



DRAFT GUIDANCE: NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION AND PREAMBULAR TEXT

Introduction

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) requires that export permits for specimens of species included in CITES' Appendices I and II shall be granted only when a Scientific Authority of the State of export has advised that such export will **not be detrimental to the survival of the species** (following a determination known as a '**non-detriment finding**') and in the case of Appendix I imports, that the purpose of the import will not be detrimental to the survival of the species.

This document provides guidance to CITES Parties – primarily the CITES Scientific Authority – on how to determine whether or not trade of CITES-listed specimens is detrimental. In addition to offering guidance on undertaking non-detriment findings for direct exports of CITES-listed specimens, guidance is also provided to assist CITES Parties to ensure non-detriment in relation to the following focal areas:

Appendix I Imports

Sensu [Article III Paragraph 3a](#) - a Scientific Authority of the State of import has advised that the import will be for purposes which are not detrimental to the survival of the species involved;

Introduction from the sea

Sensu Articles [III 5\(a\)](#) and [IV 6\(a\)](#) - The introduction from the sea of any specimen of a species included in Appendix I or II shall require the prior grant of a certificate from a Management Authority of the State of introduction. A certificate shall only be granted when a Scientific Authority of the State of introduction advises that the introduction will not be detrimental to the survival of the species involved

Role in the ecosystem

Sensu [Article IV Paragraph 3](#) - Whenever a Scientific Authority determines that the export of specimens of any such species should be limited in order to maintain that species throughout its range at a level consistent with its role in the ecosystems in which it occurs and well above the level at which that species might become eligible for inclusion in Appendix I, the Scientific Authority shall advise the appropriate Management Authority of suitable measures to be taken to limit the grant of export permits for specimens of that species.

Although the preambular text to the Convention refers to non-detriment and non-detriment finding (NDF), it was not until CoP16 that resolution [Res. Conf. 16.7 \(Rev. CoP17\) on Non-detriment Findings](#) was adopted.

To make non-detriment findings, all Parties are required to designate Scientific Authorities ([Res Conf. 10.3*](#)). Scientific Authorities are tasked with undertaking the assessments for whether or not trade in CITES-listed specimens may be detrimental to their survival in the wild. The work of CITES Scientific Authorities takes place in close coordination with the work of CITES Management Authorities (MA), and specifically the need to undertake [Legal Acquisition Findings](#) ([Res Conf. 18.7 \(Rev. CoP19\)](#)) led by the CITES MA) to ensure specimens in trade have been legally acquired.

Multiple guidance materials have been developed by CITES Parties and stakeholders and the CITES Secretariat provides a dedicated database on the CITES virtual college ([NDF Reports Database](#)) in which NDF materials can be shared, accessed, and searched by taxonomic group and country. A [NDF capacity building](#) page on the CITES website also facilitates access to training material and guidance developed by CITES Parties and stakeholders.

The guidance developed in terms of Decisions 19.132 to 19.134 on *Non-detriment findings* will be made available to the CITES Parties based on the recommendations to be made by the Animals and Plants Committees as per Decision 19.133 paragraph c).

Structure of this guidance

This NDF guidance is comprised of a core section, which provides general guidance on the principles for making NDFs (Module 1) and on practical considerations for making NDFs (Module 2). The core section is accompanied by 9 Modules that provide additional guidance on specific topics to assist the making of NDFs following the core NDF framework. In addition, case studies that illustrate how both simple and more complex NDFs can be made are provided for a range of species in Module 13. Explanations of the terminology used throughout this document can be found in the [CITES Glossary](#), and in the glossary section of the guidance (Module 14).