

# CIRCULAR

**FILE:** AP\_2/43 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points  
CITES Authorities in CITES' Oceania  
Region

**DATE:** 3 March 2025

**CIRCULAR:** 25/08

**SUBJECT:** CITES pre-CoP20 Oceania Coordination - Invitation to Participate

Dear CITES Authorities and SPREP National Focal Points,

In advance of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties, SPREP organized and hosted coordination meetings to assist CITES Parties in the Oceania region to prepare their policy positions and their contributions. Following this precedent, SPREP, after consultation with the representatives of the Oceania region in CITES Committees, will host a CITES pre-CoP20 Oceania coordination meeting, as follows:

**October 14 - 17 2025**  
**PCCC meeting room, SPREP premises, Apia, Samoa**  
**In person, optional sponsoring for ca. 10 delegates**  
**Available Option of remote participation**

CoPs are the preeminent decision-making body of the CITES Convention. They will usually discuss ca. 60 listing proposals, possibly for taxa such as sharks, sea cucumbers, and trees, some of which will concern species to which Oceania Parties are range States. They will usually also discuss ca. 100 agenda items to review and guide all implementation mechanisms of the Convention, including, for example, compliance mechanisms. The coordination meeting will give Oceania Parties opportunity to build their capacity and understanding how they can effectively contribute to CITES decision making, and to coordinate their policy positions and interventions across the Oceania region.

SPREP invites Parties to nominate delegates that are anticipated to participate in CITES CoP20 for participation in the pre-CoP20 Oceania coordination meeting. Up to two CoP20 delegates per Party can be nominated for sponsored participation in the pre-CoP coordination meeting (ideally one delegate from your national CITES Management Authorities and one delegate from your national CITES Scientific Authorities).

**Please submit your nominations by 30 June 2025 to [martinh@sprep.org](mailto:martinh@sprep.org), using the enclosed nomination form. Nominations from CITES Parties need endorsement from designated CITES Management Authorities.** Nominations from officially designated Authorities of non-CITES Parties may be considered, subject to available space and funding. SPREP will inform all nominating Parties of meeting details and availability of funding for sponsored participation, as soon as possible. VISA requirements are the responsibility of the nominees, and early registration and VISA applications are recommended.



**SPREP**  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme

SPREP also highlights that the CITES Secretariat advertised possibilities for sponsored participation in CoP20 (Notification to the Parties No. 2024/131). SPREP Parties are encouraged to act on the Notification if they require sponsoring to participate in CoP20 proceedings. The Notification requests Parties to submit any nominations for sponsored CoP20 participation to the CITES Secretariat **before June 27, 2025**.

Yours sincerely,



Tagaloa Cooper  
**Officer-In-Charge**

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Att.