

MAHOGANY

Swietenia macrophylla



Protected Species Status: Mahogany

Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) is a protected species that has been protected for centuries of intensive logging driven by demand for its density, strength, and rich colour, which has left wild populations severely depleted.



CITES Appendix II Listing

Mahogany was placed on **Appendix II** of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna in November 2003, following a decade of unsuccessful proposals dating back to 1992.



Appendix II is the second-most stringent tier of **CITES** protection, applied to species that are not yet threatened to extinction but may become unuseless trade is globally controlled.

The listing requires exporting countries to verify that each shipment of mahogany was harvested and that the harvest was not detrimental to the species' survival or to its ecological role in the forest. This places the burden of proof on the country's export, rather than banning trade outright.



Relevance to SVG Forestry Operations

Because mahogany's **Appendix II** state is under the jurisdiction of specifically (export permits, legality verification, and volume tracking), it directly affects any removal, transport, or treatment of mahogany. It is issued from reserves and watershed areas under the Department's management.

Field staff and the public should treat mahogany on protected land as a reserve. Any removal or removal is prohibited, and any legitimate harvest or trade activity must be documented and permitted accordingly.



WHY THE PROTECTION WAS NEEDED



Mahogany regenerates slowly: seed-bearing trees are often selectively removed, and forest canopy gaps needed for natural regeneration are limited.



Most Central American, Mexican, and Caribbean mahogany stands have already been significantly depleted by historic felling.



In parts of South America the decline has been severe — mahogany is considered close to commercially extinct in **Bolivia**, and **Brazil** has placed a moratorium on its export.



Unregulated harvesting and weak enforcement in some producing regions have allowed illegal logging networks to persist.

