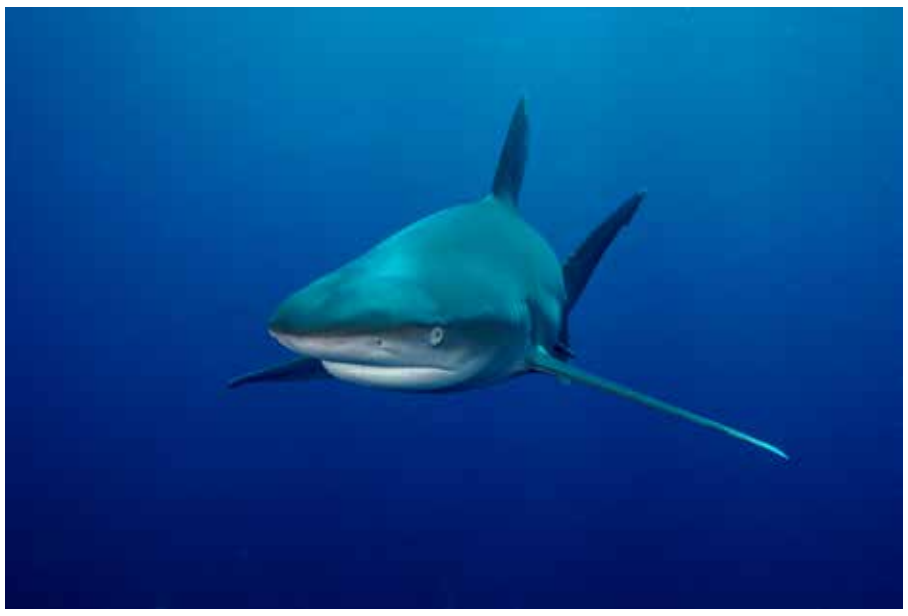
Pacific Leadership in Managing, Conserving and Sustainably Developing the Ocean and its Resources.



THE OCEAN CONFERENCE
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, 5-9 JUNE 2017

OPOC
OFFICE OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN COMMISSIONER

Foreword

by Pacific Ocean Commissioner and Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Dame Meg Taylor.

For many countries and regions, the ocean lies on the margin of the development and political agenda. For the Pacific Islands, the shared stewardship of our Ocean, including its marine resources and geographic space are fundamental to a united and prosperous future.

Given the importance of the Pacific Ocean to the livelihoods of our peoples and a shared identity, the region has been at the forefront of the international dialogue on the Oceans. In more recent times, the link between the Ocean and Climate Change related phenomena, and allied existential threats have placed the Oceans at the heart of the international public policy agenda, which includes the sustainable development agenda. This heightened international focus on the Ocean is reflected in a standalone Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) as contained in SDG 14, as well as the SIDS ACCELERATED MODALITIES OF ACTION [S.A.M.O.A.] Pathway. Both agendas championed by the Pacific region. The United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC) provided a clear demonstration by Pacific countries of their commitment and leadership on the oceans.

The UNOC laid the foundation for achieving SDG14: to 'conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.' It aimed to identify approaches to support the implementation of SDG 14, including through Voluntary Commitments (VC) and other pathways to achieving SDG 14.

The plenary sessions, partnership dialogues, and official side events, convened during the Oceans Conference brought together governments, intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations, academia, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organisations and other interested actors to assess and respond to the challenges and opportunities related to the Oceans.

This publication is a repository for many of the policy statements delivered by Pacific Island Forum members during the UNOC, as well as a catalogue of the VCs made that relate to, or impact on the Pacific. The publication also provides useful links to external resources of relevance to the Pacific. While not all interventions and policy statements delivered by Pacific Island Countries were available at the time of publication, this eBook will be updated as necessary with the aim of tracking progress on towards implementation.

Our Sea of Islands

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 and together use it to overturn all hegemonic views that aim ultimately to confine us again,

physically and psychologically,

in the tiny spaces which we have resisted accepting as our sole appointed place,

and from which we have recently liberated ourselves.

We must not allow anyone to belittle us again,

and take away our freedom.

- Epeli Hau'ofa

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Context - Setting the stage

Background and Context

The high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 was convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017. The Conferenced was co-chaired by Fiji and Sweden.

The Conference was a game changer in reversing the decline in the health of the ocean and in stimulating approaches aimed a sustainable development. It was solutions focused and catalysed international dialogue and actions on the Oceans.

