

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of *Gonystylus bancanus* in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

Denmark and the Netherlands.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Dicotyledoneae
12. Order:
13. Family: Thymelaeaceae
14. Species: *Gonystylus bancanus* (Miq.) Kurz
15. Common Names:
- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| English: | |
| French: | |
| Spanish: | |
| Malaysian: | Ramin, Melawis |
| Indonesian: | Garu Buaja |
| Philippine: | Lanutan-Bagio |
16. Number Code:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: *G. bancanus* occurs in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah, Sarawak, Brunei Darussalam, Kalimantan, Sumatra, Irian Jaya and the Philippines.
22. Population: *G. bancanus* has been heavily depleted in Indonesia (Haeruman, 1985). It is Vulnerable in Peninsular Malaysia because of heavy exploitation, habitat loss, poor natural regeneration and lack of silvicultural knowledge about the species (Anon., 1985). According to Repetto and Gillis (1988), the swamp forests of Sarawak were largely depleted of Ramin by 1981. The recent ITTO mission to Sarawak reported that Ramin is being heavily overcut.

In the Tropical Timber Conservation (TTC) database established for ITTO, *G. bancanus* is recorded as V in Peninsular Malaysia and V in the Philippines.

The scarcity of supply of Ramin timber has been noted both in countries of export and import. The ITTO 1989 Country Market Statement for Malaysia, for example, refers to the shortage of Ramin and the difficulty in supplying market demand.

23. Habitat: *G. bancanus* occurs in peat swamp forests. In Peninsular Malaysia this vegetation type occurs in low-lying plains just behind the coast, mainly in the central and southern parts of the peninsula. On the west coast the peat forests occur on heavy alluvial clay, whereas on the east coast they occur on coarse sand and white clay. Large areas of peat swamp forest have been cleared for agriculture, with extensive development of oil palm and pineapple plantations (Appanah *et al.*, 1989).

Peat swamp forests are widespread in Sarawak, accounting for 14 736 km² or 11.9% of the land area. Some conversion to rice and pineapple fields, and coconut and sago plantations has taken place but so far on a relatively small scale. Timber production has been the main use of the forests.

The only extensive area of peat swamp with *Gonystylus* in Sabah is located in the south-west region (Fox, 1978).

G. bancanus occurs in Indonesian peat swamp forests of Sumatra, Kalimantan and Irian Jaya. Estimates of the total peat area in Sumatra and Kalimantan vary between 16.5 and 27 million ha. The species is also a component of freshwater swamp forests in the lowlands of Sumatra, Kalimantan and Irian Jaya (Silvius *et al.*, 1987).

Total areas of swamp forest of Indonesia

Extent (1000 ha)	Peat swamp	Freshwater
Original area	2069511	560
Remaining area	169755	185
Area in reserves	1670	670

Source: Silvius *et al.*, 1987.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization:

32. Legal International Trade: Ramin is exported by Sarawak as sawn timber. In 1987 Ramin accounted for 87% of total sawn timber exports from the state. Sawn timber is mainly exported to EC countries such as Italy (37%), UK (13%), Netherlands (10%), FRG (9%), Belgium (6%) and Spain (5%). The quantity of Ramin exported in 1987 was 153 879 m³ and in 1988, 175 000 m³. The volume exported during the period January-March 1989 was 40 000 m³, an increase of around 33% over exports during the same period of the previous year (source: Forestry Department). In 1989, Peninsular Malaysia exported 16 187 m³ of Ramin sawn timber, as recorded by MTIB.

In the early 1980s Ramin was Indonesia's first species for sawn wood exports, accounting for 37.7% in volume, 45.8% in value. The average annual amount exported was 598 000 m³, with a value of US\$119 million (Laurent, 1986). In 1986 Indonesia exported 377 000 m³ of Ramin (source: Forestry Department).

In 1989 the UK imported 19 817 m³ (as recorded in Customs statistics).

In the recent survey of UK timber traders carried out for ITTO, six companies stated they currently import *G. bancanus*, three from Indonesia and five from Malaysia. Four companies reported that imports were down and two steady. Only two felt that demand had decreased. One company stated that demand was highly price-dependent.

33. Illegal Trade

The extent of illegal logging and trade in Ramin is not known. Illegal logging has, however, been reported, for example, 1378 m³ of Ramin logs were seized in Sarikei Division, Sarawak (Anon., 1988).

34. Potential Trade Threats

No information available.

4. Protection Status

41. National: The export of Ramin in the form of logs or sawn timber is banned in Indonesia.

In Indonesia, *Gonystylus bancanus* occurs in the Gunung Palung Nature Reserve, Mandor Nature Reserve, Gunung Penrisen/Gunung Nyiut Game Reserve, Kalimantan; and the Berbak Game Reserve, Sumatra.

In Peninsular Malaysia the presence of Ramin in the Kuala Langat Selatan Forest Reserve, Selangor VJR No 10 is noted by Putz (1978). It has been noted (Anon., 1985) that the great majority of the disjunct lowland populations of *G. bancanus* lack all protection, being outside National Parks, Virgin Jungle Reserves and commercial Forest Reserves.

42. International: No international conservation measures are known.

43. Additional Protection Needs: Habitat protection and better control of the exploitation of Ramin are needed to ensure effective conservation of the species.

Appanah *et al.* (1989) call for the conservation of peat swamp forests in Peninsular Malaysia as a source of timber, for genetic resource conservation and to maintain the hydrological balance. They call for the conversion of forested land for agricultural purposes to be discouraged.

According to Wong Khoon Meng (*in litt.*), conservation of *Gonystylus* habitats is important in Brunei.

5. Information on Similar Species

The genus *Gonystylus* consists of over 20 species distributed in South-East Asia and the Pacific. Other species are also used for timber but *G. bancanus* is the main commercial source of Ramin. Other species which produce Ramin timber in Peninsular Malaysia are *G. affinis*, *G. confusus*, *G. forbesii*, and *G. maingayi*. Two other very rare species also occur in Peninsular Malaysia. The bulk of the Malaysian supply of Ramin is found in the peat swamps of Sarawak and is

contributed solely by *G. bancanus* (Sim Heok Choh, undated). Anderson (1980) lists 21 species of *Gonystylus* for Sarawak.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

7. Additional Remarks

None.

8. References

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Correspondence and personal communications

Wong Khoon Meng, Forestry Department, Brunei Darussalam. *In litt.*, September 1989.