

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

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between

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU)
and

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
(SPREP)

(together, "the Parties")

SPREP
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SINU was established in 2013 by the Government and the people of the Solomon Islands to provide good quality and affordable education and training to Solomon Islanders and to all others who have desires to study and learn at SINU. Championing the pursuit of knowledge, skills, academic inquiry and applied research to transform lives through higher education and training, inclusive of diverse communities, while providing relevant solutions for the Solomon Islands.

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.

PCCC hosted at the Secretariat of the Regional Environment Program (SPREP), is a recognized and well-respected leader in climate change in the Pacific region. Providing research and executive education offerings, PCCC has a Community of Practice (CoP) comprising a cohort of practitioners across the Pacific region working in climate change across government, non-government organizations, and industry/private sector.

Whereas SPREP and SINU have mutual interests in relation to Climate Change impacts and protection of the environment and developing and strengthening systems, institutions, organisations and individuals concerned with environmental protection and climate change adaptation and mitigation 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 through the PCCC and SINU.
2. Within this framework the Parties will consult in an effort to collaborate on the activities they identify as requiring implementation.



3. The collaboration through the PCCC will be guided by the PCCC partnership frameworks on knowledge brokerage, applied research and innovation and the capacity building sustainability plan with specifics to be reflected as Annexes and further developed.
4. Additional collaboration between SINU and other SPREP relevant Programmes / Departments will be covered under this MOU.

2. Collaborative Activities

1. The Parties agree, to the extent possible, but without limitation, to:
 - a) Identify opportunities for exchange of faculty, students, and research staff.
 - b) Establish programs in areas of teaching, research or university administration which will be open to qualified students and university personnel from other institutions.
 - c) Facilitate visits by authorized officials from each institution to develop cooperative mechanisms and to expand areas of cooperation.
 - d) Make faculty and students aware of the academic programs, research institutes and educational resources of other institutions.
 - e) Identify other areas of possible interest, joint research activities and collaboration including exchange of scientific information publications and information
 - f) Consult each other on policy matters of mutual concern.
 - g) Exchange information on developments and current activities in relation to the environment.
 - h) 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.
 - i) Collaborate and support awareness-raising efforts in relation to the environment.
 - j) Collaborate on the implementation of global and regional priorities in relation to the environment.
 - k) Collaborate and support capacity-building initiatives relation to the environment.
 - l) Keep respective memberships informed of co-operative activities undertaken pursuant to this MOU.
2. The above list is not exhaustive and should not be taken to exclude or replace other forms of cooperation between the Parties on other areas of mutual interest.
3. The Parties' cooperation and collaboration in the above areas and on activities agreed to between the Parties shall be subject to the respective mandate, objectives, functions, policies and procedures of the Parties.
4. The Parties will develop a joint Work Plan which will guide their engagement and implementation of agreed activities of collaboration. The Work Plan will be attached to the MOU in the Annexes and will constitute an integral thereof. The Work Plan will be jointly reviewed on a regular basis as determined by the Parties. Amendments to the work plan will be made as an outcome of the regular meetings between the Parties.



3. Mechanisms for coordination and review

1. The Parties shall hold regular meetings on matters of common interest, in accordance with an agenda agreed to in advance by the Parties, for the purpose of developing and monitoring collaborative activities, projects and programmes.
2. To implement activities, projects and programmes in the agreed priority areas, the Parties shall execute separate formal agreements appropriate for the implementation of each activity.

4. Acknowledgement, Use of Institutional Emblems, and Publication

1. The Parties shall take appropriate action to acknowledge each Party's contributions to any activities under this MOU in all outputs, in any information given to the press or media, in notifications and reports to the donors or beneficiaries, as well as on their public websites, professional, and social networks.
2. Any use of emblems of each Party in documentation related to co-operation will be in accord with the current policies of such Party concerning such usages.
3. This MOU and any information related to it may be disclosed to the public by either Party in accordance with that Party's disclosure policy.

5. Confidentiality

1. Each Party shall keep in strict confidence all Confidential Information obtained from or disclosed by the disclosing Party pursuant to or in connection with this MOU and shall not disclose or permit its representatives to disclose such information to any third party, unless such disclosure is mutually agreed by the Parties or is otherwise required in accordance with the Partner's Disclosure Policy.
2. Where the Parties are required to disclose Confidential Information by law or pursuant to a judicial order, the Parties agree to provide each other with prompt written notice so that they will have an opportunity to obtain a protective order or take such other appropriate action to assert their privileges and immunities.
3. Each Party shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure that this MOU and/or the information contained herein shall not be disclosed to any non-affiliated third parties, unless otherwise agreed to in writing between the Parties.
4. "Confidential Information" means all information identified as confidential or proprietary by the disclosing Party or that ought reasonably under the circumstances to be treated as confidential or proprietary.

