

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



Joint sessions of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee and
the 27th meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 12 - 13 July 2024

Regulation of trade

NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee and the Vice-Chair of the Plants Committee.
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted [Decisions 19.132 to 19.134](#) on *Non-detriment findings*:

Directed to the Secretariat

19.132 *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *subject to external funding, address priorities in capacity-building related to non-detriment findings (NDF) agreed by the Secretariat and the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees and Parties, by:*
 - i) *continuing to support the TAG through which the Animals and Plants Committees provide support and advice for implementation;*
 - ii) *organizing in consultation with the TAG an international expert workshop on non-detriment findings to review, advance or complete draft guidance materials on NDFs; and*
 - iii) *undertaking targeted research in support of the development of new or updated NDF guidance materials in close collaboration with the TAG, relevant experts, Parties and organizations to address the agreed workstreams, building on the inventory and gap analysis of existing guidance prepared by the Secretariat;*
- b) *compile and present the results of the work under paragraph a) to the Animals and Plants Committees for their review and make suggestions on how best to use the outputs to assist Scientific Authorities in the making of NDFs;*
- c) *make available to Parties on the CITES website the NDF guidance materials resulting from the implementation of the present Decision;*
- d) *develop a strategy and feedback mechanism for Parties and the wider CITES community to share experiences with using NDF guidance materials, which should allow the Animals and Plants Committees to make recommendations pertaining to review and update the NDF materials as may be needed; and*
- e) *consult the Animals and Plants Committees on the implementation of the present Decision and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties as appropriate.*

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

19.133 *The Animals and Plants Committees shall:*

- a) *continue the TAG established under the recommendations in document AC31/PC25 Com. 3 through which the Animals and Plants Committees provide support and advice for implementation, and make any appropriate decisions to ensure continued advice and assistance for the implementation of Decisions 19.132 to 19.134;*
- b) *participate as appropriate in the international expert workshop on NDFs where draft guidance materials are to be reviewed, advanced or completed;*
- c) *review and make recommendations concerning: the outcomes of the international expert workshop on NDFs; the use of its outputs in support of the making of NDFs by Scientific Authorities; and their publication on the CITES website;*
- d) *based on the strategy and feedback from Parties and the wider CITES community on experiences with using NDF guidance materials, review and update NDF materials as may be needed; and*
- e) *report on these activities at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Directed to Parties

19.134 *Parties are encouraged to:*

- a) *provide any help and information regarding methodologies, tools, scientific information, expertise and any other resources used to formulate NDFs in order to contribute to such a workshop;*
- b) *make use of the guidance materials on NDFs resulting from the implementation of Decisions 19.132 and 19.133 and participate as appropriate in the feedback mechanism on NDF guidance, to be developed by the Secretariat as referred to in Decision 19.132, paragraph d); and*
- c) *provide financial and technical support for the implementation of Decision 19.132, including for an international expert workshop on non-detriment findings.*

3. At the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC26; Geneva, June 2023) and the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee (AC32; Geneva, June 2023), the Committees noted the continuation of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) advising this project, progress in developing draft NDF guidance and progress towards organizing the international expert workshop on NDFs as described in document [PC26 Doc. 17 / AC32 Doc. 16](#) (see summary records [PC26 SR](#) and [AC32 SR](#)).

Regarding the work of the TAG

4. The TAG met four times to deliver on its terms of reference described in Annex 2 to document [CoP19 Doc. 43.1](#). A report on its first meeting is contained in document [CoP19 Doc. 43.1](#), and a report on its second meeting is contained in document [PC26 Doc. 17 / AC32 Doc. 16](#). Since PC26 and AC32, the TAG held its third and fourth meetings:
 - a) At its 3rd meeting (online, 24 and 25 October 2023), the TAG advised on the content, agenda and conduct of the international expert workshop (Nairobi, Kenya; 4 to 8 December 2023). The TAG further considered the draft guidance materials developed for review at the international expert workshop. A summary of the 3rd TAG meeting and resulting advice is available in Annex 1 to the present document.
 - b) At its 4th meeting (online, 26 March 2024), the TAG advised on the finalization and dissemination of the workshop output (version 1.0 of the CITES NDF guidance) and the development of a strategy and feedback mechanism for Parties and the wider CITES community to share experiences with using the CITES NDF guidance. The TAG also concluded that no additional TAG meetings would be required as the TAG had completed its mandate. A summary of the discussions at the 4th TAG meeting is included in Annex 2 to the present document.

