

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

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between

REV Ocean

and

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

(together, "the Parties")

REV Ocean is a non-governmental foundation based in Norway. Its key focus is on finding solutions to ocean problems. It will be launching a state of the art research vessel in 2022, which will conduct scientific cruises around the world and is likely to visiting the western Pacific in 2023 / 2024. The REV Ocean Science plan has three focus areas: plastic pollution, climate change impacts and unsustainable fishing.

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 REV Ocean 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, particularly around climate change, biodiversity conservation, ocean health and pollution and fisheries management;

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 REV Ocean.
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/ host 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 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. A draft annex is attached for discussion between the Parties.
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.



Mr. Kosi Latu
Director General, SPREP



Nina Jensen
CEO, REV Ocean

Draft annex of joint cooperation activities with REV Ocean and SPREP

1. Ocean acidification. The New Zealand-Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification (PPOA) project is a collaborative effort between the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the University of the South Pacific, and the Pacific Community to build resilience to ocean acidification (OA) in Pacific island communities and ecosystems with financial support from the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade as well as the government of the Principality of Monaco. As such it was foundational in setting in place processes for understanding ocean acidification issues in the region. The PPOA project was developed to address needs identified during the 3rd UN Small Island Developing States Conference held in Apia, Samoa in 2014.

PPOA Focal Areas:

- Research and Monitoring:
 - Supporting OA monitoring in the Pacific islands region
 - Capacity Building and Awareness Raising:
 - Building capacity of Pacific islanders to understand, monitor, and adapt to OA
 - Raising awareness through production and distribution of OA info media
 - Practical Adaptation Actions:
 - Pilot sites in Fiji, Kiribati, and Tokelau

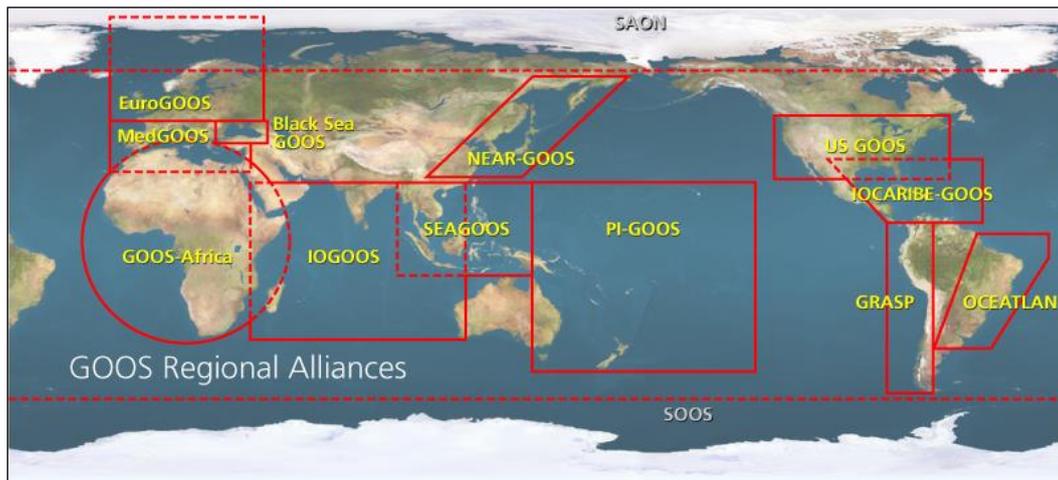
PPOA works with communities to identify and implement stakeholder priorities for practical adaptation actions to enhance community and ecosystem resilience to OA. Adaptation actions include:

- Mangrove and seagrass restoration to locally buffer pH
- Coral restoration to enhance reef resilience
- Locally Managed Marine Areas to reduce reef stressors
- Alternative livelihood opportunities to reduce reef fishing pressure and enhance food security

The PPOA project will come to an end in December 2020 but it is hoped that activities in this area will continue. REV Ocean and SPREP will work together in areas such as:

- Monitoring and data collection.
- Solutions to mitigate the effects of ocean acidification.
- Education and capacity building onboard the REV Ocean vessel.

2. Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System (PI-GOOS). SPREP is the regional hub for PI-GOOS. The Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System (PI-GOOS) was established in 1998, and is currently one of 12 GOOS Regional Alliances (GRA) operational worldwide (see map below). GRAs are designed to facilitate sustained coastal and open ocean monitoring to meet regional and national priorities and form a critical component to the successful implementation of GOOS objectives.



