

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Seventeenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 April 2008

INTERNATIONAL EXPERT WORKSHOP ON NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS

1. This document has been submitted by Mexico on behalf of the International Steering Committee in charge of the international expert workshop on non-detriment findings.

Background

2. At its 14th meeting, the Conference of the Parties agreed to an international expert workshop on non-detriment findings; this is reflected in the following Decisions:
 - a) Decision 14.49 encourage Parties to provide financial support for an international expert workshop on non-detriment findings (NDFs), the main goal of which is to enhance CITES Scientific Authorities' capacities, particularly those related to the methodologies, tools, information, expertise and other resources needed to formulate NDFs. The workshop will also provide guidance and information regarding methodologies, tools, information, expertise and any other resources used to formulate NDFs on specific taxa in order to contribute to the development of such a workshop, the results of which should be submitted to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its 15th meeting; and
 - b) Decision 14.50 directs the Animals and Plants Committees to review the proceedings resulting from the expert workshop on NDFs under the terms set out in Decision 14.49; and prepare, for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a discussion paper and, if considered appropriate, a draft resolution on the making of non-detriment findings.
3. To follow-up on these Decisions, the International Steering Committee in charge of the international expert workshop on non-detriment findings, led by Mexico and established for this purpose, asked for assistance to the Secretariat, which posted Notification to the Parties 2007/032 on its website:
 - a) Inviting exporting Parties to indicate their interest in joining the Steering Committee before 31 October 2007; and
 - b) Requesting Parties to provide information on the IUCN Checklist (Guidance for CITES Scientific Authorities: Checklist to assist in making non-detriment findings for Appendix-II exports), particularly in relation to their application by exporting countries during the process of making an NDF; the problems, challenges or difficulties in using the Checklist; and the application of general methodologies or procedures (e.g. checklists, guidelines) to formulate NDFs.

Progress report

4. Regarding the invitation to Parties to join the Steering Committee, we received five formal requests from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Israel, Kenya and Rwanda, which resulted in the following composition:

Parties

Argentina: Victoria Lichtschein
Australia: Greg Leach
Canada: Carolina Caceres and Adrienne Sinclair
Costa Rica: José Joaquín Calvo Domingo
Guatemala: Luis Calderón
Israel: Simon Nemtzov
Kenya: Beatrice Khayota and Solomon Kyalo
Mexico: Hesiquio Benítez Díaz and Rodrigo A. Medellín
Rwanda: Tony Mudakikwa
South Africa: Sonja Meintjes
Spain: Mercedes Lasso
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Noel McGough
United States of America: Rosemarie Gnam

CITES scientific committees

Animals Committee: Thomas Althaus
Plants Committee: Margarita Clemente

CITES Secretariat

Scientific Support Unit: David Morgan and Milena Sosa Schmidt

IGOs and NGOs

European Commission: Henk Eggink
UCN/Species Programme: Thomasina Oldfield
FAW: Peter Pueschel
WF: Sue Liebermann and Colman O'Criodain
RAFFIC South-east Asia: James Compton
Born Free Foundation/SSN: Will Travers
Safari Club International: Rick Parsons

5. The composition of Subcommittees (thematic groups) is as follows:

- General coordination, liaison, outreach and communication (electronic group, website):

Hesiquio Benítez Díaz /Paloma Carton de Grammont/Vladimir Pliego (Lead), Sue Liebermann, Carolina Cáceres, Colman O' Criodain, David Morgan, Noel McGough.

- Academic (presentations, background documents, templates, coordination with chairs):

General: Paloma Carton de Grammont (lead), Thomasina Oldfield, James Compton, Adrienne Sinclair, Will Travers. Plants: Margarita Clemente (Lead), Greg Leach, Noel McGough, Solomon Kyalo, Colman O' Criodain, Luis Calderón and Alejandra Garcia-Naranjo and Milena Sosa Schmidt. Animals: Gabriela López/Rodrigo Medellín (Lead), Thomas Althaus, Mercedes Lasso, Victoria Lichtschein, José Joaquín Calvo Domingo, Simon Nemtzov, Sonja Meintjes and Rick Parsons.

- Fund raising and management:

David Morgan (lead), Hesiquio Benítez Díaz, Peter Pueschel, Rosemarie, Henk Eggink, Will Travers, James Compton and Rick Parsons.

