



# SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme



10th Pacific Islands Conference

## NATURE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREAS

*Nature Conservation Action for a Resilient Pacific*

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

between

Ministry of Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and  
Meteorology Government of the Solomon Islands

and

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

(together the Parties)

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The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology is the Ministry in Solomon Islands with the mandate to provide an enabling environment for the socio-economic development of the Solomon Islands through the application of necessary safeguards with regard to sustainable use of natural resources, the provision of meteorological services, reducing the risk and impact of climate change and other hazards to communities and leading and managing disaster preparedness and their consequences.

SPREP is a regional, intergovernmental organisation comprising 26 members consisting of 21 Pacific Island Countries and Territories and 5 developed countries with direct interests in the Pacific Islands Region. SPREP's mandate is to promote co-operation in the Pacific Islands Region and to provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations.

### Whereas

The Parties 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 Solomon Islands as well as the Pacific Islands Region.

The Parties agree as follows:

### 1. Purpose

This MOU recognises the intent of SPREP and the Solomon Islands to work together on environmental issues.

The purpose of this MOU is to provide a framework of cooperation between the Parties in the fields of climate change and resilience, biodiversity, waste management and environmental governance in the Solomon Islands and more widely in the Pacific Islands Region.

## 2. Objectives

The objective of this MOU is to develop a partnership between **Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology** and SPREP that will, as far as possible, and without limitation:

1. Enhance climate change resilience;
2. Enhance the conservation and management of biodiversity;
3. Enhance waste management and pollution control;
4. Enhance environmental governance processes and systems;
5. Promote and strengthen environmental networks within the Pacific Islands region; and
6. Develop and implement projects and programmes as appropriate to meet the above objectives 1-5.

## 3. Collaborative activities

The Parties agree, to the extent possible, to collaborate in those areas identified in Section 2 above, to:

1. Implement joint activities and projects where SPREP has been funded by donors to manage or implement projects;
2. Invite each other to participate in relevant project steering committees, technical advisory panels and other project related meetings;
3. Actively engage and assist the implementation of all donor funded projects which **Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology** is participating in, providing logistical and jurisdictional support where required;
4. Collect and manage data in accordance with agreed data strategies and standards;
5. Share information and resources that will improve the effectiveness of both Parties and the wider Pacific Islands region;
6. Collaborate on, participate in and support special events at regional and global levels relating to the above;
7. Collaborate to enhance capacity and promote best practice in environmental policies and their implementation in the **Solomon Islands** and in the Pacific Islands region to ensure international, regional and national environmental objectives and commitments are met; and
8. Cooperate in such other fields as the Parties may agree to add.

## 4. Agreements

Specific collaborative work, and especially donor-funded project activities, shall, once agreed, be implemented through service level agreements, letters of agreement or other instruments or modalities as may be agreed by the parties.

## 5. Nature of the MOU

- i) This MOU constitutes an expression of shared commitment of the Parties to achieve their shared objectives relating to the protection of the environment and strengthening the capacity of systems, institutions, organisations and individuals concerned with environmental protection in the Pacific region.
- ii) Unless otherwise agreed, 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.
- iii) This MOU is not governed by international or domestic law and does not constitute, nor is it intended to be a legally binding arrangement, contract or relationship. It does not create any legally binding or enforceable obligations, express or implied. It serves only as a record of each Party's separate intention pending execution of specific agreements governing the undertaking of activities as contemplated by this MOU.
- iv) 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.

## 6. Operational Provisions

- i) This MOU shall enter into force on the date the last Party signs.
- ii) This MOU may be amended by agreement in writing between the Parties.
- iii) This MOU shall endure until such time as amended or terminated by the Parties.
- iv) Any dispute, controversy or difference as to the interpretation of this MOU will be settled amicably by mutual consent between the Parties.
- v) Either Party may terminate this MOU by giving three months' written notice to the other.
- vi) Termination of this MOU will not incur liability for either Party and will not affect any separate agreements or other legally binding arrangements in place between the Parties.
- vii) Each Party will name, and keep updated, focal points to co-ordinate the cooperation called for in this MOU and its Annexed projects.



