



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2023/050

Geneva, 20 April 2023

CONCERNING:

Request for information on non-detriment findings
for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction

1. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted [Decisions 19.135 to 19.139](#) on *Non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction* as presented in the Annex.
2. Pursuant to Decision 19.135, the Secretariat invites Parties, intergovernmental organizations, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), other Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), non-governmental organizations, fishery stakeholders and others to submit:
 - a) information on experiences in making non-detriment findings (NDFs) for specimens of CITES Appendix II-listed species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) such as an outline of the process, consultations conducted, data types and sources considered, and review process used;
 - b) NDFs produced for specimens of CITES Appendix II-listed species taken from ABNJ;
 - c) information on difficulties encountered in the process of making NDFs for specimens of CITES Appendix II-listed species taken from ABNJ;
 - d) suggestions on improvements that can be made to the process of making NDFs for specimens of CITES Appendix II-listed species taken from ABNJ; and
 - e) any other relevant information on the making of NDFs for specimens of CITES Appendix II-listed species taken from ABNJ.
3. Parties and relevant stakeholders are invited to submit information by email to info@cites.org with a copy to hyeon-jeong.kim@cites.org with the subject line: "Re: Notification No. 2023/050 on NDFs - ABNJ" by 31 July 2023.
4. The responses to the Notification will be used to prepare background documents for a technical workshop in accordance with Decision 19.136.

Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Postal address:
CITES Secretariat
Palais des Nations
Avenue de la Paix 8-14
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

cites.org

Directed to the Secretariat

19.135 *The Secretariat shall invite Parties, other governments and stakeholders through a Notification to the Parties to submit information on their experiences in making non-detriment findings for specimens of CITES Appendix II-listed species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction, to share any non-detriment findings (NDFs) produced, to highlight any difficulties encountered in the process and any suggestions they might have for improvements.*

19.136 *The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding:*

- a) *convene a technical workshop to consider how non-detriment findings might best be achieved for the introduction from the sea of specimens of CITES Appendix II-listed, commercially exploited aquatic organisms taken by multiple Parties in waters beyond national jurisdiction; and invite workshop participants and Parties to contribute relevant information and expertise at the workshop;*
- b) *invite the Animals Committee, the Secretariats of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and relevant daughter agreements and MoUs, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), other Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), other relevant scientific advisory bodies, representatives from States especially those which flag vessels which undertake high seas fisheries, importing countries, fishery stakeholder and industry representatives, and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in this workshop;*
- c) *taking into consideration the responses to the Notification to the Parties in Decision 19.135, existing NDFs submitted by Parties for specimens taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction, outcomes of the second international expert workshop on Non-detriment findings and any other relevant information, prepare workshop documents on:*
 - i) *the level (current and anticipated) of trade in CITES-listed species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction;*
 - ii) *the difficulties encountered by Parties when making NDFs for specimens taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction;*
 - iii) *the current role, if any, of RFMOs and other RFBs in making data and information available to CITES Scientific Authorities making non-detriment findings; and*
- d) *submit findings and recommendations of this workshop to the Animals Committee for their consideration and to make recommendations to the Standing Committee for its consideration, and any recommendations to be considered by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Directed to the Animals Committee

19.137 *The Animals Committee shall consider the report of the workshop in Decision 19.136 and make recommendations to the next meeting of the Standing Committee as appropriate.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.138 *The Standing Committee shall consider the recommendations and comments of the Animals Committee and shall submit recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Directed to Parties and relevant stakeholders

19.139 *Parties, intergovernmental organizations, RFMOs and other RFBs, non-governmental organizations, fishery stakeholders and others are encouraged to respond to the Notification issued by the Secretariat as per Decision 19.135.*