

Implementation report

Party	Tonga
Period covered in this report	2019 – 2020
Department or agency preparing this report	Ministry of Fisheries
Contributing departments, agencies and organizations	Ministry of Fisheries

Goal 1 ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH AND IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE CONVENTION

Objective 1.1 Parties comply with their obligations under the Convention through appropriate policies, legislation and procedures.

Indicator 1. 1. 1: The number of Parties that are in category 1 under the national legislation project.

1.1.1a - No; The CITES implementation into Tonga's national legislation has just finished its first stage in January 2021, on revising Tonga's National Legislation. It has now progress to consulting relevant line Ministries before incorporating CITES implementation into Tonga's National Legislation.

1.1.1b - Yes, the stage 2 of the CITES implementation into Tonga's national legislation involves the inclusion of a CITES chapter or provisions in comprehensive, biodiversity or environment legislation. This ensure easy access and reference of relevant Ministries when they come across a CITES issue(s) and hence this process will be done within the duration of the National legislation project.

Objective 1.2 Parties have in place administrative procedures that are transparent, practical, coherent and user-friendly, and reduce unnecessary administrative burdens.

Indicator 1. 2. 1: The number of Parties that have adopted standard transparent procedures for the timely issuance of permits in accordance with Article VI of the Convention.

1.2.1a - No standard operating procedures being drafted yet for application for and issuance of permits. The current process involves the requesting of the importing countries first and we issue the permit to process the import permit for the exporter's shipment to take place. Also, there are no information on such procedures publicly available.

1.2.1b - No electronic data management and a paper-based permit issuance system.

- No electronic permit information exchange between Management Authorities of some countries.
- No electronic permit information exchange between Management Authorities of all countries.
- No electronic permit information exchange between Management Authorities and customs

- No electronic permit used to cross border with electronic validation by customs.
- ❖ Currently at the moment there is a plan with the help of our ICT technician offices to establish simple e-permitting database for Fisheries Tonga as a Management & Scientific authorities to use instead of manual issuance of CITES permit.
- ❖ We might also need a few advices from fellow CITES party or from CITES secretariat on important information that needs to be reflected through this e-permitting database.

Indicator 1. 2. 2: The number of Parties making use of the simplified procedures provided for in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP16)

1.2.2a - No information on any simplified procedures for biological samples of the type and size specified in Annex 4 are urgently required.

- No simplified procedures for the issuance of pre-Convention certificates or equivalent documents in accordance with Article VII, paragraph 2.
- We have an informal procedures for the issuance of certificates only for artificial propagation in accordance with Article VII, paragraph 5.
- No simplified procedures for the issuance of export permits or re-export certificates in accordance with Article IV for specimens referred to in Article VII, paragraph 4.
- There no other cases judged by a Management Authority to merit the use of simplified procedures.

Objective 1.3 Implementation of the Convention at the national level is consistent with decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

Indicator 1. 3. 1: The number of Parties that have implemented relevant reporting under Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties and/or Standing Committee recommendations.

1.3.1a - Responses provided to some of the relevant reporting requirements – Annual Report for export of CITES listed species.

1.3.1b - Yes, minor difficulties included the familiarization of importing countries with the new format of CITES permit being implemented subject to the recommendation from the CITES implementation workshop that was held in Tonga in June, 2019.

Objective 1.4 The Appendices correctly reflect the conservation needs of species.

Indicator 1. 4. 1: The number and promotion of species that have been found to meet the criteria contained in Resolution Conf. 9.24 or its successors. This includes both the periodic review and amendment proposals.

1.4.1a - Yes – sea cucumber species; *Holothuria fuscogilva* (White teatfish) and *Holothuria whitmaei* (Black teatfish) moving from Appendix III to Appendix II. The harvesting of these species was used for commercial export and majority of it was done before the official date in August 28th 2020.

Objective 1.5 Best available scientific information is the basis for non-detriment findings.

Indicator 1.5.1: The number of surveys, studies or other analyses undertaken by exporting countries based on the sources of information cited in Resolution Conf. 16.7 on Non-detriment findings related to:

- a) the population status of Appendix-II species;
- b) the trends and impact of trade upon Appendix-II species; and
- c) the status of and trend in naturally-occurring Appendix I species and the impact of any recovery plans.

1.5.1a - No surveys, studies or other analyses been undertaken in Tonga except for sea cucumber survey which was done in the early 2019 for the population status of mainly black teatfish and white teatfish species. Other surveys, studies or other analyses in relation to the trends and impact of trade on Appendix II species, status of and tend in naturally-occurring Appendix I species and impact of any recovery plans on Appendix I species were not yet conducted.