Dr. Melchior Mataka  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Ministry of  
Environment, Climate Change,  
Disaster Management

Date: 23/12/2020

Date: 22/12/20

## Annex 1: Waste Audits (Landfill and Customs Import & Export)

### Background

Several donor funded projects managed through the SPREP Waste Management & Pollution Control Programme, along with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECCDMM) will benefit from up-to-date waste audit information.

In 2018 the CEFAS funded Commonwealth Litter Project (CLiP) delivered household and commercial waste audits to the Solomon Islands. SPREP understands that MECCDMM has continued to undertake similar audits in remote communities to consolidate information and inform decision making. To assist this process the European Union funded PacWaste Plus Programme is able to provide funding to undertake both landfill audits, and import/export audits, to provide valuable information to the delivery of multiple projects being implemented by MECCDMM and donors.

### Audit Objectives

The landfill and import/export audits will assist MECCDMM and donor projects to understand what is typically sent to landfill and compare this to what is imported, and then how much imported materials are collected and exported as opposed to being landfilled.

### Programme Activities

PacWastePlus with assistance from WMPC, will provide MECCDMM staff with the approved landfill and import/export audit methodology. It is hoped the audits can be designed and undertaken within 2020.

### Programme Commitment

#### Solomon Islands will:

- a. Determine staff, timing and confirm costs related to staff time, travel, daily subsistence allowance, and any additional costs to enable audits to be undertaken.
- b. Nominate a relevant Government Department to be the national focal point for planning, coordinating, and implementing the landfill and Customs audit in Solomon Islands.
- c. Nominate a focal officer who is responsible for coordinating the discharge of the country's responsibilities under this MOU and implementing the national audit in accordance with the standard Waste Audit Methodology (Annexed).
- d. Nominate a national waste audit team to undertake the audit of the Ranadi, Gizo and Noro landfill in Solomon Islands.
- e. Ensure that an inception training is conducted for all nominated waste audit personnel. This training will cover the scope of the national audit, location of the audit, audit methodology, Occupation Health and Safety and general safety procedures in accordance with the standard waste audit methodology.
- f. Ensure that all personnel engaged for the audit is equipped with appropriate protective equipment (PPE) to prevent injuries, exposure or contact with hazardous substances or objects. Detail of the recommended personnel safety/ protective equipment is highlighted in Appendix E of the standard waste audit methodology.
- g. Develop and implement a Risk Management strategy for the national waste audit. This strategy must be aligned with the standard Waste Audit Methodology (Annex A, Annex B and Annex C).

- h. Ensure that all member of the national audit team is trained and on the General safety procedures of the standard waste methodology and is trained appropriately to manage minor incidents.
- i. Ensure that all members of the national audit team sign the Declaration Form attached as Appendix I of the standard waste audit methodology.
- j. Ensure that a First-aid kit is present at waste audit sites at all time and all audit personnel conducting the audit is appropriately trained to manage minor incidents.
- k. Collect Customs data in accordance with section 8 of the standard waste audit methodology.
- l. Ensure that selected waste audit team will undertake auditing of the Ranadi Dump Site, Gizo Dump Site, and the Noro Dumpsite by implementing section 6.5 of the standard waste audit methodology.
- m. Undertake consultation with relevant national agencies to allow for the smooth implementation of the waste audit.
- n. Sign a service Agreement to deliver the required audit outcomes.

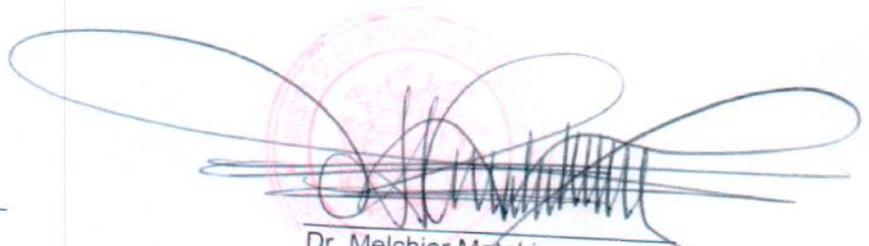
**SPREP will:**

- a. provide financial support for the national waste audit team to undertake the required landfill and import/export audits.
- b. provide relevant technical support as may be specified in the country audit plan to be developed jointly with the approved National focal Point.
- c. Provide project support and oversight as primary contractor to the audit services.



