



Decision 19.136: Technical workshop on Non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction

CITES NDF guidance on the making of NDFs for aquatic species

CITES NDF guidance

- In the CITES NDF project, Parties, observers and independent experts developed an overarching NDF guidance, through:
 - eleven online workstreams, and
 - a global expert workshop that was attended by more than 150 participants from 42 Parties and 25 organizations
- The CITES NDF guidance is based on an inventory and gap analysis of previously available materials and therefore intended to be complementary to these.



CITES NDF guidance

	Module 0	Introduction and preamble (V1.0)
Generic guidance	Module 1	Principles and concepts of NDFs (V1.0)
	Module 2	Practical considerations for making NDFs (V1.0)
Thematic modules	Module 3	Incorporation of local and traditional knowledge in making NDFs (V1.0)
	Module 4	NDFs for Appendix I imports (V1.0)
	Module 5	NDFs for aquatic species (V1.0)
	Module 6	NDFs for migratory and transboundary species (V1.0)
	Module 7	NDFs for terrestrial invertebrates (V1.0)
	Module 8	NDFs for birds (V1.0)
	Module 9	NDFs for reptiles (V1.0)
	Module 10	NDFs for tree species (V1.0)
	Module 11	NDFs for perennial plants (V1.0)
Supporting modules	Module 12	Online tools and certifications for making NDFs (V1.0)
	Module 13	Templates (V1.0)
	Module 14	Case studies (V1.0)
	Module 15	Glossary (V1.0)

Module 5 – Aquatic species

Main messages and recommendations

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Chair of working group at international expert workshop on Non-detriment
(December 2024, Nairobi)



Module 5 – Aquatic species

- Good spread of geographical, species and thematic coverage.
- Agreed an expanded list of key themes and species, for which NDF materials existed and which were needed.
- Focussed on how to address limited resource and/or capacity, e.g. use of simplified guidance documents or automated systems such as the shark eNDF platform.
- Examined how to account for mortality other than targeted harvest, whether this is incidental catch (bycatch) or non-fisheries impacts.
- Considered the development of NDFs beyond domestic waters, either in ABNJ and/or in the context of regional NDFs for migratory species – however the ABNJ NDF workshop was recognised as the ideal forum to advance these discussions.

Key messages

- The 'Simplified/Rapid' NDF may not be suitable for CITES-listed aquatic species.
- Guidance and tools exist for several aquatic species which can be (and have been) adapted for other taxa.
- Information is generally limited however some taxa are well-studied, and data are improving in some areas.
- Engage better with fisheries bodies and align language as appropriate (& vice versa).
- A burgeoning area in CITES with challenges but also opportunities.

Main recommendations

- Engage better with fisheries – for example, a joint capacity-building programme for the implementation of marine species listings.
- Engage CITES Parties in discussions in relation to the contribution of IUU fishing to unsustainable and/or illegal trade, and to see what strategies being employed to address IUU fishing may be applicable to advance CITES implementation of aquatic species.
- Consider a) transshipment, and b) fishing at the interface of EEZs and the High Seas at the workshop on non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Main recommendations

- Provide more explicit guidance on Source code 'X'.
- Review the CITES Virtual College.
- Continue testing the NDF templates.
- Provide NDFs and important tools/information to the Secretariat – share knowledge, experience, and lessons learned.
- Source code 'R' discussions are ongoing elsewhere and best dealt with it those forums.

