



NDF WORKSHOP  
**WG 2 – Perennials**  
**CASE STUDY 4 SUMMARY**  
ISSC-MAP  
Original language – English

## **ELEMENTS OF ISSC-MAP RESOURCE ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE RELEVANT TO CITES NDF**

### **AUTHOR**

Danna J. Leaman

### **Overview and background**

The International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP, [www.floraweb.de/proxy/floraweb/map-pro/](http://www.floraweb.de/proxy/floraweb/map-pro/)) has been developed to understand whether wild collection activities for medicinal and aromatic plants (MAP) are sustainable, and how to improve collection and resource management operations that are detrimental to the long-term survival of these resources. The ISSC-MAP is itself a generic set of principles and criteria intended for use in a wide range of circumstances. The focus of the ISSC-MAP is on the ecological sustainability of wild plant populations and species in their natural habitat, but it also addresses the social and economic context of sustainable use. Pilot projects applying the ISSC-MAP to a range of species, countries, and implementation strategies are currently underway in China, Cambodia, Nepal, India, Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, and Lesotho.

### **Elements of ISSC-MAP relevant to CITES NDF**

Principles 1 and 2, and partly also Principles 3 and 5, correspond with the mandate for CITES NDF. The criteria and indicators underpinning these principles and their applicability for the CITES NDF will be demonstrated and discussed during the Cancun workshop.

### **ISSC-MAP Resource Assessment Guidance relevant to CITES NDF**

The structure, content, and implementation of ISSC-MAP may contribute to CITES NDF for medicinal and aromatic plants as well as for a broader range of commercially important wild-collected plant species traded internationally for use in non-timber products.

Resource assessment guidance developed to facilitate implementation of ISSC-MAP Principle 1 (“Maintaining wild MAP resources”) provides a useful methodological framework for field-based studies intended to support CITES non-detriment findings. This guidance elaborates five basic steps needed to design and carry out a resource assessment and monitoring process that meets the requirements of ISSC-MAP, using participatory and adaptive management

approaches. These five steps will be explained in and discussed at the Cancun meeting:

- **Step 1.** Situation analysis to gather and evaluate existing knowledge about target or candidate species and the collection situation;
- **Step 2.** Base-line inventory to understand how much of the target/selected species is present within the collection area;
- **Step 3.** Yield and regeneration studies to understand how much of the desired raw material / plant part(s) the target species produces under natural conditions, the time required for seedlings to replace harvested individual plants and size-classes, and how productivity and regeneration vary across the collection / management area;
- **Step 4.** Assessment of harvest impacts to determine whether current harvest levels and controls are resulting in adequate resource regeneration and productivity; and
- **Step 5.** Periodic monitoring and harvest adjustments to revise the harvest protocol if the intensity, frequency, timing, and methods of harvest are not sustainable.