

**PACIFIC REGIONAL JOINT PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE SEVENTEENTH
MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON
INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA
AND THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE ASSOCIATED MEETINGS OF
THE PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOLS OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

APIA, SAMOA, 15-19 AUGUST 2016

MEETING OUTCOMES REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. The Pacific regional joint preparatory meeting for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES CoP 17) and the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 13) and the associated meetings of the Parties to the Protocols of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP MOP 8 and COP MOP 2) was held at the premises of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in Apia, Samoa, from 15 to 19 August 2016. The meeting was convened to assist Parties to the conventions from the region to prepare for the respective meetings of the CoP/COP and COP MOPs, which would be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 24 September to 5 October 2016 and in Cancun, Mexico, from 4 to 17 December 2016.

2. The meeting was enabled through the generous financial contribution by the European Union. Its organization was supported by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. Representatives of the following countries participated in the meeting: Australia; Cook Islands; Fiji; Kiribati; Marshall Islands; Micronesia (Federated States of); Nauru; New Zealand; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Samoa; Solomon Islands; Tonga; Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Representatives of the following organizations also participated in the meeting: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and World Heritage Convention; Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS); United Nations Environment Programme-Pacific Office, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Pacific Community (SPC), The Pew Charitable Trusts and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The list of participants is contained in Annex 1.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The meeting was opened at 9.10 a.m. on Monday, 15 August 2016. The official opening session took place at 9.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 16 August 2016. A prayer was delivered by the distinguished delegate from Micronesia. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Government of Samoa, The Honorable Fiaame Naomi Mata'afa, in her capacity as host of the meeting, Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, and Mr. Sefanaia Rawadra of the Regional office for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations Environment Programme

made welcoming statements. Representatives of the Secretariats of CITES and CBD also addressed the meeting and highlighted the main issues before the meeting.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

4. The meeting elected Ms. Ilse Kiessling (Australia) to serve as the co-Chair of the meeting for CITES and Ms. Olive Vaai (Samoa) to serve as the co-Chair of the meeting for CBD.

5. The meeting adopted its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/CITES/PREP-COP/2016/3/1) and agreed to organize its work in a flexible manner based on the proposal for the organization of work as contained in Annex I to the annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/PREP-COP/2016/3/2/Add.1).

6. In accordance with item 3.1 of the provisional agenda of the meeting, the representative of CITES Secretariat briefed the meeting on the organization of CITES CoP 17. In accordance with item 4.1 of the provisional agenda, representative of CBD Secretariat briefed the meeting on the organization of COP 13, COP MOP 8 and COP MOP 2, including on the arrangements for the concurrent holding of the meetings of COP 13, COP MOP 8 and COP MOP 2 in a two-week period in accordance with CBD COP decision XII/27. The meeting also had preliminary discussions on COP 13 agenda item 3 – Election of officers, Item 4 – Report on the credentials of representatives to the COP 13, item 5 – Pending issues, item 6 – Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties, item 7 – Reports of intersessional and regional preparatory meetings and item 8 – Report of the Executive Secretary on the administration of the Convention and the budget for the Trust Funds of the Convention.

7. The CITES Secretariat presented the CoP 17 agenda, and the CBD Secretariat presented the remainder of the COP 13 agenda.

8. The meeting was then divided into two working groups, one addressing matters of CITES CoP 17 and the other addressing matters of CBD COP 13, and COP MOP 2.

ITEM 3. CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA– CONVENTION-SPECIFIC DISCUSSIONS

On substantive matters, the Parties to CITES identified and considered the following Agenda Items:

1. Agenda Doc. 10 on Election of Standing, Animals and Plants Committee members presented by Australia and New Zealand

Standing Committee - it was proposed that New Zealand be the member with Australia as the alternate unless there is a nomination for a Pacific candidate.

Plants Committee currently has no alternate member nominated and Fiji re-confirmed the nomination of its current alternate member.

2. Doc 4. Rules of Procedure – discussion on how the process of Rules of Procedure and new recommendations proposed by the European Union

3. Amendment of the Appendices

The Parties exchanged views and information on the following proposals in which some of the countries are co-proponents and range states.

