



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

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

AND

**THE ORGANISATION OF EASTERN
CARIBBEAN STATES**

**Collaboration on Climate Change and
related matters**

July 2020

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME AND THE ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES COMMISSION

This Memorandum of Understanding (the "MOU") is made BETWEEN:

The **SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**, a duly established inter-governmental organisation, being an institution of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories with headquarters situated in Samoa (hereinafter referred to as "**SPREP**") acting herein and represented by **Kosi Latu, Director General**, on the one hand

AND

THE ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES an international organisation established by the *Treaty of Basseterre, 1981* and continued under the *Revised Treaty of Basseterre establishing the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Economic Union* with headquarters situated at Morne Fortuné in the Quarter of Castries, in the State of Saint Lucia (hereinafter referred to as the "OECS") acting herein and represented by **Dr. Didacus Jules, Director General**, on the other hand.

SPREP and OECS shall hereinafter be described collectively as the "Parties" and individually, as a "Party", where relevant.

WHEREAS:

A. Background on SPREP

- i. SPREP is the Pacific regional organisation charged with protecting and managing the environment and natural resources of the Pacific. SPREP's purpose is to promote co-operation in the Pacific region and provide assistance to protect and improve the Pacific's environment and ensure sustainable development for present and future generations. SPREP plays a leading role on climate change in the Pacific region.
- ii. SPREP coordinates the Pacific region's response to climate change, working on effective solutions and projects to combat the environmental impacts of climate change and global warming. It provides climate change-related policy advice and guidelines to the Pacific Island Member States through its Climate Change Resilience Department and is an archive and clearing house for regional climate change data and documentation. SPREP also functions as the key node for information on climate change related issues and coordinates the Pacific's efforts to adapt and build development resilience to climate change.

B. Background on the OECS

- iii. The OECS is dedicated to economic harmonisation and integration, protection of human and legal rights, and the encouragement of good governance among independent and non-independent countries in the Eastern Caribbean. Under the Treaty of Basseterre (TB, 1981) and the Revised Treaty of Basseterre (RTB) (2010), Member States agree to cooperate with each other and promote unity and solidarity, including participation by Protocol Members in an Economic Union.

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- iv. Article 24 of the Protocol of OECS Economic Union requires that each Protocol Member State shall implement the St George's Declaration of Principles of Environmental Sustainability which seeks to, inter-alia, achieve the long-term protection and sustained productivity of the region's natural resource base and the ecosystem services it provides, and ensure that natural resources contribute optimally and equitably to economic, social and cultural development.
- v. The OECS Commission, in facilitating the fulfilment of this commitment, has, and is pursuing, a broad and strategic portfolio to enhance environmental sustainability towards the sustainable development of OECS Member States, through inter alia, Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management, Climate Change and Disaster Resilience, Land and Water Resources Development, Oceans Governance and Fisheries, Sustainable Energy, and Pollution and Waste Management.

AND WHEREAS, the Parties desire to collaborate on climate change adaptation and mitigation activities within their respective Member States and the wider Caribbean and related administrative matters;

AND WHEREAS, this MOU between the Parties, sets out the modalities for their collaboration on climate change related initiatives in the Caribbean and the Pacific and administrative matters.

THE PARTIES HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:

CLAUSE 1: PURPOSE OF THIS MOU

The purpose of this MOU is to provide the framework for collaboration in the areas specified in Clause 3 below and any future binding contracts between SPREP and the OECS.

CLAUSE 2: OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES UNDER THIS MOU

The Parties acknowledge that this MOU creates only a framework for collaboration towards their mutual objectives and functions and in the true spirit of partnership.

CLAUSE 3: BROAD AREAS FOR COOPERATION

In pursuit of cooperation on matters of common interest, the areas for cooperation between the Parties shall include, but not be limited to:

- Advancing the Samoa Pathway, the Paris Agreement and relevant Sustainable Development Goals
- Building partnerships
- Fostering good governance
- Capacity-Building
- Resource Mobilization
- Research, Systematic Observation and Data Management, Knowledge Management & Information-Sharing

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- Public Education, Awareness and Advocacy
- i. Provision of Policy support for enhancing the resilience-building platform for Member States and the wider region.
- ii. Pursuit of joint mobilization of resources, development and implementation of regional projects relating to climate change and climate variability that fall within the mandate of SPREP and OECS;
- iii. Collaboration with each other in the development and implementation of sustainability projects on investments in the aforementioned areas;
- iv. Collaboration on initiatives to enhance the regional data storage, processing, and dissemination capability within the Caribbean and the Pacific;
- v. Fostering of research and development of activities aimed at supporting community, national and regional climate resilience and adaptation initiatives;
- vi. Engaging in capacity-building activities aimed at increasing the technical competence of Caribbean and Pacific professionals engaged in climate resilience activities;
- vii. Participating in meetings, Advisory and Technical Committees for projects and programmes implemented by the other Party;
- viii. Promoting each other's programme activities through their respective communications networks and public outreach platforms;
- ix. Sharing of data, information and experiences in support of enhanced climate change action in the region;
- x. Producing public information materials for the diverse regional and international target publics and provide dialogue platforms for enhancing the knowledge base and empowerment potential of people.
- xi. Joint mobilization and support of Member States and coordination of positions, advocacy and strategies related negotiation of relevant issues and conventions on the regional and international level.
- xii. Other agreed actions in support of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, The St. Georges Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability, and related mandates.
- xiii. Sharing information databases for procurement of service providers and publishing each other's procurement solicitation notices.
- xiv. Collaboration on human resources initiatives that can strengthen the institutional structure and build capacity within each other's institution.

