

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



Seventy-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 3-8 February 2025

Species conservation and trade

Flora

BRAZIL WOOD (*PAUBRASILIA ECHINATA*)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted an amendment to annotation #10 for *Paubrasilia echinata*, as follows:

All parts, derivatives and finished products, except re-export of finished musical instruments, finished musical instrument accessories and finished musical instrument parts.

3. The Conference of the Parties also adopted [Decisions 19.249 to 19.253](#) on *Brazil wood* (*Paubrasilia echinata*) complementing the amendment, as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

19.249 *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *issue a Notification to the Parties and relevant stakeholders requesting information on recent developments, national and international enforcement actions, illegal trade and marking of bows regarding Paubrasilia echinata,*
- b) *subject to external funding, in consultation with the Plants Committee and in association with expert stakeholders, evaluate options for the establishment of a traceability system to register the provenance of Paubrasilia echinata (pernambuco) bows produced, acquired, or transported by owners, musicians and manufacturers; and*
- c) *prepare a report on its findings on the implementation of paragraphs a) and b) supra and submit any resulting recommendations to the Standing Committee at its meeting.*

Directed to the Plants Committee

19.250 *The Plants Committee shall advise the Secretariat in the implementation of Decision 19.249, paragraph b).*

Directed to Parties, in particular source transit and destination Parties for Paubrasilia echinata

19.251 *Parties, and in particular source, transit and destination Parties for Paubrasilia echinata, are invited to:*

- a) *continue national enforcement efforts including investigations of illegal trade in Paubrasilia echinata and complement them with joint enforcement actions.*

- b) consider the registration of stockpiles of *Paubrasilia echinata* as appropriate;
- c) offer support in capacity-building to Brazil and other Parties as appropriate to improve the implementation of the listing of *Paubrasilia echinata*;
- d) provide information to the Secretariat, as requested in Decision 19.249.

Directed to governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations and other entities

19.252 Governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations and other entities, are invited to:

- a) support the implementation of the listing of *Paubrasilia echinata*, *inter alia* by:
 - i) exploring ways to increase the traceability of finished bows, including for example, the development and implementation of a system of a unique individual marking and by sensitising producers and consumers (in particular musicians) of the status of the species,
 - ii) working with Brazil to identify existing *Paubrasilia echinata* plantations within Brazil that could be considered source code A or Y to establish a sustainable supply chain; and,
- b) provide information to the Secretariat, as requested in Decision 19.249.

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.253 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider any report by the Secretariat resulting from the implementation of Decision 19.249, as well as any other relevant information brought to its attention regarding the implementation of the listing of *Paubrasilia echinata* in Appendix II; and,
- b) make recommendations for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting, including recommendations relating to the development and implementation of a traceability system of *Paubrasilia echinata* specimens.

4. At the 27th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC27; Geneva, July 2024), in document [PC27 Doc. 29](#), the Secretariat provided an update on the study to assess and monitor the implications of the amendment to annotation #10 on the conservation and international trade of Brazil wood (*Paubrasilia echinata*).
5. The Plants Committee (see summary record [PC27 SR](#), agenda item 29):
 - a) noted the progress achieved in undertaking the study called for under Decision 19.249; and
 - b) invited the Secretariat to include in its report to the Standing Committee a revision or the deletion of Decisions 19.249 and 19.250 on *Brazil wood* (*Paubrasilia echinata*) based on progress in implementation.

Progress achieved since PC27 and assessment of the implementation of Decisions 19.249 to 19.253

6. In accordance with paragraph b) of Decision 19.249, the Secretariat has finalized a first draft of the report titled "*Paubrasilia echinata* bows: Fine tuning traceability solutions". The executive summary of the draft report is available in all working languages as Annex 1 to this document, while the full draft report, available only in English, is included as Annex 2. The report was made possible thanks to a financial contribution from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Secretariat appreciates the support provided in this regard.
7. The report is structured in three chapters:
 - a) Chapter 1 outlines options towards the establishment of a traceability system for *Paubrasilia echinata* bows, in support of the implementation of Decision 19.249. This includes aspects relevant to traceability

from the responses received to [Notification to the Parties N°. 2023/033](#) and its [questionnaire](#) [in accordance with paragraph a) of Decision o19.249]. The options outlined include:

- i) marking individual bows, issuing certifications, and creating centralized databases;
 - ii) technologies such as Near-Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS) and isotope analysis; and
 - iii) forensic methods as a means to identify the wood origin.
- b) Chapter 2 consists of an analysis of cross-cutting matters relevant to the implementation of Decisions 19.250 to 19.253, including enforcement, stockpile management and capacity-building relevant to *P. echinata*. This chapter covers aspects beyond traceability from the responses received to the Notification and its questionnaire. It highlights efforts to combat illegal trade in Brazil wood, including significant wood seizures in Brazil, but also underscores challenges like identifying illegal stocks. Lessons from Parties such as Canada and Germany with stock controls and inventories for tree species could provide valuable insights for monitoring trade in Brazil wood specimens.
- c) Chapter 3 concludes with reflections towards strengthening implementation of the Appendix-II listing of *Paubrasilia echinata*. It emphasizes the need for a standardized global traceability system for Brazil wood specimens, and in particular bows, and highlights solutions like isotopic analysis and origin marking, alongside coordinated efforts between Brazil as range State, major importers, and the private sector to ensure legal, sustainable and traceable trade of *Paubrasilia echinata* specimens.
8. The draft report consolidates in a single document the progress achieved thus far in the current intersessional period in the implementation of Decisions 19.249 to 19.252. The Secretariat is of the view that feedback from the Standing Committee at SC78, as per Decision 19.253, will be essential for the finalization of the report before submission for consideration at CoP20. At the same time, the progress achieved thus far with the report can serve as a useful foundation to continue the work on traceability for *Paubrasilia echinata* bows following CoP20.
9. For this purpose, the Secretariat prepared the following draft decisions for consideration by the Standing Committee:

Directed to Parties, in particular source, transit and destination Parties for Paubrasilia echinata

20.AA Parties, in particular source, transit and destination Parties for *Paubrasilia echinata* are 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) establish a mechanism to register *Paubrasilia echinata* bow and wood stockpiles; and
- d) 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.

