



DECLARATION OF INTENT

for
Operation of the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS)

between

the Participants

and

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

(together, "the Signatories")

SPREP is a regional intergovernmental organisation with 26 members including 21 island countries and territories of the Pacific and five developed countries which have direct interests in the Pacific region. SPREP's mandate is to promote cooperation in the region and provide assistance towards protecting and improving the environment and guaranteeing sustainable development for current and future generations. SPREP is the main organisation responsible for the environment and sustainable development in the Pacific.

Other Participants in the Declaration and the nature of their roles in the Pacific are described in the Annex at the end of this document.

SPREP and the Participants listed in the Annex have common interests in protecting the environment and the development and improvement of systems, institutions and organisation working for the protection of the environment in the Pacific region.

The Signatories to this Declaration of Intent accept the following:

1. Principle of this Declaration of Intent

This Declaration officially recognises SPREP's and the Participants' intention to collaborate in the field of invasive species management for the purpose of increasing the scale, scope and pace of invasive species management throughout the Pacific.

The following describes the PRISMSS values:

- To recognise the importance of the promotion of environmentally sustainable practices, developing expertise, sharing knowledge, delivering practical environmental outcomes and building the capacities of vulnerable Pacific Islands, Countries and Territories (PICT's) to manage their environment, reduce risks and to adapt to adverse global changes.
- Working as a team including promoting partnerships with related organisations, and be flexible to accommodate change.
- Attracting and retaining potential new Participants with proven track-records.
- Participants supporting each other to achieve their objectives and consult Participants on decisions that affect them.
- Participants treating each other with respect and valuing each other's strengths and specialised skill set.
- Act as responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to Participants.

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- Remain impartial and apolitical, and act fairly and equitably ensuring high standards of ethical conduct.
- Any potential conflict of interest for a Participant will be brought to the attention of other Participants.
- Perform professionally being committed, accountable, dependable, punctual, meet mutually accepted deadlines, keep records, report, and willing to share.

2. Objective of the Declaration

The objective of this Declaration is to provide a collaborative framework between SPREP and the Participants in the field of Invasive Species management and biosecurity on land and in marine environments in order to increase the scale, scope and pace of management. The Participants will collaborate on programmes and projects relating to the "on-the-ground" management of invasive species in countries and territories who are members of SPREP by aligning with the objectives, processes and activities described in the "Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific" (SPREP Publication 2009) focussing on the thematic area "management action".

3. Collaborative Activities

General PRISMSS functioning:

1. Share and practice PRISMSS values when involved in PRISMSS business;
2. Promote the PRISMSS and build the number of invasive species projects throughout the Pacific to support the sustainability of PRISMSS;
3. Annually provide information to measure PRISMSS success and periodically review the Declaration when/if necessary;
4. As resources allow, participate in PRISMSS meetings in person or virtually as required for expert input and planning purposes;
5. Work together to identify potential funding mechanisms that may support the long term sustainability of PRISMSS including potential funding for the PRISMSS Associate position*, and, where resources allow, to assist with making applications for such funding.

*see below for more details

Within Participants' areas of expertise the provision of services will be supplied to PICT's wherever possible at minimal cost:

1. Provide advice to foster on the ground actions including development of new projects;
2. Help lead the dissemination and adoption of best practice and innovation in the region;
3. Share technical information as far as is practical for regional publications such as the Battler Series and training materials;
4. Provide training and project planning assistance, prior to project execution;
5. Assist with project execution.

4. Logistics

A. Fees and costs

- The Participants accept that any costs associated with this Declaration must be accepted in advance by each Participant, on the basis of an annual budget.

B. Termination

- Any Participant may at any time, and at its sole discretion, terminate its involvement in this Declaration by giving a minimum of two months' notice in writing.
- Following termination, the understandings resulting from this Declaration will no longer have any effect or obligation on the departing Participant and the remaining Participants will no longer have any responsibility to the departing Participant.

C. Amendments

- An amendment to this Declaration is only effective if accepted in writing and signed by all of the Participants.

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D. Meetings

- Where possible, PRISMSS meetings will coincide with Pacific Invasive Learning Network meetings and other opportunities as they present themselves.
- PRISMSS meetings will be held in person or virtually twice a year with meeting coordination provided by the PRISMSS Associate.
- PRISMSS Participants will join project steering committees where their project activities align and resources allow.