The objectives of the Conference were as follows:

- Identify ways and means to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14;
- Build on existing successful partnerships and stimulate innovative and concrete new partnerships to advance the implementation of Goal 14;
- Involve all relevant stakeholders, bringing together Governments, the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other actors to assess challenges and opportunities relating to, as well as actions taken towards, the implementation of Goal 14;
- Share the experiences gained at the national, regional and international levels in the implementation of Goal 14;
- Contribute to the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by providing an input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, in accordance with resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013, 70/1 of 25 September 2015 and 70/299 of 29 July 2016, on the implementation of Goal 14, including on opportunities to strengthen progress in the future;

The Conference adopted by consensus a concise, focused, intergovernmentally agreed declaration in the form of a "Call for Action" to support the implementation of Goal 14, a report containing the co-chairs' summaries of the partnership dialogues, as well as a list of Voluntary Commitments for the implementation of Goal 14.

Regional Preparatory Process

In their Pohnpei Oceans Statement, Heads of State and Government, reaffirmed the inseparable link between the ocean and seas and Pacific island peoples. Leaders further affirmed the custodial responsibility that the region bears to future generations to sustainably benefit from the rich biodiversity and natural endowments of the ocean. The Oceans Statement recalled the call to action under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR). Against this backdrop, Leaders called on the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC), regional and sub-regional organisations and commissions and partners of the Pacific Oceans Alliance (POA) to provide the necessary technical, financial and administrative support towards the implementation of SDG 14.

In an effort to harmonise regional positions on the Oceans ahead of the UN Oceans Conference, a Regional Steering Committee (RSC) was established. The RSC was tasked with providing technical, strategic and coordinating support and advice aimed at establishing coherence in regional positions ahead of the United Nations Oceans Conference.

The outcomes the regional preparatory work undertaken by the Regional Steering Committee crystalised into a ten point outcome document that emerged from a High Level Regional Preparatory Meeting convened in Suva, Fiji from 15 – 17 March 2017. This outcome was aligned with the three thematic areas identified by the region as being of key strategic priority. These areas are:

1. POLLUTION, BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES;

2. CLIMATE CHANGE AND OCEAN ACIDIFICATION; AND

3. FISHERIES, FISHERIES SUBSIDIES AND ELEMENTS OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

The RSC produced three discussion papers (see attached) for the consideration of Leaders on each of the thematic priority areas, along with work sheets that mapped out the main considerations, including challenges and opportunities to be addressed by the region ahead of, during, and after the Oceans Conference. It is instructive to note that many of these outcomes are aligned with regional SDG targets developed by the region.

Outcomes of the Conference

As it now stands, the outcomes of the Conference for the region relate to: (1) Voluntary Commitments undertaken (those by regional entities and those by external entities that have implications for the Pacific), (2) partnerships built/strengthened (a central element of SDG: 17) and (3) enhanced policy coordination.

Equally, the Chair's report emerging from the regional preparatory meeting ahead of COP23 convened from 3 - 4 July, acknowledged the inextricable link between the Oceans and Climate change. The meeting affirmed that the 'ocean is intricately linked to the heart, soul, identity, culture, resilience, economy and way of life of Pacific islanders while playing a major role in regulating climate.' The outcome of this meeting further recognized 'the synergies between the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs including, SDG14 and that the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services including urgently reversing the decline in ocean health and productivity are integral parts of climate change mitigation and adaptation and can galvanise climate action and vice versa.'

Regional actions on the Oceans have been further catalysed by the UNOC with some of the outcomes of Oceans Conference and the preparatory process now more firmly integrated into the regional policy dialogue.

Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action

1. We, the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives, meeting in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017 at the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda, with the full participation of civil society, and other relevant stakeholders, affirm our strong commitment to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
2. We are mobilised by a strong conviction that our ocean is critical to our shared future and common humanity in all its diversity. As leaders and representatives of our Governments, we are determined to act decisively and urgently, convinced that our collective action will make a meaningful difference to our people, to our planet, and to our prosperity.
3. We recognise that our ocean covers three quarters of our planet, connects our populations and markets, and forms an important part of our natural and cultural heritage. It supplies nearly half the oxygen we breathe, absorbs over a quarter of the carbon dioxide we produce, plays a vital role in the water cycle and the climate system, and is an important source of our planet's biodiversity and of ecosystem services. It contributes to sustainable development and sustainable ocean-based economies, as well as to poverty eradication, food security and nutrition, maritime trade and transportation, decent work and livelihoods.
4. We are particularly alarmed by the adverse impacts of climate change on the ocean, including the rise in ocean temperatures, ocean and coastal acidification, deoxygenation, sea-level rise, the decrease in polar ice coverage, coastal erosion and extreme weather events. We acknowledge the need to address the adverse impacts that impair the crucial ability of the ocean to act as climate regulator, source of marine biodiversity, and as key provider of food and nutrition, tourism and ecosystem services, and as an engine for sustainable economic development and growth. We recognise, in this regard, the particular importance of the Paris Agreement adopted under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
5. We are committed to halting and reversing the decline in the health and productivity of our ocean and its ecosystems and to protecting and restoring its resilience and ecological integrity. We recognise that the wellbeing of present and future generations is inextricably linked to the health and productivity of our ocean.
6. We underline the integrated and indivisible character of all Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the inter-linkages and synergies between them, and reiterate the critical importance of being guided in our work by the 2030 Agenda, including the principles reaffirmed therein. We acknowledge that each country faces specific challenges in its pursuit of sustainable development, in particular least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries, small island developing States (SJDS), and African States, including coastal ones, as do others recognised in the 2030 Agenda. There are also serious challenges within many middle income countries.
7. We reiterate our commitment to achieve the targets of Goal 14 within the timelines, and the need to sustain action over the long term, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. We recognise, in particular, the special importance of certain targets in Goal 14 for SIDS and LDCs
8. We stress the need for an integrated, interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach as well as enhanced cooperation, coordination, and policy coherence, at all levels. We emphasise the critical importance of effective partnerships enabling collective action and reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of Goal 14 with the full participation of all relevant stakeholders.
9. We underline the need to integrate Goal 14 and its inter-related targets into national development plans and strategies, to promote national ownership and to ensure success in its implementation by involving all relevant stakeholders, including national and local authorities, members of parliament, local communities, indigenous peoples, women and youth, as well as the academic and scientific communities, business and industry. We recognise the importance of gender equality, and the crucial role of women and youth in the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
10. We stress the importance of enhancing understanding of the health and role of our ocean and the stressors on its ecosystems, including through assessments on the state of the ocean, based on science and on traditional knowledge systems. We also stress the need to further increase marine scientific research to inform and support decision-making, and to promote knowledge hubs and networks to enhance the sharing of scientific data, best practices and know-how.
11. We emphasise that our actions to implement Goal 14 should be in accordance with, reinforce and not duplicate or undermine, existing legal instruments, arrangements, processes, mechanisms or entities. We affirm the need to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides

Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action

the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want.

12. We recognise that the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources require the necessary means of implementation in line with the 2030 Agenda, Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and other relevant outcomes, including the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. We stress the importance of the full and timely implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and, in this context, emphasise the need to enhance scientific knowledge and research, enhance capacity building at all levels, mobilise financial resources from all sources, and facilitate the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to support the implementation of Goal 14 in developing countries.

13. We call on all stakeholders to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development by taking, inter alia, the following actions on an urgent basis, including by building on existing institutions and partnerships:

(a) Approach the implementation of Goal 14 in an integrated and coordinated way and promote policies and actions that take into account the critical interlinkages among the targets of Goal 14, the potential synergies between Goal 14 and the other goals, particularly those with ocean-related targets, as well as other processes that support the implementation of Goal 14.

(b) Strengthen cooperation, policy coherence and coordination amongst institutions at all levels, including between and amongst international organisations, regional and sub-regional organisations and institutions, arrangements and programmes.

(c) Strengthen and promote effective and transparent multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships, by enhancing engagement of governments with global, regional and sub-regional bodies and programmes, the scientific community, the private sector, donor community, non-governmental organisations, community groups, academic institutions, and other relevant actors.

(d) Develop comprehensive strategies to raise awareness of the natural and cultural significance of the ocean, as well as of its state and role, and of the need to further improve the knowledge of the ocean, including its importance for sustainable development and how it is impacted by anthropogenic activities.

(e) Support plans to foster ocean-related education, for example as part of education curricula, to promote ocean literacy and a culture of conservation, restoration and sustainable use of our ocean.

(f) Dedicate greater resources to marine scientific research, such as inter-disciplinary research and sustained ocean and coastal observation, as well as the collection and sharing of data and knowledge, including traditional knowledge, in order to increase our knowledge of the ocean, to better understand the relationship between climate and the health and productivity of the ocean, to strengthen the development of coordinated early warning systems on extreme weather events and phenomena, and to promote decision-making based on the best available science, to encourage scientific and technological innovation, as well as to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular SIDS and LDCs.

(g) Accelerate actions to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris, plastics and microplastics, nutrient pollution, untreated wastewater, solid waste discharges, hazardous substances, pollution from ships, and abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, as well as to address, as appropriate, the adverse impacts of other human-related activities on the ocean and on marine life, such as ship strikes, underwater noise and invasive alien species.

(h) Promote waste prevention and minimization, develop sustainable consumption and production patterns, adopt the 3Rs- reduce, reuse and recycle- including through incentivising market-based solutions to reduce waste and its generation, improving mechanisms for environmentally-sound waste management, disposal and recycling, and developing alternatives such as reusable or recyclable products, or products biodegradable under natural conditions.

