



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

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between

**New Zealand Institute for Earth Science Limited
(Earth Sciences New Zealand)**

and

**The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
(SPREP)**

(together, "the Parties")

Earth Sciences New Zealand is a New Zealand Crown Research Institute established 1 July 2025 from the merger to the National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA) and the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS). Earth Sciences New Zealand is currently integrating the Meteorological Service of New Zealand (MetService) as a subsidiary, ensuring that aligned services and support are available for New Zealand and the South Pacific.

Earth Sciences New Zealand's core purpose is to drive New Zealand's economic growth and wellbeing through increasing returns from the use of New Zealand's natural resources and environments, enhancing energy security, building resilience to natural hazards and increasing prosperity in a changing climate.

Earth Sciences New Zealand conducts interdisciplinary research across New Zealand, Antarctica, and the Pacific, focusing on earth systems, natural hazards, energy and mineral resources, freshwater and ocean environments, weather, climate and atmospheric science, fisheries, aquaculture, and environmental monitoring. It also supports national capabilities in supercomputing, measurement standards, and collaborates widely on food safety, biosecurity, climate change, biodiversity, energy technologies, and Māori knowledge-led innovation and integration to strengthen environmental resilience and innovation.

Earth Sciences New Zealand is committed to developing collaborative relationships and strong long-term partnerships with key partners and stakeholders such as SPREP to form the best teams to deliver its core purpose.

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 Earth Sciences New Zealand have mutual interests in relation to the coordination, development and practical implementation of science and services to support resilient planning and development in the Pacific region.

The Parties have reached the following understandings:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by a smaller signature.



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1. Objectives

1. The main objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to provide a framework for co-operation between SPREP and Earth Sciences New Zealand.
2. Within this framework the Parties will consult in an effort to collaborate on the activities they identify as requiring implementation as identified in Annex 1 of this MOU (hereafter referred to *activity areas*).

2. Collaborative Activities

1. The Parties agree, to the extent possible, but without limitation, to:
 - a) Consult each other on applicable policy matters of mutual concern.
 - b) Exchange relevant information on developments and current activities in relation to the activity areas.
 - c) Extend to each other standing invitations to be represented by observers at appropriate meetings, including the bi-annual SPREP Meeting and to co-sponsor relevant meetings.
 - d) Collaborate and support awareness-raising efforts in relation to the activity areas as agreed.
 - e) Collaborate on the planning, design and implementation of global, regional and national priorities and programmes in relation to the agreed activity areas on a project basis.
 - f) Collaborate and support capacity-building initiatives in relation to the activity areas as agreed.
 - g) Keep respective memberships informed of co-operative activities undertaken pursuant to this MOU.
2. The above list and those in Annex 1, 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 and any agreed terms and conditions.
4. The Parties will develop a joint work plan which will guide their engagement and implementation of the agreed activities and priorities.

3. Mechanisms for coordination and review

1. The Parties shall hold regular bilateral 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. Such meetings shall take place twice a year (i.e. middle of the year and end of the year) or as otherwise agreed and with one of these *meetings* being a high-level meeting attended by appropriately senior representatives of the Parties (e.g., executive level) to provide overall strategic guidance for the implementation of this MOU and the Work Plan. The objectives of the meetings are to:
 - a) Discuss technical and operational issues related to furthering the objectives of this MoU;



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- b) Develop or review the joint Work Plan to support the implementation of agreed activity areas;
 - c) Monitor the progress in the implementation of the MoU and exchange views on the lessons learned;
 - d) Review progress of work undertaken by Parties in the agreed activity areas and agree to amend the Work Plan as deemed appropriate; and
 - e) Organize additional meetings as required to further the Parties' common goals and objectives.
2. Within the context defined above, further bilateral meetings at desk-to-desk and at expert level shall be encouraged as deemed necessary by both Parties for the implementation of the Work Plan and other agreed joint activities, projects and programmes under this MOU within the activity areas.
 3. To implement the agreed activities, projects and programmes within the activity areas, the Parties shall negotiate in good faith the terms for such activities, projects and programmes and execute separate formal agreements as appropriate for their implementation.

