

Paris, le 03 décembre 2025

Ensuring a bright future for pernambuco and musicians around the world: a request granted

The Conference of the Parties to CITES¹, meeting in Samarkand from November 24 to December 5, is addressing a critical issue for the future of arts and crafts and the music industry that use pernambuco (*Paubrasilia echinata*), a species endemic to the Brazilian Atlantic Forest that is essential for the manufacture of bows, a great French specialty.

After weeks of intense negotiations, it is with immense relief that we saw Committee I adopt a consensus text today: **new provisions will apply to pernambuco from February 2026, to ensure its best possible preservation while allowing musical life to continue. However, the conclusions of Committee I will have to be confirmed in plenary session for these provisions to be formally adopted by CITES CoP 20.**

Brazil's initial proposal to transfer the species to Appendix I—which appears to offer greater protection — would in practice not only have condemned the craft of bow making, but also seriously hampered musical practice and the life of ensembles and orchestras around the world, and paradoxically encouraged illegal trade.

This proposal was strongly opposed by the profession. IPCI France Europe, CSFI, GLAAF, and ALADFI, along with our European association CAFIM, formed a team of bow makers and luthiers with our two permanent staff members to make our voice heard. This work was carried out hand in hand with the music world, with support in France from orchestra and ensemble organizations —AFO, FEVIS, Forces Musicales and Scènes Ensembles, as well as the musicians' union SNAM CGT - at the European level, the organizations Pearle*, FIM, and IPCI Germany, and other organizations at the international level, notably the League of North American Orchestras, IPCI USA, EILA, and ALLIANCE, as well as the large American association NAMM. We also salute the great performers who have been wonderful ambassadors.

The work to reach a balanced agreement proved particularly difficult, as it became clear on the third day of the conference that Brazil was able to muster a qualified majority around its initial proposal. In this context, which was particularly unfavorable to us, the Brazilian delegation nevertheless agreed to have this issue examined in depth by a working group in order to determine the best possible outcome, thus recognizing the virtues of dialogue. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to them.

It was with renewed determination that the team sent to Samarkand—with the support of their colleagues who remained in France—did everything in their power to promote the emergence of a consensus text based on keeping pernambuco in Appendix II with strengthened measures to better protect this species without hindering musical life.

We knew, in fact, that **our priorities were the same as those of Brazil**: to preserve the species in its native environment, ensure its future, and equip ourselves with new weapons to combat illegal trade.

¹ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Knowing Brazil's attachment to music, we refused to believe that it could harm it, in its most noble expression, by transferring this species to Appendix I. We are all the more grateful to the Brazilian authorities because the pernambuco is Brazil's national tree and the conservation of this species faces particularly significant challenges.

France, from President Emmanuel Macron—whose unwavering support and decisive involvement we commend—to Minister of Culture Rachida Dati and the ministerial departments in charge of this issue, as well as Austria, Belgium, Canada, South Korea, the United States, Great Britain, Japan, and the European Union have joined forces to ensure that the initial proposal is amended in a manner satisfactory to Brazil.

Pernambuco is thus retained in Appendix II of CITES, and **the measures taken to protect this tree in its native environment have been significantly strengthened, which was our essential objective.**

These provisions open up the prospect of eventually using wood from replanted trees*, thus enabling our craft industry to look forward to a sustainable future.

These measures place additional constraints on artisans, as they will have to deal with increased administrative burdens, but we accept them because they will enable us to better combat illegal trade and give French and European bow making a future.

These measures will be formally adopted during the final plenary session of the CoP on Friday, December 5.

We would like to thank everyone who worked to resolve this major crisis, especially our representatives in Samarkand: bowmakers Arthur Dubroca, Edwin Clément, and Paul Sadka, respectively President, Secretary General, and Vice President of IPCI France Europe, and our project manager Jacques Carbonneaux.

Music is part of our global cultural heritage, and it is our responsibility to protect it. For today, mission accomplished.

*United within the International Pernambuco Conservation Initiative (IPCI), bowmakers and luthiers have been involved in the conservation of this species in Brazil for 25 years, in partnership with local organizations and institutions. In particular, they have made it possible to plant 340,000 seedlings of this species.

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IPCI France-Europe – International Initiative for the Conservation of Pernambuco France-
Europe CSFI – Trade Association for Instrument Makers

GLAAF – Group of French Artistic Instrument Makers and Bow Makers

ALADFI – Association of Instrument Makers and Bow Makers for the Development of Instrument
Making CAFIM – Confederation of the Musical Industries in Europe

AFO – French Association of Orchestras

FEVIS – Federation of Vocal and Instrumental Ensembles Forces
Musicales

Stages

Ensemble

SNAM CGT

FIM – International Federation of Musicians Pearle* -
Pearle* Live Performance Europe

IPCI Germany - International Initiative for the Conservation of Pernambuco Germany
League of American Orchestras

EILA / Alliance – International Agreement

IPCI USA - International Initiative for the Conservation of Pernambuco USA

NAMM – National Association of Music Merchants