



Endangered Species Trade Control

Pacific BioScapes Programme - Regional Activity

The Pacific BioScapes Programme is providing assistance to establish electronic eCITES automated support for trade permitting and reporting systems to support compliance for the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)** in the Pacific.

CITES is an international agreement between governments. **Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants** does not threaten the survival of the species. Annually, international wildlife trade is estimated to be worth billions of dollars and to include hundreds of millions of plant and animal specimens. The trade is diverse, ranging from live animals and plants to a vast array of wildlife products derived from them, including food products, exotic leather goods, wooden musical instruments, timber, tourist curios and medicines.

In the Pacific there are seven Parties to CITES: Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Palau. New Zealand and Australia are also Parties. International trade from Pacific Parties can include birds, insects, reptiles, whale teeth, turtle shells, shark fins, sea cucumbers (traded as beche de mer), corals and clams.

One regional example is *Heliopora coerulea*.

Sold as 'blue coral', as it has a blue skeleton, it has been overharvested for the aquarium industry. It is on the CITES species list for American Samoa, Guam, Marshall Islands, FSM, New Caledonia, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

CENTRAL ISSUES:



Threatened specie trade is common in the Pacific region



Current CITES trade permit and reporting systems are manually managed



Risk of trade suspensions being applied to Pacific Island nations

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY SUMMARY:



Establish electronic eCITES automated support for trade permitting and reporting systems

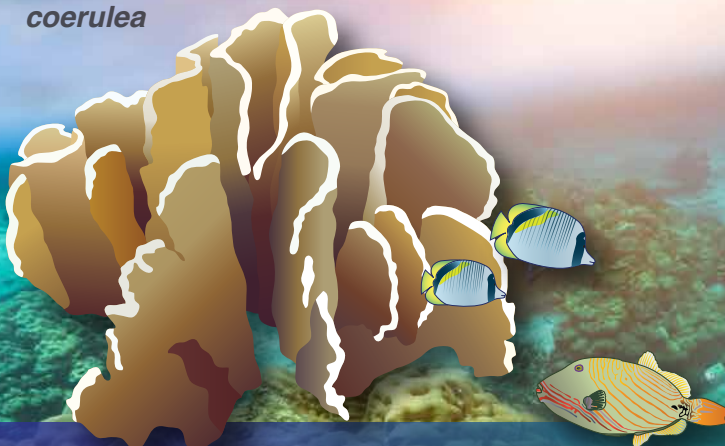


Automated system results in reduced errors and reduced training needs of staff



Reductions in wildlife trafficking, less opportunities for corruption and use of export fraudulent permits

Heliopora coerulea



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