

CoP17 Prop 55 [Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala and Kenya] Inclusion of the genus *Dalbergia* in CITES Appendix II without annotation, with the exception of the species included in Appendix I

The genus *Dalbergia* is large and widespread, comprising plants of many different forms. Some species produce high quality and sought-after timber, some of which are traded as “rosewood”; some are traded as *Hongmu*.

One of the main challenges with any individual species listings in a multi-species genus is the inability of enforcement agencies to identify those species in trade. Currently only a few *Dalbergia* species are listed under CITES, with differing annotations. Implementation of a listing of the whole genus would still need reliably to distinguish between the various species of *Dalbergia* in trade but such a listing will help to eliminate much of the enforcement challenges and difficulties associated with lookalike species.

The “rosewood” *Dalbergia* species in trade are considered threatened and are subject to heavy exploitation. It is the heartwood that is highly prized, which can only be found in trees above a certain diameter class. The different producer regions of Central and South America, Madagascar, East Africa and southern and Southeast Asia that supply “rosewood” each face different challenges in understanding the biology, growth, trade, legality and illegal logging and illegal timber trade.

Over-exploitation has led to the observed shift in “rosewood” trade from depleted *Dalbergia* species to others, with the trade moving from one country to another, and one region to another, leading to localized or even regional commercial extinctions. A listing without an annotation will help to ensure controls are in place for other uses of the timber including finished products such as high value musical instruments.

A listing will encourage countries harvesting *Dalbergia* “rosewood” species to conduct non-detriment findings and work towards more effective controls and enforcement, as well as support those that have imposed either harvest or export bans of their “rosewood” species. For those countries with depleted “rosewood” species, an Appendix II listing will help consumer countries support their efforts to address illegal trade in the species.

It should be noted there are a large number of *Dalbergia* species which do not resemble the species in commercial trade. However, it is believed they are not traded internationally and this listing will not have any effect on them.

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