CONVENTION SUR LE COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL DES ESPECES
DE FAUNE ET DE FLORE SAUVAGES MENACEES D'EXTINCTION

Cinquante-septième session du Comité permanent
Genève (Suisse), 14 – 18 juillet 2008

Interprétation et application de la Convention

Conservation et commerce d'espèces

RAMIN

1. Le présent document a été préparé par le Secrétariat.

2. A sa 50e session (Genève, mars 2004), le Comité permanent a pris note des préoccupations exprimées concernant le commerce illégal de ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) et a demandé au Secrétariat de préparer un document à ce sujet pour discussion à sa session suivante.

3. A la 51e session du Comité permanent (Bangkok, octobre 2004), le Secrétariat a indiqué les mesures prises par l'Indonésie, la Malaisie et Singapour concernant le commerce illégal de ramin. Le Comité a décidé d'inviter les Parties concernées à faire rapport sur les progrès accomplis sur cette question à sa 53e session et aux sessions suivantes, ainsi qu'à la 14e session de la Conférence des Parties.

4. A la 53e session du Comité permanent (Genève, juin – juillet 2005), le représentant de l'Asie (la Malaisie) a fait un rapport oral sur l'équipe spéciale trinationale sur le ramin. Le Comité a demandé que la Chine, les Etats-Unis d'Amérique, l'Italie, le Japon et le Royaume-Uni de Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord soumettent chacun un rapport sur cette question à ses futures sessions.

5. A la 54e session du Comité permanent (Genève, octobre 2006), les Parties pertinentes ont fait des rapports oraux. Le Comité permanent a alors demandé que la Chine, les Etats-Unis, l'Italie, le Japon, la Malaisie et le Royaume-Uni lui fournissent des rapports écrits sur le ramin à sa 57e session.

6. Le Secrétariat a envoyé une lettre aux Parties pertinentes le 25 février 2008 pour les informer de la date butoir fixée au 15 mai 2008 pour la soumission des rapports écrits.

7. La Chine, les Etats-Unis, l'Italie, le Japon et la Malaisie ont envoyé un rapport; ces rapports sont joints au présent document, dans la langue dans laquelle ils ont été soumis, en tant qu'annexes 1 à 5. La Malaisie a soumis un autre rapport, plus complet, joint en tant que document d'information SC57 Inf. 4.

8. Le Secrétariat recommande que le Comité décide, sur la base de ces rapports écrits, si d'autres mesures sont nécessaires et si cette question devra continuer d'être inscrite à l'ordre du jour de ses futures sessions.

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* *La révision ne porte que sur l'Annexe 2.*

CHINA

NATIONAL REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RAMIN'S CITES-LISTING IN CHINA

China submitted to the Secretariat a written report in July 2006, giving a detailed introduction to the implementation of the inclusion in Appendix II of CITES and trade control of Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) in China. Thereafter, The Forestry administrative agencies and the CITES Management Authority of China adopted further measures for control of trades in Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) to eliminate and decrease illegal importation, to prevent making disadvantageous influence on Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) resources in States of origin.

Overview of the implementation of CITES in China

Legislation. For the purpose of conserving wildlife resources and meeting CITES requirements, China has successively enacted a series of laws and regulations, including *Forest Law, Regulations on the Protection of Wild Plants, Regulations for Nature Reserves* and *Regulations on the Import* and *Export Management of Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora.* In conjunction with other integrated laws and regulations, a relatively comprehensive legal system has been established on CITES implementation in China, which upgraded China's national legislation to Category I.

Institutions building. The Endangered Species Import and Export Management Office of China is designated as the CITES Management Authority to implement CITES on behalf of the Chinese Government. So far, the CITES Management Authority has established one headquarter, nineteen branches and 4 inspection stations throughout the country with 130 full-time professional staff. In the past few years, along with the enhancement of the mandates of the CITES Management Authority and its branches, coordination and collaboration with other competent agencies has preliminarily come into being; a specialized fulfilling faculty team and trans-sectoral coordination mechanism has been developed.

International cooperation. Being the largest developing country in the world, China has always attached great importance to the problem of illegal logging. During the third Sino-US Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) held in December, 2007 in Beijing, Zhu Lieke, Vice-Minister of the State Forest Administration of China, expatiated China's viewpoint on timber illegal logging: Firstly, being a main component of the land ecosystem, an important carbon sink and a reproductive resource, forests were the foundation of the economic and social development. China and USA should work more closely together to protect forest and promote sustainable forest management. Secondly, the main reasons why forest coverage reduced are the forest lands converting to croplands or for some other utilities, natural disasters such as forest fire, snow, sleet and so on, rather than the international timber trade. So strengthening forest management capability and alleviating poverty in developing countries are the key points to protect global forests. Thirdly, the Chinese Government was strongly against illegal logging and trade, and had not only strengthened domestic legislation in that field, but also published the *Guideline on Overseas Sustainable Forest Cultivating*. Chinese President Hu Jintao proposed the setting up of the Asia-Pacific Network on Forest Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management at the 15th APEC forum. He also said that China has set the targets of raising forest coverage to 20 percent in 2010. Furthermore, on April 2, 2008 in Beijing, China, in collaboration the Rainforest Alliance, the World Wide Fund for Nature and the Nature Conservancy, jointly convened the Conference on Developing Certified Forests, Forest Products, and Markets. Objectives were outlined as to examine the status of certified forest products markets in the region and globally, to explore the opportunities and issues confronting producers and buyers of certified products in China, and to learn about emerging strategies supporting and expanding the market.

Trade control of Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) in China

Import and re-export permitting. China has all along taken stricter measures of trade control than CITES. Article 38 of *Forest Law* and Article 20 of *Regulations on the Protection of Wild Plants* both state that, imports, exports or re-exports of specimens of wild plant species whose imports and exports are restricted by international conventions to which China is a Party, require an import, export, or re-export

permit issued by the CITES Management Authority, and the Customs shall clear the imports, exports or re-exports after examining the pertinent permit. In accordance with the aforementioned stipulation, imports or re-exports of Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) have been automatically subject to an import or re-export permit since it was included in Appendix III of CITES. Accordingly, the CITES Management Authority and the General Administration of Customs has jointly issued gazette, specifying that only presentation of CITES import or re-export permit from the CITES Management Authority could imports or re-exports of Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) be cleared by Customs.

Confirmation of foreign CITES permits or Certificates. According to the procedures currently in force, anyone applying for an import permit of Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) should submit to the CITES Management Authority relevant documents, including photocopy of CITES export permit from the export country or CITES re-export certificate from the re-export country or region (CITES certificate of origin is also applicable as its inclusion in Appendix III), auditing document from the Provincial Forestry Department where the applicant is located, approval document from the State Forestry Administration, application form, contract, and invoice. For applying for a re-export permit, the applicant should provide the CITES Management Authority with the following documents, photocopy of import permit corresponding to the preceding imports with the exception of pre-Convention acquisition, photocopy of Customs' import goods clearance form corresponding to the preceding imports, auditing document from the Provincial Forestry Department where the applicant is located, approval document from the State Forestry Administration, application form, contract, and invoice. Before issuing CITES import or re-export permits, the CITES Management Authority requires contacts with the pertinent Management Authorities in exporting or re-exporting countries or regions to confirm the authenticity and validity of CITES export permits or re-export certificates on a regular basis.

Adoption of species-specific HS codes. As of 1998, the CITES Management Authority and the General Administration of Customs have jointly developed and implemented the *HS Commodity Catalogue of Import and Export on Wild Fauna and Flora*, with 10-digit HS Codes relevant to specimens of CITES-listed species or national regulated species being annotated by surveillance requirement of permits. For an application to import or export specimens of wildlife species under 10-digit HS Codes with presentation of permit, the computerized declaration system of Customs could automatically alert the applicant and Customs officers that an permit from the CITES Management Authority is required. This HS Commodity Catalogue is timely revised along with the updates of CITES Appendices, China's National Key Protected Wild Animal Species List and China's National Key Protected Wild Plant Species List, which has greatly improved the supervision efficiency of Customs to the specimens of endangered species in international trade. Considering that Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) is mainly used to being processed in China and the forms of its products are diversified, the HS Codes for Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) is developed as species-specific as possible. At present, the 10-digit HS Codes in relation of Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) has amounted to over 40, in which 29 codes are Ramin-specific (Table 1). To ensure the effective implementation of the *HS Commodity Catalogue of Import and Export on Wild Fauna and Flora*, another system named *Certificate for Non-regulated Species* has been put into operation. If a HS Code the applicant declared is not subject to a permit and Customs officers are not fully convinced of its accuracy, the applicant would be required to provide a *Certificate for Non-regulated Species* issued by the CITES Management Authority in order to prevent mistaken or fraudulent declaration.

Table 1. Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS Codes) with Reference to Ramin Parts and Derivatives Used by China.

HS Code	Description
4401220010	Chips or particles of non-coniferous endangered species
4403100010	Logs of endangered species in the rough, treated with paint, stains, creosote or other preservatives
4403499010	Other tropical non-coniferous logs of endangered species in the rough, excluding wood treated with paint, stains, creosote or other preservatives
4404200010	Hoopwood of endangered non-coniferous species, including split poles, wooden sticks or the like
4406900010	Impregnated railway or tramway sleepers of wood of endangered species
4407299011	End-joined Ramin wood sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, thickness over 6 mm

HS Code	Description
4407299091	Non-end-joined wood sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, thickness over 6 mm, of endangered tropical species NES
4408391120	Sheets for veneering of Ramin of laminated wood of plywood, thickness not over 6 mm
4408391920	Other veneer sheets of Ramin, thickness not over 6mm
4408392020	Other sheets for plywood of Ramin, thickness not over 6 mm
4408399020	Other sheets of Ramin, thickness not over 6 mm
4409291010	Strips or blocks of parquet flooring of Ramin, including not assembled, continuously shaped along any of its edges or face
4409299010	Ramin, continuously shaped along any of its edges or faces
4412130020	Plywood consisting solely of sheets with at least one outer ply of Ramin, each ply thickness not over 6mm
4412190010	Other plywood consisting solely of sheets of endangered species, each ply thickness not over 6 mm
4412941020	Plywood with at least one outer ply of Ramin, containing particle-board -core plywood and lumber-core plywood
4412991020	continuous layer board with at least one outer ply of Ramin
4414000010	Frames for paintings, photographs, mirrors or similar objects, of Ramin
4415100010	Cases and similar packing, cable-drums, of Ramin
4415200010	Pallets, box pallets and other load boards, pallet collars, of Ramin
4416000010	Cooper's products and parts thereof, including staves, of Ramin
4417000010	Tools, tool handles, boots or shoe lasts and trees, of Ramin
4418100010	Windows, French-windows and their frames of Ramin
4418200010	Doors and their frames and thresholds of Ramin
4418710010	Mosaic parquet flooring of Ramin
4418720010	Multi-ply parquet flooring of Ramin
4418790010	Other parquet flooring of Ramin
4418900010	Builder's joinery and carpentry, including cellular wood panels, of Ramin
4419009010	Tableware and kitchenware of Ramin
4420101010	Woodcut of Ramin
4420102010	Wooden fans of Ramin
4420109010	Statuettes and other ornaments of Ramin
4420901010	Wood marquetry and inlaid wood of Ramin
4420909010	Caskets and similar articles or furniture not falling, of Ramin
4421100010	Clothes hangers of Ramin
4421901010	Spools, cops, bobbins, sewing thread reels and the like, of Ramin
4421902110	One time round toobtpick, round stick, ice fruit stick, tongue-pressing plate, of Ramin
4421909010	Wood articles NES, of Ramin
9403300010	Furniture of wood of endangered species, of a kind used in the offices
9403400010	Furniture of wood of endangered species, of a kind used in the kitchen
9403509910	Furniture of wood of endangered species, of a kind used in the bedroom
9403609910	Furniture of wood of endangered species, other than those used in the bedroom
9504200010	Articles and accessories for billiards of wood of endangered species

Source: *HS Commodity Catalogue of Import and Export on Wild Fauna and Flora*, Joint Gazette of the CITES Management Authority of China and the General Administration of Customs, P. R. China.

