

## CIRCULAR

**FILE:** CONV 2/5/1 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points  
**DATE:** 9 February 2026 **SPREP Partners**  
**CIRCULAR:** 26/08  
**SUBJECT:** **World Wildlife Day 2026: Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods**

Dear SPREP National Focal Points & Partners,

In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in its resolution UN 68/205, decided to proclaim 3 March, the day of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973, as World Wildlife Day. World Wildlife Day 2026 is celebrated under the theme:

### **Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods**

To highlight the relevance of medicinal and aromatic plant species in the Pacific region, SPREP will host a regional online webinar in collaboration with the IUCN SSC Medicinal Plant Specialist Group, and a national in-person event in Apia, Samoa, in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Please find attached practical information on both events.

SPREP kindly invites all SPREP Members, Partners, and interested stakeholders, to celebrate World Wildlife Day, to join the planned events either virtually or in person, and to use this opportunity to learn more about your native biodiversity and their significant contribution to the health, heritage, and livelihoods of Oceania.

Should you require further information or clarification, please contact Mr. Martin Hitziger, SPREP CITES-CMS Pacific Officer ([martinh@sprep.org](mailto:martinh@sprep.org)).

Yours sincerely,



Easter Chu Shing  
Acting Director General

ECS/MH/ma

**Regional online webinar:**

Medicinal plants: Key biodiversity resource for public health in Oceania

Date and time: 3 March 2026, 15 – 17pm (Apia time, UTC/GMT +13 hours)

Meeting link (Zoom):

<https://sprep.zoom.us/j/91472125596?pwd=nkggj80jr0lz1aEHHzVtdT1JT1eBe4.1>

Meeting ID: 914 7212 5596

Passcode: !mzwLD51

Agenda:

- Opening (SPREP, IUCN Medicinal Plants Specialist Group (MPSG))
- Introduction: Medicinal plants – cultural heritage and national biodiversity resources (SPREP)
- Country highlights: Ethnomedical & Ethnobotanical Studies in Vanuatu (Gregory M. Plunkett, Michael J. Balick, Center for Plants, People, and Culture, New York Botanical Garden, USA)
- Country highlights: Medicinal plants in Hawaii and Fiji (Tamara Ticktin, University of Hawaii)
- Medicinal plants in Oceania – conservation status and conservation needs (MPSG)
- Q&A and general discussion
- Concluding words (MPSG, SPREP)

**National in-person event in Apia, Samoa:**

Medicinal plants: native biodiversity for healthy villages in a wealthy Samoa

Date and time: 3 March 2026, 9am - 13pm (Apia time, UTC/GMT +13 hours)

Location: Information Fale, Vailima Botanical Garden, Le Alofa Road, Vailima, [MAP](#)

Agenda:

- Opening (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), SPREP)
- Medicinal plants – cultural heritage and national biodiversity resources (SPREP)
- Research on Samoan medicinal plants (Scientific Research Organization of Samoa)
- Coffee, refreshments
- Conservation of rare plants in Samoa (Samoa Conservation Society)
- Q&A and general discussion
- Group photo
- Guided walk through Vailima botanical garden (MNRE)
- Closing words (SPREP, MNRE)
- Light lunch