

Research Partnering Agreement

1. Institutions involved in the partnership

- 1.1. Partner 1: European University (EU)
Contact person: European Person
Contact details: European.person@unieu.ac.za
- 1.2. Partner 2: Pacific Island University (EU)
Contact person: Pacific Island Person
Contact details: PI.person@uniPI.ac.za

2. Statement of intent

- 2.1. We, the undersigned, acknowledge a common commitment to working in partnership to design, implement and disseminate the results of research focused on Climate change impacts and adaptations in the Western Pacific Region.
- 2.2. Conducting the research in partnership is intended to enhance value by:
 - Enabling the PIU access to, and training in the use of, laboratory equipment for assessing climate change impact
 - Combining the experiential knowledge of PIU academics and field workers, with scientific knowledge of EU and PIU academics.
- 2.3. Conducting the research in partnership is intended to increase the impact of the research by:
 - Increasing the local relevance of the research questions and methods.
 - Drawing on and disseminating results to Pacific Island and international networks of both partners.

3. Structures and processes

3.1. Partner roles and responsibilities

3.1.1. European University

- Grant management and administration, including research costing.
- Co-designing the study protocols and research instruments.
- Providing capacity building activities in laboratory techniques for assessing climate change impact to PIU academics.
- Leading analysis of biological data collected through research conducted by the partnership.
- Leading authorship of articles reporting results of biological analysis.

- Leading international policy engagement activities

3.1.2. Pacific Island University

- Co-designing the study and research instruments.
- Providing capacity building activities in social techniques for assessing climate change impact in the Pacific Islands context.
- Hiring and supervising local field work staff.
- Leading analysis of social science data collected through research conducted by the partnership.
- Leading authorship of articles reporting results of social science analysis.
- Leading public and policy engagement activities in Pacific Island Nations.

3.2. Coordination and administration

Coordination and administration of the partnership activities is not funded. Investigators from the EU and PIU will coordinate and administer the partnership activities until research project funding is received.

A dedicated staff member, such as a Project Coordinator, will be hired to coordinate implementation of any research implemented through the partnership. They will be based at the PIU. The Project Coordinator Role will be funded full time, for the 12 month period in which research field work will be undertaken. Dedicated staff will also be hired to conduct administrative work for any funded research.

3.3. Governance and advisory structures

The partnership's research activities, including unfunded activities such as preparing research funding applications, will be overseen by

- A Scientific Advisory Board made up of five scientists, with strong track records of research relevant to the partnership
- A Community Advisory Board made up of five community members, one from each of five communities that the partners envisage conducting research in.

3.4. Decision making

All major decisions relating to the partnership's research agenda, and development of research funding proposals (e.g. costing, study design or implementation) should be deliberated at a meeting of the core research team.

3.5. Safeguarding

- Safeguarding training will be mandatory for all staff working within the partnership.
- Two reporting mechanisms, one for community and the other for staff, will be established to ensure safeguarding within any research projects conducted through the partnership.

4. Resource distribution

4.1. Research costing

Research costing in funding applications will be based on a full cost recovery model.

4.2. Budget allocations

Budget allocations will be subject to research funders' conditions.

5. Capacity building

The EU partner will be responsible for building capacity of the PIU academics to use laboratory equipment to assess the impact of climate change on plant physiology. Funding for the PIU to purchase laboratory equipment to perform these assessments will be included in research funding application budgets. The PIU partner will be responsible for building capacity of the EU academics to identify indigenous plants and design and use social scientific tools that respect local cultural practices.

6. Ethical approval

Ethical approval for any research conducted through the partnership will be obtained from both partner universities' research ethics committees.

7. Public and policy engagement

The research partners will engage community leaders and members and obtain approval to work in the communities, before any research commences. The PIU partner will lead these activities and the full costs of community engagement will be included in research funding application budgets.

The research partners will engage policy makers in the Pacific Islands and globally by disseminating the results of any research conducted through the partnership. The EU partner will lead these activities, which at a minimum will include preparation of a policy brief and hosting a meeting where the results are presented to policy makers, for each project implemented through the partnership.

8. Intellectual property ownership

Intellectual property from the partnership may include plant specimens, results of physiological tests on plant specimens and social survey data. The data will be jointly owned by the EU and PIU partners. Plant specimens will be stored at the PIU and the full cost of storage covered by research funding. The master version of laboratory and social data will be stored at the EU, which had a data repository. It will be made immediately

available to the PIU academics. Data will also be shared with the broader scientific community after a delay of 2.5 years, to allow publication of results. Ownership of intellectual property will be further specified for each research project conducted through the partnership.

9. Contributions to and authorship of research outputs

All academics working in the partnership (Principal Investigator, Co-Principal Investigators and Postdoctoral Research Fellows) are eligible to be lead authors of publications resulting from research conducted through the partnership. Authorship will be discussed for each output. Decisions about authorship will be guided by the Nature Group's authorship guidelines <https://www.nature.com/nature-portfolio/editorial-policies/authorship> .