Levy of import administrative fees. To control the imports of specimens of endangered wildlife species and adjust the flowing direction of international trade, import administrative fees have been levied upon imports of specimens of CITES-listed species since 1 August 2000 with the approval of the Ministry of finance and the State Planning Committee (currently State Development and Reform Commission), with 1.5% of total contract value for live or dead body or parts, and 0.5% of total contract value for derivatives.

Registration of importers and exporters. The CITES Management Authority has registered the traders engaging in imports or exports of specimens of endangered species. The register indicates that there are currently 23 enterprises performing imports or re-exports of Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.), approximately half of which are processing traders, i.e., imported Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) will be re-exported abroad after completion of processing into products.

Identification and Smuggling Seizures. The CITES Management Authority of China plans to designate the East China Wood & Wood Products Quality Supervision & Testing Center as the authentic institution for identification of timber species including ramin. Currently, the center has begun its work aiming at timber specimens imported into China. With assistance of this center, one shipment involving 36 pieces or 90 m^3 of Ramin logs (*Gonystylus* spp.) without appropriate CITES documents was seized upon permit import declared Papua New Guinea by the Zhangjiagang Customs in east China's Jiangsu Province in December 2002. Another seizure occurred in November 2006. One shipment declared from Indonesia involving various hardwood or softwood species was detected mixing with Ramin logs without an appropriate export permit also by the Zhangjiagang Custom. The shipment was finally returned to the export country.

Trade statistics of Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) in China

Imports of Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) sawn timber. According to the annual reports of the CITES Management Authority, Mainland China imported a total of 26,307.85 m^3 of Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) from 2001 to 2005, almost in the form of sawn timber. By country of origin, there are 25,721.89 m^3 from Malaysia and 585.96 m^3 from Indonesia respectively (Table 2), and by last re-export country or region, the figures are 17,146.15 m^3 from Malaysia, 5,432.66 m^3 from Hong Kong SAR, 2,091.59 m^3 from Taiwan Province, and 1,637.45 m^3 from Singapore respectively (Table 3).

Table 2. China's Imports of Ramin Sawn Timber from 2001 to 2006 by Country of Origin (m^3)

Year	Malaysia	Indonesia	Total
2001	1637.87	352.62	1990.49
2002	11114.35	117.96	11232.31
2003	5913.58	--	5913.58
2004	2380.14	115.38	2495.52
2005	4675.95	--	4675.95
2006	1142.635	--	1142.635
Total	26864.53	585.96	27450.49

Source: Annual Reports of the CITES Management of China, 2001-2006.

Table 3. China's Imports of Ramin Sawn Timber from 2001 to 2006 by Last Re-export Country or Region (m^3).

Year	Malaysia	Singapore	Taiwan Province	Hong Kong SAR	Total
2001	1135.33	62.05	290.57	502.54	1990.49
2002	7775.26	145.99	220.73	3090.33	11232.31
2003	3727.11	--	437.88	1748.59	5913.58
2004	1629.79	--	774.53	91.2	2495.52
2005	2878.66	1429.41	367.88	--	4675.95
2006	1080.817	--	61.818	--	1142.635
Total	18226.967	1637.45	2153.408	5432.66	27450.485

Source: Annual Reports of the CITES Management of China, 2001-2006.

Re-exports of Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) products. The annual reports of the CITES Management Authority indicate that Mainland China re-exported 14,986.22 m^3, 150,440.70 kg and 22,342 pieces of Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) products from 2001 to 2005. Among them, 150,440.70 kg is equivalent to 278.59 m^3 converted at a rate of 540 kg per m^3, and 22,342 pieces of products are converted into 46.9 m^3 according to the original records. Therefore, the re-exports amounts to 15,311.71 m^3 (Table 4), of which specimen descriptions involved are mainly timber products, such as billiard cues, curtain poles, doors. dowels, hangers, mouldings and planks, and a very small quantity of sawn timber. The countries or regions of destination involve 27 with the bulk going to the UK and the USA (Table 5).

Table 4. China's Re-exports of Ramin Products from 2001 to 2006.

Year	Volume	Unit
2001	387.59	m^3
2002	4761.86	m^3
	150440.70	kg
2003	3719.79	m^3
2004	2796.75	m^3
	11730	pc
2005	3320.23	m^3
	10612	pc
2006	1285.981	m^3
Total	16272.138 m^3 + 150440.70 kg + 22342 pc = 16597.628 m^3	

Source: Annual Reports of the CITES Management of China, 2001-2006.

Table 5. China's re-exports of Ramin products from 2001 to 2006 by country or region of destination.

No.	Destination	Volume	Unit
1	UK	3640.83	m^3
		90547.10	Kg
2	USA	3297.42	m^3
		22342	Pc
3	Italy	1700.59	m^3
4	Ireland	1483.73	m^3
5	Denmark	1187.929	m^3
6	Japan	1469.915	m^3
7	Israel	974.18	m^3
		59893.60	Kg
8	France	653.15	m^3
9	Columbia	519.15	m^3
10	Netherlands	396.73	m^3
11	Spain	289.475	m^3
12	Germany	268.453	m^3
13	Brazil	215.99	m^3
14	South Africa	244.95	m^3
15	Taiwan Province	163.43	m^3
16	UAE	163.95	m^3
17	Mexico	143.48	m^3

No.	Destination	Volume	Unit
18	Chile	149.89	m^3
19	Iceland	87.966	m^3
20	Republic of Korea	41.34	m^3
21	Sweden	17.25	m^3
22	Czech Republic	54.59	m^3
23	Belgium	15.93	m^3
24	Australia	9.00	m^3
25	Singapore	7.60	m^3
26	Finland	7.24	m^3
27	Saudi Arabia	4.97	m^3
28	Estonia	3.46	m^3

Source: Annual Reports of the CITES Management of China, 2001-2006.

Comparable analysis. Further verification shows that there is 4,249 m^3 among the total re-exports of 15,311.71 m^3 of Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) coming from pre-Convention or before its inclusion of Appendix III. Therefore, the actual volume of China's re-exports utilizing imported Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) after its inclusion in Appendix III is 11,062 m^3. Compared with import volume, re-export volume takes up 42.05%, and if the loss is also considered during the course of processing (5%-10%), re-export volume will nearly occupy 50% over the import volume. The conclusion may be drawn that nearly half of China's imports of Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) is used for domestic consumption with another half entering into international consuming markets via being processed into products, and China is not a pure consuming country but an integrator of importing, processing and re-exporting country.

Measures and actions for further effective implementation of the inclusion of Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) in Appendix II of CITES in China

Carrying out further training for enforcement officers. The CITES Management Authority of China will intensify training efforts to enable enforcement officers from Customs and Forestry Department at all levels, to adequately perform their duties with respect to the implementation of CITES for Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.), in particular, to improve their capabilities of timber species identification.

Enhancing inter-agencies coordination. The CITES Management Authority of China will further strengthen collaboration with all relevant government agencies, comprising Customs, Forestry and Commerce, to make concerted efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the CITES Appendix II listing for Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.).

Intensifying exchange of information with counterparts of trading countries and regions. The CITES Management Authority of China will further improve information sharing mechanism with all relevant CITES Management Authorities of China's trading partners for Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.), including range States, in order to prevent the occurrence of illegal international trade and to ensure the timely and appropriate investigation of smugglings.

ITALY

ITALIAN REPORT ON RAMIN

(Summary Record SC54 Doc. 31.2, CITES Secretariat Notification WWW/NJE/SC57RptsRamin)
Data and enforcement problems/actions on *Gonystylus* spp. during 2004-2008

Ramin uses and distribution

The genus Gonystylus consists of about 30 species which are distributed almost throughout the Maleysian territory, eastwards, the distribution area extends towards the Solomon Islands, Nicobar and Fiji. The vast majority of species is found on Borneo (27 species), especially in Sarawak.

Ramin is the name given to all timber originating from the genus Gonystylus, family Thymeleaceae.

This kind of timber is greatly appreciated and valued for its colour, brightness, hardness and its special resistance to adverse environmental conditions.

The Italian industry uses Ramin for furniture, interior decoration such as wall paneling, flooring, toys, turnery, broom handles, Venetian blind slats, dowels, rulers and drawing boards.

Ramin in Italy is also used in the frames manufacturing, being this one of the most flourishing commercial activities of the timber industry.

Brief CITES history

Following a formal request of Indonesia (one of the major Ramin exporters) *Gonystylus spp.* was listed in Appendix III of CITES in 2001 (Annex C of EU legislation).

At the European Union level this meant requiring, at the time of import, an IMPORT NOTIFICATION together with the CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN of the exporting country.

During CoP13 in Bangkok (2004), Ramin was included in Appendix II, Annotation #1 (ALL PARTS AND PRODUCTS).

For EU Legislation it was listed in Annex B (corresponding to Appendix II) with Regulation 1332/05 of 9 August 2005, meaning that trade in all species belonging to the genus is subject to a stricter control, both at export and import.

According to the outcome of the 54th Standing Committee, in relation to Document SC54 Doc. 31.2, Italy, together with other major importing and (re)exporting countries, will have to submit a written report on the achievements and particular problems related to the trade control of *Gonystylus spp*. With Notification WWW/NJE/SC57RptsRamin, Italy has been reminded by the Secretariat to submit the report for consideration at the 57th meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Report will present data registered and collected in the database of the State Forestry Corps (Enforcement Authority) during the years 2004-2008 and will also inform about main measures and actions of control adopted as well as main problems faced.

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* *Key revisions occur in Tables 1 and 3 for 2005 data; Tables 4, 5 and 6 for 2006 data; Table 5 for 2007 data; and an additional point of action has been added on the end of the report.*

Data on imports

Starting from year 2005 imports of Ramin had a significant decrease, this is probably due to the inclusion of the *genus* in Appendix II of CITES, Annex B of EC Reg. 1332/05. This might have caused administrative burdens or difficulties for the involved stakeholders in getting used to the new import/export procedures and required documents.

Table 1: Imports of *Gonystylus* spp. from 2004 to the first three months of 2008 and good description.

Year	Quantity	Unit	Good description
2004	19127,79	M3	SAW –TIM
2005	12488,865	M3	SAW –TIM
2006	3474,474	M3	SAW –TIM
2007	2316,271	M3	SAW –TIM
2008	489.437	M3	SAW –TIM

Table 2: Import notifications and import permits issued during 2004-2007.

Document	Year	Quantity
Import notifications	2004	380
Import notifications	2005	100
Import permits	2005	40
Import permits	2006	72
Import permits	2007	59

During 2004-2007 the most part of imported timber (70-92%) came from Malaysia, while a very small quantity originated from Indonesia (8-30%) see Figure 1 and Table 3.

Figure 1: Imports of *Gonystylus* spp from Malaysia and Indonesia.

