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Dr Anna Ashmole

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Dear Dr Ashmole,

Thank you for your email of 29 October to the Secretary of State about pernambuco (*Paubrasilia echinata*). I have been asked to reply.

Thank you for your continued engagement on this important topic. The information you have provided over recent weeks, particularly on FUNBRASIL and the work to recover the population of the species through planting seedlings and supporting plantations. As you know, Defra officials will be in Panama for CoP19 where this proposal will be discussed, and we want to assure you that the proposal to uplist *Paubrasilia echinata* is one of our priorities.

On reviewing the available information about pernambuco, much of which has been gratefully received from the music sector, we share your concerns, and we can confirm that the United Kingdom (UK) will not support the uplisting of *Paubrasilia echinata* on Appendix I.

While illegal logging and trade is impacting this species, we remain unconvinced that an Appendix I listing would have the desired conservation benefit to the species, which is already strictly protected under Brazilian domestic policy. Enforcement of current legislation, and the bolstering of legal, sustainable trade is a more appropriate course of action to address these clear conservation concerns. As you have outlined in your correspondence, plantations of this species currently exist and could meet the demand for pernambuco for the creation of stringed instrument bows under an effective permitting and monitoring system. We are pleased to read that the music industry is eager to continue to aid these conservation efforts, and the UK will look to explore possibilities around supporting Brazil in this endeavour at CoP19.

With regard to bringing finished bows under CITES controls, this would place a tremendous burden on musicians, and yet it is unclear how introducing controls for existing finished bows would address illegal logging. As you have stated, permitting the movement of existing bows on every international movement would be onerous and deliver no clear conservation benefit to the species in Brazil. At CoP19 we will explore other avenues, such as more effective enforcement against illegal logging and greater scientific research into the species to determine sustainable trade levels, rather than greater administrative burdens with little conservation merit.

We are aware of a number of Parties who are considering proposing text for a new Appendix II Annotation for the species. We will consider these proposals if they are presented to the CoP, but as mentioned, we do not think bringing finished musical instruments into scope would have any significant benefit and so we would seek to resist any new annotations that seek to do this.

I hope that this correspondence has provided you with reassurance. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this issue at CoP19 and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Hill
Ministerial Contact Unit