



International Alliance of Violin and Bow Makers for Endangered Species

Pernambuco Conservation Strategy

Brazil's Atlantic Rainforest encompasses a fraction of its original size for many reasons including agriculture, urban expansion, and industrial development. As a result of this deforestation, *paubrasilia echinata* (also known as pernambuco or brazilwood) is endangered. Demand for pernambuco used in bow making, though relatively minor compared to other driving forces (one tree provides a lifetime supply for an artisanal maker), is also a contributing factor.

In 2000, becoming aware of the threats to pernambuco, bow makers formed the International Pernambuco Conservation Initiative (IPCI). IPCI has partnered with Brazilian government agencies, scientific institutions, and environmental NGOs to invest in replanting, science and music education in Atlantic Rainforest states for more than 20 years. Bow makers remain deeply committed to conserving the species for future generations and to promoting the legal and sustainable use of pernambuco.

To address these goals, the Alliance and IPCI have developed the Pernambuco Strategy outlined below. The Strategy is intended to be a living document that will evolve in partnership and dialogue with the Alliance's partners and other stakeholders.

Deforestation of the Atlantic Rainforest and ongoing endangerment of pernambuco

Deforestation of populations of pernambuco must be halted and replaced by effective, joint initiatives promoting conservation and wise use of pernambuco.

Therefore:

1. Build greater awareness about the need for conservation of pernambuco by expanding educational outreach to include more musical organizations, musicians, students and makers in Europe, North America, and Asia, and in partnership with Brazilian cultural and ecological institutions.
2. Educate teachers and shops to eliminate the wasteful practice of using pernambuco for low-grade student bows and to instead use available alternative materials or older restored bows. Pernambuco is essential for the creation of high-quality bows, which are used primarily by professional musicians and advanced students. For these players, there is no adequate substitute that will not diminish playing technique and sound quality. The market for pernambuco can be reduced by discouraging the unnecessary use of this precious resource, and by taking steps to ensure that only fully mature, legally sourced wood is used.
3. Organize and help develop stakeholder roundtables or other types of events among bow and violin makers, musicians, conservation organizations and country regulatory agencies to promote comprehension and unwavering support for conservation.
4. Partner with the IPCI to include other species including in their plantings; woods that have been used for the production of student bows.

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Sound data

Stakeholders interested in supporting the science-based conservation of pernambuco depend on the existence of reliable, up-to-date data. More and better data are needed about the status of the species.

Therefore:

1. Explore a contribution to the IUCN to update the Red List data (from 1998) on pernambuco.
2. Continue to support studies initiated by scientific and technical experts in Brazil, including in the areas of wood anatomy, phenology, and silviculture.

Renew and increase investments in conservation

Bow makers are aware of the crucial importance and complex challenges of advancing a conservation agenda for pernambuco. Although few in number around the world, bow makers have, with passion and determination, carried the responsibility of creating and implementing the IPCI. It is urgently important that greater numbers of musicians, musical organizations, all bow and violin makers and supporters of the arts look with clear eyes at how important music is in their lives and join forces in support of pernambuco conservation.

Therefore:

1. Expand support and cooperation with the IPCI and other stakeholders to invest in science and the conservation of pernambuco.
2. Increase outreach to donors outside the music field including museums, universities, conservation groups and philanthropists who support the arts, science, conservation, and livelihood creation.
3. Develop information materials that would inform and inspire musicians who travel around the world, often performing to large audiences, to share the important story of pernambuco, the music tree that is a global ambassador for Brazil, and the need for its conservation.

Legal compliance

It is critically important that everyone in the music field, the distributors, music shops, makers, teachers, parents, and students know what bows are legal and appropriate for purchase. Currently, it is impossible to know what is legal or illegal as there is no documentation or guidelines to follow.

Therefore:

1. Support Brazil's efforts to impose domestic export measures that will make it possible to verify the legality of exported finished products.
2. Work with national CITES management and enforcement authorities to organize CITES compliance initiatives, which might include national level trainings and or webinars for the trade.
3. Regular alliance-usa.org website updates to provide a database of CITES information pertaining to pernambuco.
4. Engage with enforcement officials and other stakeholders to explore other opportunities to reduce illegal trafficking through, e.g., traceability, tagging or stamping, and certification.

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About the International Alliance of Violin and Bow Makers for Endangered Species

EILA, l'Entente Internationale des Luthiers et Archetiers (The International Society of Violin and Bow Makers) was established in 1950. EILA has been a major financial supporter of the International Pernambuco Conservation Initiative since its very beginning. Many EILA members have been and remain active in leadership of the IPCI groups. In 2000, EILA and other professional organizations began to collaborate on conservation projects. In 2018, the International Alliance of Violin and Bow Makers for Endangered Species was created as an adjunct to EILA, under the umbrella of EILA's history, reputation, and international stature. The Alliance seeks to actively protect the natural resources used in traditional artistic instrument and bow making through cooperation with national and international regulatory agencies and by supporting activities to conserve and restore these species.

The Alliance has informed violin and bow makers and the wider musical community about recent investigations in Brazil and around the world. The Alliance is engaging with regulatory authorities and categorically opposes illegal cutting, transporting, or selling of illegally harvested pernambuco or bows made of illegally harvested wood. Such illegal activities are devastating to pernambuco and the Atlantic Rainforest of Brazil, putting at risk the continuation of the research and reforestation projects of the IPCI and threatening the very future of our classical music traditions. The Alliance continues to expand its role to educate and promote responsible conservation actions around the world. It is not enough to rest on the accomplishments of the IPCI. We must all join Brazil's call to action to save pernambuco.

International Pernambuco Conservation Initiative

The International Pernambuco Conservation Initiative (IPCI) is an international nongovernmental organization with chapters in Canada, Germany, France and the USA. Formed in 2000 and funded by individual artisanal bow makers from 24 countries, IPCI is dedicated to the conservation and sustainable use of *Paubrasilia Echinata*, commonly known as pau brasil or pernambuco. IPCI has worked in close partnership with Brazilian government agencies, state authorities, scientific institutions, environmental organizations and small-scale cacao farmers. It has funded the planting of over 340,000 pernambuco seedlings and has invested in scientific and technical projects that have deepened the understanding of Brazil's "music tree" and how it may be conserved.