Regarding the elaboration of draft NDF guidance and the international expert workshop on NDFs

5. The 11 online workstream expert groups described in document [PC26 Doc. 17 / AC32 Doc. 16](#) completed their work by August 2023. The International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN) and the Secretariat compiled and revised thoroughly all draft materials and made them available for the consideration by the TAG and the international expert workshop.
6. The [international expert workshop on NDFs](#) took place from 4 to 8 December 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya, and was attended by 150+ representatives from 42 Parties (including 19 sponsored delegates) and 25 observer organizations. Substantive and logistical support was provided by the Secretariat.
7. The workshop was co-chaired by the Chair of the Animals Committee (Matthias Lörtscher) and the vice-Chair of the Plants Committee (Damian Wrigley). The Chair of the Plants Committee was not able to join the workshop due to other commitments. The Chairs established a steering group to oversee the implementation of the workshop workplan, timetable or structure, and working group priorities, and to suggest changes as needed. The workshop also established ten working groups that discussed the following:
 - a) Matters related to generic NDF guidance (modules 0 to 2 of the guidance) were discussed and reviewed in plenary and inputs consolidated by the rapporteurs during working group sessions.
 - b) Matters related to thematic modules 3 to 11 were addressed by nine working groups with mandates to improve the drafts provided by the respective previous online workstream expert groups.
 - c) Matters related to certification schemes in relation to NDFs (module 12) were previously included in the mandate of the online workstream expert group on generic guidance and were addressed during the workshop in an additional (tenth) working group.
 - d) All working groups also contributed to compiling online tools in relation to NDFs (module 12), case studies (module 14), terms to include in the guidance glossary (module 15), and proposals for a strategy and feedback mechanism to review and update NDF materials.
 - e) The application of a simplified assessment template was discussed in some of the thematic working groups and the amended template included in a module on templates (module 13).
8. The following workshop documents are available on a dedicated [workshop webpage](#) on the CITES website:
 - a) [list of accredited participants](#);
 - b) [workshop agenda and working programme](#);
 - c) [procedures for the set-up of the steering committee and working groups](#);
 - d) working group mandates ([working groups on modules 0-3 and 5-12](#), [working group on module 4](#));
 - e) [working group schedule](#); and
 - f) draft guidance, case studies, and in-session presentations.
9. Regarding module 4 on Appendix-I imports, the working group recommended that the Secretariat propose draft decisions for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20), requesting further guidance with regard to the interpretation of the following paragraph:

Article III

....

3 (a) *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;*
10. Accordingly, the Secretariat has prepared draft decisions for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees in Annex 3 to the present document.

11. With regards to NDF guidance on perennial plants, the working group:
- a) prepared comments relating to the *9-Step Guidance for Perennial Plants* previously developed by Germany, which the Secretariat communicated to Germany and invited Germany to consider in the process to revise the *9-Step Guidance*;
 - b) encouraged Parties to consult and submit case studies demonstrating the use of *9-Step NDF Guidance for Perennial Plants* (e.g., via the CITES Virtual College); and
 - c) invited Parties to provide feedback to Germany with regard to revisions of the *9-Step Guidance* relating to source code Y.
12. The following species-specific matters referred to the international expert workshop by AC32 and PC26 were also discussed:
- a) The working group on NDFs for marine and aquatic species considered a case study on NDF guidance for queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) (see the guidance on making NDFs for Queen conch in document AC33 Doc. 43 and module 5 of the CITES NDF guidance on NDFs for Aquatic species).
 - b) Draft NDF guidance on African lions (*Panthera leo*) was also presented and discussed at the workshop and comments made incorporated with the aim to finalize the NDF guidance for lions contained in document AC33 Doc. 36 and module 6 of the CITES NDF guidance on NDFs for Migratory species and Transboundary populations.
 - c) The Secretariat invited Ghana to provide clarification about the exports of *Trionyx triunguis* from Ghana and to present a case study on this species at the NDF workshop. Ghana attended the workshop and submitted a poster on the subject for consideration by the working group on NDFs for reptiles (see module 9 of the CITES NDF guidance on NDFs for Reptiles).
 - d) The working group on NDFs for timber-producing trees considered a study on rosewood trees. The Secretariat selected Benin for sponsored participation in the workshop and Benin contributed to discussions of a case study on *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in Benin, which was included in the study on rosewood trees (see document PC27 Doc. 27 and module 10 of the CITES NDF guidance on NDFs for Tree species).
 - e) The working group on perennial plants considered a case study *Prunus africana* submitted by Cameroon (Cameroon was unfortunately unable to attend the workshop due to visa problems), and the NDF guidance for agarwood (see document PC27 Doc. 25 and module 11 of the CITES NDF guidance on NDFs for Perennial plants).

