AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of Pericopsis elata in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENTS

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Denmark.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Dicotyledoneae

12. Order: Leguminales

13. Family: Leguminosae (Papilionoideae)

14. Species: Pericopsis elata (Harms) van Meeuwen
Synonyms: Afrormosia elata Harms

15: Common Names:

English:	Afrormosia, African Teak
French:	Teck d'Afrique
Spanish:	
Ghana:	Kokrodua, Awawai
Côte d'Ivoire:	Assamela
Central African Republic, Congo:	Obang

16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: Pericopsis elata occurs in Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Zaire.

22. Population: This species is considered by the National Academy of Sciences (1979) to be facing economic and biological extinction. Natural regeneration is poor and nowhere is the tree's regrowing adequate to sustain continued commercial production of timber. According to FAO (1986), Pericopsis elata is endangered in parts of its geographical range. In situ conservation is considered to be a priority for this species by FAO (1990). Pericopsis elata is recorded in the Tropical Timber Conservation (TTC) database established for ITTO as Rare in Cameroon, Vulnerable/not threatened in Congo, Rare in Côte d'Ivoire, and Vulnerable in Ghana. In Ghana, Pericopsis elata has a limited natural distribution and it has been overcut. Alder (1989) gives the estimated resource life of the species (i.e. the number of years that it can continue to be commercially utilized at the present rate of extraction) as 0 year in Ghana. The need for conservation

of P. elata in Nigeria was noted by Ola-Adams (1977). He suggested that ex situ conservation would be appropriate because of heavy exploitation.

23. Habitat: P. elata grows in drier parts of moist semi-deciduous forests, in the 1000-1500 mm rainfall zone.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization:

32. Legal International Trade: Afrormosia was little known to the trade before the Second World War and the earliest exports from Ghana were made in 1948. Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire became the major suppliers and Afrormosia is still exported as lumber from Ghana. It is the country's most valuable indigenous wood.

Export of Pericopsis elata from Ghana (Lumber) m^3

1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
4301	2885	2736	3238	2569	3145	4917	N/A	N/A	2204

Source: Timber Industry Development Board, Ghana (N/A = not available)

Congo and Zaire are now major suppliers of this species, and the trade appears to perceive no problems in supply. Stocks of P. elata in Congo are mainly concentrated in the relatively unexploited northern forests.

Production of Pericopsis elata in Congo m^3

1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
95	-	-	8617	9809

Source: Ministère de l'Economie Forestière (MEF) and Direction des Recherches Forestières et Piscicoles (DREF) reports.

According to DREF reports, in 1989 Congo exported 23,325 m^3 of Afrormosia in log form. It is uncertain why there is such a major discrepancy in reported production and export of the timber. This could possibly indicate re-exports or may reflect mistakes in amounted to 32,350 m^3. No production was reported for the following two years in Direction des Forêts reports.

Export of Afrormosia from Zaire is restricted by lack of infrastructure and the large distances involved in transporting to the ports. It has been pointed our, for example, that Afrormosia from the Kisangani region travels around 1000 miles by the river Zaire to Kinshasa and a further 225 miles to Matadi. The costs are therefore enormous compared to the situation in West African countries. European organisations have been increasingly interested in investing in Zaire's forest, however. One commercial group, with concessions of over 3000 sq. miles in 1986, was exporting 6000 m^3 of Afrormosia annually, with strong export markets in Japan, the US and Europe (Baker, 1986).

In the recent survey of UK timber traders carried our for ITTO, four companies stated that they currently import P. elata, three from Cameroon, one from Ghana

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In the recent survey of UK timber traders carried our for ITTO, four companies stated that they currently import P. elata, three from Cameroon, one from Ghana

and one from Zaire. Two countries reported that imports and demand had decreased and two that they had remained steady. Pericopsis elata is an important species in furniture production in the UK. The principal use of Afrormosia in the US is in boat construction, interior trim and decorative veneer.

33. Illegal Trade: No information available.

34. Potential Trade Threats: No information available.

4. Protection Status

41. National: Pericopsis elata is protected by law in Côte d'Ivoire where it is included in a list of protected species given by Decree No. 66-122, 31 March 1966. This law prohibits uprooting and damage but felling is allowed where sites are being developed for timber plantations.

In the Congo Pericopsis elata is given some protection by Law 32/82 which forbids felling, burning or damage.

In Cameroon the minimum exploitable diameter is 1.0 m.

Pericopsis elata occurs in a number of protected areas including Forêt de Nki, Cameroon and Bia National Park, Ghana.

42. International: No international conservation measures are known for Pericopsis elata.

43. Additional Protection Needs: It has been recommended that Ghana, Cameroon and Zaire should each set aside 2-3 km^2 of Afrormosia forest as reserves protected from exploitation but where germplasm collection could take place, and that a concerted effort be made to develop Afrormosia silviculture (National Academy of Sciences, 1979).

