

CIRCULAR

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DATE: 6 February 2019
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TO: SPREP Partners:
FAO Sub-regional Office for the Pacific
UNDP Samoa
UNEP Sub-regional Office for the Pacific
Conservation International Samoa

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 Partners,

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.

On this note, we would like to extend an invitation to attend the CITES Pre-CoP meeting as we value your expertise that would assist with the Pacific's preparations to the CITES CoP18 meeting.

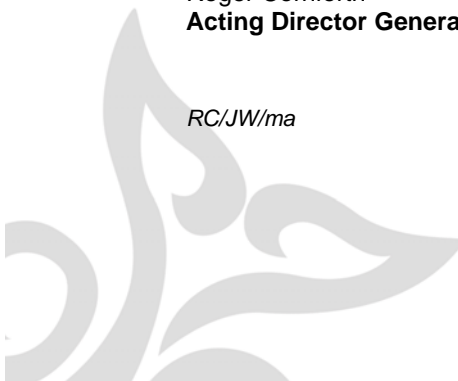
A drafted provisional meeting agenda (**Annex 1**) is attached for your information. A detailed agenda and additional information will be provided in due course.

We kindly request to submit your interest to attend to Juney Ward juneyw@sprep.org or Carmen Fepuleai carmenf@sprep.org

Yours sincerely,

Roger Cornforth
Acting Director General

RC/JW/ma



ANNEX 1:

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