

To Whom it May Concern:

Dena Seidel served as the Director of the Okeanos Foundation for the Sea from 2016-2019 and was promoted to Chief Operations Officer in 2017.

Ms. Seidel's responsibilities included traveling between Pacific Island nations securing partnerships with governments and cultural leaders for the establishment of Okeanos sustainable sea transportation LLCs and the training of local sailors.

As Chief Operations Officer, Ms. Seidel oversaw Okeanos sustainable sea transport operations in the Marshall Islands, Vanuatu, Palau, Saipan and the Federated States of Micronesia, making sure to align Okeanos' activities with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the hosting Pacific nations' climate adaptation priorities. She developed memorandums of understanding and operational contracts between Okeanos Foundation for the Sea and the Pacific governments of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and Palau as well as Pohnpei and Yap States in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

Ms. Seidel prepared and delivered presentations and exhibitions at prestigious international climate conferences including IUCN (2016), COP 22, COP 23, COP 24, the United Nations Ocean Week (2017) and the Micronesian Island Forum (2018).

Ms. Seidel developed international grant proposals to fund Okeanos sustainable sea transportation operations. These proposals included an International Climate Protection Initiative (IKI) to support remote Marshall Island communities and a Green Climate Fund proposal endorsed by 5 Pacific Island governments (RMI, Palau, Nauru, Kiribati, and FSM) to fund the implementation of a traditionally based sustainable sea transportation network.

Ms. Seidel also directed more than 30 short documentaries featuring Pacific Islanders operating Okeanos vessels to communicate the benefits of Vaka Motu sailing canoes in the voices of those the boats are intended to serve. In addition, Ms. Seidel directed more than 40 shoots for the Okeanos feature film *Starchasers* and also wrote and co-directed the *Starchasers* trailer.

Key Okeanos successes led by Ms. Seidel include the 2017 “Oceans Peoples” exhibit in the United Nations lobby that she designed and prepared for the office of Mr. Peter Thomson, President of the United National General Assembly. The Okeanos “Oceans Peoples” exhibit remained in the UN visitors lobby for three months.

Ms. Seidel also organized the High Level Convening of Pacific leaders during the 2017 United Nations General Assembly announcing the regional Green Climate Fund proposal for Okeanos sustainable sea transportation in partnership with Palau’s President Tommy Remengesau, Nauru’s President Baran Waqa and FSM’s Vice President Yosiwo George.

Ms. Seidel also organized and prepared the COP23 Side Event “Sailing the Past Into the Future” featuring President Remengesau, RMI’s President Heine, FSM’s Vice President George and Dame Meg Taylor of the Pacific Island Forum to announce the launch of the regional Green Climate Fund proposal for a fleet of Okeanos modernized and sustainable sailing canoes.

In 2018, Ms. Seidel was invited by the Pacific Island Forum to present the Okeanos mission as part of a COP 24 High Level Panel Discussion “Understanding the Ocean and Climate Crosswalk - a Pacific Perspective” with Samoa Prime Minister Tuilaepa Aiono Sialele Malielegaoi.

At the end of 2019, the parties agreed it was time to move on to other endeavors, and Ms. Seidel left Okeanos Foundation for the Sea.

We wish Ms. Seidel well in her future endeavors.

Sincerely,

OKEANOS FOUNDATION FOR THE SEA

BY 

Dieter Paulmann, Founder and CEO