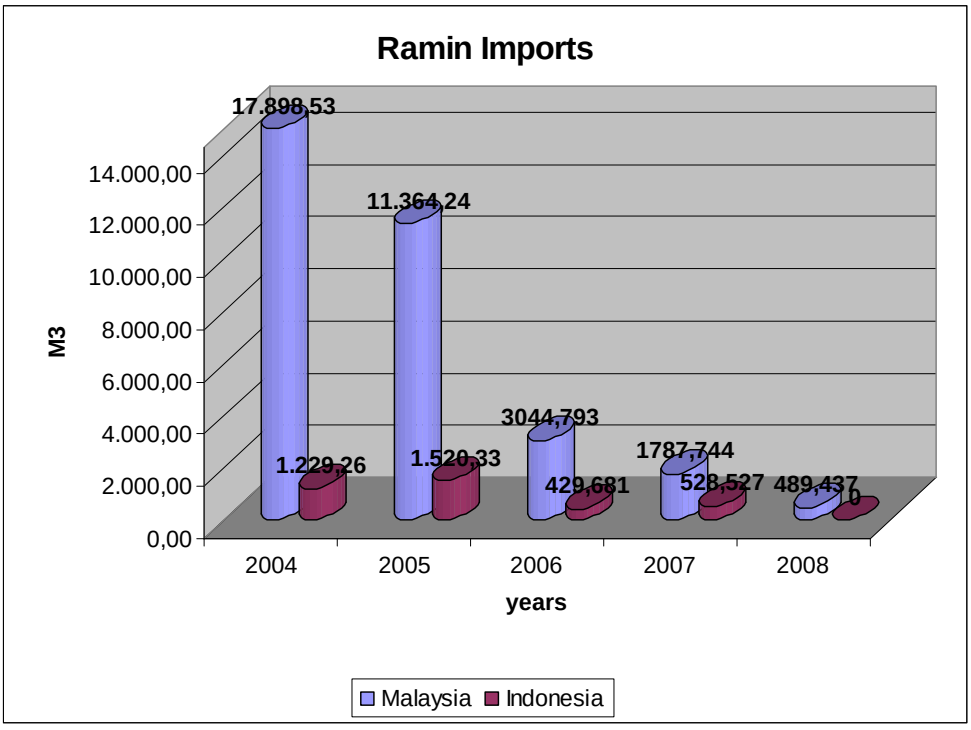


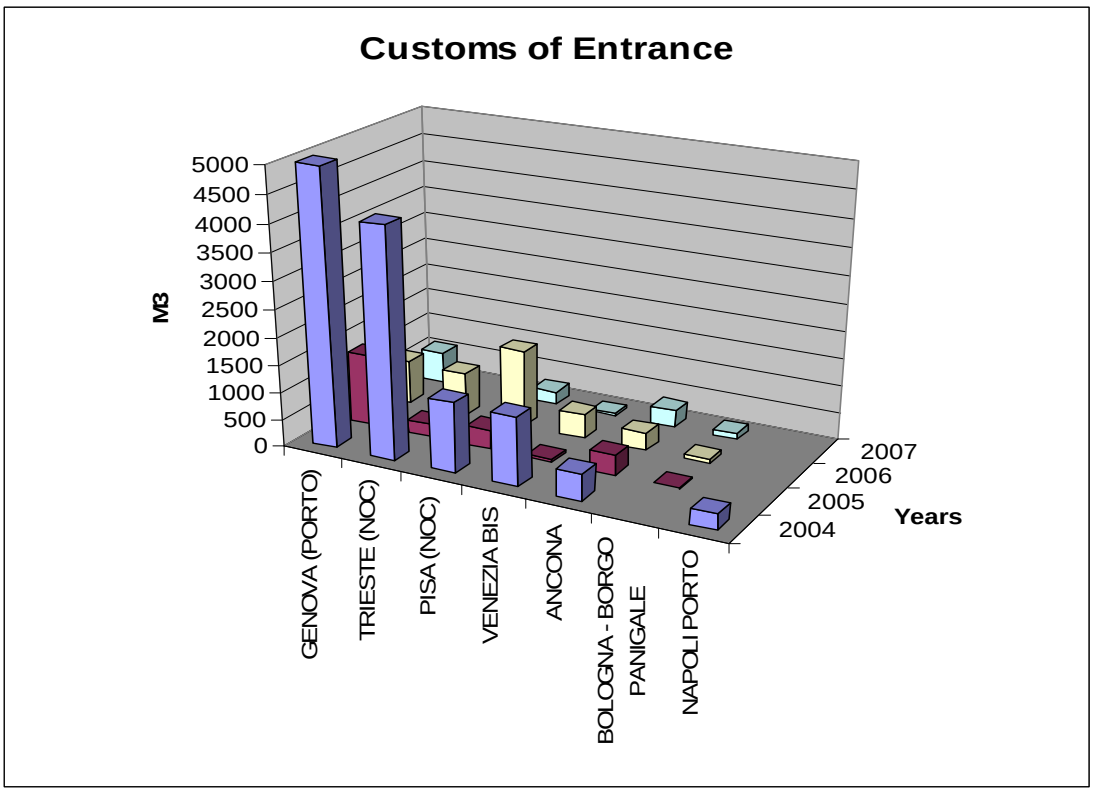
Table 3: Import percentages from Malaysia and Indonesia.

Year	Total imports (m3)	Species	Country of origin
2004	**19130**	***Gonystylus* spp.**	**Malesia (92%) Indonesia (8%)**
2005	**12489**	***Gonystylus* spp.**	**Malesia (89%) Indonesia (11%)**
2006	**3078**	***Gonystylus* spp.**	**Malesia (93%) Indonesia (7%)**
2006	**396**	***Gonystylus bancanus***	**Malesia (48%) Indonesia (52%)**
2007	**1049**	***Gonystylus* spp.**	**Malesia (100%) Indonesia (0%)**
2007	**1297**	***Gonystylus bancanus***	**Malesia (58%) Indonesia (42%)**

The most important customs of entrance for Ramin in the considered period are as follows.

Custom	Transiting quantity on total quantity (%)
Genova	54 %
Trieste	19 %
Venezia	12 %
Pisa	6 %
Ancona	1 %
Napoli	1 %

Figure 2: Main customs of entrance for *Gonystylus* spp.



The Enforcement Authority has carried out physical inspections and documental controls at all customs of entrance for Ramin, both on timber shipments with destination Italy as well as on shipments with other EU destinations.

Data on re-exports

Also on re-exported quantities there has been during 2005 a strong decrease, probably as a consequence of the reduced imports. Moreover, with new countries joining the EU, timber with that destination does not contribute to re-exported quotas anymore. In 2007 we registered again a decrease in re-exports; we have to keep in mind that during 2007 the EU has advised for a suspension of Ramin imports from Malaysia, due to irregularities in the quota determination, noticed, among others, also by the Italian MA.

Table 4: Re-export of *Gonystylus* spp .from 2004 to 2007.

Year	Quantity	Unit
2004	1356.987	M3
2005	677.884	M3
2006	474,468	M3
2007	114,857	M3

Figure 3: Re-exports of *Gonystylus* spp. from 2004 to 2007.

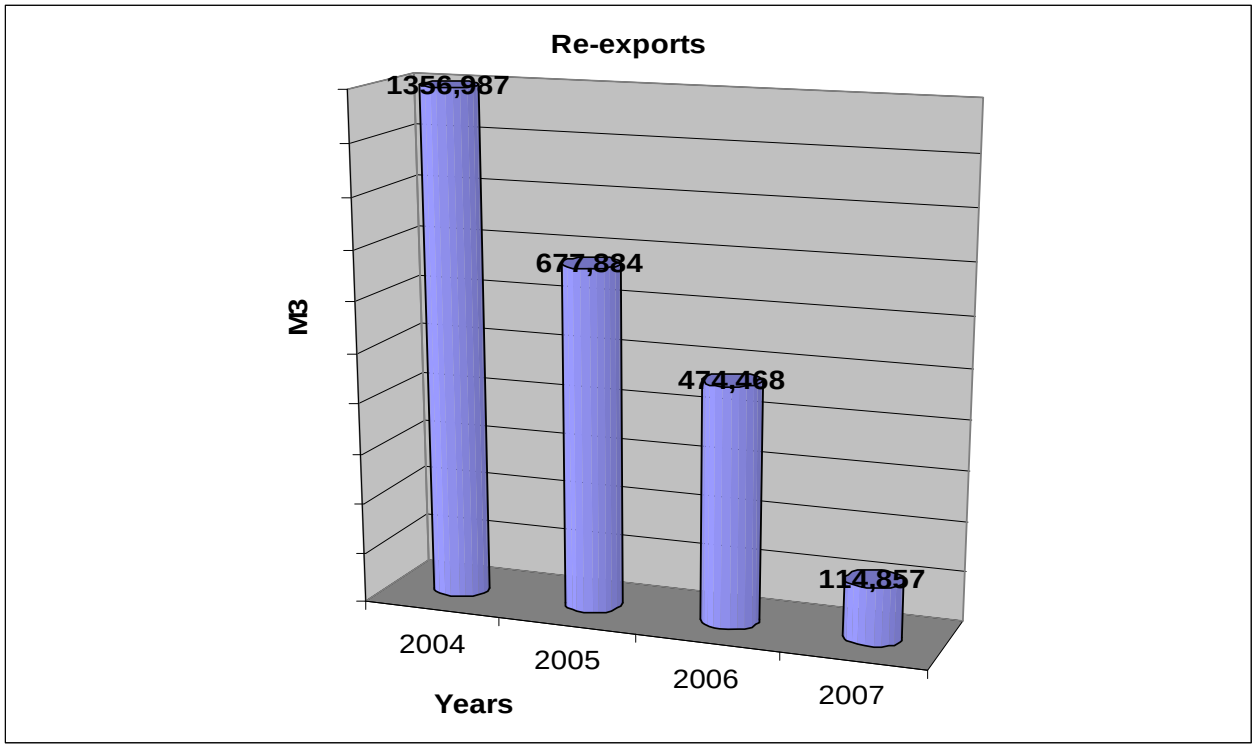


Table 5: Re-export certificates issued from 2004 to 2007.

Re-export Certificates	Year
720	2004
600	2005
493	2006
202	2007

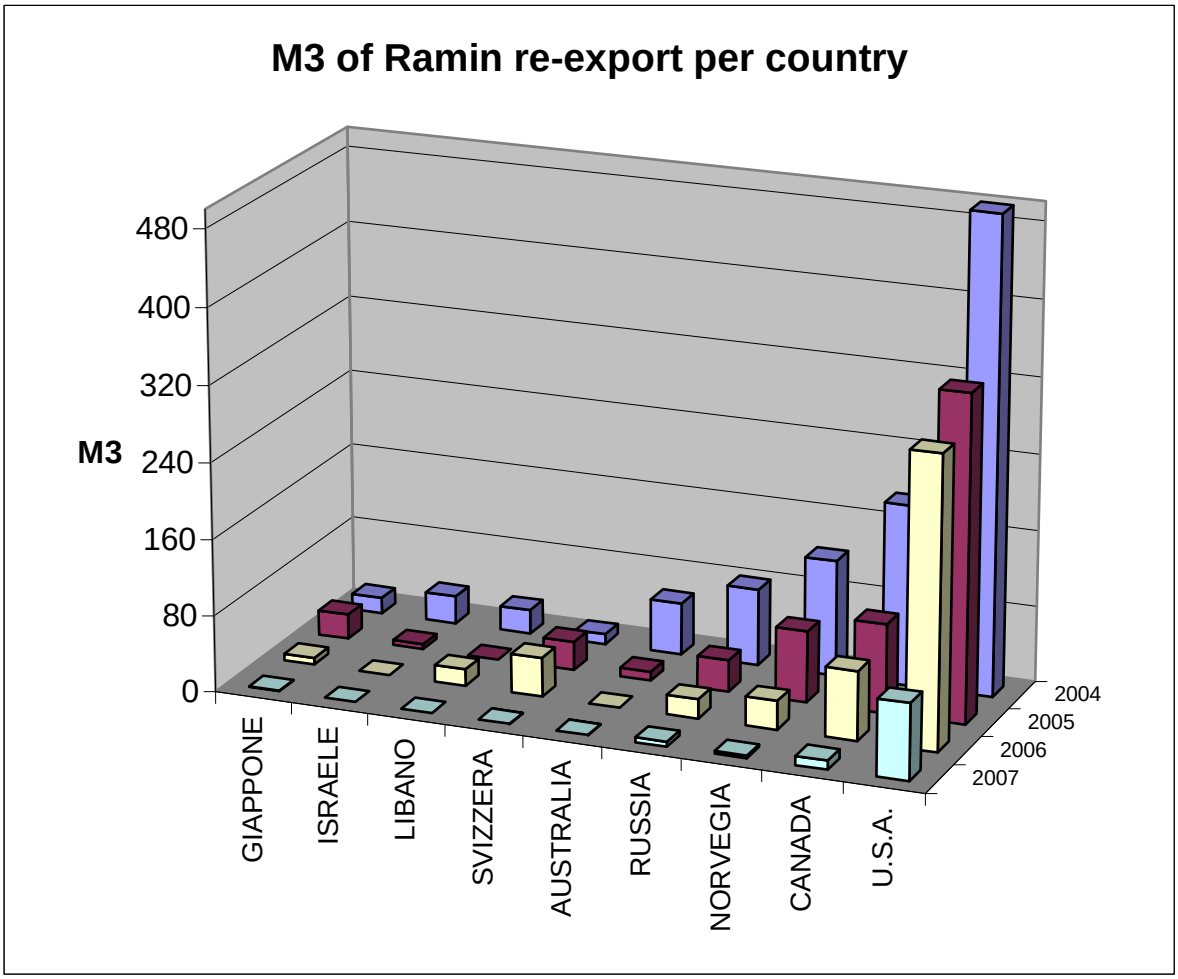
The most frequent destinations for re-exports of Ramin are:

United States, Canada, Norway, Switzerland, Russian Federation, Australia, Japan.

