

**Environmental Responsibility for Woodturners and Woodworkers
Bradford Whitman (Oct 2009)**

**LIST OF TROPICAL WOODS USED AND SOLD FOR
WOODTURNING, AND THEIR ENDANGERMENT STATUS (IUCN)**

Note: The information contained herein is subject to frequent change and the author does not guarantee its accuracy.

Common and Scientific Name	Country of Origin	Ranking*
A		
Afara, Black <i>Terminalia ivorensis</i>	Africa	VU
Albarco/jequitiba <i>Cariniona sp.</i>	Brazil	NR
Afzelia <i>Afzelia xylocarpa</i>	Laos	EN
Afzelia <i>Afzelia africana</i>	Africa	VU
Amboyna <i>Pterocarpus indicus</i>	Laos	VU
Andiroba/Carapa <i>Carapa guianensis</i>	South America	NR
Angelim Para/Sapupira <i>Hymenolobium excelsum</i>	Brazil	NR
Carapa <i>Carapa megistocarpa</i>	Ecuador	EN
B		
Birch, Masur <i>Betula pendula</i>	Finland	NR
Blackbean <i>Castanospermum australe</i>	Australia	NR
Blackwood, African <i>Dalbergia melanoxylon</i> [IUCN: "very high rate of exploitation"; other sources (Flora & Fauna International) would rank much higher.]	Tanzania	LR
Blackwood, Australian <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Australia	NR
Bloodwood <i>Brosmium rubescens</i> <i>Brosmium glaziovii</i> [USDA's Forest Products Laboratory lists 75 spp. under the common name "Bloodwood"]	Brazil Brazil	NR EN

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Bocote/Mexican Rosewood <i>Cordia elaeagnoides</i>	Mexico	NR
29 spp. Of <i>Cordia</i> are ranked from LR to CE incl.: <i>Cordia urticácea</i>	Mexico	CE
Boxwood, Maracaibo <i>Gossypiospermum praecox</i>	Colombia	NR
Bulletwood <i>Manikara bidentata</i>	Central/South America	NR
Bubinga <i>Guibourtia demeusei/tessmannii</i> [2 other African spp. Of G. are ranked VU. USDA FPL lists 11 spp. Under name the common name "Bubinga"]	Africa	NR/VU
C		
Canarywood, Tarara <i>Centrolobium microchaete</i> [USDA FPL lists 7 spp. Under the common name "Canarywood"]	South America	NR
Canarywood/Amarillo Guayaquil <i>Centrolobium yavizanum</i>	Colombia, Panama	VU
Coachwood <i>Ceratopetalum apetalem</i>	Australia	NR
Cochinchin <i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i>	Thailand	VU
Chechem/Che Chen <i>Metopium brownei</i>	Caribbean	NR
Cocobolo <i>Dalbergia retusa</i>	Central America	VU
D		
Danta/Lemonwood <i>Nesogordonia papaverifera</i>	Africa	VU
Degame <i>Calycophyllum candidissium</i>	Central/South America	NR
Desert Ironwood <i>Olneya tesota</i>	USA (Arizona)	NR
E		
Ebony, African <i>Diospyros crassiflora</i>	Africa	EN
Ebony, African <i>Diospyros piscatorial</i>	Africa	NR
Ebony, Black & White <i>Diospyros embryopteris</i>	Laos	NR
Ebony, Indian Ceylon <i>Diospyros ebenum</i>	Sri Lanka	DD
Ebony, Indian <i>Diospyros melanoxylon/tomentosa</i>	India	NR
Ebony, Macassar <i>Diospyros celebica</i>	Celebes Islands	VU

