

Technical Information > Timber Species Database

> Ekki



Lophira alata

Also known as: bongossi (Cameroon), kaku (Ghana), azobe (Ivory Coast), akoura (Gabon), eba (Nigeria), hendui (Sierra Leone)

Wood type	Hardwood
Environmental	Listed in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as VU – Vulnerable: at risk of extinction. Also meets CITES Appendix II criteria.
Distribution	Grows in West Africa from Sierra Leone to Nigeria and the Cameroons. It is a tree of the heavy rain forests and swamps.
The Tree	Ekki is a large tree, attaining a height of 45 to 50m and a diameter of 1.5m.
The Timber	The sapwood is pale pink and sharply defined from the heart-wood, which is red-brown to dark brown with a somewhat speckled appearance due to white deposits in the pores. The grain is usually interlocked and the texture is coarse. The wood is extremely hard and heavy, weighing 960 to 1120 kg/m ³ when dried.
Drying	Very difficult to dry and generally shakes badly; serious degrade is likely, especially surface checking and end splitting. Needs to be piled with special care.
Working Qualities	Difficult - Very difficult to work with hand tools, but can be worked by machines with less trouble. Must be pre-bored for nailing.
Durability	Durable
Treatability	Extremely difficult

Moisture Movement	Large
Density (mean, Kg/m³)	1070 ()
Texture	Coarse
Availability	Limited availability at specialist timber merchant
Price	medium
Sizes	Obtainable in large sizes
Chemical Properties	Moderately resistant to termite attack. Acid resistant.
Use(s)	Heavy structural use, Decking, Marine or freshwater construction
Colour(s)	Dark brown/black
Supplier	Roger Haydock Ltd www.haydock.co.uk sales@haydock.co.uk