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## GRANT ARRANGEMENT

This **GRANT ARRANGEMENT** expresses the understandings of the Government of Australia (represented by the **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**) (hereinafter referred to as "GoA") and **Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme** (hereinafter referred to as "SPREP") (collectively referred to as "the Partners") regarding the provision of a **grant** by GoA to SPREP for GoA support to the implementation of the project "**Strengthening Pacific Leadership in International Climate Change Engagement**" (hereinafter referred to as the "**Project**") as further described and detailed in the **Project Proposal** dated **June 2022** at **Annex 1** to this Arrangement (hereinafter referred to as the "**Project Proposal**").

This Arrangement is made under paragraph 5 of the Partnership Arrangement between the Government of Australia and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme 2021 – 2031 (the 'Partnership').

### 1. OBJECTIVES

1.1 The objective of the **Project** is as follows:

- (a) Pacific effectively influence outcomes in international climate change meetings, consistent with agreed regional priorities and objectives.

### 2. DURATION OF GoA SUPPORT TO THE PROJECT

2.1 GoA support for the **Project** will commence on the **last date of signatories of this Grant Arrangement** (hereinafter referred to as the "Commencement Date").

2.2 GoA support for the **Project** will continue until no later than **30 June 2026** (hereinafter referred to as the "Completion Date") unless otherwise mutually determined by the Partners in writing.

2.3 The Partners may mutually determine, in writing, to extend the duration of the **Project** by no longer than 12 months.

2.4 SPREP will inform GoA in writing when the **Project** has been completed.

### 3. CONTACT REPRESENTATIVES

3.1 The contact representatives for each of the Partners will be:

- (a) For GoA:

**Contact Representative(s):**

Name:	Anthony Liew
Position:	Assistant Director
Section:	Pacific Climate Change and Oceans Section
Street Address:	RG Casey Building, John McEwen Crescent Barton ACT 0221, Australia
Postal Address:	RG Casey Building, John McEwen Crescent Barton ACT 0221, Australia
Telephone:	+61 (2) 6178 4293
Email:	anthony.liew@dfat.gov.au



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or other contact representative(s) and details as GoA may notify to SPREP in writing.

(b) For SPREP:

**Contact Representative(s):**

Name: Tagaloa Halo-Cooper  
 Position: Director  
 Section: Climate Change Resilience Programme  
 Street Address: Avele Street, Apia, Samoa  
 Postal Address: PO Box 240, Samoa  
 Email: tagaloac@sprep.org

or other contact representative(s) and details as SPREP may notify to GoA in writing.

**4. THE CONTRIBUTION**

4.1 GoA will contribute to SPREP a total amount of up to **AUD 5,000,000** (hereinafter referred to as "the Contribution") in accordance with the payment schedule outlined below:

Table 1: Payment Schedule

Indicative Date	Tranche Number	Tranche Release Conditions	Amount (AUD)
Refer to Paragraph below	1	Submission of a valid invoice	5,000,000
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT</b>			<b>5,000,000</b>

4.2 GoA will pay tranche number 1 within thirty (30) days of signature of this Arrangement by both Partners and GoA receiving a payment request from SPREP.

4.3 GoA will deposit the Contribution into the following bank account:

**Name:** SPREP USD Working Account  
**Account Number:** 01-849599-07  
**Bank:** BSP (Samoa) Ltd  
**Bank Address:** Beach Road, PO Box 1860, Apia Samoa  
**SWIFT Code:** BOSPWSWS

4.4 SPREP will immediately acknowledge to GoA, in writing, receipt of each tranche.

**5. ADMINISTRATION AND UTILISATION OF THE CONTRIBUTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT**

5.1 SPREP will administer the Contribution and the **Project** in accordance with SPREP's regulations, rules, policies and procedures including those relating to procurement, anti-corruption, prevention, detection and investigation of fraud and recovery of funds the subject of fraud.

5.2 All expenses incurred by SPREP under the Contribution will be directly aligned to the activities and budget in the approved **Project** planning documentation (paragraph 7) unless otherwise advised by GoA in writing. All staff positions funded under the Contribution will only work on activities directly aligned to the delivery of the **Project**.



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5.3 SPREP will:

- (a) maintain a sound administrative and financial management system capable of verifying financial statements;
- (b) keep proper detailed accounts and records and asset registers and adequate **Project** records, providing clear audit trails in relation to expenditure of the Contribution;
- (c) use the Contribution as outlined in the **Project Proposal**; and
- (d) use any interest income earned on and attributable to the Contribution in accordance with SPREP's regulations, rules, policies and procedures.

5.4 SPREP will immediately inform GoA of any circumstance which may interfere or threaten to interfere with the successful implementation of the **Project** and, with a view to resolving the issue, will consult with GoA.

