

**Inclusion in Appendix II of 13 timber species of the genus *Dalbergia* native to Mexico and Central America without annotation: *Dalbergia calderonii*; *D. calycina*, *D. congestiflora*, *D. cubilquitzensis*, *D. glomerata*, *D. longepedunculata*, *D. luteola*, *D. melanocardium*, *D. modesta*, *D. palo-escrito*, *D. rhachiflexa*, *D. ruddae*, *D. tucurensis***

**Proponent: Mexico**

**Note:** The entire genus *Dalbergia* apart from those already included in Appendix I or II is the subject of Proposal 55. Discussion of the genus as a whole is included in the analysis of that proposal.

**Summary:** There are 20 *Dalbergia* species found in Mexico, six of which are endemic. Of the total, 15 produce high quality timber; two are already listed in Appendix II (*D. retusa* and *D. stevensonii*), the remainder are proposed here for listing in Appendix II.

Timber produced by many species of *Dalbergia*, often known as 'rosewood', is valued for the beauty, durability and physical properties of the wood; it is consequently in demand in international trade (see analysis for Proposal 55). None of the 13 species currently proposed for listing is named in the National Hongmu Standard of 33 species<sup>1</sup>, or in the Chinese Industrial Hardwood Standard<sup>2</sup>.

There is little information on the populations and trade in most of the species. Regeneration of many *Dalbergia* species is considered slow<sup>3</sup>. Mexico has now carried out risk assessments for the populations of Mexico.

***Dalbergia calderonii*** occurs in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. This species is rare and slow growing, and occurs in a region with high deforestation. Mexico considers its population endangered and El Salvador has assessed it as threatened.

***Dalbergia calycina*** occurs in Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and Nicaragua. No data are available on the volume of trade; exports from Guatemala (which listed its population in Appendix III) were reported in 2014<sup>4</sup>. Known to occur in a number of protected areas, there are no specific data relating to the population size of this taxon, however, it is considered to be rare in Nicaragua and assessed as threatened by Mexico. In 2012 IUCN classified the species as of Least Concern.

***Dalbergia congestiflora*** is distributed in Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador, it is currently considered endangered in Mexico, but according to the most recent assessment it now qualifies as subject to special protection.

***Dalbergia cubilquitzensis*** occurs in Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua. Mexico considers this species endangered. No data are available on the volume of trade; exports from Guatemala (which has listed the species in Appendix III) were reported in 2014<sup>4</sup>.

***Dalbergia glomerata*** is reported to occur in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, although Mexico considers that it is endemic and the populations elsewhere are *D. congestiflora*. It was listed in Appendix III by Guatemala in 2015 and, according to the CITES Trade Database, since then 42m<sup>3</sup> of sawn wood have been reported as exported from Honduras to Taiwan (Province of China). The species is harvested for timber; populations are believed to be declining as a result. Also believed to be affected by decline in area and quality of habitat as a result of conversion to agriculture. Road construction is making areas more accessible for logging<sup>5</sup>. Classified as in need of special protection in Mexico and as Vulnerable by IUCN (2012).

***Dalbergia longepedunculata*** occurs in Honduras and Mexico; considered endangered by Mexico.

***Dalbergia luteola*** occurs in Guatemala and Mexico and Guatemala; considered endangered in Mexico.

***Dalbergia melanocardium*** occurs in El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico; considered endangered in Mexico.

***Dalbergia modesta*** endemic to Mexico where it is considered threatened.

*Dalbergia palo-escrito* is endemic to Mexico where it is considered threatened, this species is in high demand for the manufacture of classical guitars and is subject to selective logging<sup>6</sup>.

*Dalbergia rhachiflexa* is endemic to Mexico where it is considered threatened.

*Dalbergia ruddae* occurs in Costa Rica and Mexico; considered threatened in Mexico.

*Dalbergia tucurensis* naturally occurs in Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua; introduced into Costa Rica. Nicaragua listed the species in Appendix III in 2014 and Guatemala added its population in 2015; the CITES Trade Database records just over 29,000m<sup>3</sup> in trade, mainly from Nicaragua to East Asia. Considered endangered by Mexico.

The 13 species proposed for listing in Appendix II have timber that is similar to that of species already listed in Appendix II from the same geographical region. Enforcement of the current listing is difficult due to problems in species identification. Trade is often reported at genus level and enforcement officers do not have a quick and easy technique to identify to species level. Under laboratory conditions, there are identification tests that can be done to species level but they are both costly and complicated. There is also reported to be illegal trade in *Dalbergia* species in the region.

For a broader discussion of trade in *Dalbergia* species see analysis of Proposal 55.

With no annotation, all parts and derivatives, live or dead, would be regulated. Most current *Dalbergia* listings have annotations (#5 and #6) that variously include logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets and plywood. However Proposal 53 notes that in a review of the trade in *D. cochinchinensis* a large portion of the trade in "rosewood" species from eastern Asia is currently in the form of secondary processed products, particularly furniture. The traders can crudely process the timber in the source country and then export it as furniture to circumvent the control. That proposal is to expand the scope of the listing by switching to annotation #4.

**Analysis:** The species of *Dalbergia* proposed here are timber-producing species that share range States with two *Dalbergia* species that are already included in Appendix II. There is insufficient information to determine whether any of the species proposed here meets the criteria in Annex 2a of the Resolution.

At least some of the species are known to be in trade and have timber that is difficult to distinguish from the Appendix-II listed species. Trade in timber from *Dalbergia* species may be reported at genus level. This creates problems in the implementation of the existing Appendix-II listing. It would appear therefore that these species meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix II in Annex 2b of *Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16)* (lookalike criteria). With no annotation proposed, all parts and derivatives, live or dead, would be regulated; under the current Appendix-II listings for *D. retusa* and *D. stevensonii* the only products included are logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets and plywood.

#### References:

Information not referenced in the Summary section is from the Supporting Statement.

<sup>1</sup> Wenbin, H. & Xiufang, S. (2013) Tropical Hardwood Flows in China: Case Studies of Rosewood and Okoumé. Forest Trends.

<sup>2</sup> Chinese Industrial Standard of Precious Dark Color Hardwood Furniture (QB / T 2385-2008).

<sup>3</sup> EIA (2013) Report on CoP16 Proposals: [https://eia-international.org/wp-content/uploads/EIA-COP16-Briefing\\_Proposals1.pdf](https://eia-international.org/wp-content/uploads/EIA-COP16-Briefing_Proposals1.pdf). Viewed on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016.

<sup>4</sup> CITES (2015) PC22.Doc 17.2. Report of the Working Group for Neotropical Tree Species.

<sup>5</sup> Groom, A. (2012). *Dalbergia glomerata*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2012.

<sup>6</sup> Chatham House (2012) Chatham House Workshop: Tackling the Trade in Illegal Precious Woods 23-24 April 2012 Background Paper 1: Precious Woods: Exploitation of the Finest Timber Prepared by TRAFFIC.