

***Dalbergia* species—a global conservation crisis**



Rosewood trees (Dalbergia spp.) in Asia, Africa and Central and South America are being cut down to produce classical “redwood” furniture in China (China Today 2011). Once considered a luxury item only for the wealthy, such furniture is now in high demand by China’s growing middle class. In 2011 alone, demand resulted in up to a fourfold increase in prices for “redwood” furniture made from Dalbergia wood (China Today 2011).



In response to increasing trade value and high demand, both illegal harvesting and international trade are greater than ever.

Wherever rosewood grows, forestry authorities are grappling with the effects of illegal harvesting and trade—valuable resources plundered, the presence of foreign criminal elements, and habitat loss. They have been overwhelmed and they urgently need international help to deal with this problem.

Many Dalbergia species have small and fragmented populations. Extensive and unsustainable harvest along with rampant illegal trade is leading to dramatic population declines and, in some cases, local commercial extinction.

Listing Dalbergia species in Appendix II is necessary to curb illegal international trade and ensure that trade conducted is both legal and sustainable.



SSN urges the Parties to support CoP16 Props. 60, 61, 62 and 63 for listing *Dalbergia* spp. on Appendix II.

<p>BELIZE (Prop. 61)</p>	<p>BELIZE (Prop. 62)</p>
<p><i>Dalbergia retusa</i> & <i>D. granadillo</i></p>	<p><i>Dalbergia stevensonii</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution: Mexico to Panama. • <i>D. granadillo</i> wood indistinguishable from that of <i>D. retusa</i> necessitating listing of both species. • Population: <i>D. retusa</i>, Vulnerable (IUCN 1998); populations in some countries are Endangered. • Threats: Commercial over-exploitation, illegal logging and habitat loss. • Trade: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extensive and unsustainable harvest has significantly reduced range and abundance of <i>D. retusa</i>, leading to local commercial extinction. Increase in imports by China, especially in 2011 and 2012, reported Chinese imports much higher than reported exports from range States. ▪ Guatemala and Panama populations of <i>Dalbergia retusa</i> are listed on Appendix III, but this is insufficient to control legal and illegal trade. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution: Belize, Guatemala, Mexico. • Population: All populations believed to be declining. • Threats: Illegal and legal logging including for international trade, habitat loss. • Trade: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highly sought; wastage as high as 80%, as only logs with straightest grain used; trade increased exponentially in last few years to satisfy demand from Asian markets, especially China; Guatemala exported 411,009 m³ (2008-2010) and Belize 25,704.55 m³ from 1999 to January 2012 (CITES Trade Database). ▪ Legal and illegal trade including imports to China increased dramatically in 2011 and 2012. ▪ There is illegal logging and cross-border smuggling of this species in Belize, Mexico and Guatemala.

<p>THAILAND & VIETNAM (Prop. 60)</p>	<p>MADAGASCAR (Prop. 63)</p>
<p><i>Dalbergia conchichinensis</i></p>	<p><i>Dalbergia</i> spp.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution: Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam. • Population: Vulnerable (IUCN 1998); in Thailand, estimated 80,000-100,000 trees (approximately 63,500 m³) remained in 2011; in Vietnam, population declined 50-60% over past 5-10 years. • Threats: Deforestation and illegal logging. • Trade: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Harvest prohibited in all range States; During past 6 years Thailand has confiscated 0.63 million m³ of seized logs, equalling approximately 600,000 trees; 74 illegal logging cases involving rosewood in Vietnam in 2010. ▪ High international demand for sawn timber and finished products continues to threaten species. ▪ International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) support this proposal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution: Madagascar. • Population: 48 species; of 40 Malagasy <i>Dalbergia</i> species assessed by IUCN, 10 are Critically Endangered, 14 Endangered, 10 Vulnerable; <i>Dalbergia</i> spp. listed as Critically Endangered and Endangered cannot be distinguished from other <i>Dalbergia</i> spp. in trade, justifying listing of entire genus. • Threats: Over-collection for international trade; high and increasing levels of illegal trade; habitat loss. • Trade: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highly sought in international trade, making the species prone to over-collection. ▪ Illegal trade serving export markets in China, USA and Europe is well documented and increasing; listing will allow consumer countries to end illegal imports.

China Today. 2011. Everything Old Is New Again: Classical Chinese Furniture. 17 November.

Photo credits: *cochinchinensis*—Kwan Han, <http://www.natureloveyou.sg>; @ Toby Smith, / EIA; @ Toby Smith / EIA.