5. Information on Similar Species

According to National Academy of Sciences (1979) Afrormosia has a texture, grain and appearance much like Teak, and some of the "Teak" furniture sold in the United States is actually Afrormosia.

In the UK furniture makers have been looking for timbers to replace Afrormosia, so far without success (Sparkers, pers. com., 1991).

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

Comments on a draft of the proposal were solicited from Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Zaire.

7. Additional Remarks

None.

8. References

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FAO, 1990. Report of the Seventh Session of the FAO Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources. December 1989, FAO, Rome.

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Lock, J.M., 1989. Legumes of Africa: a check list. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

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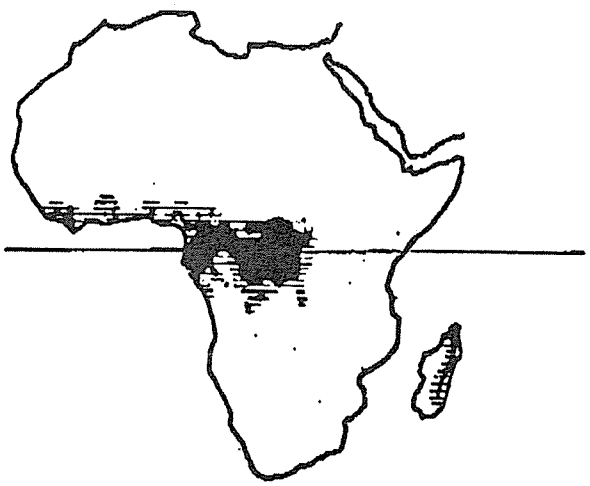
National Academy of Sciences, 1979. Tropical Legumes: Resources for the future. National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.

Map showing the distribution of Tropical Rainforest in West and Central Africa

(Inset is the distribution of *Pericopsis elata* in West Africa, after Howland 1979)



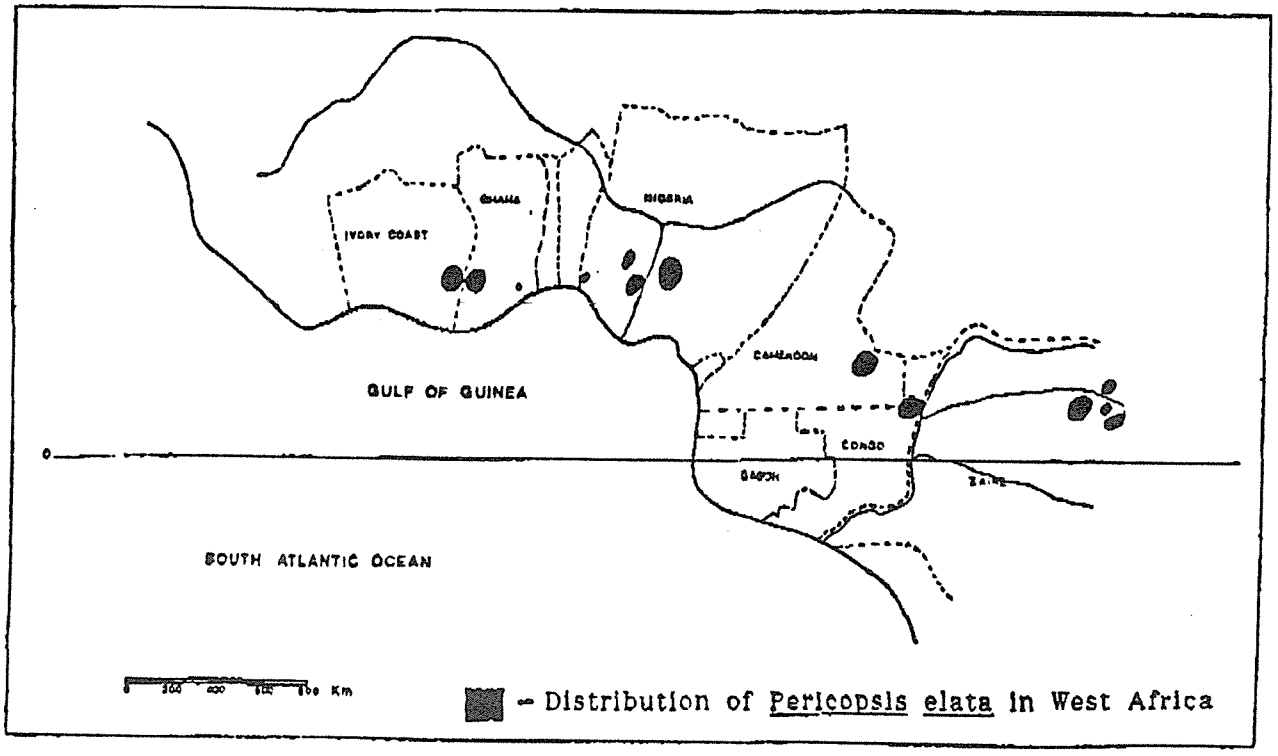
Africa (37 tropical countries)

Total tree cover: 703.1 million ha but only 216.6 million ha is enclosed forests,

Source: Tropical Rainforest: a Disappearing Treasure (Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, Travelling Exhibition Service, 1988), and Gradwohl and Greenberg, 1988.