- Logistics (venue, accommodation, travelling, rooms, equipment, interpretation):

Gael Almeida, Simon Nemtzov and Will Travers (although an external consultant will be hired).

6. Regarding the second request contained in Notification to the Parties 2007/032, the Committee received information from Canada, Cuba, the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom and the United States. All of them provided elements regarding the ways in which the IUCN Checklist and other guidelines are being used to formulate NDFs. This information has proven to be useful in the preparation of the workshop, but the Steering Committee considers that a higher number of Parties responding to this request could improve our understanding of the problems and needs of Parties in relation to the use of the current IUCN Checklist and the existence of other guidelines to help Scientific Authorities formulate NDFs.
7. In relation to the organization of the workshop, the Steering Committee has agreed on the following issues and present them to the Plants and Animals Committees as a report on the progress in the organization of the workshop and as a reference for the final recommendations included at the end of this document.

Date and venue

8. The workshop will take place in Mexico (Cancun, Quintana Roo; to be confirmed), 10-15 November 2008.

Workshop objectives

9. The goal of the workshop is to provide guidance to CITES Authorities relating to the processes, methodologies and information needed to formulate NDFs, both in general and for selected species, by building on existing work (such as the IUCN Checklist, Parties' own experiences and the results of workshops), so that the central provision that a non-detriment finding is required for the export of Appendix I and II species can be better implemented.
10. A draft working programme has been agreed as follows:

DAY	EVENT		ACTIVITIES	PRODUCTS
Day 0	Participants arrive		- Participants registration	- Updated list/directory of participants
Day 1	<i>Plenary¹ session 1</i>		- Welcome - Goal, objectives, methodology - General aspects on NDF presentations - Discussion on general aspects for NDF formulation - Explanation of taxon based check-lists and working groups methodology	- Elements for general and taxon based guidelines - Final composition of working groups
Day 2	AM	Working groups sessions	- Case studies presentations	Products in progress
	PM	Working groups sessions	- Taxon-based guidelines development	Products in progress
		Summary Plenary Session	- Review progress/results	Products in progress

¹ Working language will be English, but English/Spanish/French interpretation could be provided for plenary sessions, based on available budget.

DAY	EVENT		ACTIVITIES	PRODUCTS
Day 3	AM	Working groups sessions	- Taxon-based guidelines development	Products in progress
	PM	Summary plenary Session	- Review progress/results	Products in progress
Day 4	AM	Working groups sessions	- Finalize taxon-based guidelines - Discuss general guidelines for NDF formulation	- Taxon-based guidelines proposals - Elements to be considered for the general guidelines
	PM	Plenary session 2	- Working groups present conclusions and taxon-based guidelines for approval	- Draft taxon-based guidelines
Day 5	AM	Plenary session 3	- Working groups present conclusions and taxon-based guidelines for approval	- Draft taxon-based guidelines
	PM	Plenary session 4	- Based on plenary sessions 1, 2 and 3, discuss and develop a final paper on general NDF guidelines. - General conclusions of the workshop	- Draft proposal of the general guidelines for NDF formulation (draft document for AC and PC consideration; possible Resolution)
Day 6	Co-Chairs and Steering Committee meeting		- Review and finalize taxon-based and general guiding principles - Development of proceedings based on summaries, products and general conclusions of the workshop.	- Draft proceedings - Revised general and taxon-based guidelines for AC
Day 7	Field trip		- Adventure and cultural trip (on their own expenses), participants depart	- To be confirmed

Notes:

There will be short plenary sessions in the afternoons to share progress and ideas and conclusions that could be incorporated into the discussion for the following sessions of each working group. For days 2-4 a brief plenary will be held every afternoon to assess working groups' progress.

It is expected that working groups and plenary sessions will produce draft documents and that a small drafting group comprising of members of the Steering Committee and co-chairs will produce final versions that can be approved later by the participants.

11. In this regard, the workshop aims to deliver the following two main products:

- a) General guidelines (principles and criteria) that summarize the different approaches and paths followed by Scientific Authorities in the NDF decision-making process; and
- b) Taxon-based guidelines (principles and criteria) for developing NDFs for taxa commonly found in trade (e.g. review and summarize basic parameters, field evaluation and analysis methodologies, develop risk-assessment checklists or step-wise approaches to conducting resource assessments, review monitoring systems and management elements, as well as other procedures for setting harvest and export quotas).

