

Material Data Sheet for Opepe Hardwood

Wood Name: Opepe also known as Kusia (Ghana), Badi (Ivory Coast), Bilinga (Gabon)



Wood Type: Hardwood

Environmental: Listed in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as VU – Vulnerable: at risk of extinction.

Not listed in CITES. Believed available from well-managed sources

Sourced in UK from Importer East Brothers (Timber) Ltd who only source under FSC certification

Distribution: This tree has a wide distribution in the equatorial forests of Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria and the Cameroons

The Tree: A large, well shaped tree, from 35m to 48m tall and 1.0m to 2.0m in diameter at breast height, The trunk is generally without buttresses, although old trees often have a basal swelling that extends not more than 1.0m above the ground. The bole is slender, cylindrical, and free of branches for 20m to 30m

The Timber: The heartwood is a distinctive uniform golden-yellow or orange-brown colour, clearly differentiated from the pinkish yellow sapwood which is usually about 50mm wide. The texture is coarse and the grain frequently interlocked, producing a striped or roll figure on quarter-sawn surfaces. Lustrous, very hard and moderately heavy, it weighs about 750 kg/m³ when dried

Drying: Needs careful drying, or checks and splits may develop. Hair-shakes often occur during drying, but warping generally is not serious. Especially in large sizes opepe dries very slowly, and it is advisable to use thin stickers when piling

Strength: An exceptionally strong timber, superior to English oak in all strength categories except resistance to shock loads or splitting

Working:	Medium - The timber works with moderate ease in most hand and machine operations and has a reasonably small dulling effect on tool edges. Quarter-sawn material tends to pick up in planing unless a cutting angle of about 10° is employed. An excellent finish can be obtained; when polishing, the grain needs considerable filling, but a high polish is obtainable. The timber tends to split on nailing
Durability:	Very durable
Treatability:	Moderately Easy
Movement:	Small
Density:	750 (mean, Kg/m ³)
Compression Strength:	62 Mpa
Texture:	Coarse
Availability:	Variable availability at specialist or to order
Use(s):	Bilinga lumber is used untreated for in ground, water or marine contact projects. Resistant to marine borers. Exterior uses with no required preservatives: naval construction, decking, hydraulic works, anti-slip board, decking bridge, terrace, posts, beams, truck flooring, joinery, stairs, harbor works, boardwalk
Colour(s):	Pink / Pale Red, Yellow, Brown