Table 6: Main countries of re-export for *Gonystylus* spp.

Destination	2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Quantity	Unit	Quantity	Unit	Quantity	Unit	Quantity	Unit
U.S.A.	685,346	M3	341,769	M3	246,910	m3	80,296	m3
CANADA	189,964	M3	93,653	M3	72,817	m3	9,435	m3
NORWAY	121,753	M3	74,803	M3	30,356	m3	2,609	m3
RUSSIAN FED.	80,573	M3	33,003	M3	20,388	m3	5,054	m3
AUSTRALIA	54,907	M3	9,27	M3	0,141	m3	0,230	m3
SWITZERLAND	10,504	M3	30,101	M3	41,178	m3	0,281	m3
LEBANON	25,458	M3	//		17,432	m3	0,000	
ISRAEL	29,5	M3	5,008	M3	//		//	
JAPAN	16,769	M3	26,028	M3	7,063	m3	0,507	m3

Figure 4: Main countries of re-export for Ramin.



Controls and seizures

Controls have been carried out both by the Operation CITES Team and CITES Certification Service of the State Forestry Corps. All shipments entering national territory, as well as re-exports to third countries have been inspected and the presence of all the necessary documentation verified.

From 2004 to first three months of 2008 no seizures or penalties have been registered.

During 2006 and 2007 the Italian MA has started a crossed control of export/import permits from the countries of origin (Malaysia; Indonesia). From this crossed control some irregularities have been discovered in the progressive quotas from Malaysia as established with Resolution Res. Conf. 12.3. After having received a clarification from Malaysian MA and nevertheless considering the importance of a global monitoring on the subject, Italy informed the European Commission since already from the 38th meeting of the Scientific Review Group, the Commission expressed serious concern about the conservation *status* of *Gonystylus spp.* promoting a significant reduction of the annual quotas from the exporting countries, according to the principles of non detriment findings.

During the 40th meeting of SRG trade in *Gonystylus spp.* from Malaysia has been suspended and consultations with Malaysia have been started in order to solve the problems encountered.

During the 41st meeting of SRG trade has been authorised for Sarawak, while the suspension was still in force for Sabah and peninsular Malaysia, with the 42nd meeting of SGR global trade from Malaysia to European Countries was again authorised, pending a scientifically sound elaboration of 2008 Malaysian quotas and proper actuation of management plans.

Problems/strategies of action

Main problems faced by customs and enforcement officers in the inspection of timber shipments, are related to the measurement of the inspected lots. Following the inclusion of Ramin in Appendix II (Annex B of CE Reg. 1332/05), with Annotation #1 (all parts and derivatives), the inspecting procedures have to be more accurate and therefore longer and more complicated. It is evident the need of clear guidelines and intuitive manuals/guides that can help the inspectors in identifying and measuring timber at customs.

In this perspective the Italian MA has set some priorities and points of action as follows.

- The Italian Customs Authority, on request of Management Authority, Enforcement Authority and traders, created an additional TARIC customs code specific for Ramin, as a measure of national surveillance.

- The additional national tariff code specific for Ramin is 'Z002' that will follow various codes designating furniture or wooden tools.

- Importers have to keep a register of all imported items (Ministry of Environment Decree 8th January 2002).

- Italian MA has convened various meeting with timber trade organisations during 2003 and after the inclusion of Ramin in Appendix II, in order to increase their awareness about the CITES provisions on Ramin.

- Translation in Italian of the "Identification Guide for Tropical Timber" of the Canadian Management Authority. Control of Ramin stocks owned by 100 Italian importers: in particular compliance with the requirements of National decree 8th January 2002 (compulsory keeping of a detention register for CITES listed specimens) has been verified together with the quantities in stock. The inspections took place in 17 provinces and were carried out by the territorial CITES offices. In 3 cases irregularities were registered and the implemented administrative sanction referred to the absence of the detention register as required by national legislation. The total amount of *Gonystylus* in stock, at March 2007, was 1186 m3.

JAPAN

JAPAN'S REPORT ON RAMIN (*GONYSTYLUS* SPP.)

1. Background

This report has been prepared by Japan in accordance with the request by the 54th meeting of the Standing Committee (October 2006, Geneva) to provide a written report on ramin. In this report, Japan provides information on measures undertaken in order to control international trade of ramin, the volume of imports and exports ramin to/from Japan from 2004 to 2006, and others.

2. Measures undertaken to control international trade of ramin

According to the Japanese domestic regulation, the importer of specimens of CITES-listed species should provide a proof of acquisition of the export permit issued by the Management Authority of the exporting Party in the import declaration. In accordance with this regulation, Japan introduced a system that, in case the Customs Authority cannot confirm the above-mentioned proof, it does not give approval of import. This system is also adapted to the international trade of ramin. Under this regulation system, no illicit trade case has been reported since 2004.

The Customs Bureau of the Ministry of Finance delivers regional customs offices the identification manual of CITES-listed tropical timber species including ramin which was developed by TRAFFIC. Regional customs offices utilize the manual at the custom clearing procedure.

In order to facilitate grasping trends of international trade of timber species regulated by CITES, Japan allocated a new HS code to ramin in January 2007.

3. Volume of imports and exports of ramin 2004-2006

The volume of imports of ramin to Japan between 2004 and 2006 is indicated below (see Table 1). On the other hand, there is no record of export of ramin from Japan during this period.

Ramin imported to Japan is harvested from natural forest and traded for the commercial purposes. Though the country of origin is mainly Malaysia, a small amount of timber, which originated in Indonesia, is also imported. The statistics also indicate that ramin has been imported via China and Vietnam since 2005, in addition to Italy (see Table 2). The volume of imports is significantly varied from year to year. In the past three years (2004-2006), the highest level of imports is approximately 15,000m3 in 2005.

According to statistics, in comparison with the data for 2005, it appears that import of sawn wood has shifted to the imports of timber in 2006. However, a linkage between them cannot be confirmed since the categories of the statistics do not adapt to HS code system.

Table1. Import volume of *Gonystylus* spp. to Japan.

unit: m3,(number of permits)

Description	2004		2005		2006	
Timber	4	(8)	13	(33)	4596	(303)
sawn wood	619	(33)	5666	(327)	4	(6)
derivatives	-		8950	(37)	47	(13)
specimen	-		16	(1)	-	
TOTAL	623	(41)	14645	(398)	4648	(322)

Table2. Country of origin and export or re-export of *Gonystylus* spp.

	2004	2005	2006
Country of origin	Malaysia, Indonesia	Malaysia, Indonesia	Malaysia, Indonesia, Viet Nam
Country of export or re-export	Malaysia, Indonesia, Italy	Malaysia, China, Indonesia, Italy, Viet Nam	Malaysia, China, Indonesia, Taiwan (province of China), Italy, Viet Nam

4. Others

In addition to the trade control of timber species including ramin, Japan has introduced a government procurement policy favoring wood and wood products that have been harvested in a legal and sustainable manner in accordance with the "Law on Promoting Green Purchasing" since April 2006.

Otherwise, Japan contributes to a part of fund for the implementation of the project "the prevention of further loss and the promotion of rehabilitation and plantation of *Gonystylus* spp. in Sumatra and Kalimantan" through the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). This project aims to improve silvicultural techniques for ramin conservation and plantation developments and to enhance institutional capacity to implement CITES rules and procedures. Japan welcomes the efforts by the range States of ramin to promote appropriate management of ramin in accordance with CITES framework and will support their activities.

MALAYSIA

REPORT ON RAMIN (*GONYSTYLUS* SPP.) IN MALAYSIA

1. *Gonystylus* (Ramin) is one of three genera of plants in the Gonystyloidae sub-family of Thymelaeaceae family. At present, the genus *Gonystylus* consisting of about 30 species of tall trees and some shrubs, is distributed throughout the Malesian area (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam) with the majority of species found in Borneo (Soerianegara & Lemmens, 1994). They also reported there are twenty seven (27) species found in the Borneo island especially in Sarawak and only seven (7) species so far being reported occurring in Peninsular Malaysia. Cockburn (1976) described eight (8) ramin species that are found in Sabah. Throughout Sarawak, *Gonystylus bancanus*, locally known as ramin telur occurs gregariously in coastal peat swamp forests, mixed swamp forest, in alan (*Shorea albida*) forest as well as padang paya forest and heath forest. that is common in peat swamp forests and can be found at altitudes up to 100 m. There are seven (7) ramin species in the Peninsular Malaysia, most of the species occur in the inland dipterocarp forests except *G. bancanus* that can be found peat swamp forest (Whitmore, 1972). Six species are currently known to be commercially valuable (CITES 2002). These species include: *G. affinis, G. bancanus, G. forbesii, G. macrophyllus, G. maingayi* and *G. velutinus. G. bancanus* is the most commonly traded of the six species.

2. Most of the timber species is extracted from the permanent reserve forests designated for sustainable timber production. In 2003, there were about 190,757 ha of Peat Swamp Forest (PSF) or 4.1% from the total area classified as Permanent Reserved Forest. The Southeast Pahang Peat Swamp Forest with an area of 97,441 ha are regarded by far the largest PSF tracts located in Peninsular Malaysia, Southeast Pahang Peat Swamp Forest is the largest source of ramin timber, contributing around 90% of the total timber from the peat swamp forest. Other major areas of PSFs in Peninsular Malaysia are situated in the States of Johore (3,796 ha), Selangor (75,763 ha) and Terengganu (13,757 ha) (JPSM 2007). At the end of 2007, the total area of peat swamp forest for both Sabah and Sarawak were estimated at 0.12 million ha and 0.94 million ha respectively.

3. Specifically for Sarawak, the peat swamp forest area within the Permanent Forest Estate (PFE) was estimated at 320,161 ha [as summarized in Table 1 of the full report version]. In Planted Forest area, forest plantations, usually other than Ramin, are established for the supply of pulpwood and timber. Part of the Planted Forest has been reserved as conservation Area which may later be designated as Totally Protected area (TPA) such as the Bukit Sarang–Binyo Penyilam National Park. As for the proposed TPAs, at least five (5) have been identified, namely the Sedilu National Park, Bruit National Park, Ulu Sebuyau National Park, Batang Lassa National Park and the Mud Volcano National Park. Besides, large portion of PFE has been reserved as water catchment and they are the Batang Jemoreng Protected Forest (7,416 Ha), Setuan Forest Reserve (11,128 ha), Balingian Forest Reserve (8,072) ha) and the Batang Lassa Protected Forest (5,634 ha) and the Balingian Forest reserve (18,072 ha. No logging is allowed in TPAs and Water catchment. Another area of PFE totaling about 2,000 ha is reserved for community use. It is only in the Residual Natural Forest that Ramin is produced on sustainable basis.

