Memorandum of Understanding
between
WWF South Pacific Programme
and
the National Environment Service,
Cook Islands

This Memorandum expresses the understanding of the National Environment Service, Cook Islands, and WWF South Pacific Programme, in regards to the implementation of a WWF Project – The UNFCCC: Facilitating Implementation and Participation in the Pacific.

This project is being implemented by WWF South Pacific Programme (WWF SPP), in both the Cook Islands and Tuvalu, through a Europe Aid Environment in Developing countries grant, on behalf of WWF International.

The Project will be carried out by WWF South Pacific’s Climate Change Programme, as part of its commitment to preventing dangerous climate change by supporting international policy to keep climate change well below a two degree Celsius temperature change, above pre-industrial temperature levels.

WWF recognizes that climate change is a huge threat that will have devastating costs for the Pacific. The scientific consensus is overwhelming. Pacific governments, at both regional and international climate change must advocate for global climate change to remain well below 2 degrees Celsius, to prevent climate change reaching dangerous levels. It is of highest urgency that we take action now, while this is still possible.

Through this Memorandum of Understanding, WWF SPP and the National Environment Service of the Cook Islands agree to work together on this project.

Project Objectives:
1. To increase awareness on climate change, its impacts, adaptation measures, and developments in international negotiations.
2. Enhance the international negotiations capacity of relevant government departments and civil society organizations.
The parties to this MOU hereby agree, to achieve the above objectives, through:

The National Environment Service
1. Provide in-country support towards those components of this project that involve the government.
2. Provide advice and guidance on workshop timing and government level participants.
3. Assist/ facilitate effective information sharing (in-country and inter-country) on country experiences, as well as international negotiations experience.
4. Support WWF’s initiative to enhance the awareness and negotiations capacity of civil society organisations in the Cook Islands.

WWF South Pacific Programme
1. Conduct workshops, disseminate information and facilitate the development of action plans.
2. Encourage multi-stakeholder and open discussion of experiences and ideas, regarding international negotiations through e-mails.
3. Facilitate the development of and disseminate policy papers on climate impacts to assist stakeholders make informed and strategic discussions for more effective participation at international negotiations.
4. Promote project achievements to share information and build support for initiatives such as those embedded in this project.

A List of proposed activities to be conducted under this project has been included, as Annex I.

Note: All formal communications between the Cook Islands National Environment Service and WWF will be through WWF’s South Pacific Programme (Project Implementer).

The WWF Cook Islands office is one of the target civil society organizations in this project, therefore its role will be that of a participant. In addition, the WWF Cook Islands office will also assist the WWF South Pacific Programme with national activities like workshop logistics, identifying national stakeholders and provide advice, where sought to the WWF South Pacific Programme.
The Director
National Environment Service
Government of the Cook Islands
Rarotonga
Cook Islands

Date: ..............................

The Conservation Director
WWF South Pacific Program
Suva
Fiji

Date: ..............................
List of Proposed Activities

YEAR ONE:

1. Research papers on the impacts of climate change on the tourism, tuna and pearl industries. These papers will be used to produce communications materials for use by the project.
2. Research paper on the need to limit climate change below the two degree level, in relation to pre-industrial times. This paper will also be used to produce a communication piece for use by the project.
3. Awareness raising workshops for relevant government departments and Civil Society Organizations (CSO’s), on climate change, its impacts, the relevant international agreements and country roles as per the agreements.
4. Negotiations training workshops for relevant government departments and CSOs to enhance country participation at the UNFCCC.
(Note: The above workshops will also seek to initiate continuous dialogue between stakeholders on national and international climate change policy.)
5. Review of national climate policies to summarise existing policy and identify gaps.
6. Development of community level awareness raising materials (in Cook Island Maori and English) e.g. posters, postcards, flyers, brochures, etc.
7. National workshops with industry stakeholders to increase industry resilience to climate change (tourism, tuna and pearl industries).
8. COP11/MOP1 attendance by CSO and government reps.
9. Establishing inter-government dialogues prior to, during and after COP11/MOP1 to develop joint positions and build an alliance of
10. Information sharing between and among governments and CSOs on UNFCCC and national climate policy and impacts experience.
11. Electronic newsletters produced and disseminated to governments and CSOs.
12. Publicity of results of capacity building to wider audience, especially other Pacific Island countries.

YEARS TWO and THREE:

1. Training CSOs to conduct local awareness raising and resilience building activities, with communities and schools.
2. Community and school level awareness raising through road shows and school competitions, carried out by CSOs.
3. Funding for CSOs to participate at COP12 and COP14, as well as Pacific Forum meetings in 2006 and 2007.
4. Intergovernmental dialogues continue before, during and after the UNFCCC meetings around COP12 and COP13.
5. Establishment of Pacific Climate Action Network (CAN) to encourage greater networking of CSOs.
6. Information sharing between and among governments and CSOs continues from Year One.
7. Government level information sharing and co-operation to be facilitated by establishment of e-mail networks.
8. Production and dissemination of electronic newsletters continue.
9. The Cook Islands government, with the Tuvalu government actively engages within AOSIS to identify regional priorities, capacity gaps and strategy options at the UNFCCC.
10. Formal meeting between Cook Islands and Tuvalu on one hand, and the EU on the other hand on lessons learnt and strategies for moving forward to promote understanding and identify opportunities for future co-operation.
11. Publicity of results of capacity building to wider audience, especially other Pacific Island countries.