



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

*between*

**IUCN - THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION**

and

**THE SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT  
PROGRAMME (SPREP)**

SPREP
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**I. Background**

IUCN is a world-wide Union which brings together 83 states, 110 government agencies, more than 800 NGOs and some 10,000 scientists and experts from 181 countries. Its mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

IUCN has been active in the Pacific islands region for many years, through the work of its six scientific Commissions, and of its members, including member States and non-government organisations, the National Committees of Australia and New Zealand and the IUCN Oceania Regional Committee. The recent establishment of the IUCN Regional Office for Oceania presents an opportunity to more effectively mobilise the resources of IUCN's Global Secretariat, and its member and Commission networks, in the Pacific islands region.

SPREP is a regional inter-governmental organisation comprising 25 members consisting of all 21 Pacific island countries and territories and four developed countries with direct interests in the region, namely, Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States of America. Its mandate is to promote cooperation in the Pacific islands region and to provide assistance in order to protect and improve the environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations..

**II. Preamble**

Recalling the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 1985 between IUCN and the South Pacific Commission, and the Memoranda of Understanding signed in 1992 and 2002 between IUCN and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme;

Noting that SPREP is required, *inter alia*, by its guiding principles, to encourage co-operation both within the region and among other regions of the world in developing appropriate technology, policies, programmes and information to solve common problems;

Further noting that the World Conservation Congress, at its 3rd Session in Bangkok, Thailand, November 2004, adopted an Oceania component programme as part of the IUCN *Global Programme*, and committed to the establishment of the IUCN Oceania Regional Office;

Recognising the recent establishment of the IUCN Oceania Regional Office;

Further recognising the existence of the IUCN Oceania Regional Committee, and SPREP's active and ongoing involvement as an observer to that Committee;

Taking into account the complementarity of their respective goals and missions and believing that mutual co-operation will benefit both organisations,

Now therefore IUCN and SPREP have reached the following understanding:

### **III. Objective**

1. This Memorandum of Understanding has the main objective of providing a framework for co-operation between the two signing organisations.

### **IV. General Undertakings**

1. Each organisation agrees to extend to the other a standing invitation to be represented by an observer at appropriate meetings and to co-sponsor relevant meetings, such as the Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas.
2. IUCN and SPREP will seek to strengthen and expand joint activities, including collaboration as warranted in programme planning, meetings, workshops and field projects.
3. IUCN and SPREP will endeavour to prepare, on an annual basis, a joint workplan addressing activities of mutual interest and concern.
4. IUCN and SPREP will, to the extent possible, consult each other on policy matters of mutual concern.
5. IUCN and SPREP will keep their respective memberships informed of co-operative activities undertaken pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding.
6. Upon request, IUCN will seek to place on a temporary basis as required an officer in SPREP to enhance capacity on a key programme identified in the joint workplan, subject to the availability of funding.

### **V. Networking**

1. IUCN will facilitate access to the expertise of its six volunteer Commissions, for the purpose of supporting the implementation of SPREP programmes.
2. SPREP will promote the work of IUCN to its member States, and facilitate communication with its expert networks, for the purposes of promoting both IUCN membership and membership of IUCN Commissions respectively.



## **VI. Collaboration with other Organisations**

1. In seeking to attain these objectives, IUCN and SPREP may, where appropriate, agree to enlist the co-operation and collaboration of relevant national, regional and international institutions and non-governmental organisations with an interest in nature conservation issues in the South Pacific region and, if necessary, will amend this Memorandum of Understanding, or enter into complementary Memoranda in order to formalise such collaboration.

## **VII. Operational Provisions**

1. This Memorandum of Understanding shall constitute only an expression of a shared vision and objective and of the intention of the parties to collaborate on activities of mutual concern. This Memorandum of Understanding does not create legally binding obligations and, in the absence of some further binding agreement, each party's actions 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.
2. Each Party will name and keep updated focal points to co-ordinate the co-operation called for in this Memorandum of Understanding. A specific focal point will be named for each of the workplan component.
3. Progress towards the objectives and other matters in this Memorandum of Understanding shall be reviewed annually by the Parties through a process to be agreed between them.
4. Neither Party will incur any financial obligations relating to activities carried out in relation to this Memorandum of Understanding, as a result of their execution of this Memorandum of Understanding.

## **VIII. Annexes**

1. As noted above, IUCN and SPREP will endeavour to prepare, on an annual basis, a joint workplan addressing activities of mutual interest and concern. The first such workplan is attached as an Annex to this Memorandum of Understanding.
2. Future workplans may be annexed to this Memorandum of Understanding by mutual agreement of the Parties.
3. These Annexes shall form an integral part of this Memorandum of Understanding and, unless expressly provided otherwise, a reference to this Memorandum of Understanding constitutes a reference to the Memorandum with any annexes thereto.
4. The preparation of each joint workplan will be guided by the *Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region*, the *IUCN Programme* and the *SPREP Strategic Programme*, as amended from time to time.
5. Financial provisions relating to any co-operative activity between the Parties shall be included in the relevant Annex, or in any complementary agreement relating to that activity.

