

AP 1/6/1

9 October 2019

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Between

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Pacific

And

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

(together, "the Parties")

WWF is one of the largest conservation organizations in the world, with more than 100 offices in over 80 countries scattered around the globe. Its global mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. WWF Pacific's mission is to ensure that the richness and resilience of Pacific island ecosystems are managed and conserved in harmony with the aspirations and sustainable development needs of its people

SPREP is a regional, intergovernmental organisation comprising 26 members consisting of 21 Pacific Island Countries and Territories and five developed countries with direct interests in the Pacific region. The purposes of SPREP are to promote co-operation in the Pacific region and to provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations.

Whereas SPREP and WWF Pacific have mutual interests in relation to the protection of the environment and developing and strengthening systems, institutions, organisations and individuals concerned with environmental protection in the Pacific region,

The Parties have reached the following understandings:

1. Objectives

1. The main objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to provide a framework of co-operation between SPREP and WWF Pacific.
2. Within this framework the Parties will consult in an effort to collaborate on the activities they identify as requiring implementation.

2. Collaborative Activities

The Parties agree, to the extent possible, but without limitation, to:

1. Consult each other on policy matters of mutual concern.
2. Exchange information on developments and current activities in relation to the environment.

3. Extend to each other standing invitations to be represented by observers at appropriate meetings, including the annual SPREP Meeting and to co-sponsor relevant meetings.
4. Collaborate and support awareness-raising efforts in relation to the environment.
5. Collaborate on the implementation of global and regional priorities in relation to the environment.
6. Collaborate and support capacity-building initiatives in relation to the environment.
7. Keep respective memberships informed of co-operative activities undertaken pursuant to this MOU.

3. Operational Provisions

1. This MOU constitutes an expression of a shared intention of the Parties to endeavour to develop foundations for achieving their shared objectives relating to the protection of the environment and developing and strengthening systems, institutions, organisations and individuals concerned with environmental protection in the Pacific region.
2. Each Party's actions under this MOU shall be considered to be that Party's sole and separate action for all purposes, including liability, and neither Party shall claim to be acting on behalf of, or as agent for, the other Party to this MOU.
3. Each Party will name and keep updated focal points to co-ordinate the cooperation called for in this MOU.
4. In executing this MOU, neither Party necessarily commits to any financial obligation in relation to activities to be carried out under this MOU.

4. Annexes

1. Specific work once agreed to may be attached as an Annex to this MOU.
2. Such Annex shall form an integral part of this MOU and, unless expressly provided otherwise, a reference to this MOU includes a reference to any such Annex.

5. Duration, entry into force, amendments and termination

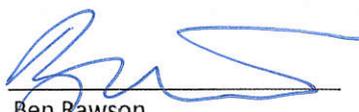
1. The duration of this MOU shall be five years, renewable for such further period and as may be agreed between the Parties.
2. This MOU shall enter into force on the date the last Party signs.
3. This MOU may be amended by agreement in writing between the Parties.
4. Either Party may terminate this MOU by giving three months written notice to the other.



Roger Cornforth
Acting Director General
SPREP

Date:

11/10/2019



Ben Rawson
Interim Director
WWF Pacific

Date:

11/10/2019

Annex

Ecosystem-based Adaptation

Actions:

SPREP and WWF will work together to support the implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation at a community level within Fiji. Opportunities for collaboration within the wider region will be investigated, including comparative assessment of the effectiveness of EbA actions, as well as community surveys and community engagement in the implementation of EbA actions.

Focal Points

For SPREP: Paul Anderson

For WWF: Alfred Ralifo

Threatened, Endangered and Protected Migratory Species

Actions:

The Parties will

- Collaborate on monitoring and protection of sea turtle, foraging, nesting and mapping of important areas in Fiji, genetic studies of Fiji rookeries and linking of national sea turtle plans, including the mitigation of turtle bycatch, with the regional thematic areas;
- Collaborate on conservation and management of sharks and rays in the SPREP region, including the implementation of the Regional Shark and Ray Action Plan; protection of critical habitats such as breeding areas; harmonisation of the shark listings on the Appendices of CMS and CITES; and promotion of the responsible and non-lethal utilisation of sharks and rays for tourism, for the economic benefit of local communities;
- Collaborate on bycatch mitigation of Threatened, Endangered and Protected Migratory species in the tuna fisheries of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;
- Carry out other collaborations on Threatened, Endangered and Protected Migratory Species as may be appropriate;

Focal Points

For SPREP: Karen Baird

For WWF: Laitia Tamata (Turtles), Francis Areki (Sharks and Rays) and Duncan Williams (Bycatch)

Planning, Monitoring and Communications for Conservation

Actions

- The Parties will promote and support the management and conservation of island, coastal, and marine ecosystems and the region's unique biodiversity
- Applying the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation including use of appropriate tools, such as Conservation Action Planning (CAP), Miradi, and as appropriate adaptations of these for improved conservation planning, implementation and monitoring.
- Planning, including spatial planning where appropriate and technical guidance and approaches at different scales (regional, sub-regional, national and sub-national) for cross sectoral integration of e.g. ecosystem / biodiversity, fisheries, environment, disaster reduction and resilience, forestry, mining and tourism. Identifying and addressing high priority science/data needs e.g. Rapid Ecological Assessments (REAs) and / or Rapid Biodiversity Assessments (BIORAP).
- Facilitating knowledge exchanges and cross learning linkages with the Micronesia Challenge and Coral Triangle Initiative e.g. metrics and approaches to monitoring and reporting ecosystem

condition, developing ecological, governance and social networks and capacity building for local conservation NGOs.

- Building human and institutional awareness including communications support and capacity to manage terrestrial, marine and coastal zone resources in a way that balances social, economic, and ecological objectives by documenting successes and sharing experiences across the region and beyond.

Focal Points

For SPREP: Easter Galuvao

For WWF: Francis Areki (Spatial Planning and Communications) and Unaisi Malani (Monitoring and Evaluation and Open Standards)

Biodiversity of the Deep Sea

Actions:

The Parties will look for opportunities to jointly encourage and support increased knowledge of deep-sea areas and habitats, through collaborations with organisations, research agencies and funding bodies, including evaluation review, and technical advice regarding deep sea mining proposals.

Focal Points

For SPREP: Peter Davies

For WWF: Francis Areki

Wetlands and Ramsar

Actions:

The Parties will jointly support Pacific island countries to identify and nominate national wetlands for Ramsar designation, update information for key national wetlands, preparatory actions for joining the convention and improving management of designated or proposed Ramsar Sites.

Focal Points

For SPREP: Vainuupo Jungblut

For WWF: Alfred Ralifo

Marine Spatial Planning

Actions:

The Parties will work to link the ongoing MSP projects in the region (PACIOCEA, EPOG, MACBIO) to support Fiji and other Melanesian countries in marine spatial planning at the national to sub-national level. Investigate opportunities to integrate cross sector management approaches for nearshore marine management.

Focal Points

For SPREP: Peter Davies

For WWF: Francis Areki

Other

Actions:

Collaborations may be operationalised under the By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) component of the Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) programme.

Focal Points

For SPREP: Karen Baird

For WWF: Laitia Tamata (Turtles), Francis Areki (Sharks and Rays) and Duncan Williams (Bycatch)