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Ebony, Mun <i>Diospyros mun</i> [There are more than 100 spp. D. worldwide, which complicates identification]	Laos	CE
G		
Goncalo Alves/Tigerwood <i>Astronium graveolens/fraxinifolium</i>	Brazil	NR
Granadillo/Yellow Sanders <i>Buchenavia capitata</i> <i>B. pabstii</i>	Puerto Rico/Brazil Brazil	NR EN
Greenheart <i>Chlorocardium rodiei</i>	Guyana	DD
H		
Hububalli <i>Loxopterygium sagotti</i> <i>L. grisebachii</i>	S. Am. Argentina/Bolivia	NR VU
I		
Imbuia/Brazilian Walnut <i>Ocotea/Phoebe porosa</i>	Brazil	VU
Iroko <i>Milicia chlorophora</i>	Africa	LR
Ironwood <i>Olea capensis</i> Other African <i>O. spp.</i> Ranked VU	Africa Africa	NR VU
Ivorywood <i>Balfourodendron riedelianum</i>	South America	EN
J		
Jarrah <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i>	Australia	NR
Jatoba/Courbaril <i>Hymenaea courbaril</i> <i>H. torrei</i>	Central/South America Central/South America	NR VU
K		
Kingwood, Brazilian/violet wood <i>Dalbergia cearensis</i>	Brazil	NR
L		
Lacewood/Silky Oak <i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Australia	NR
Lacewood <i>Roupala brasiliensis</i>	Brazil	NR
Laurel, Chilean <i>Laurelia sempervirens</i>	Chile	LR
Laurel, Indian <i>Terminalia alata</i> Other Indian <i>T. Spp.</i> Ranked EN	India India	NR EN

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Leadwood <i>Combretum schumannii</i> Other Tanzanian <i>Combretum</i> spp. ranked CE	Tanzania Tanzania	NR CE
Leopardwood <i>Brosmium guianense</i> <i>Flindersia iffllaina</i>	South America Australia	NR EN
Lignum Vitae <i>Guaiaacum officinale</i>	Central America	EN
M		
Mahogany, Honduras <i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>	Mexico, Central/South America	VU
Mahogany, American/ Small-leaved <i>Swietenia mahagoni</i>	Western Indonesia	EN
Makore/baku/douka <i>Tieghemella hecklelii</i>	Africa	EN
Mallee, Red <i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.	Australia	NR
Manbarklak/Kakeralli <i>Eschweilera</i> sp. [17 <i>E.</i> spp. ranked VU, EN, and CE]	South America, esp. Brazil	VU, LR, EN, CE
Mansonia <i>Mansonia altissima</i>	Africa	NR
Marblewood <i>Marmaroxylon racemosum</i> <i>Abarema racemiflora</i>	Suriname Costa Rica	NR VU
Mopane <i>Colophospermum mopane</i>	Africa	NR
Morado, Pau Ferro, "Bolivian Rosewood" <i>Machaerium villosum</i>	Brazil, Bolivia	VU
Muninga/Bleedwood/mukwa <i>Pterocarpus angolensis</i>	Africa	LR
Myrtle, Tasmanian <i>Nothofagus cunninghamii</i> Other Australian <i>N.</i> spp. ranked EN	Australia Australia	NR EN
N		
Narra, Red <i>Pterocarpus indicus</i>	Malaysia, Philippines	VU
O		
Oak, Tasmanian <i>Eucalyptus delegatensis</i>	Australia	NR
Odoko <i>Scottelia coriacea et al.</i>	Africa	NR
Okoume <i>Aucoumea klaineana</i>	Africa	VU

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Olivewood, African <i>Olea hochstetteri</i>	South Africa	NR
Opepe <i>Nauclea diderrichii</i>	Africa	VU
Ovangkol <i>Guibourtia ehie</i>	Africa	VU
P		
Padauk, Andaman/East Indian Mahogany/vermillion wood <i>Pterocarpus dalbergoides</i>	Andaman Island (East Indonesia)	DD
Padauk, African <i>Pterocarpus soyauxii</i> IUCN ranks 34 <i>P. spp.</i> , many EN, VU	Africa Africa	NR EN, VU
Pau Amarello, Brazil Satinwood <i>Euxylophoro paraensis</i>	Brazil	NR
Pau Brasil, Pernambuco / Brazilwood / Brazil Ironwood <i>Caesalpinia echinata</i>	Brazil	EN
Peroba Rosa <i>Aspidosperma polyneuron</i>	Brazil, Paraguay	EN
Pink Ivory <i>Berchemia zeyheri</i> [Considered by dealers one of the rarest woods in the world]	South Africa	NR
Piquia Marfim <i>Aspidosperma desmanthum</i>	Brazil	NR
Purpleheart <i>Peltogyne sp.</i>	Central/South America	NR
Q		
Queensland Maple <i>Flindersia iffina</i>	Australia	EN
R		
Rewarewa/New Zealand Honeysuckle <i>Knightia excels</i>	New Zealand	NR
Ramin <i>Gonystylus bancanus</i>	Malaysia	VU
Rosewood, Bolivian <i>Machaerium scleroxylon</i>	Bolivia	NR
Rosewood, Borneo <i>Melanorrhoea usitata</i>	Suriname	NR
Rosewood, Brazilian <i>Dalbergia nigra</i>	Brazil	VU
Rosewood, Burmese <i>Dalbergia olivera</i> and <i>bariensi</i>	Laos, Burma	EN
Rosewood, East Indian/Indonesian <i>Dalbergia latifolia</i>	India, Indonesia	VU

