

Report of a Meeting of the Marine Sector Working Group

(In association with the Pacific Islands Round Table Meeting)

Meeting of 5th-7th July 2010

Development Bank of Samoa, Apia, Samoa

Introduction and Background

The Marine Sector Working group (MSWG) dates back to the late 1990s, when its primary focus was on the development of the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy (PIROP), which was finally institutionalised in 2004-2005. Unfortunately, the PIROP has not had the impact that was expected at the time of its development, and has lost some visibility in recent years.

Following a proposal put forward by Kiribati at the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leader's 40th Meeting in 2009, the development of a Framework for Pacific Oceanscape (FfPO) was called for.

Subsequently, the MSWG met in February 2010 (after some hiatus) at the Secretariat of the Pacific Communities' (SPC) Land Resources Division Office in Nabua, Fiji.

At this meeting, two recommendations were made (see Annex B for details). The first concerned conducting a stocktake of the PIROP over the last five years; and the second was the development of the FfPO.

This report details the presentation of the results of these two recommendations, and other MSWG matters at the recent MSWG meeting held in Apia, Samoa; in association with the Pacific Islands RoundTable Meeting.

In the Beginning . . .

Jeff Kinch, the Coastal Management Advisor with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program welcomed participants (see Annex A for Participant details), and took the chair as representative of the organization hosting the meeting.

Participants were asked to introduce themselves and the work of their organizations, noting areas of relevance to marine issues.

The agenda was then explained by Jeff and adopted.

Reporting on Recommendation 1 – PIROP Stocktake

Jeff Kinch reported to the MSWG on activities by respective CROP agencies with regards to implementation of the PIROP over the last five years.

The stocktake of PIROP implementation highlighted significant progress, but this progress was not really attributable to the concerted implementation of PIROP, but more as a result of the work programmes of respective CROP agencies and direction from their governing councils.

See Annex C for the summary of activities by respective CROP agencies.

Following this presentation, there was some significant discussion on reporting purposes, as well as complimentary reporting from national and international Non-government Organisations (NGOs).

It was suggested that reporting be streamlined, and that a coordinated effort be conducted to ensure that reporting against the PIROP was actually done annually. It was also welcomed, the opportunity for NGOs to also provide reports with regards to the implementation of the PIROP.

IUCN Pacific 2020 Challenge

Before moving into the reporting of Recommendation 2, which deals with the FfPO; Taholo Kami, Director of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Oceania office provided a short presentation on the Pacific 2020 Challenge. This initiative focuses on 4 main threats: pollution; habitat destruction; overfishing; and climate change, and aims to engage the Pacific Rim countries, which it is hoped, will open the possibility of a holistic approach to ocean issues, as well as potentially garnering greater financial support.

Taholo Kami presented on the Pacific 2020 Challenge to help place it in the context of the FfPO.

Reporting on Recommendation 2 – Framework for Pacific Oceanscape

Cristelle Pratt provided a presentation on the FfPO. It was noted that the FfPO was of particular relevance to the PIROP and that the PIROP would remain as the over-arching umbrella policy with the FfPO providing a strategic way forward. It was also agreed that the in progressing the implementation of PIROP through the FfPO, that efforts should include exploring the complementary opportunities presented by other initiatives.

Following this presentation, a smaller group consisting of Andrew Smith, Coral Pasisi, Cristelle Pratt, Jeff Kinch, Lindsay Chapman, Randy Thaman, Samsoni Sauni, Sue Taei, and Taholo Kami was formed, and who meticulously went through the draft FfPO making appropriate changes and suggestions. Additional inputs were also provided by Carole Martinez, Colleen Corrigan, and Padma Lal. (See Annex A for affiliations).

A draft copy of the FfPO and accompanying brief to the PIFS can be found in Annex D.

Other Presentations

Carole Martinez, the Overseas Activities Regional Cooperation Coordinator of the French Marine Protected Areas Agency (FMPAA) provided a presentation on what this new agency is about. The FMPAA was established in 2006 and is dedicated to the conservation and sustainable management of marine ecosystems. It has three main aims, notably to support public policies in the field of marine protected areas concerning their creation and their management; to manage the human and financial resources dedicated to marine nature parks; and to give technical and administrative support to managers of marine protected areas, and technical assistance to the French Countries and Territories. Discussions around Carole's presentation focused on areas of support and synergies, especially attempting to link Tokelau with Wallis and Futuna, and Vanuatu and New Caledonia.

Colleen Corrigan, a Senior Program Officer with the United Nations Environment Program's World Conservation Monitoring Centre then gave a presentation on the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative. This initiative seeks to establish and support international scientific collaboration to assist States and relevant regional and global organisations to identify ecologically significant areas using the best available scientific data, tools, and methods; to provide guidance on how the United Nation's Convention on Biological Diversity's scientific criteria can be interpreted and applied towards management, including representative networks of marine protected areas; and to assist in developing regional analyses with relevant organisations and stakeholders. Discussions around Colleen's presentation focussed on gaps in species data.

Lindsay Chapman, SPC's Coastal Program Manager then highlighted a forthcoming workshop to be held at SPC to investigate ways that NGOs could assist with initiatives under SPC's work programmes. This meeting is planned for later in 2010.

Other Business and Administrative Arrangements

Sandeep Singh, the Regional Environment Specialist with United States Embassy tabled the possibility of having the MSWG also accommodate the Pacific Islands RoundTable's (PIRT) Oceanic Fisheries Working Group (OFWG). The OFWG was established in 2008, but only had/has four members and has met a couple of times in Fiji. There are obvious synergies between the OFWG and the MSWG.

After further discussion and clarification of the role of the MSWG by Coral Pasisi, PIFS's Regional and International Issues Adviser it was decided to leave this issue for the time being as the PIRT Working Groups and the CROP Working Groups, whilst having similar roles, do have different mandates and operational guidance.

Flowing on from this was the possibility of linking the MSWG with the PIRT (and the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation) and the Climate Change RoundTable. It was noted that these forums differ from the role of the MSWG, though if enough members of the MSWG were at these forums or others, then they should take advantage of the opportunity and meet.

Discussions then centred on the opportunities and possibilities of having other agencies/actors join the MSWG (see Guidelines for the MSWG in Annex E). After some further clarification from Coral, it was decided that in principal that this would be beneficial, but has the MSWG is formulated to address issues raised by the Leaders , that assistance from NGOs, etc. would and could be on a 'as needs basis'.

It was agreed that other organizations would be invited to join meetings/activities when the MSWG was considering relevant topics, and that NGOs/agencies/actors with an interest in marine issues were invited to 'register' their interest in becoming part of technical and resource pool that could support the MSWG.

Samsoni Sauni, the Fisheries Management Adviser with the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) relayed a request from his Director that be allowed to act as a co-Convener to the MSWG. This has practical merit given the recent 'Fish for the Future' study and that other CROP Working Groups have similar arrangements. Members of the MSWG present agreed in principal with this, and further discussion should be held between FFA and Mike Batty of SPC who is the incumbent MSWG Convener for the two-year period 2010/2011 to discuss how this would work.

