

Reference Guide for Bow Materials [Updated July 2026]

This is a living document; as such, please check alliance-international.org periodically for further updates. Furthermore, if you have useful information to contribute which could make these lists more complete, please reach out to vicepresident@alliance-international.org. Thank you for your concern.

Note: Using any material with a **CITES Appendix designation** necessitates completing a Materials Certificate for the bow into which it is crafted.

		Common Name	Latin Name	Country of Origin	CITES Status [2025]	IUCN Red List Status [2025]
STICK	PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS					
		Bamboo, Tonkin Cane	<i>Pseudosasa amabilis</i>	China	No	No
		Hakia or Ipe	<i>Tabebuia all species</i>	South, Central America	CITES Appendix II, 112 species, finished products excluded	Vulnerable
		Ipe, Pau d'arco	<i>Handroanthus all species</i>	South, Central America	CITES Appendix II, 112 species, finished products excluded	Vulnerable
		Katalox	<i>Swartzia cubensis</i>	Mexico, Central America	No	No
		Massaranduba, Bulletwood	<i>Manilkara bidentate</i>	Brazil	No	No
		Pernambuco	<i>Paubrasilia echinata</i>	Brazil	CITES Appendix II, Annotation #10 revised CoP20: All parts and derivatives, except finished musical instruments, finished musical instrument accessories and finished musical instrument parts for non-commercial trade only for the purpose of paid and unpaid performance, personal use, display, loan, competition, teaching, appraisal, or repair, provided that this does not change the ownership and that such transport is not for sale, transfer or disposal of the specimen outside of the owner's usual State of residence. Zero quota for wild-harvested specimens (source code W) traded for commercial purposes.	Endangered
		Snakewood, Amourette, Palo de oro	<i>Piratinera guianensis</i>	Suriname	No	No
		Wamara, Swartzia Banya, Ironwood, Brazilian ebony, False Rosewood, Ironwood	<i>Swartzia leiocalycina</i>	South, Central America	No	No
	NON-PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS					
		Carbon Fiber		Various	n/a	n/a
		Composite	?	Various	n/a	n/a
		Fiberglass		Various	n/a	n/a

Common Name	Latin Name	Country of Origin	CITES Status [2025]	IUCN Red List Status [2025]	
FROG	PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS				
	Ebony	<i>Diospyros crassiflora</i>	Cameroon	Cameroon restricts export of logs to 1200/year; slow-maturing tree with rapid habitat loss	Threatened/Vulnerable & decreasing
	Ceylon ebony	<i>Diospyros ebenum</i>	India	Export Banned India & Sri Lanka	Data Deficient
	Cambodian ebony	<i>Pyros ferrea (ebenoides)</i>	Cambodia		Endangered
	Madagascar ebony	<i>Diospyros spp</i>	Madagascar		Many species identified as endangered in Madagascar.
	Mauritius ebony	<i>Diospyros tessellaria</i>	Mauritius	Prohibited/banned material at state level, 1 of 11 ebony species endemic to the island, all listed as “threatened” to “critically endangered” from over-logging; one extinct	Threatened/ Vulnerable
	Cow bone	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Brazil	No	No
	Water buffalo horn	<i>Bos primigenius indicus</i>	India	No	No
	Hawksbill sea turtle tortoiseshell	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>		CITES Appendix I – banned material	Critically endangered
	African elephant ivory frog	<i>Loxodonta Africana</i>	Africa	CITES Appendix I – African elephant populations (with the exception of the populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, which are included in CITES Appendix II).	Endangered
	Mammoth fossil	<i>Mammuthus primigenius</i>	Russia	No listings – "Look alike" to Elephant: possible seizure – check before shipping	No listings – "Look alike" to Elephant: possible seizure – check before shipping
	Sonowood Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Switzerland	No – all sustainably sourced	No
				Certified Swiss Wood	
	Sonowood Maple	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Switzerland	No – all sustainably sourced	No
				Certified Swiss Wood	
	Sonowood Spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>	Switzerland	No – all sustainably sourced	No
				Certified Swiss Wood	
	NON-PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS				
	Sucseno	?	Germany	n/a	n/a
	Plastic	Plastic	US, China	n/a	n/a

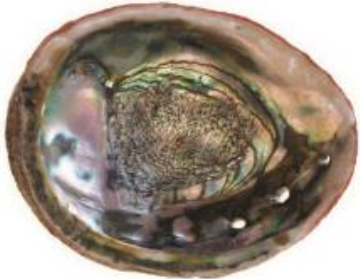
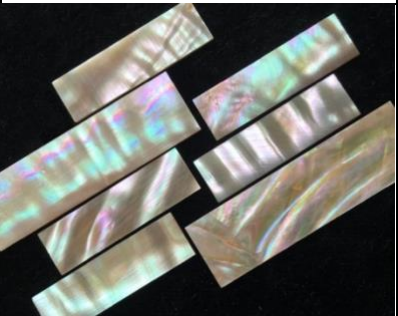
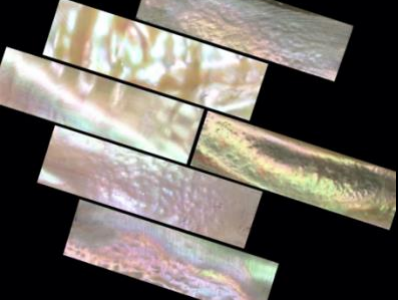
Common Name		Latin Name	Country of Origin	CITES Status [2025]	IUCN Red List Status [2025]
WINDING	PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS				
	Whalebone	16 species: Baleen whales	Arctic, Antarctic	CITES Appendix I	Critically endangered
	Tinsel: metal and silk	natural protein fiber	China, India	Harvested from larval cocoons of cultivated <i>bombyx mori</i>	No
	Silk	natural protein fiber	China, India	Harvested from larval cocoons of cultivated <i>bombyx mori</i>	No
	NON-PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS				
	Faux-whalebone	Plastic	Various	n/a	n/a
	German Silver	Metal	Various	n/a	n/a
	Silver	Metal	Various	n/a	n/a
	Gold	Metal	Various	n/a	n/a

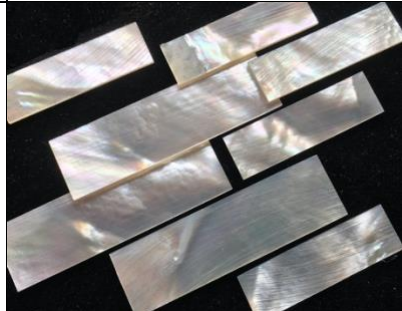
Common Name		Latin Name	Country of Origin	CITES Status [2025]	IUCN Red List Status [2025]
TIP PLATE / BUTTON	PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS				
	Domestic Cow bone	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Brazil	No	No
	African elephant	<i>Loxodonta Africana</i>	Africa	CITES Appendix I (Except the populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, which are included in Appendix II subject to annotation A10)	Decreasing
	Asian elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>	India, South Asia		Decreasing
	African forest elephant	<i>Loxodonta cyclotis</i>		No	Critically endangered
	Imitation Ivory	Casein sheep or cow milk	Europe	No	
	Mammoth fossil	<i>Mammuthus primigenius</i>	Russia	No listings – "Look alike" to Elephant: possible seizure – check before shipping	No listings – "Look alike" to Elephant: possible seizure – check before shipping
	Reindeer antler	<i>Rangifer tarandus domesticus</i>	Sweden	No	No
	NON-PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS				
	Elforyn	Plastic	Germany	n/a	n/a
	Fiber	Paper	Europe	n/a	n/a
	Gold	Metal	Various	n/a	n/a
	Plastic	Plastic	Various	n/a	n/a
	Silver	Metal	Various	n/a	n/a
	Tip Armor	Plastic	USA	n/a	n/a
	Tip Shield	Plastic	USA	n/a	n/a

GRIP	Common Name	Latin Name	Country of Origin	CITES Status [2025]	IUCN Red List Status [2025]
	PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS				
	Angel shark (shagreen)	<i>Squatina japonica</i>	Japan	No	critically endangered
	Cow leather	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Brazil, China, Italy, Russia, India	No	No
	Goat leather	<i>Capra hircus hircus</i>	Brazil, China, Italy, Russia, India	Domesticated form not subject to the provisions of the Convention	No
	African Cape Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer caffer</i>	Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe	No	No
	American alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	South Eastern USA	Appendix II	Increasing
	Blue shark	<i>Prionace glauca</i>	Asia Pacific, Gulf Coast, South America	No	No
	Crocodile, freshwater	<i>Crocodylus novaeguineae</i>	Island of New Guinea	No	Stable
	Crocodile, Nile, saltwater	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>	Subsaharan Africa	CITES: Yes – Appendix I (Except the populations of Botswana, Egypt A15, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania A16, Zambia and Zimbabwe, which are included in Appendix II)	Stable
	Eel, Inshore hagfish	<i>Eptatretus burgeri</i>	Northwest Pacific from the Sea of Japan and across eastern Japan to Taiwan	No	Decreasing
	Kangaroo leather	<i>Macropus giganteus</i>	Australia	Domesticated form not subject to the provisions of the Convention	Stable
	Karung snake	<i>Acrochordus javanicus</i>	Asia, Australia	No	No
	Lamb skin	<i>Ovis orientalis aries</i>	Europe	No	
	Nile Lizard	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>	Sub-Saharan Africa, invasive in USA	CITES Appendix II: international trade (especially skins and live animals) is monitored and regulated	Stable
	Monitor Lizard	<i>Varanus varius</i>	Africa, Asia, Oceania, invasive in USA	Of 80 species, all but 5 (listed below) are Appendix II Bengal, yellow, desert, clouded and Komodo Dragon are Appendix I	Least concern Decreasing

Common Name		Latin Name	Country of Origin	CITES Status [2025]	IUCN Red List Status [2025]
GRIP	PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS, continued				
	Ostrich skin	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	Various	Not the farmed or domesticated. (Only the populations of Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and the Sudan; no other population is included in the Appendices)	Decreasing
	Reticulated Python	<i>Broghammerus reticulatus</i>	Southeast Asia	Appendix II	No
	Ring lizard Teju	<i>Varanus salvator</i>	Indonesia, South America	Appendix II	No
	Salmon skin	<i>Salmo salar</i>	Farmed, recycled restaurant waste, ICTYOS	No	No
	Short tail python	<i>Python curtus</i>	Southeast Asia	Appendix II	No
	Siamese crocodile	<i>Crocodylus siamensis</i>	Pacific Islands, Africa, Australia Thailand	Appendix I	Decreasing
	Stingray skin, shagreen	<i>Dasyatis sephen</i>	Thailand, Southeast Asia	No	No
	Trout skin	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Farmed, recycled restaurant waste, ICTYOS	No	No
	Water Buffalo	<i>Bubalus bubalis</i>	Europe, Australia, North America, South America, Africa	No	No
NON-PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS					
	Tubing	Rubber or Latex		n/a	n/a
	Vegan leather			n/a	n/a

SLIDE AND DOT	Common Name	Latin Name	Country of Origin	CITES Status [2026]	International Union for Conservation (IUCN) Red List Status [2026]	[visual references for identification purposes only]
	PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS					
	As with wood species, there is great variation in color and design within and between each shell, making identification difficult. This guide is intended to help identify pearl for documentation of bow materials. New makers are urged to inventory their pearl stock for easier identification going forward. Many of these species are in decline. Check regularly for updates to this guide.				Above: IUCN 3.1 Red List of Species Endangerment key [Red List Criteria Summary Sheet]	
	Paua	<i>haliotis australis</i>	Australia	No CITES listing at this time	Least Concern	
	Pink abalone	<i>haliotis corrugata</i>	Mexico, USA	No CITES listing at this time, but no legal harvesting in CA, USA	Critically Endangered	
	Black abalone	<i>haliotis cracherodii</i>	Mexico, USA	No CITES listing at this time, but endangered species/prohibited; no legal harvesting in CA, USA NOAA protected throughout its range	Critically Endangered	

