



## Pacific Islands Universities Regional Network

### Call for Proposals

#### Background

The Pacific Islands Universities Regional Network (PIURN), founded in 2013, is a consortium of 15 Member Universities from the Pacific Islands Countries and Territories (PICTs). Co-chaired by The University of the South Pacific (USP) and the University of New Caledonia (UNC), PIURN has enabled closer collaboration among researchers, while addressing social priorities, economic growth and environmental challenges in the Pacific region.

Initially named Pacific Islands Research Network, PIURN is identified today as a powerful lever for the development of regional research, training and academic initiatives in and for the Pacific Region. Recently renamed, the consortium wishes to broaden the scope of its action and to strengthen its impact at the regional level.

The vision of the network is **“to collectively empower the Pacific Universities to become key contributors to finding solutions for challenges facing the region”**.

To serve its vision, PIURN’s mission is **“To empower the new generation of Pacific leaders, researchers and professionals to better serve the needs and aspirations of the Pacific communities, in accordance with the education, research and technology pillar of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent”**.

#### Objectives

This Call for Proposals aimed to strengthen the impacts of the network and provide innovative and local solutions to the Pacific Communities. Aligned with the SDGs, the research project aims to be a catalyst for initiatives with positive impacts on the Pacific Region. The Calls for Proposals falls under the 10-year anniversary of the network, and follows the PIURN Plenary session hosted during the 5<sup>th</sup> PIURN Conference, at USP Cook Islands, to empower Pacific Islands Universities and build their capacity through research collaboration and academic cooperation.

Since 2017, PIURN Call for Proposals have been launched annually, allowing PIURN Member Universities to propose and engage in research projects, aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For the period 2017 – 2022, UNC funded 13 projects – **212 855 euros / 344 727 AUD / 230 814 USD** and USP funded 4 projects - **196 961 FJD – around 83 620 euros**. 9 PIURN Members Universities were involved in these calls for proposals, as well as **12 External partners**. **PIURN Projects attracted 2 534 000 euros** for research grants and 14 publications were published.



USP and UNC are launching the PIURN Call for Proposals 2023, aiming to promote research collaborations among member universities and fund projects that not only address regional needs, but also can morph into larger sustainable research programs that will become the source of continuous publications and new masters and PhD students, and attract external funding.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

Eligible projects must meet the following criteria:

- The lead applicant should be USP
- The project **has to partner with at least one PIURN Member Universities**:
  - University of New Caledonia
  - Christ University in Pacific (Tonga)
  - Divine Word University (PNG)
  - Fiji National University (Fiji)
  - National University of Samoa (Samoa)
  - National University of Vanuatu (Vanuatu)
  - Pacific Adventist University (PNG)
  - University of Fiji (Fiji)
  - The University of French Polynesia (French Polynesia)
  - The Papua New Guinea University of Natural Resources and Environment (PNG)
  - The Papua New Guinea University of Technology (PNG)
  - The University of Goroka (PNG)
  - The University of Papua New Guinea (PNG)
  - Solomon Islands National University (Solomon Islands)
- The total amount requested for the project **cannot exceed 30 000 FJD**
- External partners are welcomed to join (research institutes, non PIURN Universities, NGOs).
- Proposal can have potential or existing co-funders (cash, in-kind support....) – PIURN Member Universities can propose matching-funds.
- Time frame should not exceed 24 months

### **Submission of the proposal**

The proposal should be submitted to Mathilde Souchon – [mathilde.souchon@usp.ac.fj](mailto:mathilde.souchon@usp.ac.fj) and SRT Assistant Letila Talemaitoga [letila.talemaitoga@usp.ac.fj](mailto:letila.talemaitoga@usp.ac.fj)

### **Calendar**

**Application deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

Date of publication results: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024