5.5 If, following consultation with SPREP, GoA is of the view that the Contribution has not been used as outlined in the **Project Proposal**, or in a manner consistent with the provisions of this Arrangement, or if GoA is of the view that changes have occurred that could negatively affect **Project**, GoA may:

- (a) withhold or suspend any further payments to SPREP, until GoA is of the view that the issue has been satisfactorily resolved;
- (b) reclaim all or part of the Contribution already paid to SPREP that has not been disbursed or irrevocably committed by SPREP in accordance with this Arrangement; and/or
- (c) terminate this Arrangement (in which case the paragraph headed 'Termination' will apply).

5.6 Any part of the Contribution and any interest income earned on and attributable to the Contribution that has not been expended on or committed for expenditure to the **Project** prior to the Completion Date will be refunded to GoA by SPREP with the final financial statement.

## 6. RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTION

6.1 SPREP will acknowledge the Contribution and any other relevant GoA support for the **Project** in any promotional material including speeches, media statements and publications. In doing so, SPREP will make it clear that SPREP is responsible for implementation of the **Project**, and that the Contribution is from GoA through the use of the Australian Aid identifier. Guidelines are available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website.

6.2 SPREP will seek prior approval from GoA for all instances where GoA support is acknowledged, including where the Australian Aid identifier is used. GoA will provide approval in writing.



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## 7. PROJECT PLANNING

- 7.1 SPREP will provide GoA with the following **Project** planning documentation in accordance with the following timeframe (and as further detailed in **Annex 2**):
- (a) within one month of the Commencement Date, project planning documentation outlining the proposed **Project** activities and budget for approximately the forward six months; and
  - (b) no later than three months before each calendar year semester (1 January to 30 June; 1 July to 31 December) during the period in which the Contribution is expended, project planning documentation outlining the proposed **Project** activities and budget for that calendar year semester.
- 7.2 GoA will review and provide approval in writing of all **Project** planning documentation.
- 7.3 SPREP will update the risk management plan for the **Project** provided as part of the **Project Proposal** at least annually, based on performance information assessments. SPREP will provide GoA with updates to the risk management plan made during this Arrangement.

## 8. PROJECT OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES REPORTING

- 8.1 SPREP will provide GoA with the following **Project** reports in accordance with the following timeframe (and as further detailed in **Annex 2**):
- (a) within three months of the Completion Date or any earlier termination of this Arrangement, a final report summarising the **Project** activities undertaken, key outputs, outcomes and achievement of or progress towards achievement of the **Project Objective**.
- 8.2 SPREP will provide GoA with the following **Project** progress and outcomes reports in accordance with the following timeframes (and as further detailed in **Annex 2**):
- (a) no later than three months after each calendar year semester (1 January to 30 June; 1 July to 31 December) during the period in which the Contribution is expended, a progress report summarising the activities undertaken, key outputs, outcomes and progress towards achievement of the **Project Objective** covering that calendar year semester (or since the Commencement Date if there is no previous progress report).

## 9. FINANCIAL REPORTING

- 9.1 SPREP will provide GoA with the following final financial report in accordance with the following timeframe (and as further detailed in **Annex 2**):
- (a) within three months of the Completion Date or any earlier termination of this Arrangement, a financial statement covering the period from the Commencement Date to the Completion Date, certified by the Comptroller of SPREP and also independently audited.
- 9.2 SPREP will provide GoA with the following progressive financial reports in accordance with the following timeframe (and as further detailed in **Annex 2**):



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- (a) no later than three months after each calendar year semester (1 January to 30 June; 1 July to 31 December) during the period in which the Contribution is expended, a financial statement covering that calendar year semester (or since the Commencement Date if there is no previous financial statement); and
- (b) no later than three months after 1 July each calendar year during the period in which the Contribution is expended (but not including 1 July 2022), an independent audit of the financial statements covering the previous twelve months (or since the Commencement Date if there is no previous independent audit).

## 10. PROCUREMENT

10.1 If the Contribution is used for procurement, SPREP will ensure that:

- (a) the procurement is undertaken in a manner that achieves value for money;
- (b) the procurement promotes the use of resources in an efficient, effective and ethical manner; and
- (c) decisions regarding the procurement are made in an accountable and transparent manner.

## 11. FRAUD

11.1 For the purpose of this paragraph, 'fraudulent activity', 'fraudulent' or 'fraud' means: dishonestly obtaining a benefit, or causing a loss, by deception or other means.

11.2 SPREP, its Delivery Organisations and its subcontractors will not engage in any fraudulent activity. SPREP is responsible for preventing and detecting fraud.

