

Know your Blue Pacific Ocean

What is the Blue Pacific Ocean Report?

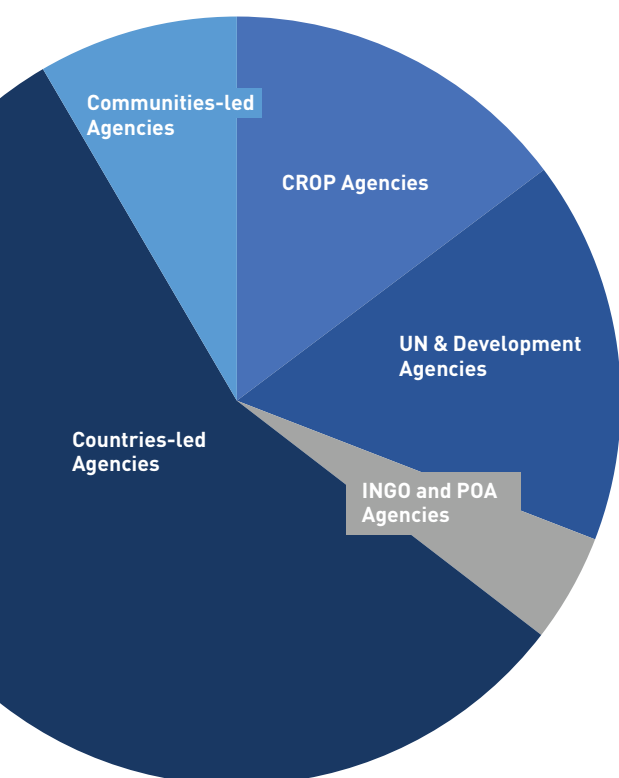
This is a report by the Pacific Ocean Commissioner to the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders developed by the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner which provides, among other things:

1. Holistic overview of issues across the different ocean sectors in the Blue Pacific region

- Maritime boundaries and implications of sea level rise
- Climate change and ocean nexus
- Marine Pollution
- Ocean Biodiversity
- Iconic marine species
- Fisheries (coastal and offshore)
- Marine Protected Areas
- Maritime transport
- Submarine cables
- Renewable energy
- Deep-sea mining
- Covid-19 impacts
- Regional ocean ecosystem services accounting

2. Stocktake on the progress of regional ocean policy implementation

OCEAN STAKEHOLDERS IN THE PACIFIC



Take Home Message

The overall status of implementing ocean priorities, collectively across the region is at best a “moderate positive progress”. This means that PIF Members have performed and are still undertaking those priorities at a relatively slow pace. It is apparent that a particular narrative of such as “Blue Pacific” or “Blue Continent” is expected to inspire the overall progress in implementation. There is clear evidence of disjointed and uncoordinated ocean initiatives, particularly on documenting progress.

3. Forward looking strategies

- Redefining our relationship with the ocean
- Redefining our relationship among ourselves
- Integrated ocean management
- Ocean is our endowment fund, therefore part it should be left aside to grow and reap benefits year after year, decade after decade.

There are a whole suite of instruments and tools available to the Blue Pacific to increase coherence of ocean governance through integrated ocean management. The use of marine spatial planning, supported by strategic environmental assessments and environmental assessments, can better facilitate the consideration and orchestration of multi-use of the ocean space. Rooted in transparency, cooperation, accountability, inclusiveness, precautionary approach/principle, the best available scientific information and relevant Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous People and Local Communities, ecological and cultural connectivity, adaptive management, and equity, tools to implement integrated management can help avoid conflicts of interests. This will ensure that we maintain the health, productivity and resilience of our ocean and its valuable resources.

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