4. According to the recent Fourth National Forest Inventory (NFI4), ramin was enumerated and analysed into three (3) species; namely ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.), ramin melawis (*G. bancanus*) and ramin pipit (*G. maingayi*). The results of NFI4 estimated that a total of 5,774,255 stems of ramin trees ($\geq$ 15 cm dbh), in which an average of 0.479 trees per hectare were recorded from forested area in Peninsular Malaysia (FDPM, 2008). Using the NFI4, further analysis registered the average density, basal area and volume of 2.3 trees, 0.22 m^2 and 2.79 m^3 per every hectare respectively for *Gonystylus* spp. ($\geq$10 cm dbh) in the peat swamp forests in Peninsular Malaysia (FDPM, 2008; unpublished). In conservation areas of Sarawak, it is estimated that the population of ramin trees ($\geq$ 10 cm dbh) of about 213,040 trees (41,630 ha) and 250,000 trees in the Mixed Swamp Forest and Alan Forest respectively. On the other hand, there are about 400,000 ramin trees

(≥ 10 cm dbh) occur in water catchment areas within the PFE in Sarawak (SFD 2008). The population of *G. bancanus* in Totally Protected Areas in Sarawak is shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1: *Gonystylus bancanus* population (≥ 10 cm dbh) in Totally Protected Areas (TPAs) in Sarawak [After SFD 2008 & Sia 2005].

TPA*	Tree Density	Mixed Swamp Forest	No. of Trees	Remarks
Maludam National Park (43,147 ha)	2	25,370	50,740	Good Regeneration
Loagan Bunut National Park (10,736 ha)	10+	510	5,100	Localized Regeneration
Proposed Ulu Sebuyau National Park (14,275 ha)	14	10,000	140,000	Good Regeneration
Proposed Sedilu National Park (5,970 ha)	2++	5,450	10,900	Low Regeneration
Proposed Bruit National Park (3,871 ha)	21	300	6,300	Good Regeneration
Total		41,630	213,040	

Note: *1 Excluding the proposed Bukit Sarang – Binyo Penyilam National Park and the proposed Mud Volcano National Park; + Estimate based on the Report On the Vegetation of Loagan Bunut National Park (Chai, 2004); and + + Tan 2008.

5. There are considerable amount of research of *Gonystylus spp.* in the country. Whitmore (1973) and Yunus (2000) described the silvicultural characteristics and distribution of five (5) while Browne (1955), Cockburn (1976) and Soerianegara & Lemmens (1994) described thirteen (13) of the species as shown in Table 3 and Table 4 [of the full report version]. Yunus (2000) noted in general the diameter increment is higher for light heavy hardwood (LHW), followed by medium heavy hardwood (MHW) then heavy hardwood (HHW), and ramin is belongs to the LHW. Shaharuddin (1997) provided an overview of the growth studies carried out in Peninsular Malaysia. A summary of general growth rates for all species are provided in Table 6 [of the full report version]. Bach (2000) reported the average annual diameter increment for all tree species of diameter class >15cm in two study sites of logged over peat swamp forest in Selangor, Malaysia were 0.51cm and 1.02cm.

6. Although some of tropical rain forest trees in flower and fruit all the time, most species bear flower and fruit only periodically, and many of them annually. Phonologically, they also show a single distinct and marked annual peak of flowering between March and July then fruiting from about July to October (Whitmore, 1984). Dipterocarps species in general fruit heavily every 2 – 3 years with occasional intervals of up to 5 years. *G. bancanus* is reported no difficulty to produce flowers and it fruits regularly. Four to five years were observed to be the interval for gregarious flowering and fruiting at the Pekan Peat Swamp Forest.

7. *G. bancanus* is one of common emergent trees of the peat swamp forest in Peninsular Malaysia together with Kempas (*Koompassia malaccensis*) and Durian Paya (*Durio carinatus*). Lee and Chai (1995) noted in Sarawak among the three ramin species in the peat swamp forest are *G. baccanus, G. maingayi* and *G. forbesii*, the most common is *G. baccanus.* Other *Gonystylus* species are often confined to a more restricted area and occur in more scattered (Soerianegara & Lemmens, 1994).

8. *G. bancanus* is the most studied *Gonystylus spp*. because of its commercial importance and one of the common emergent tree species in the peat swamp forest. The seeds will germinate rapidly once they dropped to the ground but percentage of survival of seedlings in the natural forest is low. The seedlings were also reported to grow very slow under natural forest conditions and were classified as shade tolerant species (Lee, et. al. 1996). On the other hand, studies by Shamsudin and Ismail (1999) have shown that the species responded very well to rich soil and open conditions. A study conducted in Naman Forest Reserve and Batang Reserve in Sarawak, areas that had been logged

20 years ago, reported the seedlings survival rate was rather high [92%-94%] in the first year but lower in the second year. Similar results were reported in the rehabilitation of grassland area in peat swamp forest (FDPM, 2004). Van De Meer et. al. (2004) observed that where remnant ramin trees have developed into new seed trees, there is abundant ramin regeneration. Indeed, Mohd Hizamri (2007) also found that peat swamp forest trees showed a good growth response, as the residual trees were enhanced in a relatively short period of just three (3) years after logging.

9. Analysis of ramin growth in logged over peat swamp forest had shown a mean annual diameter increment of 0.57cm dbh with a standard deviation of 0.36cm (FDPM, 2004). The analysis also showed highest diameter increment of 0.79cm was observed for the 30 - 39cm diameter classes and 0.64cm for 20 - 29cm diameter classes. However, in larger diameter classes, annual diameter increment declined to 0.49cm and smaller diameter classes to 0.40cm. Sia (2004) noted mean annual diameter increment for ramin in mixed swamp forest of Sarawak is 29cm for trees ≥30 cm dbh, highest diameter increment in the 30-40 cm class (achieving a mean of 0.45 cm) but slowed down slightly to 0.34 cm in the next diameter class of 40-50 cm and the increment in the intermediate size class (10-20 cm) averages 0.16 cm. The seedling in the enrichment planting in Kalimantan, Indonesia was reported to have an average growth in height of 12.5cm/year and an expected mean annual diameter increment of 0.5 - 0.7cm among the young trees, attaining 1 cm under optimal conditions (Soerianegara & Lemmens, 1994). Seedling planted at Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) after ten years planting have an average annual height increment of 100 cm and 0.79 cm diameter increment per year (Shamsudin and Ismail, 1994). In term of mortality, peat swamp forest species occurring in natural and logged-over forests recorded relatively similar rate with other inland forests at the average of 1.7% and 2.4% of tree stem $\underline{>}$ 15 cm.year^{-1} respectively (Mohd Hizamri, 2007).

10. At the end of 2006, the total area of forests in Malaysia was 19.4 million hectares or 59.5% of the total land area as shown in **Table 2**. There are approximately 1.55 million hectares of swamp forests in Malaysia. Of this total, 0.31 million hectares or 19% are in Peninsular Malaysia, 0.12 million hectares or 8% in Sabah and 1.12 million hectares or 73% in Sarawak. The peat swamp forest cover in Sarawak is about 0.88 million hectares and for the case of Peninsular Malaysia is approximately 0.31 million hectares.

Table 2: Distribution and extent of major forest types in Malaysia, 2005 (Million hectares).

Region	Land Area	Natural Forest			Plantation Forest	Total Forested Land	Percentage Total of Forested Land
		Dry Inland Forest	Swamp Forest	Mangrove Forest			
Peninsular Malaysia	13.16	5.40	0.31	0.10	0.09	5.90	44.8
Sabah	7.37	3.83	0.12	0.34	0.11	4.40	59.7
Sarawak	12.30	7.92	1.12	0.14	0.06	9.24	75.1
Malaysia	**32.83**	**17.15**	**1.55**	**0.58**	**0.26**	**19.54**	**59.5**

11. Report by the FAO showed stability in Malaysia's total forest area, from the year of 1990, the forest area was about 65.9% (21.6 mil ha); 58.7% (19.2 mil ha) in 2000 and 63.6% (20.6 mil ha) in 2005 (FAO, 2007). Since Malaysia is Party to many Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as CITES, CBD, UNFCCC, UNFF, ITTA 1994, Ramsar and CCD, Malaysia is committed to these agreements objectives among others managing its forest resources in a sustainable manner and reverse biodiversity loss. On this score, Malaysia's forest area is believed to be stable in the future.

12. During the implementation of the New Economic Policy in 1970, particularly with two prime objectives, that is the eradication of poverty and distribution of wealth among the races. This also formed one of the strategies which is to develop large-scale agricultural program, particularly in rural areas. This has resulted in the opening up of forest areas for plantation crops such as palm oil and rubber in tandem causes reduction of forested areas in Peninsular Malaysia. However, there was a

significant increase in the gazettment of PRFs. In 1970, the total forested areas which was approximately 8.0 million ha had dropped to 5.90 million ha in 2006 or a decrease of 26 %. During the same period, the area gazetted as PRFs was 3.3 million hectares and it was increased to 4.7 million ha in 2006. This indicates an increase of 42%. [Table 8 of the full report version illustrates this trend].

13. In 2006, natural forest cover in Peninsular Malaysia was 5.81 million ha or 44.1 % of the total land area of the country. The bulk of these forested areas comprises 5.4 million ha of Dry Inland Forests, 0.31 million ha of Peat Swamp Forests, 0.10 million ha of Mangrove Forests and 0.09 million ha of Planted Forests. Recognizing the crucial role of forests not only in the production of timber, but more importantly in the conservation of soil, water and wildlife, as well as in the protection of the environment, Malaysia has designated a total of 14.39 million hectares of forested land as Permanent Reserved Forests (PRFs) managed under strict principles of sustainable forest management.

14. Based on the final National Forest Inventory Four (NFI 4) result that was carried out by the Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia (FDPM) between 2002 and 2004, there are estimated 5.76 million trees of ramin [15cm diameter at breast height (dbh) or more] in Peninsular Malaysia, with an estimated volume of 5.49 million $m^{3,}$, refer to **Table 3**. A brief note on NFI 4 is in Appendix 1. Referring to **Table 3**, it can be seen that 70.2% of the total number of trees is between 15-30cm diameter sizes, 17.5% is 30 - 45cm diameter size and 12.3% is >45cm diameter size. The timber volume for the >45cm diameter size trees is 2,717,102 m^3 or 49.5% the timber volume for trees diameter size +15cm. **Table 4** is a subset of **Table 3** highlighting the *G. bancanus* species stocking by Forest Classes. Deliberation on the forest classes is presented in 12 of the full report. From **Table 4**, for *G. bancanus* it can be seen that 40.7% of the total number of trees is between 15-30cm diameter sizes, 30.4% is 30 - 45cm diameter size and 28.9% is >45cm diameter size. The timber volume for the >45cm diameter size trees is 1,735,275 m^3 or 70.3% the timber volume for trees diameter size +15cm. Timber volume of *G. bancanus* (1,735,275 m^3) made-up 63.8% for trees of diameter size >45cm.

Table 3: Summary of *Gonystylus* spp. Stocking in Peninsular Malaysia by Forest Classes.

