

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT



ANNONCE DE RÉUNION

TO : Representatives of Governments and Administrations; **N° :** 10/09
The CITES Management Authorities of: Fiji Islands, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.
SPC Fisheries Contacts;

FILE : PRO 7/54/4/2/10 **DATE:** 2 March 2010

SUBJECT : **Regional Workshop on CITES non-detriment findings for marine listed species**

PURPOSE OF NOTICE

This notice is to confirm the intention of SPC in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and Species Management Specialists (SMS) to host the Regional Workshop on the implementation of Article IV paragraphs a), 3, and 6 c) of CITES which will be held in Honiara, Solomon Islands, from **Monday 17th May to Thursday 20th May 2010** and serves as:

An invitation to SPC island member country governments and territory administrations with an interest to nominate an official representative to the meeting with the provision that:

- Due to limitations, funding for government representatives can only be provided to **two representatives** from selective countries: Fiji Islands, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Vanuatu and **four representatives** from the Solomon Islands;
- Other countries interested in sending a government representative should seek their own means of funding. The organizing committee is endeavoring to seek funding for additional countries but at this point, donor commitments have not been secured;
- The criteria for country nominee(s) is that it should include representation of at least one CITES Scientific Authority representative.
- Official nominations should be received by the SPC no later than **Friday 9th April**.

In many Pacific countries the responsibility for managing marine resources rests with ministries that are not necessarily the nominated CITES Management or Scientific Authority. Provision has been made for two representatives of some Party States in the Region to attend the proposed workshop, thus enabling a representative of the government agency responsible for marine resources to attend.

This workshop is being co-jointly organized and funded with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Species Management Specialists (SMS) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

This meeting is also being undertaken in collaboration with the Solomon Islands Authorities, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Secretariat of Pacific Regional

Environment Program (SPREP) and the regional representative for Oceania to the CITES Animals Committee. Representatives from other organizations and individuals with an interest in the conservation, management, production and trade in CITES listed species are invited to participate and to contact the SPC to reserve space.

BACKGROUND¹

In accordance with Article IV of the Convention, the export of any specimen of species listed in Appendix II requires the prior grant and presentation of a CITES export permit. Permits may only be issued after a non-detriment finding has been made by Scientific Authority of the State of export. The proper implementation of Article IV is essential for the conservation and sustainable use of Appendix-II species.

Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), of the Convention requires, as a condition for granting an export permit, that a Scientific Authority of the State of export has advised that the export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species concerned. Article IV, paragraph 6 (a), requires, as a condition for granting a certificate of introduction from the sea, that a Scientific Authority of the State of introduction from the sea has advised that the introduction will not be detrimental to the survival of the species concerned. This is known as the “non-detriment findings”.

Another important task of the Scientific Authority is laid down in Article IV, paragraph 3 of the Convention. This paragraph requires a Scientific Authority of each Party to monitor exports of Appendix-II species and to advise the Management Authority of suitable measures to be taken to limit exports in order to maintain such species throughout their range at a level consistent with their role in the ecosystem;

Due to the significant levels of international trade in some species and the assumption that some States permitting export of Appendix-II species are not effectively implementing Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a) of the Convention, The CITES Animals Committee introduced measures necessary to ensure that the export takes place at a level that will not be detrimental to the survival of that species. This is known as a Review of Significant Trade Process.

Most of the countries in the Pacific are either relatively new members to CITES or non-Party States. A number of Parties in the region were subject to the Review of Significant Trade Process. Long standing trade suspensions for several of its species are still in force for Solomon Islands.

MEETING OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the workshop is to contribute to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by strengthening capacities to implement CITES. It is expected that the workshop will assist countries under trade suspensions pursuant to CITES compliance mechanisms to fulfill the recommendations and to resume trade.

The goal of this workshop will be to examine and improve the conservation and management of CITES listed species and identify national and regional initiatives that will ensure the long term ecological, social and economic sustainability of natural resources. Due to the fact that most of the countries in the region are either relatively new members to CITES or non-Party States, this workshop will also give a chance to improve regional awareness about the Convention, its structure and processes.

¹ For more information about:

1. CITES non-detriment findings, please see : <http://www.cites.org/eng/prog/ndf/index.shtml>
2. Review of Significant Trade Process, please see: <http://www.cites.org/eng/res/12/12-08R13.shtml>

At the Regional Workshop on the Management of Sustainable Fisheries for Giant Clams (Tridacnidae) and CITES Capacity Building which was held in Nadi, Fiji from 4th to 7th August 2009, the participants concluded that the follow-up regional activity in 2010 would be necessary. The workshop in Fiji also agreed that other CITES listed marine species, particularly corals would deserve greater attention.

