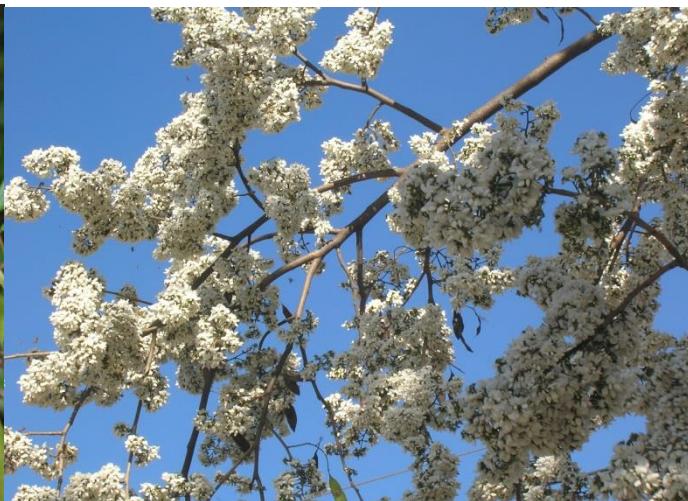




# A case for listing 13 timber species of *Dalbergia* native to Mexico and Central America under CITES Appendix II

**Isabel Camarena**  
**CITES Specialist on Flora Issues**  
**Scientific Authority of Mexico**  
**CONABIO**



# 1. The genus *Dalbergia* (a.k.a. Rosewood)

- Pantropical genus comprised by around 250 species.
- In the Mesoamerican Region (Mexico and Central America) a total of 27 species have been described.
- 20 species of *Dalbergia* occur in Mexico, 15 of which are considered timber species, and 6 are considered endemic.
- Rosewood species are of high economic value, and used for fine carvings. The main specimens in international trade are logs and sawn wood, and luxury furniture.
- In Mexico, rosewood species have been traditionally used for making musical instruments and crafts.



*Dalbergia palo-escrito*



*Dalbergia retusa*



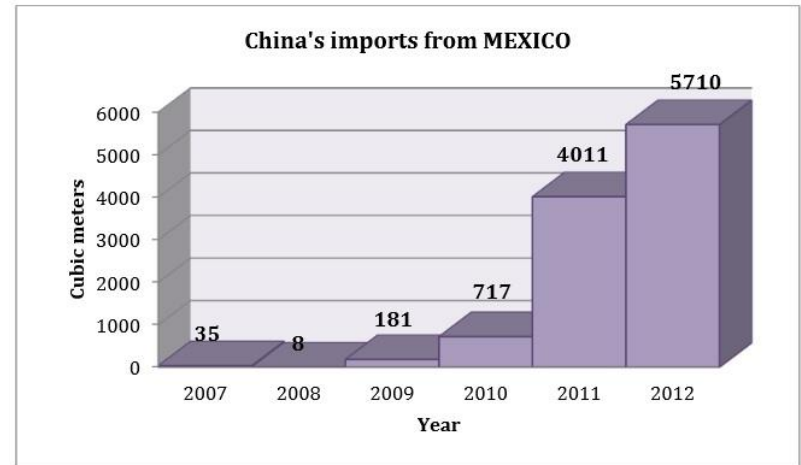
*Dalbergia stevensonii*



## 2. Vulnerability and threats to Rosewood species



- Naturally scarce species, slow growth, low recruitment, and high rates of seed abortion and predation.
- Recently, there has been great interest for Rosewood species in the international market, which has led to the decimation of the natural populations.
- Main threats: Selective logging (trafficking of timber) and deforestation.



FUENTE: Rosewood. 'China Customs' (General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China).



Aseguramiento en la frontera sur de 885 m<sup>3</sup> de madera.  
Profepa, 2014.

## 3. Conservation status and legal framework

### 3.1. IUCN Red List

- *Dalbergia calycina* (Least concern)
- *Dalbergia glomerata* (Vulnerable)

### 3.2. National legal framework (Mexico and Central America)

**Mexico:** at the time being, two species are listed under the Mexican Official Standard of threatened species (NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010), as follows\*:

- *Dalbergia granadillo* (Endangered)
- *Dalbergia congestiflora* (Endangered)

\*All remaining species are regulated by the General Law on Sustainable Forestry Development.

**Central America:** Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama have National Forestry Laws or Acts that are applicable to the regulation and protection of timber species (including Rosewood species).

### 3.3. International legal framework

**CITES Appendix II:**

- *Dalbergia granadillo*
- *Dalbergia stevensonii*
- *Dalbergia retusa*\*

**CITES Appendix III:** 5 species listed by Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama.



## 4. Challenges faced by CITES Authorities in the implementation of Rosewood Appendix II listings

- Since the Appendix II listing of *Dalbergia granadillo*, *D. retusa* and *D. stevensonii* in 2013 (CoP16, Bangkok), CITES Authorities have faced difficulties in implementing CITES provisions due to:
  - a) Lack of information needed to formulate non detriment findings (NDF), particularly on distribution and demography of the species; and,
  - b) Difficulties in differentiating timber of rosewood species listed in CITES from those that are currently not listed.
- To address this, CONABIO held a “Workshop on evaluating the timber species of the genus *Dalbergia* in Mexico” (Mexico City, June 2015), and its outcomes were presented by Mexico at the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee (PC22, Tbilisi 2015).



## 5. On the need to list additional timber species of *Dalbergia* under Appendix

- The experts of the rosewood workshop concluded that:
  - a) All timber species of rosewood native to Mexico qualify under a risk category at the national level, as follows:

Species	Assessment under the criteria of the Mexican Official Standard (NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010)
1) <i>D. calderonii</i>	Endangered
2) <i>D. cubilquitzensis</i>	
3) <i>D. longepedunculata</i>	
4) <i>D. luteola</i>	
5) <i>D. melanocardium</i>	
6) <i>D. ruddae</i>	
7) <i>D. stevensonii</i>	
8) <i>D. tucurensis</i>	
9) <i>D. calycina</i>	Threatened
10) <i>D. granadillo</i>	
11) <i>D. modesta</i>	
12) <i>D. palo-escrito</i>	
13) <i>D. rhachiflexa</i>	
14) <i>D. congestiflora</i>	Subject to Special Protection
15) <i>D. glomerata</i>	

- b) To the date, there is no tested method to distinguish timber specimens of rosewood at species level, and listing additional timber species of rosewood will help CITES Authorities in the implementation of Appendix II provisions.

## 6. Steps to follow under an Appendix II scenario

- Since 2016, CONABIO is coordinating the project “Analysis of the populations and significant aspects of the pollination of *Dalbergia granadillo* and *Dalbergia stevensonii*”, which will:
  - a) Provide a clear overview of the situation of two *Dalbergia* populations;
  - b) Yield information to support decision making processes related to the sustainable use of timber species of rosewood, as well as for the implementation of CITES in range states.
- So far, the project has shed new light on the phenology and demography of *Dalbergia stevensonii* populations in Chiapas.



Images by Gabriel Cosultchi

# Thank you!

[icamarena@conabio.gob.mx](mailto:icamarena@conabio.gob.mx)

