

Pernambuco Fact Sheet for Musicians | May 2025

SUMMARY | Most professional bows are made of pernambuco wood, which is endangered and highly regulated. If restrictions increase, traveling with your pernambuco bow(s) may become extremely challenging. The pernambuco crisis is ONGOING. You are a key player in saving pernambuco for the future.

Pernambuco: An Endangered Species

- 1992: listed as endangered in Brazil
- 2007: listed as endangered internationally by CITES

Current CITES listing: Appendix II

This listing protects the species while allowing musicians to travel freely.

Some recommend a change to a stricter Appendix I listing, which would be devastating for conservation and for musicians.

It would:

- **Undermine decades of conservation efforts**, including hundreds of thousands of trees planted in forests and on farms.
- **Shut down bow making** both in Brazil and abroad, destroying a 250-year-old artisanal tradition.
- **Prevent international travel** with pernambuco bows of any age or origin, requiring CITES permits that are impossible for most musicians to acquire and use.

Three shared goals: All within reach

- Stop illegal cutting and regrow trees.
- Develop legal sources of planted trees.
- Protect lawful trade and travel with bows.

The most sustainable path:

Strengthen Appendix II listing with expanded conservation efforts and heightened protections.

This path would support:

- Efforts to conserve and restore the species.
- Brazilian farmers sustainably growing, harvesting and marketing planted trees.
- Music and culture around the world.
- Musicians' travel with their pernambuco bows.
- Shops & musicians buying/selling pernambuco bows.
- Brazil's environmental laws protecting wild trees.

Is your *pernambuco* bow essential to your highest musical expression?

Yes? Here are 4 things you can do!

- **Repair and maintain** your existing bow(s).
- **Procure** a *Document of Bow Materials* for each bow and store in a safe place for future resale or CITES registration.
- **Support** use of lesser quality, non-pernambuco, but never disposable/throw-away bows for beginners and rental programs.

- **Get more information and resources**

alliance-international.org/more-information

