

CONVENTION SUR LE COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL DES ESPECES  
DE FAUNE ET DE FLORE SAUVAGES MENACEES D'EXTINCTION



Dix-septième session du Comité pour les plantes  
Genève (Suisse), 15 – 19 avril 2008

Rapports régionaux

OCEANIE

1. Le rapport en annexe a été soumis par le représentant régional de l'Océanie.
2. Ce document ayant été reçu au Secrétariat après la date limite de soumission des documents, il est transmis seulement en anglais (langue dans laquelle il a été soumis).

## REGIONAL REPORT FOR OCEANIA

1. General information

- a) Representative: Greg Leach (Australia)
- b) Alternate: Osia Gideon (Papua New Guinea)
- c) Number of Parties in the region: 8
- d) Parties responding to communications: Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea
- e) Communications sent to all regional parties included a meeting report following PC16, the agenda for PC17 with items of concern to the region highlighted and soliciting interest for hosting future meetings. There has been no regional meeting in the region since the meeting in Brisbane, May 2006, in association with a capacity building workshop. CoP14 provided opportunities for regional meetings and these were held on a daily basis during the CoP.
- f) As flagged by the Oceania representative on AC, the region is dominated by the marine environment and marine resources form an important component of many small island states in the region. Marine species on CITES therefore form the major interest to Parties. Capacity remains the greatest issue to full and effective implementation of CITES in the region.

2. Directory

A new Regional directory is attached.

3. Activities carried out**Significant trade**

There are no species from the region in the current activities of the Plants Committee under the Significant Trade Review process.

**Review of the Appendices**

There are no species from the region in the current activities of the Plants Committee under the process of Review of taxa included in the Appendices.

**CITES projects in the region**

A workshop on Sustainable Use of Papua New Guinea's wildlife was held in Madang from 20-21 January 2007. Attended by government, private, NGO's and University representatives, the workshop deliberated on issues to promote viable and profitable trade in wildlife, to prevent illegal trade and ensure conservation of the species involved in trade, develop management plans for sustainable trade for species, control using CITES regulations and easy access on wildlife trade information by stakeholders.

Consultations were held with stakeholders on the need to develop management plans for eagle wood (PNG term for Agarwood). A draft management plan developed for eaglewood needs further work by stakeholders.

PNG has continued activities relating to proposed amendments to the International Trade Act with the Office of the State Solicitor and National Executive Council.

Public awareness activities have been held in the province of the PNG border region with Indonesia on wildlife trade regulations, cross border issues as well as developing networks with border enforcement officers in the province. This is an important area of harvest and illegal trade in Agarwood.

## 6. Capacity Building

The Australian Government has placed an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development (AYAD), with the Vanuatu Environment Unit (CITES Management Authority) for twelve months to assist on a range of issues, including legislative and administrative arrangements.

The Australian Government and the CMA of Palau engaged in a capacity building project which entailed the review of Palau's current legislative and administrative arrangements and assistance in drafting improved CITES implementation legislation. A representative from the CMA of Australia also visited Palau to share Australia's experiences in the effective implementation of CITES with Palau Government Ministers, officials and border enforcement staff.

The Australian Government presented a half-day training and awareness session to Customs representatives from the Pacific, South East, Central and Western Asia at the annual Customs International Executive Management Program (CIEMP) hosted by Australian Customs Service and the Centre for Customs and Excise Studies at the University of Canberra. The session, held in November 2007, addressed the global significance of wildlife trade, reinforced the important role of enforcement in global initiatives, and helped to facilitate discussion about regional organisation and communication, significant taxa and enforcement strategies.

The Australian Government contributed to the inaugural Pacific Customs Management Forum (PCMP) hosted by Australian Customs Service and the Centre for Customs and Excise Studies at the University of Canberra in May 2007. Australian experiences were used as a case study of how relationships between agencies can help protect wildlife and strengthen regional capacity. Participants inspected wildlife specimens seized by Australian Customs and shared stories on their own experiences with wildlife enforcement.

The Australian Government in cooperation with the Government of the Netherlands provided funding for a representative from the Solomon Islands to attend the 14th Conference of the Parties as an observer. Attendance was useful for the Solomon Islands to gain an understanding of CITES processes and issues prior to becoming a Party in late June 2007.

The Australian Government has provided funding of AUD 250,000 to establish a Timber Officer staffing position in the CITES Secretariat to combat illegal trade in timber. Funding of this position will build international capacity to effectively address deforestation, illegal logging and unsustainable trade in timber species. Mr Neil Ellis has taken up this appointment in the Secretariat.

### **Contact with specialists and/or NGO's**

The major contact and extensive consultation during the period has been with TRAFFIC in regard to the Agarwood NDF.

## 7. Difficulties of implementation encountered

Product identification for medicinal plants has been highlighted as a difficulty in the region. Specific examples cited are *Panax quinquefolius* with respect to the amount coming into New Zealand without documentation, particularly from China. *Saussurea costus* is another example, and even more of a problem than American ginseng root. Much of the ginseng as well as the costus root is probably artificially propagated but as there is no supporting documentation it gets seized.

Annotations are not always easy to follow for border control people or for those applying for and issuing permits. The present orchid annotations do not seem to be causing problems for exporters but there are problems explaining them to individual importers who are not able to understand the nuances in the present annotations. Improved clarity would be welcome.

Border control officers have expressed concern about the difficulty of identifying tree species of imports, particularly for manufactured products.

8. Other topics

The regional representative attended a technical workshop on Strategies for the Sustainable Use and Management of Timber Tree Species Subject to International Trade: Southeast Asia in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The workshop focused on 115 Southeast Asian timber tree species, including CITES-listed species. Many of the species considered had distributions into Oceania range states.

9. Work to be done until next Plants Committee meeting

The region supports further work being done on how to treat parts and derivatives of medicinal plants packaged for retail trade for medicinal purposes.

Application of the 'R' code continues to cause confusion. For example, with artificially propagated orchids the code R may have been used in some permit documents for clarity to ensure the source was recognised as an approved art prop source.

In regards to agar wood it is important products are defined and clear exclusions/inclusions are established to better focus the control effort.

The region supports the effort going into a number of annotations to improve clarity.

## Annex

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| <p><b>TO THE MANAGEMENT AND SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITIES OF THE REGION: Oceania</b></p> <p><b>INFORMATION TO THE REGIONAL REPORT AND DIRECTORY OF EXPERTS ON CITES PLANTS ISSUES</b></p> |
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Period: July 2006 to December 2007

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