



The Trees Working Group elaborated essential **principles, procedures, and elements** that Scientific Authorities should consider when making non-detriment findings (NDF) for the taxa.

Principles can be summarized as follows: Since an Appendix II listing recognizes that international trade at current rates or patterns has placed the species at risk of harm, the Scientific Authority is charged with verifying that traded volumes or products do not cause harm to the species within the range State. The central issue that must be addressed is whether the anticipated impact of current or proposed harvests on species' population status will be non-detrimental to the species in its role in the ecosystem. The extent to which species population status has been described and is understood determines the scale, quality and certainty at which NDFs can be made. Sufficient biological information for Appendix II tree species exists to propose harvest and management systems where population status is known. Risk associated with a negative outcome from the NDF declines as the level of understanding of population status and management systems increases.

The initial **procedure** for NDF should consider the source of specimens to be harvested, whether they originate from plantations or from wild populations. NDF for plantation-grown specimens should be straightforward. Harvests from wild sources should be distinguished between those having non-lethal vs. lethal outcomes. Each of these outcomes implies a different approach to evaluating impacts on wild populations.

The Trees Working Group considered that the NDF process should consider five basic **elements**, and offered a description of issues, tools, and resources relating to each (see 'TreeWG_NDF.doc'). These elements and the specific objective that each addresses are as follows:

1 SPECIES DISTRIBUTION AREA (RANGE) AT RELEVANT SCALES

Characterize the species' distribution at different spatial and jurisdictional scales so that production and conservation areas can be identified.

2 POPULATION PARAMETERS AS INDICATORS OF SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

Characterize species population status (standing stocks & dynamics) to provide standards for evaluating harvest impacts.

3 MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS & HARVEST RATES

With sufficient knowledge of distribution and population parameters, determine whether management systems are appropriate to species populations subject to harvest AND whether harvest levels are sustainable.

4 MONITORING & VERIFYING HARVESTS

Determine whether adequate monitoring & verification systems are in place to ensure the sustainability of harvest and to reduce illegal activities & illegal trade.

5 CONSERVATION & THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE

Determine whether safeguards are in place to ensure that representative natural populations and phenotypic & genetic diversity represented in harvested populations are conserved.

The Trees Working Group report includes Annexes indicating further resources available for this taxa, including outputs from species-specific Workshops, a Glossary, tools and expertise, and considerations for a proposed Trees Working Group website as an extension tool.