

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Joint sessions of the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee and
20th meeting of the Plants Committee
Dublin (Ireland), 22-24 March 2012

Non-detriment findings

CHINESE WORKSHOP ON CITES NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS

1. This information document has been submitted by China in relation to agenda item 8*.
2. A workshop on Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Non-detrimental Findings (NDF) was jointly held by CITES Management Authority of China and CITES Scientific Authority of China from 20th to 21st February 2012 in Beijing. A total of 26 Representatives attended the workshop, participants including CITES Management Authority of China, CITES Scientific Authority of China, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chinese Medical Science Academy, Chinese Academy of Fishery, Inner Mongolian Institute of Saxoul and Cistanche spp., Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environmental Protection, State Forestry Administration, State Food and Drug Administration and State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine. The workshop was chaired by Prof. Ma Jianzhang, academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering. Dr. Zhou Zhihua, the Deputy Director General of CITES Management Authority of China, Prof. Jiang Zhigang, the Executive Director General of CITES Scientific Authority of China, Prof. Wei Fuwen, the Deputy Director of CITES Scientific Authority of China and Mr. Li Zhiyi, the Deputy Director of Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences attended the workshop and delivered speeches. They highlighted the importance of making Non-detrimental Findings of CITES and commended launching of this workshop.
3. The workshop recognized that, the aim of CITES is to protect endangered species of wild fauna and flora against over-exploitation by international trade restrictions and requires international trade “will not be detrimental to the survival of the species and populations involved”, which summarized as non-detriment finding (NDF). NDF should be conducted by a scientific authority and then becomes the scientific basis of Management Authority for granting import or export permits of CITES Appendix listed species. Capacity building of NDF for CITES Scientific Authorities is therefore a content that CITES has consistently stressed and vigorously promoted in the past few years, which also is the focus of China's CITES authorities of implementing CITES. The aim of this workshop is to improve the capacity building of Chinese relevant authorities in regard of NDF.
4. Dr. Yuan Liangchen from CITES Management Authority of China introduced the history and status of the NDF issues. Prof. Jiang Zhigang made a special report entitled “NDF and Capacity-building of Scientific Institutions”. Progress of the NDF issues in the CITES field and the standpoints of relevant countries and international organizations were introduced in aspects of compliance, administration and scientific advisory of CITES, respectively. Particularly, Prof. Jiang summarized the procedure of NDF practiced by the Endangered Species Scientific Commission of China, the CITES Scientific Authority of China.

* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

5. Experts attending the workshop, taking typical species as example, introduced the scientific basis and experiences of making NDF, incorporating with factor analysis of the species' biology, specimen sources, utilization patterns and status of resources, protection, artificially propagation and trade.
 - Prof. Chen Anping, researcher from Institute of Saxoul and *Cistanche* spp. in Inner Mongolia, introduced the biology, distribution, wild resources status, artificially propagation and trade of *Cistanche deserticola*.
 - Dr. Luo Yibo, researcher from Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, introduced the resource, utilization and trade condition of ornamental orchids in China and presented a case analysis of NDF, taking *Cymbidium sinense* as an example.
 - Dr. Wei Jianhe, researcher from the Institute of Medicinal Plant Development, gave a presentation on the wild and artificially propagated Agarwood species and introduced the prospect for development of "technology for artificial-inducing formulation of agarwood in whole agarwood tree".
 - Prof. Dai Xiaojie from Shanghai Ocean University gave a presentation on the fishery status of sharks and introduced the status and trend of administration under the framework of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).
 - Prof. Wei Qiwei, researcher from Yangtze River Fisheries Research Institute, the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences, introduced the biology of Acipenseriformes and the endangered situation of Acipenseriformes spp. all over the world and laid special stress on reporting the captive-bred status of Acipenseriformes in China and presented a NDF analysis.
 - Dr. Rao Dingqi from Kunming Institute of Zoology, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, introduced the research on endangered status of turtle and tortoise species in China and gave some advices on protection and trade control.
 - Prof. Wu Xiaobing from Anhui Normal University introduced the historical distribution, protection status, progress of captive-bred and trade status of *Alligator sinensis*.
 - Mr. Meng Zhibin, Associate Professor from Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, introduced the resource status of *Moschus* spp. and gave advices on NDF incorporating with resources assessment of *Moschus* spp.
6. Representatives also noted that some of the species mentioned above had implemented sustainable utilization by captive-breeding and artificially propagation, while others were still in endangered status, thus it is necessary to strengthen of protection and international trade restriction on CITES Appendix species of wild source.
7. The participants of the workshop realized that NDF, which is the core article of CITES for implementing the convention to achieve the goal of wild endangered species protection. The Chinese government accords great importance to NDF issue and has done a great deal of work, made commendable attempts and gained instructive experiences. But there are still difficulties and deficiencies, including but not limited to, first, lack first-hand wild resources survey data of many species; second, virtually no research has been conducted or experts could be found for many species; third, methods of NDF need to be further refined; fourth, acute shortage of funds for NDF research and execution.
8. The participants of the workshop concluded: First, NDF is a general principle of CITES to regulate international trade in endangered wild fauna and flora; Second, CITES authorities should be encouraged to draw up guidelines for NDF. Various NDF methods should be permitted as biodiversity and national situation differences among the parties. Third, specimens from different sources should be distinguished when making NDF. The starting point of CITES is protecting wild populations, therefore NDF should distinguish specimens come from different sources such as wild, captive-bred (artificially propagated), ranching, indigenous or exotic. Fourth, take the actuality and practicality fully into account, strict or specific NDF resolution at CoP of CITES are not advisable; Fifth, as for the widely distributed marine species, assessments of international organizations as RFMOs should be taken for reference. Sixth, strengthen information sharing and experience exchanging among parties, enhance NDF capacity building, improving the scientific basis and accuracy of NDF. Seventh, the developed countries should be encouraged to offer more aid to developing countries for NDFs.

9. The participants of the workshop also paid great attention and gave advices to the draft resolution on NDF of the forthcoming joint meeting of the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 20th meeting of the Plants Committee.
10. The participants of the workshop all agreed that the workshop was of great importance in summing up experience and improving the NDF work of China. In the future, China will improve its NDF work in the following aspects:
 - i. Cast about for more financial aid for NDF;
 - ii. Strengthen the cooperation between management, administrative authorities and scientific institutes, encourage information exchange;
 - iii. Conduct the monitoring and assessment of resources and trade of endangered species, steady tamp the foundation of NDF work ;
 - iv. Formulate NDF guidelines conformed to China's national situation.