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**VII. Duration, entry into force, amendments and termination**

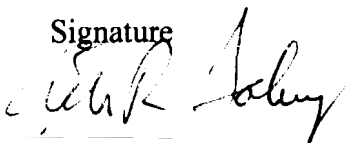
1. The duration of this Memorandum of Understanding will be five years, renewable for such further period and on such terms as may be agreed between the Parties.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the last date of signature of the Parties.
3. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by mutually agreed exchange of letters between the parties.
4. Either party may propose amendments to any Annex to this Memorandum of Understanding. These amendments will enter into force upon the understanding of the other party.
5. Any Party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving six months written notice to the other Party.

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For and on behalf of the  
SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC  
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT  
PROGRAMME (SPREP)

For and on behalf of  
IUCN - THE WORLD  
CONSERVATION UNION

Signature



Signature



Date 8/9/07

Date

12/9/07

Asterio Takesy  
Director  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme

Taholo Kami  
Regional Director, Oceania  
IUCN - The World Conservation Union



## ANNEX 1

### JOINT IUCN-SPREP WORKPLAN 2007-2008

IUCN and SPREP undertake to deliver the joint workplan set out below. The workplan is intended to cover the twelve month period commencing from the date of signature of this Memorandum of Understanding.

The workplan comprises the following thematic components:

- environmental law;
- resource valuation;
- ecosystem management;
- species management;
- climate change;
- conservation partnerships; and
- program delivery.

These components are described in detail below, followed by an activity summary table.

#### COMPONENT 1: ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

The capacity of Pacific island governments to develop and implement legal and policy frameworks has been limited by a range of factors, including the availability of financial, technical and human resources.

Development of appropriate environmental law frameworks, which respond to local priorities and support customary decision-making processes, remains an ongoing challenge for the region.

IUCN and SPREP seek to promote the development and implementation of environmental law in the Pacific islands region via a range of activities, including:

- consulting with key government and non-government stakeholders in the region
- building networks of shared interest
- identifying technical assistance and capacity-building needs in the region
- providing technical assistance to government and non-government organisations in the region
- coordinating, and delivering, environmental law training programs
- coordinating production of training materials and other publications.

#### *Key Strategic Priorities*

This workplan component seeks to promote achievement of the following strategic priorities:

*Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region 2003-2007*  
Objectives 2.2, 3.2 and 3.3

*IUCN Programme 2005-2008*  
Key result areas 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4

*SPREP Strategic Programme*  
Component 2.1

#### *Focal Points*

Environmental Legal Advisor, SPREP  
Legal Advisor, IUCN Oceania Regional Office

**Activities – Short-Term (2007-2008)**

- IUCN and SPREP to consult on development of legal programs, projects and resources.
- IUCN and SPREP to work together to improve online access to environmental law resources.
- IUCN and SPREP to develop one or more joint funding proposals in the field of environmental law.
- SPREP to recommend suitable candidates for membership of the Commission on Environmental Law.

**Activities – Medium-Term (2008+)**

- IUCN and SPREP to secure funding for, and implement, one or more joint environmental law projects.
- IUCN and SPREP to develop and deliver one or more joint environmental law workshops.

**COMPONENT 2: RESOURCE VALUATION**

The IUCN Regional Oceania office in Fiji is proposing to manage a programme on sustainable natural resource use and livelihoods in the Pacific region, in partnership with SPREP. IUCN proposes to provide programme coordination and technical input into the programme with SPREP and with the support and participation of resource economists, and those with related interests, in the region.

The success of the programme will depend on active support from key agencies and NGOs and political support from decision makers in PICTs, as well as support from local communities.

The programme has 5 key stages:

- establishing an expert network of resource economists and others interested in socio-economic aspects of sustainable natural resource use in the region;
- developing a communications plan to raise awareness of the value of economic assessment for decision-making affecting natural resource use;
- carrying out a range of activities to implement the communications plan;
- developing capacity among those making decisions affecting natural resources to use economic assessment tools to improve decision making;
- follow-up monitoring to assess the application of skills acquired in Stage 4.

**Key Strategic Priorities**

This workplan component seeks to promote achievement of the following strategic priorities:

*Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region 2003-2007*  
Objectives 2.3, 2.4, 2.6 and 2.7

*IUCN Programme 2005-2008*  
Key result areas 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 5.1 and 5.3

*SPREP Strategic Programme*  
Component 2.1 Output 2.1.4

**Focal Points**

Action Strategy Adviser, SPREP  
Chief Technical Advisor, IUCN Oceania Regional Office

**Activities – Short-Term (2007-2008)**

- IUCN-WCPA to coordinate regional resource valuation scoping exercise, in consultation with SPREP.
- promote outcomes of TNC/SPREP/Forum Secretariat paper on the value of conservation to sustainable livelihoods in the Pacific.
- work together to develop resource valuation network in Pacific island region.

