

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twentieth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Samarkand (Uzbekistan), 24 November – 5 December 2025

INFORMATION DOCUMENT ON *PAUBRASILIA ECHINATA*

This document has been submitted by Brazil in relation to agenda item 97 and proposal CoP20 Prop. 46.*

* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

Info doc *Paubrasilia echinata*

The Brazilian proposal to include Brazilwood (*Paubrasilia echinata*) in Appendix I of CITES does not focus on controlling Brazilwood violin bows used by musicians in their performances around the world. The focus of the Brazilian proposal has always been to control the commercial transport of timber, which has severely affected the health of the species in the wild, placing it at imminent risk of extinction.

It is worth mentioning that legally obtained violin bows carried by musicians for their performances have always been treated in Brazil under the CITES personal and household effects exemption, regulated by CITES Resolution Conf. 13.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Control of trade in personal and household effects*, which eliminates the need for permits and certificates for the transit of legally acquired and personally possessed specimens.

Claiming the inclusion of *Paubrasilia echinata* in Appendix I does not change the situation: Resolution Conf. 13.7 (Rev. CoP17) is applicable to both Appendix II and Appendix I species. In this sense, traveling musicians in possession of their personal musical instruments – including for the purpose of paid performance –, should not need to obtain CITES permits or certificates.

Nevertheless, aware of the uneven application, by different Parties to the Convention, of the personal and household effects exemption for the international transit of musical instruments, Brazil proposes that, in conjunction with the adoption of the proposed amendment to the Convention to include Brazilwood in Appendix I, a set of decisions and an amendment to Resolution Conf. 13.7 (Rev. CoP17) be adopted.

These decisions and the amendment to the Resolution Conf. 13.7 (Rev. CoP17) seek to provide even greater legal security for musicians traveling with their violin bows made from the endemic Brazilian wood. Brazil intends to make explicit in the Resolution that it applies to bows made of Brazilwood, in addition to including the cargo of orchestras in transit within the Resolution's scope. The Convention Secretariat is also instructed to work with all Parties to the Convention to ensure that the Resolution is

implemented in a standardized and predictable manner for the transit of Appendix I musical instruments.

Furthermore, Brazil is also proposing some decisions aimed at making the need for control of international stockpiles of Brazilwood more compelling. The lack of control over these stockpiles by governments facilitates the laundering of illegally extracted wood from the wild. Brazil holds the position that registration and control of stockpiles held abroad should be mandatory, based on an international obligation of States to cooperate in protecting endangered species.

The new decisions and proposed amendment to the Resolution are as follows.

- 1) It is proposed that a new decision addressed to the Secretariat be added to **CITES CoP20 Doc. 61 on Rapid movement of wildlife diagnostic samples and musical instruments**, and that the decision addressed to the Standing Committee be amended. (Text with track changes: new text underlined and removed text struck through).

Directed to the Secretariat

20.DD The Secretariat shall, subject to extrabudgetary resources and taking into account the responses received to the Notification issued under Decision 20.AA, take steps with the Parties that do not apply the personal or household effects exemption through advocacy, training, technical and financial support, in order to promote its consistent, standardized and effective application.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.DD20.EE The Standing Committee shall:

- a) review the report of the Secretariat on the implementation of Decisions 20.AA and 20.DD; and
- b) review the 'one-page' or simplified guidance materials on the rapid movement of wildlife samples and of musical instruments prepared under Decision 20.CC, agree appropriate amendments, and request publication of endorsed guidance on the relevant CITES webpage.

2) It is proposed to add new text to sub-item “ii” of paragraph “c” of section 1 of **CITES Resolution Conf. 13.7 (Rev. CoP17)** – to include the cargo of orchestras in transit within the Resolution's scope – and a new paragraph to section 3 of CITES Resolution Conf. 13.7 (Rev. CoP17) – to make explicit in the Resolution that it applies to bows made of Brazilwood. (Text with track changes: new text underlined and removed text struck through).

1. DECIDES that the term ‘personal or household effects’ contained in Article VII, paragraph 3, means specimens that are:
 - a) personally owned or possessed for non-commercial purposes;
 - b) legally-acquired; and
 - c) at the time of import, export or re-export either:
 - i) worn, carried or included in personal baggage; or
 - ii) part of a household move or part of the cargo carried by orchestras in transit;

(...)

