

African Wood Blanks

1. Bubinga (*guibourtia demeusii*)

Bubinga is a very distinctive wood from West Africa and is quite representative of wood from that part of the world. Heartwood is reddish-brown after darkening from exposure. Some pieces display fine, evenly spaced lines of a darker hue.

2. Paduak (*pterocarpus dalbergoides*)

A large tree reaching diameters as large as 45 inches. Heights of 130 feet are not uncommon. Heartwood varies from yellow to brick red, but most commonly seen in a dark red-orange. An excellent turning wood that takes a very good polish.

3. Zebrawood (*microberlinia brazzavillensis*)

Also called Zebrano, this tree can reach in excess of 150 feet. Diameters commonly measure between 5 and 7 feet. Heartwood is light golden-yellow with streaks and veining of dark chocolate brown. Dries slowly, and tends to surface check and end-split during seasoning. Coarse texture and interlocked grain must be surfaced with care. High luster finish on this hard wood make it extremely decorative.

4. Tambootie (*spirostachys africana*)

A small tree with an average height of 30 feet with a fluted and often hollow trunk. Heartwood is rich brown with distinctive dark brown to almost black veins. The wood is oily to touch, with a pale to bright yellow sapwood. The grain is straight to slightly irregular, with a fine even texture. Slow drying, degrade is minimal in small dimensions. Used for decorative woodturning, furniture and carving.

5. Kiatt (*pterocarpus angooensis d.c*)

Kiaat grows mainly in Savannah forests throughout Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa. It resembles Padauk, but lacks the reddish color, being brown with irregular reddish streaks.