Within the Pacific Islands region, PI-GOOS aims to assist sustainable development by facilitating the establishment and implementation of coastal and open ocean observing programmes, and in helping to improve uptake and use of the data, information and products being generated. Implementation of the PI-GOOS programme is primarily through capacity building at the local and regional level, and via the delivery of useful observation related products to relevant national level Government departments and other national partners.

In 2004 a full-time coordinator of PI-GOOS was appointed as a joint initiative between the Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) and the Perth Regional Programme Office of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO). In 2009, the Regional Integration Framework (RIF) decisions by the Pacific Forum Island Leaders led to the shifting of the PI-GOOS programme to the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) where it will be placed as part of the then Pacific Futures Programme, and currently with the Climate Change Resilience Programme. PI-GOOS serves all 26 SPREP Member Countries (but in particular the 14 PIC Members) and is coordinated from SPREP's offices in Apia, Samoa. It is currently looked after by the SPREP Oceanography Officer.

The work of PI-GOOS is overseen by an Advisory Committee comprising of donors and partners from across the Pacific region. The Advisory Committee meets once a year and reports at the annual SPREP Meeting. This provides all SPREP member countries with an opportunity to comment and advise on the future direction of the PI-GOOS programme.

SPREP and REV Ocean will aim to collaborate under the PI-GOOS programme in areas such as:

- REV Ocean advising SPREP on GOOS activities including open ocean and coastal monitoring activities particularly relating to biodiversity but also other areas.
- Launching of ARGO floats in parts of the Pacific the vessel is operating in. Opportunistic servicing / collection of buoys and moorings.
- Establishing baselines for future monitoring through specific survey missions in collaboration with SPREP, its network of scientists and institutions.

3. Plastics and waste. SPREP is implementing the Pacific Regional Marine Litter Action Plan 2018-2025 (PMLAP) under the framework of the Pacific Integrated Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016-2025 (Cleaner Pacific 2025). There are many projects and programmes that are

addressing plastic and waste. The EU funded PacWaste Plus seeks to generate improved economic, social, health and environmental benefits for Pacific Island Countries arising from stronger regional economic integration and the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment. The programme activities will be designed to assist Countries to ensure the safe and sustainable management of waste with due regard for the conservation of biodiversity, reduction of marine litter, health and well-being of Pacific island communities, and climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements

SPREP is also partnership with a Japan funded J-PRISM2 project that addresses solid waste management in nine (9) Pacific island countries.

The Australian funded Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) an AUD 16Million project covering all Pacific island countries will implement the PMLAP specifically focusing on household single-use plastics. This project will enhance the leadership and commitment by Pacific island countries and territories in furthering their bans on single-use plastics and polystyrene. Already 76% of PICTs, 10 of which have implemented policies to bans single-use plastics and polystyrene and 6 more have announced their intention to implement similar policies. The POLP project will also coordinate other donor PMLAP funded activities in the region.

SPREP and REV Ocean will cooperate in areas such as:

- Research to determine the pattern of flow of marine plastics into the Pacific.
- Promoting greater partnership with Pacific Rim countries to tackle plastic problems.
- Identification of innovative methods to clean-up and dispose of waste.
- Developing a better understanding of the introduction of invasive species from marine plastic and their impact on coastal ecosystems.

4. The Ocean is home to a diversity of iconic marine creatures including whales and dolphins, turtles, dugongs, sharks and rays and seabirds. These creatures are fundamental elements of Pacific Islander's culture and heritage. Many of these species are also highly migratory and cross the Pacific Ocean often on major annual migrations from one side to the other or from north to south. Other species are poorly known and there is a high probability that isolated populations of some dolphins are genetically distinct and much more research on them is needed to reveal cryptic new species. Understanding the movements of highly migratory species and the risks they face from one location to another is challenging. Most PICs have few marine vessel assets and opportunities to gather more information on these species are few. Technology has assisted in some instances with GPS tracking devices, but some of the best data on marine species and their distribution comes from dedicated at sea observations by marine mammal and seabird experts.

SPREP and REV Ocean would work together on this topic in areas such as:

- Upskill Pacific Island peoples on techniques for identifying and systematic recording of data at sea using marine mammal and seabird experts aboard the vessel.
 - Coral reef mapping (status and monitoring)
 - Coastal wetland mapping (status and monitoring)
 - Access to sites for the Blue Carbon Project
- High seas monitoring and compliance (supporting PICs fisheries enforcement and compliance)

5. Public awareness campaigns. SPREP and REV Ocean will collaborate, as well as with the national voyaging societies, for awareness campaigns around the Pacific on climate change, waste management and ocean health issues, informed by research findings.