



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2018/032

Geneva, 27 March 2018

CONCERNING:

Request for non-detriment findings (NDFs),
with a focus on source codes R¹ and F²

Implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) and Decision 16.53

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 (see paragraph 1 of the Resolution). 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 (see paragraph 2). 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.
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 (see paragraph 3).
3. In light of the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee (Geneva, July 2018), the Secretariat would like to remind Parties of these provisions in 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. 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, including any capacity-building materials to be considered for inclusion in the website by **30 April 2018**, so that the information can be reported to the next Animals and Plants Committee meetings. Parties are also invited to notify the Secretariat of particular capacity-building needs that they may have identified in relation to the making non-detriment findings. The information will be used in support of the implementation of Decision 16.53 on *Non-detriment findings* and Decision 17.32 on *Capacity-building*.

¹ Source code R: *Ranched specimens – specimens of animals reared in a controlled environment, taken as eggs or juveniles from the wild, where they would otherwise have had a very low probability of surviving to adulthood.*

² Source code F: *Animals born in captivity (F1 or subsequent generations) that do not fulfil the definition of 'bred in captivity' in Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev.) as well as parts and derivatives thereof.*

Implementation of Decision 17.104

5. The Secretariat would furthermore like to remind Parties of Decision 17.103, directed to the Animals Committee, as follows:

Subject to available resources, the Animals Committee shall review the differences in the nature of non-detriment findings made for specimens with source code W, R and F and provide guidance for Parties, to be sent to the Secretariat for inclusion in the section for non-detriment findings on the CITES website referred to in Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on Non-detriment findings.

6. At its 29th meeting, the Animals Committee established an intersessional working group on *Captive-bred and ranched specimens* with a mandate to compare and contrast the nature of non-detriment findings for specimens originating from production systems that meet the definitions of source codes R and F, with non-detriment findings for specimens originating from the wild (source code W), using case studies, existing guidance and input from Parties.
7. In support of the Animals Committee's working group referred to in paragraph 9, Parties that have produced non-detriment findings or guidance for trade in specimens with source codes R or F are therefore invited to submit any relevant information to the Secretariat by **30 April 2018** at the latest. Parties are also invited to highlight any concerns or issues that may have arisen in relation to the making of non-detriment findings for specimens from source codes R and F.