6. Integrity, Ethics, Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Practice

1. The Parties recognize their mutual commitments to ensure integrity and ethics in all its operations and expect all staff, consultants, contractors or other partners or representatives working with either Party or in any of the activities under or connected to the MOU to promote and adhere to the highest ethical standards.
2. Each Party undertake to comply with and ensure that all aspects of the activities under this MOU are carried out in accordance with their policies. The Parties undertake to take all neces-

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sary action to prevent and detect such activities prohibited under the Policy within its organization and its activities and operations, and to pursue, by all appropriate means, any such practices whenever identified. Each Party undertakes to promptly inform the other Party of any allegation or finding of practices prohibited under the Policy in connection with the activities under or related to this MOU.

- a. SINU policies are available at <https://www.sinu.edu.sb/documentations/>
 - b. SPREP's policies available on <https://fagogo.sprep.org/policies> including the SPREP Values and Code of Conduct <https://library.sprep.org/sites/default/files/sprep-organisational-values-code-of-conduct.pdf>.
3. The Parties shall, in the course of or in relation to this MOU, make their best efforts in good faith to refrain from any act or omission that would be environmentally and socially harmful, and at all times be in compliance with all environmental, health and safety laws of relevant jurisdictions and observe any applicable international environmental, health and safety conventions and agreements. For this purpose, each Party shall endeavour to ensure that all aspects of the activities under this MOU are carried out in accordance with their policies.

7. Commitment to both Parties principles and values

1. Both Parties agree to respect each other's constitutional principles and values and warrant that nothing in its governance or operational activities, or those of its affiliates, is incompatible with the other party's constitutional mandate, principles and policies, or with internationally recognized principles concerning human rights, the environment and anti-corruption.
2. Both Parties confirm that it has in place appropriate and effective mechanisms to prevent and address conduct incompatible with its core values. Furthermore, both Parties undertake to promptly inform the other of allegations against its employees and any other persons involved in the implementation of activities in relation to this MoU and which have been found to be credible under their respective mechanisms.

8. Risk Management

1. Each Party shall apply their risk management framework to ensure that any potential impact of risks to operations and performance are identified, assessed and minimised proactively so that results and outcome achievement is optimised.
2. Risks can be classified as strategic, political, reputational, operational, project, and programme related, environmental, organisational, financial, and compliance in nature.

9. 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.



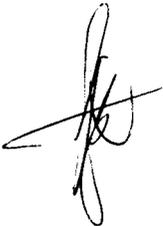
4. In executing this MOU, neither Party necessarily commits to any financial obligation in relation to activities to be carried out under this MOU.

10. Annexes

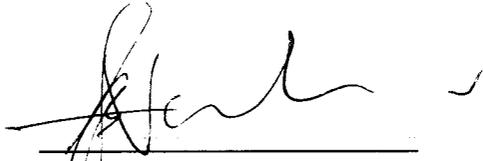
1. Specific work once agreed to may be attached as an Annex to this MOU.
2. The current Annex for this MOU represents current collaboration and future collaboration between SINU and SPREP.
3. Such Annex shall form an integral part of this MOU and, unless expressly provided otherwise, a reference to this MOU includes a reference to any such Annex.

11. 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. The MOU is intended to supersede and replace the MOU that was signed on 28 June 2019.
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.

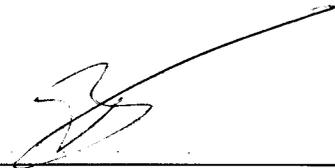


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed the present MOU in the English language, in duplicate on the dates specified below:



Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra
Director General
SPREP

Date: 23/05/2024



Dr. Transform Aqorau
Vice Chancellor
SINU

Date: 23/05/2024



ANNEX 1:

Collaboration through MECDM for the greening of the SINU Campus as Pacific Games Council

Landscape and Horticulture Development

- Creation of a Horticulture Centre of Excellence
- Objective: To establish a hub for horticultural studies and research.
- Responsibilities: Joint development of curriculum, faculty exchange, and research collaborations.

Campus Flora' Program

- Objective: To catalogue and care for native plant species on the SINU campus.
- Responsibilities: Student and faculty involvement from both SINU and SPREP in the identification and documentation of flora.