No surveys, studies or other analyses integrated relevant knowledge and expertise of local and indigenous communities.

1.5.1b - Such surveys, studies or other analyses used in making non-detriment findings (NDFs) has not yet implemented due to the need of expertise to conduct it.

The result for the sea cucumber survey was used to formulate the export quotas for commercial purposes and also present to SPC/SPREP for funding proposal of new consultants to draft the NDF report.

1.5.1c - Yes, for marine aquatic species are;

- Fisheries Management Act 2002
- Fisheries Management (Conservation) Regulations 2008
- Fisheries Management (Processing & Export) Regulations 2008

1.5.1d - No non-detrimental findings being published (in-progress for consultant to prepare NDF report for Tonga – shark fins, corals, clams, sea cucumber, turtle to develop) – marine aquatic, clams, feo

1.5.1e - No NDF documents being drafted yet.

Indicator 1.5.2: The number of Parties that have adopted standard procedures for making non-detriment findings.

1.5.2a - No standard procedures for making non-detriment findings in line with Resolution Conf. 16.7

1.5.2b - No guidance documents being used because there is no non-detriment findings being established.

1.5.2c - Not applicable

Indicator 1.5.3: The number and proportion of annual export quotas based on population surveys.

1.5.3a - Yes, we do set annual export quotas for sea cucumber species based on population survey.

White teatfish – 600Kgs

Black teatfish – 40Kgs

Live hard corals – 150 pieces per week; CITES listed species (not all species)

Giant clam's species – no quotas from artificial propagation

Shark fins – 1 tonne per year (including CITES listed species)

1.5.3b – The annual export quotas were formulated to ensure sustainable production and consumption but mostly for commercial exports. It was not yet involve in the process of NDF drafting.

Objective 1.6 Parties cooperate in managing shared wildlife resources.

Indicator 1.6.1: The number of bilateral and multilateral agreements that specifically provide for co-management of shared CITES listed species by range States.

1.6.1a – No information

Indicator 1.6.2: The number of cooperative management plans, including recovery plans, in place for shared populations of CITES-listed species.

1.6.2a - There are no cooperative plans, including recovery plans in place for shared populations of CITES-listed species. However, we do have Aquaculture and Aquarium Management plan that prioritize the monitoring species being farmed but not all are CITES listed species.

Indicator 1.6.3: The number of workshops and other capacity-building activities that bring range States together to address the conservation and management needs of shared, CITES listed, species.

Training for Sharkfin ID in June 2019 , border control in NZ

Financial assistance to NZ for training attachment –border control and others

NDF for SPREP and SPC

1.6.3a - Not applicable

1.6.3b - Not applicable

1.6.3c - Not applicable

Objective 1.7 Parties are enforcing the Convention to reduce illegal wildlife trade.

Indicator 1.7.1: The number of Parties that have, are covered by, or engaged with:

- an international enforcement strategy and/or action plan;
- formal international cooperation, such as an international enforcement network;
- a national enforcement strategy and/or action plan; and
- formal national interagency cooperation, such as a national interagency enforcement committee.

1.7.1a - No information on:

- Formal international cooperation, such as an international enforcement network
- Formal national interagency cooperation, such as a national interagency enforcement committee

We do have the National Plan of Action for Sharks (NPOA) that we used for reference in the monitoring of CITES-listed shark fins species only at regional, and national not international level

We have a National taskforce team for border control which involves MAFF, Environment Department, Customs and the Biosecurity people for both marine and terrestrial focus to monitor both at the airport and sea.

Indicator 1.7.2: The number of Parties with a process or mechanism for reviewing their enforcement strategies, and the activities taken to implement their strategies.

1.7.2a - No information on any process or mechanism for reviewing enforcement strategy (ies) and the activities taken to implement such strategy (ies)

1.7.2b - No information on how to use the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit or any equivalent tools.

Indicator 1.7.3: The number of Parties that have criminal (penal) law and procedures, capacity to use forensic technology, and capacity to use specialized investigation techniques, for investigating, prosecuting, and penalizing CITES offences.

1.7.3a - No. the national legislation on CITES is currently underway with its drafting process but at the moment, we can only use the Fisheries Management Act and relevant Acts for reference to wildlife species involves in the CITES.

1.7.3b – No information on criminal offences such as poaching and wildlife trafficking recognized as serious crime in Tonga.

1.7.3c - No capacity to use forensic technology to support the investigation of CITES offences.

1.7.3d - None

1.7.3e - No standard operating procedure among relevant agencies for submitting information related to CITES offences to INTERPOL and/or the World Customs Organization.

1.7.3f - No legislation provisions for general crime, predicate offences, corruption, and international cooperation in criminal matters, organized crime and specialized investigation techniques.

1.7.3g – The Ministry of Fisheries have the institutional capacity to implement the legislative provisions against CITES offences provided that the national legislation for CITES draft is completed to initiate the implementation.

Indicator 1.7.4: The number of Parties using risk assessment and intelligence to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species.

1.7.4a - No information on the use of risk assessment to target CITES enforcement effort.

1.7.4b - Yes, our current capacity is capable of analyzing information gathered on illegal trade in CITES-listed species but only for marine aquatic species.

1.7.4c - No information on the use of criminal intelligence to inform investigations into illegal trade in CITES-listed species.

1.7.4d - No, but activities are under development.

1.7.4e – No, but activities are under development.

Indicator 1.7.5: The number of administrative measures, criminal prosecutions and other court actions for CITES-related offences.

1.7.5a – No information on any administrative measures been imposed for CITES-related offences.

1.7.5b - None

1.7.5c – No court actions against CITES-related offences.

1.7.5d – confiscated specimen such as shark fins (CITES-listed species) usually kept at the authority's exhibit room awaiting the decision of the CEO for proper disposal; since we do have not yet draft a standard operating procedures for such CITES-related cases.

Objective 1.8 Parties and the Secretariat have adequate capacity-building programme in place.

Indicator 1.8.1: The number of Parties with national and regional training programme and information resources in place to implement CITES including the making of non-detriment findings, issuance of permits and enforcement.

1.8.1a – not enough information or resources to conduct training to support the making of non-detriment findings, permit officers and enforcement officer.

1.8.1b – No; CITES Virtual College is not used as part of the capacity building work

1.8.1c – No information on the use of ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Toolkit in the development of capacity building programme, or any part of the curriculum of such programme.

GOAL 2 SECURE THE NECESSARY FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MEANS FOR THE OPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

Objective 2.1 Financial resources are sufficient to ensure operation of the Convention.

Information to be provided through records held by the Secretariat on financial management of the Convention.

Objective 2.2 Sufficient resources are secured at the national and international levels to ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of the Convention.

Indicator 2.2.1: The number of Parties with dedicated staff and funding for Management Authorities, Scientific Authorities and wildlife trade enforcement agencies.

2.2.1a – No approved service standard(s) for our Management Authority (ies)

2.2.1d – No funding available for the work of the Management Authority, Scientific Authority and the Enforcement Authority

- Limited staff available at the Management Authority, Scientific Authority and the Enforcement Authority
- Insufficient skills to develop the work of the Management Authority, Scientific Authority and the Enforcement Authority
- The budget that is available is not specifically for CITES, it's for the operational work of the Management and Scientific Authorities.

Indicator 2.2.2: The number of Parties that have undertaken one or more of the following activities:

- changed the budget for activities;
- hired more staff;
- developed implementation tools;
- Purchased technical equipment for implementation, monitoring or enforcement.

2.2.2a – none of the activities being implemented during the period covered in this report.

2.2.2b – during the period covered in this report, the budget for Management Authority, Scientific Authority and the Enforcement Authority was stable.

2.2.2c – No international funding available for the Management Authority, Scientific Authority and Enforcement Authority to assist in the level of implementation of its activities.

2.2.2d – hiring of more staff is a high priority

- High priority of the development of implementation tools
- High priority of purchasing of new technical equipment for implementation, monitoring or enforcement
- High priority of e-permitting development
- Increase funding donors for implementation activities

2.2.2e – The operational system is under development for trade information, none for species information and non-detriment findings.

Indicator 2.2.3: The number of Parties raising funds for CITES implementation through user fees or other mechanisms.

2.2.3a – There are no fees charged by the Management Authority for; license fees

- × Administrative procedures
- × Issuance of CITES documents (e.g. for import, exports, re-export, or introduction from the sea.)
- × Shipment clearance (e.g. for the import, export, re-export, or introduction from the sea of CITES-listed species)
- × Licensing or registration of operations that produce CITES species
- × Harvesting of CITES-listed species
- × Assignment of quotas for CITES-listed species

2.2.3b – No fee schedule publicly available

2.2.3c - No relevant revenues from fees been used for the implementation of CITES or wildlife conservation.

2.2.3d – No raise funds for CITES management through charging user fees

- No fees recover the full economic cost of issuing permits
- No case studies on charging or using fees
- No innovative financial mechanisms to raise funds for CITES implementation

Indicator 2.2.4: The number of Parties using incentive measures as part of their implementation of the Convention.

2.2.4a – There were one of the incentive measures such as those described in CoP14 Doc 14.32 being used to implement the Convention which is the Certification. The exporter requests for the CITES document and we issue them accordingly.

