

***Paubrasilia echinata*, Conservation and Music**

PC28 Doc. 24

Decision 20.239 urges Parties to consider the findings of the report "*Paubrasilia echinata* bows: Fine Tuning Traceability Solutions" and provide the Secretariat with information on traceability systems, existing stockpiles and conversion factors, production systems, and awareness-raising activities.

On March 5, 2026, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2026/035, inviting the submission of information on *Paubrasilia echinata* with specific reference to the aspects specified in Decision 20.239.

[PC28 Doc 24](#) helpfully summarizes the responses from Parties and stakeholders, and the complete responses are available within [PC28 Information Document 2](#): Consolidated responses from Parties and musical instrument stakeholders to Notification to the Parties No. 2026/035 on *Paubrasilia echinata*.

The collective response from 17 global musical instrument stakeholder organizations includes information regarding awareness-raising and illicit trade demand reduction activities.

The music sector has responded to the calls to action contained in the decisions adopted by the Parties at both CoP19 and CoP20. The sector is committed to continuing its efforts to raise public awareness of *Paubrasilia echinata*, including the illegal exploitation of wild populations, the responsibility to source wood legally, and the urgent need to protect this species. Additionally, sector stakeholders have given consideration to a potential study that will provide more comprehensive information regarding wood conversion factors and the procedures used for the selection of wood material suitable for finished bows.

The undersigned organizations offer the following detailed information on these two points to inform Plants Committee consideration.

Awareness-Raising and Illicit Trade Demand Reduction Activities

A wide range of ongoing activities continue to expand, and musical instrument stakeholders offer below an updated list of actions including and beyond those included in our April 30, 2026 response to Notification to the Parties No. 2026/035:

- **"Know Your Bow" informational tools:** Stakeholders in the music sector have developed two informational tool templates as part of the [Know Your Bow: For Owners and Users of Pernambuco Bows](#) and [Know Your Bow: Guidance for Makers and Sellers of Pernambuco Bows](#). The "Know Your Bow" campaign is currently being circulated among orchestras, musicians, unions, and other professional organizations, and is widely available on websites and via social media, newsletters, magazines. These guides have been revised to reflect the decisions of CoP20 and will be continuously updated as Parties issue guidance on the implementation of the revised Annotation #10.
- **Fact Sheets:** The International Alliance of Violin and Bow Makers for Endangered Species (the "Alliance") has created a [Pernambuco Fact Sheet for Musicians](#) that has been shared with over 100,000 professionals via social media. Documents such as [Pau-brasil & CITES](#), an informational document, are now available in multiple languages. The [IPCI France-Europe website](#) includes a page dedicated to musicians and a flyer that has been distributed on social media, at festivals, concerts, exhibitions, and conferences. Documents outlining the

correct re-exportation procedures were drafted and distributed to the Belgian Violin and Bow Makers Association (BVBM), Irish Violin and Bow Makers, IPCI Germany, and the Finnish Guild of Violin Makers (SVK).

- *Bow Wood Inventory document:* Bow makers have created a voluntary [Bow Wood Inventory](#) document for makers to use when updating their stock inventories following CITES guidelines 2007/2023 and a [Reference Guide for Bow Materials](#) to assist makers and shops/retailers in completing documentation regarding bow materials for the sale of bows. Videos have been produced for the inventory and bow materials documents. National and international organizations encourage all musicians to obtain a [Documentation of Bow Materials](#) statement that identifies their bows using photos and a certificate of origin for Pernambuco wood prior to 2007.
- *Traceability information for bow makers:* Bow makers have drafted a document titled [Traceability System for New Pernambuco Bows](#), in which they outline a method for numbering the wood planks and transferring the identification number throughout the process until the finished bow, where this number, along with the bow maker's initials and the date, is branded onto the finished bow. This article was described in detail in the CITES document titled [Paubrasilia echinata bows: Fine tuning traceability solutions](#) (page 33).
- *Wood Exchange:* IPCI France-Europe connects bow makers who offer pre-convention wood for sale with bow makers who are looking for wood for their production, including those of the younger generations who are entering the trade. A "Wood Exchange" is now active, supporting access to legally sourced wood.
- *Awareness sessions and presentations:* Group and individual information sessions were organized with bow makers by multiple national and international associations to explain and encourage the use of standardized methods for voluntary inventory and marking of new bows. Presentations on Pernambuco conservation were given to the Violin Society of America (4 presentations), the International Society of Bassists (3 presentations), the American String Teachers Association (2 presentations), Women in Lutherie (4 presentations), as well as annual presentations at the International Society of Violin and Bow Makers and the American Federation of Violin and Bow Makers. NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) featured a presentation and consultations with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the January 2026 NAMM Show. Presentations have been made available to teachers and students at higher education music institutions such as the Association Européenne des Conservatoires, the International Music Council, the European Music Council, and the expert committee on cultural heritage of the European Commission-DG Culture. IPCI France-Europe has been involved for more than 20 years in all annual professional congresses bringing together bow and violin makers, highlighting compliance with regulations that are essential to the fight against illegal trade. IPCI France-Europe has also created and distributed a declaration of materials ([in PDF format and via an online form](#)) and participated in a conference at the West Cork Chamber Music Festival, to educate musicians and students on CoP20 regulatory changes and outline the necessary steps for lawful international travel with instruments. The Association des Luthiers et Archetiers pour le Développement de la Factice Instrumentale (ALADFI) has created a Materials Committee tasked with monitoring developments and helping to devise concrete measures to encourage

