spur recurved. Follicles 5, finely hairy.

8. **References**


