

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



Twenty-second meeting of the Plants Committee
Tbilisi (Georgia), 19-23 October 2015

Strategic matters

GUIDANCE ON MAKING NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS FOR TREE SPECIES
(Agenda item 9.2)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Chair:	Canada (Mr. Farr);
PC members:	Representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. D. Rivera) and Oceania (Mr. G. Leach), Alternate Representative of Europe ((Mr. P. Carmo);
Parties:	Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union, France, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Latvia, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Madagascar, Paraguay, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America; and
IGOs and NGOs:	UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, ITTO, Centre for International Environmental Law, FTS Botanics, Global Eye, SSN, .TRAFFIC

Mandate

Consider, discuss and provide recommendations to improve the Annex of document PC22 Doc.9.2 (Rev.1).

Recommendations:

Having considered and discussed the Annex of document PC22 Doc.9.2 (Rev.1), the Working Group recommends the following:

1. That the document's authors continue to develop the Annex so as to enhance its transparency and sequencing of guidance information, with a view to providing users with clear means to reach a positive or negative NDF.
2. That technical information in the Annex be revised so as to better reflect the complex and nuanced nature of NDF considerations including (*inter alia*):
 - variance in definitions of legal harvest in the context of protected areas;
 - applicability of management and operational plans to natural forests and plantations;

- linkage of ongoing NDF considerations such as monitoring to *a priori* NDF determinations (e.g.) legal origin of specimens;
3. That subsequent drafts of the Annex include an instructional user's guide and a glossary of technical terms.
 4. That the document's authors pursue joint working sessions with the developers of the 9-step CITES NDF process for perennial plants in order to strengthen the alignment and complementarity of the two NDF approaches.
 5. That the Annex include reference to the guidance for making NDFs for tree species developed at the 2008 Cancun International Workshop on Non-detriment Findings, as contained in Cancun Workshop Documents WG-FR (Trees Working Group, Final report), WG1-FR Annexes and WR1-SR (Trees Working Group Summary).
 6. That Recommendation b of PC22 Doc. 9.2, which requests that the Secretariat publish the Annex of document PC22 Doc.9.2 (Rev.1) on the CITES website and send a Notification to the Parties seeking submission, by 30th November 2015, of suggestions and contributions to improve the document, not be pursued until further development and refinement of the Annex is undertaken and a revised draft Annex provided for review by the Plants Committee.
 7. That the Plants Committee create an Intercessional Working Group to review the revised draft Annex mentioned in Recommendation 7.