



ORG 1/ 78

7 August 2020

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Between

**Vanuatu Environment and Science Society**

And

**The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)**

(together, "the Parties")

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**Vanuatu Environment and Science Society (VESS)** is a local charitable association concerned with protecting and conserving the plants, animals and ecosystems of Vanuatu. VESS believes science is a key tool in conservation, environmental protection and sustainable development and using science, along with indigenous knowledge, allows communities to make informed choices so people can live harmoniously with their environment.

VESS's aims are to share existing scientific information pertaining to the environment with all levels of the community from government agencies to local villagers and to fill knowledge gaps where the science is missing with robust scientific studies using local scientists. VESS also aims to inform members of the public about environmental issues by holding events and talks and encouraging engagement with citizen science projects.

**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 Vanuatu Environment and Science Society 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, and specifically in Vanuatu.



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 Vanuatu Environment and Science Society.
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 to the extent possible.
4. Collaborate and support awareness-raising efforts in relation to the environment.
5. Collaborate on the implementation of global, regional and national 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.



# SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme



10th Pacific Islands Conference

## NATURE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREAS

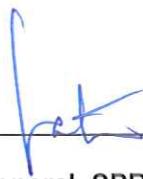
*Nature Conservation Action for a Resilient Pacific*

#### 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.

  
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Kosi Latu  
Director-General, SPREP

  
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Christina Shaw  
Vanuatu Environment and  
Science Society

Date: 20.08.2020

Date: 09/02/2021



### Annex

The following are activities for potential collaboration between SPREP and VESS:

1. Surveys of terrestrial and marine species and habitats, including CITES listed species;
2. Projects relating to the implementation of the Regional Marine Species Programme.
3. EIAs for significant development proposals;
4. Environmental education and awareness raising;
5. Initiatives for improvement of waste management;
6. Building the capacity of Ni-Vanuatu scientists, government officials and civil society working in conservation and environmental protection;
7. Collaboration on funding opportunities to assist in the Post-COVID-19 response to assist communities with protection and management of their wildlife populations;
8. Coordination and engagement with relevant Government Departments, non-government organisations and local communities to initiate and implement activities 1 – 7.

Focal Points:

For SPREP: Karen Baird

For VESS: Dr. Christina Shaw