

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

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UNITED KINGDOM'S NATIONAL REPORT ON RAMIN (*GONYSTYLUS* SPP.)

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## United Kingdom

### UK NATIONAL REPORT ON RAMIN (*GONYSTYLUS* SPP.)

#### Background on CITES and Ramin

Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) is a light tropical hardwood tree species restricted to swamp forests in Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia (Kalimantan and Sumatra) and Malaysia (Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah, and Sarawak). The Indonesian government listed ramin in Appendix III of CITES in April 2001 with a successful proposal to uplist the genus to Appendix II occurring at the CITES CoP13 (Bangkok, Thailand, November 2003).

UK imports and re-exports of ramin are outlined below. The UK is one of a number of EU importing countries, although the internal movement of ramin products from other EU member States, in particular Italy, constitutes a large part of the UK trade of ramin.

As an importer of ramin and a member of the EC Scientific Review Group (SRG), the UK has been involved in discussions on the EU trade of ramin, in particular from Malaysia. At the 40<sup>th</sup> SRG meeting (March 2007) consideration was given to the trade in ramin from Malaysia following concerns raised by EU member States over the quota and the data on which non-detriment findings are based. At this meeting a negative opinion was formed for trade in ramin from Malaysia (Sarawak, Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah).. Following a dialogue between the Commission and Malaysia the 1<sup>st</sup> the 41<sup>st</sup> SRG meeting (September 2007) agreed to a positive opinion for imports from Sarawak with an agreed lowering of the Malaysian export quota for 2008 and agreement that it be set only on the basis of legal and sustainable harvest without inclusion of old stocks. The 41<sup>st</sup> SRG retained its negative opinion for imports of Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah, although this was changed to a positive opinion for all of Malaysia at the 42<sup>nd</sup> SRG (December 2007) At the 17<sup>th</sup> CITES Plants Committee (PC) meeting in April 2008, Malaysia introduced a summary report on the non- detriment findings for Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) The Committee noted the document.

#### UK Enforcement Action

Tackling the illegal trade in CITES species is a UK wildlife crime priority. The National Wildlife Crime Unit carried out an assessment of wildlife crime affecting the UK. Its report provided the basis for decisions to be made by a group of senior Government and enforcement officials on the wildlife crime priorities for 2007-08. Action is underway to tackle these priorities, and the objective for the CITES wildlife crime priority is to produce, by September 2008, an assessment of the illegal trade in the context of the overall legal trade, and in the meantime, to deal with any identified offences.

As part of the UK's implementation of CITES the UK Scientific Authority for plants (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) and the UK Border Agency, in particular the CITES Team, Heathrow Airport, have developed a number of training packages and publications on the importation of ramin and other CITES-listed timbers and on the identification of ramin. This training has been adapted for training of enforcement officers in other member States, including Ireland, Italy, Poland and Sweden.

As part of the UK's commitment to further this capacity building work the UK CITES Management Authority (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – Defra) has funded a research project to develop a validated forensic genetic test for the identification of ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.). The research was carried out by RBG Kew and Wildlife DNA Services with assistance from other CITES Parties including Malaysia. The findings of the research project were presented to PC17 in Geneva in April 2008 (see <http://www.cites.org/eng/com/PC/17/E-PC17-21-02.pdf>) and a final copy of the report is available at: [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=WC0702Int\\_7253\\_FRP.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=WC0702Int_7253_FRP.pdf)

Further research in this area is being considered by Defra.

