



International Expert Workshop on CITES Non-Detriment Findings

Cancun,
Mexico,
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2008

Working
Group 5



Mammals

Working Group Summary

The main objective of the Mammal Working Group was to identify the most important variables for making Non-Detriment Findings for mammalian species.

In order to achieve this, the group followed NDF Workshop Doc. 2 Output Format and extract, out of every case study, the elements to be considered when making NDFs. This was complemented with Uwe Shippmann's document (compiling of IUCN Checklist, EU guidelines and ISSC-MAP). Then a scoring exercise was made to assign importance to the different elements.

Working Group discussions were focused on several issues, including the need for defining level of NDF covering (local population, national or regional), harvest *versus* trade-driven harvest, role of the species in the ecosystem, addressing all types of removal when making decisions and the idea of NDF as a matter of judgment.

The working group then developed a decision tree (see full report) where the members agreed on how to address NDFs that involve species at low, high and unknown risk, based on a rapid-assessment *versus* detailed-data-collection approach.

The first step of the above mentioned decision tree is a preliminary assessment looking at the risk level harvest would imply for the species. A series of questions regarding general population characteristics (distribution, abundance, conservation status and harvest likelihood of impact) are considered in this regard (see full report).

Relevant elements identified for making NDF for mammalian species can be found in the full Mammal WG Report. These elements are basically related with population size, structure, trend, and range, segment and proportion of the population taken and extent of monitoring of all these factors through time and space. It was also agreed to include a new section to cover type and magnitude of threats.

Concerning methods to obtain and measure those elements, the group will continue its work to compile relevant sources of information where they can be found and consulted (publications, databases, tools, etc.), although some basic lines can be found on WG full report. Ways to make this information available for Scientific Authorities in the near future will be assessed. Adaptive management was agreed as the main approach to be adopted for future NDF making, as it will allow continuous improvement of Scientific Authorities future work.

With the aim of assessing quantity and quality of information, before making any decision, the group considered peer review, technical assessment and experts opinion as the best paths to achieve it.

Risk assessment, as well as expert assessment and modeling, was considered essential in order to integrate information as per taking the final decision, always considering the precautionary principle beneath CITES functioning and implementation.

Problems when making NDF were pointed out during discussions, and lack of information, accessibility to it, need for capacity and funding were the most recurrent topics in this matter.

Lots of recommendations were made by members of the working group (see full report), although cooperation with other Parties or regions, taking into account all sources of mortality and adopting adaptive management where the main ones.

Future work includes building a glossary of terms, the compilation of helpful references and data sources and a characterization of vulnerability for mammal species (risk level harvest) based on previous exercises already developed.