Closure

The meeting ended with a round of thanks to all, particularly to Conservation International for providing the funds to allow the contracting of a consultant to develop the FfPO.

Annex A: Participant details

Name	Job Title	Organisation	Email Address	5th June	6th June	7th June
Andrew Smith	Coastal Fisheries Management Director	TNC	andrew_smith@tnc.org	✓	✓	✓
Annie Wheeler	Community Outreach and Education Manager (Acting)	Department of Conservation (New Zealand)	awheeler@doc.govt.nz	✓	✓	.
Anthony Talouli	Marine Pollution Adviser	SPREP	anthonyt@sprep.org	.	.	✓
Bernard O'Callaghan	Regional Program Coordinator	IUCN Oceania	bernard.ocallaghan@iucn.org	✓	✓	✓
Carole Martinez	Overseas Activities Regional Cooperation Coordinator	French Marine Protected Areas Agency	carole.martinez@aires-marines.fr	✓	✓	.
Caroline Vieux	Coral Reef Management Officer	SPREP	carolinev@sprep.org	✓	✓	✓
Catherine Siota	Associate Turtle Database Officer	SPREP	catherines@prep.org	✓	.	.
Colleen Corrigan	Senior Program Officer	UNEP-WCMC	Colleen.Corrigan@unep-wcmc.org	✓	✓	✓
Coral Pasisi	Regional and International Issues Adviser	PIFS	coralp@forumsec.org.fj	✓	✓	✓
Cristelle Pratt	International Consultant in Transition		crisp4t@gmail.com	✓	✓	✓
David Sheppard	Director	SPREP	davids@sprep.org	✓	.	.
Etika Rupeni	Pacific Islands Roundtable Regional Coordinator	IUCN/FSPI	etika.rupeni@fspi.org.fj	✓	✓	.
Greg Sherley	Tasks Manager	UNEP	greg.sherley@undp.org	✓	✓	.
Jackie Thomas	Pacific Policy Officer	WWF	jthomas@wwfpacific.org.fj	✓	✓	✓
Jeff Kinch	Coastal Management Adviser	SPREP	jeffreyk@sprep.org	✓	✓	✓
Kosi Latu	Deputy Director	SPREP	kosil@sprep.org	.	✓	.
Lindsay Chapman	Coastal Fisheries Program Manager	SPC	LindsayC@spc.int	✓	✓	✓
Maxine Anjiga	Executive Director	PNG Centre for Locally Managed Areas	maxine.pngclma@gmail.com	✓	.	.
Modi Pontio	PNG Program Manager	CI	mpontio@conservation.org	✓	.	.
Olivier Tyack	Islands Program Officer	IUCN (Switzerland)	olivier.tyack@iucn.org	.	.	✓
Padma Lal	Chief Technical Adviser	IUCN Oceania	padma.lal@iucn.org	✓	✓	✓
Pam Seeto	Regional Advisor	Packard Foundation	pseeto@packard.org	✓	✓	.
Paul Anderson	Marine Conservation Analyst	SPREP	paula@sprep.org	.	✓	✓
Paul Lokani	Marine Policy and Finance Director	TNC	plokani@TNC.org	✓	✓	✓
Randy Thaman	Professor of Pacific Islands Biogeography	USP	thaman_r@usp.ac.fj	✓	✓	✓
Samasoni Sauni	Fisheries Management Adviser	FFA	samasoni.sauni@ffa.int	✓	✓	✓
Sandeep Singh	Regional Environment Specialist	US Embassy (Fiji)	ssingh0090@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓
Scott Radway	Manager, Asia Pacific Program	SeaWeb	sradway@seawek.org	✓	✓	.
Sue Taei	CI Marine Director	CI	staei@conservation.org	✓	✓	✓
Tagaloa Cooper	Regional Coordination and Communications Adviser	SOPAC	tagaloa@sopac.org	.	.	✓
Taholo Kami	Regional Director	IUCN Oceania	Taholo.Kami@iucn.org	✓	✓	✓

Annex B: recommendations from MSWG Meeting in February 2010

Recommendation for action 1:

- a) The MSWG should submit a brief report (2-3 pages) to the 2010 Forum on implementation of the PIROP in the last 5 years (PIROP +5).
- b) This should cover the main achievements, in bullet point form, under each of the 5 principles (improving our understanding of the ocean; sustainably developing and managing the use of ocean resources; maintaining the health of the ocean; promoting the peaceful use of the ocean; and creating partnerships and promoting cooperation).
- c) It will highlight the positioning of the policy relative to broader initiatives such as the IUCN Pacific 2020 Challenge, and more specific proposals like the Oceanscape initiative, as well as their consistency with the PIROP.
- d) It will propose a review of the policy, mainly to incorporate climate change issues, but also noting progress with the declaration of marine protected areas and any other initiatives.

The meeting proposed that **Jeff Kinch** of SPREP should take the lead in developing the paper. In the event that he is unable to do so, SPC as convener will take on the responsibility. **All other participants** will contribute brief statements of the highlights of their work over the last 5 years under the relevant headings (up to 4- 5 bullet points per organization) by the end of February. The draft will be circulated electronically to members of the group and finalized in good time for the Forum Officials meeting in July.

Recommendation for action 2:

- a) A consultant, with expertise in the development of protected areas, will be engaged to prepare a draft framework document.
- b) The consultancy will be supervised by SPREP with funding provided by Conservation International.
- c) The consultant will work closely with the Kiribati Government as well as members of the MSWG.
- d) The framework report will be completed within four months, and will be presented to national environment agency contact points at the Nature Conservation Roundtable in Apia as well as the Forum Officials Committee (both meetings in July).

It was suggested that **Jeff Kinch** of SPREP take the lead in engaging a consultant. If he is not available then he will suggest an appropriate alternate in the organization. **Sue Tai** will liaise regarding C.I. funding and will also keep relevant officials in Kiribati informed of progress. **Members of the MSWG** will provide suggestions for a shortlist of possible consultants to SPREP, and comment on the draft framework when ready.



PACIFIC PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING

13 – 14 JULY 2010, SUVA, FIJI

PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIONAL OCEANS POLICY STOCKTAKE

Purpose

This paper provides a stocktake of actions by respective Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies in implementing the Pacific Islands regional Oceans Policy (PIROP) since its endorsement at the 33rd Pacific Islands Forum, in 2002; and its official completion in 2005.

Background

Following the Pacific Regional Follow-up Workshop on the Implementation of the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention in 1995, the Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum endorsed the development of a PIROP at the 30th Pacific Islands Forum Meeting in 1999.

The development of the PIROP was thus tasked to the CROP Marine Sector Working Group (MSWG).

The PIROP is thus supported by the 22 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTS) and underscores the continuing importance of ocean and coastal resources and environments to the region's nations, communities and individuals.

