



MODULE 15: GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS INTRODUCED IN THIS GUIDANCE

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1. What is in this module?

This module provides a glossary of key terms and definitions used throughout this CITES NDF Guidance. The terms are complementary to the glossary on the CITES website ([CITES glossary](#)), which contains definitions and terms already agreed by CITES Parties in official documents. Definitions of many of the terms found within the various modules vary according to different users and terms may be legally defined in various countries. This glossary does not necessarily attempt to produce a standardised list of definitions for CITES purposes but draws on international sources in general use.

2. Glossary

Term	Definition
Adaptive management	Adaptive management can be broadly described as ‘learning by doing’ – it takes a structured, iterative approach to making the best decisions possible, despite risks, uncertainty and imperfect knowledge, whilst simultaneously accruing by monitoring critical new information to inform, test and improve future management and to achieve defined objectives
Age Class Distribution	The number of trees of a species in different age classes within a given area. This is one factor determining the population structure and is an important consideration in managing for sustainability of the species over time.
Ambergris	A waxy substance that originates as a secretion in the intestines of the sperm whale, found floating in tropical seas and used in perfume manufacture
Annual Allowable Cut (AAC)	The AAC is the volume of timber that may be cut in a given area per year, and the aim is to set the AAC at a level that can be maintained over time without losses in forest productivity or other values. Its calculation depends on the standing stock, the rate at which tree species regrow, and the area over which it is calculated. As a practical measure of the sustainable yield, the AAC can be used to monitor forest production and to set limits on forest use.
Annual Increment (timber)	Growth in height, diameter and volume of trees; usually based on the average of measurements over a period of years.
Audit	A systematic, independent and documented verification activity or process for obtaining evidence and evaluating it objectively to determine the extent to which the criteria are fulfilled
Catch per unit effort (CPUE)	Catch per unit effort (CPUE) is an indirect measure of the abundance of a target species. The best practice is to standardise the effort employed (e.g. number of traps or duration of searching), which controls for the reduction in catch size that often results from subsequent efforts
Chain of custody	A process of documenting the handling of evidence or other assets within a supply chain. The purpose of chain of custody is to prevent tampering, contamination, or falsification of the evidence or asset.
Clutch (eggs)	A clutch of eggs is the group of eggs produced by birds, amphibians, or reptiles, often at a single time, particularly those laid in a nest.
Conservation	The management of the human use of the biosphere so that it may yield the greatest sustainable benefit to present generations while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations. Thus, conservation is positive, embracing preservation maintenance, sustainable utilisation, restoration, and enhancement of the natural environment
Conversion Factors (timber and other wood products)	These are used to estimate the quantity of different processed products from round wood equivalents (RWE); e.g., to convert a volume of roundwood into a volume of sawn wood, or vice versa. Ideally these should account for damage during harvest processing, and the efficiency of different machinery used, with input from relevant stakeholders to obtain relevant data to inform these calculations. It is preferable to use

Term	Definition
	specific figures and local studies for the species and site. Conversion factors are needed to obtain accurate estimates of the volume of timber and other wood product specimens that can be traded from harvestable volumes.
Density-dependence	When population growth rates are regulated by the density of a population
Detriment	Loss or damage done or caused to, or sustained by, a species (within the CITES context).
Diameter at breast height (DBH)	A standard method for measuring the size of a tree. Diameter is usually measured at 1.3 m (4.3 ft) above ground.
Forest Concession	A forest concession is a form of forest tenure involving a contract between the forest owner and another party that gives rights to harvest specified resources from a given tract of forest land. Usually a concession is under a licence agreement, lease or permit with individuals, communities or corporations for the sustainable production of timber and other forest products, with obligations for the protection and conservation of the goods and environmental services provided by the forest
Forest inventory	Forest inventory is the systematic collection of data on the forestry resources within a given area. It allows assessment of the current status of tree species for analysis and planning, constituting the basis for sustainable forest management
Forest Management Plan (FMP)	A document that translates forest policies into a coordinated programme for a forest management unit and for regulating production, environmental and social activities for a set period of time through the use of prescriptions specifying targets, action and control arrangements.
Forest Management Unit (FMU)	A clearly defined forest area managed to a set of explicit objectives according to a management plan. It may be a large contiguous forest concession or community forest, or a group of small forestry operations, possibly with more than one owner; the unifying element is a common system of management
Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)	FPIC is a legally mandated right of indigenous people. It means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free: no manipulation or coercion. • Prior: consent is sought sufficiently in advance of any activities being either commenced or authorised • Informed: information (in a language that can be understood) has been provided on the research/initiative to be undertaken, its scale, scope and duration • Consent: granted or withheld after a process that involves consultation and participation.
Fragmentation	A case where most individuals within a taxon are found in small and relatively isolated sub-populations, which increases the probability that these small sub-populations will become extinct and the opportunities for re-establishment are limited.
Harvest	The removal of specimens from the wild for the purpose of trade or domestic use, whether legal or illegal.
Impact and management evaluation	Phase of comprehensive NDF that considers the impacts of harvesting for trade, and the management and monitoring measures in place.
Indigenous knowledge	A systematic way of thinking applied to phenomena across biological, physical, cultural and spiritual systems. It includes insights based on evidence acquired through direct and long-term experiences and extensive and multigenerational observations, lessons and skills. It has developed over millennia and is still developing in a living process, including knowledge acquired today and in the future, and it is passed on from generation to generation.
Indigenous and Local Knowledge	Knowledge and know-how accumulated across generations, which guide human societies in their innumerable interactions with their surrounding environment
Intrinsic biology	The biological attributes or life history traits of an organism
Life History Trait Gradients	Life history patterns in traits such as reproductive rate, growth rate, body size and number of offspring can be thought of as a continuum, with different extremes on each end.
Local knowledge	the understandings, skills and philosophies developed by societies with long histories of interaction with their natural surroundings. For local communities, local knowledge informs decision-making about the fundamental aspects of their day-to-day life
Maximum sustainable yield (MSY)	Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) is, theoretically, the largest yield (or catch) that can be taken from a species' stock over an indefinite period
Minimum Felling Diameter (MFD)	The Minimum Felling Diameter (MD) or Minimum Diameter of Exploitation (MED) is the diameter below which trees of a species should not be cut. Size is measured at breast height. In some countries this is specified in legislation. In some national laws there are MDs for tree species in general and sometimes there are specific ones for certain (protected) species.

