



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC**

and

**THE SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

### 1.0 Preamble

**The University of the South Pacific**, a body incorporated by the Royal Charter of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and having its principal address at Laucala Campus, Suva, Fiji (hereinafter referred to as 'USP'), is a key contributor to the development of the South Pacific nations and a primary source of higher education graduates in the region. Founded in 1968, USP serves the regional needs of its 12 member Countries<sup>1</sup>. USP is one of the major and leading tertiary education providers in the Pacific, and offers education and training, research and consultancy services, and technical expertise to its members. This steady supply of graduates has contributed to meeting the human resource development needs of the region for 50 years.

**The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)** is a regional inter-governmental organization comprising 26 members consisting of 21 Pacific Island countries and territories and 5 developed countries with direct interests in the region, namely, Australia, France, New Zealand, United Kingdom and the United States of America. Its purpose is to promote co-operation in the Pacific region and provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations.

### 2.0 Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is designed to outline the basis for a friendly and respectful relationship through mutual cooperation primarily in the areas of education and research between USP and SPREP.

SPREP and USP have reached agreement on the following areas of cooperation, subject to mutual consent and the availability of sufficient funding:

This MOU does not alter or amend or in any other way affect any agreements that USP and SPREP may be a party to at the signing of this MOU, or may be in the course of negotiating, or

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<sup>1</sup>Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu

may negotiate during the Term of this MOU, in respect of other project agreements.

SPREP and USP agree that all Project Agreements take precedence over this MOU, and the terms of this MOU will be read and interpreted subject to any relevant provisions of the Project Agreements.

SPREP and USP agree to focus their cooperation primarily on the areas noted below (Focus Areas), and undertake further discussions to scope out these areas and develop them to a stage where they can be implemented.

This Memorandum provides a framework within which the Parties may develop and undertake collaborative activities. Specific arrangements for individual activities to be carried out pursuant to this Memorandum will be set forth in written work plans to be jointly formulated by the Parties subject to mutual consent and the availability of sufficient funding.

### **3.0 Areas of collaboration/ Focus Areas**

- a) Exchange of technical staff with specialty in environment, climate change; waste management and oceans;
- b) Joint research activities in areas of mutual interest to be undertaken as equal partners;
- c) Participation in seminars, workshops, meetings and conferences on environment, climate change, waste management and oceans;
- d) Continued participation as a member of regional partnerships such as the Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas (PIRT);
- e) Participation in project Steering Committees and Technical Advisory Groups;
- f) Exchange of academic materials and other information, by mutual agreement and in accordance with contract documents
- g) Special short-term academic programs;
- h) Student exchange for research and study including short term practical work placement as part of a course requirement;
- i) Capacity building and training;
- j) Technical cooperation in thematic areas including climate change, disaster resilience, oceans, ecosystem and biodiversity protection, Environmental Impact Assessment, waste management, and resource recovery;
- k) Joint research in areas of mutual interests;
- l) Collaboration in information, knowledge management products and data sharing with a view to reducing the number and complexity of existing portals;
- m) Resolution of issues pertaining of EDF 11 funded actions including Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP); Pacific - European Union (EU) Waste Management Programme, referred to as PacWaste Plus; Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES); and Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA +) (SUPA).

USP and SPREP agree that any implementation of the Focus Areas, will require a more detailed plan and agreement to be documented in either a Letter of Agreement between them or other such documentation as they deem necessary, subject of course to mutual agreement.

Each institution will designate an individual to oversee the MOU/coordinate this program and all resulting endeavors that may arise/derive from it. For this purpose, SPREP designates the Deputy Director General, Strategic Policy and Technical Programmes and the USP designates Professor Derrick Armstrong, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation and International.

#### 4.0 Financial Arrangements and Stipulations

The development and implementation of specific activities and financials based on this MOU will be separately negotiated and agreed upon by both parties in writing through a separate Letter of Agreement or other such documentation as is deemed appropriate.

#### 5.0 Amendment

Amendments, consents, or waiver of terms of this MOU shall be in writing and signed by all parties.

#### 6.0 Term of MOU

This MOU shall commence on the date of last signature and be in effect for 5 years, before which time it shall be reviewed for possible extension. Either party may terminate this MOU by written notification signed by the appropriate official of the institution initiating the notice. However, such notification must be received by the other party at least 3 months prior to the effective date of termination. Termination of this MOU will have no effect on the validity of any agreements between SPREP and USP in place as at the date of Termination unless specifically agreed to in writing by both institutions.

Signed in two original copies in English Language.



**Professor Pal Ahluwalia**  
Vice-Chancellor & President  
The University of the South Pacific,  
Laucala, Suva, Fiji

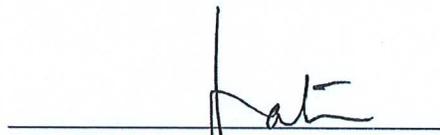
Date: 31/03/2020

Place: USP, Suva

Witnessed by: IRISH LAR  
MANAGER DEVELOPMENT  
COOPERATION  
[Full Name and Title]

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 31/03/2020



**Mr Kosi Latu**  
Director General  
The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme  
Apia, Samoa

Date: 24.03.2020

Place: APIA SAMOA

Witnessed by: Audrey Brown PERENA  
Executive officer  
[Full Name and Title]

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 24 March 2020