

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



Fourteenth meeting of the Plants Committee  
Windhoek (Namibia), 16-20 February 2004

Regional reports and updated regional directories (Decisions 12.14 and 12.15)

Oceania

REGIONAL REPORT

General information

- a) Regional representative (author of report): Greg Leach (Australia)
- b) Alternate regional representative: Osia Gideon (Papua New Guinea)
- c) Parties in the Region: Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu

Regional directory

1. The Oceanian regional directory of plant specialists has been maintained and a revised edition dated January 2004 has been provided to the CITES Secretariat.

Communication with Parties in region

2. A report of the 13th meeting of the Plants Committee (Geneva, August 2003) was distributed to all Oceania parties and plant specialists in November 2003. The report urged Oceanian Parties to follow the debate and process for the review of the criteria. A follow-up email on the criteria review, alerting Parties to the species review results, was also distributed.
3. The regional representative had communications with:
  - a) The Australian and New Zealand Management Authorities to facilitate responses to the Criteria Review.
  - b) TRAFFIC SEA concerning on-going activities with studies on the trade in Agarwood.
  - c) The Australian and New Zealand authorities on exemptions for artificially propagated orchid hybrids.
  - d) A consultant seeking information on behalf of Agarwood traders as to possible new wild sources.
  - e) Staff at Singapore Herbarium on Agarwood distributional data and information on harvesting.
  - f) The Management Authority of Australia on recent import of purported *Aquilaria malaccensis* oil.
  - g) Solomon Islands (a non-Party) on harvesting and possible CITES implications with palms and sandalwood.

- h) The Australian Management Authority on Cycad permits.
4. There has been a very poor level of response from Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. Some Parties have significant issues with legislative and reporting compliance along with marine issues demanding considerable attention. This has inevitably meant that plant issues have assumed a lower priority in recent times. Agarwood, the criteria review and to a lesser extent Cycads, have been the major plant topics within the region.

#### Capacity-building activities

##### **Papua New Guinea**

5. The Non-Wood Forest Products programme of FAO has initiated a 20-month Technical Cooperation Programme with the PNG Forest Authority, in order to develop sustainable harvest and trade management systems for eaglewood (agarwood), focused on the species *Gyrinops ledermannii*.

#### Difficulties of implementation encountered in the region

6. Compliance in the areas of annual reporting, financial contributions and legislation continue to be problems experienced by some Parties in the region. These problems highlight the need for capacity building activities.

#### Enforcement

##### **Australia**

##### *Wildlife law enforcement conference in Australia*

7. Australia hosted another Regional Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers Conference in October 2003 with a number of prominent international speakers. All Australian state and territory jurisdictions and New Zealand were represented.
8. Australia has been successful in bringing to court further charges resulting from the Cycad smuggling interception in the United States of America.

##### **New Zealand**

##### *Wildlife Enforcement Group*

9. The Wildlife Enforcement Group occupies the seat of the Oceanian representative to the Interpol Working Group on wildlife crime. New Zealand hosted a meeting of this group in October 2003 which was the first such meeting in the Oceanian region. Most countries in Oceania had representatives attending.