(i) Implement long-term and robust strategies to reduce the use of plastics and microplastics, particularly plastic bags and single use plastics, including by partnering with stakeholders at relevant levels to address their production, marketing and use.

(j) Support the use of effective and appropriate area-based management tools, including marine protected areas and other integrated, cross-sectoral approaches, including marine spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management, based on best available science, as well as stakeholder engagement and applying the precautionary and ecosystem approaches, consistent with international law and in accordance with national legislation, to enhance ocean resilience and better conserve and sustainably use marine biodiversity.

Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action

(k) Develop and implement effective adaptation and mitigation measures that contribute to increasing and supporting resilience to ocean and coastal acidification, sea-level rise, and increase in ocean temperatures, and to addressing the other harmful impacts of climate change on the ocean as well as coastal and blue carbon ecosystems such as mangroves, tidal marshes, seagrass, and coral reefs, and wider interconnected ecosystems impacting on our ocean, and ensure the implementation of relevant obligations and commitments.

(l) Enhance sustainable fisheries management, including to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics, through the implementation of science-based management measures, monitoring, control and enforcement, supporting the consumption of fish sourced from sustainably managed fisheries, and through precautionary and ecosystem approaches as appropriate, as well as strengthening cooperation and coordination, including through, as appropriate, regional fisheries management organisations, bodies and arrangements.

(m) End destructive fishing practices and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, addressing their root causes and holding actors and beneficiaries accountable by taking appropriate actions, so as to deprive them of benefits of such activities, and effectively implementing flag State obligations as well as relevant port State obligations.

(n) Accelerate further work and strengthen cooperation and coordination on the development of interoperable catch documentation schemes and traceability of fish products.

(o) Strengthen capacity building and technical assistance provided to small-scale and artisanal fishers in developing countries, to enable and enhance their access to marine resources and markets and improve the socio-economic situation of fishers and fish workers within the context of sustainable fisheries management.

(p) Act decisively to prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, including through accelerating work to complete negotiations at the World Trade Organization on this issue, recognising that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of those negotiations.

(q) Support the promotion and strengthening of sustainable ocean-based economies, which inter alia build on sustainable activities such as fisheries, tourism, aquaculture, maritime transportation, renewable energies, marine biotechnology, and sea water desalination, as means to achieve the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, in particular for SIDS and LDCs.

(r) Increase efforts to mobilise the means necessary for the development of sustainable ocean-related activities and the implementation of Goal 14, particularly in developing countries, in line with the 2030 Agenda, Addis Ababa Action Agenda and other relevant outcomes.

(s) Actively engage in discussions and the exchange of views in the Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly Resolution 69/292 on the development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, so that the General Assembly can, before the end of its seventy-second session, taking into account the report of the Preparatory Committee to the General Assembly, decide on the convening and on the starting date of an intergovernmental conference.

(t) Welcome follow-up on the partnership dialogues and commit to implement our respective voluntary commitments made in the context of the Conference.