11.3 SPREP will report in writing within 5 working days to GoA any detected, suspected, or attempted fraudulent activity involving an Initiative.

11.4 In the event of detected, suspected or attempted fraud and in consultation with GoA, SPREP will develop and implement a strategy to investigate, based on the principles set out in the Australian Government Investigations Standards. SPREP will undertake the investigation at SPREP's cost.

11.5 Following the conclusion of an investigation, where the investigation finds SPREP, an employee or a subcontractor of SPREP, the Delivery Organisation, an employee or a subcontractor of the Delivery Organisation has acted in a fraudulent manner, SPREP will:

- (a) where money has been misappropriated, pay to GoA the full value of the Grant funds that have been misappropriated; or
- (b) where an item of property has been misappropriated, either return the item to GoA or if the item cannot be recovered or has been damaged so that it is no longer usable, replace the item with one of equal quality;
- (c) refer the matter to the relevant Partner Country police or other authorities responsible for prosecution of fraudulent activity; and



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- (d) keep GoA informed, in writing, on a monthly basis, of the progress of the recovery action.

11.6 Following the conclusion of an investigation, where the investigation finds that a person or entity other than SPREP, an employee or subcontractor of SPREP, the Delivery Organisation, an employee or a subcontractor of the Delivery Organisation, have acted in a fraudulent manner, SPREP will, at SPREP's cost:

- (a) make every effort to recover any Grant funds or funded property acquired or distributed through fraudulent activity, including without limitation, the following:
  - (i) take recovery action in accordance with recovery procedures, including civil litigation, available in the Partner Country;
  - (ii) refer the matter to the relevant Partner Country police or other authorities responsible for prosecution of fraudulent activity; and
  - (iii) keep GoA informed, in writing, on a monthly basis, of the progress of the recovery action.

11.7 If SPREP considers that after all reasonable action has been taken to recover the Grant funds or funded property and full recovery has not been achieved or recovery has only been achieved in part, SPREP may seek approval from GoA that no further recovery action be taken. SPREP will provide to GoA all information, records and documents sought by GoA to enable the GoA delegate to make a decision on whether to approve non-recovery of Grant funds or funded property.

## **12. COUNTER TERRORISM**

12.1 Consistent with UN Security Council Resolutions relating to terrorism, including UNSC Resolution 1373 (2001) and 1267 (1999) and related resolutions, both GoA and SPREP are firmly committed to the international fight against terrorism, and in particular, against the financing of terrorism. It is the policy of GoA to seek to ensure that none of its funds are used, directly or indirectly, to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism. In accordance with this policy, SPREP undertakes to use its best endeavours to ensure that funds provided under this Arrangement are not used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism. If, during this Arrangement, SPREP discovers a link with any organisation or individual associated with terrorism, it will inform GoA immediately.

12.2 SPREP acknowledges that the Australian Government has adopted a policy and laws consistent with relevant international counter-terrorism treaties and UN Security Council Resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and successor resolutions of not providing direct or indirect support or resources to organisations and individuals associated with terrorism.

12.3 SPREP will use its best endeavours to ensure that funding provided under this Arrangement is expended in a manner consistent with international counter-terrorism treaties, UN Security Council Resolutions on terrorism and related Australian laws. If, during this Arrangement, SPREP discovers any link whatsoever with any organisation or individual listed by the United Nations 1267 Committee or the Australian Government as associated with terrorism, it will inform GoA immediately.



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### **13. ANTI-CORRUPTION**

- 13.1 GoA and SPREP are committed to preventing and detecting corruption and bribery. SPREP through its employees, agents or representatives will not make or cause to be made, or receive or seek to receive, any offer, gift or payment, consideration or benefit of any kind, which would or could be construed as an illegal or corrupt practice, either directly or indirectly to any partner, as an inducement or reward in relation to the implementation of this Arrangement. SPREP will promptly notify GoA of any suspected or detected corruption or bribery affecting this Arrangement and actions taken by SPREP in response.
- 13.2 SPREP will use its best endeavours to ensure that any employee, agent, representative or other entity involved in under this Arrangement will also adhere with this paragraph headed 'Anti-Corruption'.
- 13.3 Following the conclusion of an investigation, where the investigation finds that a person or entity other than SPREP, an employee or subcontractor of SPREP, the delivery organisation, an employee or a subcontractor of the delivery organisation, have acted in a fraudulent manner, SPREP will, at SPREP's cost:
- (a) make every effort to recover any Grant funds or funded property acquired or distributed through fraudulent activity, including without limitation, the following:
  - (b) take recovery action in accordance with recovery procedures, including civil litigation, available in the Partner Country;
  - (c) refer the matter to the relevant Partner Country police or other authorities responsible for prosecution of fraudulent activity; and
  - (d) keep GoA informed, in writing, on a monthly basis, of the progress of the recovery action.
- 13.4 If SPREP considers that after all reasonable action has been taken to recover the Grant funds or funded property and full recovery has not been achieved or recovery has only been achieved in part, SPREP may seek approval from GoA that no further recovery action be taken. SPREP will provide to GoA all information, records and documents sought by GoA to enable the GoA delegate to make a decision on whether to approve non-recovery of Grant funds or funded property.