3. AGREES that Parties shall:

- a) regulate the cross-border movements of legally acquired, personally owned live animals of species listed in the Appendices of CITES in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.20;
- b) not require export permits or re-export certificates, for personal or household effects which are dead specimens, parts or derivatives of Appendix-II species except:
 - i) where they have been advised through a Notification from the Secretariat or on the CITES website that the other Party involved in the trade requires such documents; or
 - ii) for the export and re-export of rhino horn or elephant ivory contained in hunting trophies; or
 - iii) for the export and re-export of all other hunting trophies unless Parties have entered into bilateral written arrangements for cross-border trade between neighbouring countries that include the

required findings in Article IV of the Convention and other means of monitoring trade in hunting trophies, provided that such arrangements have been duly notified to the CITES Secretariat, and with the condition that the specimen at the time of import, export or re-export was worn, carried or included in the hunter's personal baggage; or

- iv) for the following, where the quantity exceeds the specified limits:
 - caviar of sturgeon species (*Acipenseriformes* spp.) – up to a maximum of 125 grams per person whereby the container has to be labelled in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17);
 - rainsticks of *Cactaceae* spp. – up to three specimens per person;
 - specimens of crocodilian species – up to four specimens per person;
 - queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) shells – up to three specimens per person;
 - seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.) – up to four specimens per person;
 - giant clam (*Tridacnidae* spp.) shells – up to three specimens, each of which may be one intact shell or two matching halves, not exceeding 3 kg per person; and
 - specimens of agarwood – up to 1 kg of woodchips, 24 ml of oil and two sets of beads or prayer beads (or two necklaces or bracelets) per person;

- c) require import and export permits or re-export certificates, for personal or household effects which are dead specimens, parts or derivatives of Appendix-I species for the following, where the quantity exceeds the specified limits:
 - Brazil wood (*Paubrasilia echinata*) violin bows – up to 4 specimens per person, and in the case of traveling orchestras, 4 bows per violinist in the orchestra;

- d) advise their customs administrations of the treatment of personal or household effects under CITES;
- e)-d) take all necessary steps, including inspection and provision of information to merchants, to prohibit the sale of tourist souvenir specimens of Appendix-I species in places of international departure, such as

international airports, seaports and border crossings and particularly in duty-free areas beyond customs control points;

- f) e) provide information through displays and by other means, in all relevant languages, in places of international departure and arrival, informing travellers about the purpose and requirements of the Convention, and of their responsibilities with respect to international and domestic laws relating to the export and import of specimens of wild fauna and flora; and
- g) f) in collaboration with national and international tourist agencies, carriers, hotels and other relevant bodies, take all possible steps to ensure that tourists and persons with diplomatic privileges travelling abroad are made aware of the import and export controls that are or may be in force with respect to items derived from CITES species;

3) It is proposed to add a new item to decision 20.AA of **CITES CoP 20 Doc. 97 on Brazil wood (*Paubrasilia echinata*)**, as well as to amend sub-items b), c) and d). This amendment would also necessitate editing decision 20.BB. (Text with track changes: new text underlined and removed text struck through).

20.AA Parties, in particular source, transit and destination Parties for *Paubrasilia echinata* are urged ~~invited~~ to:

- a) consider the findings of the report "Paubrasilia echinata bows: Fine Tuning Traceability Solutions" (CITES Secretariat, 202X);
- b) collaborate, as appropriate, with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and entities to develop ~~voluntary~~ marking or identification systems for *Paubrasilia echinata* musical instruments to enhance traceability mechanisms for individual bows;
- c) conduct an assessment of existing national wood stockpiles of *Paubrasilia echinata*, both privately and governmentally held, evaluating:
 - i) in the case of destination countries, whether the existing wood stockpiles were legally imported;

- ii) size of wood stockpiles, including number of bows suitable for production with the available stockpiles;
- iii) age of the wood stockpiles.

- d) establish a mechanism to register *Paubrasilia echinata* bow and wood stockpiles evaluated in accordance with sub-item c) above; and
- e) provide the Secretariat with information relating to the voluntary marking or identification systems developed for bows and the mechanism used to register *Paubrasilia echinata* bow and wood stockpiles.

20.BB

Subject to extrabudgetary resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) consolidate information relating to:
 - i) the voluntary marking or identification systems developed by source, transit and destination Parties for *Paubrasilia echinata*;
 - ii) the nationally conducted assessment of existing national wood stockpiles of *Paubrasilia echinata*, pursuant to decision 20.AA, c);
 - iii) the mechanisms used to register *Paubrasilia echinata* bow and wood stockpiles; and
 - iv) make the information available to Parties on request; and
- b) submit a report to the Standing Committee and Plants Committee relating to the information received from Parties in terms of Decision 20.AA.