

Music Sector Contribution to the Eight Points of the Intersessional Working Group (IWG) Mandate
on *Paubrasilia echinata* Information Previously Submitted and Additional Contributions
August 28, 2026

The music sector has previously provided substantial information relevant to several aspects of the IWG mandate through the collective response of 17 musical instrument sector organizations to Notification to the Parties No. 2026/035 (E-Notif-2026-035-A). This information was subsequently supplemented and updated in PC28 Inf. 9 – *Paubrasilia echinata*, Conservation and Music, submitted to the 28th meeting of the Plants Committee.

This document responds to the eight points of the IWG mandate. For each point, it distinguishes information already provided by the music sector in the April 2026 response to Notification to the Parties No. 2026/035 from additional information subsequently submitted in July 2026 PC28 Inf. 9 and from further contributions developed thereafter. This structure avoids unnecessary repetition while clearly identifying the information that supplements the response to Notification 2026/035, in accordance with the IWG Chair's request.

This information is presented by:

- American Federation of Violin and Bow Makers (AFVBM)
- Chambre Syndicale de la Facture Instrumentale (CSFI)
- European Soundmakers – Musical Instrument Confederation
- International Alliance of Violin and Bow Makers for Endangered Species
- International Federation of Musicians (FIM)
- International Pernambuco Conservation Initiative (IPCI-USA, IPCI Germany, IPCI France-Europe)
- International Society of Violin and Bow Makers (EILA)
- League of American Orchestras
- PEARLE* – Live Performance Europe (PEARLE)

1. Funding and contributions to the implementation of Decisions 20.239 and 20.240

A. Information previously submitted

The music sector has provided substantial technical contributions concerning, in particular, traceability, stock inventories, conversion factors, non-wild sources, awareness-raising and conservation.

With regard to conversion factors, the sector emphasized that preliminary estimates of the relationship between the quantity of wood and bow production should be supported by more robust empirical data.

References:

- E-Notif-2026-035-A: Section 3 – Conversion factors (wood volume → number of bows), Questions 18–20, pp. 6–7;

Clickable links to the Annex: [N4](#)

B. Additional contributions from the music sector

Subsequently, PC28 Inf. 9 described a forthcoming independent, internationally coordinated empirical study, to be funded by the music sector and conducted according to a scientifically validated methodology, of the assessment and use of *Paubrasilia echinata* bow blanks. At the time of PC28, this

project design had already been developed. See Thomas M. Gerbeth's document, *Assessing the Suitability of Paubrasilia echinata Bow Blanks for Stringed-Instrument Bow Making* (July 2026). The methodological framework provides for an international empirical study based on a mixed-methods approach, combining a standardized survey of professionals, qualitative data and, where available and comparable, objectively measurable physical parameters. The survey comprises two coordinated pathways: one for bow makers, focusing on the selection, working and use of blanks for the manufacture of new bows; and the other for violin makers and dealers, also addressing the assessment of existing bows, their condition, restoration, documentation and sale.

The study is intended to document more than twenty anatomical, structural, visual and physical characteristics that are taken into account in the professional assessment of blanks, including their degree of expressivity, their location on the future bow stick, possible interactions between characteristics and the musical quality segment for which the bow is intended.

This study will distinguish between the physical quantity of material and its actual suitability for professional use. The protocol specifies that the study is not intended to measure available stocks or directly calculate a universally applicable material yield. Rather, it will examine the extent to which the actual suitability of a blank can – or cannot – be inferred solely from its weight, volume or individual measurements.

References:

- PC28 Inf. 9: International Empirical Study on the Assessment and Use of Paubrasilia echinata Bow Blanks, pp. 5–6;
- Thomas M. Gerbeth, [Assessing the Suitability of Paubrasilia echinata Bow Blanks for Stringed-Instrument Bow Making – Scope, Framework and Recommendations...](#), Final, July 2026.

Clickable links to the Annex: [P7](#) · [P8](#) · [G1](#) · [G2](#)

Since the information communicated at PC28, the music sector has continued the implementation of the international empirical study in accordance with the methodological framework presented.

The study's protocol provides, in particular, for scientific validation of an international questionnaire, followed by a pre-test to verify the terminology, visual references, assessment scales, different language versions and the functioning of the two professional pathways before the survey is launched.