Tree Pruning and Care

- Adopt a Tree' Program
- Objective: To assign individual or group stewardship for trees within the campus.
- Responsibilities: Periodic care reports, pruning, and health assessments.

Tree Health Assessment Initiative

- Objective: To conduct regular health checks of trees to detect signs of disease or decay.
- Responsibilities: Yearly assessment by certified arborists, supported by continuous monitoring by SINU and SPREP through the MECDM

Development of Landscape Architectural Plan

- Collaborative Design Workshops
- Objective: To create a unified, eco-friendly architectural plan for the SINU campus.
- Responsibilities: Joint workshops including experts from SPREP and students and faculty from SINU's engineering programs.

Recycling and Waste Management

- Installation of Recycling Stations
- Objective: To facilitate easy sorting and recycling of waste materials.
- Responsibilities: Jointly decide on the placement and maintenance of these stations.

E-Waste Collection Drives

- Objective: To gather and responsibly dispose of electronic waste.
- Responsibilities: Coordination of regular collection drives and safe disposal methods.

Funding and Revenue Generation

- Application for Government Grants and Subsidies
- Objective: To seek financial assistance for green initiatives.
- Responsibilities: Joint application and compliance with grant terms.

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ANNEX 2:

Ongoing Research and Collaboration for a Proposal on Traditional Knowledge and Practice as adaptation and mitigation response to Climate Change

Collaboration in the development of graduate programmes that integrate traditional knowledge and are based in rural communities. These communities will serve as "Living Labs," creating immersive learning environments where academic rigor meets indigenous wisdom.

I. Executive Summary

1. Project Title
 - "Living Labs": Integrating Traditional Knowledge in Graduate Programmes for Climate Resilience - A Collaboration between SINU and SPREP
2. Objectives
 - To coalesce traditional wisdom and academic inquiry in addressing climate change
 - To establish SINU as a leader in interdisciplinary research and graduate education
3. Collaborating Entities
 - Solomon Islands National University (SINU)
 - Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and others

II. Introduction

1. Contextual Background
 - The evolving climate paradigm and its impact on the Pacific region
 - Strategic roles of SPREP and SINU in addressing environmental challenges
2. Rationale
 - Significance of traditional knowledge and its integration in academia for climate resilience
3. Methodology
 - Employing a multi-modal research methodology, including fieldwork in rural "Living Labs"

III. Literature Review

1. Traditional Knowledge in Pacific Communities
 - Ethnographic studies and historical documentation
2. SPREP's Existing Climate Initiatives
 - Overview and critical evaluation
3. Educational Models Integrating Traditional Knowledge
 - Case studies from around the world

IV. Research Domains

1. Traditional Agricultural Systems
 - Soil conservation, pest management
2. Coastal Ecosystem Management
 - Mangrove reforestation, tidal regulation
3. Sustainable Fisheries Management
 - Seasonal fishing patterns, species conservation

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V. Graduate Programmes & "Living Labs"

1. Curriculum Development
 - New graduate courses blending academic and traditional knowledge
2. Community Partnership
 - Engaging rural communities as "Living Labs" for immersive education
3. Student Research Projects
 - Graduate theses based on fieldwork in these communities
4. Accreditation
 - Pursuing course accreditation to meet SITESA, Australian, and UK educational standards

VI. Collaborative Framework

1. Academic Collaboration
 - Joint faculty teams, cross-university student research
2. Community Engagement
 - Skill-sharing workshops, cultural exchange, documentation
3. Policy Advocacy
 - Leveraging research for policy intervention at various governance levels
4. Funding and Resource Allocation
 - Identifying and securing grants, scholarships, and sponsorships

VII. Expected Deliverables

1. Peer-Reviewed Publications
 - Multi-disciplinary research articles, policy papers
2. Community-Based Adaptation Strategies
 - Manuals, best practices, and guides based on "Living Labs"
3. Educational Modules
 - Graduate programmes incorporating traditional knowledge
4. Policy Recommendations
 - Comprehensive reports to influence national and regional environmental policies

VIII. Evaluation and Metrics

1. Impact Assessment
 - Qualitative and quantitative metrics, including community well-being and academic engagement
2. Quality of Research and Education
 - Academic recognition, curriculum effectiveness, and graduate employability



Annex 3:
Collaboration on capacity building, training and knowledge brokerage.

1. Implementation of the PCCC partnership framework for knowledge brokerage
2. Implementation of the PCCC partnership framework for innovation
3. Implementation of the PCCC partnership framework for science to services and research
4. Implementation of the PCCC capacity building sustainability plan

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