- Proposal 44 on *Mobula* spp. (Devil rays) presented by Fiji and Vanuatu
- Proposal 43 on Thresher sharks presented by Samoa, Palau and Marshall Islands
- Proposal 42 on Silky sharks presented by Samoa, Palau and Marshall Islands
- Proposal 48 on Nautilus presented by Palau and Fiji

Parties were also informed and briefed on the following proposals.

- Proposal 14 – 16 on African elephants presented by New Zealand
- Proposal 4 on Lions presented by CMS Secretariat
- Proposal 7 on Southern white Rhinoceros presented by SPREP

4. Other COP17 Agenda Items

Parties were briefed on the progress and work under the following Agenda Items and reviewed the draft decisions as well as the consequences on the Oceania region.

- Doc. 59: Hawksbill turtles presented by Solomon Islands
- Doc. 52: Review of Precious corals in International trade presented by Tonga and Marshall Islands
- Doc. 22: National laws for implementation presented by Tonga
- Doc. 7: Budget presented by Australia
- Doc. 4: Rules of Procedure presented by Australia

Existing tools and opportunities for meeting the challenges which were identified by members included the following:

(a) Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs)

- Development of a Regional template for sharks and rays
- Prioritizing species for NDF development by Universities and other research organizations eg, IUCN
- UNDP-GEF Areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) project

(b) Permits/Reporting

- ASYCUDA/UNCTAD (Constantin Ciuta) presented on a system developed that allows exchange of information with Customs and Management Authority on CITES listed species and assist with reporting requirements for the Pacific region

(c) Identification of Species

- Shark & ray identification training and identification guides (visual & DNA)
- Material targeting most commonly traded species
- CITES shark portal available online has FAO iSharkFin software, NDF guidance

(d) National Regulatory Framework

- Workshop for implementing CITES listings sharks & rays

- CITES National legislation project [Samoa, Solomon Islands and Palau are in Category 3 and can receive support; other Parties in are in Category 1 and encouraged to assist]
- ICCWC Toolkit
- Connection between Management Authority (MA) and Enforcement and Border Officials
- Regional enforcement communication
- Illegal fishing analysis and enforcement

Species identified by Pacific which were prioritized for NDFs:

1. Giant clams: Solomon islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, PNG, Samoa, Marshall island, Palau, Fiji
2. Saltwater crocodiles – Palau, Solomon Islands
3. Hornbills and all other CITES listed bird species – Solomon islands
4. Sharks – everyone
5. Red shiny parrots – Tonga
6. Humphead wrasse – Fiji, PNG, Vanuatu, Palau
7. Mobula rays – Fiji, Vanuatu, PNG
8. Corals – Vanuatu, Marshall islands, Palau, Tonga, Solomon islands

FAO Expert Panel Assessment [presented by the CITES Secretariat on behalf of FAO Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture] - Parties were informed of how the FAO Expert Panel conducted assessments for the new marine species proposed for CITES Appendix II listing.

Parties also discussed support for the Oceania region during the CITES COP17.

ITEM 4. CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE PROTOCOLS TO THE CONVENTION– CONVENTION-SPECIFIC DISCUSSIONS

9. Under this item, the meeting considered matters of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols that would be addressed by COP 13, COP MOP 8 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and COP MOP 2 of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing as shown in the provisional agendas of those meetings (respectively UNEP/CBD/COP/13/1, UNEP/CBD/BS/MOP/8/1 and UNEP/CBD/ABS/MOP/2/1). On the first day of the meeting, participants considered and agreed on the agenda items of the three meetings to address during the remainder of the regional preparatory meeting. Those items were selected according to proposed areas of attention submitted by Parties in response to Notifications 2016-077 and 2016-084 contained in annex III to the annotated provisional agenda of the meeting and items identified by the Secretariat as needing particular attention. The items selected are listed in the table below in the order listed in the agenda.

