

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



Sixteenth meeting of the Animals Committee  
Shepherdstown (United States of America), 11-15 December 2000

Regional Reports

OCEANIA  
(July 1999 – November 2000)

**A) General Information**

Member: Dr Rod Hay (New Zealand)  
Alternate: Dr Dick Watling (Fiji)

Both Dr Hay and Dr Watling were elected to their positions at COP12 in Gigiri. Rod Hay had been alternate Oceanian representative since COP9. We gratefully acknowledge the outstanding efforts of Hank Jenkins, whose membership and able chairmanship of the Committee has been a feature of the work of the convention for a number of years. Dr Jenkins joined the Committee in 1989 and chaired it from 1992 until his retirement at COP11 in 2000. His standing with the Parties is exemplified by the resolution at COP11 for him to chair the Criteria Working Group.

- Number of Parties in Oceania: 5 (Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu)
- Number of Parties responding to communications in 2000: 2
- Names of other institutions, NGOs contacted: none

**B) List of Items**

FOLLOW-UP TO AGENDA ITEMS SINCE LAST ANIMALS COMMITTEE MEETING

- Following COP11, Dr Hay was elected as a member of the Criteria Working Group and attended the meeting held in Canberra 2-4 August 2000 to prepare a draft of the listing criteria for presentation to the Joint Meeting of the Animals and Plants Committees.
- New Zealand was asked to review *Anas aucklandica* in the context of the listing criteria but this work was not completed.
- Fiji has reported difficulties in implementing requirements relating to the export of corals. Information on the coral industry in Fiji is not easy to compile, particularly in relation to volumes harvested and traded. Weights exported are not currently verified by Fiji Customs. The Management Authority is working on resolving the issue.
- Communication with other Parties in the region:

In November 2000, a letter was sent to Parties in the region asking for advice on matters to be discussed at the forthcoming meetings. A substantive response was received from Fiji regarding trade in corals and their views will be represented.

#### OTHER REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Australia has collaborated with Papua New Guinea authorities on enforcement training.
- Dr Jenkins and Frank Antram have also assisted Papua New Guinea with legislative amendments.
- New Zealand has amended its legislation to mandate DNA testing of vertebrates proposed for export. This will facilitate the establishment of non-detriment findings, particularly for captive-bred specimens of Australian Appendix II parrot species.
- Preliminary discussions on venue and timing are under way to set up a meeting of Pacific Island states (Parties and non-Parties) concerning joining and implementing CITES.
- New Zealand has just completed a taxonomic review of the genus *Cyanoramphus* (mandated to the Animals Committee by COP9). This will result in the elevation of several taxa to species status.
- In response to Notification 2000/044 on species critically endangered in the wild or difficult to breed in captivity, Australia submitted a comprehensive list of candidate species to the Secretariat. Australia is also developing a draft approach to applying Resolution Conf. 11.14 on non-commercial breeding operations for Appendix I species.

#### FORTHCOMING LISTING PROPOSALS

- There are no proposals currently under discussion. In the light of the taxonomic revision of *Cyanoramphus* parakeets, New Zealand is considering whether proposals to revise listings for these species are warranted. Consultation with other range states (Australia, France) will take place if these proposals are to be prepared.

#### DIFFICULTIES OF IMPLEMENTATION IN THE REGION

No regional meetings have been held, or are likely under the current funding regimes. However, it has been possible to use regional meetings of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme as a forum for some CITES related issues. Given the size of some Parties, there is a difficulty in establishing a fully functional Scientific Authority, hence an incentive for exploring opportunities for using appropriate regional expertise to assist. These Management Authorities also experience difficulties with the administrative requirements for implementing the Convention in respect of corals and clams. Fiji has reported implementation issues relating to corals to the Secretariat.