SLIDE AND DOT	Common Name	Latin Name	Country of Origin	CITES Status [2026]	International Union for Conservation (IUCN) Red List Status [2026]	[visual references for Identification purposes only]
	PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS, continued					
	Green abalone	<i>haliotis fulgens</i>	Mexico	No CITES listing at this time, but no legal harvesting in CA, USA	Extinct EX EW CR EN VU NT LC Critically Endangered	
	Red abalone (sometimes sold under the name "Green Mother-of-pearl")	<i>haliotis rufescens</i>	Mexico	No CITES listing at this time	Extinct EX EW CR EN VU NT LC Critically Endangered	
	Awabi Abalone (sometimes sold under the name "Pink Mother-of-pearl")	<i>haliotis gigantea</i>	Japan, Korea	No CITES listing at this time	Extinct EX EW CR EN VU NT LC Endangered	
	Awabi abalone (sometimes sold under the name "Golfish")	<i>haliotis madaka</i>	Japan	No CITES listing at this time	Extinct EX EW CR EN VU NT LC Endangered	

SLIDE AND DOT	Common Name	Latin Name	Country of Origin	CITES Status [2026]	International Union for Conservation (IUCN) Red List Status [2026]	[visual references for Identification purposes only]
	PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS, continued					
	Ormeaux, Green ormer	<i>haliotis tuberculata</i>	Mediterranean, Brittany, Channel Islands	No CITES listing at this time, but severely regulated harvesting due to shortage from overfishing and bacterial disease	Extinct EX EW CR EN VU NT LC Vulnerable, decreasing	
	Freshwater pearl mussel	<i>margaritifera margaritifera</i>	Europe white; North America pink	No CITES listing at this time	Extinct EX EW CR EN VU NT LC IUCN Redlist: Endangered Endangered Species: no harvesting, use or sale; fully protected in the UK under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 since 1998 and partly protected according to section 9 (1) since 1991. Iberian Peninsula (Portugal & Spain) and Ireland	
	Pearl oyster or Mother-of-pearl or White Mother-of-pearl or Yellow/Gold Mother-of-pearl	<i>pinctada maxima</i>	cultivated: Australia, Philippines	No CITES listing at this time	No IUCN listing at this time	
	Black Mother-of-pearl	<i>pinctada maragaritifera</i>	Polynesia	No CITES listing at this time	No IUCN listing at this time	

Common Name		Latin Name	Country of Origin	CITES Status [2026]	International Union for Conservation (IUCN) Red List Status [2026]	[visual references for Identification purposes only]
SLIDE AND DOT	NON-PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS					
	Cultured opal	80% silica, 20% resin	Laboratories, Japan, USA	n/a	n/a	
	Artificial amber			n/a	n/a	
	Plastic			n/a	n/a	

Common Name		Latin Name	Country of Origin	CITES Status [2025]	IUCN Red List Status [2025]
MISC	PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS				
	Domestic Horsehair	<i>equus ferus caballus</i>	China	No	No
	Rosin, refined pine sap			No	No
	Fish glue	<i>acipenseridae</i>	Various	No	No
	Rabbit-skin glue	<i>oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Various	No	No
	NON-PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS				
	Synthetic hair, completely animal-free			n/a	n/a
	Other				
	Unknown				

FILE HISTORY

July 2026 | Slide and Dot category: add Visual Reference column, reorganize, add links to the IUCN Red List Status pages, add associated IUCN species category scales, update CITES column

January 2026 | update CITES Status of Nile Lizard, highlight in orange CITES I and II materials

December 2025 | update CITES Status of Pernambuco

September 2024 | expand and update Sonowood details

February 2024 | original file