

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

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between

**The Water Institute of the Gulf**

and

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

(together, "the Parties")

**The Water Institute of the Gulf** is a Louisiana non-profit corporation, having its office at 301 N. Main Street, Suite 2000, Baton Rouge, LA 70825. The Water Institute of the Gulf was formed in 2011 as a not-for-profit 501(c)3, independent research institute with the mission to be dedicated to research to advance the understanding of coastal and deltaic systems and to apply this knowledge for the benefit of society.

**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 **The Water Institute of the Gulf** 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,

**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 **The Water Institute of the Gulf**.
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 relevant activities undertaken by each organization.

3. Extend to each other invitations to be represented by observers at appropriate meetings, including the annual SPREP Meeting.
4. Collaborate and support relevant awareness-raising efforts.
5. Collaborate on the implementation of relevant global and regional priorities.
6. Collaborate on and support relevant capacity-building initiatives.
7. Keep respective memberships informed of co-operative activities undertaken pursuant to this MOU.

### **3. Joint Funding Opportunities**

1. Pursue joint funding opportunities for achieving the shared objectives of the two organizations including, but not limited to, the Green Climate Fund, US AID, German IKI and other international and bilateral funding mechanisms.

### **4. 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 sustainable development and the protection of the environment. 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.
2. Each Party will name, and keep updated, focal points to co-ordinate the cooperation called for in this MOU.
3. In executing this MOU, neither Party necessarily commits to any financial obligation in relation to activities to be carried out under this MOU.

### **5. Focus Areas for Collaboration**

1. Specific work areas of common interest, once agreed to, may be attached as an Annex to this MOU and revised periodically as agreed 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.

### **6. 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**  
**Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme**

Date: 26/11/2014



**Charles G. Groat**  
**President & CEO**  
**The Water Institute of the Gulf**

Date:

# ANNEX: Focus areas for collaboration 2016-2021

## Areas of institutional collaboration

- **Expert Advice and review;**  
sharing of technical expertise including lessons learned, best practices and experiences in development and implementation, for supporting development of solutions and actions, guiding the process of restoration or adaptation actions, external review.
- **Modelling;**  
application and downscaling of modelling methodologies to meet the needs of system plans and project implementation, including biogeophysical interactions and ecological consequences of coastal adaptation options.
- **Decision support and planning;**  
compiling and applying data and information, at relevant spatial and temporal scales, to support inclusive, transparent and informed decision making.
- **Monitoring and assessment;**  
development and application of environmental and social monitoring systems and methodologies, including data management, analysis and synthesis.
- **Stakeholder and community engagement;**  
shared learning on processes and approaches for effective communication and engagement of communities and stakeholders in management decision making.
- **Partnership development;**  
Shared learning on leveraging skills and expertise to support the work of both organizations.

## Addressing the common areas of interest including:

- Ecosystem based adaptation
- Climate change and sea level rise
- Coastal planning and spatial analysis
- Ecosystem restoration
- Protection of environments and infrastructure including coastal engineering
- Coastal geomorphology
- Water resource availability, use and management

## Focal Points:

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme – Coastal and Marine Adviser  
The Water Institute of the Gulf – Director of Coastal Ecology