Progress made since PC28 and, when available, the aggregated and anonymized results of the international survey will constitute a new contribution from the music sector to the work of the IWG. These results should provide new empirical data on the criteria that lead professionals to accept blanks, assign them to particular uses or reject them, thereby contributing to a better understanding of the effective use of Paubrasilia echinata as a resource.

Complementing the international empirical study, independent scientific work could be undertaken to analyze and assess its aggregated findings and relate them to other relevant scientific data. The aggregated data generated by the study could provide an empirical basis for such work, while ensuring that any subsequent scientific analysis and assessment remain independent of the music sector

The music sector is also open to exploring appropriate, transparent and internationally coordinated forms of contribution to conservation and research measures related to Paubrasilia echinata, provided that such contributions are linked to clearly defined and verifiable objectives.

2. Main challenges in implementing a harmonized traceability approach

A. Information previously submitted

Detailed observations on traceability and its harmonization previously submitted include comments regarding establishing a voluntary system for marking newly manufactured bows with unique identifiers; linking new bows to documented raw-material stocks; registration and monitoring of wood, sawn wood, blanks and bow sticks; the practical difficulties of retrospectively establishing the provenance of historical bows and pre-Convention stocks; the possible use of scientific identification tools; and the need for broad international recognition of any future harmonized system.

For practical, implementation and administrative purposes, a possible approach would focus traceability efforts primarily on newly manufactured bows and consider identification technology as one element of a broader chain-of-custody system rather than as proof of legal origin in itself. Such an approach could combine documentation of the legal status of the source stock, quantitative material accounting during transformation from logs to boards and bow blanks, and individual identification once discrete bow blanks exist.

References:

- E-Notif-2026-035-A: Section 2 – Traceability systems, in particular Sections 2.1–2.3, Questions 6–17, pp. 2–6; in particular Question 17 and its five recommendations: Focus on new bows; Stock registration and monitoring as a foundation; Scientific tools; Broad adoption; Stock monitoring.

Clickable links to the Annex: [N1](#) · [N2](#) · [N3](#)

B. Additional contributions from the music sector

PC28 Inf. 9 updated this information by reporting the continued use and dissemination of the sector's voluntary Bow Wood Inventory and the Traceability System for New Pernambuco Bows, together with awareness and outreach activities encouraging the implementation of standardized methods for voluntary stock inventories and the marking of new bows.

A harmonized system should remain technology-neutral and define the functions and reliability requirements that any identification method should fulfil. Visible serial numbers, material identifiers and electronic identifiers could all be assessed as possible tools within the same broader traceability architecture.

Reference:

- PC28 Inf. 9: Awareness-Raising and Illicit Trade Demand Reduction Activities, in particular Bow Wood Inventory document and Awareness sessions and presentations, pp. 2–3.

Clickable links to the Annex: [P3](#) · [P4](#)

3. Establishing the origin of specimens exported or re-exported from countries other than Brazil

A. Information previously submitted

The music sector's previous comments provided information on the types of documentation that may help establish the age, legal acquisition and origin of existing stocks, including purchase records, import documentation, CITES permits where applicable, inventories and other historical evidence.

It also highlighted the particular difficulties associated with documenting material acquired before 2007, for which CITES documentation was generally not required. The absence of original CITES documentation should therefore not in itself be interpreted as evidence of illegal origin where such documentation was not legally required at the time of acquisition or import. In such cases, the totality of available historical evidence should be considered. Bow makers should therefore be encouraged to identify and retain all available records and other evidence that may help establish the legal status of their wood, bow sticks and blanks.

References:

- E-Notif-2026-035-A: Section 4.3 – Evidence relating to harvest date, Questions 24–25, p. 8; Section 4.4 – Import documentation, Question 26, p. 9.

These contributions concern documentary tools available to professionals. They do not constitute information on measures taken by Parties or CITES authorities pursuant to Decision 20.239 d).

Clickable links to the Annex: [N5](#) · [N6](#)

B. Additional contributions from the music sector

PC28 Inf. 9 provided further practical information on documentation, including the music sector's voluntary Bow Wood Inventory and its Reference Guide for Bow Materials as well as the encouragement given to musicians to obtain a sector-developed Documentation of Bow Materials statement identifying their bows through photographs and evidence concerning pre-2007 pernambuco wood.

