

Reference Guide for Bow Materials [Updated January 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]
PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS				
Bamboo, Tonkin Cane	<i>Pseudosasa amabilis</i>	China	No	No
Hakia or Ipe	<i>Tabebuia</i> all species	South, Central America	CITES Appendix II, 112 species, finished products excluded	Vulnerable
Ipe, Pau d'arco	<i>Handroanthus</i> all species	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 bidentata</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

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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

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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

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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

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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

PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS, continued				
GRIIP	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)
	Reticulated Python	<i>Broghammerus reticulatus</i>	Southeast Asia	Appendix II
	Ring lizard Teju	<i>Varanus salvator</i>	Indonesia, South America	Appendix II
	Salmon skin	<i>Salmo salar</i>	Farmed, recycled restaurant waste, ICTYOS	No
	Short tail python	<i>Python curtus</i>	Southeast Asia	Appendix II
	Siamese crocodile	<i>Crocodylus siamensis</i>	Pacific Islands, Africa, Australia Thailand	Appendix I
	Stingray skin, shagreen	<i>Dasyatis sephen</i>	Thailand, Southeast Asia	No
	Trout skin	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Farmed, recycled restaurant waste, ICTYOS	No
	Water Buffalo	<i>Bubalus bubalis</i>	Europe, Australia, North America, South America, Africa	No
NON-PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS				
	Tubing	Rubber or Latex		n/a
	Vegan leather			n/a

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PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS				
SLIDE AND DOT	*Abalone – other common names: ear shells, sea ears, and (rarely) muttonfish or muttonshells in parts of Australia; ormer in the UK; perlemoen in South Africa; and paua in New Zealand		**The California Department of Fish and Wildlife announced March 19, 2023, that the North Coast abalone season will remain closed until April 1, 2026. The moratorium—which began in 2017—was expected to lift April 1, 2021.	
	Awabi	<i>haliotis gigantea</i>	Japan	No Endangered species
	Awabi	<i>haliotis madaka</i>	Japan	No Endangered species
	Black abalone*	<i>haliotis cracherodii</i>	Mexico and USA	No; endangered species/prohibited; no legal harvesting in CA, USA (see note above**) NOAA protected throughout its range Critically endangered
	Freshwater pearl mussel	<i>margaritifera</i> <i>margaritifera</i>	Europe white; North America pink	No IUCN Redlist: endangered; endangered species / no harvesting, use or sale; This species has been fully protected in the United Kingdom under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 since 1998 and partly protected according to section 9 (1) since 1991. Iberian Peninsula (Portugal and Spain) and Ireland
	Green abalone*	<i>haliotis fulgens</i>	Mexico	No; no legal harvesting in CA, USA (see note above**) Decreasing
	Ormeaux, Green ormer	<i>haliotis tuberculata</i>	Mediterranean, Brittany and Channel Islands	No; severely regulated harvesting due to shortage from overfishing and bacterial disease Decreasing, vulnerable
	Pearl oyster or Mother-of-pearl	<i>pinctada maxima</i>	cultivated: Australia, Philippines	No No
	Pink abalone*	<i>haliotis corrugate</i>	Mexico and USA	No; no legal harvesting in CA, USA (see note above**) Decreasing
	Red abalone*	<i>haliotis rufescens</i>	Mexico and USA	No; no personal harvest; no commercial sale or trade in USA (see note above**) Decreasing
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

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MISC				
PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS	Domestic Horsehair	<i>equus ferus caballus</i>	China	No
	Rosin, refined pine sap			No
	Fish glue	<i>acipenseridae</i>	Various	No
	Rabbit-skin glue	<i>oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Various	No
NON-PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS				
Synthetic hair, completely animal-free			n/a	n/a
Other				
Unknown				

FILE HISTORY

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