In supporting the development of a Framework for the Pacific Oceanscape (FfPO) which had been reported in the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leader's communiqué from their 40th Meeting in 2009, the MSWG in its February 2010 meeting recommended that as part of the FfPO process that a stock take be conducted of progress of implementing the PIROP and its Integrated Strategic Actions.

The stock take of progress of PIROP implementation has highlighted significant progress, but this progress is not attributed to the concerted implementation of PIROP, but more as a result of the work programmes of respective CROP agencies and direction from their governing councils.

A summary of activity highlights that are aligned to the Principles of the PIROP and are attributable to the programmes of the respective CROP agencies, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), and the University of the South Pacific (USP) are detailed below.

PIROP Principle 1: Improving our understanding of the ocean

All respective CROP agencies have been involved in extensive research activities and the collection and collation of informational resources. This includes specific baseline surveys on fisheries, invertebrates and fisher communities by SPC; as well as their continual stock assessment and tagging programmes for the Pacific's tuna resources. USP coordinates the South-west Pacific Node of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), which comprises several PICTS; and supports activities of the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Areas. USP and SPREP have through various programmes and activities conducted research on climate change, human security, ocean management, sustainable governance, and livelihood activities. SOPAC has acquired or developed significant of geological, geophysical, oceanographic and hydrographic

data and baselines to inform resource and environmental management, economic development, coastal vulnerability assessment, natural disaster management and climate change adaptation in PICTs.

SPREP also has significant resources catalogued and available through their website and collaborative information portals such as the Pacific Islands Regional Marine Resources Systems [<http://www.pimrisportal.org/>] and ReefBase Pacific. SOPAC holds a range of data-bases including petroleum, deep-sea minerals, maritime boundaries, etc. SPC has developed national tuna databases, and also established the Fisheries Digital Library, which is available through their website and is also available on DVD.

Technical capacity building in PICTs utilizing country-specific and regional data sets is also an ongoing activity by the respective CROP agencies. For example, FFA supports a Train-Sea-Coast Course, while USP coordinates the Pacific Islands Community Conservation Course. Some CROP agencies, such as SPREP and FFA offer internships and attachments. FFA also provides scholarships through the FFA Japanese Promotion Fund.

All respective CROP agencies have collaborative arrangement, not only amongst themselves, but also with other national, regional and international partners, and provide ongoing technical assistance and advice to various PICTs, either for direct use, or to inform delegations attending various international, regional, sub-regional and country forums.

PIROP Principle 2: Sustainably developing and managing the use of ocean resources

All respective CROP agencies are involved in providing country specific information for management purposes, as well as supporting legislative reviews and/or policy development. SPC has developed the ‘*Apia Policy*’ to guide future management of coastal resources. SOPAC has developed regional and national policy frameworks to guide best practice exploitation of ocean resources such as deep sea minerals and aggregates; as well as supporting PICs to develop solutions to demarcating their maritime boundaries baselines, marine zones, outer limits and shared boundaries.

All respective CROP agencies support PICTs with compliance issues related to various Multilateral Environment Agreements.

FFA has been heavily involved with developing management and domestication options for tuna fisheries in the Pacific, including the Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Strategy, the Regional Observer Program Implementation Strategy, the Regional Vessel Monitoring System, etc. SPC has also been involved with the training of observers to achieve 100% coverage on tuna purse seiners. USP has been supporting research into sustainable development in coastal communities in several PICs.

PIROP Principle 3: Maintaining the health of the ocean

All respective CROP agencies are involved through their core work programmes on activities that support care of the ocean, and its ongoing health. For examples, SOPAC has developed hydrodynamic modelling and habitat mapping tools to support improved coastal resource management. SPC has supported efforts to reduce by-catch of endangered species (e.g. deep setting technique, training in turtle handling and release, etc.). Both SPC and SPREP have improved PICT’s capacity to handle marine pollution, particularly oil spills, in the region’s ports.

All respective CROP agencies support PICTs with compliance issues related to various Multilateral Environment Agreements.

SPREP has developed the ‘*Pacific Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy*’, the ‘*Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Program Action Strategy*’, the ‘*Marine Species Action Strategy*’, and the ‘*Guidelines*

for Invasive Species in the Pacific Region' in partnership with other CROP agencies and other stakeholders. SPREP has also supported several PICTs to implement actions towards developing whale sanctuaries. Other regional policy instruments supported by the respective CROP agencies include the '*Noumea Convention*', the '*Waigani Convention*', the '*Wellington Convention*', etc; as well as various agreements related to the management of tuna resources.

The removal of persistent organic pollutants was supported by both USP and SPREP.

PIROP Principle 4: Promoting the peaceful use of the ocean

All respective CROP agencies are involved in the production of a wide range of educational awareness materials. SPREP with other national and regional partners have supported the Tavaru Expedition, with traditionally inspired sailing canoes visiting several PICTs. SPC and SPREP have supported efforts to upgrade port security in the wake of 9/11 to allow Pacific Island countries to continue trading. SOPAC has developed strong cooperative regional partnerships between PICs to progress the development of Article 76 submissions and marine boundary zone delimitation; and maintained a regional approach to important resource issues such as deep sea mineral mining policy development in PICs.

Other regional co-operative arrangements, such as the conservation and management measures of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation, and the Te Vaka Moana Cooperation Agreement also address the equitable use of the Pacific's resources. The increased support for mitigating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is also supported by FFA and SPC.

Several legal reviews have been conducted by the respective CROP agencies, and more recently USP produced a new Marine Affairs courses on Sustainable Fisheries and Ocean Law and Policy.

PIROP Principle 5: Creating partnerships and promoting cooperation

All respective CROP agencies have a range of MoUs developed and continued with other respective CROP agencies, and other national, regional and international bodies. Various networks for information dissemination have been devised, and all respective CROP agencies are involved in the provision of specialist expert technical representation of PICT's interests to bodies and for a. Several CROP agencies have collaborated to produce joint proposals to address issues related to ocean management. USP and FFA have devised scholarship programmes that also foster partnerships and promote cooperation.



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

PAPER REF: PIFS (10) PPAC – 15.1

PACIFIC PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING

13 – 14 JULY 2010, SUVA, FIJI

UPDATE OF PROGRESS MADE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
FRAMEWORK FOR PACIFIC OCEANSCAPE

Purpose

This paper outlines progress on implementing the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leader's decision at their 40th Meeting in Cairns, August 2009, for the development of a framework for Pacific Oceanscape

Background

2. Leaders approved a concept for a Pacific Oceanscape at their 40th meeting in August 2009 when they “welcomed the Pacific Oceanscape concept and its companion Pacific Ocean Arc initiative tabled by Kiribati aimed at increasing marine protected area investment, learning and networking.” Leaders “tasked the Secretariat, together with relevant CROP agencies and key partners, to develop a framework for the Pacific Oceanscape, drawing on the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy as a priority area for attention under the Pacific Plan“.

3. The Oceanscape concept note provide by Kiribati focused on three main components as they relate to Ocean conservation and management, being:

- a. Pacific Ocean Arc – development of large marine protected areas;
- b. Climate Change and Ocean Security and governance; and
- c. Leadership and Learning.