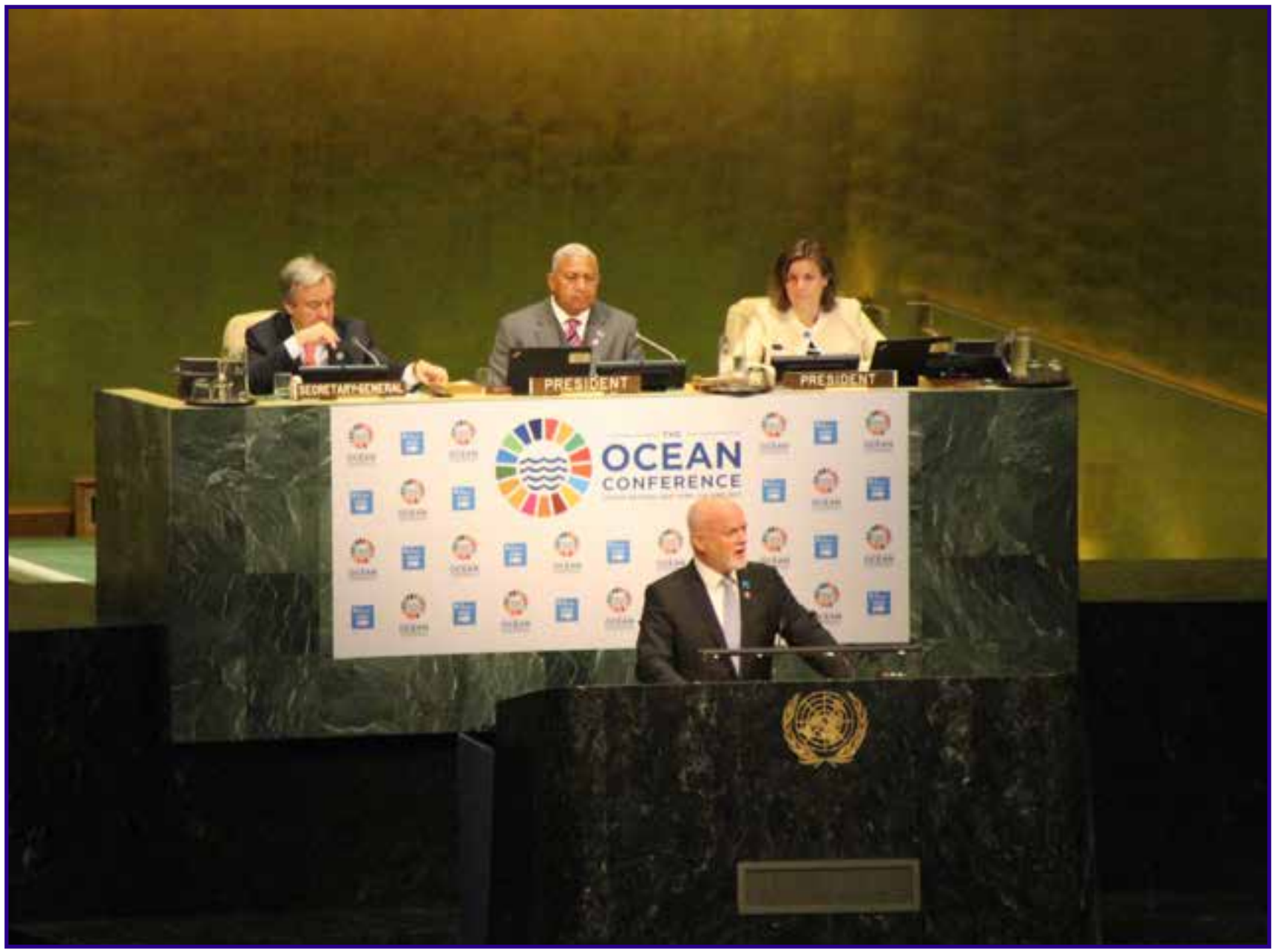
(u) Contribute to the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda by providing an input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development on the implementation of Goal 14, including on opportunities to strengthen progress in the future.

(v) Consider further ways and means to support the timely and effective implementation of Goal 14, taking into account the discussions at the high-level political forum during its first cycle.

14. We strongly call upon the UN Secretary-General to continue his efforts to support the implementation of Goal 14, in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular by enhancing interagency coordination and coherence throughout the UN system on ocean issues, taking into consideration the work of UN-Oceans.

http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2017/06/our-ocean-our-future-call-for-action/

Country Statements
&
Voluntary Commitments to the Pacific Ocean where Governments are the lead entity.



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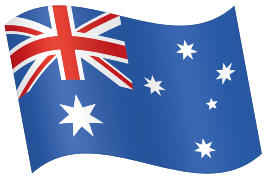
AUSTRALIA



"Australia is an ocean nation, surrounded by the Indian, Pacific and Southern oceans. As any Australian can tell you, the beaches and oceans are a significant part of our way of life. Australia's marine jurisdiction is the 3rd largest in the world, encompassing around 14 million square kilometres. 2 3.3 million square kilometres of our marine jurisdiction are marine protected areas: the largest in the world." - Minister for International Development & the Pacific, Senator the Hon. Concetta Fierravanti-Wells.

Full statement to plenary here:
http://statements.unmeetings.org/media2/14685305/australia.pdf

1. Australia's Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS) as a contribution to global ocean observing (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=17426)

IMOS routinely operates a wide range of observing equipment throughout Australia's coastal and open oceans, making all of its data accessible to the marine and climate science community, other stakeholders and users, and international collaborators.

2. Australia State of the Environment (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=17438)

Australia produces a report on the state of its environment every 5 years. In preparation for SoE 2021, it will look in to enhancing the currency and usability of the resource by capitalizing on the potential of a digital platform to make more data available, more frequently.

3. Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac) (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16906)

COSPPac aims to develop enhanced climate, ocean and tidal services for Pacific Island communities and governments by building capacity in PIC National Meteorological Services (NMSs) and Lands and Survey Departments to develop and disseminate user-focused products and services.

4. eReefs catchment and coastal forecasting and satellite based monitoring of the Great Barrier Reef (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16910)

The eReefs project is a multi-year, multi-partner project that uses satellite derived water quality observations, as well as numerical model simulations of the catchments that flow into the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) and the fate of pollutants once they reach the GBR lagoon.

5. National Environmental Science Programme: Marine Biodiversity Hub (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=17002)

The Australian Governments National Environmental Science Programme (NESP) is a long-term commitment to environment and climate research, delivered through six research Hubs that are being provided with funding of $142.5 million from 2015 to 2021. The hub will make a significant contribution to research on planning and monitoring for Australia's oceans and marine environments.

6. Pacific Maritime Boundaries Project (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=17030)

The Pacific Maritime Boundaries Project aims to assist Pacific island countries (PICs) to secure maritime jurisdictional rights consistent with international law with an estimated value of just under AUD 2 million over three years (20017-18 to 2019-20).

7. Threat Abatement Plan for the Impacts of Marine Debris on Vertebrate Marine Life (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16866)

The plan provides national guidance on specific action to prevent and mitigate the impacts of harmful marine debris on vertebrate marine life, through six major objectives.

8. Commonwealth Marine Reserves (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=17908)

The Australian Government is committed to maintaining the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas to ensure the ongoing health of our marine biodiversity, as well as enabling sustainable use and access to marine resources.

9. Community Based Fisheries Management Phase 2 (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=17054)

The Community-Based Fisheries Management (CBFM) Phase 2 aims to support sustainable national and sub-national community-based fisheries management to enhance food security, nutrition, and diversified livelihoods for the people of Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

10. Coral Triangle Initiative Australian Support Program (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16870)

The Australian Governments most recent tranche of funding ($6 million) to the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security is designed to further the effectiveness of the six countries of the Coral Triangle (PNG, Solomon Islands, Indonesia, Malaysia, Timor Leste, Philippines), individually and collectively, in conserving the hyper-biodiverse and productive seas that are a foundation for millions of livelihoods and ecologically sustainable economic growth in the region.

11. Ending Illegal Fishing through Improved Surveillance (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=17022)

CSIRO has developed a system for identifying suspicious activities by vessels at sea, including illegal fishing and transshipment of fishery products. The goal of the system is to assist officials in prioritizing vessels for monitoring, investigation, or inspection under existing frameworks, such as the Port State Measures Agreement.

12. Funding to Address IUU Fishing in the Pacific (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=17034)

This is a four-year investment valued at approximately USD 3.29 million (AUD 4.4 million 2017-2021) to increase capacity in Pacific island countries (PICs) to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the region.

13. Knowledge sharing for the protection and restoration of coastal blue carbon ecosystems through the International Partnership for Blue Carbon and in the Indo-Pacific (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16878)

Australia leads the International Partnership for Blue Carbon which aims to enhance the protection and restoration of coastal blue carbon ecosystems that sequester carbon in mangroves, tidal marshes and seagrasses by raising awareness, sharing knowledge and accelerating practical action.

14. National Environmental Science Programme: Tropical Water Quality Hub (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=17010)

The Tropical Water Quality (TWQ) Hub will make a significant contribution to research on coastal and marine water quality in Australia’s Great Barrier Reef and other tropical waters with funding of $31.8m. This research will be of great value to decision-makers to better understand, manage and conserve Australia’s environment by funding world-class biodiversity and climate science.

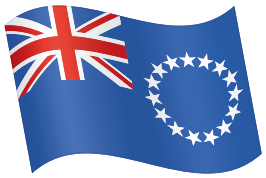
15. Land Based Plastics to the Ocean (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16874)

The goal of this work is to use field sampling and mathematical modelling to document the distribution of plastic in the ocean, on the coast and in the nearshore environment generated by 6-8 major urban centers and surrounding areas that have been identified as having significant waste mis-management or losses into the marine environment.

16. Progressing Implementation of the New Song for Coastal Fisheries Pathways Exchange (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=17058)

Under this project, Australia supports implementation of the A New Song for Coastal Fisheries - Pathways to Change (the New Song) for coastal fisheries management, a new approach developed with Australia’s funding in 2015. The project takes forward some elements of the New Song that are not being fully addressed at present

COOK ISLANDS



"We are a Large Ocean state. With a land area of only 237 square kilometres, and an ocean area of 1.9 million square kilometres, our ocean is our resource. It is our being, our essence. Against this background, we are closing 16% of our ocean space to commercial harvesting activities. This exceeds Aichi Target 11 of 10% marine protection by 2020. We do this as a gift to the world and to future generations, and also because we acknowledge that our environment and our people are the basis of our economy". – Prime Minister Hon. Henry Puna

Full Plenary Statement
(http://statements.unmeetings.org/media2/14685140/cook-islands.pdf)

1. Sustainable Financing of Marae Moana - Cook Islands Marine Park

To ensure the effectiveness and ongoing success of Marae Moana, a sustainable financing mechanism will be established to support the management of Marae Moana Cook Islands Marine Park, an area of 1.9 million square kilometres in the South Pacific ocean dedicated to protection, conservation and integrated management.

