

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

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between

Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU)

and

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

(together, "the Parties")

APRU is a network of leading research universities linking the Americas, Asia and Australasia. As the Voice of Knowledge and Innovation for the Asia-Pacific region, APRU brings together thought leaders, researchers, and policymakers to collaborate on effective solutions to the challenges of the 21st century. Drawing on the network of university leaders, scientists, researchers, and students APRU leverage collective capabilities of member institutions to address the most pressing societal and environmental challenges of the region.

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 APRU 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 APRU, as far as possible, and without limitation, to:
 - a) enhance climate change resilience;
 - b) enhance the conservation and management of biodiversity;
 - c) enhance waste management and pollution control;
 - d) enhance environmental governance processes and systems;
 - e) promote and strengthen environmental networks within the Pacific Islands region; and
 - f) develop and implement projects and programmes as appropriate to meet the above objectives.
2. Within this framework the Parties will consult in an effort to collaborate on the activities they identify as requiring implementation.

2. Collaborative Activities

1. The Parties agree, to the extent possible, but without limitation, to:
 - a) Consult each other on policy matters of mutual concern.
 - b) Exchange information on developments and current activities in relation to the environment.
 - c) 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.
 - d) Implement joint activities and projects where SPREP has been funded by donors to manage or implement projects.
 - e) Actively engage and assist the implementation of all donor funded projects which APRU is participating in, providing logistical and jurisdictional support where required;
 - f) Collaborate and support awareness-raising efforts in relation to the environment.
 - g) Collaborate on the implementation of global and regional priorities in relation to the environment.
 - h) Collaborate and support capacity-building initiatives relation to the environment.
 - i) Collect and manage data in accordance with agreed data strategies and standards.
 - j) Keep respective memberships informed of co-operative activities undertaken pursuant to this MOU.
 - k) Cooperate in such other fields as the Parties may agree to add.

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. 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, 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 and 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.



Easter Chu Shing
Acting Director General

Date: 15 June 2022



Christina Schönleber
APRU Senior Director Policy &
Programmes

Date: 30 June 2022