Scope of the workshop

12. The workshop intends to examine different aspects (mainly biological and technical) of the processes followed by Scientific Authorities to make NDFs. Other relevant aspects related to management and trade control that have a direct effect on these findings could be considered if necessary.

13. It is proposed that the main focus of the workshop will be on the groups of species on Appendix II that are currently and frequently found in international trade, but if the co-chairmen decide that there is a good and useful example of an Appendix-I species, it will be used. The same will apply for the case of look-alike species.
14. Species under consideration by the scientific committees (including, but not limited to, the Review of Significant Trade and the Periodic review of animal species included in the CITES Appendices) or species reviewed by IUCN that have led to a determination on the availability of scientific information for the making of NDFs, could be used for case studies, considering that these processes have already resulted in giving more attention to these species and triggered studies and/or reports that have made available relevant information.

Participant profile

15. It is expected to have the participation of scientists (experts) regarding NDF-relevant areas, such as ecology and population biology, wildlife monitoring and management, conservation, and sustainable use. Among these, participation of representatives from CITES Scientific and Management Authorities of the different regions will be considered, including both exporting and importing countries, but special attention will be given to exporting countries' participation, as these countries are responsible for making NDFs. Experts from the industry sector could be considered as well, according to their profile and the specific needs of the working groups (WG).
16. Criteria for selection of experts (to be taken into account by the co-chairmen and the Committee):
 - a) Invitation for participation will be based on personal knowledge and expertise;
 - b) Curricula will be evaluated and sorted by the WG co-chairmen and approved by the Steering Committee to ensure that proper balance in expertise and case studies is maintained within the working groups and that their participation is on an individual basis (not representing the views of their organization or institution). In some cases however, institutions/organizations could be invited to nominate individuals with appropriate expertise;
 - c) Participation from academic/scientific and management areas, as well as of management and scientific authorities will be considered, giving preference to those institutions and persons directly involved in NDF formulation and management of the species;
 - d) The co-chairmen will guarantee the participation of at least one expert from each of the following fields in their WG: i) population biologists; ii) wildlife managers; iii) people actively involved in NDF formulation; and iv) other experts of international institutions such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) or the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) for the marine/aquatic and timber groups, respectively;
 - e) Participants should have at least general knowledge of CITES principles and the operational responsibilities of Scientific and Management Authorities; and
 - f) The workshop will have a focus on attending exporting countries needs and practical problems, as well as gathering their experiences, and so it is expected to favour participation of experts from these countries.

General aspects of NDF formulation

17. A background document with a summary that includes the related texts of the CITES Treaty and relevant Resolutions as well as some of the history and state of play of the IUCN Checklist and developments since then (including the experiences shared by Parties in response to Notification to the Parties 2007/O32), will be distributed well in advance to all participants as the basis for general discussion on NDF to produce the general guidelines.
18. For this section it is suggested to have a plenary discussion to address key aspects related to the process followed by Scientific Authorities in order to formulate NDFs; this could also consider aspects related to the interactions between the Scientific and Management Authorities. The discussion is expected to build on the checklist compiled by the IUCN-led workshop (Rosser and

Haywood, 2002) and other general methodologies or approaches used by Parties to develop a document with general guiding principles and specific recommendations on the procedures (approaches and pathways) to formulate NDFs; that is, on the elements that should underpin the decision-making process.

19. As mentioned before, it is not the aim of this workshop to agree on a general guide to formulating NDFs for any given species or group of species, but to propose a common guideline on what these findings are, as well as a synthesis of the most relevant aspects of NDF development to be considered (on a voluntary basis) by Scientific Authorities in coordination with Management Authorities. Some of the conclusions and approaches derived from plenary could be addressed again by the WGs, adjusted and included as needed into the taxon-based guidelines.

