

Reference Guide for Bow Materials [Updated September 2024]

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.

	Common Name	Latin Name	Country of Origin	CITES Status [2024]	IUCN Red List Status [2024]
STICK	PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS				
	Bamboo, Tonkin Cane	<i>Pseudosasa amabilis</i>	China	No	No
	Hakia or Ipe	<i>tabebuia all species</i>	South, Central America	CITES Appendix II, 112 species, finished products excluded	Vulnerable
	Ipe, Pau d'arco	<i>handroanthus all species</i>	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 bidentate</i>	Brazil	No	No
	Pernambuco	<i>paubrasilia echinata</i>	Brazil	CITES Appendix II, finished musical instruments, parts and accessories exempt from re-export permit requirement (i.e., after initial export of the pernambuco specimen from Brazil, regardless of form)	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 1 banned material	Critically endangered
African elephant ivory frog	<i>loxodonta Africana</i>	Africa	CITES 1 – 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

FROG

	Common Name	Latin Name	Country of Origin	CITES Status [2024]	IUCN Red List Status [2024]
WINDING	PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS				
	Whalebone	16 species: Baleen whales	Arctic, Antarctic	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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TIP PLATE / BUTTON	PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS				
	Domestic Cow bone	<i>bos taurus</i>	Brazil	No	No
	African elephant	<i>loxodonta Africana</i>	Africa	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, EgyptA15, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda, the United Republic of TanzaniaA16, 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	No	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

GRIP

PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS, continued					
GRIP	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)	Decreasing
	Reticulated Python	<i>broghammerus reticulatus</i>	Southeast Asia	Appendix II	No
	Ring lizard Teju	<i>varanus salvator</i>	Indonesia, South America	Appendix II	No
	Salmon skin	<i>salmo salar</i>	Farmed, recycled restaurant waste, ICTYOS	No	No
	Short tail python	<i>python curtus</i>	Southeast Asia	Appendix II	No
	Siamese crocodile	<i>crocodylus siamensis</i>	Pacific Islands, Africa, Australia Thailand	Appendix I	Decreasing
	Stingray skin, shagreen	<i>dasyatis sephen</i>	Thailand, Southeast Asia	No	No
	Trout skin	<i>oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Farmed, recycled restaurant waste, ICTYOS	No	No
	Water Buffalo	<i>bubalus bubalis</i>	Europe, Australia, North America, South America, Africa	No	No
	NON-PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS				
Tubing	Rubber or Latex		n/a	n/a	
Vegan leather			n/a	n/a	

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PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS				
*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 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

SLIDE AND DOT

	Common Name	Latin Name	Country of Origin	CITES Status [2024]	IUCN Red List Status [2024]
MISC	PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS				
	Domestic Horsehair	<i>equus ferus caballus</i>	China	No	No
	Rosin, refined pine sap			No	No
	Fish glue	<i>acipenseridae</i>	Various	No	No
	Rabbit-skin glue	<i>oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Various	No	No
	NON-PLANT OR ANIMAL MATERIALS				
	Synthetic hair, completely animal-free			n/a	n/a
Other					
Unknown					

FILE HISTORY

September 2024 | expand and update Sonowood details

February 2024 | original file