

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twenty-second meeting of the Plants Committee
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Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

Proposals for possible consideration at CoP17

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE TREE SPECIES
OF THE GENUS *DALBERGIA* IN MEXICO

1. This document has been prepared by Mexico.*

Background

2. At its 16th meeting (CoP16; Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties approved the listing of species of the genus *Dalbergia* in CITES Appendix II, as follows:

Species	Annotation	Associated proposal for amendment
<i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i>	Not applicable	CoP16 Prop. 60, by Thailand and Vietnam
<i>Dalbergia granadillo</i>	#6 Logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets and plywood.	CoP16 Prop. 61, by Belize
<i>Dalbergia retusa</i>		CoP16 Prop. 62, by Belize
<i>Dalbergia stevensonii</i>		
<i>Dalbergia</i> spp. (populations of Madagascar).	#5 Logs, sawn wood and veneer sheet	CoP16 Prop. 63, by Madagascar

3. Since the entry into force of these listings on 12 June 2013, the CITES Authorities of Mexico have encountered difficulties in implementing them, primarily owing to:
- 3.1. The lack of information needed to prepare non-detriment findings (NDFs) in accordance with the provisions of Article IV of the Convention. The principal information gaps within the context of implementation of CITES have to do with the distribution and demographics of the Mexican populations; and,
- 3.2. Difficulties in identifying specimens of *Dalbergia* spp. in trade in order to be able to differentiate the species in Appendix II from those not covered by the Convention.

* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

Workshop on evaluating the timber species of the genus *Dalbergia* in Mexico

4. As a first step in tackling the problems relating to *Dalbergia* at national level, the CITES Scientific Authority of Mexico (*Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad*, CONABIO), organized on 11 and 12 June 2015 the “*Workshop on evaluating the timber species of the genus Dalbergia in Mexico in the context of NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010*”. This was attended by more than 20 experts on the genus as well as representatives of the CITES Authorities and of the environmental sector of Mexico. Its objective was to identify and evaluate the timber species of *Dalbergia* distributed in Mexico, in the light of the provisions of Mexican legislation, in other words using the *Método de Evaluación del Riesgo de Extinción de Plantas en México* (MER) (“Method for Evaluating the Risk of Extinction of Plants in Mexico”) of Mexico’s official list of endangered species *NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010*.
5. Among the principal results of the workshop, attention may be drawn to the following:
- 5.1. Based on a review of the records in the National Herbarium (MEXU) of the *Instituto de Biología de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México* (IBUNAM) (Biological Institute of the National Autonomous University of Mexico), the experts determined that *Dalbergia tilarana* and *D. retusa* are not distributed naturally in Mexico. Specifically, the specimens identified as *D. retusa* in Mexico from this collection have been misidentified and in reality are specimens of *Dalbergia granadillo*; while the on-line records for *D. retusa* (e.g. Trópicos) relate to introduced specimens.
- 5.2. In addition, *D. glomerata* was recognized as a species endemic to Mexico; while the records for this species outside Mexico match up to *D. congestiflora*.
- 5.3. *Dalbergia tabascana* was recognized as a taxonomically valid species.
- 5.4. In total, 20 species of *Dalbergia* are native to Mexico (six of them being endemic), of which currently two (*D. congestiflora* and *D. granadillo*) are on the list of Mexico’s endangered species (*Norma Oficial Mexicana NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010*), which means that their management and exploitation are regulated by the provisions of the General Wildlife Act (LGVS, 2000):

Species *Endemic to Mexico	CITES Appendix	Category in NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010
1) <i>Dalbergia brownei</i>	Non-listed	Non-listed
2) <i>Dalbergia calderonii</i>	Non-listed	Non-listed
3) <i>Dalbergia calycina</i>	III, Guatemala	Non-listed
4) <i>Dalbergia congestiflora</i>	Non-listed	Endangered
5) <i>Dalbergia cubilquitzensis</i>	III, Guatemala	Non-listed
6) <i>Dalbergia ecastaphyllum</i>	Non-listed	Non-listed
7) <i>Dalbergia glabra</i>	Non-listed	Non-listed
8) <i>Dalbergia glomerata*</i>	III, Guatemala	Non-listed
9) <i>Dalbergia granadillo*</i>	II, Anot. #6	Endangered
10) <i>Dalbergia longepedunculata</i>	Non-listed	Non-listed
11) <i>Dalbergia luteola</i>	Non-listed	Non-listed
12) <i>Dalbergia melanocardium</i>	Non-listed	Non-listed
13) <i>Dalbergia modesta*</i>	Non-listed	Non-listed
14) <i>Dalbergia monetaria</i>	Non-listed	Non-listed
15) <i>Dalbergia palo-escrito*</i>	Non-listed	Non-listed
16) <i>Dalbergia rhachiflexa*</i>	Non-listed	Non-listed
17) <i>Dalbergia ruddae</i>	Non-listed	Non-listed
18) <i>Dalbergia stevensonii</i>	II, Anot. #6	Non-listed
19) <i>Dalbergia tabascana*</i>	Non-listed	Non-listed
20) <i>Dalbergia tucurensis</i>	III, Guatemala and Nicaragua	Non-listed

- 5.5. In the case of those species previously listed, the experts determined that 15 are timber species, and these were evaluated using the criteria of the MER (“Method for Evaluating the Risk of Extinction of Plants in Mexico”) of NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010, with the following results:

Timber species *Endemic to Mexico	Recommendation in accordance with the evaluation using the Method for Evaluating the Risk (MER) of NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010	Hyperlink to the MER evaluation
1) <i>D. calderonii</i>	Listing under 'Endangered'	http://conabiweb.conabio.gob.mx/websevice/dalbergias/Dalbergia_calderonii.pdf
2) <i>D. calycina</i>	Listing under 'Threatened'	http://conabiweb.conabio.gob.mx/websevice/dalbergias/Dalbergia_calycina.pdf
3) <i>D. congestiflora</i>	Change from 'Endangered' to 'In need of special protection'	http://conabiweb.conabio.gob.mx/websevice/dalbergias/Dalbergia_congestiflora.pdf
4) <i>D. cubilquitzensis</i>	Listing under 'Endangered'	http://conabiweb.conabio.gob.mx/websevice/dalbergias/Dalbergia_cubilquitzensis.pdf
5) <i>D. glomerata*</i>	Listing under 'In need of special protection'	http://conabiweb.conabio.gob.mx/websevice/dalbergias/Dalbergia_glomerata.pdf
6) <i>D. granadillo*</i>	Change from 'Endangered' to 'Threatened'	http://conabiweb.conabio.gob.mx/websevice/dalbergias/Dalbergia_granadillo.pdf
7) <i>D. longepedunculata</i>	Listing under 'Endangered'	http://conabiweb.conabio.gob.mx/websevice/dalbergias/Dalbergia_longepedunculata.pdf
8) <i>D. luteola</i>	Listing under 'Endangered'	http://conabiweb.conabio.gob.mx/websevice/dalbergias/Dalbergia_luteola.pdf
9) <i>D. melanocardium</i>	Listing under 'Endangered'	http://conabiweb.conabio.gob.mx/websevice/dalbergias/Dalbergia_melanocardium.pdf
10) <i>D. modesta*</i>	Listing under 'Threatened'	http://conabiweb.conabio.gob.mx/websevice/dalbergias/Dalbergia_modesta.pdf
11) <i>D. palo-escrito*</i>	Listing under 'Threatened'	http://conabiweb.conabio.gob.mx/websevice/dalbergias/Dalbergia_palo-escrito.pdf
12) <i>D. rhachiflexa</i>	Listing under 'Endangered'	http://conabiweb.conabio.gob.mx/websevice/dalbergias/Dalbergia_rhachiflexa.pdf
13) <i>D. ruddae</i>	Listing under 'Endangered'	http://conabiweb.conabio.gob.mx/websevice/dalbergias/Dalbergia_ruddae.pdf
14) <i>D. stevensonii</i>	Listing under 'Endangered'	http://conabiweb.conabio.gob.mx/websevice/dalbergias/Dalbergia_stevensonii.pdf
15) <i>D. tucurensis</i>	Listing under 'Endangered'	http://conabiweb.conabio.gob.mx/websevice/dalbergias/Dalbergia_tucurensis.pdf

5.6. The summary sheets of the MER evaluations of the fifteen species above may also be consulted by going to <http://bios.conabio.gob.mx/especies/6006417> and clicking on the drop-down menu entitled "Granadillo (*Dalbergia*)".

Steps to be taken by Mexico

6. In accordance with the provisions of the General Wildlife Act (LGVS, 2000), the proposals for amendment (listing or change of category) to the listings of species in the NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010, together with the MER evaluations of the fifteen timber species of *Dalbergia*, will be submitted to a process of public consultation, and will then be presented by CONABIO to the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) for consideration as part of the updating of the NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010.
7. In order to deal with the information gaps concerning the species of the genus, CONABIO is coordinating the preparation of a publication, which *inter alia* will cover case studies on the distribution, taxonomy, demographics, pollination and anatomy of the wood.
8. With regard to that last point, although there are devices (mostly anatomical) to differentiate the wood of species of *Dalbergia* from other genera incorporating timber species, to date there is no proven method (nor one available to Customs officials) to differentiate timber specimens of *Dalbergia* at an intra-species level.

Recommendations to the Plants Committee

9. To take note of the advances made by Mexico with respect to the evaluation of timber species of the genus *Dalbergia*, and also of the principal difficulties that the CITES Authorities of Mexico have encountered in the implementation of the listings of *Dalbergia* spp. in Appendix II (para. 3).
10. Considering that to date there is no reliable method (nor one tried out by Customs officials) to identify at an intra-species level the wood from specimens of *Dalbergia*, and that this may cause problems in implementing the listings of *Dalbergia* in Appendix II, to develop recommendations on the appropriateness of listing the thirteen remaining Mexican timber species in Appendix II, and in that context to consider other timber species of *Dalbergia* that might be suitable for the same treatment, in accordance with the rule on listing of look-alike species (in line with Article II, para. 2b. of the Convention).

References

LGVS, 2000. Ley General de Vida Silvestre. *DOF (Diario Oficial de la Federación)*, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), p. Última reforma publicada el 19 de marzo de 2014.

SEMARNAT, 2010. *Norma Oficial Mexicana NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010, Protección ambiental -Especies nativas de México de flora y fauna silvestres -Categorías de riesgo y especificaciones para su inclusión, exclusión o cambio -Lista de especies en riesgo.*
http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5173091&fecha=30/12/2010 ed. s.l.:Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales