
Recommendations for Researchers, Research Institutions, and Publishers for Myanmar Amber

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The following recommendations from the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology's Myanmar Working Group provide a snapshot of in-progress ethics recommendations for individuals and organizations around acquisition of amber from Myanmar. The situation is a fluid one, and each case is unique. Guidelines for other common situations are being developed (e.g., material acquired in the past), but have not yet been finalized. The guidelines below may be updated in response to additional comments and information. Comments and questions concerning this document can be addressed to "SVP Myanmar Working Group" at svp@vertpaleo.org.

Acquisition of the gemstone material

Acquisition in the present and future based on the Myanmar Gemstone Law

Below is a summary of documentation that should be retained for acquisition of material now and in the future.

- 1) Invoice or proof of purchase with date and seller name. Ideally this should also mention the provenance or approximate location of the piece.
- 2) There are two possible scenarios:
 - a. If bought from Myanmar:

Gemstone production permit (for exploration, production, trading, processing and retail)
or **Gemstone trading license (for trading, processing and retail)** of trader
Only gems and jewelleries purchased at the licensed dealers, or who can issue an export permit are allowed to be taken out of Myanmar.
 - b. If bought from outside of Myanmar:

Export permit of the material
Requires the formal declaration, payment of royalties and taxes, regardless of whether the sale was through the Gems Emporium or directly to the buyer.
- 3) **Import permit** or declaration certificate of the country where the piece will be deposited (if the piece has been mailed, there should be a customs form associated with the package).
- 4) Proper documentation of the item(s) bought, including dimensions and weight.
- 5) If transported to multiple countries, the required export and (re-)import permits as per the regulation of the specific countries.

We also recommend that you ensure that any amber fossil specimens have no ties to the military-owned conglomerates Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC) and Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd (MEHL) (List available in the UN Report: https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/FFM-Myanmar/EconomicInterestsMyanmarMilitary/A_HRC_42_CRP_3.pdf#page=70).