



THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR SUSTAINABLE WILD COLLECTION OF MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS (ISSC-MAP) ELEMENTS OF ISSC-MAP RESOURCE ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE RELEVANT TO CITES NDF

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Overview and background

The International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP)¹ has been developed to meet the needs of industry, governments, certifiers, resource managers, and collectors to understand whether wild collection activities for medicinal and aromatic plants (MAP)² are sustainable, and how to improve collection and resource management operations that are detrimental to the long-term survival of these resources. The ISSC-MAP is itself a generic set of principles and criteria intended for use in a wide range of circumstances.³ The focus of the ISSC-MAP is on the ecological sustainability of wild plant populations and species in their natural habitat, but it also addresses the social and economic context of sustainable use.

¹ Medicinal Plant Specialist Group (2007): International standard for sustainable wild collection of medicinal and aromatic plants (ISSC-MAP). Version 1.0. - Bundesamt für Naturschutz, Bonn (BfN-Skripten 195). Retrieved from www.floraweb.de/proxy/floraweb/map-pro/.

² Definitions of use of plant species often overlap. In this document, the term “medicinal and aromatic plants (MAP)” includes plants used to produce pharmaceuticals, dietary supplement products and natural health products, beauty aids, cosmetics, and personal care products, as well as some products marketed in the culinary/food sector.

³ ISSC-MAP has been prepared by the Medicinal Plant Specialist Group of the IUCN-SSC in collaboration with the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), WWF Germany, and TRAFFIC, based on consultations with more than 150 experts from diverse backgrounds. Version 1.0 was published in 2007 and was introduced to the 16th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee (PC16 Inf. 9).

Table 1: ISSC-MAP consists of six Principles:

1. Maintaining wild MAP resources
2. Preventing negative environmental impacts
3. Complying with laws, regulations, and agreements
4. Respecting customary rights
5. Applying responsible management practices
6. Applying responsible business practices

Pilot projects applying the ISSC-MAP to a range of species, countries, and implementation strategies are currently underway in China, Cambodia, Nepal, India, Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, and Lesotho.

Elements of ISSC-MAP relevant to CITES NDF

Application of the ISSC-MAP in the framework of CITES is one of the priority implementation scenarios identified for ISSC-MAP in the context of legal adoption and policy. Principles 1 and 2, and partly also Principles 3 and 5, correspond with the mandate for CITES NDF as laid down in articles IV 2.a and IV 3. The criteria and indicators underpinning these principles and their applicability for the CITES NDF will be demonstrated and discussed during the Cancun workshop.

Medicinal plants in CITES

More than 300 species of medicinal and aromatic plants are included in CITES Appendices I and II. Only 63 of these species have been included specifically because of the impact of wild collection for international trade based on their medicinal use.

Non-detriment findings have been carried out and published for some CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plant species, including:

- *Prunus africana*, Bioko Island (PC16 Doc. 10.2.1)
- *Aquilaria* spp. and other wood-producing taxa (PC17 Doc. 17.2)
- *Guaiacum sanctum* L., Mexico (PC17 Doc. 17.1.3)

The breakdown into the four plant working groups (WG) at the Cancun workshop is done by lifeforms (trees; perennials; succulents; geophytes). Plants used as medicinals are cross-cutting and will be addressed there in the case studies in three of the four plant WGs, including:

- *Guaiacum sanctum*, *Aquilaria* spp., *Prunus africana*, *Taxus* spp. (Tree WG)
- *Pelargonium sidoides*, *Cibotium barometz*, *Panax quinquefolius* (Perennials WG)
- *Hoodia gordonii*, *Aloe* spp. (Succulents and Cycads WG)

ISSC-MAP Resource Assessment Guidance relevant to CITES NDF

The structure, content, and implementation of ISSC-MAP may contribute to CITES NDF for medicinal and aromatic plants as well as for a broader range of commercially important wild-collected plant species traded internationally for use in non-timber products.

Resource assessment guidance⁴ developed to facilitate implementation of ISSC-MAP Principle 1 (“Maintaining wild MAP resources”) provides a useful methodological framework for field-based studies intended to support CITES non-detriment findings. This guidance elaborates five basic steps needed to design and carry out a resource assessment and monitoring process that meets the requirements of ISSC-MAP, using participatory and adaptive management approaches. These five steps will be explained in and discussed at the Cancun meeting:

- Step 1. **SITUATION ANALYSIS** to gather and evaluate existing knowledge about target or candidate species and the collection situation;
- Step 2. **BASE-LINE INVENTORY** to understand how much of the target/selected species is present within the collection area;
- Step 3. **YIELD AND REGENERATION STUDIES** to understand how much of the desired raw material / plant part(s) the target species produces under natural conditions, the time required for seedlings to replace harvested individual plants and size-classes, and how productivity and regeneration vary across the collection / management area;
- Step 4. **ASSESSMENT OF HARVEST IMPACTS** to determine whether current harvest levels and controls are resulting in adequate resource regeneration and productivity; and
- Step 5. **PERIODIC MONITORING AND HARVEST ADJUSTMENTS** to revise the harvest protocol if the intensity, frequency, timing, and methods of harvest are not sustainable.

⁴ Leaman, D.J. & Cunningham, A.B. (2008): Resource assessment. A guide to implementing Principle 1: Maintaining wild MAP resources.– Draft for review and comment.