

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twentieth meeting of the Plants Committee
Dublin (Ireland), 22-30 March 2012

Regional Reports

OCEANIA

1. This document has been submitted by the regional representative for Oceania (Dr Greg Leach, Australia) **.
2. As it was received by the Secretariat after the deadline for submission of documents, it is provided herewith in English only (the language in which it was submitted).

General Information

3. a) Representative: Greg Leach (Australia)
b) Alternate: Marika Tuiwawa (Fiji)
c) Number of Parties in the region: 8 (Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu). The following 9 countries in Oceania are not Parties to the Convention: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Tokelau, Tonga and Tuvalu.
d) Parties responding to communications: Australia, Fiji, New Zealand,
4. Directory

The region was canvassed in May and November of 2011 to update the Regional Directory. A new Regional directory will be provided to the Secretariat for inclusion on the web site.

Communication with Parties in the region since PC 19 (Geneva, April 2011)

5. Following PC19, Dr Leach sent a report to member Parties, non-member Parties and relevant IGOs and NGOs working in the region outlining the key outcomes affecting Oceania. This report included:
 - a) notification of appointments of Oceania Parties onto various intersessional working groups, in particular:
 - NDF – Implementation of Decision 15.24 (PC19 WG03 Doc. 1).
 - NDF – PC19 Doc 10.4.

* This document has not been translated and is provided in the language in which it was submitted /
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** The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

- Capacity-building programme for science-based establishment and implementation of voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species (Decision 12.91).
 - Climate change.
 - Annotations.
- b) PC19_WG 3. NDF IMPLEMENTATION. Oceania Parties were encouraged to provide input through their regional representative and advised of a further Notification to be sent to Parties seeking information on the methods and tools currently used in undertaking NDFs.
 - c) PC19_WG4 PREPARATION OF CLARIFICATION AND GUIDANCE ON THE MEANING OF "PACKAGED AND READY FOR RETAIL TRADE" AND OTHER TERMS USED IN THE ANNOTATIONS..Oceania Parties advised of the agreed definitions for Essential oil, Extract, Finished product packaged and ready for retail trade, Powder (and Powdered), Root. The region generally has been concerned about the clarity and application of many of the plant annotations.
 - d) PC 19 WG 5 ORCHIDS: ANNOTATION FOR SPECIES INCLUDED IN APPENDIX II. Advised Parties of the final outcome of this working group, though Oceania continues to be concerned about the implementation of this annotation.
 - e) PC 19 WG 8 SIGNIFICANT TRADE and PC 19 WG 9 PERIODIC REVIEW OF PLANT SPECIES INCLUDED IN THE CITES APPENDICES. There was little of concern for Oceania Parties in the Significant Trade review process. There are no Oceania species currently in the Periodic Review process.
 - f) PC19_WG 6 TREE SPECIES: ANNOTATIONS FOR SPECIES INCLUDED IN APPENDICES II AND III. Parties advised of the_WG recommendation that the description for finished products was intended only for medicinal products and should not be applied to timber products from species with Annotation #2.
 - g) PC 19 WG 11 AGARWOOD-PRODUCING TAXA. The WG output and notification of future workshops was highlighted for PNG as they will be invited and supported to attend these workshops.
6. A letter was circulated to the member Parties, non-member countries and several IGOs/ NGOs in the Oceania region outlining the agenda of PC20 and seeking views or comment. Responses were received from Australia, Fiji and New Zealand.

Relevant CITES implementation issues in the region

7. Capacity remains the over-riding issue for CITES implementation in the region. There is a small population size in relation to area administered, and for island states the government departments are small. CITES is normally but a small part of the wide range of environment and conservation responsibilities of a small number of government officials. Often just one or two people deal with all of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and staff turnover rates are often high in the small public services of island nations. Some Parties have very low levels of trade in CITES species and so attending to CITES requests for information is a low priority. Electronic communications to registered MAs and SAs often fail. These factors explain the poor submission rate of annual or biennial national reports, the lack of suitable legislation and poor definition of MA and SA roles for many Parties.
8. The Capacity Building Workshops held in the region have, however, been greatly beneficial and have been a key driver for the growth of membership from Oceania.
9. Scientific expertise is often difficult to obtain when needed, hence the value of building regional networks of expertise which can fulfil some of the technical requirements of CITES, notably those of Scientific Authorities.