responsible practices on the part of instrument and bow makers, and to urge suppliers to ensure product traceability.

- *Compliance Training:* In May 2024, U.S. stakeholders in the musical instrument sector partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to organize an online compliance training session, available as a recorded educational resource: *Travel Rules for Protected Species and Musical Instruments*. On February 10, 2026, the League of American Orchestras and several other national music associations organized a new compliance training session in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, resulting in the recorded webinar [Know Your Bow: New Rules and Essential Steps for Pernambuco Sustainability](#). To assist musicians preparing for international travel, the Alliance created [Alliance Guidance for Musician Travel](#), to assist musicians in collecting and assessing documentation to prove ownership, species information, and travel details in compliance with current CITES regulations. The CSFI has produced a CITES training video for the CSNM's "Conservatoire Augmenté" in Paris on Musicians' Compliance.
- *Education:* The [Alliance Lutherie School Program](#) is now active in eight schools across the United States and Europe. Young instrument makers are becoming increasingly informed about issues of sustainability and compliance with environmental laws—topics not typically covered in their standard school curriculum. This program provides schools with in-person trainers, materials, and tools at no cost. Two grants have been secured to expand the programs and strengthen communication and support among schools. In addition, the number of courses dedicated to bow repair and restoration is increasing in both the United States and France; these courses train people to maintain existing bows, regardless of their wood species or material, to reduce demand for Pernambuco wood and combat illegal logging activities. The CSFI runs CITES courses at training centers for the manufacture and repair of musical instruments in France and organizes webinars for manufacturers of musical instruments and accessories (for both trainees and professionals), including a focus on Pernambuco policy compliance.
- *Upcoming Educational Events:* The Violin Society of America will host a roundtable discussion among a diverse panel of music professionals (League of American Orchestras, International Violin, Heritage Insurance, Cleveland Orchestra bassist, Oberlin Conservatory professor, moderated by the Alliance) pooling expertise and resources on new CITES rules and next steps for expanded and consistent communication with the wider music community, November 20, 2026, in Cleveland, Ohio.
- *Communication:* Stakeholders in the music world are using their extensive communication networks to draw public attention to CITES, the status of Pernambuco wood, efforts to combat illegal trafficking, and support for the species' conservation, notably through several articles. Articles include: [The Sustainable Bow](#) (Symphony Online, January 2026); [Conserving Pernambuco, Supporting Music](#) (Symphony Online, October 24, 2025); [Into the Wood](#) (Symphony Online, January 6, 2023); "Pernambuco Update: Time to Take Action!" (Journal of the American Viola Society, Spring 2024); and "With Coveted Wood Facing Restrictions, Musicians Who Use Bows Face a Choice" (Vermont Digger, April 27, 2023). Three recent articles by the Alliance were written for the Violin Society of America: "International Sales of Pernambuco Bows," January

2026; “New CITES Regulations for Pernambuco,” March 2026; and for the International Society of Bassists’ BassWorld magazine: “Recent CITES Decisions and their Impact on Musicians, Makers and Dealers,” February 2026.

The undersigned organizations have included updates regarding CITES policies in newsletters and publications. Press coverage and stakeholder interviews have appeared in major international publications, such as *The Strad* and *La Lettre du musicien*. Stores and luthiers are now distributing [Alliance postcards](#) aimed at students, teachers, and musicians, which outline five simple steps for Pernambuco conservation. The [Alliance’s Quick Guide to CITES Implementation for Pernambuco](#) was created to help stores, luthiers, and retailers understand the necessity of inventories, documentation, traceability, and the CITES process. The [Alliance Guidance for Letters of Invitation](#) was created to assist organizations hosting exhibitions or competitions in providing accurate information to participants. The CSFI has published a comprehensive page entitled [Understanding CITES](#) for professionals (manufacturers and musicians). IPCI France-Europe has published a [communications kit](#) page featuring an awareness-raising video as well as various educational and promotional materials dedicated to the conservation of Pernambuco and raising awareness within the music industry.

