



## Perennials

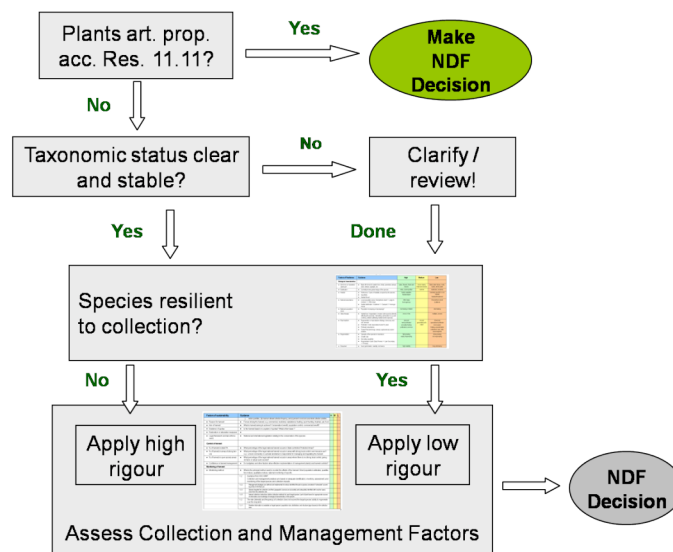
### Working Group Summary

The main contribution of the perennial plants working group is a simplified process for making NDFs that is based on currently available guides such as the IUCN checklist and the ISSC MAP. Further, our group offers a method to assess the resilience of perennial plant species to collection and identifies sources, quantity, and quality of data (level of rigor) required for high and low resilient species.

The following references for making NDFs were reviewed which included, as appropriate for perennial plants: tables 1 and 2 of the Guidance for CITES Scientific Authorities (i.e., the IUCN NDF Checklist (2002), the Cancun Workshop Case Study Format (2008); the EU-SRG Guidance Paper; the International Standard for the Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP) (2007), and susceptibility matrices published by Cunningham and Peters. The ISSC-MAP provided guidance for the factors "Management Plan" and "Monitoring Methods" through detailed criteria and indicators.

The guidance provided by the working group may apply to all CITES Appendix-II plant species (requires testing with some tree examples). The following decision tree summarizes the process.

### Steps for making a CITES NDF for plants



The process indicates that an NDF decision can be made easily for artificially propagated specimens, provided that the criteria for CITES Resolution Conf. 11.11 is met, and guides Scientific Authorities to treat wild-collected specimens as wild specimens. The importance of clarifying taxonomic status of CITES-listed species is highlighted as an initial step and sources of information are identified. After the taxonomy of the species is checked, the next step is to determine whether a species is more or less resilient to collection using plant life strategy factors and population dynamic information. This guidance indicates the types of information needed and the extent of effort and data gathering necessary. This approach can facilitate making NDF decisions and in many cases can be made with the information readily available. The process helps ensure that the level of data gathering and effort is compatible with the level of species' vulnerability and therefore will result in a more confident decision. Once the level of vulnerability of a species is determined, the Scientific Authority is guided through a table of factors that affect the

management and collection of the species (streamlined from the current NDF tools, i.e., the IUCN checklist and ISSC MAP), and identifies a range of data sources needed to evaluate the factors. It is expected, where possible, that greater rigor (e.g., multiple data sources, intensive field study), will be used for those species that are considered less resilient to collection. In general, Scientific Authorities will work with information that is available and seek more extensive information for species considered to be of low resilience. It is also recognized that the source of data considered most reliable will vary depending on the species and specific collection situation. For example, in some cases knowledge of population abundance gained from local harvesters may be very reliable.

The overall result is a simple guiding document of a few pages that will enable a Scientific Authority to make scientifically based NDFs for perennial plant species.