2. Marae Moana - Cook Islands Marine Park

The Cook Islands – a nation state in the South Pacific is dedicating its entire Exclusive Economic Zone, Marae Moana, an area of 1.9 million square kilometres (550,000 square nautical miles) to protection, conservation and integrated management.

This 'whole domain approach' will ensure the protection of the marine environment whilst providing for sustainable development activities including tourism and fisheries. With one of the largest deposits of manganese nodules in the world, the Cook Islands is facing the challenge to protect the marine environment as a priority whilst determining ecologically sustainable methods to harvest seabed minerals on the seafloor.

As a start, sixteen percent of Marae Moana, an area of 324,000 square kilometres (95,000 square nautical miles) is being established as marine protected areas where no large scale commercial fishing or seabed minerals activities will be permitted.

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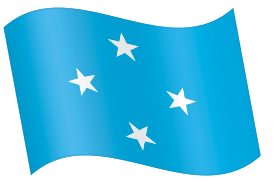
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA



"As islanders, all of us know how important the ocean is to islands, and how important islands are to those who live on them. We also know that the health of an island is directly related to the health of the oceans that surround it. For these reasons, we hold great respect for the ocean."
President H.E Peter Christian

Full Plenary Statement
(http://statements.unmeetings.org/media2/14685077/micronesia.pdf)

1. Chuuk Lagoon Pacific Ocean Emergency Response - Safeguarding Underwater Cultural Heritage (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20139)

To assist Pacific SIDS, in particular Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), in the preservation of their underwater cultural heritage in an Emergency Situation. It also addresses urgent and serious risks related to environmental hazards emanating from certain World War II shipwreck sites in the Pacific, taking Chuuk Lagoon as an example case for the region.

2. A Jurisdictional Implementation of the Micronesia Challenge (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16688)

The Micronesia Challenge is a commitment by the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, Territory of Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to preserve the natural resources that are crucial to the survival of Pacific traditions, cultures and livelihoods. The overall goal of the Challenge is to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.

3. Federated States of Micronesia's Shark By-Catch Amendment (FSM Public Law 19-167) (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16682)

This commitment's goal is to amend title 24 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, by inserting a new section 505, that declares as a closed area, the twelve mile area seaward of the territorial sea, not to extend beyond twenty-four nautical miles from the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured, prohibiting commercial fishing and exploitation of natural resources thereon, and for other purposes.

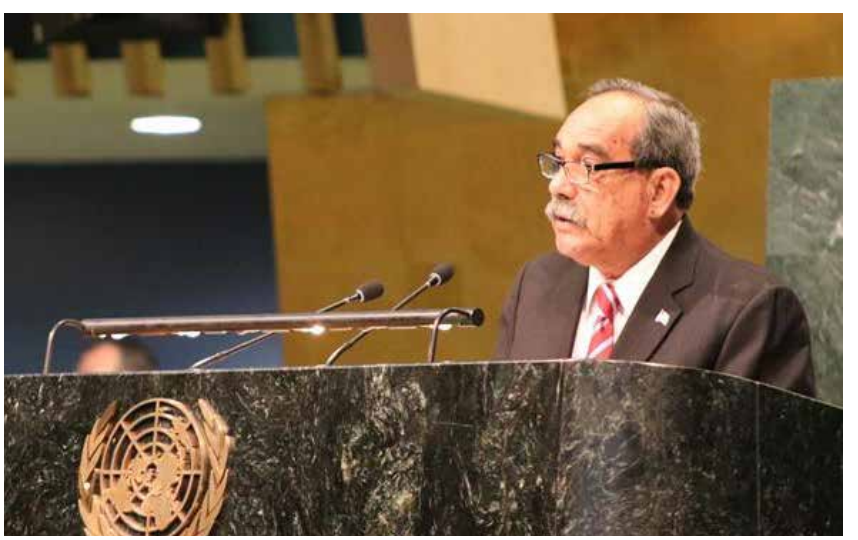
4. Country Action on the Parties to the Nauru Agreement's Third Implementation Agreement Program (FSM Public Law 19-169) (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16679)

The goal of this commitment is to amend sections 101, 102, 103, 106, 204,205,303, 402, 404, 407, 603,606, 611, 701, 907, 910 and 911 of title 24 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended by Public Law

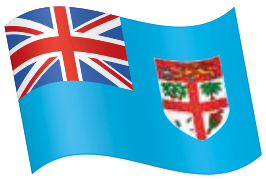
No. 18-109, in order to enhance the ability of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia to enforce, in its territory or exclusive economic zone and other zones where FSM-flagged or FSM licensed vessels undertake fishing activities, the national fishery laws, regulations, and the international obligations including those in the Third Implementing Arrangement of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement, and the obligations assumed by the FSM Government on conservation, sustainable exploitation and management of fishery resources taking into consideration the national development needs and aspirations of the FSM, and for other purposes.