4. Acknowledgement, Use of Institutional Emblems, and Publication

1. The Parties shall acknowledge as appropriate 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. Each Party will consult with the other prior to making any reference to the other Party or this MOU in any publications or public statements.
2. Any use of official logos of each Party in documentation related to cooperation will be in accord with the current policies of such Party concerning such usages and only with permission of that Party.
3. Subject to Article 5 and each Party's confidentiality obligations, 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 safe and in strict confidence all Confidential Information obtained from or disclosed by the other Party pursuant to or in connection with this MOU and shall only use it for the purposes for which it was disclosed or provided. Neither Party shall disclose or permit its representatives to disclose such Confidential Information to any third party, unless such disclosure is mutually agreed by the Parties or is otherwise required in accordance with the Party's disclosure policy or by law.
2. Where the Parties are required to disclose Confidential Information by their disclosure policies, law or pursuant to a judicial order, the Parties, consistent with their obligations under law, agree to provide each other with prompt written notice of such disclosure and take into account the reasonable requests of each other in relation to the disclosure.
3. "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.



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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 undertakes to comply with and ensure that all aspects of the activities under this MOU are carried out in accordance with their respective policies and any terms agreed between them and to take appropriate action in respect of any non-compliances. Each Party undertakes to promptly inform the other Party of any anticipated or actual issues that could significantly impact on this MOU or the activities connected with it, including as relevant allegations or findings of non-compliances in:
 - a. Earth Sciences New Zealand Professional Conduct policies (provided separately) and corporate intent and values available on [About us | Earth Sciences New Zealand](#).
 - b. SPREP's policies available on <https://www.sprep.org/accountability/> including SPREP Values and Code of Conduct (<https://www.sprep.org/about-us>) as applicable.
3. The Parties shall, in the course of or in relation to this MOU, use their best efforts in good faith to minimise any adverse effects on the environment as a result of their operations and to contribute positively to social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being, and at all times be in compliance with all environmental, human rights, anti-corruption and bribery, health and safety laws of relevant jurisdictions, and observe any applicable 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. Each Party agrees to respect each other's constitutional principles and values and warrant that to their knowledge and based on the information provided by the other Party 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.
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 in relation to activities under this MOU 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

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1. This MOU constitutes an expression of a shared intention of the Parties to collaborate on agreed activity areas to achieve their shared objectives 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 intended under in this MOU. The initial nominated focal points for this MOU are:

FOR SPREP

Name: Nihmei Salesa

Position: Director, Climate Science and Information

Email: salesan@sprep.org

FOR EARTH SCIENCES NEW ZEALAND

Name: Connon Andrews

Position: Manager - Pacific Centre

Email: connon.andrews@niwa.co.nz

4. In executing this MOU, neither Party necessarily commits to any financial obligation in relation to activities to be carried out under this MOU.
5. The Parties shall make their best efforts to amicably settle any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of this MOU, in accordance with the rules and procedures of both organisations.

10. Annexes

1. The Parties will develop a joint workplan which will guide their engagement and implementation of agreed activities and their priorities. This will be attached to this MOU as an 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.
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.



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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: 1 September 2025



**Mr Connon Andrews
Manager – Pacific Centre**

**On behalf of:
Mr. John Morgan
Chief Executive Officer
Earth Sciences New Zealand**

Date: 1 September 2025

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ANNEX 1 to the MOU between

- The New Zealand Institute of Earth Science (Earth Sciences New Zealand); and
- The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

relating to current/planned areas of collaboration including (but not limited to):