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Rosewood, Honduras <i>Dalbergia stevensonii</i>	Belize, Guatemala	NR by IUCN; comercial logging banned by Costa Rica; CITES Appendix III
Rosewood, Madagascar/Bois de Rose <i>Dalbergia maritima</i>	Madagascar	EN
Rosewood, Nicaraguan <i>Dalbergia tucurensis</i>	Nicaragua	NR
Rosewood, Thailand <i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i> <i>Other D. species from S.E. Asia are endangered</i>	Thailand Southeast Asia	VU EN,VU
S		
Sandalwood <i>Santalum album</i>	India, SE Asia	VU
Sandalwood <i>Osyris wightiana</i>	Nepal, Tanzania	NR
Sapele <i>Entandrophragma cylindricum</i>	Cameroon	VU
Satinwood, Ceylon <i>Chloroxylon swietenia</i>	Sri Lanka	VU
Satinwood, West Indian <i>Fagara flava</i>	Caribbean	VU
Snakewood <i>Brosimum/Piratinera guianensis</i>	Brazil	NR
Snakewood, Suriname <i>Abarema racemiflora</i>	Suriname, Costa Rica	VU
Southern Silver Ash <i>Flindersia schottiana</i>	Australia	LR
Stinkwood <i>Ocotea bullata</i>	Africa	NR
T		
Tamarind <i>Tamarindus indica</i>	Laos	NR
Tambootie <i>Spirostachys africana</i>	South Africa	NR
Taun/kasai/awa/malagai <i>Pometia pinnata</i>	Australia, Philippines	NR
Tulipwood, Brazilian <i>Dalbergia variabilis</i>	Brazil	NR
W		
Wenge <i>Millettia laurentii</i>	Africa	EN

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Z		
Zebra wood/Zebrano <i>Microberlinia brazzavillensis</i>	West Africa	VU
Ziricote <i>Cordia dodecandra</i>	Mexico, Central America	NR

*Sources:

1. To find a scientific name for a common name, first examine the USDA Forest Products Lab Name Finder Tool online at <http://www2.fpl.fs.fed.us/CommNames2000.html>, and then consult the IUCN Red List (which requires the scientific name), www.iucn.org/resources/red_list.

2. The International Union for Conservation of Nature is the oldest and largest species conservation body in the world.

The IUCN rankings are:

1. Critically Endangered ("CE")
2. Endangered ("EN")
3. Vulnerable ("VU") (CE, EN & VU constitute species at significant risk of extinction in the wild for which adequate data exist)
4. Lower Risk ("LR")
5. Data Deficient ("DD")

I have marked species not ranked by IUCN as "NR". There are multiple reasons why a species may not have been ranked by IUCN, even though the species is in fact rare and endangered. Wood dealers, for example, consider "Pink Ivory" one of the rarest woods in the world, but the IUCN has not addressed this species. For this reason, a concerned woodturner should consult other reputable sources, such as Flora and Fauna International's www.globaltrees.com.

Sources used to identify woods turned on the lathe and sold for that purpose were: various books contained in library of The Wood Turning Center, Philadelphia, PA, including: Lark Books, Ed. 500 Wood Bowls, 2004; the Forest Products Laboratory, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Wood Handbook. Madison, WI (published online); Porter, Terry. Wood-Identification and Use. East Sussex, UK., 2006. Walker, Aidan, Ed. The Encyclopedia of Wood. New York: Facts On File, Inc., 1989; various "exotic woods" vendor websites (online).

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