Directed to Brazil as the only range State of Paubrasilia echinata

20.BB Brazil is invited to:

- a) consider the findings of the report "Paubrasilia echinata bows: Fine Tuning Traceability Solutions" (CITES Secretariat, 202X), and its linkages or implications for national policies, conservation strategies, and trade regulations; and
- b) assess information on plantation-grown *Paubrasilia echinata* stocks to meet current and future market demand for musical instruments, and share this information with the Secretariat.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.CC 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 mechanisms used to register *Paubrasilia echinata* bow and wood stockpiles; and
 - iii) make the information available to Parties on request; and
- b) submit a report to the Standing Committee relating to the information received from Parties in terms of Decisions 20.AA and 20.BB.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.DD The Standing Committee shall consider the report submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 20.CC and make recommendations for consideration by:

- a) the source, transit and destination Parties for *Paubrasilia echinata*; and
- b) the Conference of the Parties at its 21st meeting, as appropriate.

Recommendations

10. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) provide feedback to the draft report contained in the Annexes 1 and 2 to the present document;
- b) consider the pertinence of submitting the draft decisions in paragraph 9 for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at CoP20.
- c) agree that Decisions 19.249 to 19.253 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

Draft report on “*Paubrasilia echinata* bows: Fine tuning traceability solutions”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Paubrasilia echinata (pernambuco, Brazil wood, pau-brasil) is a tree species endemic to Brazil, where it is also the national tree. The size of *P. echinata*'s native populations have been reduced by logging for wood, by agriculture and forestry activities and deforestation for urban development under the last 500 years. The largest populations are now found in forested areas within fully protected conservation units of in cocoa-cabruca agroforestry system in southern Bahia and in rapid decline due to the accelerated transformation of cocoa plantations into pastures.

Paubrasilia echinata is listed in CITES Appendix II with annotation #10 which designates ““*All parts, derivatives and finished products, except re-export of finished musical instruments, finished musical instrument accessories and finished musical instrument parts.*”

It was originally listed under the name *Caesalpinia echinata*, which was changed to *Paubrasilia echinata* following the adoption of a new standard nomenclatural reference at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18; 2019). The current annotation #10 of the Appendix II listing of *P. echinata* in Appendix II is the result of an amendment adopted by the Conference of the Parties its 19th meeting (CoP19; 2022).

As a complement to this amendment to Appendix II, at CoP19 the Conference of the Parties also adopted Decisions 19.249 to 19.253 on *Brazil wood* (*Paubrasilia echinata*).

The Secretariat has reported progress in the implementation of these decisions to the Plants Committee at its 26th and 27th meetings (PC26 and PC27) through documents PC26 Doc. 31 and PC27 Doc. 29.

In accordance with decision 19.249, the Secretariat undertook the present study, which is structured in three chapters in accordance with the outputs produced:

- i) Chapter 1: Options towards the establishment of a traceability system for *Paubrasilia echinata* bows. This in support of the implementation of paragraphs a) and b) of Decision 19.249 and includes, *inter alia*, an analysis of the relevant aspects of the responses to the Notification to the Parties N°. 2023/033, as contained in Annex 2 to document PC26 Doc. 31.
- ii) Chapter 2: Analysis of cross-cutting matters relevant to the implementation of Decisions 19.250 to 19.253, including enforcement, stockpile management and capacity-building needs; and
- iii) Chapter 3: Reflections towards an improved implementation of the Appendix II listing of *Paubrasilia echinata*.

Each chapter unpacks specific aspects of these challenges and opportunities, offering detailed analyses and practical recommendations, as outlined below.

The first chapter focuses on the traceability of Brazil wood bows, presenting various alternatives for developing a tracking system. These include marking individual bows, issuing certifications, and creating centralized databases. Technologies such as Near-Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS), isotope analysis, and forensic methods are proposed as ways to identify the wood origin. Responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2023/033 reveal that while Parties adopt different approaches, there is widespread agreement on the importance of consistent markings and certificates to verify the legality of the wood origin.

The second chapter 2 examines cross-cutting matters relevant to the implementation of Decisions 19.250 to 19.253, including enforcement, stockpile management and capacity-building needs. The section on Legislation Enforcement and Stock Management of Brazil wood highlights efforts by various countries to combat the illegal trade of this species. In Brazil, enforcement actions by the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA), in collaboration with the Federal Police, have led to significant wood seizures. However, challenges remain, such as identifying illegal stocks, which underscores the need for more robust control systems. Other Parties, including Canada and Germany, are implementing stock controls and inventories to ensure compliance with CITES regulations.

The third and final chapter outlines a path to enhance the implementation of CITES Appendix II for *Paubrasilia echinata*. It highlights key challenges and strategies for its sustainable management and conservation. The report found that commercially planted Brazil Wood stocks are sufficient to meet current market demand. However, the

lack of a standardized global traceability system for *Paubrasilia echinata* is a major challenge. Solutions include developing technologies to verify legal origins and using methods such as isotopic analysis and origin marking to regulate harvesting and commercialization of Brazilwood bows effectively. Coordinated efforts between the range State (Brazil), and major importers in the North America and Europe, along with private-sector involvement in conservation initiatives and trade regulations, are key to preserving the species and ensuring its legal, sustainable and traceable trade.