### **COMPONENT 3: ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT**

#### ***Key Strategic Priorities***

This workplan component seeks to promote achievement of the following strategic priorities:

*Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region 2003-2007*  
Objectives 1.2, 1.5, 1.6 and 1.7

*IUCN Programme 2005-2008*  
Key result areas 1.1, 1.2, 5.1 and 5.2.

*SPREP Strategic Programme*  
Component 1.1 and 1.2

#### ***Focal Points***

Island Biodiversity Officer, SPREP  
Chief Technical Advisor, IUCN Oceania Regional Office

#### ***Activities – Short-Term (2007-2008)***

IUCN and SPREP to examine opportunities for increasing protected area management capacity within IUCN and/or SPREP (for example, by securing funding to employ a protected areas advisor).  
- assist countries to apply for funding through the GEF PA POW funding and to implement successful proposals.

### **COMPONENT 4: SPECIES MANAGEMENT**

#### ***Key Strategic Priorities***

This workplan component seeks to promote achievement of the following strategic priorities:

*Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region 2003-2007*  
Objectives 1.3, 1.4, 1.6 and 1.7

*IUCN Programme 2005-2008*  
Key result areas 1.1 and 1.2

*SPREP Strategic Programme*  
Component 1.3

**Focal Points**

Island Biodiversity Officer (Birds)/Marine Species Officer (marine), SPREP  
Chief Technical Advisor, IUCN Oceania Regional Office

**Activities – Short-Term (2007-2008)**

- IUCN and SPREP to organise joint workshop for experts and government officers on the IUCN Red List
- SPREP to provide input on priorities for review of IUCN Red List processes in the Pacific islands region
- SPREP to support new efforts by TRAFFIC Oceania including its move to the IUCN Oceania Regional Office in Suva, Fiji
- IUCN and SPREP to ensure effective follow-up to marine invasives workshop held during March 2007

**COMPONENT 5: CLIMATE CHANGE**

In line with IUCN's Programme Strategy for 2009 – 2012's objective of "Changing the climate forecast" this component of the MOU will focus on improving the intergration of biodiversity considerations and opportunities into climate change policy and practice.

**Key Strategic Priorities**

This workplan component seeks to promote achievement of the following strategic priorities:

*Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region 2003-2007*  
Objective 1.6

*IUCN Programme 2005-2008*  
Key result areas 5.2 and 5.3.

*SPREP Strategic Programme*  
Component 2.3

**Focal Points**

Climate Change Advisor, SPREP  
Chief Technical Advisor, IUCN Oceania Regional Office

**Activities – Short-Term (2007-2008)**

- IUCN to provide technical input, upon request, to support SPREP activities in relation to climate change

**COMPONENT 6: CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS**

There are a number of conservation partnerships and activities in the region that would benefit from the collaboration of IUCN and SPREP – these include the Roundtable for Nature Conservation, activities focused on faith based organisations, the Pacific Invasives Learning Network, the implementation of the Coral Reef Initiative in the South Pacific (CRISP) and so on. SPREP and IUCN globally have a long history of working together on the Pacific nature conservation series and this MOU offers an opportunity to strengthen collaboration.



### ***Key Strategic Priorities***

This workplan component seeks to promote achievement of the following strategic priorities:

*Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region 2003-2007*  
Objectives 1.1, 2.1, 2.5 and 3.4

*IUCN Programme 2005-2008*  
Key result areas 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.6

*SPREP Strategic Programme*  
Output 2.1.4

### ***Focal Points***

Action Strategy Advisor, SPREP  
Regional Director, IUCN Oceania Regional Office

### ***Activities – Short-Term (2007-2008)***

- IUCN and SPREP to jointly coordinate Pacific Islands Conference and Roundtable for Nature Conservation activities.
- IUCN and SPREP to discuss collaboration re Faith and Conservation
- IUCN and SPREP to discuss collaboration re private enterprise

## **COMPONENT 7: PROGRAM DELIVERY**

The objectives of SPREP and IUCN in terms of biodiversity conservation are very similar. This component of the MOU offers the opportunity for the two agencies to continue to communicate closely with each other, share resources, build on each others networks and assist countries to implement their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. This component aims to ensure that there is no duplication in the activities of both organisations.

### ***Key Strategic Priorities***

This workplan component seeks to promote achievement of the following strategic priorities:

*Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region 2003-2007*  
Objectives 1.1 and 2.1

*IUCN Programme 2005-2008*  
Key result areas 6.2, 6.5 and 6.8

*SPREP Strategic Programme*  
Components 1.1 – 1.3 and 2.1 and 2.5

### ***Focal Points***

Action Strategy Advisor, SPREP  
Regional Director, IUCN Oceania Regional Office

### ***Activities – Short-Term (2007-2008)***

- IUCN to provide periodic briefings to SPREP staff on key issues, as appropriate and feasible

- SPREP to facilitate communication with experts re Commission membership
- SPREP to provide advice on communications to IUCN upon request
- SPREP and IUCN to share information resources as appropriate, including print publications
- SPREP and IUCN to consult regarding establishment and maintenance of resource centres
- Determine longer term activities in consultation between SPREP and IUCN.