Regarding the publication and finalization of the CITES NDF guidance

13. After the workshop, IUCN continued to consider editorial observations shared by workshop participants while compiling all modules of the CITES NDF guidance. The Secretariat revised all modules; made the CITES NDF guidance available for consideration by the TAG; updated the CITES webpage on NDFs in preparation for the publication of the CITES NDF guidance; and initiated translation into the three official languages of the Convention.
14. The CITES NDF guidance is available on the [CITES webpage on NDFs](#) in all languages of the Convention for the consideration of the Committees. It is structured as follows:

	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 NDF making (V1.0)
	Module 4	NDFs for Appendix I imports (V1.0)
	Module 5	NDFs for Aquatic species (V1.0)
	Module 6	NDFs for Migratory species and Transboundary populations (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 assisting in NDF making (V1.0)
	Module 13	Templates (V1.0)
	Module 14	NDF case studies (V1.0)
	Module 15	Glossary of key terms and definitions introduced in this guidance (V1.0)

15. The Secretariat will finalize the layout of the entire set of guidance material after PC27 and AC33.

Regarding field testing of the guidance

16. The Secretariat plans to use the guidance in various projects aiming at contributing to the 'field testing' of the CITES NDF guidance to inform future updates and improvements of the guidance. Limited funding is available within the NDF project funded by Germany and other funding streams to support Parties to use the CITES NDF guidance for making NDFs, and to make their experiences available for future improvements. Discussions with range States are underway to support the following:

- a) Nicaragua (*Dalbergia*);
- b) Ghana (*Chameleo*);
- c) Queen conch range States;
- d) *Pterocarpus erinaceus* range States; and
- e) various Parties in the Compliance Assistance Programme and Review of Significant Trade process.

17. The Secretariat is organizing two series of online webinars (to be announced through a Notification to the Parties and regional PC and AC representatives) in the three languages of the Convention, to familiarize Parties with the CITES NDF guidance, to provide a platform for regional discussions, and to share lessons learnt. The first series will focus on presenting the CITES NDF guidance to the Parties to enable them to familiarize themselves with its use, trigger discussions on a regional basis, and to encourage Parties to use the guidance and to share their experiences. The second series will provide an opportunity for Parties to share their experiences, and to continue discussions on a regional basis. Each of the two series will consist of one seminar each in:

- French at a time suitable to African Parties,
- Spanish at a time suitable to Parties from Central and South America and the Caribbean,
- English at a time suitable for African and American Parties, and in
- English at a time suitable for Asian and Oceanian Parties.

18. At the time of writing, the Secretariat plans to organize the first seminar in French, at a time suitable to African Parties, on 21 August 2024, and will publish a Notification to the Parties containing precise dates and connection details in due time.

Regarding a strategy and feedback mechanism from Parties and the wider CITES community to share experiences with using NDF guidance materials, and to review and update NDF materials as may be needed

19. As part of their mandates, all working groups at the international expert workshop compiled their proposals relating to a possible feedback mechanism. The Secretariat considered these inputs and proposed to the TAG the following two-step approach that was supported for submission to PC27/AC33:

Step 1:

- a) The Secretariat issues a Notification to the Parties, to be published after CoP20, with specific questions to invite Parties to share examples how the NDF guidance has been used with the Secretariat and / or regional representatives.
- b) The Secretariat and the regional representatives consolidate feedback on the use of NDF guidance for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees.
- c) The Secretariat reflects on information received through the Notification, from regional representatives, and from Parties, as well as the Secretariat's own experiences in supporting Parties to field-test the

guidance, and make recommendations to the Animals and Plants Committees relating to the need to review and update the guidance, as appropriate; and

Step 2:

With support from the Secretariat and taking into account experiences gathered during the CoP20-CoP21 intersessional cycle through Step 1 above and through field-testing of the NDF guidance, the Animals and Plants Committee consider whether amendments to Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* are required to establish a regular mechanism or process for the Animals and Plants Committees to identify, review and agree updates to the CITES NDF guidance, and to formulate recommendations to CoP21, including any proposals to amend Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17).

20. Based on the above two-step approach, the Secretariat has prepared draft decisions on a strategy and feedback mechanism to review and update NDF guidance materials contained in Annex 4 to the present document for consideration by the joint session of the Animals and Plants Committees.

Recommendations

21. The Animals and Plants Committees are invited to:
- a) note the progress of the CITES NDF project and the publication of the preliminary CITES NDF guidance on the CITES website;
 - b) advise on any additional amendments to the NDF guidance;
 - c) agree that Decisions 19.132 to 19.134 have been implemented and propose their deletion to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
 - d) consider the draft decisions contained in:
 - i) Annex 3 on Article III paragraph 3 (a) of the Convention on Appendix I imports, and
 - ii) Annex 4 on a strategy and feedback mechanism to review and update NDF guidance materials; and
 - e) report their recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE 3RD TAG MEETING
ONLINE, 24 AND 25 OCTOBER 2023

Mr Mathias Lörtscher, Co-Chair of the TAG and Chair of the Animals Committee opened the meeting, welcomed the TAG members to the meeting and informed the meeting that Ms Mme Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo, Chair of the Plants Committee was not able to join the meeting due to other commitments.

The Co-Chair thanked all the participants in the work streams for their contribution to the work that has been done in preparing the draft guidance material for consideration by the TAG and the NDF workshop scheduled to take place from 4 – 8 December 2023.

1) General update on workshop preparations

The Secretariat provided an update on the preparations for the workshop, including the number of registered participants (see attached presentation).

The TAG expressed appreciation that almost all participants that registered can be accommodated – only three non-governmental organizations were requested to reduce the number of participants. The TAG noted the updates on the venue for the international expert workshop and the progress in workshop registrations.

2) Discussion of background documents and formulation of recommendations on the workshop steering committee, the workshop outline and working programme and the working group set up

The Secretariat presented the proposal relating to the establishment of the steering committee for the NDF workshop, including the proposed membership, modality of functioning and role (see attached presentation). TAG members proposed that provision should be made for an additional meeting to be held Friday during lunch time and that the membership should include three non-Party TAG members.

In terms of the workshop programme it was proposed to reflect the 2nd steering committee meeting and to reflect that coffee / refreshment station will be available outside the meeting room.

With regards to the working groups, the TAG discussed whether potential chairs from Party representatives should be approached to determine if they would be willing to chair, if nominated by the working group. The Secretariat informed the TAG that participants will be asked prior to the workshop to indicate which working groups they would be interested in attending. The TAG members indicated that the draft guidance documents and draft mandates should be shared with participants well in advance to not only prepare for the workshop but also inform their choices relating to the working groups they would like to participate in. The Secretariat and IUCN informed the TAG that the workstream leads will participate in the work streams they have been leading on as resource persons and rapporteurs to assist in clarifying discussions that took place during the workstream meetings and to record changes to the guidance.

The TAG advised the following:

Steering committee

- i. The Steering committee to be established based on the proposal by the Secretariat with the addition of three non-Party institutions, selected from the non-Party Members of the TAG. Non-Party members of the TAG will agree on their three representatives and inform the Secretariat accordingly before the commencement of the workshop.
- ii. The Secretariat to include a second Steering committee meeting in the programme (Friday lunchtime) to confirm whether workshop outputs are in line with mandates and satisfactory for finalization after the workshop. This meeting could be cancelled if there is no need to convene.

