

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



Sixteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Lima (Peru), 3-8 July 2006

Regional reports

OCEANIA

General information

- a) Regional member (author of report): **Greg Leach (Australia)**
- b) Alternate member: **Osia Gideon (Papua New Guinea)**
- c) Parties in the region: Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Vanuatu.

Regional directory

1. At the recent regional meeting it was agreed that due to the small number of Parties in the region, a single directory of specialists covering all Oceania CITES issues would be desirable. Consequently the plant specialist directory that has been maintained will be merged with additional contacts for fauna issues. The draft directory is going through a final edit and will be made available to the Secretariat for posting on the CITES website. The regional meeting in May 2006 provided the opportunity to update all the contacts in the Directory.

Communication with Parties in the region

2. Significant communication has been maintained in the region through the auspices of the third Oceania Capacity-Building Workshop held in Australia (8-11 May 2006). A segment of the Capacity-Building workshop was dedicated to a regional meeting.
3. The regional representative had communications with:
 - a) All Oceania Parties advising of PC16 and seeking input to the agenda.
 - b) Australian Management and Scientific Authorities on orchid hybrids and implementation of the new annotation and the new definition of artificial propagation.
 - c) TRAFFIC SEA concerning on-going activities with studies on the trade in agarwood and representation of Plants Committee in the Malaysian agarwood workshop in 2006.
 - d) Working groups such as that on the review of the Appendices.
 - e) Papua New Guinea on plant material exported for trade exhibits.

Capacity-building activities

4. Decision 13.100 called for funding to be sought for another capacity-building workshop in Oceania. This was to provide a logical progression to training provided in the first two workshops and provide probably the only viable mechanism to hold a regional meeting prior to CoP14. Sufficient funding was raised and the major initiative for the region in this reporting period was the third Capacity-Building Workshop held in Brisbane, Australia, 8-11 May 2006. Funding for the workshop was provided by Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the CITES Secretariat.
5. All Oceania Parties (Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Vanuatu) were represented along with the non-Parties of Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga and the French territory of New Caledonia. In addition, the following were represented: the regional representatives for the Plants Committee, TRAFFIC Oceania, South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA).
6. Three days were devoted to capacity building, a day for a regional meeting and a day for a field trip to a plant nursery that specialize in harvest of native flora.
7. The Secretariat provided introductory sessions on becoming a Party to CITES, obligations, CoP procedures and the Review of Significant Trade. The operation of CITES in small island States and a case study from Fiji were also used as introductory presentations. Participants identified CITES needs during the workshop and these were then used as the basis for breaking into small groups and developing a project funding proposal in a template that had been developed for the workshop.
8. Non-detriment findings were the focus of one day with presentations on crocodiles, agarwood, clams, coral and the humphead wrasse. A day was devoted to management issues which included discussions on implementation of the great white shark listing, public education in Fiji, Cook Islands permit system, Tonga clam trade and specific Customs training.
9. During the regional meeting there was a presentation and discussion on how to prepare for taking on the role of regional representative. This followed on from the previous workshop discussions on the need for a successional strategy to increase the involvement of the smaller Pacific island countries in CITES committee representation.
10. There is no doubt that in a region such as Oceania, where there will never be the resources to hold dedicated regional meetings, events such as capacity-building workshops provide an effective means for face-to-face regional meetings. As such it is crucial that the regional representatives attend such workshops. In a region that has a majority of non-Party countries it is also crucial that non-Parties participate in such workshops. The workshops have had a tangible outcome of encouraging countries to join the Convention. Non-Parties are also significant players in wildlife trade in the region and their participation facilitates a better understanding of the trade and improved communication within the region.