October 2025

Pernambuco Bows
a cultural heritage

#saveviolinbows

IPCI
International
Pernambuco
Conservation
Initiative
SCAN ME!

HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

01

The world is debating whether to support Brazil's proposal to move pernambuco (*Paubrasilia echinata*) to CITES Appendix I – a move that could unintentionally harm both conservation of this species and the cultural heritage of music.

CONSERVATION SUCCESS ALREADY UNDERWAY

- Since the 2000s, over 340,000 pernambuco trees have been planted by the IPCI (*International Pernambuco Conservation Initiative*).
- Other organizations and initiatives claim to have planted 3 million additional trees.
- While these efforts are primarily for conservation –part of them also provide a sustainable, legal source of pernambuco wood for future generations of bow makers.
- An Appendix I listing risks undermining 30 years of dedicated conservation work and could remove incentives for replanting, turning a success story into a setback.

NO SUBSTITUTE FOR PERNAMBUCO

- While alternatives like ipe, various other timber species, carbon fiber, and even metal have been tried for centuries, professional musicians and bow makers have consistently returned to pernambuco
- The wood’s unique balance of strength, flexibility, and acoustic qualities makes it irreplaceable for high-level performance.
- Suggesting ipe as a replacement ignores both history and the practical reality: ipe is not a viable substitute for pernambuco in professional bows

04

APPENDIX II VS. APPENDIX I

Pros of remaining in and strengthening Appendix II:

- Encourages sustainable use and plantations, keeping conservation efforts alive.
- Creates a legal and traceable supply chain, reducing incentives for illegal trade.
- Supports the continuation of decades of reforestation investments by bow makers and conservationists.

Cons of moving to Appendix I:

- Removes incentives for legal, sustainable planting and use.
- Risks punishing those who have invested in conservation while not stopping illegal actors.
- Erases 30 years of positive progress toward a balanced conservation model.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO KEEP PERNAMBUCO IN APPENDIX II

- Strengthen monitoring and traceability systems to ensure only legal wood is traded.
- Recognize and support sustainable plantation projects to guarantee future supply.
- Increase international cooperation between conservationists, bow makers, and regulators.
- Educate decision-makers on the success of current efforts and the risks of Appendix I.
- Promote transparency and engagement with communities in Brazil and worldwide.

06

THE BETTER PATH FORWARD:

Support sustainable plantations, responsible use, and international cooperation – not restrictions that erase decades of progress

PERNAMBUCO IS NOT JUST A TREE – IT IS PART OF OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE AND THE FUTURE OF MUSIC.

Please scan and sign the petition