Term	Definition
Minimum viable population size	An estimate of the number of individuals required for a high probability of survival of a population over a given period of time. A commonly used definition is a higher than 95% probability of persistence over 100 years.
Multinational	Including or involving several countries or individuals of several nationalities.
Natural forest	A forest (land with a tree canopy cover of more than 10 percent and area of more than 0.5 ha) composed of indigenous trees and not classified as forest plantation which is established by planting or/and seeding in the process of afforestation or reforestation.
Offtake	The total combined removal of specimens from the wild, whether legal or illegal, for trade or domestic use, taken intentionally or unintentionally (e.g. as bycatch), and whether resulting from human-wildlife conflict, the removal of alien invasive species or any other reason.
Participatory monitoring and evaluation	Participatory monitoring and evaluation is a process of collaborative learning and action in which stakeholders in a project, program or policy engage in monitoring or evaluating its progress and outcomes.
Perennial plants	A term used to define medicinal, aromatic and ornamental plants, as defined in module 11 – NDFs for Plants, Section 1.
Permanent Forest Estate (PFE)	Forest area that is designated to be retained as forest and may not be converted to other land use.
Permanent sample plot	Permanently demarcated areas of forest, typically of 1 ha each, which are periodically remeasured. They are maintained over at least five years, and often for very much longer. They provide estimates of changes in forest stocking and volume. This information is essential for the rational management of the forest
Planted forest	Forests in which trees have been established through planting or seeding by human intervention. Plantation forests are a subset of planted forests. Note: Wood, timber or other parts or derivatives of trees grown in monospecific plantations be considered as being artificially propagated in accordance with the definition contained in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) .
Population structure	A population is the number of organisms of the same species that live in a particular geographic area at the same time, with the capability of interbreeding. The structure of the population is the number of individuals of each sex and age within the population.
Precautionary approach	The data requirements for a determination that trade is not detrimental to the survival of the species should be proportionate to the risks to the species and be in the best interests of the species.
Oviparous	Producing young by means of eggs which are hatched after they have been laid by the parent, as in birds
Recruitment (Timber and other wood products)	Tree recruitment includes trees that exceed a given diameter at breast height (DBH) threshold for the first time in a defined time interval, also called “in-growth” in forestry. Tree recruitment can thus serve as a proxy for successful regeneration.
Reduced impact logging	A sustainable harvesting and management approach for timber and other wood product species that aims to minimise ecological disturbance.
Regeneration (Timber and other wood products)	At a forest level, natural regeneration reflects natural succession through ecological processes. Existing trees and other species reproduce and develop into a natural community based on site conditions. At a tree species level, regeneration is the process of population renewal through reproduction and growth of trees to maturity. Tree regeneration is a key process for long-term forest dynamics, determining changes in species composition and shaping ecological succession.
Regeneration capacity	The regeneration (or reconstitution) capacity of a harvested population is the ability of the remaining trees to rebuild the population or to re-populate areas where individuals or sub-populations have been removed.
Reproductive diameter (Timber)	Fruiting diameter or regular fruiting diameter, regular fruiting /Fertility diameter. Besides the importance for species life history, the reproductive size of tree species is critical for selecting seed trees to be left after logging, a key issue for the sustainable management of production forests.
Resilience (Timber and other wood products)	Resilience is a measure of a forest’s adaptability to a range of stresses and reflects the functional integrity of the ecosystem. At a tree species level, it is a measure of the ability of the species to adapt to a range of stresses.
Risk evaluation	Phase of NDF that determines the inherent risk to a species and its trade, guiding whether a simplified or more comprehensive NDF is required
Rotation cycle	The period of time between harvesting of trees within individual plots (harvesting units) and the next harvesting.
Round wood equivalent	RWE volume is a measure of the volume of logs (roundwood) used in the manufacture of wood-based products (including wood pulp, paper, wooden furniture, joinery and plywood). A m ³ roundwood equivalent expresses the amount of roundwood needed to produce a m ³ of a certain wood product.
Safeguards	A measure taken to protect someone or something or to prevent something undesirable

Term	Definition
Seed tree	A seed tree is a tree left standing (and alive) on purpose during a final harvest as a source of seed for natural regeneration.
Silviculture	The practice of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health and quality of natural forests to meet diverse needs and values.
Sustainable Forest Management	Management of forests which aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations.
Third party	An independent organisation that reviews and independently determines that the final product complies with the associated standards
Traditional knowledge	knowledge, know-how, skills and practices that are developed, sustained and passed on from generation to generation within a community, often forming part of its cultural or spiritual identity
Transboundary	crossing the border between two or more countries or areas and affecting both or all areas
Transect	a straight line or narrow section through an object or natural feature or across the earth's surface, along which observations are made or measurements taken
Use	Use refers to all the various ways in which wild species are used by people, including for food and non-food purposes, such as for clothing, medicinal, cultural, scientific, recreational and work-related uses, as well as for selling or trading
Verification	An independent procedure used for checking that a product, service, or system meets the requirements and specifications of a standard
Viviparous	Bringing forth live young which have developed inside the body of the parent.
Wildlife	A term that traditionally refers to undomesticated animal species, but in certain contexts may include all organisms that grow or live wild in an area without being introduced by humans. In most cases pertaining to NDFs, the term biodiversity (from “biological diversity”) is less ambiguous and more appropriate. Biodiversity refers to the variety of all life on Earth, at all its levels, from genes to ecosystems
Yield regulation	Yield regulation (or yield allocation) is the practice of calculating and controlling the quantity of forest products removed from the forest each year to ensure that the rate of removal does not exceed the rate of replacement. Information on forest growth is used to construct yield tables and growth models, which can be used in calculating the sustainable yield and the annual allowable cut.