

Proposal 49

***Paubrasilia echinata* (Brazil wood)**

Proposal: Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I with annotation "All parts, derivatives and finished products, including bows of musical instruments, except musical instruments and their parts, composing travelling orchestras, and solo musicians carrying musical passports in accordance with Res. 16.8."

Proponent: Brazil

Assessment by the Secretariat

CITES background

P. echinata is listed in Appendix II at CoP14 (2007) with annotation #10 which designates "logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets, including unfinished wood articles used for the fabrication of bows for stringed musical instruments".

It was originally listed under the name *Caesalpinia echinata*, which was changed to *P. echinata* following the adoption of a new standard nomenclatural reference at CoP18 (2019).

Purpose and impact of the proposal

The proposal seeks to transfer *P. echinata* from Appendix II to Appendix I, in accordance with Article II, paragraph 1 of the Convention.

An annotation³⁰ has been proposed to limit the parts and derivatives to be covered, designating "*All parts, derivatives and finished products, including bows of musical instruments, except musical instruments and their parts, composing travelling orchestras, and solo musicians carrying musical passports in accordance with Resolution Conf. 16.8*", although the proposal does not refer to the most recent version of Resolution Conf. 16.8 revised by the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg 2016).

If the proposal is adopted, international trade in specimens of *P. echinata* will be regulated in accordance with the provisions of Article III of the Convention, with the terms of the annotation and with any applicable resolutions including Resolution Conf. 16.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Frequent cross-border non-commercial movements of musical instruments*.

Compliance with listing criteria

The supporting statement indicates that the transfer of *P. echinata* from Appendix II to I is proposed in accordance with the following criteria of Annex 1 to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17):

- criterion A, subparagraphs i) and v), meaning that the wild population is small and characterized by "*an observed, inferred or projected decline in the number of individuals or the area and quality of habitat*" and "*a high vulnerability to either intrinsic or extrinsic factors*"; and,
- criterion B, subparagraphs iii) and iv), meaning that the wild population has a restricted area of distribution and is characterized by "*a high vulnerability to either intrinsic or extrinsic factors*" and "*an observed, inferred or projected decrease in*" either the area of distribution or habitat, the number of subpopulations or individuals, the quality of habitat, or the recruitment.

P. echinata is endemic to Brazil, where it is also the national tree. The species was last assessed at the global level under the the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 1998 and categorized as 'Endangered', with deforestation identified as its main threat at the time, but this assessment needs updating.

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 over the last 500 years. The largest populations are now

³⁰ See paragraph 5 c) of Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP18) on Use of annotations in Appendices I and II.

found in forested areas in fully protected conservation units or in cocoa-cabruca agroforestry systems in southern Bahia and in rapid decline due to the accelerated transformation of cocoa plantations into pastures.

The proposal shows considerable information gaps regarding the status of natural populations in the remaining fragments of the species habitat and there does not seem to be any empirical estimates of the natural populations of *P. echinata* across the Atlantic Forest. The species is fragmented between forest remnants and localized extinctions of subpopulations have been observed.

The supporting statement further indicates that while the current listing in Appendix II of *P. echinata* with annotation #10 covers bow blanks (an unfinished product prior to the fabrication bows), other finished musical instruments remain outside of CITES controls. The main internationally commercialized products of Brazil wood, according to the proponent, are bow blanks and bows for violin, viola, cello and double bass.

According to the supporting statement, at the national level in Brazil (only known range State of Brazil wood), a transfer from Appendix II to I would “*not bring great changes since the Brazilian legislation does not allow the exploitation of the species in nature, allowing only planting registered with the environmental agency or material considered pre-convention and obtained in accordance with the Brazilian legislation*”.

The supporting statement sheds light on the illegal trade of *P. echinata* throughout its range in Brazil, but it is unclear how much of this is for international trade.

Additional considerations (including relevant CoP recommendations)

The Secretariat draws attention to the complications related to the inclusion of a reference to a specific Resolution in the Appendices and to document CoP19 Doc. 88 in which it proposes that references to Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties should be avoided as they raise difficulties with respect to the updating of such references when the Resolutions are amended.

Findings

Whilst *Paubrasilia echinata* has undergone a historical decline in its population size over the last 500 years, there is a lack of evidence that the wild population today is small, that it has a restricted area of distribution or that it has experienced a marked decline. The proponent concludes that a transfer from Appendix II to I would not bring great changes to the regulation of trade and the purpose of the proposal is therefore rather unclear.

Based on the information available at the time of writing, *P. echinata* does not meet the biological criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) Annex 1 for its inclusion in Appendix I.

Recommendation

The Secretariat recommends that this proposal be **rejected**.