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



Nineteenth meeting of the Plants Committee Geneva (Switzerland), 18-21 April 2011

Regional Report

#### OCEANIA

The attached report for Oceania has been prepared by the regional representative of Oceania<sup>\*</sup>. 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.

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.

#### 1. General Information

- a) Representative: Greg Leach (Australia)
- b) Alternate: Marika Tuiwawa (Fiji)
- c) Number of Parties in the region: 8
- d) Parties responding to communications: Australia, New Zealand.

#### 2. Directory

A new Regional directory was produced in September 2010 and is attached herewith.

#### 3. Activities carried out

The agenda for PC 19 was distributed to all Oceania Parties with a call for comment. The agenda was annotated to highlight issues of interest or concern to Oceania.

#### Significant trade

There are no species from the region in the current activities of the Plants Committee under the Significant Trade Review process. The region is not a significant importer of any of the current species under review

#### Review of the Appendices

There are no species from the region in the current activities of the Plants Committee under the process of Review of taxa included in the Appendices.

#### Contact with specialists and/or NGO's

The major contact and consultation during the period has been with Kuwait and Indonesia in regard to the Agarwood Decisions and the development of two workshops before the next CoP. This has resulted in an agenda paper in response to Decision 15.94 – Agarwood producing taxa.

#### 4. Capacity Building/Education

#### <u>Australia</u>

Australia has continued to undertake a number of targeted education and awareness activities throughout Australia in relation to CITES fauna and flora obligations.

Initiatives undertaken by Australia include:

Delivery of Customs recruit and in-service training

Promotion of CITES flora and fauna at various fora i.e. Travel expos (Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane), the Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association's 2010 Conference, on the television program "The Circle", and on SBS radio (bear bile)

Promotion and education of the Endangered Species Certification Scheme for complementary medicine practitioners

The Australian CITES Management Authority funded the production of a CITES Flora poster (attached) to promote awareness of CITES obligations in relation to plant species. This was displayed at the High Court of Australia during the 2010 Floriade festival.

Production and display of a promotional CITES poster at Sabai Island – an important trade transit point between Papua New Guinea and Australia.

The last regional capacity building workshop and regional meeting was in March 2009, funded and hosted by Australia. The theme of the workshop was 'Enforcement' and it addressed some of the key enforcement issues and challenges in the region.

#### New Zealand

The New Zealand Wildlife Enforcement Group secured funding for a series of workshops on Prevention of Illegal Wildlife Trade in the Pacific region. In August 2009, a workshop was held in Auckland, New Zealand, that had participants from seven Pacific Island countries. This was followed up by two in-country workshops in 2010 - one in Apia, Samoa and the other in Honiara, Solomon Islands. There is a third in-country workshop planned for Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea in early May 2011. The approach of the workshops has been to ensure multi-agency participation, in order to promote collaboration and communication among all government departments that work on CITES, wildlife and border issues.

The New Zealand Wildlife Enforcement Group also secured funding to design, publish and distribute species identification and border control manuals that are specific to the Oceania region. Thus far, over 30 ID sheets have been published for various species and higher taxa (birds, reptiles) and related issues such as traditional medicines, smuggling techniques, and permit verification. These have been distributed to border agency representatives in 25 countries. More sheets are planned to cover various marine and invertebrate species.

The New Zealand CITES Management Authority is in the process of publishing a Chinese language brochure on traditional medicines. The brochure outlines CITES documentation requirements for medicines containing CITES-listed species. Publication of the brochure is expected in May 2011.

#### Australia & New Zealand

A joint initiative between the Management Authorities of Australia and New Zealand created and distributed a series of CITES brochures in English and six pacific languages (Samoan, Tongan, Fijian, Tok Pisin (Papua New Guinea), Palauan and Pijin (Solomon Islands)). A brochure in Bislama (Vanuatu) is currently under development. (see <a href="http://www.doc.govt.nz/publications/about-doc/role/international/does-your-luggage-break-wildlife-laws-brochure/">http://www.doc.govt.nz/publications/about-doc/role/international/does-your-luggage-break-wildlife-laws-brochure/</a>). The collaborative approach was taken to promote a consistent trans-Tasman and Oceanic message regarding CITES regulations and the import/export of CITES-listed species. The brochures have been distributed throughout the region.

#### Solomon Islands

A CITES regional workshop was held in Honiara, Solomon Islands from May 17-20, 2010. The workshop was jointly organised and funded by the CITES Secretariat and the NGO Species Management Specialists.

The workshop was focused on marine species but did include consideration of implementation of non detriment findings.

#### 5. Difficulties of implementation encountered

Clearly an on-going issue for many Parties in the region is simply one of capacity. In the period up to PC 19 almost all CITES activity in the region has been around capacity building and education.

Concern continues to be expressed in the region about the complexity of annotations and the need to improve understanding and implementation relating to annotations.

#### 6. Work to be done until next PC

Given the above difficulties of implementation, the region supports prioritising those activities targeted to capacity building. The region also supports the work on improving clarity and effectiveness of various annotations.

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