4. The Pacific Ocean Arc component aims to foster development of terrestrial and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), based on the natural archipelagic nature of some Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), including consideration of territorial domains associated with Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), and opportunities for protected areas beyond these EEZs, in the surrounding high seas. For many such archipelagos, the implementation of Ocean Arcs will necessitate a trans-boundary approach which will require collaboration between PICTs.

5. The Climate Change and Ocean Security component recognizes the emerging issues of the marine impacts of climate change, including ocean acidification and increasing ocean temperatures. This component also aims to investigate ocean governance issues including the security of EEZs and associated management and monitoring of high seas areas.

6. The Leadership and Learning component cuts across the first two components in that it seeks to support learning across initiatives, for example, to share the lessons learned in different sorts of protected areas, and to support targeted research, learning and leadership in key areas.

7. Finally, the use of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), other conventions, agreements and policies embodies a key set of issues including the above components. In this respect, the Framework for Pacific Oceanscape reaffirms the importance of these agreements and assists in facilitating their further implementation in the region.

8. Leaders also requested that the development of the Framework draw on the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy (PIROP) as a priority area for attention under the Pacific Plan. The PIROP and its Integrated Strategic Action Plan cover a broad range of issues related to ocean management, all of which are still highly relevant today and require attention for implementation. A stock take of progress of PIROP implementation highlighted significant progress has been made in most areas. However this progress was not attributed to the concerted implementation of PIROP, but more as a result of the work programmes of

respective regional organisations and direction from their governing councils. The lack of a strong integrated governance and dedicated partnership mechanism to facilitate a coordinated and holistic approach to the implementation of PIROP was acknowledged as a significant contributing factor to this ad hoc implementation of the policy. This seems to have been a similar case at the national level.

Response

9. In response to the 2009 Leaders' decision, the CROP Marine Sector Working Group (MSWG) convened a meeting to address, amongst others things, the status of PIROP and the development of the Framework for Pacific Oceanscape (FfPO). It found the Oceanscape initiative to be well aligned with the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy (PIROP) and considered other ongoing initiatives with similar objectives towards sustainable development, management and conservation of the Pacific Ocean.

10. The MSWG undertook a stock take of the implementation of PIROP since its endorsement in 2004 which identified progress, gaps and emerging issues as well as assessed the continued relevance of PIROP. It also commissioned a consultancy to develop the Framework for Pacific Oceanscape which would draw on the experiences with PIROP, and facilitate its reinvigorated implementation with a particular focus on aspects outlined in the Oceanscape concept. It further considered the connection of these efforts with a number of other ongoing Ocean related initiatives with obvious links and common objectives, such as the Pacific Ocean 2020 challenge being promoted by IUCN.

Outcomes

11. On the basis of a TOR developed by the MSWG, and through considerable consultation with relevant regional and national stakeholders, the consultancy produced a draft Framework for Pacific Oceanscape. This draft was provided for final input from, and consideration of the MSWG convened as part of the Roundtable on Nature Conservation 5-7 July, 2009. The final product of this work is an operational framework called the Framework for Pacific Oceanscape (**Attachment 1**). This Framework draws largely on the objectives of the Pacific Plan, PIROP and the briefing paper that was presented by Kiribati to Leaders in 2009. Consultation for its development included partners and country stakeholders and takes into consideration a number of existing and developing initiatives with similar objectives towards sustainable development, management and conservation of our Pacific Ocean.

12. The stock take of PIROP implementation is provided separately and acknowledges the continued relevance of the regional policy as well as identifies a few areas in the PIROP that may require expanding on and updating, including Climate Change, links with other Pacific Plan priorities and relevant regional policy instruments.

13. It was acknowledged that many of the threats to the Pacific Ocean, as well as the capacity required to effectively address these and build our resilience, comes from countries outside the scope of PIROP and the Framework for Pacific Oceanscape. To this end, the importance of engaging and building partnerships with these entities was emphasised. Accordingly the MSWG acknowledged the merits of efforts to build alliances with other Pacific Rim countries through initiatives such as the Pacific Ocean 2020 and the need to further explore links between this initiative when progressing the objectives of PIROP and the implementation of the Framework for Pacific Oceanscape.

Recommendations:

11. PPAC is invited to:
 - a. **Note** the continued relevance of PIROP including the need to expand on aspects of the policy in relation to climate change and links with other Pacific Plan priorities and relevant regional policy instruments;
 - b. **Agree** that the proposed Framework for Pacific Oceanscape provides a strategic way forward in response to the Leaders 2009 decision, and submit it to Leaders for their consideration and endorsement;
 - c. **Agree** that in progressing the implementation of PIROP, and the Framework for Pacific Oceanscape, efforts should include exploring the complementary opportunities presented by other initiatives.

Our Sea of Islands – Our Livelihoods – Our Oceania

Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape

Table of Contents

Framework Purpose	12
Introduction	12
The Policy and Legal Context	12
Framework principles, scope and vision	13
Framework objectives.....	15
Strategic priorities and actions	15
Strategic priority 1 – Jurisdictional Rights and Responsibilities.....	15
Strategic priority 2 – Good Ocean Governance.....	16
Strategic priority 3 – Sustainable development, management and conservation	17
Strategic priority 4 - Listening, Learning, Liaising and Leading	18
Strategic priority 5 – Sustaining action	19
Strategic priority 6 – Adapting to a rapidly changing environment	20

Our Sea of Islands – Our Livelihoods – Our Oceania

Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape

“Oceania is vast, Oceania is expanding, Oceania is hospitable and generous, Oceania is humanity rising from the depths of brine and regions of fire deeper still, Oceania is us. We are the sea, we are the ocean, we must wake up to this ancient truth”

Framework Purpose

At the 40th Pacific Islands Forum convened in Cairns Australia in August 2009, the Republic of Kiribati shared with its Forum siblings a vision for a secure future for Pacific Island Nations based on ocean conservation and management, under its Pacific Oceanscape concept. They suggested that the success of a Pacific Oceanscape will be predicated on strong Forum **leadership** and Regional **cooperation**, responding to national development aspirations and priorities which in turn would foster and focus attention on critical issues such as climate change effects and impacts on Pacific peoples, their islands and their Ocean. In the communiqué:

Leaders welcomed the Pacific Oceanscape concept and its companion Pacific Ocean Arc initiative tabled by Kiribati aimed at increasing marine protected area investment, learning and networking. Leaders tasked the Secretariat, together with relevant CROP agencies and key partners, to develop a framework for the Pacific Oceanscape, drawing on the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy, as a priority area for attention under the Pacific Plan.

This document contains the proposed Framework for the Pacific Oceanscape as envisaged by Pacific Forum Leaders. It is developed as an implementation tool for the PIROP and related ocean and marine priorities of the Pacific Plan.

Introduction

In our Pacific Islands Ocean Region the ocean unites and divides, connects and separates, sustains and threatens our very survival. For all those who venture within this, the world’s largest ocean, and who have made it their home the ocean influences every aspect of life. It has done so for millennia.

