

# AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

## Other Proposals

### A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of *Diospyros mun* in Appendix II.

### B. PROPONENT

The Federal Republic of Germany.

### C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

#### 1. Taxonomy

10. Division: Magnoliophyta (angiosperms; flowering plants)

11. Class: Magnoliopsida (dicotyledons)

12. Order: Ebenales

13. Family: Ebenaceae

14. Genus: *Diospyros* L.

Species: *Diospyros mun* A. Chev.

15. Common Names: English: Ebony  
French:  
Spanish:  
Vietnamese: Mun

16. Code Numbers:

#### 2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: *Diospyros mun* is endemic to Viet Nam. In the northern provinces it is found at Hà Tuyen, Lang Son, Hòa Bình, Hà Tĩnh, Quang Bình; in the South it occurs at the communes of Cam Thịnh Đông and Cam Thịnh Tây, District of Cam Ranh, Province of Khánh Hòa.

22. Population: Endangered/Vulnerable in Viet Nam (WCMC, 1991; Oldfield *in litt.* to SA Germany 1994). Populations of this slow-growing species have declined in the wild because of the demand for timber for the export market.

23. Habitat: The species grows on limestone mountains in the northern provinces, up to elevations of 800 m. Further South it occurs on yellow ferallitic soils developed from schists.

#### 3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization:

32. Legal International Trade: *D. mun* yields black heartwood which is valued for craft objects and especially for chopsticks (Vu Van Dung and Vu Van Can, 1991). Timber is reported to be available in UK trade (WCMC, 1991).

33. Illegal Trade: No information currently available.

#### 4. Protection Status

41. National: *D. mun* is included in a list of prime tree and animal species to be protected in Viet Nam (Dang Huy Huynh *et al.* 1989).

A Ministerial Decision on the list of Endangered Forest Wild Fauna and Flora (Decree No. 18) 17.1.92 stipulates protection and management regulations for these species. Under this legislation, the exploitation of *D. mun* is controlled by an annual quota. The export of round logs and semi-processed wood of the species is forbidden.

In 1992, the Government of Viet Nam announced a ban on all wood exports, aimed at ending widespread deforestation in parts of the country. Prior to this, Viet Nam had banned log exports and had quotas for the export of sawn timber (Callister, 1992).

*D. mun* occurs within a number of protected areas in Viet Nam. These include the Cuc Phuong National Park where it grows in primary humid evergreen forest (Hoang Hoe and Vo Quy, 1990).

42. International: No international conservation measures are currently known.

43. Additional Protection Needs: According to Vu Van Dung and Vu Van Can (1991) protection of the species is needed, especially at the Nature Reserve of Cam Thinh Dong, District of Cam Ranh and at another reserve in Quang Binh Province. *Ex situ* conservation measures are also urgently needed.

#### 5. Information on Similar Species

The genus *Diospyros* consists of about 475 species distributed throughout the tropics. Of these around 20 species have been significant as a commercial source of ebony.

#### 6. Comments from Countries of Origin

Vietnamese authorities have been consulted. A comment from Viet Nam regarding *D. mun* is under way.

#### 7. Additional Remarks

#### 8. References

Callister, D. (1991). *Illegal tropical timber trade: Asia-Pacific*. TRAFFIC Network.

Hoang Hoe and Vo Quy (1990). Nature conservation in Viet Nam: an Overview. Regional expert consultation on management of protected areas in the Asia-Pacific region. FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, December 1990, Bangkok, Thailand.

Dang Huy Huynh, Do Tuoc, Vu Van Dung and Vu Van Can (1989). Prime tree and animal species to be protected in Vietnam. *Vietnam Forestry*. Ministry of Forestry, Centre of Technical Scientific and Economical Information, Hanoi.

Oldfield, Sara (WCMC), in litt. to U.Schippmann, SA Germany, 10 June 1994.

Vu Van Dung and Vu Van Can (1991). Endangered forest plant species in Viet Nam. *Vietnam Forestry*. Ministry of Forestry, Centre of Technical Scientific and Economical Information, Hanoi.

World Conservation Monitoring Centre (1991). Pre-project study on the conservation status of tropical timbers in trade. Final report. 2 volumes. Prepared under contract to International Tropical Timber Organisation.

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