Taxon-specific aspects of NDF formulation: case studies for selected species

20. This part of the discussion is expected to cover most of the different life forms and taxonomic groups of species of both plants and animals included in the CITES Appendices (this can be reflected also in the different types of commodities that are currently traded), including marine species and medicinal plants, and to cover a range of relevant life history strategies. It is intended to analyse case studies to exemplify different use regimes, that is those that imply extraction/removal of whole specimens from the wild and those that do not (e.g. live shearing and barking), the latter implying a "non-destructive/non-lethal" harvest of the species. It is also expected to have a balanced consideration of case studies from the different regions and biomes of the world.
21. The guidelines should consider the optimal and minimal information and elements that have to be evaluated when formulating NDFs. Examining application forms that Scientific Authorities use to collect needed information from CITES permit applicants for this evaluation could be useful as well. Also, consideration should be given to analysing the need to set up robust monitoring systems, so that once an initial set of factors have been assessed to derive an NDF and, for example, annual harvest/export quotas have been set, any new information can be fed into the monitoring 'system' to accommodate shifts in trade dynamics and additional knowledge (adaptive management). Besides, some of the conclusions derived from plenary sessions could be addressed again by the WGs, adjusted and included if appropriate and as needed into the specific taxon-based guidelines.
22. Case studies will be prepared and documented² (according to a format) well in advance and distributed to all participants within each WG. The committee's academic group, in consultation with the co-chairmen, will prepare guidelines document that will help focus participants and guide the results into the objectives and methodology of the workshop. If needed, WG co-chairmen should consider, and suggest to presenters (experts), the preparation of joint case studies, either for related and/or similar species (e.g. crocodiles, snakes or timber species) or by both importing and exporting countries. Both the working group guidelines and the format for case studies are currently under review by the committee's academic group.
23. Outcomes of regional workshops or taxon-specific workshops (e.g. *Hippocampus* spp., medicinal plants *IMAP*, *Swietenia macrophylla*, *Cheilinus undulatus*, *Cuora amboinensis*, *Ptyas mucosa*, *Aquilaria* spp., *Harpagophytum* spp.) could be compiled and made available to participants by the co-chairmen if considered necessary.
24. If some of the WGs gather a large number of case studies, such that it is not possible to have them analysed and discussed (as the basis for that WG's debates) within the WG, the co-chairman can decide/suggest that some of these be rather presented during a poster session during the WG sessions and also included in the proceedings.
25. The committee's academic group, in coordination with the co-chairmen and taking into account the responses from CITES Parties to Notification No.2007/032, will produce a list of identified problems and shortfalls that appeared when producing NDFs according to the already existing guidelines and recommendations (both general and taxon-specific). The case studies and these results shall also be included in the documents to be distributed in advance to give some good guidance to the WGs at the workshop.

² This is a description of the process and information a country is using to make an NDF for the particular species.

26. Each WG could produce one or more guiding principles (e.g. risk-assessment checklists, step-wise approaches to conducting resource assessments, establishment of monitoring systems, adaptive management, and the setting of harvest and export quotas) as needed. For example, Working Group on Trees could develop one for timber and another for medicinal trees.

Plenary presentations

27. Three plenary presentations will be given at the workshop, for which presenters are confirmed:
- CITES and NDFs: Basic concepts – David Morgan (CITES Secretariat)
 - General principles and methodologies for making NDFs: The CITES-IUCN Checklist as an example – Alison Rosser (Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology)
 - General aspects of harvesting theory – Nigel Leader-Williams (Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology).

Draft list of case studies

28. Representation of case studies from different regions of the world and different taxa of plants and animals (including marine species) will be taken into account. Case studies will also be selected taking into consideration the relevant commodities/types of trade.
29. Based on the following draft list (candidate species/country case studies), the co-chairmen are finalizing the list and presenting it to the Steering Committee; the first draft list could be forwarded to the UNEP-WCMC for their review and to suggest addition of candidate species/countries, based on their databases (i.e. volumes and origin), for consideration by the co-chairmen:

Plants working groups

30. Trees (timber and medicinal and aromatic plants):

Brazilwood (*Caesalpinia echinata*) - Brazil; African teak (*Pericopsis elata*) - Cameroon; lignum vitae (*Guaicum sanctum*) - Mexico; big-leaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) - Peru; ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) - Indonesia/Malaysia; agarwood (*Aquilaria* spp.) - Malaysia/Indonesia; (*Gyrinops* spp.) - Malaysia/Indonesia; African cherry (*Prunus africana*) - Equatorial Guinea/Spain; Himalayan yew (*Taxus* spp.) - China; **Co-chairman:** Rafael María Navarro Cerrillo (Spain) and James Grogan (United States of America).

Note: This WG will consider the discussion of NDFs for tree species grown in plantations. According to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP14) on *Implementation of the Convention for timber species*, "timber and non-timber products derived from trees grown in monospecific plantations be considered as being artificially propagated in accordance with the definition contained in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP14)." Nevertheless, many countries have multi-specific plantations (especially for tropical species) and thus their products do not qualify as artificially propagated specimens. The effect of plantations on local endemic species could be taken into account as well.