Reference:

- PC28 Inf. 9: Bow Wood Inventory document, p. 2.

Clickable links to the Annex: [P3](#)

4. Due diligence and prevention of laundering of illegal specimens into legal trade

A. Information previously submitted

The music sector has presented a range of measures aimed at improving compliance and responsible practices among bow makers, dealers, retailers, musicians and orchestras. These include the Know Your Bow campaign, the voluntary Bow Wood Inventory, guidance on documentation and traceability, compliance training organized in collaboration with CITES authorities, and information concerning international travel and trade.

References:

- E-Notif-2026-035-A: Section 7 – Awareness-raising and illicit trade demand reduction activities, in particular Question 37, pp. 12–13.

Clickable links to the Annex: [N1](#) · [N3](#) · [N5](#) · [N6](#) · [N8](#)

B. Additional contributions from the music sector

PC28 Inf. 9 provided important updates on these activities, including compliance training organized in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and tools developed for stores, violin makers and retailers. Professional organizations also conduct training and awareness-raising activities for both manufacturers and musicians to improve their knowledge of CITES and the rules applicable to

pernambuco, as well as their understanding of their respective responsibilities regarding the acquisition, possession, trade and movement of specimens.

These measures help strengthen due diligence and compliance throughout the music sector, from professionals involved in manufacturing and trade to musicians as end users in a non-commercial context, while also helping to prevent illegal trade.

The registration of existing stocks could also provide an important safeguard against the laundering of newly acquired illegal material. Once a stock has been documented as a defined baseline, subsequent additions should be recorded separately and supported by the required evidence of legal acquisition and origin. This would allow changes in registered stocks to be monitored without requiring a complete retrospective reconstruction of historical supply chains.

Reference:

- PC28 Inf. 9: Awareness-Raising and Illicit Trade Demand Reduction Activities, in particular Bow Wood Inventory document, Awareness sessions and presentations, Compliance Training and Communication, pp. 2–5.

Clickable links to the Annex: [P2](#) · [P3](#) · [P4](#) · [P6](#)

5. Reporting of seizures in illegal trade reports

A. Information previously submitted

The music sector has not submitted specific information concerning the reporting of seizures of *Paubrasilia echinata* specimens in CITES illegal trade reports pursuant to Decision 20.239 f).

These records are held by Parties and their competent authorities.

B. Additional contributions from the music sector

No further contribution at this stage.

6. Support for efforts and projects under Decision 20.243 c): Prevention of illegal trade, alternative materials, and conservation of pernambuco and its habitat

A. Information previously submitted

The music sector has reported activities relevant to several components of Decision 20.243 c).

Prevention of illegal harvesting and trade: The sector has developed and disseminated substantial awareness-raising, compliance training, voluntary stock inventory and traceability-related activities. In addition, IPCI France-Europe has established a Wood Exchange that facilitates access by bow makers, particularly younger professionals, to legally sourced pre-Convention wood.

Research and promotion of alternative materials: Bow makers have historically experimented with and used various woods other than pernambuco for the manufacture of modern bows. Several of these species, including ipê, massaranduba and Manilkara kauki, are now used mainly for student bows and other applications that do not require the highest levels of performance. Their use therefore helps reduce the quantity of pernambuco required for bow making, allowing the use of existing stockpiles outside of Brazil to be primarily focused on bows intended for professional and advanced musicians, for whom the

mechanical, dynamic and acoustic properties of pernambuco remain unrivalled. The sector continues to actively research and assess other wood species and alternative materials that could further expand these possibilities and further reduce pressure on resources.

Conservation and restoration: The sector reported approximately 340,000 pernambuco seedlings planted and new species-related science developed over 25 years of cooperation between IPCI and Brazilian authorities and partners. Current projects include support for the establishment of a germplasm bank in cooperation with PCTSul and UFSB; and, in cooperation with Instituto Floresta Viva, creation of a nursery with and for the Pataxó Hã-hã-hãe community.

References:

- E-Notif-2026-035-A: Section 7, Questions 37–38, pp. 12–14; Section 8 – Additional information, Question 39, pp. 14–15.