Workshop agenda and working programme

- iii. Include a note in the workshop outline to point to standing coffee & refreshment stations, and the second meeting of the Steering committee.
- iv. The switch from plenary session to working group sessions on Monday/Tuesday should be flexible, depending on the flow and progress of plenary discussions and with the aim to maximize the time available for working group discussions.

Working group set-up

- v. The Secretariat to approach Party representatives as potential working group chairs before the workshop to determine if there are representatives who will be willing to chair the working groups. Regional representation should be taken into consideration in this regard as well as the fact that only one meeting room will have interpretation in the three official languages of the Convention.
- vi. All workshop participants should be given the opportunity prior to the workshop to indicate their interest to participate in certain working groups (first to third choice).
- vii. The working group mandates should be titled: "Draft mandates, subject to approval by plenary".

3) Draft guidance elaborated by online workstreams and compiled by the Secretariat in collaboration with IUCN

The TAG noted the draft guidance and appreciated the Secretariat and IUCN's efforts in coordinating their development and compilation. The proposal relating to re-ordered Modules 1 and 2 was discussed and the Secretariat clarified that the extended plenary sessions aimed at discussing these modules are aimed at ensuring all participants have a clear understanding of the aspects covered in these modules.

The TAG discussed the draft documents for Module 4 (NDF for Appendix-I imports) that includes a submission by the Secretariat.

The TAG requested the Secretariat, the IUCN and the workstream lead (and workstream members) to carry out further work on this module, in particular to reconcile the draft documents submitted by the online workstream and the Secretariat. The Secretariat will provide an annotated version of its submission (with comment bubbles) to explain the changes and deviation from the version submitted by the online workstream. IUCN, the workstream consultant (Ron Orenstein) and the Secretariat will then convene an additional workstream meeting to finalize a single submission to the workshop. The TAG acknowledged that this submission might be ready at a relatively late stage, due to the upcoming Standing Committee meeting.

4) Draft working group mandates

The IUCN presented a short presentation on the guidance contained in each module as well as any changes made by the Secretariat and the IUCN, where applicable. The proposed draft mandate for each working group for each module was also presented (see attached presentation).

TAG advised the following:

- i. All Modules:
 - o Insert reporting requirements for working groups (Wednesday and Friday) into the mandates of all working groups.
 - o reconsider the mandate relating to funding and capacity requirements for Parties. The participants attending may not be able to provide the information required.
- ii. Module 1&2: Add a footnote in Module 2 in relation to the paragraph 1 of section 6.3.5 to caution that the Parties to CITES and CBD differ, and amend the section on benefits of wildlife trade for local livelihoods to impacts of wildlife trade on livelihoods.
- iii. Module 9: Consult with Malaysia to understand whether the working group mandates require amendment to consider any case studies submitted by Malaysia (based on the AC31 SR). Consult with Ghana to determine whether a case study will be submitted.
- iv. Module 10: Including Dalbergia species as possible case studies under mandate 1e).
- v. Module 11: Parties emphasized the importance of the mandates related to Agarwood and source code Y. Georgia confirmed submission of a case study on source code Y. Mexico confirmed that it will soon inform the Secretariat about the submission of a case study on source code Y.

5) Development of a strategy and feedback mechanism for Parties and the wider CITES community to share experiences with using NDF guidance, and to review and update the NDF materials as may be needed.

The Secretariat proposed that each working group will consider this matter as part of their mandate. The Secretariat will consolidate the responses and share it with the plenary on the Friday of the workshop. The TAG agreed with the way forward proposed by the Secretariat.

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE 4TH TAG MEETING

Co-Chairs Mr Matthias Lörtscher (AC Chair) and Mr Damian Wrigley (PC Vice-Chair) opened the meeting. Mr Lörtscher (TAG co-chair) briefly reflected on the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), reminding the TAG members that the 4th meeting will focus on providing advice on items v) and vi) of the ToR:

- v. finalization and dissemination of the workshop outputs; and
- vi. development of a strategy and feedback mechanism for Parties and the wider CITES community to share experiences with using NDF guidance materials.

The co-chair invited the Secretariat to present progress since the international expert workshop (4-8 December 2023, Nairobi, Kenya), and anticipated next steps of the CITES NDF project.