Agenda Item	Issue
	COP 13
10	Strategic actions to enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including with respect to mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity within and across sectors
11	Resource mobilization and financial mechanism. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resource mobilization (SBI 1/6) - Guidance to the financial mechanism (to be developed on basis of SBI 1/7(5)) The need for and modalities of a global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism
12	Other means of implementation: enhancement of capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and other initiatives to assist implementation. Capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and the clearing-house mechanism (SBI 1/5)
13	Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations. Options to enhance synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions (to be developed on the basis of SBI 1/8)
15	Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Marine and coastal biodiversity: ecologically or biologically significant marine areas; specific work plan on biodiversity and acidification in cold-water areas; addressing impacts of marine debris and anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity; and marine spatial planning and training initiatives
16	Invasive Alien Species: addressing risks associated with trade; experiences in the use of biological control agents; and decision support tools.

10. In relation to item 10, the group discussed the need for mainstreaming within and across development and productive sectors, such as tourism and trade. The updated NBSAP can serve as a tool for mainstreaming biodiversity in the said sectors and into national development planning processes. In relation to the theme of the HLS, participants discussed the importance of the SAMOA Pathway and the need to link it to the Cancun Declaration.

11. In relation to item 12, participants worked in break out groups to prepare a short list of priority capacity-building activities in support of the implementation of the Convention. The consolidated list is in Annex 2 of this report.

12. In relation to item 15, participants took note of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Regional Capacity Development Workshop for the South Pacific, and the importance of integrated ocean management. On the issue of spatial planning, participants discussed the importance of improving information on cold water habitats and deep sea biodiversity for use in marine spatial planning. On the issue of marine debris, the break out group noted the need to implement the voluntary guidance and to mainstream this guidance within port authorities, marine transport and sea bed mining sectors, and regional fisheries bodies. On the issue of underwater noise, the break out group took into account the regional specificities, and emphasized the need to take a precautionary approach. The group noted that further work should build on existing research and that the emphasis should be on implementation.

13. In relation to item 16, the meeting took note of the outcomes of the Capacity-building workshop for Small Island Developing States in the Pacific regarding Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 on invasive alien species that took place from 8 to 12 August in Apia, Samoa. CBD and CITES participants discussed the strong need for training in species identification in the region. There is also a need for regional centre of expertise on species identification.

14. The meeting also addressed, item 14 - Article 8(j) and related provisions: guidelines for the repatriation of traditional knowledge; guidelines for the development of legislation or other mechanisms; and recommendations from the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Item 19 - Guidelines for the sixth national reports, modalities for future editions of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and indicators, and the agenda of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization. Item 17 ---- was discussed briefly in various related sessions (capacity-building session, ABS session and small group discussions).

15. Participants highlighted the contribution and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the implementation of the convention, and in support of Article 8(j). In their discussions, participants emphasized the importance of paragraphs 1.4 and 1.5 of Annex 1 of the draft decision on item 15.

16. In their discussions related to national reporting, participants noted the importance of enhancing coordination of the different reporting obligations under the CBD including to the ABS-CHM, resource mobilization and financial mechanism (GEF 7 needs assessment for the seventh replenishment), and the importance of providing Parties with options for reporting (online and offline).

17. The meeting convened in plenary on the morning of the third day to discuss resource mobilization as a common item. The CBD Secretariat presented agenda item 11 on resource mobilization, and this was followed by a presentation by the CITES Secretariat on the same topic. A presentation of the CBD on needs assessment for the GEF 7 replenishment was then presented to and discussed with the CBD participants. In view of the deadline of 31 August 2016, Parties were encouraged to start working on the questionnaire and inform the GEF of their needs for the seventh replenishment.

18. Items were generally addressed on the basis of an introductory presentation, followed by a general discussion and/or small group discussions.

ITEM 5. SYNERGIES AMONG THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON CITES AND CBD

19. In the afternoon of the third day, the meeting considered synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions. This included discussions on cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions under CITES; enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, including work undertaken in response to CBD COP decision XII/6; and tools for supporting Parties in the synergistic implementation of the conventions.