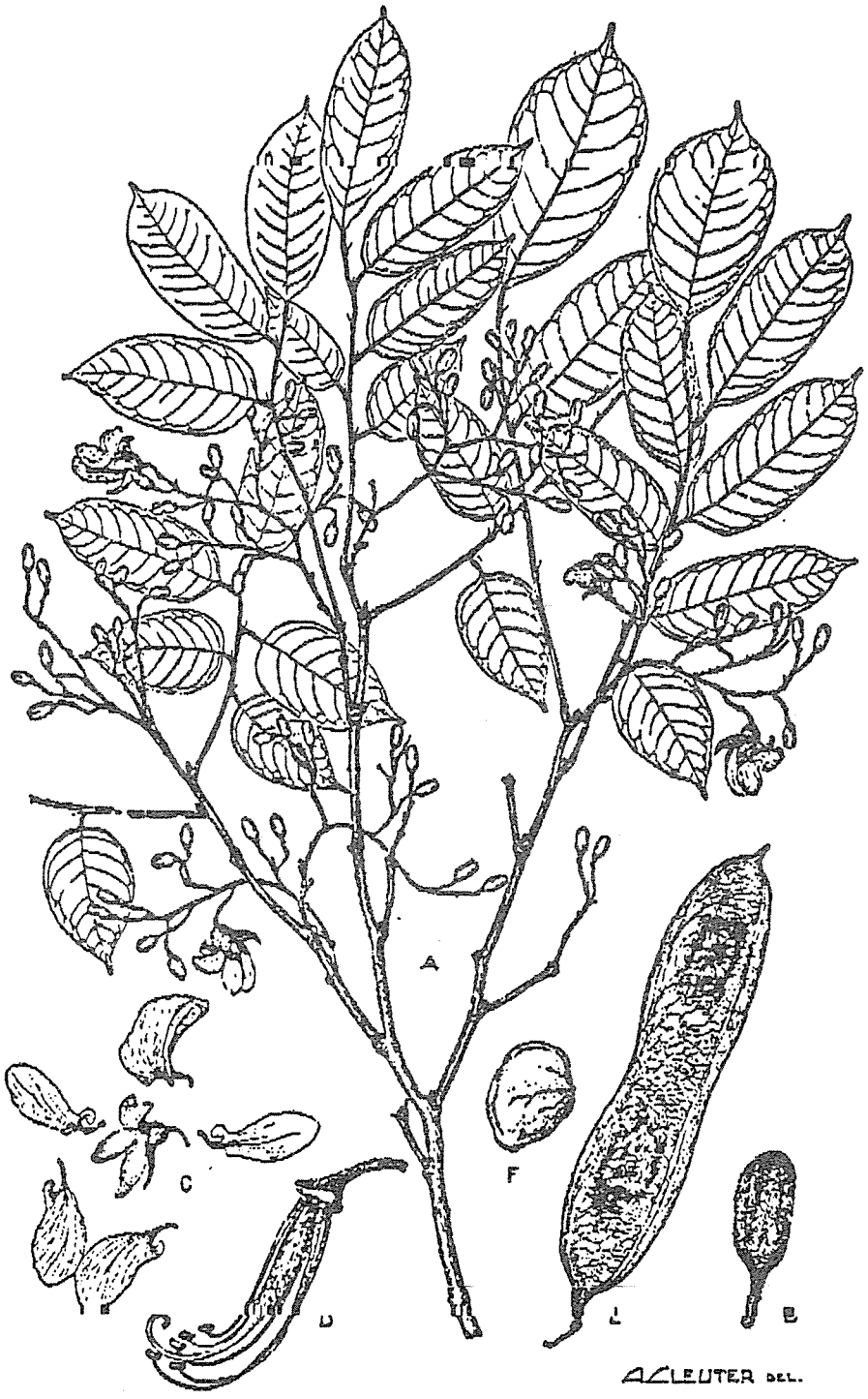
Previous Extent of Tropical Rainforests

Current Extent of Tropical Rainforests



= Distribution of Pericopsis elata in West Africa

PLANCHE III.



Pericopsis elata (Harms) van Meeuwen

From : Robyns W. (Ed.) (1953) Flore du Congo Belge. Spermatophytes Volume IV