Finalization and dissemination of the workshop outputs ((item v) of ToR): Recommendations

The TAG congratulated the Secretariat and IUCN for managing the process that resulted in the NDF guidance and recommended that the Secretariat inserts an additional section into module 0 of the guidance, to emphasize the collaborative and participatory process involving experts from Parties and organizations that resulted in the guidance. The TAG also recommended that all modules should be clearly marked as version 1.0 on the website, to ensure version control, given that future updates are to be expected. The TAG advised to consider a Party in Oceania for a potential additional case study during the field testing of the guidance, if additional funding should become available.

Development of a strategy and feedback mechanism for Parties and the wider CITES community to share experiences with using NDF guidance materials ((item vi) of ToR): Recommendations

The TAG proposed one amendment to the proposed approach relating to a feedback mechanism through draft Decisions to be considered by the joint AC / PC meeting and CoP20. The draft Decisions to include the following elements:

- A Notification to the Parties with specific questions to invite:
 - o consolidated feedback on the use of NDF guidance to the Scientific Advisory Bodies, preferably via regional representatives;
 - o Parties to share examples how the NDF guidance has been used with the Secretariat and / or regional representatives; and
 - o the Secretariat to reflect on information received through the Notification, and experience through field-testing the guidance, and make recommendations to the AC and PC, as appropriate;
- Task the Scientific Advisory Bodies with support from the Secretariat and taking into account experiences gathered during the CoP20-CoP21 intersessional cycle through step 1 above and through field-testing of the NDF guidance, to
 - o consider whether amendments to Resolution 16.7 on NDFs are required to establish a regular mechanism for the Scientific Advisory bodies to identify, review and agree updates to the CITES NDF guidance, and
 - o formulate recommendations to CoP21.

The TAG also noted that the Secretariat will propose additional draft Decisions regarding a possible way forward relating to guidance on NDFs for Appendix I-listed species (Module 4) as discussed at the international expert workshop, and that updates to Module 5 are expected through the implementation of Decisions 19.135 to 19.139 on Non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Regarding the completion of the mandate of the TAG:

The TAG agreed that it had advised the Secretariat on all elements of its ToRs, completed its mandate as adopted in Decision 19.132 to 19.134, and that no additional meetings of the TAG are required.

The co-chairs thanked the TAG members for their time and advice that resulted in a successful process and draft NDF guidance and closed the meeting.

DRAFT DECISION ON
THE INTERPRETATION OF ARTICLE III PARAGRAPH 3 (A) ON APPENDIX-I IMPORTS

Directed to the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees

- 20.AA** The Standing Committee, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees, shall consider paragraph 3 (a) of Article III of the Convention and the meaning of the term “purposes” and propose guidance to the Conference of the Parties on how Scientific Authorities of importing Parties should interpret and assess whether the import of specimen of Appendix I-listed species are for purposes which are not detrimental to the survival of the species involved.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON
A FEEDBACK MECHANISM TO REVIEW AND UPDATE NDF GUIDANCE MATERIALS

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA The Secretariat shall

- a) publish a Notification to the Parties inviting them to share:
 - i) feedback on the use of the CITES Non-detriment finding (NDF) guidance with the Secretariat, preferably through the regional representatives of the Animals and Plants Committees; and
 - ii) examples with the Secretariat and / or regional representatives of the Animals and Plants Committees of how the NDF guidance has been used;
- b) taking into consideration the information received through the Notification as well as the experience gained through the field-testing of the guidance, prepare recommendations for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees regarding:
 - i) possible amendments of the CITES NDF guidance, as appropriate; and
 - ii) possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings*, to establish a regular mechanism for the Animals and Plants Committees to identify, review and agree updates to the CITES NDF guidance; and
- c) subject to external funding, prepare draft amendments to the NDF guidance based on advice received from the Animals and Plants Committees and submit the proposed amendments for consideration by the Committees.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

20.BB The Animals and Plants Committees shall:

- a) consider the recommendations submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 20.AA;
- b) advise the Secretariat on amendments to the CITES NDF guidance, as appropriate; and
- c) if necessary and as appropriate, propose to the Conference of the Parties amendments to Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* to establish a regular mechanism for the Animals and Plants Committees to identify, review and agree updates to the CITES NDF guidance; and
- d) report to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.