31. **Perennials (ornamental, medicinal and aromatic plants):** American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) - United States; *Hydrastis canadensis* - United States and Canada; *Picrorhiza kurrooa* - Nepal; *Nardostachys grandiflora* - Nepal; *Rauvolfia serpentina* - Thailand; *Podophyllum hexandrum* - China; *Dionaea muscipula* - United States; *Adonis vernalis* - Romania/Germany; *Sarracenia* spp. - Canada/United States; **Co-chairman:** Greg Leach (Australia) and Adrienne Sinclair (Canada) in coordination with Andrea White (Canada).

Note: Besides the case studies, a presentation on the "International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants" (ISSC-MAP) work, which has been done by the IUCN SSC Med Plants SG and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), should be considered for this working group as well.

32. **Succulents and cycads (medicinal and ornamental plants):** columnar cacti: saguaro (*Carnegiea gigantea*) - Mexico; small globose cacti; aloe (*Aloe* spp.); candelilla (*Euphorbia* spp.) - Mexico; *Hoodia* spp. – Botswana/Namibia/South Africa; Madagascar palm (*Pachypodium* spp.) - Madagascar; cycads (*Cycas* spp.) – Australia/Dominican Republic/Haiti/Honduras/Mexico/South Africa/Viet Nam; tree ferns (*Cyathea*, *Cibotium*, *Dicksonia*) - Australia/Brazil/China/Indonesia/New Zealand/Viet Nam; **Co-hairmen:** Patricia Dávila (Mexico) and John Donaldson (South Africa).
33. **Geophytes and Epiphytes (live, roots, dried plants and derivatives):** *Galanthus* spp. - Turkey/Georgia; *Cyclamen* spp. - Turkey/Georgia; *Sternbergia* spp. - Turkey; *Cistanche deserticola* - China; Orchids³ (*Dendrobium* spp., *Cymbidium* spp.); **Co-chairs:** Beatrice Khayota (Kenya) and Noel Mc Gough (United Kingdom).

Animals working groups

34. **Birds (live animals):** Psittaciformes: blue-fronted Amazon (*Amazona aestiva*) – Argentina; African grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*) - Cameroon/Congo/Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea/Liberia/Sierra Leone; cockatoos (*Cacatua* spp.) - Malaysia/New Zealand/Solomon Islands; raptors: saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) - Mongolia/Pakistan/Syria/United Arab Emirates; hornbills (*Buceros* spp.) - Malaysia; Passeriformes: *Rupicola peruviana* - Peru; *Pitta* spp. - Indonesia; *Pycnonotus jocosus* - China; *Paroaria capitata*/*P. coronata* - Paraguay; Struthioniformes: ostrich (*Struthio camelus*) - Sudan; rhea (*Rhea americana*) - Argentina; waterbirds: flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) – Cuba/the United Republic of Tanzania; *Anas* spp. - Canada/Egypt/United Kingdom; **Co-chairmen:** Rod Hay (New Zealand) and Phil McGowan (United Kingdom).

Note: This working group should take into account and differentiate NDFs for both wild-caught and ranched specimens.

35. **Mammals (skins, trophies, live animals, medicinal):** bobcat (*Lynx* spp.) - United States (SA and States representative); leopard (*Panthera pardus*), sitatunga (*Tragelaphus spekii*) or bongo (*T. eurycerus*) - African SA, grizzly bear-trophy exports (*Ursus arctos*) - Canada; bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) - Mexico, vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*) - Peru; *Macaca fascicularis* - Indonesia/Lao PDR/Mauritius/Viet Nam; *Tayassu pecari* – Peru; dolphins (*Tursiops* spp.); narwhal (*Monodon monoceros*); **Co-chairmen:** Holly Dublin (IUCN-SSC) and Rodrigo Medellín (Mexico).