Clickable links to the Annex: [N7](#) · [N8](#) · [N9](#) · [N10](#)

B. Additional contributions from the music sector

PC28 Inf. 9 updated the record of music sector activities supporting the prevention of illegal harvesting and trade and responsible practices, including the Wood Exchange, awareness activities and presentations, compliance training, education and communication initiatives.

Reference:

- PC28 Inf. 9: Awareness-Raising and Illicit Trade Demand Reduction Activities, in particular Wood Exchange, Awareness sessions and presentations, Compliance Training, Education and Communication, pp. 2–5.

Clickable links to the Annex: [P1](#) · [P2](#) · [P5](#) · [P6](#)

7. Awareness of the conservation status and extinction risk of *Paubrasilia echinata* and its connection with musical instrument production

A. Information previously submitted

The music sector has submitted extensive information on awareness-raising activities directed at bow makers, instrument makers, retailers, musicians, orchestras, students, educational institutions, and general public audiences.

These include references to the sector's international Know Your Bow campaign, multilingual fact sheets, dissemination of information to more than 100,000 professionals, voluntary stock-inventory tools, training sessions, CITES compliance webinars, educational programs in instrument-making schools, professional presentations and extensive communication through specialist and general media.

References:

- E-Notif-2026-035-A: Section 7 – Awareness-raising and illicit trade demand reduction activities, Questions 35–38, pp. 11–14, in particular Question 37.

Clickable links to the Annex: [N8](#)

B. Additional contributions from the music sector

PC28 Inf. 9 expressly presented an updated list of activities, including actions already mentioned in the April 2026 response to Notification 2026/035 as well as new initiatives.

Reference:

- PC28 Inf. 9: Awareness-Raising and Illicit Trade Demand Reduction Activities, pp. 1–5, in particular Know Your Bow informational tools; Fact Sheets; Bow Wood Inventory document; Wood Exchange; Awareness sessions and presentations; Compliance Training; Education; Public Communication.

Clickable links to the Annex: [P1](#) · [P2](#) · [P6](#)

8. Research on silviculture, plantation-grown wood quality, and NIRS or other technologies

A. Information previously submitted

The music sector has submitted relevant information concerning all three areas, although not all of it relates to research directly funded or undertaken by the music sector.

With regard to silviculture and plantation-grown trees, the sector provided information on plantation resources in Brazil, estimating that approximately 3 million or more pernambuco trees are growing in mixed-use plantations, as well as on IPCI-supported replanting, germplasm conservation and nursery initiatives.

With regard to wood quality, the sector indicated that pilot assessments by experienced master bow makers demonstrated definitively that selected specimens of plantation-grown pernambuco could provide wood of sufficient quality and density for the manufacture of high-quality bows.

Regarding NIRS and other technologies, the sector has recommended consideration of NIRS, isotope analysis and other relevant technologies to verify origin and distinguish plantation-grown wood from wild-origin material, while recognizing the need for representative reference samples and data.

Such scientific methods should be regarded as complementary verification tools within a documented traceability system, rather than as a substitute for registration and chain-of-custody documentation.

References:

- E-Notif-2026-035-A: Question 17, Scientific tools, p. 6; Section 6 – Specimens of *Paubrasilia echinata* of non-wild origin, Questions 31–34, pp. 10–11; Section 8, Question 39 and Additional information on plantation-grown trees, pp. 14–15.

Clickable links to the Annex: [N3](#) · [N7](#) · [N10](#)

B. Additional contributions from the music sector

PC28 Inf. 9 subsequently described the preparation of a self-funded international empirical study addressing 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. While the study is not limited to plantation-grown material, it will provide additional empirical information relevant to the assessment of wood quality.

In relation to origin verification and future use of scientific identification tools, a possible future traceability approach could distinguish between historical stocks and any future legally authorized

material. Historical or pre-Convention material necessarily requires retrospective establishment of legal status followed by closed stock accounting. Future authorized material, by contrast, could potentially be documented prospectively from the living tree onwards. From the bow-blank stage onward, both sources could then use essentially the same downstream traceability architecture.

Reference:

- PC28 Inf. 9: [International Empirical Study on the Assessment and Use of Paubrasilia echinata Bow Blanks](#), pp. 5–6.