Kosi Latu  
**Director General**  
**SPREP**

Date: 23/12/2020



Dr. Melchior Mataka  
**Permanent Secretary**  
**Ministry of Ministry of**  
**Environment, Climate Change,**  
**Disaster Management**

Date: 22/12/20

## Annex 2: PacWastePlus Programme

### Programme Background

The European Union funded PacWastePlus programme, is working with 14 countries in the Pacific region and Timor-Leste, to improve and enhance waste management activities and the capacity of governments, industry and communities to manage waste to reduce the impact on human health and the environment.

### Programme Objectives

PacWastePlus 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.

### Programme Activities

PacWastePlus will work with participating countries, the waste industry and the agencies from the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) to address three waste streams and eight sub-waste stream types.

- hazardous wastes: asbestos, e-waste, and healthcare waste
- solid wastes: recyclables, organic waste, disaster waste, and bulky waste
- related solid wastes found in wastewater pollution effluent from poor waste management

### Programme Deliverables

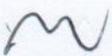
The programme aims to deliver quality outcomes through four main programme delivery areas:

1. Improved data collection, information sharing, and education and awareness
  - Collate and review existing data on waste and pollution at the regional and national level and identify key areas where further data needs to be collected.
  - Establish an INFORM data portal for waste related data.
  - Establish and implement national waste monitoring programmes for routine data collection and reporting that creates good baselines for measuring performance, as well as creating comprehensive country waste profiles for dissemination in all countries.
  - The development of a model regional education and awareness raising plan to guide national delivery of relevant programmes.
  - Establish a Research Advisory Group (RAG), based on representation inclusive of women and younger researchers, to develop a practical research agenda.
2. Policies and regulatory frameworks developed and implemented
  - Assist in developing:
    - a regional legislative framework with integrated policies and institutional arrangements for waste management
    - national policies, legislation and implementation strategies to transition to a comprehensive and sustainable waste management system
    - developing mechanisms such as national licencing and certification for waste management service providers and pilot in one - three countries.

- Advocate for change at regional and international meetings to influence the decision making of the Pacific and world leaders to support good environmental governance and action.
3. Best practices, including enhanced private sector engagement and infrastructure development, implemented

- Assist countries in:
  - solid waste management through the implementation of prevention and reduction programmes that promote schemes to minimise the waste generated from imported products and nearly expiring perishable products.
  - disaster waste management through preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction to assist countries in dealing with the generation of large volumes of waste.
  - implementing legislation that enables best practice in waste management, including minimising the waste generated by imported products such as prevention of the import of nearly expiring perishable products; along with guidelines to assist businesses in complying with this legislation.
- Provide support to manage waste and pollution sustainably through the implementation of preferred sustainable financing options such as polluter pays, buy-back schemes, and Container Deposit Legislation for difficult waste streams and collected wastes, and extended producer responsibility programmes for imported goods, where feasible such as imported cars.
- Develop and expand the spatial scope and continue to roll out existing programmes to dispose of legacy and hazardous wastes and remediate contaminated sites such as asbestos, healthcare waste and E-waste.
- Implement feasible resource recovery initiatives with private sector involvement.
- Improve and/or construct appropriate small-scale waste management infrastructure to facilitate good practice in waste management.
- Develop and implement agreements and incentives for private sector participation in waste management.
- Support atoll nations export some wastes to regional recycling hubs.
- Implement programmes to assist Pacific Island Countries to build national and local capacities in designing bankable projects that can then be supported through the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) and/or Green Climate Fund (GCF).
- Complete selected PacWaste activities related to asbestos management and healthcare waste management.

