



**FFA**



**SPREP**  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**between the**

**PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM FISHERIES AGENCY**

**and the**

**SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

This **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING** (hereinafter referred to as the "Memorandum") is entered into between the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, an intergovernmental organisation established under the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency Convention adopted on 10 July 1979 ("FFA") and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme established under the Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme adopted on 16 June 1993 ("SPREP"), hereinafter the "Participants",

### **Preamble**

Recognising that SPREP was established to promote cooperation in the South Pacific Region and to provide assistance in order to protect and improve the environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations;

Mindful that SPREP is the region's key inter-governmental organisation for environment and sustainable development, and is a Regional Seas Organisation for the Pacific under the UNEP Regional Seas Programme under which it is the Secretariat of the Noumea Convention;

Acknowledging that the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency is the regional fisheries organisation whose primary objective is to support its Members in the provision of advice on the sustainable use of highly migratory resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Pacific;

Recalling the FFA Members' vision of "*Our people enjoying the greatest possible social and economic benefits from the sustainable use of offshore fisheries resources*", and SPREP's vision of "*The Pacific environment - sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures*";

Further recalling the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the vision of Pacific Leaders for a resilient Pacific Region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, that ensures all Pacific peoples can lead free, healthy and productive lives;

Desiring to formalise relations between the FFA and SPREP to promote the sustainable use, conservation and management of Pacific migratory resources, strengthen regional ocean governance, and foster ecologically sustainable development,

### **HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDINGS:**

#### **1. SCOPE AND PURPOSE**

1.1 The scope and purpose of this MOU is to strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the Participants in the following areas, but not limited to:

- (a) areas within the respective competencies of the FFA and SPREP;
- (b) impacts of climate change on fisheries and response measures to address such impacts;
- (c) efforts around biodiversity conservation and waste management and pollution control;
- (d) implications of regional and international treaties on the fisheries sector, including but not limited to the *Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction*, adopted on 19 June 2023;
- (e) the preparation of briefs and advice on cross and multi-sectoral ocean and fisheries issues for Regional Fisheries Ministers Meetings and other fora;
- (f) multi-sectoral ocean and sustainable development issues that impact on fisheries and related ecosystems;
- (g) coordination of key regional messages for relevant regional and international ocean and sustainable development fora.

1.2 The Participants acknowledge that this Memorandum is not legally binding in domestic law or international law for either Participant, but this does not diminish the intention of the Participants to comply with the responsibilities and commitments stipulated herein.

## 2. COMMITMENTS

- 2.1 The FFA and SPREP commit to:
- (a) prepare a list of issues of mutual interest concerning the tuna fisheries and the protection of the environment and sustainable development of the Pacific Ocean;
  - (b) facilitate exchange and consultation ahead of key sub-regional, regional and international meetings to identify shared issues and common positions;
  - (c) collaborate in the preparation of briefs and provision of advice on cross and multi-sectoral ocean issues and regional environment and sustainable development issues; and



(d) facilitate the exchange of information, in accordance with rules for information sharing including the FFA Information Security Management System.

2.2 The FFA undertakes to:

(a) invite SPREP to be part of the FFA's discussions on common topics and issues;

(b) invite SPREP to technical meetings concerning common issues and problems;

(c) invite SPREP to FFA meetings, and provide preparatory documents in advance of official FFA meetings.

2.3 SPREP undertakes to:

(a) invite FFA to be part of SPREP's discussions on common topics and issues;

(b) invite FFA to technical meetings concerning common issues and problems;

(c) invite FFA to SPREP meetings, and provide preparatory documents in advance of official SPREP meetings.

### 3. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Disputes relating to the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum shall be resolved amicably through consultation and negotiation between the Participants.

### 4. EFFECTIVE DATE, IMPLEMENTATION, DURATION

4.1 This Memorandum will come into force on the date of its signature and will remain in force until one of the Participants informs the other Participant by six (6) months notice in writing of its intention to terminate the Memorandum.

4.2 The Participants agree to act in good faith in their mutual relations and to fulfill their responsibilities and commitments stipulated herein.

4.3 The Participants agree to review this Memorandum from time to time and may further agree to amend the same when required.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'W' or similar character, located at the bottom right of the page.

4.4 The Participants further agree to consult each other on all matters covered by this Memorandum in order to ensure its effective and efficient implementation under their respective responsibilities and commitments.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the authorised representatives of the respective Participants, have signed this Memorandum today in ..... on the ..... day of.....2025.

<p>For the Forum Fisheries Agency</p>  <hr/> <p><b>Mr. Noan Pakop</b> Director General</p>	<p>For the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme</p>  <hr/> <p><b>Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra</b> Director General</p>
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