Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

CITES Workshop on Strengthening Implementation Capacity to Ensure Sustainable Wildlife Management and Non-detrimental Trade

SPREP Regional Workshop to Review the Regional Marine Species Action Plans

5-14 March 2012
Nadi, Fiji

First Announcement and Invitation

Deadline for response: 6 February 2012

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) are very pleased to announce the organization of two joint workshops to assist countries in the region to more effectively implement CITES and to review the Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme Action Plans.

The CITES and SPREP Workshops will be held in Nadi, Fiji, from 5 to 14 March 2012.

Topics of discussion:

- CITES Workshop on Strengthening Implementation Capacity to Ensure Sustainable Wildlife Management and Non-detrimental Trade (5-7 March) will cover the following issues:
    - Introduction to CITES
    - CITES and science
    - Compliance and implementation
    - Enforcement

- SPREP Regional Workshop to Review the regional marine species action plans: (i) Whale and Dolphin Action Plan; (ii) Marine Turtle Action Plan; and (iii) Dugong Action Plan (8-14 March).

Tentative agendas are attached and other workshop papers will be available in due course.

The workshops are supported by financial and in-kind contributions from the European Commission, NZAID, CEPF, CMS, WWF SPPO and SPREP.

Official participation in the workshops

The member Governments are hereby invited to nominate one or more representatives to attend the workshops, as follows:

- one from the CITES Management Authority or Competent Authority responsible for CITES; and
- one from the national Department, Ministry or Agency responsible for conservation of marine species, **IF** this is different from the CITES Authority.

If nominating a different official for the two workshops, please clearly indicate which delegate would attend each workshop on behalf of your country to enable the organizers to properly plan the events and to arrange the least expensive means of travel for financially sponsored delegates. If nominating only one representative for both workshops, please clearly state this.

Collaborating organizations and partners are also invited to participate at the SPREP Workshop to Review the Regional Marine Species Programme Action Plans.

Please submit your official nomination letter to SPREP (not CITES) before 6 February 2012. This can be submitted by email to sprep@sprep.org or by fax to (685) 20231.

Travel support for official delegates

Financial assistance will be available to fully support the participation of 'accepted' official representatives from eligible member Governments according to the applicable SPREP and CITES rules.

Documentation

Documentation for both workshops will be sent to registered participants by email. Any revised Workshop agenda will be forwarded to accepted nominees in due time.

For additional information please contact:

- SPREP – Mr Lui Bell (luib@sprep.org), Tel: +685 66281 or +685 21929 Ext 281; or
- CITES – Ms Sarah Ferguson (sarah.ferguson@cites.org) , Tel: +41 22 917 8121

We sincerely hope that your delegation can be nominated and registered for the workshops as soon as possible, after which they should apply for visas, where necessary.

We look forward to seeing your delegation in Nadi in March 2012. Please accept the assurance of our highest consideration.

John E. Scanlon,
Secretary-General
CITES

David Sheppard
Director General
SPREP