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CLAUSE 4: COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

Visibility of this collaboration and / or other public relations activities relevant to the joint initiatives pursued further to this MOU should always *inter alia* be: (a) consistent with the Purpose, (b) consistent with each Parties' Communication Strategy, (c) conducted in good faith and (d) subject to the terms and conditions of any separate binding contracts between the Parties.

CLAUSE 5: CONFIDENTIALITY OBLIGATIONS

Where information shared by one Party to the other Party is classified and marked as 'Confidential' or 'proprietary', such information shared shall not be communicated to any Third Party without the prior written approval of the Party that provided such confidential information.

CLAUSE 6: LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

This MOU shall not create any financial obligation or liabilities or any binding contractual relationship between the Parties. The Parties will enter into binding contracts, pursuant to this framework collaboration MOU, where relevant and when necessary.

CLAUSE 7: TERM AND TERMINATION

- i. This MOU shall remain valid for an initial period of five (5) years from its Effective Date. The Effective Date will be the date signed by the latter Party. The term can be extended only by written agreement of both Parties.
- ii. Either Party has the right to terminate this MOU by giving thirty (30) days written advance notice to the other Party. Upon receipt of the termination notice, the other Party will take all necessary action to complete outstanding commitments relating to the activities under this MOU and the Parties shall endeavor to bring all activities to smooth closure prior to the expiration of the notice of termination.

CLAUSE 8: AMENDMENT

Any amendment to this MOU shall be in writing and signed by both Parties.

CLAUSE 9: NOTICES

Any formal notice or communication required under this MOU shall be sufficiently given, if delivered by email to the other Party at the following email addresses and addressed to the signatories hereto:

For SPREP:	For OECS
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Kosi Latu Director General Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme kosil@sprep.org	Dr. Didacus Jules Director General ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES didacus.jules@oecs.int
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CLAUSE 10: SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this MOU is determined to be invalid for any reason, the remaining provisions will continue to be valid.

CLAUSE 11: PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

Nothing conferred in this MOU, or related to same, is to be considered an express or tacit renunciation of the immunities and privileges, exonerations and benefits enjoyed by either Party and its personnel in accordance with international law, treaties, international agreements or the national legislation of their Member States.

CLAUSE 12: FOCAL POINTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS MOU

For the day-to-day management of this MOU the Parties have each appointed their named representative to act as the lead liaison:

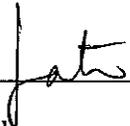
For SPREP:	For the OECS Commission:
Mr. Espen Ronneberg Climate Change Adviser SPREP, PO Box 240 Apia, Samoa Telephone: +685 66248 Email: espenr@sprep.org	Mr. Chamberlain Emmanuel Head, Environmental Sustainability Division Morne Fortune, P.O. Box 179, Castries, Saint Lucia Telephone: +(758) 455 6387 Email: chamberlain.emmanuel@oecs.int Copy: crispin.dauvergne@oecs.int

CLAUSE 13: RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

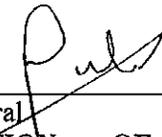
Any dispute arising in relation to the interpretation or implementation of the Agreement shall be resolved preferably through direct negotiations and amicable settlement between the Parties. If the Parties fail to reach an amicable agreement which is satisfactory to both Parties after negotiation, they shall submit their differences to a mutually agreed mediation on such basis as they shall then agree.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the authorized representatives of both Parties have affixed their signature hereto in the presence of witnesses.

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Kosi Latu
Director General
SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME

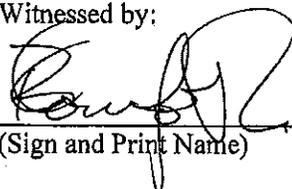


Director General
ORGANISATION OF EASTERN
CARIBBEAN STATES

Date: 4/9/2020

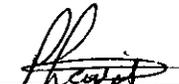
Date: 10/20/20

Witnessed by:



Roger Comfort
(Sign and Print Name)

Witnessed by:



PATRICIA LEWIS
(Sign and Print Name)

- k. Hold regular meetings and consultations both in each region and in the context of other international meetings.

Annex: proposed joint activities

To meet the objectives of this MoU, OECS and SPREP agree to:

- a. Collaborate in mentoring young negotiators and sharing experiences in UNFCCC negotiations, including participating in joint workshops and other capacity development opportunities;
- b. Collaborate in developing tools to mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies into the sustainable development agendas of the Caribbean and Pacific regions, with a focus on OECS Parties¹ to the UNFCCC and Pacific Smaller Island States (SIS²);
- c. Promote actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency and conservation and development of renewable energy sources;
- d. Promote actions to reduce the vulnerability of natural and human systems to the impacts of climate change in the Caribbean and Pacific regions, with a focus on States listed in b) above;
- e. Enhance and share research, education and training and the use of new information and communication technologies, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of adaptation initiatives;
- f. Facilitate the continuing involvement of the international community in efficiently transferring skills and technology and strengthening the capacity of Caribbean and Pacific Island countries to adapt to a changing climate, with a focus on States listed in b) above;
- g. Promote energy policy priorities focused on ensuring energy security and access to energy, and reducing pollution from energy production and use, with a focus on energy efficiency, and reduction in the use of fossil fuel;
- h. Facilitate support for and raise the profile of the Pacific Climate Change Portal and its equivalent at OECS as proactive information brokerage tools that engage users and other stakeholders effectively at multiple levels;
- i. Seek to jointly access global funding opportunities to strengthen south-south exchanges and co-operation and promote more integrated approaches to information and knowledge management;
- j. Where practicable to undertake staff exchanges and co-host workshops; and

¹ Insert list

² Cook Islands, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tuvalu and Tonga