

François Martel

François Martel, a dual Samoan and Canadian national, is the first substantive Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) appointed in September 2015. The PIDF is a multilateral and multi-stakeholder organization focusing on a distinctive Pacific model of green growth in blue economies aligned to sustainable development principles. The PIDF also serves as the Pacific Islands south-south cooperation platform with the United Nations and is a member of the Inter-agency Collaborative Group on the Global Partnership on SIDS. The Secretariat is based in Suva, Republic of Fiji. Mr. Martel is a professional forester and conservationist with more than 35 years of experience working on issues of biodiversity conservation, climate change and sustainable natural resource management in island ecosystems. In Samoa, he last held senior technical advisory positions on GEF and UNDP climate resilience of forest ecosystems and critical landscape management projects. Prior to this Mr. Martel spent 10 years on the Senior Leadership Team of Conservation International as the Executive Director for their Pacific Islands Program and as a Biodiversity Conservation project officer with SPREP, based in Apia, Samoa. He has developed and nurtured a wide network of conservation, climate change and sustainable development partners and alliances in all Pacific Islands over the last 34 years. He has a Masters in Forestry Science (Distinction) from the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand.