

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



Twenty-seventh meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 8 – 13 July 2024

Regional matters

Regional reports

OCEANIA

1. This document has been prepared by the regional representative for Oceania (Mr. Damian Wrigley). This document reports on activities undertaken in the region since the 26th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee (Geneva 2023).

General Information

- a) Representative: Damian Wrigley (Australia)
- b) Alternate: Heimuli Likiafu (Tonga)
- c) Oceania is a large and predominantly marine region with a high representation of Parties from small island nations. There are nine Parties in the region including Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. There are eight states in the region that are not currently Parties to the Convention (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Tokelau, and Tuvalu) and six overseas territories that come under the jurisdiction of Australia, France, United Kingdom and the United States (Norfolk Island; French Polynesia; New Caledonia; Wallis and Futuna; Pitcairn Island and American Samoa). SPREP and the Oceania Representative to the Animals Committee have been providing support for one state to potentially join CITES.

Overview of major developments

2. I extend my condolences to Tonga for the passing of Mr Poasi Ngaluafe, Deputy CEO and Head of Fisheries Science and Extension Division of the Tongan Ministry of Fisheries, of the CITES Scientific Authority of Tonga. I would like to extend my gratitude to Poasi for his assistance in identifying and supporting Mr Heimuli Likiafu to take on the role as Oceania's alternate representative to the CITES Plants Committee.
3. I also extend my thanks to Ms Sarah MacIntyre for her contributions to the work of the CITES Animals Committee as Oceania's alternate representative. I wish her well in her next endeavours.
4. I congratulate Mr Andrew Murrell, Director, Wildlife Trade Assessments, in the Australian Scientific Authority in the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, for his appointment as Oceania's alternative representative to the CITES Animals Committee. I look forward to working with Mr Murrell on the implementation of CITES throughout the region.

Activities of regional representatives

5. Negotiations on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation have continued since the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee, with the regional representative providing input and advice to the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation on potential complementary actions, including those that relate directly to the international

trade of plants and their derivatives. The culmination of many year's work by botanic gardens and flora-focused organisations throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic and beyond, will culminate in the consideration of an updated GSPC by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in October 2024. Should the GSPC be adopted, it is anticipated that the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES will consider the adoption of the proposed revision to Resolution Conf. 16.5, as outlined in PC27 Doc. 9 on Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

6. In December 2023, the Chair of the Plants Committee, Dr Aurelie Flore Koumba Pambo (Gabon), was unable to attend and co-chair the NDF Workshop in Nairobi, Kenya due to the need to represent Gabon in other global fora. As the Vice Chair to the Plants Committee, I was honoured to support the work of the Technical Advisory Group on NDF Guidance and co-chair the workshop with the Chair of the Animals Committee, Mr Mathias Lörtscher. It was rewarding to have the opportunity to also chair a working group in support of the development of draft NDF guidance for timber producing species. I would like to extend my gratitude to Ms Sarah Oldfield for her excellent work on developing Module 10. The workshop provided a valuable opportunity for Parties, Observer Organisations and Independent experts to review the draft guidance developed by the IUCN, and propose modifications to better support Parties in the development and implementation of NDFs. I thank the IUCN, workshop participants, the Secretariat, UNEP and the generous funders for making this workshop possible.

Capacity Building and awareness in the region

7. I would also like to acknowledge the generous funding announced by Germany in the closing session of the workshop Plenary, that will go towards supporting a continuation of the highly critical CITES Tree Species Programme (CTSP). The CTSP has resulted in fundamental improvements to the way the international trade of tree species is managed and it is important that this capacity building programme continues. I acknowledge the willingness of Germany and the Secretariat to open the eligibility of the forthcoming CTSP to more CITES regions, in particular Oceania. The funding and capacity building assistance available under the CTSP will allow a greater number of Parties to deliver robust management of their CITES-listed tree species and lead to more sustainable international trade.