Forest* Classes	Diameter Class 15-30 cm		Diameter Class 30-45 cm		Diameter Class > 45 cm		Total	
	Stem	Volume (m^3)	Stem	Volume (m^3)	Stem	Volume (m^3)	Stem	Volume (m^3)
1	12,837	9,024	121,678	90,567	26,517	161,205	161,032	260,796
2	773,629	339,883	163,242	166,285	15,499	85,460	952,370	591,628
3	320,314	130,019	58,971	54,708	13,436	26,526	392,721	211,253
4	0.0	0.0	101,823	135842	6032	57,911	104,855	193,753
5	789,552	269,804	77,280	72,431	108,876	348,347	975,708	690,582
6	284,527	124,279	24,461	32,607	17,923	65,162	326,910	222,048
7	211,029	111,994	284,893	330,692	369,520	1,515,645	865442	1,958,331
8	405,205	136,849	178,921	150,079	70,095	214,886	654,220	501,814
9	433,891	168,912	0.0	0.0	64,467	168,291	498,358	337,203
10	5,699	3,487	0.0	0.0	1,467	4,744	7,166	8,231
11	814,154	447,351	0.0	0.0	15,317	68,925	829,471	516,276
Total	4,050,837	1,741,602	1,011,269	1,033,211	709,149	2,717,102	5,768,253	5,491,915

Table 4: Summary of *Gonystylus bancanus* stocking in Peninsular Malaysia.

Forest* Classes	Diameter Class 15-30 cm		Diameter Class 30-45 cm		Diameter Class > 45 cm		Total	
	Stem	Volume (m^3)	Stem	Volume (m^3)	Stem	Volume (m^3)	Stem	Volume (m^3)
7	211,029	111,994	284,893	330,692	369,520	1,515,645	865,442	1,958,331
8	405,205	136,849	178,921	150,079	70,095	214,886	654,221	501,814
10	5,699	3,487	0.0	0.0	1467	4744	7,166	8,231
Total	621,933	252,330	463,814	480,771	441,082	1,735,275	1,526,829	2,468,376

15. The Malaysia/UNDP/GEF project (2001-2006) in Pahang has shown that the Pekan Peat Swamp Forest in Pahang Peninsular Malaysia, the volume of ramin trees 50 cm dbh and above is about 14 m^3 per hectare which is equivalent to 3.5 trees per hectare. The estimated number of ramin trees according to diameter classes >15 cm dbh, >30 cm dbh and >45 cm dbh is as at **Table 5** together with the findings in the Malaysia/DANCED project (1997-1999) which conducted a pre-felling inventory study in the North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest.

Table 5: Ramin density by diameter classes at Pahang and Selangor.

	No. of trees / Ha	
Diameter Classes	Ramin density by diameter classes of Pekan peat swamp forest, Pahang	Ramin density by diameter classes of North Selangor peat swamp forest, Selangor
> 15 cm	9.7	9.3
> 30 cm	8.0	5.4
> 45 cm	5.2	2.9

16. FDPM (2004b) noted that the *Gonystylus* spp. density for trees >15cm dbh in Peninsular Malaysia on average 1 - 3 stems per hectare in all forest types and also noted that for dryland forest the tree density is <1stem per hectare. Soerianegara & Lemmens (1994) noted in Sarawak the number of ramin trees over 20 cm in diameter is estimated at 2-20 trees/ha in mixed swamp forest and the standing stock of ramin may be as high as 35 m3/ha. Mixed swamp forest is the most extensive of the five peat swamp forest types in Sarawak (Lee and Chai, 1995).

17. Lee (2004) stated that the stocking of ramin in the old growth stand in the peat swamp forests of Sarawak could be gauged based on a series of inventories carried out in the past. Among studies that had been done on ramin stocking were reported by Wood and Johnson (1964), Wood (1971) and Chai (1989).

18. Sixty-four (64) yield plots were established in Sarawak between 1971 and 1987, each consisting of 100 x 10 x 10 m quadrates, have been established at a sampling intensity of 0.25 % in the logged and silviculturally treated mixed swamp forest. Yield plots were designed to monitor forest recovery through providing information on recruitment, growth and mortality of ramin and predict timing of the next harvesting. Sia (2004) reported that the volume of ramin from the yield plots ranged from < 1m3 to 30 m3 ha-1. [**Table 6**]

Table 6: Ramin density, olume Mean Annual Increment (VMAI) and volume content.

Site	VMAI (m3/ha/yr)	Stem/ha	Volume (m3/ha)
Pulau Bruit PF		21	28.4
Naman FR	1.15	24	27.1
Simunjan FR		16	30.1
Triso PF		2	5.8
Sebuyau PF	0.42	14	27.0
Saribas FR		3	6.4
Daro FR	0.05	6	8.2
Tatau PF		19	5.5
Batang Lassa PF(YPs 30-36)		4	1.7
Loba Kabang PF	0.03	2	2.7
Bawan FR (YPs 43-48)	0.86	8	6.6
Bawan FR (YPs 65-72)	0.11	4	3.8
Batang Lassa PF(YPs 73-79)	0.04	7	2.9
Retus PF	0.01	1	0.9

Source: Sia (2004).

19. Lee (2004) also described inventories that had been carried out by the Forest Department of Sarawak in a few peat swamp forest which had been logged for ramin ≥48cm diameter ten years after exploitation, with a view to assessing present stocking and regeneration. Two type of inventory were completed, namely forest inventory and diagnostic sampling. Forest inventory sampled the upper limit growing stock while the diagnostic sampling sampled the growing stock of desirable species < 20 cm dbh. See **Table 7**.

Table 7: Tree density and volume of Ramin in forest logged 10 years previously.

Site	Stem ha^{-1}	Volume[m^3 ha^{-1}]
Daro Forest Reserve	4.2	2.27
Loba Karang (North) Protected Forests	3.4	2.63
Loba Karang (South) Protected Forests	6.5	4.58

20. A major threat to the species is the conversion of forested land to other land uses, especially peat swamp forests. Since *G. bancanus* is endemic to peat swamp forests will have tremendous impact on the regeneration and survival of the species in the surrounding forest area and may possibly derive the species to extinction. At the end of year 2005 about 50% of the peat swamp forests area is Permanent Reserved Forests and other reserved areas, which is managed under sustainable forest management.

21. There is no doubt that logging has a major impact on the natural processes occurring in the peat swamp forest and affect its long term stability by changing the drainage patterns and soil moisture content in the top peat layer by excessive canopy opening. Under Malaysian management system, logging is regulated through a prescribed cutting regime that takes full account the adequacy of residual trees, species composition and their distribution that will respond to canopy opening by logging activities. Through management regime (e.g. cutting regime option) the stand content fluctuation can be controlled by controlling the degree of disturbance. The Malaysian management system is in line with the system stability of the ecological theory, which is clearly elaborated by Whitmore (1990), 'The time climax rain forest takes to return on a site depends on the severity of

the disturbance. Low intensity selective logging on a polycyclic system closely mimics the natural processes of forest dynamics and scarcely alters the composition. Monocyclic silvicultural systems and polycyclic systems with many stems felled per hectare shift species composition to increase the proportion of the more light-demanding, faster-growing tree species.' Further deliberation on the sustainable forest practices is in the next section.

22. The production of ramin round log has fluctuated around 30,000 m^3 for the last few years. It should be noted while ramin log can be obtained from the inland forests the production of the ramin log per unit area in the peat swamp forest is much higher. In year 2005, ramin log production was about 32546 m^3 and **Table 8** shows the ramin log production by year.

Table 8: Ramin log production by year (m^3).

Year	Peninsular Malaysia	Sarawak	Total
2000	70,337	67,042	137379
2001	45,076	57,334	102410
2002	51,033	32,045	83078
2003	49,499	25,095	74594
2004	29,203	21,372	50575
2005	23,892	8,654	32546
2006	15933	4964*	20897*

Note: * January – November 2006.

23. Since the early 1970's there has been wide spread public concern about the rate in which tropical forests are being degraded or destroyed. The rate accelerated with the introduction of the mechanization in timber harvesting, improved transport methods and land-use changes from forest to agriculture to support socio-economic development and increasing populations. Present concerns include increasing demand for timber from industries both local and international as well as the threats from illegal logging. Apart from these factors, deliberate fire, and land conversion leading to forest fragmentation possess new threats to the survival of the forest. In the peat swamp forest, alteration of hydrological regime of river systems may cause serious problem to the integrity of the ecosystem. Given this concern, the challenge is to manage the forest on a sustainable manner. Malaysia has high resource availability and high level of forest industry development. With increasing demand for timber, certain species such as ramin has been subjected to over-exploitation and thus long-term sustainable production of these timbers are at risk.

24. In Malaysia, the National Forestry Policy 1978 laid a firm foundation for the development of the forestry sector. It was revised in 1993 in recognition of the role of forests in providing a multiplicity of goods and services. The revised policy has had direct impacts on the management of forests through the establishment of permanent forest estates (PFE), large-scale forest plantations, and importation of logs, greater incentives for downstream processing, promoting the utilization of lesser-known species and small-diameter logs, and manufacturing of value-added products. The National Forestry Policy 1978 and the National Forestry Act 1984 provide Malaysia with a strong policy framework and laws to support sustainable forest management. Both the national policy and act provide a sufficient basis for the protection against harmful activities, promote establishment of wildlife parks and reserves and reduce activities that may cause detrimental impacts on the environment.

25. Various initiatives have been undertaken to ensure the sustainability of forest resources through improved forest management strategies such as introduction of Reduced Impact Logging (RIL), establishment of permanent forest estate certification, etc. In Malaysia, a selective cutting approach based on minimum diameter limits has been adopted. Currently, the production forests of the Permanent Reserved Forests (PRFs) in Peninsular Malaysia are managed under the Selective Management System (SMS) which entails the selection of optimum management (felling) regimes based on pre-felling forest inventories (Pre-f) and the retention of at least 32 sound commercial trees per hectare for diameter class of 30cm dbh up to the cutting limit. The System is designed to

achieve sustainability of the forest with minimum forest development costs and to optimise the management objectives of economic and efficient harvesting under prevailing conditions. The cutting cycle under the System is approximately 30 years with an expected net economic outturn of 40-50 m^3/ha. After the first cut, the residual stand should be enriched with dipterocarp species. A flexible cutting limit approach has been adopted for three timber group namely, chengal (*Neobalanocarpus heimii*), dipterocarps and non-dipterocarps. Ramin falls into the non-dipterocarp group. The minimum cutting limits are set at 60 cm, 50 cm and 45 cm dbh for chengal, dipterocarp and non-dipterocarps, respectively. Under SMS, the cutting limit of dipterocarps will always be higher than non-dipterocarp by at least 5 cm.

26. Besides the application of the cutting limits, several key growth parameters need to be reviewed such as the stocking density of healthy residual trees, growth, mortality and recruitment rates for ramin. The analyzed data from permanent sample plots will be used to assess the population dynamics parameters and developing population projection models. Currently, a study is being carried out in Malaysian peat swamp forest to determine ramin population structure to prescribe the appropriate cutting limit that will support sufficient residuals. This will also include applying a revised logging damage factor for peat swamp forest as new long haulage machine has been introduced that causes less damage to the site and residual trees.

27. In Sarawak, *G. bancanus* trees are currently conserved in the Totally Protected Areas (TPA's) in the Permanent Forest Estate (PFE), of which many are reserved as water catchment areas. The species are conserved particularly in Maludam National Park (NP), Loagan Bunut NP, the proposed Sedilu NP, the proposed Ulu Sebuyau NP and the proposed Bruit NP of about 77,999 ha. 41,360 ha of these forests are Mixed Swamp Forest. In additions, other conservation ramin areas that are reserved as water catchment include the proposed Bukit Sarang-Binyo Penyilam NP (23,145 ha), Mud Volcano NP (2,000 ha), Batang Jemoreng Protected Forest (7,416 ha), Setuan Forest Reserve (11,128 ha), Balingian Forest Reserve (8,072 ha) and Batang Lassa Protected Forest (5,634 ha).