20. The CITES Secretariat made a presentation on cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions under CITES. A representative of the CBD Secretariat provided an overview of the intersessional work conducted in response to CBD decision XII/6 on options for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions that will be considered

at COP-13, based on the outcomes of the Workshop on enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions held in Geneva in February 2016 with representation of Parties to each of the seven global biodiversity-related conventions. Parties were encouraged to prepare their inputs to the upcoming intersessional work on synergies under the CBD.

21. A representative from UNEP provided a brief summary of the outcomes of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) with particular reference to synergies.

22. Representatives of the CMS Secretariat and of UNESCO reported on their experiences in advancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions. Party representatives discussed issues related to synergistic implementation and relevant experiences in their countries. Parties shared examples of ongoing activities related to synergies at local, national and regional levels.

23. In their discussions related to national reporting, participants noted the need for further progress in relation to enhancing coordination of the different reporting obligations under the biodiversity-related conventions, building on existing tools and processes, such as the outcomes of the workshop on synergies that took place in February 2016 and the SBI recommendation on this issue.

24. A SPREP negotiation training took place starting in the second session of day 4 and during the afternoon. Participants were invited to take the role of negotiators in the form of a role play to familiarize with the COP negotiation process. Participants appreciated the training in that it provides a good opportunity to practice and apply their negotiation skills.

25. After reviewing the draft preparatory meeting outcome report, participants took part in a session on “the Pacific Voyage”, during which participants took part in developing ideas for possible CoP/COP awareness-raising and outreach activities.

ITEM 6. SYNTHESIS AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

26. On the afternoon of the fifth day, the meeting reconvened in plenary. The meeting adopted its report. Closing remarks were made by representatives of the CBD and CITES Secretariats respectively, Australia as Co-Chair of the meeting, and SPREP. The meeting was officially closed at 4 p.m. on Friday, 19 August 2016.

Annex 1: Final list of Meeting Participants

Country	Convention	Name	Position/Institution	Email
Australia	CITES	Ilse Kiessling	CITES Management Authority Department of the Environment Wildlife Trade Regulation Section GPO Box 787 Canberra 2601	ilse.kiessling@environment.gov.au
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Samoa	CITES	Maria Satoa	Principal Marine Conservation Officer Division of Environment & Conservation MNRE	Maria.satoa@mnre.gov.ws
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Tonga	CBD	Ta'hirih Hokafonu	National Projector Coordinator UNDP/Tonga Ridge to Reef Project Coordinator (IEMP-FLC) Department of Environment Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications	tfifitahokafonu@gmail.com
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Annex 2: Pacific Island Countries Capacity building priorities for the CBD Short term Action Plan (2017-2020) to support and enhance capacity for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets

Capacity action	Action Description	Pacific region comments
10	Develop tools and guidelines for CEPA and NBSAPs and encourage their use	
12	Organize workshops on messaging within the framework of CEPA and the UNDB	
13	Organize capacity-building activities for the youth to support their effective participation in the CBD meeting and the implementation the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets	
16	Develop a toolkit to guide the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services into infrastructural development	
19	Organize introductory capacity-building workshops ecosystem accounting on the margins of CBD meetings	
23	Organize technical workshops on business and biodiversity reporting	Suggest add component on green practices on Business and Agriculture sectors
24	Develop and disseminate capacity-building materials and information on business and biodiversity	Suggest add component on green practices on Business and Agriculture sectors
25	Support capacity-building activities for businesses with a view to mainstreaming biodiversity into business decisions	Suggest add component on green practices on Business and Agriculture sectors
31	Organize sustainable tourism training activities with partners	
32	Promote technical and scientific cooperation on tourism development in sensitive coastal and marine ecosystems	
34	Organize and facilitate regional capacity-building workshops on the design of national restoration assessments and plans to achieve Targets 5, 14 and 15	Recommendation for the Pacific region to utilise hands-on approach with practical training that can be utilized in the field immediately where learning is practiced.
35	Develop a training package for the restoration workshops	
38	Develop capacity-building tools to support the implementation of forest related Aichi Biodiversity Targets	
42	Conduct regional capacity-building workshops on marine issues through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI)	
43	Conduct national level training and learning exchange workshops through the SOI	
48	Conduct capacity-building workshops on sustainable food and agriculture	
49	Develop training materials and guidelines on sustainable food and agriculture	
50	Organize capacity-building workshops on management of invasive alien species (IAS),	

