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The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.



Twenty Seventh SPREP Meeting of Officials

Alofi, Niue

19 – 21 September 2016

Agenda Item 9.1.1 : Outcomes of the regional joint CBD COP13 and CITES COP17 preparatory meeting

Purpose

1. To update, and seek endorsement of Members of the outcomes of the joint preparatory meeting for CBD COP13 and CITES COP17

Background

2. The 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) will be convened on the 24th September to the 5th October, 2016 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Subsequently, the 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will be held on the 4th to 17th December, 2016 in Cancun, Mexico. A High Level Segment (HLS) will precede the CBD COP13 from the 2nd to the 3rd December, 2016. This would be the first time the HLS will take place before the CBD COP meeting starts. A Declaration on mainstreaming biodiversity is expected to be endorsed as a key outcome of the HLS.
3. In preparation for the CBD COP13 and CITES COP17, the Secretariat in collaborations with the Secretariats of the CBD and CITES successfully convened a joint preparatory meeting for the Oceania region from the 15th to the 19th August, 2016 at the SPREP Campus. This was the second time a joint preparatory meeting has been held for our region to discuss relevant substantive COP issues of importance to the region and prepare possible positions and responses to guide and support engagement in the negotiations at the COP meetings. In addition to substantive issues, a number of synergistic and common issues pertaining to both conventions were also discussed which included resource mobilization, capacity building and cooperation across the biodiversity MEAs. Key outcomes of the joint preparatory meeting for CBD COP13 and CITES CoP17 are in Attachment 1.
4. The key issues that were given priority and discussed in preparation for the CITES COP17 included the proposals to Amend Appendix II of the CITES to include mobula rays, silky and thresher sharks. The mobula ray proposal was proposed by the Government of Fiji and supported by more than 50 countries which included Samoa and Palau. Fiji, Samoa and Palau co-sponsored the silky and thresher shark proposals proposed by Maldives and Sri Lanka respectively. Discussion was also held on other species that were proposed for listing that are of importance to the Pacific region, such as the Nautilus proposal, co-sponsored by Fiji and Palau. National reporting was also identified as another key issue and discussion was based on how the Pacific countries can

become better equipped and abled to document and report on the permits and certificates issued for the exports, imports and re-exports of CITES listed species through a system that would generate data needed for the National reporting requirements.

5. For the CBD COP13, a number of key issues were identified and discussed. One of these issues, among others, was on Aichi Target 11 which was agreed by Parties "By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes". Building on the outcomes of the CBD Capacity Building workshop for the Pacific on achieving Aichi Targets 11 and 12, held in Fiji in July 2016, which identified key priority actions formulated through roadmaps that countries would undertake in the next five years and whose implementation would contribute towards improving the current status of protected areas by 2020 and facilitate achieving the target at the national, regional and global levels.
6. The Secretariat will continue to provide technical advisory support to Pacific island parties at COP meetings through the Pacific Voyage approach delivered through technical expert advice and the coordination of communication and outreach activities.
7. The joint preparatory meeting was made possible with funding support from the EU through the CITES Secretariat. A total of more than fifty participants attended the meeting of which 16 were parties to the CBD; eight were parties to CITES; and representatives of relevant UN Agencies, international and regional organizations, and NGOs.

Recommendation

8. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **endorse** the outcomes of the joint preparatory meeting for CBD COP13 and CITES CoP 17 including the Pacific Voyage: One Pacific Voice campaign and approach.