



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2021/007

Geneva, 19 January 2021

CONCERNING:

Non-detriment findings (NDFs)

1. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.132 to 18.134 on *Non-detriment findings* (see Annex).
2. In accordance with paragraph a) of Decision 18.132, the Secretariat inventoried and reviewed the materials and guidance for the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs) that are available to the Parties and identified apparent gaps or needs. This analysis was published in document [AC31 Doc. 14.1/PC25 Doc. 17](#).
3. Based on the analysis, and in accordance with paragraph b) of Decision 18.132, the Secretariat now seeks to identify priorities for additional or improved NDF guidance materials, and for addressing apparent gaps or needs, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees and Parties. To this end, Parties are invited to review document [AC31 Doc. 14.1/PC25 Doc. 17](#), and to provide any comments or suggestions about the relevance and ranking of priorities as proposed in paragraph 35 of that document.
4. In accordance with Decision 18.134, Parties are also encouraged to provide any information that may contribute to an international expert workshop on NDFs, such as methodologies, tools, scientific information, expertise, and any other resources or ongoing work to formulate NDFs.
5. Parties are invited to submit the comments, suggestions and information specified in paragraphs 3 and 4 above to the Secretariat by **28 February 2021** at martin.hitziger@cites.org and tom.de-meulenaer@cites.org.

Decisions 18.132 to 18.134 on Non-detriment findings

18.132 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) *inventory and review the materials and guidance for the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs) that are available to the Parties, and identify any apparent gaps or needs (e.g. regarding taxonomic or geographical coverage, form or format, comprehensiveness, accessibility, languages, updates, practicality, etc.), including guidance for making NDFs for trade in specimens from different sources (W, R and F), and NDFs for taxa prioritized/called for in Decisions or Resolutions;*
- b) *identify, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees and Parties, and based on the analysis, priorities for additional or improved NDF guidance materials, and for addressing apparent gaps or needs;*
- c) *subject to external funding, address the agreed priorities in capacity-building by:*
 - i) *undertaking targeted research in support of the development of new or updated NDF guidance materials in collaboration with relevant experts, Parties and organizations; and*
 - ii) *organising one or more interdisciplinary expert workshops on NDFs, including the 2nd international expert workshop on non-detriment findings, with assistance of the Animals and Plants Committees, where draft guidance materials on NDFs are to be reviewed, advanced or completed;*
- d) *present the results of the work to the Animals and Plants Committees for their review, and make suggestions on how best to use the outputs to assist Scientific Authorities in the making of NDFs; and*
- e) *make available to Parties on the CITES website the NDF guidance materials resulting from the implementation of the present Decision.*

18.133 Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

The Animals and Plants Committees shall:

- a) *review the Secretariat's gap analysis of NDF materials and guidance, and assist in identifying priorities for additional or improved NDF guidance materials, and for addressing apparent gaps or needs;*
- b) *participate as appropriate in the interdisciplinary expert workshops on NDFs where draft guidance materials are to be reviewed, advanced or completed;*
- c) *assist the Secretariat in preparing the 2nd international expert workshop on non-detriment findings as a follow up from Cancun 2008, based on the progress made since then;*
- d) *review and make recommendations concerning the outcomes of the interdisciplinary expert workshops on NDFs; the final draft guidance materials on NDFs; the use of these outputs in support of the making of NDFs by Scientific Authorities; and their publication on the CITES website; and*
- e) *report on these activities at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

18.134 Directed to Parties

Parties are encouraged to:

- a) *provide financial support for the implementation of Decision 18.132, including the 2nd international expert workshop on non-detriment findings;*
- b) *provide any help and information regarding methodologies, tools, scientific information, expertise and any other resources used to formulate NDFs in order to contribute to such a workshop, the results of which should be submitted to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its 19th meeting; and*
- c) *make use of the guidance materials on NDFs resulting from the implementation of Decisions 18.132 and 18.133, and report experiences and findings to the Animals and Plants Committees.*