

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

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Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Gigiri (Kenya), 10-20 April 2000

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

ASSISTANCE TO SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITIES FOR MAKING NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. Resolution Conf. 10.3 encourages:

*the Parties, the Secretariat and interested non-governmental organizations to develop and support workshops/seminars designed specifically to improve the implementation of CITES by Scientific Authorities.*
3. The World Conservation Union (IUCN) took an important step in 1998 to stimulate compliance with the above-mentioned encouragement to the Parties, and the Secretariat is very grateful to IUCN for taking this important initiative. In October 1998 it organized, with financial support from external sources, a workshop in Hong Kong on the making of non-detriment findings by Scientific Authorities.
4. The Secretariat reported on the results of this workshop to the Standing Committee at its 41th meeting (cf. document Doc. SC. 41.3 Annex 6)
5. Recognizing that the outcome of that workshop was only the first step in a long process, the Secretariat explained to the Standing Committee that it was important to convene a second workshop in 1999 in order to develop further the guidelines for the making of non-detriment findings. The Secretariat proposed that, following the second workshop, a manual, using the information developed at the two workshops, should be prepared for distribution to Scientific Authorities. The Standing Committee agreed to the Secretariat's proposal and allocated CHF 70,000 from the Trust Fund for the organization of the workshop.
6. This second workshop was held in Cambridge, United Kingdom in October 1999, and was organized by IUCN, under contract to the Secretariat and with additional financial support from the United States of America.
7. The draft manual on making non-detriment findings that resulted from this workshop is provided to the Conference of the Parties as document Inf. 11.3.
8. It is the Secretariat's intention to further develop this draft manual, in close co-operation with IUCN.
9. Though very useful in its general approach, the draft manual may need some refining in order to make it more useful for Scientific Authorities in particular countries or (sub)regions. That is why it has been prepared in its current format.
10. The Secretariat, in close co-operation with IUCN, intends to organize a number of workshops in particular targeted countries or regions.
11. A programme of work for this purpose has been included in the Annex to this document.
12. Of the six workshops proposed in the Annex, one will be held in the second part of the year 2000, two in 2001 and two in 2002 and one in the first part of 2003. But the sequence may be different

from that presented in the Annex. The order will be determined by logistical and climatological considerations.

13. The areas selected are those for which the Secretariat is aware of large volumes of trade, problems related to the making of non-detriment findings, and other implementation problems. At the same time, the Secretariat has tried to cover all the major groups in trade.
14. The Secretariat understands that many Parties may be disappointed that their region has not yet been selected for a workshop. It hopes, however, that the Conference of the Parties will understand the choice made, realizing that not all Parties can be involved in this programme at the same time.
15. The Secretariat intends to regularly communicate updated materials on the subject of making non-detriment findings, as well as those referred to in the paragraphs 18 and 19 below, to all Parties.
16. Although the making of non-detriment findings is an essential task of Scientific Authorities, there are many other responsibilities allocated to them through Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat intends to discuss these as well at the above-mentioned workshop.
17. In support of this, the Secretariat will develop a manual dealing with these various tasks, including the preparation of specific identification materials for species traded from individual countries or particular (sub)regions.
18. Each workshop will be held in a Party State in the (sub)region concerned, to be determined at a later stage, with a duration of between one and two weeks.
19. The list of Parties mentioned as potential participant in the workshops is tentative, and in principle refers to those for which the Secretariat intends to provide financial assistance for travel and subsistence.
20. Presentations at the workshop will be done by staff members of the Secretariat, members of the Scientific Authorities of the participating Parties, and specialists on the taxa traded, where possible selected from the relevant IUCN/SSC Specialist Groups and/or from the membership of the Animals and Plants Committees. Where appropriate, the Secretariat will also seek participation from importing countries.
21. Where needed, simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the relevant working languages of the Convention and/or in the national languages of the countries involved.
22. As indicated in paragraph 10 above, the Secretariat and IUCN will work together closely on this subject. IUCN will also include the subject of making non-detriment in its own regional programmes, where appropriate, but this has not been included in the Annex.
23. The Secretariat is NOT asking the Conference of the Parties to approve the details of this working programme. The Secretariat only requests the Parties to approve the general outline of this working programme, and the budgetary items relating to it.
24. For 2000, the Standing Committee has already approved a budget of CHF 70,000 for this work.
25. For 2001 and 2002 an annual budget of CHF 150,000 has been requested in the proposed budget in Doc. 11.10.3 to carry out this important task. Having to be dependent on external funds only, the Secretariat would not be able to ensure implementation of this programme that is so essential for the sustainable utilization of wildlife.
26. If additional external funds become available, the scope of the programme or of individual workshops could be expanded.
27. The Secretariat will report on its activities to each of the meetings of the Standing Committee held in the period covered by the working programme. The Secretariat will also inform the Animals and Plants Committees at their regular meetings.

Assistance to Scientific Authorities for making non-detriment findings

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF  
A MANUAL FOR MAKING NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS

Workshop in West Africa

1. Countries involved: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, Togo.
2. Main taxa in trade: reptiles: monitors, chameleons, snakes, parrots.
3. Additional issues to be discussed: ranching of reptiles, captive breeding, trade in CITES specimens as tourist souvenirs, harvesting of wild specimens and establishment of quotas.

Workshop in Indonesia

1. Countries involved: Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia (Sabah and Sarawak), Papua New Guinea.
2. Main taxa in trade: hard corals, monitors, monkeys, orchids, parrots, snakes, tree ferns.
3. Additional issues to be discussed: identification of corals, captive breeding, quotas.

Workshop for Caspian Sea countries

1. Countries involved: Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan (if it becomes a Party), Russian Federation, Turkmenistan (perhaps to be completed with Caspian Sea countries such as Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey).
2. Main taxa in trade: sturgeons.
3. Additional issues to be discussed: general aspects of CITES implementation. This workshop will be mainly targeted at the trade in sturgeons and parts and derivatives thereof.

Workshop for Central America and northern South America

1. Countries involved: Colombia, Guyana, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Suriname, Venezuela.
2. Main taxa in trade: amphibians, orchids, reptiles, parrots.
3. Additional issues to be discussed: ranching, captive breeding, harvesting of wild specimens and establishment of quotas.

Workshop in South-East Asia

1. Countries involved: Cambodia, China, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam.
2. Main taxa in trade: orchids, birds, reptiles
3. Additional issues to be discussed: ranching, captive breeding, harvesting of wild specimens and establishment of quotas.

### Workshop for Indian Ocean Parties

1. Countries involved: Comores, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles.
2. Main taxa in trade: plants (orchids, succulents), reptiles (chameleons, day geckos, tortoises)
3. Additional issues to be discussed: captive breeding, harvesting of wild specimens and establishment of quotas.