In essence the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape is seen as a catalyst for action for our Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy to protect, manage, maintain and sustain the cultural and natural integrity of the ocean for our ancestors and future generations and indeed for global well-being. The ‘Pacific Oceanscape’ is a vehicle to build pride, leadership, learning and cooperation across this ocean environment. Overall the intent is to foster stewardship at scale – local, national, regional and international to ensure in perpetuity the health and wellbeing of our ocean and ourselves.

The Policy and Legal Context

The pre-eminent regional policy guidance on ocean and natural resource management are the Pacific Island Regional Ocean Policy¹ and the Pacific Plan². Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) have also committed to a plethora of other policy and legal agreements and frameworks at national, regional and international levels that relate to and have implications for the sustainable development and use of the islands, coasts, seas and ocean within the Region.

¹ Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy refer - www.spc.int/piocean/MSWG/PIROP/

² Pacific Plan refer - www.forumsec.org.fj/pages.cfm/about-us/the-pacific-plan/

Of key relevance to a Framework for Pacific Oceanscape are the ratification of multi-lateral environmental and management agreements and the endorsement of companion regional policy instruments for the sea³, biological diversity⁴, climate change⁵ and pollution⁶; as well as endorsement of more encompassing frameworks for sustainable development such as the Johannesburg Programme of Action⁷ and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS⁸, which are complemented by regional instruments such as the Pacific Plan³ and the Pacific the Islands Regional Ocean Policy² (PIROP).

For these international and regional instruments to achieve their objectives and their purpose considered effort and support for the implementation of national policies and plans of action such as National Sustainable Development Strategies or National Development Planning instruments, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) is necessary.

In preparation for this Framework a policy analysis⁹ of national, regional and international instruments and commitments was made.

Framework principles, scope and vision

In recognising the importance of building on existing policies and agreements, the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape supports implementation of the PIROP through catalyzing efforts and creating synergies, with emphasis on those elements that relate to integrated ocean management and biodiversity conservation.

Principles

The guiding principles are drawn from the PIROP and Pacific Plan, as the pre-eminent regional policy instruments for our ocean, good governance, sustainable development and, peace and security:

Improving ocean governance - to engage leaders, decision-makers, resource custodians and other stakeholders to establish, strengthen, and implement appropriate and practical governance mechanisms that contribute to effective coordination and implementation for a healthy ocean that sustains the livelihoods of Pacific Island people

Sustainably developing and managing the use of ocean resources - to develop and embrace practices, approaches and processes that promote sustainable ocean resource use, development and management based on existing experiences and foreseeable levels of national funding and capacity to address challenges of isolation and infrastructure. In order to replenish, sustain and increase our knowledge base, it is necessary to generate new knowledge about the oceans upon which our way of life depends. Fundamental to the sustained generation of new knowledge and capacity is the continuing education of a cadre of scientists and policy makers. Educating and training people within the region is the best strategy for ensuring the continuity of marine understanding and replenishment of knowledge

³ United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea – refer <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention.../unclos/> , WCPFC – <http://www.wcpfc.int/doc/wcpfc6-200907/status-convention> refer SPRFMO – refer www.southpacificrfmo.org Regional Management and Development Strategy refer www.ffa.int

⁴ Convention on Biological Diversity – refer <http://www.cbd.int/convention/>

⁵ United National Framework Convention for Climate Change – refer http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/ and Pacific Framework for Action on Climate Change – refer <http://www.sprep.org/legal/international/htm>

⁶ among others for pollution, London Convention 1972 - refer <http://www.imo.org/> ; London Protocol 1996 refer - <http://www.imo.org/> ; MarPol 2 October 1983 ; Basel Convention 1992 refer - <http://www.basel.int/text/documents.html>

⁷ Johannesburg Program of Implementation refer - www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD.../WSSD_PlanImpl.pdf

⁸ Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Program of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS refer - www.un.int/mauritius/.../Mauritius_Strategy_latest_version.pdf

⁹ Toward a Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape – a Policy Analysis (Pratt and Govan, 2010)

Maintaining the health of the ocean - to reduce the negative impacts of human activities and implement measures that protect and conserve biodiversity by ensuring that the lack of full scientific certainty of the causes and effects of damage to the ocean should not be a reason for delaying action to prevent such damage and that polluters should bear the cost of pollution, wherein damage costs should be reflected in benefit cost assessments of actions affecting the ocean environment.

Improving our understanding of the ocean - to improve the availability, management, use and dissemination of information targeted at better-informed decision-making and increased support for practical ocean management that embraces precautionary management approaches that are more robust where comprehensive scientific understanding and intensive monitoring are difficult.

Ocean security – has economic, environmental, political, and military dimensions which seek to discourage and reduce unacceptable, illicit, criminal or other activities that are contrary to regional and international agreements and threaten our ocean, the major source of livelihood for Pacific Island people.

Partnerships and cooperation – effective implementation will be founded on developing strong partnerships and, fostering cooperation and inclusiveness.

Scope

The geographic scope of this Framework mirrors that of PIROP, which is *that part of the Pacific Ocean in which the island countries and territories (Pacific Communities), that are members of the organizations comprising the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) are found. As such, the extent of the region includes not only the area within the 200 nautical miles Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) boundaries circumscribing these island countries, but also the ocean and coastal areas that encompass the extent of the marine ecosystems that support the region. The ‘ocean’ is defined to include the waters of the ocean, the living and non-living elements within, the seabed beneath and the ocean atmosphere and ocean-island interfaces (Figure 1).*

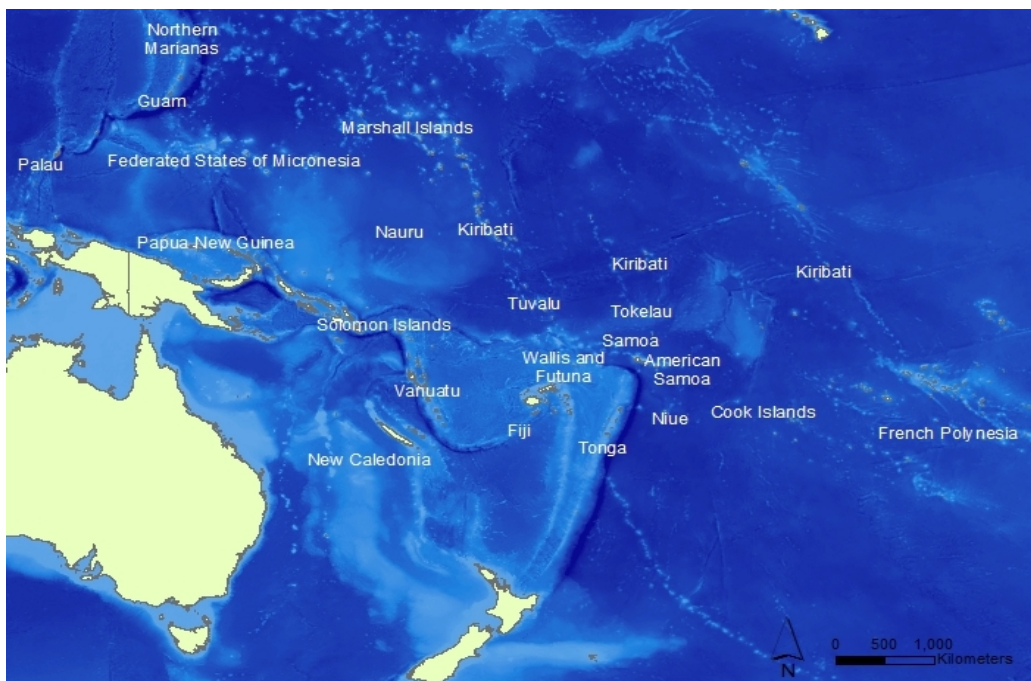


Figure 1: Pacific Islands Ocean Region

Vision

As an operational, living instrument supporting a broader regional ocean policy, the *Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape* has the overarching vision of:

A secure future for Pacific Island Countries and Territories based on sustainable development, management and conservation of our Ocean.

Framework objectives

The following broad objectives seek to achieve the goal for a Pacific Oceanscape and will initially address six strategic priorities identified for immediate implementation under the Framework:

Integrated Ocean Management – to focus on integrated ocean management at all scales that results in the sustainable development, management and conservation of our island, coastal and ocean services that responds to Pacific Island countries development aspirations and, ensuring and maintaining environmental health and ecological function.

Adaptation to Environmental and Climate Change - to develop suitable baselines and monitoring strategies that will inform impact scenarios and specific understanding of environmental and climate change stressors. Only through empirical understanding can Pacific peoples develop and pursue effective, appropriate and sustained adaptation responses and solutions. Solutions need to consider the full range of ocean and island environments and articulate the limits to adaptation and provide appropriate responses. Better information and understanding of these impacts will facilitate a confident and united engagement at regional and international levels.

Liaising, Listening, Learning and Leading - to articulate and use appropriate facilitative and collaborative processes, mechanisms and systems and research that results in the achievement of the objectives for Integrated Ocean Management and Adaptation to Environmental and Climate Change, while mindful of the interests, rights, responsibilities and differences between partners and stakeholders.

Strategic priorities and actions

Strategic priority 1 – Jurisdictional Rights and Responsibilities

Establishing jurisdictional rights and responsibilities over maritime zones.

“Together with our EEZs, the area of the earth’s surface that most of our countries occupy can no longer be called small”

The majority of maritime boundaries in the Pacific are yet to be negotiated and declared (Figure 2), despite their importance for ocean management and securing interests such as fisheries rights to access, exploit and conserve, the exploration and mining of minerals, oil and gas resources, biological diversity conservation, navigation and military uses.

Action 1a – PICs formalise maritime boundaries and secure rights over their resources

Pacific Island Countries, as States Parties to UNCLOS, should in their national interest, deposit with the United Nations, base-point coordinates as well as charts and information delineating their maritime zones as a requisite to establishing and securing their rights and responsibilities over these large areas of ocean space.

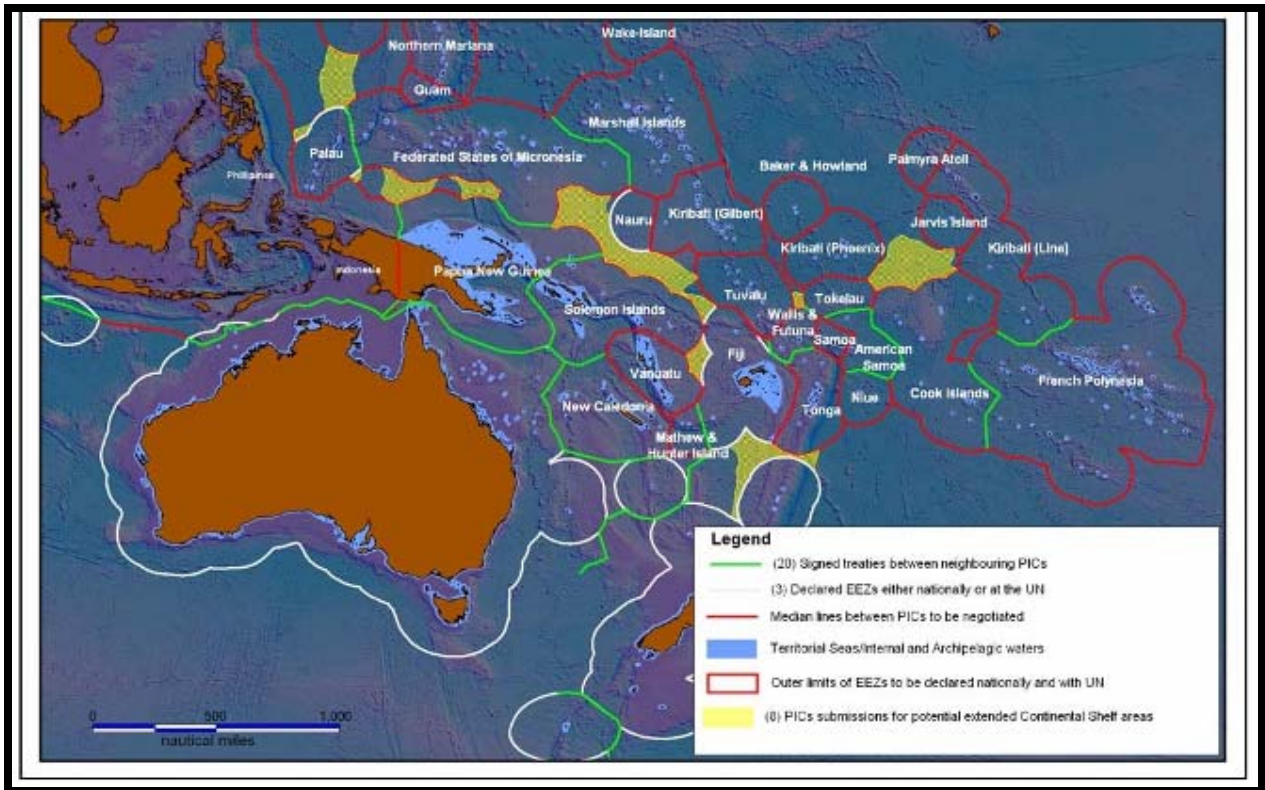


Figure 2: Status of maritime boundaries in the Pacific (SOPAC 2010).

Action 1b – Regional effort to fix baselines and maritime boundaries to ensure the impact of climate change and sea-level rise does not result in reduced jurisdiction of PICTs

Once the maritime boundaries are legally established, the implications of climate change, sea-level rise and environmental change on the highly vulnerable baselines that delimit the maritime zones of Pacific Island Countries and Territories should be addressed. This could be a united regional effort that establishes baselines and maritime zones so that areas could not be challenged and reduced due to climate change and sea-level rise.

