



Government of Solomon Islands

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE ROYAL SOLOMON ISLANDS POLICE FORCE

AND

**THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTER
MANAGEMENT AND METEOROLOGY**

Parties

1. The parties to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) and the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM).
2. The RSIPF is the primary law enforcement agency of Solomon Islands. The objective of the RSIPF is to assist the Solomon Islands community by enforcing the law, protecting property and maintaining civil order in a manner that is accountable, lawful, fair, transparent and responsive.
3. The MECDM is primarily responsible for protecting the environment, through the formulation of policies and enforcement of existing environmental legislation, with an extended role towards disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation in Solomon Islands.

Duration

4. This MOU operates until either party terminates it or both parties agree to replace it.
5. The Commissioner of the RSIPF and the Permanent Secretary of MECDM will discuss the effectiveness of the MOU in regular meetings or through exchange of correspondence.

Purpose

6. This MOU is intended to:
 - Facilitate the collaborative investigation of environmental crime related matters through the sharing of resources, provision of information and use of subject matter expertise in both agencies;
 - Facilitate the exchange of information about environmental crime related matters to the extent permitted by relevant legislation, so that information received by either party can be dealt with, effectively and efficiently, by the most appropriate agency;
 - Facilitate the exchange of relevant information to the extent permitted by relevant legislation, where both the agencies are considering the same issues or facts;
 - Ensure that information handling and investigation activities of the RSIPF and MECDM are not duplicated unnecessarily and are complementary; and
 - Ensure that information provided to one party about the other party are handled in accordance with the principles stated in this MOU;

- Support the development and delivery of joint training in furtherance of the material provided in the RSIPF Environmental Crime Manual, including the joint development of the training package, joint delivery of training, and participation of participants from both agencies and other SIG stakeholders.

Contact arrangements

7. The contact persons for the purposes of this MOU are the Commissioner, RSIPF and the Permanent Secretary of MECDM, or such other officers as are delegated by the Commissioner, RSIPF and the Permanent Secretary of MECDM.

Information

8. The guiding principles are:
 - Both the RSIPF and the MECDM have important responsibilities in protecting the interests of the Solomon Islands community,
 - Instances will arise in which an issue falls within the jurisdiction of both bodies, and
 - Unnecessary duplication of investigation activity or overlap in inquiries should be avoided, especially where there is unlikely to be a different outcome arising from dual investigations.
9. If either the Commissioner of the RSIPF or the Permanent Secretary of MECDM receives information that could be more effectively or appropriately dealt with by the other party, the parties will consult with a view to transferring the information.
10. If either the RSIPF or the MECDM receives information that covers issues under the responsibilities of both agencies, the agency receiving the information will:
 - Identify the issues relevant to each agency and, if practicable, split the information to allow each agency to investigate the matters under their area of responsibility, and
 - Consult with the other agency and provide advice on which is the appropriate agency to handle the information, or
 - Where appropriate, institute a joint investigation.

11. The Permanent Secretary of MECDM acknowledges that it may be appropriate for the RSIPF to investigate a matter that falls within the jurisdiction of the MECDM, if the matter can more appropriately and effectively be handled by the RSIPF. The RSIPF may consult as appropriate with the MECDM in handling the information, including advising the Permanent Secretary of MECDM of the outcome of any investigation conducted by the RSIPF.
12. As appropriate, the RSIPF and the MECDM may consult each other in relation to matters where the other party has a specific expertise or qualification that is relevant to an investigation.
13. The RSIPF may refer matters that are in the MECDM jurisdiction to the MECDM for action where, after consultation between the two agencies, it is decided that such a referral will lead to the matter being dealt with more expeditiously and effectively with a view to combating corruption.
14. If one party becomes aware during an investigation that the other party is also considering information about the same matter, then the first party will advise the other.
15. The RSIPF and the MECDM agree to consult prior to informing another Solomon Islands agency about an issue which is being investigated by the RSIPF or the MECDM, of the fact of the investigation. This is subject to the disclosure by the agency being in accordance with the laws governing that agency.
16. Joint investigations may be conducted by agreement between the RSIPF and the MECDM. The scope and procedures for a joint investigation, including the delegation of any legislative powers to staff of either agency, will as far as practicable be agreed at the start of the investigation.

Information about each other

17. Both agencies are committed to accountability and transparency in conducting their work, and acknowledge that each can be the subject of investigation by the other in accordance with the legislation administered by the other agency. Equally, both agencies respect each other's specific roles, areas of expertise, and decisions concerning priorities and resource allocation.
18. Where one party receives information about the other agency, and there is a discretion as to whether to investigate the matter, the agency in exercising that discretion will take into account the following factors:
 - Whether the subject matter of the information is within the other agency's areas of statutory responsibility, or
 - Whether investigation of the issues raised by the information relates to the expertise of the other agency.

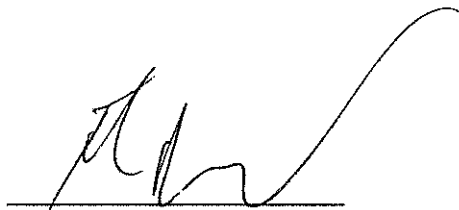
19. In most circumstances, the MECDM will decide not to investigate a matter where the RSIPF has already investigated the same matter.

Other investigations

20. If either party begins an investigation or inquiry into a matter that is not otherwise covered by this MOU, and the matter is within the expertise or interest of the other agency, then the investigating agency will advise the other agency of the investigation to the extent permitted by the relevant legislation governing both agencies.

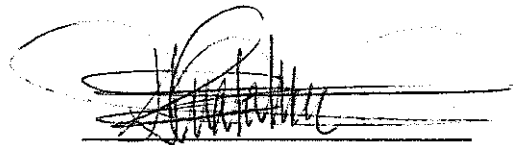
General

21. The RSIPF and the MECDM agree that their offices should work together to share information and experience in relation to their respective roles. Each agency will keep the other informed of recent developments that may be of interest to the other, within the scope of this MOU, and to the extent permitted by the relevant legislation governing both agencies.
22. Both agencies will include reference to their respective roles, wherever appropriate, in commenting on Solomon Islands Government accountability arrangements.
23. Each agency will consult the other during the drafting of sections of their annual reports, or other publications, which are of mutual interest.
24. Each agency will assist the other, wherever possible, in the distribution of general material to target audiences and the community generally about how to provide information concerning corruption related issues.
25. The RSIPF and the MECDM may share information received under this MOU with members of the Combined Law Enforcement Group (CLAG) which have also signed an MOU in similar terms for sharing of information with the RSIPF. The parties will inform each other of the detail of any such sharing.



Frank Prendergast
Commissioner
RSIPF

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Dr. Melchior Mataki
Permanent Secretary
MECDM

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