

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



Joint sessions of the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee and  
20th meeting of the Plants Committee  
Dublin (Ireland), 22-24 March 2012

Non-detriment findings

SUMMARY REPORT BASED ON THE RESPONSES TO NOTIFICATIONS TO THE PARTIES  
[NO. 2009/023, PARAGRAPH 1. F) OF NO. 2010/027 AND NO. 2011/004]

1. This document is submitted by the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees on behalf of the Intersessional Working Group on Non-Detriment Findings .
2. At its 19th meeting (Geneva, April 2011) and at its 25th meeting (Geneva, July 2011) , the Plants and Animals Committees agreed that a joint intersessional working group were established and one of the tasks to be accomplished were: to produce a summary based on the responses to Notification to Parties No. 2011/004, paragraph 1 f) of Notifications to the Parties No. 2010/027 and No. 2009/023, which should offer a generic summary of experiences and lessons learned (without identifying individual responses) by the Parties.
3. The following Parties sent answers to the Notifications:
  - No. 2009/023: 35 responses were received from 31 Parties from the 6 CITES regions: Australia, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Spain, USA, France, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Panama, Peru, United Kingdom (2), Czech Republic, Romania (3), San Marino, South Africa, Thailand (2), Turkey, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe. Some Parties sent more than one answer to the questionnaire. In those cases answers were integrated to be considered as the response of a single country.
  - No. 2011/004 and paragraph 1 f) of No. 2010/027: Canada; Ecuador; Guatemala on behalf of Belize, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Dominican Republic; India; Mexico; New Zealand; Peru and Spain.
4. The Annex B of the [CoP15 Doc. 16.2.2](#) includes the Report on the Notification to the Parties No. 2009/023 concerning the results of the international expert workshop on non-detriment findings.
5. The Annex of the Doc. [PC19 Doc. 10.2 \(Rev.1\)](#) includes the answers from the Parties to the Notification to the Parties No. 2011/004 and paragraph 1 f) of the Notification No. 2010/027. It also includes the reports of several workshops on NDFs attended by the Parties.
6. Other activities related to the implementation of Decisions 15.23; 15.25 and 15.27 have been:
  - Workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal (9-11, January, 2011). It was attended by representatives of Management and Scientific Authorities from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and

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Sri Lanka including one regional representative for Asia of the Plants Committee from Indonesia (<http://www.cites.org/common/com/PC/19/E19i-11.pdf>).

- Workshop for Agarwood-producing species in Kuwait (3-6, October, 2011). It was attended by representatives of Management and Scientific Authorities from Bahrain, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Myanmar (Burma), Oman, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates including the regional representatives for Asia and the representative for Oceania of the Plants Committee.
- Workshop for Agarwood-producing species in Indonesia (22-24, November, 2011). It was attended by representatives of Management and Scientific Authorities from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Myanmar, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam including the alternate regional representative for Asia (Kuwait) of the Plants Committee.

### Summary and conclusions

7. 55 Parties have contributed sending results from their experience or from workshops organized on NDFs for singular species.
8. The responding Parties pointed out that the outputs of the International Expert Workshop on Non-detriment Findings hosted by Mexico in 2008 are of great value and applicable.
9. It was stressed the need of greater efforts in formulation of NDFs in order to enhance CITES implementation, given that there is a great variety of taxa and life forms of Appendix II species under international trade with common and differentiated requirements.
10. It was indicated that the "Evaluation of the effects of harvest and subsequent adaptation of the non-detriment finding" and "Assessing the level of risk associated with the NDF" are the most problematic challenges while making NDFs.
11. It was recognized that there are more difficulties for some biological groups than others, for example, marine species.
12. It was acknowledged the usefulness of IUCN guidelines in NDF formulation, and that further workshops and materials for capacity building are necessary in addition to existing sources of information.
13. It was stressed that any material that appears on the IUCN Guidelines in the preparation of NDFs, including results of the workshop in Cancun should remain only as a guide or framework for the Parties to formulate NDFs, and should not be mandatory.
14. The experiences provided by Parties from the regional workshops in implementing the outputs of the International Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings are of great value and facilitate the improvement of these results when applied to individual species in a specific regional context. Some examples of experiences and learnt lessons can be mentioned for: Agarwood, *Cistanche deserticola*, *Nepenthes distillatoria*, *Rauwolfia serpentina*; *Swietenia macrophylla*, *Pterocarpus santalinus*, *Taxus wallichiana*, *Arapaima gigas*, *Gracula religiosa*, *Hippocampus* spp., *Tayassu tajacu*, *Tajassu pecari*, *Vicugna vicugna*, *Strombus gigas* (see paragraph 6 above).
15. The Animals and Plants Committees in their last meetings recommended to the Secretariat to make the section on NDFs in the CITES website more prominent and include all information from the Cancun workshop; experiences of Parties in making NDFs (and responses to all notifications on NDFs); other NDF workshop results; and other materials relevant to NDFs. This recommendation should be included in a Decision for the next CoP and should be established the mechanisms for the inclusion of such materials.
16. The Animals and Plants Committees are invited to consider ways to:
  - spread the best practices and experiences from the Parties on making Non Detriment Findings;
  - facilitate the Parties capacity building and opportunities to share experiences at regional/subregional level; and
  - formulate the draft Decisions, as necessary, to be sent for consideration in the CoP16.