Strategic priority 2 – Good Ocean Governance

Setting policies and plans of action that promote the sustainable management and development of our ocean and its resources

“No people on earth are more suited to be guardians of the world’s largest ocean than those for whom it has been home for generations.”

Our elders and forefathers understood the ocean and islands as one and made decisions that incorporated present and future interests across peoples and territories. We need to build appropriate frameworks that provide the best chances of successfully managing our resources in an integrated and sustainable way, drawing on our heritage and more recent best practices, standards and limits set by our communities and leaders, and international bodies.

Institutions that are a legacy of other cultures and places need to be adapted to the realities and strengths of the Pacific way and in particular the capacity for dialogue and consensus across cultures and distances to reach a common goal. Governance of our natural heritage should be built on the capacity of our most

valued resource, people and communities, based on their traditional ties of stewardship to the land and sea. This local guardianship will need to be supported and coordinated by government institutions that have regained the wider perspective of sustainable development, management and conservation to facilitate dialogue including the interests of other groups. This coordination role, supported by inter-governmental organizations, includes overview of emerging issues and threats and international dimensions as well as management of the resources that sit outside the community purview, for geographical or other reasons. We call for support in developing this vision and practical aspects of institutionalizing this will need to emerge from the different national processes, some of which have made advances already.

Action 2a – Leaders mandate a strengthening of the regional institutional framework for ocean governance and policy coordination.

Establishment of a Regional Ocean Commissioner, with dedicated professional support, would provide the necessary high level representation and commitment that is urgently required to ensure dedicated advocacy and attention to ocean priorities, decisions and processes at national, regional and international levels.

Action 2b – Foster partnerships to integrate and implement ocean priorities in the Pacific Plan and other relevant regional and international instruments

Establishment of a Regional Ocean Alliance/ Partnership mechanism facilitated by the Regional Ocean Commissioner to provide effective ocean policy coordination and implementation, facilitate regional cooperation for the high seas, as well as support for national ocean governance and policy processes when required. This should include the context for support and streamlining to achieve national commitments to MEAs. Inter-regional cooperation should be developed and fostered.

Action 2c – PICTs incorporate sustainable use and development of coastal and ocean priorities in national development policy and planning

Ocean governance guidance should be incorporated into national policy and planning, seeking to lay out specific implementation responsibilities, strategies and appropriate national budget allocations for integrated management and sustainable use of coastal and oceanic resources. This aims to offer a practical and inclusive approach to ocean and coastal issues building on existing processes rather than creating more policy documentation.

Action 2d – PICTs design and/or consolidate clear coordinated institutional mechanism for integrated ocean and coastal management

Embracing integrated national approaches to ocean and coastal management across relevant sectors such as fisheries, minerals, transport, tourism, energy and environment will require institutional reform seeking to avoid duplication and clarifying responsibilities in the interests of cost effectiveness and efficiency.

Strategic priority 3 – Sustainable development, management and conservation
Putting policy into action to reclaim stewardship of the ocean as core to our Island livelihoods in a rapidly changing world.

“The importance of our ocean for the stability of the global environment, for meeting a significant proportion of the world’s protein requirements, for the production of certain marine resources in waters that are relatively clear of pollution, for the global reserves of mineral

resources, among others has been increasingly recognised and puts paid to the notion that Oceania is the hole in the doughnut.”

The heart of sustainable management, use and conservation of the Pacific Islands Ocean Region is translating the culture of ocean stewardship into effective management action. Significant threats and challenges face our islands and ocean including overfishing, depletion of resources, habitat damage, pollution, invasive species, inappropriate land management practices, and climate change. The management systems developed should above all build on our strengths of knowledge and culture as oceanic peoples to ensure cost effective management that can be sustained with a maximum of self reliance. Traditional and new tools are at our disposal including processes for dialogue and action by resource owners and users, large and locally-managed marine areas, protected areas, specific species sanctuaries, as well as zone-based management and use measures for target and non-target resources.

Action 3a – PICTs implement integrated coastal resource management arrangements drawing on the strengths and traditions of community, district, provincial and national levels of government to achieve sustainable island life

PICTs are increasingly demonstrating the key role their communities play in managing local resources. These efforts should be supported and coordinated at provincial and national levels to ensure enforcement and information is supplemented where necessary and that wider ecosystem and national interests can be incorporated into joint action.

Action 3b – PICTs explore and build on marine spatial planning mechanisms for improved EEZ management to achieve economic development and environmental objectives

Develop and strengthen appropriate security and enforcement mechanisms and spatial planning systems that guide multiple uses for economic growth while maintaining ecosystem function and biodiversity integrity of coastal and ocean areas. These higher order management systems provide the fundamental basis for the use of spatial management tools in a nested fashion drawing from experiences in strict traditional closures, locally managed areas and large multiple use managed and protected areas. Aspects such as cross border security, food security, monitoring control and surveillance are fundamental for effective management systems.

Action 3c – Regional intergovernmental bodies explore and build on approaches to conserve and manage high seas resources and deep sea ecosystems for the common good

The high seas areas are under severe threat with evidence of overfishing of fish stocks, the destruction of deep sea ecosystems associated with sea mounts and increasing levels of illegal fishing. As stewards of the Pacific Islands Ocean region, our interests transcend the limits of EEZs and require novel management approaches. For example establishing and managing representative networks of marine protected areas, require prior environmental assessments to prevent harmful impacts from new and emerging activities, and protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems, including conditions on conservation and management of high seas resources, mindful of agreements relating to fishing access licenses and permits.

Strategic priority 4 - Listening, Learning, Liaising and Leading

Seeking ocean leadership based on enriching our culture further and reinforcing our identities while sharing and learning with others

“We begin with what we have in common and draw inspiration from the diverse patterns that have emerged from the successes and failures in our adaptation to the influence of the sea...”

Resource management approaches based purely on scientific information have had limited success. There is still much to learn and share from existing knowledge and experience in managing our complex and vast coastal and ocean environment. Capacity building, including formal, tertiary and vocational training, and research needs to be more carefully targeted at addressing our governance and management requirements. Effective processes are critical for sharing information and supporting leaders and champions which will underpin the success of these strategic priorities.

Action 4a – Facilitate processes that utilize existing knowledge and results in needs driven information acquisition and targeted capacity building for achieving policy and management objectives

Given the often limited human and financial resources for sustainable ocean management and development, capacity building actions and formal education programmes will have to be cost-effective, targeted and thoughtful. Initiatives for consideration include establishing a supervised internship programme for recent graduates and school leavers; targeted scholarships; adopting “learning by doing” approaches which are an efficient and effective way of ensuring retention of knowledge and skills while implementing locally; providing support for mentoring programmes which allow for knowledge and skills transfer as well as offering opportunities for succession planning; encourage national training opportunities that are tailored to suit a country’s needs and only strategic attendance to regional and international workshops based on relevance; “on-the-job” learning exchanges between PICTs such as staff exchanges of marine protected areas to share experiences and lessons; and, strengthening negotiation skills for specific issues such as for shared maritime boundaries and impacts of climate change on the ocean. Similarly, processes must be improved to ensure that managers and local decision-makers define crucial information priorities and needs.

