

SPREP
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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

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between

L'Agence Française pour la Biodiversité (AFB)

and

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

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 SPREP's mandate is 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.

AFB is a French public Agency of the Ministry in charge of Ecology. It carries out missions of support to the implementation of public policies in the fields of knowledge, conservation, terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity management and restoration. It supports public sectors, in addition to the close partnerships with socio-economic sectors. It also aims to promote biodiversity awareness.

And whereas

SPREP is the leading organisation for the environment and sustainable development in the Pacific Region.

Whereas

AFB provides support and assistance to the French Territories governments in the Pacific regarding biodiversity issues. AFB has 2 sub-offices in New Caledonia and in French Polynesia.

The Parties to this MoU agree as follows:

1. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding formally recognizes the intent of SPREP and AFB to work together on environment issues.

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The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to provide a framework of cooperation between SPREP and AFB in the fields of conservation and management biodiversity. It includes collaborating on marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystem related programmes and projects in the French Pacific territories and more widely in the Pacific Islands Region on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

2. Objectives

The objective of this agreement is to develop a partnership between the two organisations that will:

- Enhance the conservation and management of biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Enhance climate change resilience in the Pacific Islands Region.
- Enhance funding mechanisms for studies dedicated to environment issues.
- Promote environmental networks within the Pacific Islands Region.
- Enhance French territories involvement in environmental issues in the Pacific Islands Region.
- Develop and implement projects and programmes as appropriate to meet the above objectives.
- Collaborate on, participate in and support special events at global and regional levels relating to the conservation and management of biodiversity. Share information, methodology, data, and resources that will improve the effectiveness of both organisations with their objectives to conserve and manage terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems.

The Parties will collaborate to enhance capacity building and more broadly, assist with best practice in environmental policies and their implementation in the Pacific Islands Region to ensure international/regional conservation objectives and commitments are met.

3. Collaborative activities

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

- Consult each other as appropriate on environmental matters of mutual concern.
- Exchange information on developments and current activities in relation to the environment.
- Extend to each other standing invitations to be represented as observers at appropriate meetings.
- Collaborate and support awareness-raising efforts in relation to the environment.
- Collaborate on the implementation of global and regional priorities in relation to the environment.
- Collaborate on linkages and alignment of territorial work efforts with other Pacific island countries and territories.
- Collaborate and support capacity-building initiatives in relation to the environment with Pacific island countries and territories in particular with the French territories.
- Keep the Government of France and the SPREP Meeting informed of cooperative activities undertaken pursuant to this MOU.

- Exchange technical information, scientific data and practical experiences regarding biodiversity management including marine protected areas issues.
- Develop activities and projects in the area of biodiversity in French Pacific territories and in the Pacific Islands Region.
- Collaborate on, participate in and support the 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in 2020.
- Additional fields of cooperation may be determined with the interest of both parties and through mutual agreement.

4. Work Plan and Timetable

Agreements will be established between SPREP and AFB in order to define work plans and timetables to facilitate the activities and projects development in the Pacific Region.

5. Termination and Amendments

- This MoU will come into effect upon signature of the Parties and will remain in effect until 5 years from the date of signature.
- This MoU may be amended by written agreement of the Parties.
- Either Party may terminate this MoU, by giving 10 weeks written notice to the other Party.

6. Relation of the Parties

This MoU constitutes an expression of mutual good faith by the Parties who commit to carrying out their responsibilities to the best of their abilities. Nothing in this MoU shall render either Party liable for any debts or obligations incurred by the other. Neither Party may make representations on behalf of the other.

Mr. Kosi Latu
Director General
SPREP

Date:



M. Christophe Aubel
Director General
AFB

Date:



04 DEC. 2018