

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

Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

Strategic matters

GUIDANCE ON MAKING NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS FOR PERENNIAL PLANTS

1. This document has been submitted by Germany.*
2. At the 21st meeting of the Plants Committee, Germany, supported by TRAFFIC, presented the “CITES Non-detriment Findings Guidance for Perennial Plants - A nine-step process to support CITES Scientific Authorities making science-based non-detriment findings (NDFs) for species listed in CITES Appendix II” (hereafter called 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance). The Guidance is available in English,¹ Spanish,¹ Georgian² and Vietnamese language.
3. The Plants Committee recommended³ that Germany submit the 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance to the Secretariat for inclusion on the CITES website, and that Parties be invited to try out the Guidance and provide feedback to Germany. The Committee invited Germany to submit a revised version of this Guidance at one of its future meetings, suggesting that this revision might incorporate and build on experiences from Parties with the Guidance; results of tests on the applicability of the 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance to different life forms of plants; outcomes of capacity building seminars; and case studies.
4. Germany submitted the 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance to the Secretariat, which has put it on its website. It is also available on the website of the German SA¹.

Workshops using the 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance

5. The German SA together with the CITES Nomenclature Specialist for Plants and TRAFFIC were invited by the CITES Authorities of the South American States of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) region to present the 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance in the region. The workshop in November 2014 was organised by the Ministry of the Environment of Peru with the support of the ACTO and the Amazon Regional Program (BMZ/DGIS/GIZ). CITES Authorities from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guiana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela as well as the Regional Representative for Central, South America and the

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¹ http://www.bfn.de/0302_ndf+M52087573ab0.html

² http://biomonitoring.moe.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=GEO&sec_id=67

³ <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/pc/21/sum/E-PC21-ExSum-Cons.pdf>

Caribbean from the Plants Committee participated in the event. The workshop proved very successful and led to substantial improvements of the 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance (version 2.0).

6. On invitation of the Georgian CITES Authorities, the revised 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance was then applied in June 2015 in a workshop organised by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, held in Tblisi. Again the workshop successfully proved the basic principles of the 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance and led to new consolidated findings regarding its practicability.
7. The CITES Authorities of China together with the Chinese Academy of Science have invited Germany to hold a workshop on the 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance at the Tropical Botanical Garden of Xishuangbanna in the Province of Yunnan, China from 6 to 8 November 2015.
8. Based on the experiences made in the past and the future workshops and on comments Germany received from other Parties to the Convention, it is planned to publish an improved version of the 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance in 2016, which will be launched at CoP17.

Use of the 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance in other NDF methods

9. Resolution Conf. 16.7 on Non-detriment Findings⁴ provides a summary of guiding principles which constitute a science-based assessment of whether the trade would be detrimental to the survival of a species. The 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance brings all these elements together in a methodologically sound framework. In a simplified step-wise approach, Scientific Authorities are led through 9 steps which enshrine the elements relevant for a transparent and reliable NDF making (fig. 1).