28. Malaysia is fully committed to combating illegal logging and trade in illegally-source timber and supportive on initiatives which are aimed at curbing such activities. Malaysia has taken much effort to put an end to illegal felling and to a very large extent this work has been successful. In term of law enforcement of ramin harvesting and trade/export, there are several agencies tasked to enforcing related forestry laws in Malaysia such as FDPM, The Sarawak Forest Department, The Sabah Forest Department and supported by key agencies such as the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and Harwood Timber Sendirian Berhad, apart from the assistance from the Police and Army that also active not only to curb illegal logging but also in flushing out and intercepting illegal logging activities, especially along border areas. Thus, a study on illegal logging in Malaysia, conducted by the Worldwide Fund for Nature, Malaysia which was sponsored by the World Bank and presented at the Workshop on Illegal Logging in East Asia in Jakarta, Indonesia from August 27-28, 2000 had found that the level of illegal logging in the states of Sabah and Sarawak to be small (in the order of 1% or less) compared to the legal wood products trade, while illegal logging in Peninsular Malaysia is well under control. To ensure only legal logs go into processing mills, Malaysia implements a system of recording and monitoring of both all logs entering mills and for the outgoing products. This system ensures that logs from illegal sources cannot enter the chain-of-custody of illegal sourced logs.

29. Prior to uplisting of ramin under Appendix II of CITES, Malaysia has long recognized its importance and place several restrictions to control its harvest and trade. The Ramin Logs Prohibitions of Export Order 1980 and followed by The Ramin Shorts and Ramin Squares Prohibition of Export Order 1991were proactively enforced in Sarawak before the issue of ramin was ever brought up. Both orders controlled the rate of ramin harvest by encouraging more local processing of ramin instead wholesale export of logs. Stringent measures are also in place to control the export of ramin whereby CITES export permits are required by the authorities. Furthermore, an export license issued by the Controller of Wild Life, Schedule of Timber Shipment and Sales Contract are all required for ramin export. Further steps including administrative ban on imports of all types of logs and large squares and scantlings (LSS) from Indonesia has been put into place since 2002 and 2003. The ban was incorporated into law in the Customs Prohibition (Amendment) Order 2006, and thus, it is an offence to import Indonesian logs and LSS into Malaysia. Particularly for Sarawak, only five (5) points of entry have been authorized for timber products to ensure effective monitoring and control of log

movements to or from the state. Authorisation of imports of permitted timber products is subject to valid documentations such as the Indonesian transport permits (SKSHH) and customs documentation (PEB).

30. One of the most important measures taken to safeguard and protect the forest resources from encroachment and illegal logging in Malaysia is through the further strengthening of the provisions of the National Forestry Act 1984 in 1993. In this regard, the penalty for the commission of any forest offence has been increased from the maximum penalty of RM10,000 (±US$2,940) or an imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or both to a maximum penalty of RM500,000 (±US$147,060) and imprisonment not exceeding 20 years with a mandatory imprisonment of not less than one year. The amended National Forestry Act has also enacted provisions for the Police and Armed Forces to undertake surveillance of forestry activities, especially in curbing illegal logging, encroachment of forested areas and timber theft. This has proven to be very successful in arresting illegal logging and timber theft in Malaysia. Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), Malaysia which was sponsored by the World Bank and presented at the Workshop on Illegal Logging in East Asia in Jakarta, Indonesia from August 27-28, 2000 had reported the average number of illegal logging several years shows a declining trend, where average number of illegal logging cases dropped cases dropped from 223 for the period 1987 – 1993 to about 28 for the 1994 – 1999 period. At the regional level specific on ramin, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore have worked effectively to curb trading of illegal ramin through the Tri-National Task Force on Ramin.

31. An Act called International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2007 *[Act 686]* to provide for the administration and management of international trade in endangered species to ensure that the trade does not threaten the survival of any species of wild fauna and flora has been passed by the Parliament on 24 December 2007. The Act will be gazzetted soon and a number of regulations will be drafted to ensure smooth implementation of the Act. Beside the day-to-day communication between lead MA and MAs, National Steering Committee on Trade of Wild Flora and Fauna consists of not only the MAs but other related agencies from the enforcement side, Scientific Authorities and also trade and foreign affair-related Ministries has also been established. The Committee has met regularly to ensure consistency with the position of the Convention. There are also two task force committees on flora and fauna to discuss matter in details before bring up to the Steering Committee.

32. Since the beginning of the last century, the forests of Malaysia have been systematically managed whereby ecologically and environmentally sound forest conservation and management practices have been developed to ensure forest renewal and sustained yield. The Selective Management System (SMS) practiced in Malaysia has already embedded the elements of precautionary principle which is based on the sustained yield principles and system stability of the ecological principles. Under this management system among fundamental principles in determining the annual harvest quota or annual coupe are as (i) annual coupe is calculated based on harvestable production area, and (ii) annual volume removed be less than or equal to mean annual increment. (Anon, 2002).

33. The annual coupe is determined for every five years period which is decided by the National Forestry Council. This council is chairs by the Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and the members are the Head of The State Government and a number of keys Ministers. This council seat one every year and one of the agendas is monitoring the compliance of areas licensed for logging. The annual coupe for 2006 – 2010 is 266,940 hectares, which is about 2.4% of the production forest area. [Further deliberation on the issue is in the full report version].

34. The Director of the State Forestry Department is required under Part II Section 4 of the National Forestry Act, 1984 to prepare and implement a 10-year Forest Management Plan. The Director is also required to, prepare and implement a 5-year Forest Development Plan at the state level and at every required to prepare an Annual Forest Operation Plan. These plans spell out covering the management, conservation and sustainable development of the forest resources in the State and its Forest Districts.

35. The peat swamp forests in the Permanent Reserved Forests (PFRs) are also managed under Selective Management System. The cutting cycle for peat swamp forest is 40-60 years. While the minimum cutting limit is 45 cm dbh for non-dipterocarps and 50 cm dbh for dipterocarps. On the other hand,

Sarawak is working on an empirical harvesting period rotation of 45 years with a minimum cutting diameters fixed at 40 cm dbh. In Pahang State Peninsular Malaysia, the cutting prescribed for the peat swamp forests are 50 cm dbh for non-dipterocarps and 60 cm dbh for dipterocarps. However, in actual practice, trees of a much higher diameter (>70 cm dbh) are removed. Besides the 10-year Forest Management Plan, a management plan for the peat swamp forests of Selangor was also prepared by the Malaysia/DANCED project in 1999 while a management plan for the south-east Pahang peat swamp forest is being prepared under the Malaysia/GEF/Danida project (2001-2005).

36. At the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of CITES, Malaysia together with all Parties agreed that ramin (*Gonystylus* spp. be uplisted from Appendix III to Appendix II, which entered into force on 12 January 2005. In this regard, Malaysia as one of the range states is taking actions to implement the conditions associated with the trade in Appendix II CITES species. This includes the issuance of CITES export and import permit and re-export certificate and making non-detrimental findings (NDF) to assist in determining whether the export of the species will not be detrimental to the survival of the species. The NDF on ramin is prepared based on the CITES document Inf. 11.3 "CITES Scientific Authorities: Checklist To Assist In Making Non-Detrimental Findings For Appendix II Exports". The NDF on ramin is as at Appendix 2 of the full report version. The determination of the cautious harvest quota was based the current scientific information and stocking data, such as silvicultural characteristics, growth data, inventory data, forest acreage, forest type and stand density.

37. In order to ensure a conservative cautious harvest quota for ramin, precautionary principle has also been applied by taking into the calculation the following parameters, among others are the trees of the Protection Forests are excluded in the calculation as the function of the forests is for conservation, general tree growth rate used in SMS for natural forest, that is 0.8 – 1cm per year. However, for the determination of the harvest quota, the tree diameter growth rate used is 0.3 – 0.6cm per year. There are studies that have shown the growth rates to be higher. The forest harvesting rotation used for dryland and peat swamp forest in Peninsular Malaysia are 30 – 55 years and 40 – 60 years respectively. In the case of ramin production, the rotation period used in determining the harvest quota is 50 years. In Sarawak, the rotation period practice for peat swamp forest is 45 years and the lowest cutting limit for ramin is not less than 40 cm diameter. Lower growth rates and long rotation period in the growth projection were also used, it will not only lower the harvest quota but would further ensure that the crop trees for the next harvest will grow to the targeted size of >45cm diameter and it is likely to be >50cm diameter. It is projected that the next harvest crop will be 60cm diameter and above. In accordance to SMS practiced in Peninsular Malaysia, trees allowed to be harvested are not less than 45cm diameter and in Sarawak is not less than 40cm diameter. These minimum allowable cut are higher or at least equal to the allowable cut recommended by SGS Qualifier Programme for PT Diamond Raya Timber Indonesia (Anon, 2000 and Anon, 2003). Most of the forested areas (dryland forests) in Sarawak and all forested areas in Sabah were not taken into calculation to determine the cautious harvest quota for Malaysia. The calculation method used to calculate the cautious harvest quota for Peninsular Malaysia for *Gonystylus* species and *G. bancanus* are as in the full report version.

38. Protected areas in Malaysia are areas that have been legally gazetted or registered by either State or Federal legislation. The protected areas cover both terrestrial and marine environments. Almost half of the total land area covers both terrestrial and Permanent Reserved Forests (PRFs). Of this, about 76% of the total PRFs are considered 'production' forests, where forests may be commercially harvested. The remaining areas under PRFs are given protection status, where commercial logging is prohibited, and are regarded as totally protected areas. As forestry is a state matter, all forest lands belong to the State. Hence, the issues of resource ownership / tenure of local communities are not applicable in Malaysia. In view of this, there is no open access to harvesting by local communities except by license.

39. At the end of 2005, total PRFs area is 14.39 million hectare or 43.8% of the land area. Approximately 11.18 million hectares of the PRFs are production forests with the remaining 3.21 million hectares being protection forests. This protection forest is excluding other protection forests outside the PFRs such as national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. In total Malaysia has designated more than 5 million hectares of it forest cover as protection forest, which is more than 15.3% of it land area. This protection area covers various forest types such as peat swamp forest, mangrove

forest, lowland forest, hill forest and montane forest. Details of the harvesting practice in Malaysia is as in the full report version.

40. Under the law all movement of logs must be accompanied by a removal pass. The removal pass is issued by the Forestry Department officer as a prove document that all government fees have been paid and the logs came from license area. This paper-based system is one of the control mechanisms in place to monitor harvesting operation and movement logs. To enhance further ramin species conservation through stricter harvesting control, especially for peat swamp forest species, the logs of the *Gonystylus bancanus* will be recorded in the removal pass at a species level. For other ramin species, of inland forest, will be recorded at genus level due to practicality reasons.

41. It has been the practice of the Department to conduct periodic monitoring of forest harvesting operations once a month to prevent over-cutting the area and thus violating the very principle of sustained yield management. In this context, the current procedures for monitoring forest harvesting operations are contained in the document entitled "Checking and Monitoring Forest Harvesting' (*Pemantauan dan Pengawalan Pengusahasilan Hutan*), while that for the preparation of the Closing Report on Forest harvested can be found in the document entitled "Preparation of Closing Report on Forest Harvesting' (*Penyediaan Laporan Penutup Pengusahasilan Hutan*). Each document outlines the steps to be taken and identify the persons responsible in implementing them. The implementation of the above standard prescription will not only provide but also ensure conducive forest conditions for the growth of the residual stand for the next cut with minimum damage to the environment and the loss of forest genetic resources.

42. To ensure the management practices and procedures are implemented accordingly, Malaysia through Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) has developed and put in place a forest management certification scheme. This scheme is based on the ITTO 1998 criteria & indicators of sustainable forest management. The current MTCC forest management scheme is based on the FSC template. MTCC forest management certification scheme is one of the tools in place in Malaysia to ensure the implementation of sustainable forest management. Currently in Malaysia about 33% of the PRF areas are subjected to the 3rd party auditing under this scheme.