Capacity action	Action Description	Pacific region comments
	including pests and diseases	
51	Organize, in collaboration with regional partners, training workshops to build capacity of key actors in SIDS to design and submit good quality project proposals on IAS	
52	Organize workshops in SIDS to support implementation of Aichi Target 9 and operational objective 2.3 of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety 2011-2020	
54	Organize training of trainers courses on the application of molecular technology for species identification	Request that the Pacific region be included in the EBSA training to reinforce the project of the expected criteria for training. (Request a follow up EBSA training for Pacific Region).
55	Develop and implement practical options to improve the process for the description of areas meeting the ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSA) criteria, including by addressing scientific gaps	Request that the Pacific region be included in the EBSA training to reinforce the project of the expected criteria for training. (Request a follow up EBSA training for Pacific Region).
56	Conduct regional or subregional workshops to facilitate the description of areas meeting the EBSA criteria	Request that the Pacific region be included in the EBSA training to reinforce the project of the expected criteria for training. (Request a follow up EBSA training for Pacific Region).
57	Develop and facilitate use of marine spatial planning tools and guidance, in collaboration with relevant partner organizations	Request that the Pacific region be included in the EBSA training to reinforce the project of the expected criteria for training. (Request a follow up EBSA training for Pacific Region).
58	Develop and facilitate use of global coral reef portal to facilitate information-sharing on scientific and technical issues related to coral reefs, inter alia, to achieve Aichi Target 10	
59	Develop, refine and facilitate use of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) training manual and materials	
60-62	Develop technical guidance on the use of the term “other effective area-based conservation measures” and how to achieve elements of Target 11 (through meetings and consultations with partners)	Merge 61-62
63	Co-convene targeted regional and subregional technical workshops on biodiversity and health	
65	Develop training materials and guidelines to improve the contribution of inland water biodiversity and ecosystem services to natural disaster risk reduction (DRR)	This is already in progress for Actions 65 and 66. Would prefer practical on the ground activities, with OJT
66	Conduct capacity-building workshops to promote ecosystem-based solutions/ approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR)	

Capacity action	Action Description	Pacific region comments
71	Identify capacity-building needs regarding NBSAP revision and implementation on an ongoing basis using different methods	
75	Assist Parties in planning NBSAP implementation by providing technical and capacity-building support	
81	Provide support to Parties in the establishment and maintenance of national CHMs through capacity-building workshops and other means	
88	Cooperate with UNDP-BIOFIN to leverage BIOFIN technical support and capacity-building to non-BIOFIN core countries	
103	Continue to support the online Global Network on Biodiversity Law where participants in the trainings on establishing legal frameworks to implement the Nagoya Protocol can access updated resources, latest news and continue peer-to-peer learning.	
109	Continue support to the online Global Network of ABS experts, including through organizing online discussion forums to facilitate communication and exchange of experiences on ABS capacity-building and peer-to-peer learning	
110	Identify, map and inter-link institutions that are assisting, or could assist, Parties and IPLCs in building their capacity to implement the Nagoya Protocol	
111	Inform Parties and capacity-building providers about existing capacity-building initiatives and areas where there are capacity-building gaps	
117	Support Parties in developing and updating the National Biosafety Frameworks (NBFs)	
118	Organize capacity-building activities to enable Parties to implement the LMO identification requirements of paragraph 2 (a) of Article 18 and related decisions	Merge the Activities 118, 121 and 123. They deal with capacity building on LMO identification, risk assessments, and detection.
121	Organize training courses in risk assessment using the latest version of the manual on risk assessment of LMOs	
123	Organize capacity-building workshops on sampling, detection and identification of LMOs	
124	Develop, in collaboration with relevant organizations, training materials on sampling, detection and identification of LMOs	
125	Organize subregional workshops on public awareness, education, and public participation (PAEP) concerning LMOs	