

CIRCULAR

FILE: CONV 2/5/1

TO: **SPREP National Focal Points:**
Fiji, Niue, Palau,
Papua New Guinea, Samoa,
Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu

DATE: 27 November 2018

CIRCULAR: 18/68

SUBJECT: **Oceania Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eighteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), 25 – 27 March 2019, Samoa**

Dear Focal Points,

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) will be convening a Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eighteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) from the **25 – 27 March, 2019** at the SPREP Campus in Samoa.

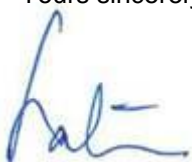
The main objective of the preparatory meeting is to provide a forum for the Oceania Parties to come together and discuss key regional priority issues and prepare regional positions, as appropriate. A key part of the meeting is to also strengthen the Pacific's engagement at COP meetings and continue with the One Pacific Voice which has been an effective approach adopted by Pacific island countries at previous COP meetings.

SPREP will support travel costs and daily subsistence allowance for **two officials**, one (1) official from CITES Management Authority and one (1) official from the CITES Scientific Authority to attend the meeting. We would also like to request that the nominated participants attending the preparatory meeting will be part of the national delegation to CITES CoP18 in Sri Lanka.

We would appreciate receiving confirmation and nomination form (**Annex 1**) at your earliest convenience but no later than the **25th January 2019**. A drafted provisional meeting agenda (**Annex 2**) is attached for your information. A detailed agenda and additional information will be provided in due course.

Please also note the deadline for applications for funding support to attend the CITES CoP18 meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 23 May – 3 June on **31 December 2018**. The application form is attached in **Annex 3**. Please kindly send through the nomination form to Juney Ward juneyw@sprep.org.

Yours sincerely,



Kosi Latu
Director General

ANNEX 1:

OCEANIA REGIONAL CITES Pre-COP18 Meeting
 25 – 27 March, 2019, SPREP campus, Apia, Samoa

Please nominate **two participants** from the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities who will also be part of the national delegation to the CITES CoP18 meeting in Sri Lanka.

	PARTICIPANT 1	PARTICIPANT 2
Name as shown in Passport:		
Country:		
Job Title/Designation:		
Organization & Department:		
Phone No.:		
Email Address:		

Please email the completed nomination form no later than Friday 25 January 2019 to Juney Ward juneyw@sprep.org and Makerita Atiga makeritaa@sprep.org. Please also send us a copy of your passport biodata page for your travel arrangements.

ANNEX 2:

**OCEANIA REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR CITES CoP18
25 – 27 MARCH 2019
SPREP CAMPUS, SAMOA**

Provisional Agenda

1. Official opening
2. Overview and objectives of the meeting
3. Introductions, organization of work and adoption of meeting agenda
4. CITES – overview of priority issues
5. Key priority issues for the Oceania region
6. Negotiation training
7. Pacific Voyage Outreach Campaign
8. Strategies for effective engagement at CITES COP meetings
9. Next steps and Preparations for CITES COP18
10. Closing