



Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge

The Way Forward



Vision

A healthy and bountiful Pacific Ocean that sustains the livelihoods and cultures of the Pacific peoples and contributes significantly to the health and economic vitality of the world



For further information, contact:
Mr Sakiusa Tuisolia, Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge Coordinator,
Email: sakiusa.tuisolia@iucn.org **Phone:** +679 331 9084
OR
Mr Taholo Kami, Regional Director, IUCN Oceania, Suva, Fiji Islands
Email: taholo.kami@iucn.org **Phone:** +679 331 9084

www.iucn.org/oceania

The Pacific Ocean

The Pacific Ocean covers 165.2 million square kilometers, an area larger than earth's total land area. It is the engine room of the earth's climate, playing an irreplaceable role in the planet's carbon and water cycles.

It supports the enormous biological diversity and ecosystems that directly support nearly 3 billion people who live in its 56 Pacific Island and Rim countries and territories (PIRCT), and the world at large through trade links.

Pacific Ocean Facts

Ocean Surface Area	165.2 million sq.km, or a third of the earth's total surface area and half the world's ocean area
Number of Pacific Island and Rim Countries and Territories	56
Number of Islands	25,000
Total Coastline	135,663 kilometers
Population of Pacific Island and Rim Countries and Territories	2.9 billion
Combined Economic value of PIRCT (Nominal GDP for 2008)	US \$34.7 trillion, or 57% of global GDP
Annual tuna harvest from the Pacific Ocean	60% of total global tuna catch

The Pacific Ocean is at Risk

The best science indicates that within our lifetime we can expect to see dramatic declines in the health of the Pacific Ocean and its ecosystems.

High population growth combined with unsustainable economic and other human activities is placing considerable pressures on the Pacific Ocean ecosystems.

Pollution, habitat destruction, overfishing, exploitation and climate change continue to contribute to its decline.

The impact on the PIRCT, if these forces continue unabated, will be devastating.

Scientific Reports Reaffirm Threats

The Pacific Ocean Synthesis Report and Scientific Consensus Statement, recently produced by the Centre for Ocean Solutions (COS) in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), presents a comprehensive picture of the threats confronting the Pacific Ocean.

The Case for a Unified Action

The Pacific Ocean Synthesis Report, which was recently endorsed by 400 scientists, calls for urgent and unified action, despite ongoing efforts in the region to address specific threats.

In recent years, efforts to conserve and sustainably manage the Pacific Ocean have intensified through the combined work

MAJOR THREATS FACING THE PACIFIC OCEAN



of Governments, Non-government organizations (NGOs) and private sector. Recently, there have been a number of major regional initiatives, such as the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy, the Coral Triangle and the Micronesian Challenge which have increased the scale of conservation activities throughout the Pacific Ocean.

Many of these activities have had some positive impacts. The overall results though are still considered to be inadequate to make a profound change in improving the health of the Pacific Ocean.

The need to organize a trans-Pacific response to address key threats to the Pacific Ocean has taken on an even greater urgency in the face of climate change. The increasing challenges demand a unified action on the part of governments, NGOs, private sector and Pacific communities. To address this breadth and scale of growing threats on the Pacific Ocean will require new kinds of commitments and partnerships at a scale not seen before.

New Commitments and Partnerships

IUCN has responded to this challenge by initiating the Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge in collaboration with Pacific governments, development partners, NGOs and donors. Its target is to achieve a healthy, sustainable and productive Pacific Ocean by the year 2020.

The Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge calls for a partnership between governments, scientific agencies, development partners and donors to build on existing Pacific Ocean management and conservation initiatives.

It calls for a increased level of integration of approaches and coordination of efforts.

The Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge calls for a consensus on developing a comprehensive governance framework to manage the Pacific Ocean.

The preparation and endorsement of the Pacific Ocean Synthesis Report and Scientific Consensus Statement were the first steps of the Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge.

Pacific Ocean Report – The Cost of Inaction

The next step is to identify the economic costs to the Pacific, and the world, if the current trend in declining Pacific Ocean conditions continue.

This calls for a compelling body of evidence on the economic costs of inaction and the benefits of investing in improved management of the Pacific Ocean. This case will be presented in the "Pacific Ocean Report - The Cost of Inaction" essentially a "stern like" report on the Pacific Ocean. The report will be a call to action and provide the basis for policy briefs and advocacy materials, to better manage the Pacific Ocean.

Ultimately it will be the leaders of the Pacific nations, the politicians and governments, and all key stakeholders, who will determine the fate of the Pacific Ocean.

PACIFIC OCEAN 2020 CHALLENGE: KEY STEPS



Once the Leaders have endorsed the "Pacific Ocean Report – The Cost of Inaction" the next step is for collaboration with donors and partners, to develop a Pacific Ocean 2020 Strategy.

The Strategy will build on regional policies and plans of action and provide a roadmap for achieving the vision for the Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge. It will address common problems in a coordinated manner and identify appropriate responses to the underlying causes. The Strategy will also identify a set of collective actions for an ecologically and economically healthy Pacific Ocean.

A Pacific Ocean Funding Mechanism will be set up to support the ongoing Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge activities. A regular Pacific Ocean Summit will be convened to ensure ongoing commitments and monitoring.

IUCN welcomes your support for this effort towards a healthy, sustainable and productive Pacific Ocean. We are all in this together.



A UNIQUE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

IUCN – The International Union for Conservation of Nature brings together 89 States, 120 government agencies, over 900 non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and over 10,000 scientists and experts from 181 countries in a unique global partnership.

IUCN's mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

IUCN has a global marine programme and regional offices in Asia, Central America, South America, Europe and Oceania as well as the USA serving a network of several hundred members in and around the Pacific Ocean.

IUCN generates knowledge through cutting-edge conservation science; supports the use of this knowledge in initiatives throughout the world; and then links both knowledge and results to influence local, national, regional and global policy, often through the convening dialogues between governments, civil society and the private sector.

In its initiatives, IUCN promotes sound ecosystem management to conserve biodiversity and build sustainable livelihoods for those directly dependent on natural resources. It is actively engaged in managing and restoring ecosystems and improving people's lives, economies and societies.

"The oceans are critical to supporting life. The base of the oceanic ecosystem provides most of the oxygen we breathe, so oceans are critical to our survival."

US President, Barack Obama, June 12, 2009.