43. The Forestry Department full recognized that monitoring the growth of trees is essential for yield regulation in the overall context of sustainable forest management. The accuracy of the data and projections of the ability of the forest to grow is thus important to enable the forest manager to formulate management, conservation and development strategies needed to achieve the goal of sustainable forest management. Towards this end, the Department has established two types of permanent sample plots (PSPs) to monitor growth. They are growth plots and growth and yield plots. Growth plots are established in logged-over forest areas of varying ages to monitor the growth of harvested forests, while growth and yields plots are established in forest areas which have been harvested based on a set of pre-determined cutting regimes to enable the Department study the response of forest growth under various cutting options.

44. For the peat swamp forest, two (2) growth plots in Sungai Karang Forest Reserve, Selangor in 1993/1994 have been established. These plots were established to monitor the growth of residual trees of logged-over peat swamp forests. Under the Eighth Malaysia Plan (2001-2005), further two (2) permanent sample plots were established, one each in the state of Pahang and Selangor. These growth plots were established during an earlier DANCED project in 1998 and the Department undertook the task of re-measuring these plots and would plots would be periodically measures and analyzed to continuously update and for the sustainability of the forest resources. In Sarawak, sixty-four (64) yield plots were established in Sarawak between 1971 and 1987.

45. Without the greatest care, logging could irrevocably accelerate the recovery of the forest stand. Under Malaysian management system, logging is regulated through a prescribed cutting regime that takes full account the adequacy of residual trees, species composition and their distribution that will respond to canopy opening by logging activities. Through management regime (e.g. cutting regime option) the stand content fluctuation can be controlled by controlling the degree of disturbance. As such, damage to the residual stand is minimized and the forest and the species are able to regenerate for the next harvest.

46. Peat swamp forest conservation and to a large extent ramin species and habitat conservation are taken seriously by the Government. It has supported several key conservation initiatives, the latest being the project on the Conservation of Tropical Peat Swamp Forests and Associated wetland Ecosystems. This Malaysia/UNDP/GEF project was initiated in 2001 to better manage the country's peat swamp forest. Its objective is to conservation and sustainable use of globally significant genetic, species and ecosystem diversity in the country's peat swamp forest. The five-year project will contribute to implementation of the Malaysia Biodiversity Action Plan by demonstrating conservation and sustainable management of peat swamp forest in southeast Pahang together with that of Loagan Bunut National Park in Sarawak and the Klias Peninsula in Sabah. The project will assist State governments in preparing site-specific management plans and facilitate improve land use decision-making processes to ensure the sustainability of the peat swamp forest ecosystem. The project would use multifunctional zoning to propose areas for protection and production within the Pekan peat swamp forest.

47. The ramin export quota for Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah in 2007 was at 20,000 m^3 and 3,178 m^3 for Sarawak. About 6,394 m^3 of ramin specimen, products and parts and derivatives was exported from Peninsular Malaysia and 5,674 m^3 of sawn timber and 4,319 m^3 in dowel /moulding specimen for Sarawak in 2007. Products of ramin exported consists of sawn timber (35 %), dressed timber (25 %), picture frame (15 %), moulding (10 %), baby cot (10 %) and various products of finger-jointed S4S, venetian blind, baby crib, louver doors, wood frame, basinet and furniture (5 %). The reduction in export was due to the temporary suspension of export to the European Union (lifted on 7 December 2007) and Australia (still in effect).

48. Malaysia is very serious to conserve and sustainably manage ramin. To achieve this, it is important for Malaysia to provide sufficient and credible information on ramin population, biological and ecological status should be made available to determine sustainable level of harvests and assist in designing rehabilitation and conservation programs as well as awareness and capacity building are the mains factor in the conservation, as well as sustainable utilization and management of this species in Malaysia. As such, Malaysia is going to collaborate to carry out projects with the support and funds of International Agencies. In line with this, ITTO has approved six (6) proposed projects submitted for implementation under the ITTO project on "Ensuring International Trade in CITES-listed Timber Species is Consistent with their Sustainable Management and Conservation" with the budget that has been tentatively earmarked for Malaysia this year only amounted to about USD 500,000.

49. In general, the proposed projects to comprehensively conduct inventories to collect information of its distribution, population dynamics, status and to estimate the growing stock of ramin in the forest areas in Malaysia. The projects also involve to develop DNA database of ramin to study the genetic variations and differentiation of its populations that also can used to enhance the effort particularly using molecular methods for tracing and tracking of ramin timber and thereby confirming whether the timber is legal or illegal obtained. One component under the projects embarks on the spatial distribution maps of ramin species in the country through the use of the recent hyper spectral technology. On the other hand, Malaysia will also strengthen and improve the efficiency of ramin tree marking operations and forest revenue system as well as to expedite the issuance removal pass during timber transportation from logging areas using a customized cost-effective RFID based timber monitoring under the ITTO-CITES project.

50. Malaysia has designated more than 5 million hectares of its forested land as totally protection areas, which make up more than 15.3% of the country's land area. The totally protection areas cover various type of forests including peat swamp forest. About 10% of the existing peat swamp forest area has been designated or agreed to be allocated as totally protection area. This is one of the country efforts to conserve the country's rich biological diversity including conserving flora species diversity such as ramin species.

51. There are also considerable amount of research of *Gonystylus* spp. carried out in the country, whether the ecological and biological as well as silvicultural characteristics of the species that make Malaysia as the leading country in the research of this species. Beside these, Malaysia also will continue to provide sufficient and credible information on ramin for the determination of sustainable level of harvests, assist in designing rehabilitation program as well as to enhance conservation programs. Malaysia will also emphasis on awareness and capacity building as they are the mains

factor in the conservation, sustainable utilization and management of ramin in Malaysia. For instance, Malaysia is applying the precautionary approach using control and monitoring of ramin harvest from forest areas based on its population growth capacity and production capacity and hence it will not become detrimental to the survival and healthy population of this species. In summary, the productions of ramin from the country's forests are based on the sustained yield level.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA'S REPORT ON RAMIN (*GONYSTYLUS* SPP.)

The United States has prepared this report on *Gonystylus* spp. as a major importer. This report is presented in three sections. The first section describes U.S. implementation of CITES timber listings; the second section describes U.S. outreach efforts related to the Appendix-II listing of *Gonystylus* spp.; and the third section presents an analysis of *Gonystylus* spp. imported into the United States during 2003-2007.

Introduction

CITES is implemented in the United States under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The regulations that implement CITES under the ESA are in Title 50, Part 23, of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (50 CFR 23).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the primary agency designated under the ESA for implementing CITES in the United States. The USFWS Division of Management Authority (DMA), the U.S. CITES Management Authority, is the office responsible for the issuance of U.S. CITES permits/certificates, including CITES documentation for exports/re-exports of *Gonystylus* spp. from the United States. DMA is also responsible for compiling the U.S. CITES Annual Report, including all U.S. import, export, and re-export data on *Gonystylus* spp.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is responsible for the inspection and clearance of shipments of non-living CITES-listed plant material (including *Gonystylus* spp.) imported into the United States. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is responsible for the inspection and clearance of all shipments of living CITES-listed plant material imported into the United States and of all CITES-listed plant material, living and non-living, exported and re-exported from the United States.

U.S. outreach efforts related to the Appendix-II listing of *Gonystylus* spp.

On December 2, 2004, and December 21, 2004, respectively, the United States notified U.S. importers of *Gonystylus* spp. and principal exporting and re-exporting countries of *Gonystylus* spp. of U.S. plans for national implementation of the Appendix-II listing. As a major importer of *Gonystylus* spp., the United States made it a priority to have an implementation and enforcement plan in place prior to the effective date of the listing (January 12, 2005) to ensure that legal trade in ramin was not disrupted. In its outreach efforts to the principal exporting and re-exporting countries and U.S. importers, the United States focused on two issues of importance. First, the United States clarified what types of CITES documentation were required upon import for shipments of *Gonystylus* spp. exported to the United States before, on, and after January 12, 2005. Second, the United States clarified that although ramin is listed in the CITES Appendices at the generic level (i.e., *Gonystylus* spp.), because the Conference of the Parties did not agree that the use of higher taxon names was acceptable, CITES permits and certificates for ramin should include the species name. The clearance process for shipments of ramin wood or wood products exported or re-exported to the United States not adhering to the requirements agreed by the Parties might be delayed in order to consult with the appropriate CITES Management Authority.

Analysis of *Gonystylus* spp. imported into the United States during 2003-2007

Based on U.S. CITES Annual Report trade data, during 2003-2007, the United States imported a total of 17,003 cubic meters of *Gonystylus* spp. wood products, plus an additional 1,469 kilograms of wood products and 298,169 items of wood products. During the same time period, the United States imported 640 cubic meters of *Gonystylus* spp. sawn wood and 49 cubic meters of *Gonystylus* spp. logs. The vast majority of U.S. imports of *Gonystylus* spp. were imported directly from Malaysia. Also, the vast majority

of the *Gonystylus* spp. imported into the United States was in the form of wood products. It should be noted that the volume of *Gonystylus* spp. imported into the United States remained fairly stable from 2003 to 2004, with the genus listed in Appendix III both of those years, then declined sharply in 2005, the first year that the genus was listed in Appendix II. The volume imported into the United States remained fairly stable from 2005 to 2006, then declined sharply once again in 2007.

During 2003-2007, U.S. inspection authorities seized 16 shipments of *Gonystylus* spp. imported into the United States in violation of CITES. Eleven of these shipments were imported from China, 3 from Indonesia, and 2 from Italy. These shipments totaled 84 cubic meters of wood products, plus an additional 99,750 items of wood products and 3 shipments of unknown volume of wood products.

Summary of *Gonystylus* spp. imports into the United States during 2003-2007.

Year	Origin	Place of Export	Quantity	Unit	Description
2003	Indonesia	Indonesia	48,800	No	Wood products
	Indonesia	China	33	m^3	Logs
	Indonesia	China	33	m^3	Wood products
	Indonesia	Italy	22	m^3	Wood products
	Indonesia	Taiwan	75,250	No	Wood products
	Malaysia	Malaysia	438	m^3	Sawn wood
	Malaysia	Malaysia	4,700	m^3	Wood products
	Malaysia	China	16	m^3	Logs
	Malaysia	Italy	106	m^3	Wood products
	Malaysia	Italy	1,093	Kg	Wood products
	Malaysia	Italy	125	No	Wood products
	Malaysia	Taiwan	195	m^3	Sawn wood
	Unknown	China	50,337	No	Wood products
2004	Indonesia	China	63	m^3	Wood products
	Indonesia	Italy	3	m^3	Wood products
	Indonesia	Taiwan	19	m^3	Wood products
	Indonesia	Taiwan	88,100	No	Wood products
	Malaysia	Malaysia	5,867	m^3	Wood products
	Malaysia	China	36	m^3	Wood products
	Malaysia	Italy	54	m^3	Wood products
	Malaysia	Italy	376	Kg	Wood products
	Malaysia	Taiwan	38	m^3	Wood products
	Malaysia	United Kingdom	2,077	No	Wood products
	Unknown	China	613	No	Wood products
	Unknown	Italy	15	m^3	Wood products
2005	Indonesia	Italy	18	m^3	Wood products
	Indonesia	Taiwan	13	m^3	Wood products
	Malaysia	Malaysia	2,406	m^3	Wood products
	Malaysia	China	1	m^3	Wood products
	Malaysia	Italy	176	m^3	Wood products

Year	Origin	Place of Export	Quantity	Unit	Description
2006	Indonesia	Indonesia	68	m^3	Wood products
	Malaysia	Malaysia	2,263	m^3	Wood products
	Malaysia	China	1	m^3	Wood products
	Malaysia	Italy	197	m^3	Wood products
	Malaysia	Spain	16,131	No	Wood products
2007	Indonesia	Taiwan	16	m^3	Wood products
	Malaysia	Malaysia	7	m^3	Sawn wood
	Malaysia	Malaysia	851	m^3	Wood products
	Malaysia	Italy	37	m^3	Wood products
	Malaysia	Spain	11,432	No	Wood products
	Malaysia	United Kingdom	5,304	No	Wood products