E. Records

- The PRISMSS Associate will manage day to day record keeping and logging requests for information, plus on-line reporting for Participants.
- Data originating from Participants for reporting and other functions will be recorded by Participants electronically on-line.
- PRISMSS information and metrics will be available to all Participants to facilitate other reporting requirements.

F. Awareness and communications

- PRISMSS Participants will include PRISMSS branding in their awareness and communications activities, where appropriate.
- A PRISMSS communications strategy which is complimentary to others in the region that relate to the PRISMSS will be developed by the PRISMSS Associate in consultation with the Participants.
- Intellectual Property considerations will be addressed in separate arrangements between SPREP and PRISMSS Participants.

G. Roles and responsibilities Within PRISMSS

- The PRISMSS Associate will coordinate the PRISMSS under the supervision of the SPREP Invasive Species Adviser. Systems and tools for operating within the PRISMSS will be developed by the Associate and shared with Participants.
- SPREP will lead in the management of the PRISMSS and coordination of technical support. SPREP will also lead in the War On Weeds and Resilient Ecosystems-Resilient Communities regional programmes.
- PRISMSS Participants who are technical leads will coordinate regional programmes to the extent allowed by their funding and resources.
- The anticipated primary roles of the Participants are summarized in the Annex to this Declaration of Intent. It is recognized that there may be some overlap between the roles of different Participants and that additional services beyond those noted may be provided. Details of each Participants support for specific projects or tasks will be captured in separate formal agreements.

5. Status of the Participants

This Declaration of Intent, in no way creates any legal obligations between SPREP and any of the Participants either individually or collectively nor between the Participants themselves. This Declaration of Intent simply constitutes a joint expression of mutual goodwill and common purpose between all of the Participants and SPREP. None of the clauses in this Declaration of Intent makes any of the Signatories responsible for any debt or obligation contracted by any other Signatory. None of the Signatories can represent themselves in the name or on behalf of any other Signatory.

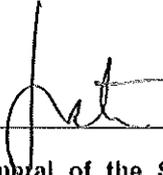
This Declaration of Intent will enter into effect on the date immediately following signature by a representative of each of the Participating agencies and remain in effect until decided otherwise by them.

Done in September twenty nine Two thousand and nineteen, in six copies, in English

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Annex: Signing pages

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme represented by:



Kosi Latu
Director General of the Secretariat of the
Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Date: 4/9/2019

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New Zealand Department of Conservation

As part of New Zealand's leadership on invasive species, the Department of Conservation (DOC) is working with its Pacific partners to give prominence to invasive species management, including important links to security, health, livelihoods, agriculture, climate change and biodiversity impacts. The Department of Conservation has expertise and a good track record of working in the Pacific in invasive species management, ecosystem-based adaptation, biodiversity protection, eco-tourism/parks management, marine spatial planning and protected areas, threatened and migratory species bycatch. DOC aims to support the delivery of the Pacific Reset through the Pacific Strategy's focus on capacity building in the region, improving regional environmental governance and ensuring multilateral engagements work for Pacific island countries and territories.

PRISMSS ROLE

New Zealand Department of Conservation will consider supporting the management of the PRISMSS and its programmes including the *Resilient Ecosystems-Resilient Communities* regional programme on the basis of an agreed annual budget.

New Zealand Department of Conservation



Lewis Vernon Sanson (Lou Sanson)
Director-General of Conservation.

Date: 4 September 2019

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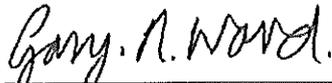
Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand (represented by the Knowledge Services Group at Victoria Link Ltd and its Pacific Biosecurity team)

Victoria University of Wellington is New Zealand's leading university for research. The Knowledge Services group at Victoria Link Ltd responds to Victoria University's mandate as a global-civic university by applying Victoria's knowledge and expertise to capability and capacity building projects, particularly in development and education. The Pacific Biosecurity team collaborates with regional organizations and in-country partners to enhance environmental well-being through conservation and pest / invasive species prevention and management throughout the Pacific. Pacific Biosecurity has been working on the research and management of invasive ants and biosecurity in the Pacific for over 15 years and has worked with Pacific partners in Samoa, Fiji, Kiribati, Tuvalu, French Polynesia and Tokelau.

PRISMSS ROLE

Technical lead for the *Protect Our Islands regional programme*.