Clickable links to the Annex: [P7](#) · [P8](#)

ANNEXES

Extracts from Contributions Previously Submitted by the Music Sector

The extracts are organized by source documents to avoid repetition. In this English version, the extracts from the French response to Notification 2026/035 have been translated into English, while extracts from PC28 Inf. 9 are reproduced in their original English. References in the main text and return links below are clickable in Word.

I. E-Notif-2026-035-A – Musical Instrument Stakeholders

Extract N1 —Voluntary traceability system for new bows

Location: E-Notif-2026-035-A, p. 2, section 2.1, Question 6

Relevant IWG points: 2; also 4

The musical instrument sector stakeholders have developed and actively promoted a voluntary traceability approach for new pernambuco bows. To this end, bow makers drafted a document entitled “Traceability System for New Pernambuco Bows”, which describes a method for identifying bows by means of a unique number enabling the finished bow to be traced back to the stick or board used in its manufacture. This number consists of the ISO code of the country in which the bow maker is established, a code identifying the maker, the year of manufacture and a sequential number.

Navigation: [Back to point 2](#) · [Back to point 4](#) · [Top of Annex](#)

Extract N2 —International harmonization and historical specimens

Location: E-Notif-2026-035-A, p. 5, section 2.3, Questions 15–16

Relevant IWG points: 2; indirectly 3

For this system to be effective, it must be based on the registration and monitoring of Paubrasilia echinata stocks, so that newly identified bows can be linked to documented inventories of raw materials. Information on stocks remains fragmented. While some countries have adopted systems for registering or monitoring Paubrasilia echinata stocks, many have not, and no comprehensive overview of existing national systems is yet available. An internationally harmonized system would facilitate the legal movement of bows regulated under Annotation #10, while recognizing the practical limitations associated with reconstructing complete provenance for older specimens. The very large number of existing bows – probably numbering in the millions and produced and traded over more than 250 years, often in unregulated contexts – makes exhaustive registration impracticable and administratively burdensome. No CITES documentation was required for raw materials acquired before 2007 and general documentation was not systematically retained, making complete verification of the provenance of older specimens extremely difficult.

Navigation: [Back to point 2](#) · [Top of Annex](#)

Extract N3 —Recommendations for a harmonized approach

Location: E-Notif-2026-035-A, p. 6, section 2.3, Question 17

Relevant IWG points: 2; also 4 and 8 iii)

The musical instrument sector stakeholders recommend the following elements for a harmonized approach: Focus on new bows: a traceability system should apply to bows manufactured after a defined entry-into-effect date, with serial numbers applied to finished bows and linked to documented raw-material stocks. Stock registration and monitoring as a foundation: registration of raw-material stocks

(logs, sawn wood, blanks, sticks) should provide the basis for tracking new bows throughout the supply chain. Scientific tools: once plantation-grown *Paubrasilia echinata* wood can be used, NIRS devices, isotope analysis and other relevant technologies should help verify origin and distinguish plantation-grown wood from wild-origin wood. To strengthen the reliability of these tools, which rely on comparison with scientific data, representative samples and data from existing heritage production need to be collected and made available to the competent authorities. Broad adoption: the traceability system should be practicable for craftspeople and officially recognized by as many Parties as possible. Stock monitoring: national stock monitoring should be the responsibility of the competent authorities. The requested harmonization will allow those authorities to share such data for broader monitoring purposes.

Navigation: [Back to point 2](#) · [Back to point 4](#) · [Back to point 8](#) · [Top of Annex](#)

Extract N4 —Limitations of conversion factors

Location: E-Notif-2026-035-A, pp. 6–7, section 3, Questions 18–20

Relevant IWG points: 1; also 2

No universally applicable conversion factor can currently be provided for whole logs. Yield depends heavily on tree morphology, diameter, straightness, heartwood proportion and growing conditions. Further work in cooperation with forestry engineers would be needed to determine usable volumes per tree under defined conditions. No fixed conversion factor can currently be provided for sawn wood. Yield varies according to board dimensions, density, grain quality, straightness, drying behaviour, processing losses and the desired quality level of finished bows. More reliable estimates should be developed in cooperation with specialists in tropical hardwood sawing and experienced bow makers from different traditions, in order to establish realistic ranges rather than a single universal rate. However, current estimates should be corroborated by an independent study as soon as possible.