### **14. AUDIT**

- 14.1 The Contribution and all financial statements will be subject to the internal and external independent auditing procedures provided for in SPREP's financial regulations, rules, policies and procedures.
- 14.2 SPREP will promptly provide GoA with copies of its internal and external independent audit reports.
- 14.3 If an audit report or auditing procedure reveals any irregularities relevant to the Contribution, SPREP will immediately bring the information to the attention of GoA.
- 14.4 GoA and its authorised representatives may audit and inspect SPREP's financial records which relate to this Arrangement. SPREP will provide adequate facilities for audit and



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inspection of its financial records pertaining to this Arrangement at all reasonable times and allow copies and extracts to be taken.

## 15. ASSETS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

- 15.1 Ownership of any assets, equipment or supplies purchased with the Contribution will vest in SPREP. SPREP may transfer the ownership of those assets, equipment or supplies in accordance with its relevant policies and procedures.

## 16. MONITORING, REVIEW AND EVALUATION

- 16.1 GoA may participate in any formal review or evaluation of the **Project** undertaken by SPREP. SPREP will inform GoA of any planned formal reviews or evaluation and will invite GoA to participate in such reviews or evaluations.
- 16.2 GoA may initiate a formal review or evaluation of the **Project**. GoA will inform SPREP of any planned formal reviews or evaluation and will invite SPREP to participate in such reviews or evaluations.

## 17. AMENDMENTS

- 17.1 This Arrangement (including any annexes, attachments or the like) may be amended at any time as mutually determined between the Partners in writing by way of exchange of letters.

## 18. TERMINATION

- 18.1 This Arrangement may be terminated at any time by either Partner by way of notice in writing to the other Partner.
- 18.2 Prior to terminating this Arrangement, the Partner contemplating termination will endeavour to consult with the other Partner.
- 18.3 If this Arrangement is terminated by either Partner, SPREP will continue to hold any unexpended amount of the Contribution paid to SPREP, until all payment commitments incurred, in accordance with this Arrangement, prior to the date of receipt of the notice of termination, have been satisfied. SPREP will promptly refund to GoA any part of the Contribution (including any interest income) that remains unexpended after any such payment commitments have been satisfied, unless GoA at its absolute and sole discretion decides formally in writing that SPREP may use any such funds for the same purpose and consistent with the provisions of this Arrangement.

## 19. STATUS OF ARRANGEMENT

- 19.1 This Arrangement serves only as a record of its Partners' intentions and does not constitute or create (and is not intended to create) obligations under domestic or international law and will not give rise to any legal process and will not be deemed to constitute or create any legally binding obligations (expressed or implied).

## 20. DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

- 20.1 Any dispute, controversy, or claim, which arises out of the interpretation or application of this Arrangement, will not be subject to adjudication or arbitration; but will instead be dealt



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with through amicable consultations and negotiations as the only method of achieving the peaceful settlement of that dispute, controversy, or claim.

## **21. REQUEST FOR PAYMENT**

21.1 SPREP will submit to GoA a request for payment of the Contribution when due in accordance with this Arrangement, in a form identifying the Arrangement title, the Arrangement number and the Payment Event number(s) notified by GoA.

21.2 All requests for payment will be made to:

Chief Finance Officer  
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
 R.G Casey Building  
 John McEwen Crescent  
 Barton ACT 0221  
 AUSTRALIA

21.3 Alternatively GoA will accept electronic requests for payment. These can be sent to: [accountsprocessing@dfat.gov.au](mailto:accountsprocessing@dfat.gov.au) and should also be copied to the GoA contact representative/s specified in this Arrangement.

## **22. GENDER, EQUITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION PRINCIPLES**

22.1 GoA has committed to supporting partners to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment into policies, legislation and programs and strengthen the collection and analysis of data to better track outcomes.

22.2 The integration of gender, equity and social inclusion principles is a priority of all Australian aid funded projects and consistent with paragraph 6 of the Partnership, the inclusion of Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion principles will be a key performance indicator for the **Project**.