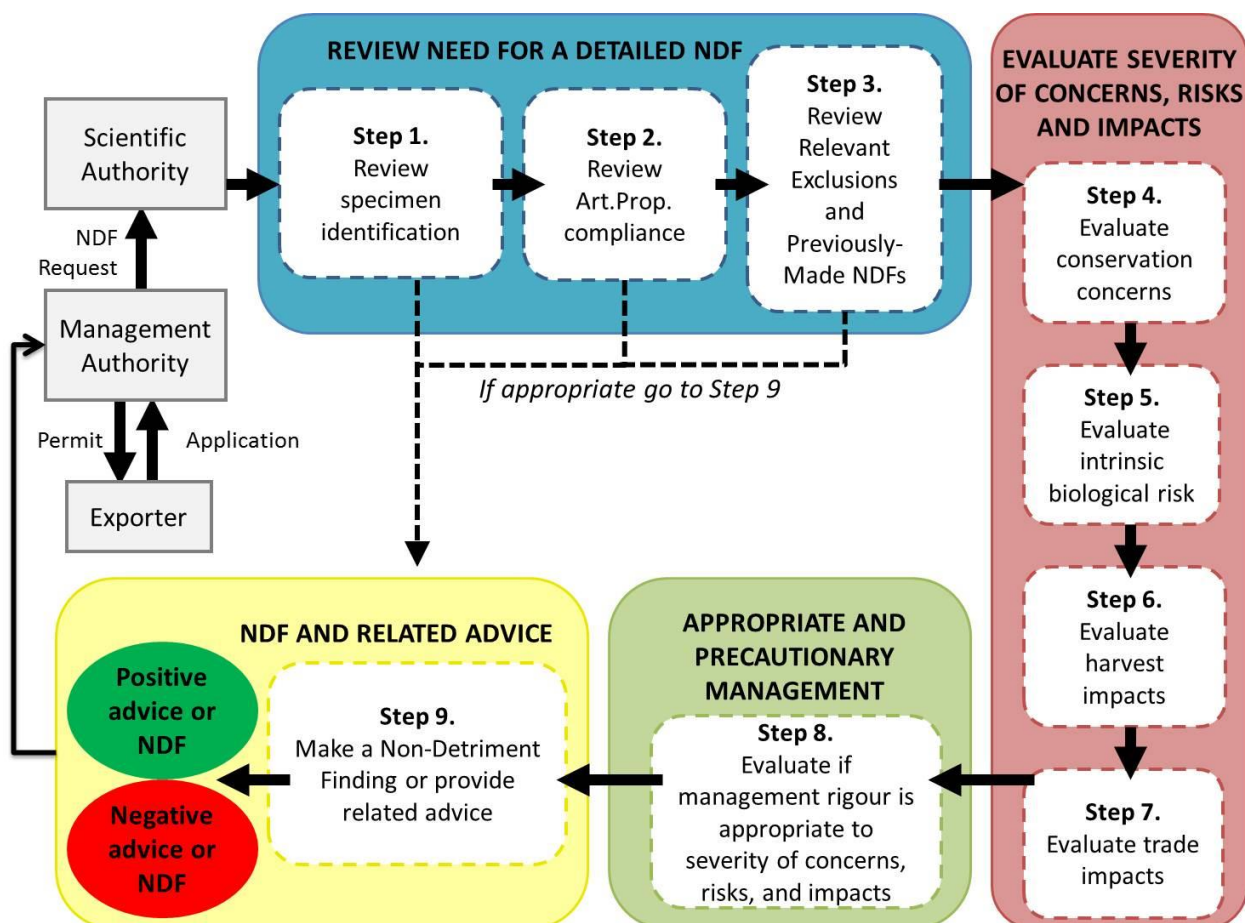


Fig. 1: Nine-step pathway for making Non-detriment Findings

⁴ <https://cites.org/eng/res/16/16-07.php>

10. The consecutive structure of the 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance has been used as a basis or starting point for other NDF methodologies developed for several animal groups:
 - i. Sharks, 2014: CITES Non-detriment Findings Guidance for shark species. A framework to assist authorities in making Non-detriment Findings (NDFs) for species listed in CITES Appendix II⁵
 - ii. Seahorses, 2013: Building in-country capacity to undertake Non-Detriment Findings with regard to Hippocampus species in Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam⁶
 - iii. Argali, 2013: Framework for CITES non-detriment findings for hunting trophies with a focus on Argali *Ovis ammon*⁷ and
 - iv. Turtles, 2015: Non-Detriment Findings and Trade Management for Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles - a guide for CITES Scientific and Management Authorities (AC28 Doc. 15, Annex 2)⁸.
11. Germany and TRAFFIC want to thank all those, who contributed to the success and the improvement of the 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance, particularly the Ministry of the Environment of Peru, the Amazon Regional Program (BMZ/DGIS/GIZ) and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, participants at these workshops and others, e.g. Canada, that have provided constructive feedback. Parties to the convention are invited to further try out the guidance and feedback to Germany (daniel.wolf@bfm.de).

Recommendations

12. The Parties are invited to consider the 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance as a reference for making Non-detriment Findings for plants.

⁵ <http://cites.org/sites/default/files/common/com/ac/27/E-AC27-Inf-01.pdf>

⁶ https://cites.org/eng/prog/ndf/capacity_building_materials

⁷ https://cites.org/eng/prog/ndf/capacity_building_materials

⁸ <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/ac/28/E-AC28-15-Annex2.pdf>