Navigation: [Back to point 1](#) · [Top of Annex](#)

Extract N5 —Documentation of stocks acquired before 2007

Location: E-Notif-2026-035-A, p. 8, section 4.3, Questions 24–25

Relevant IWG points: 3; also 2 and 4

For stocks acquired before 2007, documentation was generally not required. Some makers retain purchase records, import documentation or other supporting documents. Complicating matters, shipments of wood, bow sticks or blanks were often handled by third-party exporters, some of which no longer exist, who managed and retained the commercial documents. These documents were not passed on to the final customers, since the stocks were acquired before 2007, i.e. in a context not subject to CITES. The musical instrument sector developed a voluntary Bow Wood Inventory document to encourage makers to list their stocks as far as possible, in accordance with CITES guidance (2007/2023 Reference Guide for Bow Materials). All Management Authorities should acknowledge receipt of these inventories, which could constitute a first step towards effective traceability of existing stocks.

Navigation: [Back to point 3](#) · [Back to point 4](#) · [Top of Annex](#)

Extract N6 —Import documentation and supplementary evidence

Location: E-Notif-2026-035-A, p. 9, section 4.4, Question 26

Relevant IWG points: 3; also 4

The music sector encouraged makers to identify any documentation and evidence available to them demonstrating that wood, bow sticks or blanks were imported before 2007 or, where authorizations were

required at the time of import, that they were accompanied by the required documents. Supplementary documentation and evidence can therefore help verify the origin of some existing stocks, but such evidence is neither complete nor uniform across stocks.

Navigation: [Back to point 3](#) · [Back to point 4](#) · [Top of Annex](#)

Extract N7 —Quality of plantation-grown wood

Location: E-Notif-2026-035-A, p. 11, section 6, Questions 33–34

Relevant IWG points: 8 i) and ii); also 6

Several pilot assessments conducted by experienced master bow makers have confirmed that plantation-grown pernambuco can be of sufficient quality and density to make high-quality bows. However, the viability of plantations for commercial bow production requires on-site management, registration, transparency and communication at national level.

Navigation: [Back to point 6](#) · [Back to point 8](#) · [Top of Annex](#)

Extract N8 —Awareness-raising and combating illegal trade

Location: E-Notif-2026-035-A, pp. 12–14, section 7, Question 37

Relevant IWG points: 4, 6 i) and 7

The music sector has responded in several ways to the calls to action contained in the decisions adopted by the Parties at CoP19 and CoP20. The music sector is committed to continuing its efforts to raise public awareness of the threats facing pernambuco, including illegal exploitation of wild populations, the responsibility to source wood legally and the urgent need to protect the species.

Navigation: [Back to point 4](#) · [Back to point 6](#) · [Back to point 7](#) · [Top of Annex](#)

Extract N9 —Alternative materials

Location: E-Notif-2026-035-A, p. 14, section 7, Question 38

Relevant IWG points: 6 ii)

However, the elastic, dynamic and acoustic performance of these materials falls far short of that of pernambuco. Alternative materials should therefore be regarded as valuable complements to pernambuco, rather than substitutes in the professional sector. The sector continues to support research into alternatives while recognizing their current limitations.

Navigation: [Back to point 6](#) · [Top of Annex](#)

Extract N10 —Conservation, germplasm bank and nursery

Location: E-Notif-2026-035-A, pp. 14–15, section 8, Question 39

Relevant IWG points: 6 iii) and 8 i)

For 25 years, IPCI has worked in cooperation with Brazilian government authorities and other Brazilian partners to support scientific research, education and awareness-raising, as well as the replanting of approximately 340,000 pernambuco seedlings. In October 2025, IPCI signed an agreement with the Parque Científico e Tecnológico do Sul da Bahia (PCTSul) and the Federal University of Southern Bahia (UFSB) to support the establishment of the world's first germplasm (seed) bank intended to preserve all *Paubrasilia echinata* genotypes. This initiative is currently under way and will ensure propagation of all pernambuco genotypes throughout the Atlantic Forest. In addition, IPCI is launching a new project in

cooperation with Instituto Floresta Viva and the Hã-hã-hãe Pataxó community to build a nursery and grow pernambuco seedlings.

Navigation: [Back to point 6](#) · [Back to point 8](#) · [Top of Annex](#)

II. PC28 Inf. 9 – Paubrasilia echinata, Conservation and Music

Extract P1 —General position of the sector

Location: PC28 Inf. 9, introduction

Relevant IWG points: 6 and 7

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.