2.2.4b – Not applicable

Objective 2.3 Sufficient resources are secured at the national and international levels to implement capacity-building programmes.

Indicator 2.3.1: The number of capacity building activities mandated by Resolutions and Decisions that are fully funded.

2.3.1a – None

2.3.1b – None, just on the issuance of CITES Certificate

2.3.1c – Oral or written advice/guidance, technical assistance, Financial assistance and training are urgently needed for these target groups;

- ✓ Staff of Management Authority
- ✓ Staff of Scientific Authority
- ✓ Staff of enforcement authorities
- ✓ Traders and other user groups
- ✓ Public

GOAL 3 CONTRIBUTE TO SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCING THE RATE OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND TO ACHIEVING RELEVANT GLOBALLY-AGREED GOALS AND TARGETS BY ENSURING THAT CITES AND OTHER MULTILATERAL INSTRUMENTS AND PROCESSES ARE COHERENT AND MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE

Objective 3.1 Cooperation between CITES and international financial mechanisms and other related institutions is enhanced in order to support CITES-related conservation and sustainable development projects, without diminishing funding for currently prioritized activities.

Indicator 3.1.1: The number of Parties funded by international financial mechanisms and other related institutions to develop activities that include CITES-related conservation and sustainable development elements.

3.2.1a – Not applicable

3.1.1b – Remained stable

Indicator 3.1.2: The number of countries and institutions that have provided additional funding from CITES Authorities to another country or activity for conservation and sustainable development projects in order to further the objectives of the Convention.

3.1.2a – No information

Objective 3.2 Awareness of the role and purpose of CITES is increased globally.

Indicator 3.2.1: The number of Parties that have been involved in CITES awareness raising activities to bring about better awareness by the wider public and relevant user groups of the Convention requirements.

3.2.1a – CITES awareness is included in the displays, television, and radio programs of the Ministry but none specifically for the CITES.

Indicator 3.2.2: The number of visits to the CITES website.

3.2.2a – Less frequently for the Management Authority, Scientific Authority and Enforcement Authority.

3.2.2b – Excellent presentation and many useful information provided for us new party that are not really familiar with this Convention.

Indicator 3.2.3: The number of Parties with web pages on CITES and its requirements.

A question relating to this indicator is within question 3.2.1a.

Objective 3.3 Cooperation with relevant international environmental, trade and development organizations is enhanced.

Indicator 3.3.1 the number of Parties which report that they have achieved synergies in their implementation of CITES, other biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental, trade and development agreements.

3.3.1a – No information on any measures been taken to achieve coordination and reduce duplication of activities between the national CITES authorities and national focal points for other multilateral environment agreements.

Indicator 3.3.2: The number of biodiversity conservation or sustainable use projects, trade and development goals, or scientific and technical programme that integrate CITES requirements.

3.3.2a – Yes, there is one project currently implemented at the moment in Vavau related to the study of turtle nesting areas.

3.3.2b – None

3.3.2c – No information on any efforts being done at a national scale for CITES Management or Scientific Authorities to collaborate with.

3.3.2d – Still under development

Indicator 3.3.3: The number of Parties cooperating / collaborating with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in and/or fund CITES workshops and other training and capacity-building activities.

3.3.3a – No funding being provided from any inter-governmental organizations and NGOs

Objective 3.4 The contribution of CITES to the relevant Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals set at WSSD, the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* and the relevant *Aichi Biodiversity Targets*, and the relevant outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development is strengthened by ensuring that international trade in wild fauna and flora is conducted at sustainable levels.

This objective may also be assessed by a variety of means beyond the reporting format, including action taken to implement many of the CITES resolutions and decisions.

Indicator 3.4.1: The conservation status of species listed on the CITES Appendices has stabilized or improved.

3.4.1a – Live hard corals and sea cucumber species (white teatfish and black teatfish)

3.4.1b – No information

Indicator 3.4.2: The number of Parties incorporating CITES into their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

3.4.2a – No information

3.4.2b – No

Objective 3.5 Parties and the Secretariat cooperate with other relevant international organizations and agreements dealing with natural resources, as appropriate, in order to achieve a coherent and collaborative approach to species which can be endangered by unsustainable trade, including those which are commercially exploited.

Indicator 3.5.1: The number of cooperative actions taken under established bilateral or multilateral agreements to prevent species from being unsustainably exploited through international trade.

3.5.1a – No information

Indicator 3.5.2: The number of times other relevant international organizations and agreements dealing with natural resources are consulted on issues relevant to species subject to unsustainable trade.

3.5.2a – No consultation

General feedback

This report can be improved given a monthly monitoring of CITES party especially new party like Tonga so that such items on the report are being implemented.