



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

**THE SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

AND

THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Preamble

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (hereinafter “SPREP”) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, (hereinafter “SCBD”), hereinafter collectively referred to as “the Parties”,

Recalling decision IX/21 encouraging the Executive Secretary to revise the 2003 Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with a view to including specific joint activities on islands, invasive alien species, impacts of climate change, long-term financing of activities, capacity-building and tourism, and support to the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

Recalling further decision IX/16 requesting the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to convene a workshop for small island developing States to integrate considerations on the impacts of climate change, and both the positive and negative impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities within programmes of work and national biodiversity strategy and action plans, with a view to holding similar capacity-building workshops in other groups of countries;

Recalling also decision IX/13 E paragraph 7 on Article 8(j) and related provisions, requesting the Executive Secretary to convene, subject to the availability of financial resources, further regional and sub-regional workshops on community-friendly

communication tools on traditional knowledge related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Recognizing that SPREP's 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 and to serve as the conduit for concerted environmental action at the regional level, and the ongoing commitment of SPREP member governments to this goal;

Also *recognizing* that the Pacific Islands region is characterized by diverse indigenous peoples, who maintain strong cultural heritage and traditional knowledge relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and given this the important role of SPREP in ensuring their knowledge is respected and they effectively participate in matters that affect them;

Acknowledging that SPREP is also the Secretariat for the Convention on the Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific and the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region and of the linkages and synergies between these regional conventions and the CBD;

Aware of the widespread support to the Convention on Biological Diversity enjoys among SPREP Member countries as evidenced by the number SPREP Member countries Parties to the Convention and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Recognizing the importance of collaborative approaches at the regional and global level to effectively facilitate and promote CBD implementation and SPREP's mandate to facilitate CBD implementation in the Pacific sub-region;

Highlighting the valuable collaboration to date between SPREP and SCBD and seeking to establish a framework for further strengthening and promoting co-ordination and collaboration in areas of mutual interest and expertise;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1 Objective

The objective of the present Memorandum is to enhance cooperation between the SCBD and SPREP on issues of common interest relating to the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Article 2 Joint Activities

1. The SCBD and SPREP will exchange information on the progress achieved in the implementation of the joint activities as described in the 2008-09 Work Plan (Annex 1 attached).
2. The Parties will mutually support one another in the undertaking and promotion of activities and projects relevant to their respective mandates.
3. Having regard to the list of areas of common interest and work provided in Annex 1, the Parties will, *inter alia*,
 - a. invite each other to their relevant meetings,
 - b. explore options for the organization of joint meetings on issues of common interest,
 - c. endeavor to co-ordinate their activities in research, training and public awareness activities, including publications,
 - d. explore options for joint activities in research, training and public awareness on issues of common interest.
4. Indicative joint activities highlighted in CBD COP 9 decision IX/21 include islands, invasive alien species, impacts of climate change, long-term financing of activities, capacity-building and tourism, and support to the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Parties may add to this list as needed and agreed.

Article 3 Focal Points

1. Each Party will nominate and notify to the other Party a number of representatives who will serve as focal points dedicated to coordinating the overall collaboration and the specific activities undertaken pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding.
2. Each Party will ensure that any changes made to the list of its focal points will be communicated promptly to the other Party.

Article 4 Dispute Settlement

Any dispute between the SCBD and SPREP arising out of the interpretation or execution of this Memorandum shall be settled amicably through consultation or negotiation. If the Parties are unable to reach agreement through such negotiation, the dispute shall be settled through arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) as at present in force.

Article 5

Entry into Force, Amendment and Termination

1. This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force upon the last date of signature of the Parties and may be amended or terminated by mutual agreement.
2. The above points set out the general framework of working relations between SCBD and SPREP, the details of cooperation in specific fields in cases being left to further agreement.
3. This Memorandum of Understanding will be valid for a period of two years from the date of signing, upon which it may be renewed or extended by mutual consent.

AHMED DJOHLAF
Executive Secretary

For and on Behalf of the
**Secretariat of the Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Date: 26 January 2009

Signature 

KOSI LATU
Director

For and on Behalf of the
**Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme**

Date: 16 JANUARY 2009 FEBRUARY *

Signature 

Annex 1

SCBD/SPREP WORK PLAN 2008-2010

The following list of activities is without prejudice to other activities that may be carried out under the MOU, including routine consultations and collaboration on areas of mutual interest such as work on the streamlined national reporting. The work plan shall be reviewed after one year and revised if necessary.

Issues	Activities	Timeline	COP Decisions
Islands & GLISPA	Further details of this activity are to be elaborated by the programme officers concerned of the two secretariats.		Decision IX/21 Decision IX/16
Tourism and Article 8 (j)	Indigenous Communities, Tourism and Biodiversity Workshop Series	3-5 November 2008, Apia (Samoa Islands)	Decision IX/21 Decision IX/13 E par. 7
Article 8(j)	Further details of this activity are to be elaborated by the programme officers concerned of the two secretariats.		Decision IX/13
Invasive alien species (IAS)	-PII/New Zealand Workshops -International Day for Biological Diversity 22 May 2009 on the theme of IAS	July 2009	Decision IX/21 Decision IX/4
Global Biodiversity Outlook 3	Share information relevant to biodiversity trends and country actions	Ongoing through 2009	Decision IX/10
Joint Workshops: National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans / Climate change SCBD workshop	Sub-regional workshop on NBSAPs and biodiversity mainstreaming for the Pacific / Capacity building workshop for integrating climate change in implementation of the Convention in small island developing States (preparation, convening and follow-up)	2-6 Feb 2009 *	Decision IX/21 Decision IX/8 Decision IX/16
Protected areas	Regional workshop for the Pacific	9-13 Feb 2009 (back-to-back with NBSAP) *	Decision IX/18

International Year of Biodiversity	Facilitate organization of celebrations by small island developing states and communicate activities to the Secretariat of the CBD	Preparations and planning in 2009, activities in 2010	Decision IX/33
Forest Biodiversity workshop	Capacity building workshop, in cooperation with Asia-Pacific Regional Forestry Commission (tbc)	2009	Decision IX/5
Marine and Coastal Biodiversity	Provide information and case studies on the implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity, as a contribution to the preparation of the in-depth review by the Executive Secretary	2009- March	Decision VII/5, Annex I; Decision VII/31; Decision VIII/15, Annex III;
Ecosystem Approach	Provide case-studies on the application of the ecosystem approach, as a contribution to the compilation and uploading on the website by the Executive Secretary	on-going	Decision VII/11
Access and Benefit Sharing	Training workshop on ABS (further details of this activity are to be elaborated by the programme officers concerned of the two secretariats)		
Biosafety	Pacific sub-regional workshop on capacity-building and exchange of experiences on risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms	Dates to be decided	Decision BS-4/11
Biosafety	Training course on Risk Assessment and Risk Management	Dates to be decided	Decision BS-4/11
Other activities	Further details of this activity are to be elaborated by the programme officers concerned of the two secretariats.		

* these events may be organized jointly or in a coordinated way