## UK Seizures of Ramin

**Table 1: Seizure of Ramin in the UK since 2002**

YEAR	DESCRIPTION	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	QTY	UNIT
<b>2002</b>	RAMIN - HARDWOOD DOWELS (GONYSTYLUS SPP)	MALAYSIA	120204	<b>u</b>
	RAMIN DIY MOULDING AND DOWELS	MALAYSIA	61610	<b>u</b>
	RAMIN MOULDINGS	MALAYSIA	36000	<b>u</b>
	RAMIN (TROPICAL HARDWOOD)	MALAYSIA	1695076	<b>u</b>
	RAMIN PICTURE FRAME MOULDINGS (TROPICAL HARDWOOD)	INDONESIA	988	<b>u</b>
	RAMIN PICTURE FRAME MOULDINGS	INDONESIA	1681	<b>u</b>
	RAMIN PICTURE FRAME MOULDINGS	INDONESIA	1190	<b>u</b>
	RAMIN (TROPICAL HARDWOOD) PICTURE FRAME MOULDINGS	INDONESIA	22	<b>u</b>
	RAMIN (HARDWOOD) PICTURE FRAME MOULDINGS	INDONESIA	219	<b>u</b>
	GARDEN TOOLS - RAMIN	TAIWAN	288	<b>u</b>
	RAMIN WOOD VENETIAN BLINDS	TAIWAN	1020	<b>u</b>
	RAMIN WOOD VENETIAN BLINDS (CARTONS)	HONG KONG	1144	<b>u</b>
	RAMIN BEADS (TROPICAL HARDWOOD)	TAIWAN	67998	<b>u</b>
	TROPICAL HARDWOOD - RAMIN MOULDINGS FOR BLINDS (PKGS)	TAIWAN	611	<b>u</b>
	368 CARTONS OF RAMIN WOOD MOULDINGS	MALAYSIA	7546000	<b>g</b>
<b>2003</b>	RAMIN DOWELS (GONYSTYLUS SPP.)	MALAYSIA	253000	<b>u</b>
<b>2004</b>	RAMIN MOULDINGS	CHINA	974000	<b>g</b>
	ONE CONTAINER OF WINDOW BLINDS - RAMIN	INDONESIA	6879000	<b>g</b>
	RAMIN WOOD DOWELS	MALAYSIA	10245	<b>u</b>
	RAMIN DOWELS	MALAYSIA	270000	<b>u</b>
	RAMIN MOULDINGS	INDONESIA	12	<b>u</b>
	455 CARTONS OF WINDOW BLINDS	INDONESIA	6775000	<b>g</b>
	885 CARTONS OF RAMIN WINDOW BLINDS	INDONESIA	13492000	<b>g</b>
	429 CARTONS OF RAMIN WINDOW BLINDS	INDONESIA	6390000	<b>g</b>
<b>2007</b>	9 CARTONS OF WOODEN TASSELS	TAIWAN	19975	<b>u</b>
	20 CARTONS OF DOLLS HOUSE MINIATURES - RAMIN WOOD	TAIWAN	2160	<b>u</b>

Please note that these figures are obtained from a live system and are subject to correction and changes at any time. Officers of HMRC also record either the weight or the number of pieces depending on which is most practical at the time of seizure, hence u=unit and g=gram.

**Table 2: Import and Re-export data**

<b>Application Received</b>	<b>Export Country</b>	<b>Application Type</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2002</b>	GB	Re-export	Nos –	1375351
<b>2003</b>	GB	Re-export	nos	798070
<b>2004</b>	GB	Re-export	nos	397715
<b>2005</b>	GB	Re-export	Kg	1553
			Nos	196370
	Indonesia	Import	m <sup>3</sup>	63
	Malaysia	Import	m <sup>3</sup>	108518
<b>2006</b>	GB	Re-export	Kg	2349
			Nos	191545
	Indonesia	Import	m <sup>3</sup>	74
	Malaysia	Import	Kg	11
			m <sup>3</sup>	58
<b>2007</b>	GB	Re-export	Kg	1230
			No	226803
	Indonesia	Import	m <sup>3</sup>	2
			Nos	2

A significant drop in the amount of timber re-exported in 2005 can be attributed to the drop in imports. Changes in the EU, due to new Member States joining, result in their no longer being counted towards re-export quotas.

**Further Action: FLEGT**

The UK also engages with exporters of ramin and other timbers to the EU through the EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) regulation, which allows the EU to enter into legally binding Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) with timber producing countries and, where necessary, provide them with assistance to tackle illegal logging. VPAs, will require that trade is restricted to verified legal timber. VPAs are being negotiated with Indonesia and Malaysia - both ramin range states.