

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



Twenty-fifth meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-22 July 2011

Capacity-building programme for science-based establishment  
and implementation of voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species (Decision 12.91)

SECRETARIAT REPORT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 12th meeting (CoP12, Santiago 2002), the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decision:

***Directed to the Secretariat***

12.91 *The Secretariat is encouraged to continue to develop and refine its capacity-building programme dealing with the scientific basis for development, establishment, and implementation of voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species, and shall, as appropriate, consult with the Animals Committee and Plants Committee on this programme. This consultation may include:*

- a) *solicitation of input from the Committees regarding materials used in the capacity-building programme for voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species; and*
- b) *a request for new information from the Committees on methods used for establishing quotas and for relevant case studies on the establishment of quotas.*

3. At its 15th meeting (CoP15, Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decision:

***Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees***

15.24 *The Animals and Plants Committees shall:*

- c) *review the non-detriment finding training materials used by the CITES Secretariat when conducting regional capacity-building workshops and provide advice for their improvement.*

4. The Secretariat has used PowerPoint presentations on the role of quotas in CITES and non-detriment findings in its general training materials since 2002. These presentations serve as an introduction on the subject, and to emphasize the interrelationships of scientific data, management decisions and monitoring. Parties were informed of the training materials and subsequent updates in Notifications to the Parties 2002/073 of 19 December 2002, 2003/073 of 12 November 2003 and 2005/067 of 8 December 2005. After 2005, the materials were updated and tailored for use in training seminars and whenever materials were requested by Parties for use in national training. The Secretariat is grateful for comments and suggestions received from Parties on the improvement of these materials.
5. One of the key areas of work for capacity building by the Secretariat is the assistance provided to Scientific Authorities through its 'Science in CITES' workshops, organized in collaboration with national CITES Authorities (addressing the call for such workshops in Resolution Conf. 10.3 on *Designation and role of the*

*Scientific Authorities*). These workshops focus on the making of non-detriment findings, setting of quotas, adaptive management, and other tasks and responsibilities of Scientific Authorities. The training materials for these workshops have been steadily improved and separate presentations deal with the subjects of adaptive management, quotas, the making of non-detriment findings, reporting and data collection.

6. The Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 14.7 on *Management of nationally established export quotas* and the annexed *Guidelines for management of nationally established export quotas* at its 14th meeting (CoP14, The Hague, 2007), based on the work of the Export Quota Working Group of the Standing Committee. The Secretariat's capacity-building efforts relating to quotas have since been based on this Resolution, which was revised at CoP15 in March 2010, and the Guidelines.
7. The Secretariat is implementing a project to strengthen the CITES implementation capacity of developing countries to ensure sustainable wildlife management and non-detrimental trade, with funding from the European Union. Its aim is to prevent overexploitation and to ensure that legal international trade in wild fauna and flora does not exceed sustainable levels. The Secretariat is grateful to the European Union for this important funding contribution to CITES capacity building.
8. One element of the project is an assessment using a questionnaire to identify national needs for the implementation of CITES. When invited to identify which training subjects were most needed, respondents from Africa rated training on setting of quotas as a high priority, while respondents from Asia and Central and South America rated the subject as a lower priority. A complete analysis of questionnaire results is in preparation and will be reported orally at the present meeting.
9. A second element of the project is the provision of an interactive e-learning course on CITES, based on the findings of the needs assessment and on previous capacity-building initiatives. The main subjects treated in the e-course include a general overview of CITES, a section on CITES species, a more detailed section on non-detriment findings [including a page on Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15), with reference to the *Guidelines for management of nationally established export quotas*], and a final exercise involving the checklist to assist in making non-detriment findings for Appendix-II exports. The structure and content of the section dealing with non-detriment findings are as follows:
  - 4.0 *Lesson objectives and outline*
  - 4.1 *Concepts and terminology*
  - 4.2 *Non-detriment findings in CITES*
  - 4.3 *Guidance on non-detriment findings from the Conference of the Parties*
  - 4.4 *Making a non-detriment finding*
  - 4.5 *Introduction to risk assessment methodology*
  - 4.6 *Science-based risk assessments*
  - 4.7 *Fundamentals on risk assessment methodology*
  - 4.8 *Checklist to assist in making non-detriment findings for Appendix-II exports (Document Inf. 11.3)*
  - 4.9 *Similar processes in Multilateral Environmental Agreements*
  - 4.10 *Non-detriment findings and sustainable use*
  - 4.11 *Lesson summary*
10. The Secretariat invites input from the Committee regarding materials that may be used in its capacity-building work relating to voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species, that go beyond the guidance provided in the Guidelines annexed to Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15). The Secretariat also invites input from the Committee regarding materials that relate to the making of non-detriment findings. The Secretariat is particularly interested in case studies, examples of application and any methodologies that have been found to be effective in assisting Parties with establishing these quotas. Such materials would be incorporated in electronic training materials and courses available through the CITES Virtual College, which is to be launched at the International University of Andalusia, Sede Antonio Machado, Baeza, Spain, on 7 May 2010.