

# Benefits of joining CITES

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is the only UN body that combines wildlife and trade themes within a legally binding instrument. It covers over 35,000 listed species of wild animals and plants in international trade, ensuring legality, sustainability, and traceability.

The benefits of joining CITES are multi-fold:

## CITES ensures legal and sustainable trade

- Government to government certification system
- Assistance in combating illegal trade and over-exploitation
- Regulation of international trade with positive impacts on populations of species; supports species conservation and management

## CITES promotes international cooperation

- Global system accepted and controlled worldwide, among 181 Parties
- Participation and right to vote at triennial Conference of the Parties
- Information and intelligence sharing on wildlife trade

## CITES encourages multi-sector collaboration

- Brings together government sectors (agriculture, fisheries, forestry, trade, customs, law enforcement, etc.)
- Private sector contribution is also encouraged through internationally agreed licensing arrangement

## CITES allows access to capacity building programmes

- Technical assistance/support in making legal acquisition findings (LAF), non-detriment findings (NDF) and in combating illegal trade
- Support in drafting legislation through the national legislation project
- Species-based interagency support (FAO-CITES sharks project, CITES-ITTO timber project)
- Tailored assistance to new Parties and other capacity building opportunities – see overleaf



## Examples of activities that support the Pacific Island Countries

### CITES permit management

CITES is collaborating with UNCTAD to develop a **special module in the Automated System for customs Data (ASYCUDA) tailored for CITES**. Discussion is underway with Australia to allow interested Pacific Island Countries to install and receive training for the use of this module. This will greatly facilitate the issuing and management of CITES permits and certificates, and in sharing information between the CITES authorities and the Customs.

### CoP preparations

Participation at meetings of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) is supported through the **Sponsored Delegates Project**, where developing country Parties can request financial support of up to two delegates per country to attend the CoP.  
(see [https://cites.org/eng/cop17/sponsored\\_delegates\\_project](https://cites.org/eng/cop17/sponsored_delegates_project))

CITES and CBD are working with SPREP to organize a joint **pre-CoP workshop for Oceania** in mid-2016. This workshop aims to assist countries to better prepare for the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP17, September 2016) and CBD (COP13, December 2016). Two participants per country will be invited to attend the workshop, which will also address issues regarding the synergistic implementation of biodiversity-related Conventions for the region.

### Estimated voluntary contribution of CITES non-Parties in the Pacific

Country	UN status	Estimated voluntary contribution amount (USD)
Cook Islands	Non UN member	62
Kiribati		62
Marshall Islands		62
Federated States of Micronesia		62
Nauru		62
Niue	Non UN member	62
Tonga		62
Tokelau (NZ)	Dependent Territory non-member	NA
Tuvalu		62