

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

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between

Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)

and

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

(together, "the Parties")

The **Institut de Recherche pour le Développement**, [hereinafter referred to as "IRD"] is a French public science and technology institution under the joint supervision of the Ministries of Research and Foreign Affairs, the head office of which is located at 44, boulevard de Dunkerque, "Le Sextant", CS 90009, 13752 MARSEILLE Cedex 02, France. Working in close collaboration with its partners from the Global South, IRD addresses international development issues. Targeting research to improve sanitary conditions, understanding the evolution of society, preserving the environment and resources are the pillars of its missions with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. IRD is represented by its President and Director General, Ms Valérie VERDIER, who has delegated its signing authority to Ms. France BAILLY, Director of the IRD in Nouméa, New Caledonia;

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 IRD 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:

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| 1. Objectives |
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1. The main objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to provide a framework of co-operation between SPREP and IRD.
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.
4. Collaborate and support awareness-raising efforts in relation to the environment.
5. Collaborate on the implementation of global and regional 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. Such work may include, without limiting the scope of possible collaboration:
 - Coastal ecosystem monitoring, conservation and management, especially:
 - Mangrove monitoring and knowledge on mangrove ecosystem services (regional/national status and trends, role against coastal erosion, etc.)
 - Coral reef monitoring, adaptive capacities and resilience to climate change impacts (marine heat waves, ocean acidification, sea-level rise, etc.), coral restoration
 - Seagrass monitoring, protection and restoration
 - Coastal and marine ecosystem-based adaptation
 - Sea-level rise, coastal risks, and sustainable coastal management
 - Marine (Emblematic and Migratory) species, especially within the framework of the Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 and its action plans (dugongs, marine turtles, whales and dolphins, sharks and rays, and seabirds)
 - Terrestrial (threatened, emblematic, invasive) species
 - Innovation in environmental laws in Oceania related to environment and Nature (rights of Nature including Ocean rights, rights of eco-refugees, environmental code, ...) and governance of natural resources and biodiversity
 - Climate change projections and impact assessments
 - Environmental and geospatial data
 - Plurality of knowledge (including indigenous and local knowledge) and climate resilience of Pacific Island communities
 - Joint education, training and research activities as part of internships and PhD students.



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.

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.



Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra
Director General

Date: 04 Sept 2023



Ms. France BAILLY
Director
IRD Centre in Nouméa

Date: 04 Sept. 2023

