



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2017/019

Geneva, 13 March 2017

CONCERNING:

Non-detriment findings (NDFs)

1. Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* provides guidance on the implementation of Articles III and IV of the Convention, and outlines concepts and non-binding guiding principles for Scientific Authorities to consider when determining whether trade would be detrimental to the survival of a species. It encourages Parties to share experiences and examples of ways of making non-detriment findings, including, where they exist and if possible, written records of the science-based rationales and scientific information used for non-detriment finding assessments, and communicate them to the Secretariat.
2. The Resolution directs the Secretariat to maintain a prominent section for non-detriment findings on the CITES website, and to update it regularly with information from the Animals and Plants Committees, Parties and other sources.
3. The 29th meeting of the Animals Committee (18-21 July 2017) and the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee (24-27 July 2017), as well as the joint session of the two Committees on 22 July 2017, represent an appropriate occasion for the Secretariat to remind Parties of the content of Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17), as well as Decision 16.53, which directs the Secretariat to:
 - a) *invite Parties to submit their experiences and the results from workshops, projects or publications related to the making of non-detriment findings for inclusion in the CITES website; and*
 - b) *ensure this information is available in other formats (e.g. CD-ROM) where appropriate.*
4. Parties are therefore encouraged to provide relevant information on the making non-detriment findings, including any capacity building materials, to the Secretariat for inclusion on the website.
5. Parties are also encouraged to offer, on request, cooperative assistance to developing countries, for improvement of capacity to make non-detriment findings, based on nationally identified needs. Such cooperative assistance could take multiple forms, including financial and technical support.
6. Furthermore, Parties are invited to notify the Secretariat of particular capacity-building needs that they may have identified in relation to the making non-detriment findings.
7. While noting that there are no time limits associated with the actions indicated in paragraphs 4 to 6, Parties are encouraged to submit relevant information to be considered for inclusion in the website by 27 May 2017. The information will support the implementation of Decision 16.53 on *Non-detriment findings* directed to the Secretariat and Decision 17.32 on *Capacity building* directed to the Animals and Plants Committees.