- *Engagement within CITES*: Stakeholders in the music sector have regularly participated as observers at CITES Conferences of the Parties, Plant Committee meetings, Standing Committee meetings, and working groups over the past 20 years. They have also organized numerous side events during CITES meetings, including a side event at the conclusion of CoP20 that brought together stakeholders from the trade, the music community, CITES government authorities, and a representative from the Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime. Following CoP20, music sector stakeholders have communicated with national and regional ministries of culture and CITES authorities regarding the interpretation and application of new permit requirements.

International Empirical Study on the Assessment and Use of *Paubrasilia echinata* Bow Blanks

Decisions made at CoP20 call for the Plants Committee to, among other things, “develop an average conversion factor to define the number of bows that can be produced by a certain volume of wood, for both whole logs and sawn wood”. PC28 Doc. 24, Annex 4, notes that no standardized species-specific conversion factors are currently available.

Bow makers have approximately 250 years of culturally transmitted knowledge in the efficient use of the resources needed to create bows. In support of the Plants Committee’s consideration of a conversion factor, and the Parties’ consideration of related technical questions central to the art of bow making, the trade is preparing a self-funded independent international empirical study into the assessment of *Paubrasilia echinata* bow blanks and bow production.

Its purpose is to document, across countries and professional groups, the criteria according to which bow makers assess and accept bow blanks and finished bow sticks for use in finished bows. Assessment factors include material characteristics, quality grades, physical parameters, and the practical use of different material qualities. The prepared framework for this study relates closely to the ongoing CITES discussions on *Paubrasilia echinata*, particularly regarding traceability and stockpiles.

Although the use of possible conversion factors and average yields per tree may be helpful for certain analytical and administrative purposes, existing estimates do not reflect the actual factors that determine the use of material in the artisanal craft of bow making. What is decisive is not volume or weight alone, but whether a bow blank is professionally suitable for a particular quality segment based on its individual characteristics. It therefore appears useful to systematically document such experience-based selection and assessment decisions and to take them into account in future technical discussions. The draft study would include an examination of quality grading, rejection rates and reasons for rejection, density, relevant wood-quality parameters, and the variability of practical material yield at different stages of production.

The project is not intended to replace or pre-empt the work envisaged by CITES. Its database will instead consist of systematically collected experience and professional assessments from specialists in different countries and areas of practice. It will thereby provide supplementary empirical information on practical selection criteria, material-related reasons for rejection, differences between quality grades, and the actual use of different material qualities, which may be relevant to future technical discussions.

The core of the project is an international survey of bow makers, violin makers, and dealers. It is complemented by expert interviews and practice-based information on physical material parameters. The International Alliance of Violin and Bow Makers for Endangered Species and other bow-making and music organizations support the international dissemination of the survey. In addition, preliminary discussions are under way concerning possible forms of cooperation with academic and research institutions.

The project concept is available at: [International Empirical Study on the Assessment and Use of Paubrasilia echinata Bow Blanks](#).

This information document is submitted by:

- American Federation of Violin and Bow Makers (AFVBM)
- Association des Luthiers et Archetiers pour le Développement de la Facture Instrumentale (ALADFI)
- Austrian Violin Makers Association (VÖG)
- Belgian Violin and Bow Makers (BVBM)
- Chambre Syndicale de la Facture Instrumentale (CSFI)
- European Soundmakers – Musical Instrument Confederation
- French National Union of Musical Instrument Makers (UNFI)
- Groupement des Luthiers et Archetiers d'Art de France (GLAAF)
- Initiative Arbres et Musique: Association for the Preservation of Wood for Musical Instrument Making and the Sector's Ecological Transition (Trees and Music Initiative)
- International Alliance of Violin and Bow Makers for Endangered Species (Alliance)
- International Federation of Musicians (FIM)
- International Pernambuco Conservation Initiative (IPCI, in France-Europe, Germany & USA)
- International Society of Violin and Bow Makers (EILA)
- League of American Orchestras
- PEARLE* – Live Performance Europe (PEARLE)
- Verband Deutscher Geigenbauer und Bogenmacher: Association of German Violin and Bow Makers (VDG)