

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

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

NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS FOR MEDICINAL PLANTS  
(Agenda item 17.1.1)Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Chairman: Germany;

Members: The alternate representative of Africa (Mr Akpagana);

Parties: Canada, China;

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, American Herbal Products Association; TRAFFIC.

Participants: Germany (chair), Canada, China, Iraq, Mexico, AHPA, IUCN, TRAFFIC.

Mandate

Develop principles, criteria and indicators for the making of non-detriment findings for wild specimens of medicinal plants.

Report

1. As decided between the chairs of the two working groups under 17.1.1, *Prunus africana* will be dealt with in the timber species working group. Apart from that, the group discussed which species qualify as medicinal plants under CITES. Life-form of the species and the plant part harvested for trade were seen as important features in NDF making especially for medicinal plant species.
2. The group discussed the linkages between the PC working group and the NDF workshop to be held in MX in November 2008. It was clear that the PC working group will work with the documents and guidance that will come out of the Mexican workshop. It is obvious that the mandate of the PC working group has linkages into all four plant related working groups in Mexico.
3. The group will work intersessionally and has agreed on a number of tasks. It was agreed to take the ISSC MAP document (PC 16 Inf. 9; <http://www.cites.org/common/com/PC/16/X-PC16-09-Inf.pdf>) and extract all elements relevant to CITES from it. This list will be provided by the chair intersessionally.
4. All available NDF-related documents were enumerated and it was agreed that they can be used as a starting point for identifying elements for NDF making for medicinal plants. The chair will provide a draft in this respect. Working group participants were asked to provide elements of their work relevant to this process during the intersessional period.

5. The group discussed the terms “principle”, “criterion” and “indicator” and agreed that this needs further clarification. A starting point is the definitions given in the ISSC-MAP document. The view was expressed the “principle” level has to be rooted in the text of the Convention. It is necessary to be consistent among the three PC working groups dealing with NDF in a common understanding of these three terms. The chairs of the three working groups are to liaise on these topics and reach agreement on common usage.
6. There was agreement that the guidance provided to the SA on NDF making must be as simple as possible and has to focus on the appropriate level of precision.