Capacity-building activities and awareness campaigns

New Zealand

10. In May 2011, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the New Zealand Wildlife Enforcement Group (NZWEG) ran their fourth in-country workshop on the 'Prevention of Illegal Wildlife Trade', this time in conjunction with the Papua New Guinea Customs Department. Meeting participants included officials

from the Department of Environment and Conservation (CITES MA), Customs, Police, and Quarantine. The main focus was on building local capacity for effective wildlife law enforcement via practical, hands-on training, especially familiarising staff with the wildlife species most commonly found in international trade in Oceania, and relevant national and international regulations governing the trade in wild animal and plants.

11. The New Zealand CITES Management Authority has obtained funding from the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to provide technical assistance to Samoa and the Solomon Islands toward improvement of CITES implementation. The New Zealand CITES Management Authority is working collaboratively with the Samoan Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Solomon Islands Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology in this initiative. The technical assistance will take place throughout 2012, and will take the form of two national workshops in each country. The first workshops will focus on CITES implementation issues, and the second workshops will provide follow-up and address preparations for CITES CoP16.
12. The New Zealand Wildlife Enforcement Group (WEG) secured funding for two workshops on Prevention of Illegal Wildlife Trade in the Pacific region. In March 2012, a workshop will take place in Rarotonga, Cook Islands. This will be followed by a workshop to be held in Vanuatu, which will train participants from previous WEG workshops (see PC19 Doc.6.6 pg. 3) to deliver their own in-country training. The approach of these workshops is to ensure multi-agency participation, in order to promote collaboration and communication among all government departments that work on CITES, wildlife and border issues.
13. In May 2011, the New Zealand CITES Management Authority published a Chinese language brochure on traditional medicines. The brochure outlines requirements for medicines containing CITES-listed species. Funding for the brochure was made available through reparation payments arising from a successful prosecution of someone who illegally imported large quantities of CITES specimens for traditional medicinal purposes.
14. The New Zealand CITES Management Authority is also working on an upgrade of its online Wiki compendium of traditional Asian medicines that are found in trade (see <http://citesnz.pbworks.com/w/page/8486187/TAM-Guide>). The compendium is being updated to include photographs of specimens.

Fiji

15. Fiji has been compiling an inventory on the nature resources of Fiji and the report was published mid-2011.
16. A review of the national legislation on the Endangered and Protected Species Act for Fiji has been conducted and it involved reviewing the list of Plants and Animals on the EPS Act. As part of this process, tree species in particular have been assessed and two schedules developed which list those species endangered with extinction and species that are threatened. The assessment has focused Fijian endemic plants. This will contribute information to any NDF requirements.

Australia

17. In October 2011, the Australian CITES Management Authority undertook awareness raising activities with the Chinese Medicine Industry Council of Australia in relation to species used in complementary medicines and applicable regulatory requirements. This included assistance in the interpretation of several annotations; explanations on entire genus listings; and noting that listings applied to all countries trading in this species, regardless of range.
18. Australia has continued to work closely with the Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association in actively promoting the Australian Endangered Species Certification Scheme (ESCS). The ESCS recognises efforts undertaken by complementary medicine practitioners and traders to protect endangered species – each certifying that products they use and sell do not contain illegally acquired parts or derivatives of wildlife (see http://www.acupuncture.org.au/Endangered_Species_Certification_Scheme.aspx).
19. In January 2012, the Australian CITES Management Authority wrote to Australian Museums and Art Galleries to provide information on CITES import and export requirements for display items in collections.
20. The Australian CITES Management Authority also hosted information booths at the Travelexpos in Sydney and Melbourne in March 2011. These events aimed to increase awareness by the public and

travel industry of wildlife trade issues and the regulatory approach Australia takes in regards to wildlife items.

Other Activities

21. The regional representative worked closely with the Australia MA to prepare the responses for the climate change working group.
22. Dr Leach attended the Agarwood workshop in Kuwait 3-6th October 2011 and co-chaired the scientific issues sessions. The workshop report summarised the current situation in Agarwood range states, refined the NDF process and made 5 recommendations to address the issues around artificial propagation with Agarwood plantations. The report was then submitted for further consideration at the second workshop in Indonesia.22-21 November 2011.