#### 4. Human Capacity Enhanced

- Undertake a national capacity needs assessment of all countries to identify the current standards being implemented for waste on governance, management and enforcement against required competency levels to prioritise the training requirements of Pacific Island Countries.
  - Conduct specialised national and regional capacity building on identified priority areas based on capacity needs assessment.
  - Consider mainstreaming waste management into primary and secondary education in suitable countries by using the Regional Environment Centre approach and expanding on the Cleaner Schools Project which has been successfully conducted in a number of countries.
  - Affiliate and collaborate with a regional university or other education institution offering waste management courses with competency-based assessments and hands-on modules towards accreditation.
  - Promote capacity building exchanges among all SPREP members and Timor-Leste in the public and private sector.
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## Programme Commitment

**The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology will:**

- a. Nominate a Government Department and Officer to be the national focal point for planning, coordinating and implementing the activities of PacWastePlus as they involve or impact the country
- b. Nominate a PacWaste Plus Steering Committee representative (and Alternate) who is responsible for coordinating the discharge of the countries responsibilities under this MOU, and assisting the successful implementation of the PacWastePlus programme
- c. Convene a National Waste Committee (or utilise an existing committee) for the purposes of guiding the implementation of PacWastePlus and general Waste Management & Pollution Control actions
- d. Provide on-ground support to, and facilitate the work of, local and international consultants or SPREP employees during the execution of national elements of the PacWastePlus project. Noting the country project will be designed to utilise local resources as much as possible.
- e. Provide assistance to plan and coordinate relevant workshops, meetings, capacity building events and project support pertaining to the implementation of national elements of the PacWaste Plus project
- f. Establish and implement systems to capture waste data, in accordance with the PacWastePlus Data Strategy, SPREP WMPC Regional Waste Monitoring System and the Clean Pacific 2025 reporting mechanism and provide information at least, annually, by uploading the data to the Country INFORM data portal.
- g. Allow for staff and officers to participate in staff exchanges or capacity building events as delivered by the PacWastePlus programme, if deemed relevant to the staff member, and of benefit to the country
- h. Develop and implement a National Education and Awareness Plan (NEAP) to support the implementation of in-country PacWastePlus activities
- i. Ensure recurrent operating budgets are provided, for the maintenance and replacement of any plant, machinery or infrastructure funded by PacWastePlus (i.e. ongoing funding support for operational issues is not provided by PacWastePlus) that is formally transferred to the ownership of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology
- j. Develop and implement a National Country project that aligns with the PacWastePlus Programme criteria and provides meaningful outcomes to the country's management of waste.
- k. Implement other relevant activities as may be specific in the PacWastePlus annual work plan developed in cooperation with SPREP and endorsed by the PacWaste Plus Steering Committee and the EU Delegation for the Pacific Region.

## SPREP will:

- a. Facilitate the work of and monitor consultants engaged to undertake the agreed PacWaste Plus work plan activities, likely to include the provision of international consultants to undertake baseline waste data collection, capacity building needs analysis, legislative capacity review, and various other projects related to the waste streams of asbestos, healthcare waste, e-waste, recyclables, organic waste, bulky waste, disaster waste and wastewater (as related to solid waste).

- b. Provide regular updates and reports on the execution of the PacWaste Plus programme.
- c. Execute other relevant activities and provide relevant technical support as may be specified in a future work plan to be developed jointly with Ministry of Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology and endorsed by the PacWastePlus Steering Committee and the EU Delegation for the Pacific Region.
- d. Provide funds sufficient to cover flights and per diems for one (1) nominated country representative to attend the annual PacWastePlus Steering Committee meeting
- e. Provide financial support for country representatives to participate in regional events as enabled by the PacWastePlus Programme's approved budget, as opportunities arise.
- f. Where approved by the European Union (donor) provide funding for a Technical Assistance consultant to assist the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology to undertake the implementation of the PacWastePlus funded country project.



Date: 23/12/2020

**Dr. Melchior Mataki**  
**Permanent Secretary**  
**Ministry of Ministry of**  
**Environment, Climate Change,**  
**Disaster Management**

Date:

24/12/20