## **23. PREVENTION OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND HARASSMENT**

23.1 GoA and SPREP have a zero tolerance approach towards sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment and accept to take timely action, including investigation, in accordance with their own regulations, rules, policies and procedures.

23.2 GoA and SPREP undertake to promptly inform the other partner of any credible suspicions, or actual incidents of sexual exploitation, abuse or harassment, against or by any person linked to the **Project**.

## **24. CHILD PROTECTION**

24.1 GoA and SPREP have a zero tolerance approach towards child exploitation, abuse and or harm and undertake to act in a manner consistent with the principles of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Child Protection Policy accessible at: [www.dfat.gov.au/childprotection](http://www.dfat.gov.au/childprotection).

24.2 GoA and SPREP will abide by their own relevant policies, international declarations, conventions, agreements and domestic legal frameworks that relate to child protection and accept to take timely action, including investigation, in accordance with these commitments.



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24.3 Where practicable, the SPREP will consult with GoA prior to the publication or release of information relating to Child Protection.

**25. TRANSPARENCY**

25.1 GoA and SPREP are both committed to principles of transparency. GoA will periodically publish detailed information about work under this Arrangement on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. This will include information about SPREP's policies, plans, processes, the results of the SPREP's aid activities and evaluations of SPREP's performance. GoA and SPREP will consult prior to publication or release of information regarded as sensitive (for example, fraud or corruption matters).

**26. FAMILY PLANNING AND THE AID PROGRAM**

26.1 SPREP acknowledges and will act in accordance with the guideline titled Family Planning and the Aid Program: Guiding Principles accessible at <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/family-planning-and-the-aid-program-guiding-principles>.

**Signed by authorised officials of the Partners in duplicate in the English language**

**FOR the GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA**  
represented by the Department of Foreign  
Affairs and Trade

David Peebles  
Signature

DAVID PEEBLES  
Name

AS SEB DFAT  
Position

9/6/22  
Date

**FOR the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme:**

Easter Chu Shing  
Signature

Easter Chu Shing  
Name

Acting Director General  
Position

9 June 2022  
Date



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**ANNEX 1**

**Project Proposal: Strengthening Pacific Leadership in International Climate Change Engagement**

June 2022

Refer to attached



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ANNEX 2

### Project Planning and Reporting Timeframes

This table clarifies the reporting planning and reporting requirements specified in paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of the Arrangement.

Submission date	Submission requirements
One month from Commencement Date	Project planning documentation covering Commencement Date to 31 December 2022 (paragraph 7.1.a)
1 October 2022	Project planning documentation covering 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023 (paragraph 7.1.b)
1 April 2023	Project planning documentation covering 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 (paragraph 7.1.b)  Project progress and outcomes report covering Commencement Date to 31 December 2022 (paragraph 8.2.a)  Financial statement covering Commencement Date to 31 December 2022 (paragraph 9.2.a)
1 October 2023	Project planning documentation covering 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024 (paragraph 7.1.b)  Project progress and outcomes report covering 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023 (paragraph 8.2.a)  Financial statement covering 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023 (paragraph 9.2.a)  Independent audit of financial statements covering Commencement Date to 30 June 2023 (paragraph 9.2.b)
1 April 2024	Project planning documentation covering 1 June 2024 to 31 December 2024 (paragraph 7.1.b)  Project progress and outcomes report covering 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 (paragraph 8.2.a)  Financial statement covering 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 (paragraph 9.2.a)
1 October 2024	Project planning documentation covering 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025 (paragraph 7.1.b)  Project progress and outcomes report covering 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024 (paragraph 8.2.a)

	<p>Financial statement covering 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024 (paragraph 9.2.a)</p> <p>Independent audit of financial statements covering 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 (paragraph 9.2.b)</p>
1 April 2025	<p>Project planning documentation covering 1 June 2025 to 31 December 2025 (paragraph 7.1.b)</p> <p>Project progress and outcomes report covering 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024 (paragraph 8.2.a)</p> <p>Financial statement covering 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024 (paragraph 9.2.a)</p>
1 October 2025	<p>Project planning documentation covering 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026 (paragraph 7.1.b)</p> <p>Project progress and outcomes report covering 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025 (paragraph 8.2.a)</p> <p>Financial statement covering 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025 (paragraph 9.2.a)</p> <p>Independent audit of financial statements covering 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 (paragraph 9.2.b)</p>
1 April 2026	<p>Project progress and outcomes report covering 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025 (paragraph 8.2.a)</p> <p>Financial statement covering 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025 (paragraph 9.2.a)</p>
1 October 2026	<p>Project progress and outcomes report covering 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026 (paragraph 8.2.a)</p> <p>Financial statement covering 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026 (paragraph 9.2.a)</p> <p>Independent audit of financial statements covering 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 (paragraph 9.2.b)</p> <p>Final report covering Commencement Date to Completion Date (paragraph 8.1.a)</p> <p>Final financial statement covering Commencement Date to Completion Date (paragraph 9.1.a)</p>



# Strengthening Pacific Leadership in International Climate Change Engagement

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## Introduction

In the *Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now*, Pacific Leaders recognised the implications of the climate change crisis facing our Pacific Island Nations. Pacific Leaders committed to work together, with a collective vision, to pursue bold climate change action, including in international climate change negotiations and through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

## Development context

The Pacific has played an active and prominent role in securing ambitious outcomes in international climate change negotiations. While the Pacific are committed to pursuing bold climate change action through international climate change negotiations and the UNFCCC, several hurdles impact their ability to achieve effective outcomes.

Pacific Island Countries have smaller and less resourced civil services than those they are often seeking to influence. In order to be effective, the Pacific needs to be highly skilled with a toolkit of techniques and capabilities at their disposal. To be influential in international climate change negotiations, the Pacific also requires strong networks with which to share resources and amplify their voices.

## A focus on partnerships

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) has established strong and trusted working relationships with partners in the region. SPREP works closely with all its Members, which consists of its twenty-one Pacific Island Member Countries and Territories and five Metropolitan Member Countries.

SPREP leads the One CROP+ team which supports Pacific engagement in UNFCCC negotiations and international climate change meetings. The One CROP+ team consists of Pacific regional agencies namely: Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the University of the South Pacific (USP). In the past, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) have also been involved.

SPREP, the One CROP+ team, and SPREP Member country national governments have established a strong working relationship which will be essential to this project. With that relationship comes extensive experience and expertise as well as knowledge of the challenges of working in a large and diverse region.

All stakeholders involved in this project appreciate the many demands placed on negotiators between UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) sessions, therefore the project's approach will consider time limitations and ensure engagement is relevant, interesting and realistic.

## Project Proposal

This project aims to respond to ongoing capacity building needs in the region for engagement in international climate change negotiations. This will enable the Pacific to deepen and strengthen their engagement in the UNCCC process, to help secure outcomes as agreed by Pacific Island Forum Leaders.

This project is consistent with Regional Goal 1 in SPREP's Strategic Plan 2017-26: Pacific people benefit from strengthened resilience to climate change. SPREP's Strategic Plan has been endorsed by all Members, and it underpins the Australia-SPREP Partnership Arrangement 2021-31.

While this project will predominately support SPREP's Pacific Island Member Countries and Territories, particularly those who are Party to the UNFCCC, SPREP will work with all of its full Membership where necessary and required in the delivery of this project.

### Problem definition

The Pacific faces ongoing challenges in actively engaging in UNFCCC negotiations, particularly as the international climate policy landscape continues to rapidly evolve. Experienced staff are often pulled in many directions, while others may seek opportunities overseas. As a result, there is a continuous need to build capacity both to understand and engage with UNFCCC negotiations.

The IMPACT Project (funded by the German Government and delivered with Climate Analytics) has provided essential capacity building and support to the region since 2016, however this project ends in July 2022. There is now an evident gap in support which can build upon the relationships and outcomes of IMPACT.

In addition, the global COVID-19 pandemic has increased the challenge of engagement, as Government staff who already had multiple responsibilities within ministries were redeployed to prepare for, and respond to the risks presented by COVID-19. Travel restrictions made engagement in global climate diplomacy harder as over the last two years international events have often been in different time zones while the benefits of face-to-face events which build capacity and allow exchange were simply not possible.

### Project logical framework

The overarching objective of the project is to support the Pacific to be more influential in international climate change meetings. Limited capacities in the small bureaucracies of Pacific island countries limit their capacity to influence outcomes in multilateral settings. This project will support the overarching objective by providing technical and coordination support and channels to amplify the Pacific voice, and facilitate a strategic approach to the Pacific's key priorities.

**Objective**

Pacific effectively influence outcomes in international climate change meetings, consistent with agreed regional priorities and objectives