Action 4b – Influence international and regional ocean priorities, decisions and processes through reclaiming the Pacific Way and establishing a high level representation on oceans

Establish strong and well supported networks of leaders drawn from local communities, districts and provinces through to national and regional special issues advocates, ocean champions and ambassadors to bring the ocean and related issues to centre stage at local through to global levels. PICTs have shown important progress in specific aspects of ocean and coastal management, political leaders of these countries should be supported in championing national and regional priorities in a regionally concerted way – *the whole is more than the sum of its parts.*

Action 4c – Connecting people and places for sharing, learning and action

Build on traditional and more recent networks of relationships between peers for informing decision making at community, national and regional levels. National networks of practice have demonstrated their importance and these can be serviced by existing and future sub-regional networks and in turn learning can be stimulated between these at regional and international scales.

Strategic priority 5 – Sustaining action

Building self reliance through nationally cost effective solutions and realizing the value of regional and international partnership

“Those who maintain that the people of Oceania live from day to day not really caring for the long term benefits, are unaware of the elementary truth known by most native islanders that they plan for generations, for the continuity and improvement of their families and kin groups.”

The strategic priorities will require resourcing. Pacific island countries conventionally rely on development assistance for resource management activities but such sources are erratic and subject to

external drivers. Governments will need to ensure that management systems are practicable and cost effective, maximizing the value of their cultural and human capital and wherever possible funded internally. Countries should explore the opportunities for regional alliances to improve returns from ocean resources and exploit emerging opportunities and strategic alliances with donors to improve coordination and novel mechanisms for financing.

Action 5a – PICTs to ensure cost-effectiveness of management approaches as a priority step towards sustainability of financing

The design or improvement of governance and management structures will need to be appropriate and affordable for each PICT, seeking efficiency in local and national institutions and maximizing the value of cultural and human capital to increase the likelihood of needs being met by national budgeting processes.

Action 5b – PICTs incorporate consideration of the economic development benefits of sustainable management of coastal and marine resources in decisions affecting national development

PICTs explore opportunities for cooperation to strengthen their economies through cross-border investments and trading, shared access, common branding and consolidated marketing of marine resources. Other financial arrangements that could be explored include benefit or cost sharing strategies (more commonly referred to as ‘polluter pays’ or ‘beneficiaries pays’), incorporating marine environmental costs and benefits into national accounts, potential earnings from national enforcement of fishing regimes. For example, in the enforcement of penalties for illegal foreign fishing. Improved ocean management in the Pacific region will result in benefits not only to the PICTs but also to the global community, for example the protection of threatened species, food security or blue carbon sinks. To ensure that these systems persist, such financing mechanisms will need to incorporate approaches to ensure that sufficient benefits/costs reach the appropriate decision makers.

Action 5c – Explore and test financing mechanisms to support implementation of ocean priorities at regional and national level

The lack of secure and sustainable financing for ocean governance, management and development needs to be addressed. For example, a system of international, regional (and national) ocean goods and services taxation/levies could be introduced that secures sustainable ocean development, management and conservation.

The region, their oceanic resources and ecosystems provides a bank of critical environmental services underpinning the health of the planet. The health of our ocean must be acknowledged as a significant global economic, social and environmental contribution. Therefore support from the global community to strengthen the capacity of PICTs to sustainably manage the ocean must be seen as an ongoing global investment.

Action 5d – Enhance donor harmonization and aid effectiveness to support implementation of ocean priorities at regional and national level

Improved donor harmonization and aid effectiveness must be guided by regional and national priorities and plans of action. The Paris and Accra Declarations and Cairns Compact provide a platform for this.

Strategic priority 6 – Adapting to a rapidly changing environment

Seeking opportunities to adapt to, and mitigate, the impacts of climate change, climate variability, sea level rise, extreme events and, environmental and economic change

“No single country in the Pacific can by itself protect its own slice of the oceanic environment; the very nature of that environment prescribes regional effort and to develop the ocean resources sustainably, a regional unity is required.”

The Earth's ocean and atmosphere are inextricably linked and in turn play an important, critical role in driving regional and global scale climate variations with increasing recognition of the role that the coastal and ocean environment play. The impacts of climate change to our ocean and islands are of great concern but more effort is needed to identify and taking advantage of emerging opportunities in the context of sustainable development priorities.

Action 6a – Identify a centralized mechanism to assess emerging issues, manage risks and explore opportunities

Working with existing organizations to identify a centralized mechanism, facilitated by the Regional Ocean Commissioner, that will assess and explore emerging issues and to ensure effective coordinated action. Issues requiring immediate attention include: the impacts of ocean acidification on our ecosystems, the role of our ecosystems as carbon sinks and sources and impacts on commercial and subsistence harvests. The focus of these regional efforts should be ensuring our resilience for the national and local interest and fostering greater international investment and expertise to support our research priorities. Results will allow greater confidence in negotiations and influencing international processes and mechanisms for scoping potential compensation or trading in the values of our ecosystem services.

Action 6b – Ensure environmental and climate change adaptation and mitigation are appropriately incorporated into sustainable development, conservation and governance actions

Environmental change, climate change and loss of biodiversity cut across the whole development spectrum and therefore should be integrated within existing development processes. Adaptation to climate change will require long term engagement and investment at the international, regional, national and local levels and should support urgent development priorities, such as improved resource management systems, which provide the necessary basis for future adaptation actions. At the regional level there is a need to scope a comprehensive adaptation assessment that covers ocean ecosystems and addresses the radiative (such as sea level rise) and pollutant effects (such as ocean acidification) of climate change and synergies with other, relevant regional instruments must be made.

Annex E: Guiding Principles of the CROP Marine Sector Working Group

- (1) The MSWG is a process of ad-hoc, informal, open-ended, dialogue between CROP and other agencies concerning topical issues of ocean and freshwater-body usage;
- (2) The purpose of the group is to foster dialogue and promote cooperation on issues arising where more than two agencies have a real interest, or where no lead agency has yet been agreed. (Issues where collaboration is required between only two agencies are normally dealt with bilaterally, and long-term requirements for collaboration are dealt with through colloquia and Memoranda of Understanding);
- (3) Non-CROP agencies may be included in the group;
- (4) The Group is not a Standing Committee and is not a Secretariat for taking forward Agreements or Conventions. It discusses issues arising, including other mechanisms for taking forward issues that are likely to become lengthy or substantive and provides advice accordingly to decision-makers;
- (5) SPC acts as convenor of the group for the term 2010-2011, facilitating communications, meetings, outputs and reports. Meetings are chaired, if necessary, by the host organisation.
- (6) The outputs of the Group are in the form of information, advice, or options for decision-makers. The group does not make decisions about work-programmes or approve projects or policies, but refers any advice about such matters to the appropriate decision-making authority.
- (7) Meetings of the group will be kept to a minimum, take account of the geographical isolation of members, and will normally occur in parallel with an existing meeting which as many members as possible are already attending.