The workshop objectives are to:

1. Strengthen the capacity for implementing Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a) of the Convention in the Solomon Islands and regionally,
2. Strengthen the regional capacity for implementing Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species;
3. Review regional trade in corals and evaluate available resource assessment techniques to ensure sustainability of wild fisheries;
4. Assess the global and regional trends of coral mariculture in terms of markets and production systems and identify further opportunities for mariculture;
5. Address issues related to non-detriment findings for other CITES listed species such as cetaceans and sharks;
6. Improve regional cooperation for implementing Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a) of the Convention;
7. Identify priorities for research, training and other activities.

MEETING COMPONENTS

The workshop agenda will cover objectives 1-7 above. The provisional meeting agenda will be communicated to the participants in due course. Should you wish to make suggestions for the agenda, we would appreciate receiving them before **7 May 2010**.

Nominated country representatives are requested to present a country report to the plenary according to guidelines provided in the attachment to this notice. The workshop organizers will also contact selected invited private sector representatives to present on an industry highlight or special interest topic.

LANGUAGE

The meeting will be conducted in the English Language.

VENUE AND DATES

- The meeting will be held from Monday 17th May to Thursday 20th May 2010.
- The meeting venue will be the Medana Kitano Hotel, Honiara, Solomon Islands.
- Sessions will begin at 8:30 am and end at 5:00 pm. A thirty-minute morning and afternoon break will occur at 10:00 am and 3:00 pm respectively. Lunch break will be from 12.00 pm to 1.30 pm.

TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS

SPC financial support is limited to **two** representatives from: Fiji Islands, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Vanuatu; and **four** representatives from Solomon Islands.

An economy class return ticket by the most economical route will be provided to all SPC funded representatives. If participants choose to travel by a route other than the one proposed, all additional costs will be at their own expense. Travel orders cannot be issued until the official nominations have been received.

A per-diem will be provided for sponsored official representatives. The SPC has negotiated a conference package with the Medana Kitano Hotel which includes a discounted accommodation rate. The SPC will deduct and pay the accommodation costs from each participant per diem directly, in order to secure the hotel package. SPC will also assist non-funded participants who wish to make hotel reservations at the conference rate.

The SPC will organize airport transportation to and from the Honiara International Airport to the Medana Kitano Hotel. This service also extends to non-funded participants if the SPC Secretariat is provided with a copy of your travel itinerary in advance of your arrival. SPC will also arrange local transport for sponsored participants from Solomon Islands.

INSURANCE

Participants are advised to make their own health and travel insurance arrangements. The Secretariat does not insure participants during travel to and from, or while they are attending meetings. The Secretariat will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by delegates arising from sickness, injury, other disabilities or loss of life.

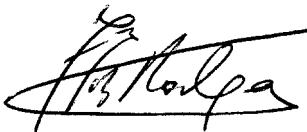
NOMINATIONS

Governments and Administrations are invited to nominate their candidate to the meeting. Nominations should be submitted to the SPC by **Friday 9th April 2010**.

CONTACTS

Agenda items, working papers etc: Ben Ponia, Aquaculture Adviser (Email: BenP@spc.int) and Lindsay Chapman, Coastal Fisheries Program Manager (Email: LindsayC@spc.int)

Travel, logistics and etc: Helene Lecomte, Secretary (Director FAME) (Email: HeleneL@spc.int)



Dr Jimmie Rodgers
Director General

Original Text: English

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY
REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON CITES NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS
FOR MARINE LISTED SPECIES

GUIDELINES FOR COUNTRY PROFILES

Country representatives are requested to draft an abstract (500 words) and present national reports in a power-point presentation format. Presentations may be up to 15 minutes duration and should outline the following information:

- Government policies, legislation and administration for CITES (where applicable/if this information was not provided at 2009 workshop in Fiji)
 - National legislation, policies and authorities
 - Government resources (e.g. funding and personnel) and facilities
 - Research and programs
 - Main difficulties in implementation of the Convention
- National status of CITES listed corals
 - Status of wild populations, main threats and trends
 - Legal protection and management
 - Key commodities traded
 - Production systems
 - Statistics - volume, value of trade
- Current constraints and advantages for trade in corals Government and industry support
 - Ecological concerns
 - Production systems
 - Marketing issues
- Future aspirations
 - Short to mid term goals
 - Prospects for regional/bilateral collaboration