<p><b>Outcome 1</b> Pacific are equipped for international climate change meetings through preparatory work and negotiations support</p>	<p><b>Outcome 2</b> Pacific can amplify their region's perspective at international climate change meetings through communications and advocacy support</p>	<p><b>Outcome 3</b> Pacific are able to progress losses and damages objectives at international climate change meetings through strategic engagement</p>
<p><b>Output 1.1</b> Pacific are coordinated on negotiating objectives and approaches at international climate change meetings through preparatory and debrief workshops</p> <p><b>Output 1.2</b> Pacific have the tools and capabilities to engage effectively at international climate change meetings through technical briefing and negotiation support</p>	<p><b>Output 2.1</b> Pacific showcase their priorities and interests at international climate change meetings through a Pacific Pavilion and operational support</p> <p><b>Output 2.2</b> Pacific amplify their priorities and interests ahead of and during international climate change meetings through strategic communications support</p>	<p><b>Output 3.1</b> Pacific develop a common understanding of losses and damages through improved coordination and a regular regional dialogue</p> <p><b>Output 3.2</b> Pacific have access to research, tools and methods which can be used to strengthen evidence base regarding losses and damages, including on needs and gaps</p>
<p><b>Cross-cutting themes</b> Capacity building Knowledge exchange Science and innovation Regional coordination Gender and social inclusion</p>		

This proposal will complement and build stronger linkages with existing Australian initiatives such as the Pacific Female Negotiators Program being delivered through the Women's Environment and Development Organisation. There will, however, be distinct activities delivered under this proposal other Australian initiatives.

Rationale for project logic

Outcome 1: Pacific are equipped for international climate change meetings through preparatory work and negotiations support

Building the capacity of individuals and groups of negotiators has been an important aspect of the work that SPREP has supported the Pacific on for many years. An ever-evolving climate policy landscape, stretched capacity of national governments, and staff turnover mean that it is essential to support the Pacific in keeping abreast of the latest issues. It is also important to provide opportunities for the Pacific to exchange experiences and priorities.

Outcome 2: Pacific can amplify their region's perspective at international climate change meetings through communications and advocacy support

Each year SPREP supports the Pacific amplify the region's voice in the lead up and during the UNFCCC COPs. This has included organising the 'Pacific Moana Blue Pavilion' at the

COP, which provides floor space at the conference for events, seminars and potentially a joint office space. SPREP has also provided strategic communications support to elevate and project the Pacific's voice. Effective advocacy and communications can help prosecute the Pacific's priorities and negotiating objectives at international climate change meetings.

Outcome 3: Pacific are able to progress losses and damages objectives at international climate change meetings through strategic engagement

At COP26, Parties agreed to the establishment of the two-year 'Glasgow Dialogue' to discuss the arrangements for the funding of activities to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change. The accessibility of the existing financial arrangements, and potential recommendations for future funding options for loss and damage, will likely be key areas for discussion. A stronger evidence base is needed to develop a common understanding on loss and damage, particularly in the context of the Pacific. Strategic engagement, particularly between donors and developing countries, is also required to make progression on this contentious negotiation issue.

Cross-cutting themes

This project will work closely with UNFCCC delegations from the Pacific, to support their engagement in international climate change negotiations. The support provided by SPREP will *build the capacity* of national delegations, allowing Pacific negotiators to engage confidently and strategically in the UNFCCC process.

The project will provide the fora for the region and other partners to *exchange knowledge*. The project will bring together Pacific UNFCCC delegations to discuss and share their experiences. Engagement can be expanded to include development partners and other small island developing states, for example the Caribbean. COP is an opportunity to showcase Pacific knowledge with and learn from other countries as well as civil society, private sector, and other stakeholders.

The project will draw on the best available *science* to ensure the Pacific have a solid evidence base to understand their concerns and future scenarios. The Pacific will be supported to apply this science and to use it to prosecute their objectives. *Innovation* will be actively encouraged, to explore new ways to help the Pacific respond to the challenges of climate change.

Recognising the role of SPREP in the One CROP+ team, this project will support *coordination* across the One CROP+ mechanism to ensure Pacific regional agencies work together effectively and cohesively to deliver for their membership.

*Gender and social inclusion* will be a key theme across this project. This is in recognition that women, girls, youth, elderly, disabled, and other marginalised segments of the community are disproportionately affected by climate change but also offer unique and valuable perspective to addressing climate change. All activities will actively explore opportunities to incorporate and project the unique perspectives of Pacific youth, women and disadvantaged groups in the UNFCCC process and negotiating streams. The needs and unique perspectives of these groups will be considered throughout the project, with a view to encourage their participation wherever possible. The reporting and evaluation of this project will canvass gender and social inclusion.

## Project governance

Funding through this project is intended to be 'softly-tagged' to ensure it is responsive to Pacific needs and priorities over the duration of the project. Details at the activity level, and associated costs, will be determined over the duration of the project through the governance mechanism.

The project will be governed through six-monthly project steering meetings between the project donor (Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; DFAT) and the project recipient (SPREP).

The project steering meetings will be an opportunity to reflect on the project's progress over previous months and provide strategic direction for the forward months of the project. SPREP will provide a written record of these meetings. These project steering meetings do not replace regular informal engagement between SPREP and DFAT on this project.

## Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning

The project's progress will be tracked through progress reports, submitted at each project steering meeting. These reports will detail achievements, at the activity and output level, and expenditure for the project since the last project steering meeting. The project officer and senior project officer dedicated to this proposal will be responsible for monitoring and reporting. A monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed in the initial months of the project.

An independent informal mid-term review, commensurate with the project's quantum, will be conducted approximately halfway through the project's duration. This informal review will canvass achievements at the outcome and output level, and assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the project and opportunities for improvement.

A final report will be submitted at the conclusion of the project. This report will discuss and annex the findings from an independent informal evaluation, commensurate with the project's quantum. This informal evaluation will assess achievements at the objective and outcome level.

There will be explicit focus on gender equality and social inclusion in all the monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning.

Budget has been allocated for the informal mid-term review and informal final evaluation.

The formal evaluations of this project will be undertaken as part of the broader evaluations of the Australia-SPREP Partnership, which covers the core and non-core funding support Australia provides to SPREP. A mid-term and final evaluation of the Partnership is planned for early 2024 and late 2026 respectively.

## Project budget

The proposed funding for this proposal is AUD 5,000,000 over four years (June 2022 to June 2026). A twelve-month extension option will be included in the grant arrangement.

Funding through this project is intended to be 'softly-tagged' to ensure it is responsive to Pacific needs and priorities over the duration of the project. To provide flexibility in the delivery of this project, all project expenditure will be progressively preapproved by DFAT. Expenditure which has not been preapproved will be deemed as ineligible expenses.

At each project steering meeting, the SPREP will submit a forward budget and workplan, disaggregated to the activity level. These workplans will be consistent with the project logic. These budgets and workplans will be approved, in-writing, by DFAT. Individual expenses may be aggregated up to the activity level in these budgets. Minor variations in quantum (less than 20 per cent) at the activity level, are acceptable.

Costs and activities not envisaged at the time of preparing the budgets and workplans, or significant variations in quantum (more than 20 per cent) at the activity level, can be approved between project steering meetings, in-writing, by DFAT.

#### Proposed budget

An indicative budget is shown below, disaggregated at the outcome level. Exact amounts, at the outcome, output and activity level, will be determined based on the approved forward budget and workplans.

The indicative budget includes funding for staffing (one senior project officer and one project officer), monitoring and evaluation, and audit costs. The senior project officer and project officer will only work on activities directly relevant to the project's outcomes, and time spent on responsibilities not relevant to this project will be considered as an ineligible expense

<b>Item</b>	<b>Indicative amount (AUD)</b>
Outcome 1: Pacific are prepared for international climate change meetings through preparatory work and negotiations support	1,750,000
Outcome 2: Pacific can amplify Pacific perspectives at international climate change meetings through communications and advocacy support	900,000
Outcome 3: Pacific are strategically able to progress losses and damages objectives at international climate change meetings	500,000
Senior project officer	550,000
Project officer	450,000
Monitoring and evaluation	50,000
Audit	50,000
Project management fee (15%)	750,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>

A completion phase is planned for the final three months of this project. The only costs envisaged during the completion phase are for staffing, monitoring and evaluation, and audit. No activity costs are envisaged during the completion phase.

An indicative estimate of the budget distribution over the duration of the project is shown below. The actual budget distribution will be determined based on the workplans and budgets.

	Jun 22 – Dec 22	Jan 23 – Dec 23	Jan 24 – Dec 24	Jan 25 – Dec 25	Jan 26 – Jun 26	<b>Total</b>
Estimated costs	600,000	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000	500,000	<b>5,000,000</b>

Given the nature of flexible funding and expenditure arrangements, financial statements will be independently audited. Budget has been allocated for audits, and audit expenses may be accrued.

#### Project Risks

A number of risks have been identified in the table below for which mitigation actions have been considered. These risks will be monitored and reviewed at the project steering meeting.

<b>Risk to the project</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Continuation/reintroduction of COVID-19 travel restrictions	SPREP and partner organisation are experienced in delivering virtual training events.
Inflation of costs during the project	Contingency will be included in travel and other related costs and agreed with delivery partners.
The Pacific do not prioritise this project	Previous projects delivering similar services have been highly valued and the Pacific will be regularly consulted regarding their needs.
Confidentiality is not maintained regarding sensitive negotiations issues	SPREP and partners will clearly communicate to the Pacific regarding the purpose and invitation list for events and which documents can be shared with whom.
Lack of clarity regarding roles and responsibilities	When the project starts the relationship between the Pacific, project partners and the One CROP Team will be clearly articulated to the Pacific. A more detailed workplan for the project will be developed and shared with the Pacific