36. **Reptiles and amphibians (skins and live animals):** tegus (*Tupinambis* spp.) - Argentina, anaconda (*Eunectes notaeus*) - Argentina, monitor lizards (*Varanus* spp.) - Indonesia; snakes (*Python* spp., *Naja* spp., *Ptyas mucosus*) - India, crocodiles (*Melanosuchus niger*, *Crocodylus acutus*, *Caiman yacare*) - Brazil/Cuba/Venezuela; box turtles (*Terrapene* spp., *Cuora* spp.) - Indonesia/Malaysia/United States; poison arrow frogs (*Dendrobates* spp.) - Nicaragua/Peru; *Python regius* and *Kinixys* sp. - W. Africa, *Malacochersus tornieri* and *Geochelone pardalis* - East Africa; **Co-chairmen:** Peter Paul van Dijk (IUCN Turtle and Tortoises Specialists Group) and Charlie Manolis (Wildlife Management International).

Note: This working group should take into account and differentiate NDFs for both wild-caught and ranched specimens.

37. **Fishes (food, ornamental and medicinal):** humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*) - IUCN/FAO/TRAFFIC; sharks⁴ (*Lamna nasus*) - Germany/TRAFFIC; basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) - /New Zealand/Norway/United Kingdom; whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) - Taiwan (Province

³ If considered appropriate, time could be given within this group (that could include an orchid: *Dendrobium*) to discuss artificially propagated orchids and how some countries, such as the United States, formulate NDFs for these.

⁴ At its 14th meeting the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decisions related to Sharks: **The Secretariat** (14.103) shall distribute a Notification to the Parties on implementation of listings for shark species. It shall focus specifically on obtaining from Parties' Scientific and Fishery Authorities case studies on the development of non-detriment findings for shark species, and shall collate and summarize these for provision to the international expert workshop on non-detriment findings to be held in Mexico.; and (14.113) in consultation with the Steering Committee of the international expert workshop on non-detriment findings to be held in Mexico, shall seek to ensure that this workshop considers the development of non-detriment findings for sharks, including transboundary, migratory, straddling and high seas stocks.

of China)/United Kingdom; white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*) - Australia/South Africa/Taiwan (Province of China); sturgeons (*Acipenser* spp., *Huso* spp.) - Iran/Russia; seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.) - Project Seahorse; European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) – Germany/Italy/Spain; **Co-chairmen:** Kevern Cochrane (FAO) and Glenn Sant (TRAFFIC Global Marine Programme Leader).

Note: This Working Group will consider discussing the introduction from the sea approach within the group.

38. **Aquatic invertebrates (food, ornamental and medicinal):** sea cucumber (*Isostichopus fuscus*) - Ecuador; queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) - Caribbean country/United States; giant clams (Tridachnidae) - Fiji and Indonesia; hard corals (Scleractinia); **Co-chairmen:** Vincent Fleming (United Kingdom) and Andy Bruckner (United States).

Note: This Working Group will consider discussing the introduction from the sea approach within the group.

Recommendations

39. The Steering Committee in charge of the international expert workshop on non-detriment findings:

- a) Invites regional members and alternate regional members of the Plants and Animals Committees to contact experts and Scientific Authorities of the Parties they represent (see the criteria for selection of experts described above) in order to ask them to contribute to the preparation work for the case studies and provide the following information for discussion within the working groups:
 - i) Information related to the application by exporting countries of the IUCN Checklist (Guidance for CITES Scientific Authorities: Checklist to assist in making NDFs for Appendix II exports) during the process of making NDFs; the problems, challenges or difficulties in using the Checklist; and the application of general methodologies or procedures (checklists, guidelines, etc.) to formulate NDFs; and
 - ii) Suggestions on experts and case studies to be considered for discussion in the different WGs (see final working group list and case study draft list as a reference), which is being analysed and selected by the co-chairmen, in coordination with the Steering Committee and its academic group;
- b) Requests the Plants and Animals Committees to consider ways to contribute to and support the work of the Steering Committee in the preparation of the technical aspects of the workshop, as well as to the analysis of the final results for its presentation to the 15th Conference of the Parties;
- c) Also, invites observers (Parties, NGOs and IGOs) attending the Animals and Plants Committee meetings to contact the Steering Committee, its academic group and/or the co-chair, in order to provide relevant information and to suggest experts and case studies to be considered for the workshop. The co-chairmen of the WGs, in coordination with the Steering Committee, will review and select the case studies to be presented and discussed during the workshop; and
- d) Finally, invites observers (Parties, NGOs and IGOs) attending the Animals and Plants Committee meetings to provide financial support for the workshop and also invites the regional members and alternate regional members of the Plants and Animals Committees to encourage the Parties they represent to do so as well.