- **General**
 - Earth System Observations, Processes and Numerical Modelling; Climate Change and Adaptation; Natural Hazards; Landscape Evolution and Mineral Resources; Energy; Freshwater and estuarine Resources and Environments; Ocean Resources and Environments; Climate and Weather Science, Monitoring, Forecasting and Risk; Carbon Cycle and Atmospheric Change; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Conservation, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; Environmental Observations; Supercomputing; Indigenous Knowledge-led Research; Social Science; and Measurement Standards
 - Allow the opportunity for secondments and/or short-term attachments in both organisations.
- **Climate Science and Information/Climate Change Resilience**
 - The Weather Ready Pacific (WRP) programme
 - One Pacific Programme (OPP).
 - Provision, installation and support of weather, climate, hydrological, ocean and geological hazard monitoring equipment.
 - Rehabilitation, maintenance, and supply of spare parts for equipment or items previously supplied by Earth Science New Zealand and may be undertaken as per specific requests from countries or projects from SPREP.
 - Collaborate in the co-production, application, and communication of weather and climate science and services for the Pacific Islands.
 - Collaborate on regional databases to address seasonal prediction and adaptation options.
 - Collaborate on activities in relation to World Meteorological Organization Regional Association 5 (RA-V) working groups and task teams.
 - Co-Lead for the Long-Range Forecasting node and Consortium members for the Climate Monitoring, Climate Change, Operational Data Services and Training nodes for the Pacific Islands (PI) RA-V Regional Climate Centre-Network.
 - The expert panels of the Pacific Met Council, including the PI Climate Services (PICS) Panel, the PI Hydrological (PIH) Panel, the PI Communications and Infrastructure (PICl) Panel, the PI Education, Training and Research (PIETR) Panel, and the PI Marine and Oceans Services (PIMOS) Panel.
 - Support for the development and delivery of training associated with the emerging Pacific Regional Training Centre (RTC) and Regional Instrumentation Centre (RIC) under WMO RA-V.
 - Collaborate on implementation and ongoing review of the Pacific Climate Change Science and Services Research Roadmap.
 - Geohazard (earthquakes, landslides, volcano and tsunami) monitoring, assessment and capacity building.
 - Collaborate on climate change research (regional, national and sectoral level) in particular on projected changes to climate extremes and the attribution of losses and damages to past and future global emissions of greenhouse gas.
 - Collaborate on the collection and application of traditional ecological knowledge / indigenous knowledge as it relates to climate monitoring, climate change adaptation, and community engagement.





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- Climate change risk assessments related to loss and damage.
- Application of extreme weather, climate and climate change projections to sectors.
- **Environment Monitoring and Governance**
 - Collaborate on the development of national environmental standards to strengthen environmental monitoring and reporting.
 - Collaborate on joint research initiatives and capacity-building activities to foster knowledge exchange and enhance the technical capabilities of SPREP and its member countries in environmental management.
 - Strengthening Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM) in the Pacific region.
 - Provide technical and scientific support to SPREP in the domain of Deep-Sea mineral exploration activities, including the assessment of potential environmental impacts, monitoring, and the development of sustainable practices.
 - The integration of climate change resilience into environmental planning processes to address the interconnections between environmental management and climate change adaptation in the Pacific.
 - Share environmental data and capacity development on data management, analysis and reporting for better decision making and raise capacities on data issues such as data standards, privacy, custodianship and procedures on data sharing.
 - Strengthen Geographic Information System (GIS) capacity and its application and build capacities on key environmental indicators to assist member countries on national priorities and reporting obligations under Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) and Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Islands and Oceans Ecosystems**
 - Collaborate with the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) programme focused on marine invasive species and marine priority sites.
 - Collaborate on stock assessments and research needed for species listed under Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS).
 - Partnership on marine invasive species survey including the development of the Marine Biosecurity Toolkit.
 - Science and knowledge associated with coral reef restoration.
 - Invasive species (including marine invasives) identification and management.
 - Activities associated with implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Global Biodiversity Framework, including cooperation on Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Monitoring Framework, Ad Hoc Expert Group on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs).
 - Marine spatial planning and marine protected area design.
 - Modelling of ecosystem dynamics under varying management regimes and climate change scenarios.
 - Environmental Risk assessment methodology associated with Deep Sea Mineral exploration activities.
 - Deep ocean ecosystems.
 - Marine carbon dioxide removal and ocean carbon capture.
 - Land-sea interactions affecting mangrove forest resilience and coastal wetland adaptation strategies.
- **Waste Management and Pollution Control**
 - Activities addressing plastic pollution including the Pacific Oceans Litter Project (POLP) addressing single-use plastics such as modelling of sources of plastic pollution, safe bio-degradable plastic alternatives and safe circular economy treatment technologies.



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- Activities associated with waste-to-energy including the Pacific Adoption of Waste-to-Energy Solutions (PAWES) Project funded by the European union (EU) and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in partnership with SPREP focusing to enhance solid waste management and energy security in the Pacific region.
- Activities involving development and monitoring of national Water quality standards
- Activities involving development of national air pollution standards

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