International Expert Workshop on CITES Non-Detriment Findings

Cancun, Mexico, November 2008

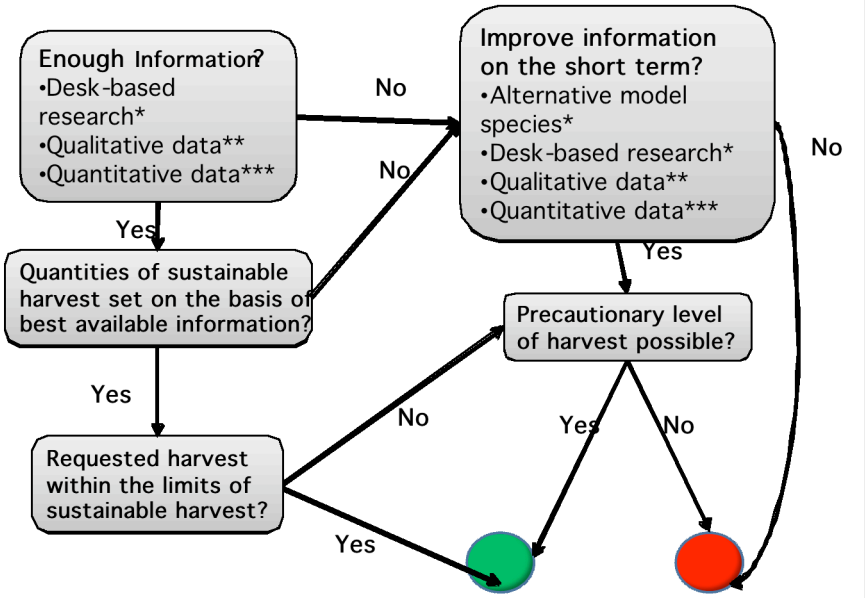
Working Group 4

Geophytes & Epiphytes

Working Group Summary

Non-Detriment Finding Process (***=high confidence)

NDF flow chart from the Geophyte and Epiphyte Group



Key Points

The group concentrated on the highly traded groups Galanthus and Epiphytic orchids. WG4 developed detailed guidance on the methods most suitable for making NDFs for these plants and it is hoped that this material will form the basis for a tailored manual to be used by Scientific Authorities. High volume trade in Galanthus is restricted to a limited number of species and the trade was found to be highly suited to an adaptive management approach, using a precautionary quota, participative management and a strong qualitative science base. Continuity is at risk due to a fragile institutional memory and possible solutions were explored. The pros and cons of population modelling were detailed, and it was noted that these techniques provided new opportunities for supporting NDF's.

The issues relating to NDF's for epiphytic orchids were more complex with more and varied risk factors. Risks increased due to large harvests for local and national use, collection of whole populations, opportunistic collection of all species in habitat and damage to the host trees in the collection process. Lack of incentives may contribute to such destructive harvests. Further development of guidance is needed on the application of the CITES definition of artificial propagation and on how to make NDF's on mother plants in propagation systems. The lack of management plants and guidelines on sustainable use directly related to orchids was noted.

The development of practical hands on *in-situ* training for making NDF's for geophytes and epiphytes was a cross-cutting concern and would be vital in moving the process further.