

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



Twenty-third meeting of the Plants Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 22 and 24-27 July 2017

Strategic matters

Non-detriment findings

GUIDANCE ON MAKING NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS FOR PLANTS

1. This document has been submitted by Germany\*.
2. At the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee Germany, supported by TRAFFIC, presented the progress in improving 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)<sup>1</sup>.
3. The Plants Committee encouraged Parties to use the guidance for making non-detriment findings for CITES-listed tree species developed by Germany, and provide feedback to that country. The Committee requested Germany to report to the Plants Committee at its 23rd meeting on progress achieved in the development of its NDF guidance<sup>2</sup>.
4. In a collaboration between China and Germany on CITES a workshop was held in Shenzhen, China between the 9th and 11th December 2015 to discuss the 9-Steps-Guidance on making NDFs for perennial plants. The workshop included over 30 participants from the National and Provincial Management Authorities of China, the Scientific Authority of China, Scientific Institutions from around China, medicinal trade associations and industry, the Scientific Authority of Germany, TRAFFIC, and the Nomenclature Specialist of the Plants Committee. The workshop dealt with two case studies of medicinal plants and proved to be very successful.
5. Based on the experiences made in this and past workshops in Peru and Georgia as well as on comments received from other Parties to the Convention Germany published an improved version 3.0 of the 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance in 2016<sup>3</sup> and launched it together with TRAFFIC at CoP17, where it was also provided as

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\* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

<sup>1</sup> <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/pc/22/E-PC22-09-01.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/pc/22/ExSum/E-PC22-ExSum-04-Rev1.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Wolf, D., Oldfield, T.E.E., Schippmann, U., McGough, N. & Leaman, D.J. (2016): CITES Nondetriment 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. Version 3.0. BfN-Skripten 440. Bundesamt für Naturschutz, Bonn.

InfDoc 45 in English<sup>4</sup>, French<sup>5</sup>, Spanish<sup>6</sup>, Chinese<sup>7</sup> and Georgian<sup>8</sup>. Germany is aware of ongoing translations of VS 3.0 of the 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance into Korean, Italian and Portuguese.

6. After CoP 17 Germany submitted Version 3.0 of the 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance to the Secretariat for inclusion on its website.

#### Adapting the 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance to trees

7. In its initial phase, the development of the 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance focussed solely on non-timer perennial plants. This partly reflected the structure of the International Expert Workshop on CITES Non-Detriment Findings organized by Mexico in Cancun 2008 which addressed timber producing taxa in a separate working group. Moreover this restriction reflected the fact that NDFs for timber producing tree species are based on a different set of management systems and market chains.
8. The 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance for perennial plants is now consolidated to some extent and a new process has been started in 2015 to adapt the methodology also to timber producing plant species.
9. Building on existing work on timber-NDF, CITES and timber experts from the European Union and the CITES Secretariat met in a workshop on the Isle of Vilm in November 2015 to discuss fundamentals for timber NDF's. Subsequently, using the structure of the 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance for perennial plants, the „CITES Non-detriment Findings for Timber: Guidance for EU-member states“<sup>9</sup> was developed and endorsed by the Scientific Review Group (SRG) of the EU.
10. The German SA adapted it to the needs of exporting countries and together with the CITES Nomenclature Specialist for Plants and TRAFFIC was invited by the Peruvian SA to present the resulting 9-Steps-Guidance “CITES Non-detriment Findings for Timber, Version 1.0” in the Amazon region. The workshop in May 2017 was organised by the Ministry of the Environment of Peru with the support of the Amazon Regional Program (BMZ/DGIS/GIZ). CITES Scientific and Management Authorities of the member countries from the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Venezuela as well as the Regional Representative for Central, South America and the Caribbean from the Plants Committee participated in the event.
11. The workshop proved very successful. The guidance was applied to two species. Feedback was provided by the participants which will feed into future revisions of the guidance. It is planned to further apply and revise the guidance and to provide the improved version to the Plants Committee.
12. Germany and TRAFFIC want to thank all those, who contributed to the success and the improvement of the 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance, particularly the State Forest Administration of China and the Chinese Academy of Science, the Ministry of the Environment of Peru, the Amazon Regional Program (BMZ/DGIS/GIZ), participants at the above mentioned workshops and others, that have provided constructive feedback. Parties to the Convention are invited to further try out the guidance and feed back to Germany (daniel.wolf@bfm.de).

#### Recommendations

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

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<sup>4</sup> <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/InfDocs/E-CoP17-Inf-45.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/InfDocs/F-CoP17-Inf-45.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/InfDocs/S-CoP17-Inf-45.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/InfDocs/C-CoP17-Inf-45.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/InfDocs/G-CoP17-Inf-45.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.speciesplus.net/#/documents?geo\\_entities\\_ids=&event\\_type=EcSrg&events\\_ids=256](https://www.speciesplus.net/#/documents?geo_entities_ids=&event_type=EcSrg&events_ids=256)