Navigation: [Back to point 6](#) · [Back to point 7](#) · [Top of Annex](#)

Extract P2 —Know Your Bow and information tools

Location: PC28 Inf. 9, pp. 1–2

Relevant IWG points: 4, 6 i) and 7

“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.

Navigation: [Back to point 4](#) · [Back to point 6](#) · [Back to point 7](#) · [Top of Annex](#)

Extract P3 —Bow Wood Inventory and documentation

Location: PC28 Inf. 9, p. 2

Relevant IWG points: 2, 3, 4 and 7

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.

Navigation: [Back to point 2](#) · [Back to point 3](#) · [Back to point 4](#) · [Top of Annex](#)

Extract P4 —Traceability of new bows

Location: PC28 Inf. 9, p. 2

Relevant IWG points: 2; also 4

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).

Navigation: [Back to point 2](#) · [Back to point 4](#) · [Top of Annex](#)

Extract P5 —Wood Exchange

Location: PC28 Inf. 9, p. 2

Relevant IWG points: 6 i); indirectly 4

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.

Navigation: [Back to point 6](#) · [Top of Annex](#)

Extract P6 —Training and awareness-raising for professionals

Location: PC28 Inf. 9, pp. 2–5

Relevant IWG points: 4, 6 i) and 7

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.

Navigation: [Back to point 4](#) · [Back to point 6](#) · [Back to point 7](#) · [Top of Annex](#)

Extract P7 —Self-funded international empirical study

Location: PC28 Inf. 9, pp. 5–6

Relevant IWG points: 1; also 2 and 8 ii)

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. 4 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.

Navigation: [Back to point 1](#) · [Back to point 8](#) · [Top of Annex](#)

Extract P8 —Scope and limitations of the empirical study

Location: PC28 Inf. 9, p. 6

Relevant IWG points: 1 and 8 ii)

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.

Navigation: [Back to point 1](#) · [Back to point 8](#) · [Top of Annex](#)

III. Supporting methodological document – Thomas M. Gerbeth

Extracts G1 and G2 are from the sector’s methodological document setting out in detail the international empirical study referred to in PC28 Inf. 9. It is presented as a supporting methodological document, not as an official CITES document bearing a CITES document number.

Extract G1 —Scope, purpose and design of the empirical study

Location: Thomas M. Gerbeth, Final, July 2026, Preliminary Note, pp. 2–3; Chapter 3.1–3.2, pp. 11–12.
Relevant IWG points: 1; also 8 ii)

This document sets out the draft of an international empirical study of the professional assessment of Paubrasilia echinata bow blanks for modern stringed-instrument bow making. Its central question is the criteria by which bow makers, violin makers, and dealers assess individual bow blanks, and how they weigh anatomical, structural, visual, and physical material characteristics in relation to the intended use. The project combines the structured collection of professional experience with methods of empirical social research and, where available, objectively measurable material parameters. It is intended to provide a basis on which professional assessment decisions can be documented transparently, compared, and placed in scientific context.

Navigation: [Back to point 1](#) · [Top of Annex](#)

Extract G2 —Pretest, quality assurance and scientific validation

Location: Thomas M. Gerbeth, Final, July 2026, Chapter 3.9 – Pretest and Quality Assurance, pp. 17–18; Chapter 7.9 – Provisional Timetable, pp. 29–31.

Relevant IWG points: 1

Before international data collection begins, the data-collection instrument, including its shared and route-specific elements, is to be examined in a scientifically supervised pretest. The pretest will also examine whether specialists from different professional contexts and language areas understand key terms, degrees of expression, and image references in sufficiently comparable ways. The results of the pretest will inform revision of the data-collection instrument, the image references, and the technical implementation. The international study will begin only thereafter.

Navigation: [Back to point 1](#) · [Top of Annex](#)

IV. Points for which no specific extract is available

Point 5 – Reporting of seizures: no specific contribution from the music sector was identified in the two reference documents. This matter primarily concerns Parties and their competent authorities.

Point 6 iv) – Protected areas: the submissions documents reference conservation, replanting, germplasm conservation and nursery activities, but no specific passage concerning the establishment or implementation of protected areas was identified.