Victoria University of Wellington by:



Gary Ward
General Manager Knowledge Services
Victoria Link Limited

Date: 11 September 2019

Bird Life International

BirdLife International is a global partnership of conservation organisations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, by working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. Each of the 121 BirdLife Partners is an independent environmental not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation. The BirdLife Pacific Regional Office in Suva, Fiji supports 7 BirdLife Partners and conservation initiatives in other Pacific countries.

Programmatic priorities for BirdLife in the Pacific include the identification and protection of high biodiversity areas (Important Bird Areas and Key Biodiversity Areas); recovery programmes for threatened birds and other biodiversity; building capacity for conservation and; addressing invasive alien species threats. The invasive alien species programme has delivered over 30 successful eradications on islands in 5 tropical Pacific countries and sustained predator control and biosecurity for other priority sites and species. These investments have safeguarded at least 25 globally threatened species and developed in country technical and strategic capacities for invasive species management and island restoration.

PRISMSS ROLE

Technical support for the *Predator Free Pacific* regional programme.

BirdLife International by:



Margaret West
Regional Director – BirdLife International
Pacific Secretariat

Date: 10/09/19

Island Conservation

Island Conservation is the only charitable organization solely dedicated to removing invasive species on islands to prevent extinctions. To maximise its impact, Island Conservation works where the concentration of biodiversity and species extinction is greatest – islands. Since 1994, Island Conservation and partners have deployed teams to protect more than 400 species on 63 islands making the organisation one of the most effective in terms of species saved per dollar spent. The benefits of Island Conservation's work goes beyond biodiversity. By restoring islands, the marine environment, island communities, and livelihoods can thrive and be more resilient to other emerging conservation threats.

PRISMSS ROLE

Technical lead for the *Predator Free Pacific* regional programme.

Island Conservation by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Karen Forami", is written over a horizontal line.

Date: 09/10/2019

Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd

Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research is one of seven Crown Research Institutes (CRIs) in New Zealand which function as independent companies, but are owned by the New Zealand Government, and are required to deliver on mandated research priorities. "Our land, our future" is the essence of why Manaaki Whenua exists. With a focus on the terrestrial environment, Manaaki Whenua undertakes research to preserve biodiversity and improve biosecurity, and protect the health of the land, fresh water and soil resources needed for a prosperous future. Manaaki Whenua recognises the importance of partnerships, the special role of indigenous people, and the need to ensure that all people have the knowledge, understanding, and tools to truly live in harmony with the environment. As well as being a leading research provider in New Zealand, Manaaki Whenua is recognised for its contribution internationally. Given its geographic location Manaaki Whenua has a special interest in, and a long history of, working in the Pacific Region. This includes land-use planning and working on constraints to production in rural terrestrial environments, characterising native and introduced biodiversity (Manaaki Whenua is the guardian of a significant collection of Pacific flora and fauna), and assisting with invasive species management (including currently the development of biological control for key weeds in the Cooks Islands and Vanuatu).

PRISMSS ROLE

Technical lead for the *Natural Enemies-Natural Solution* regional programme.

Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research New Zealand Limited by:



FIONA CARWELL, CHIEF SCIENTIST
ACTING CEO

Date: 10/9/19

Pacific Community (SPC represented by Land Resources Division Biosecurity and Sanitary and Phytosanitary team)

The Pacific Community team works collaboratively with the National Plant Protection Organizations' (NPPO's) in the PICT's in the region in regards to national Biosecurity legislation, Pest Risk and Import Risk Assessments, Biosecurity surveillance, early detection and response, National Reporting Obligations (NRO's) on Sanitary capturing both terrestrial and aquatic species and Phytosanitary (Plant pest and diseases) issues. The SPC Biosecurity team also assist member countries in plant pest and diseases surveillance in which all authenticated identifications are logged into to the Pest List Database (PLD), with the approvals from relevant NPPO's. The team also assists countries with Pest Risk Assessments (PRA's) that are used for Market access requests and Import Risk Assessments (IRA's) to develop import conditions to help address biosecurity threats linked to imports. The team also carries out capacity building for NPPO's. The Pacific Plant Protection Organisation Secretariat is housed within the SPC LRD Biosecurity team and hosts the secretariat for the PPPO members. It also represents the Regional Plant Protection Organisation, International Plant Protection Convention and Office International des Epizooties (or World Organisation for Animal Health) international bodies.

PRISMSS ROLE

Technical support for the *Protect our Islands* regional programme particularly for international biosecurity and Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Standards mechanisms.

Pacific Community represented by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by several loops and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Date: 11/9/2019