5. Federated States of Micronesia's 24 Mile Closure (FSM's Public Law 19-167) (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16676)

This commits FSM to further amend sections 503, 913 and 914 of title 24 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended by Public Laws No. 18-108 and 19-21, to allow the disposal at sea of by-catch after recording the by-catch in a daily catch report form, to allow for alternate methods of the reporting and disposal of sharks, to clarify the standards for criminal and civil penalties and to allow for clarification of the penalty provision, and for other purposes.



FIJI



"We seek a commitment from all 7.5 billion people on earth to join our crusade to improve the quality of our oceans. Let us all seize this moment in history to make a difference. To place SDG 14 at the very top of the global agenda alongside decisive climate action. We can do it. We must do it. Because the alternative in both cases is catastrophe."- Hon. Prime Minister Josaia Bainimarama

Full Plenary Statement
(http://www.fiji.gov.fj/Media-Center/Speeches/HON-PM-BAINIMARAMA-OPENING-ADDRESS-AT-THE-UNITED-N.aspx)

1. Conservation and Management of Sharks, Rays, and Their Critical Habitats within Fijian Waters (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19999)

The objective of this voluntary commitment is to develop a comprehensive Shark and Ray Conservation Regulation that ensures sustainable population levels of sharks and rays in Fijian waters. The regulation will set out a sustainable, long-term management plan to address the challenges of unsustainable mortality and habitat loss affecting sharks and rays in Fiji.

2. Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles within Fijian Waters (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19909)

The objective of this voluntary commitment is to formulate regulation on the conservation of sea turtles and fully implement the National Sea Turtle Recovery Plan.

3. Delivering Improved Coastal Fisheries Management Services in Fiji (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19929)

The objective of this voluntary commitment is to begin a program of immediate reform of the coastal fisheries sector and establish a national fisheries policy to guide fisheries management in Fiji.

4. Expansion of Large Scale Marine Managed Areas in Fiji (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19904)

The objective of this voluntary commitment is to develop a legally recognized multiple-use marine spatial plan for Fijian waters. The plan will include a range of marine managed areas and help protect marine ecosystems.

5. The Fiji Pearl Development Plan – Creating a Blue Industry (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19864)

The Fiji Pearl Development Plan proposes to cooperate with all relevant stakeholders in the development of a national, community-based, pearl farming industry. This will enhance the effectiveness of locally managed marine areas, integrated coastal management, and land and sea management programs, while also creating meaningful employment and income generating opportunities for communities involved in pearl farming.

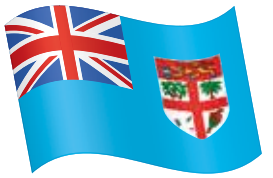
6. Finalisation of Fiji's Maritime Boundaries and ECS Claims (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19989)

The objective of this voluntary commitment is for Fiji to conclude its outstanding maritime delimitation negotiations and complete its full extended continental shelf claims (ECS) report for submission to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS).

7. Incorporation of Ocean Information into the Vanua GIS Platform (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20014)

The objective of this voluntary commitment is to display information on the Fijian Exclusive Economic Zone, reefs, mangroves, oil exploration sites and seismic activities on the VanuaGIS Oceans, a new version of Fijis National Web Mapping Application.

FIJI



8. Integrated Coastal Management to Preserve Ecosystems Services, Improve Climate Resilience, and Sustain Livelihoods in Fiji (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19984)

The objective of this commitment is to promote sustainable development and implement more effective frameworks to manage Fiji's coastal ecosystems and, as a result, protect the well-being and food security of Fijians in maritime regions.

9. Introduction of a Plastic Shopping Bag Reduction (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19994)

The objective of this voluntary commitment is to reduce the use of single use plastic bags and more effectively manage plastic waste in Fiji by introducing legislation that disincentives the use of plastic bags.

10. Prohibition of Destructive Offshore Fishing Practices (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19879)

The objective of this voluntary commitment is to vigilantly guard against irresponsible actors who employ unsustainable and illegitimate practices contrary to the laws and principles in the UN Law of the Sea.

11. Protection and Management of All Marine Mammal Species in Fiji (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19959)

The objective of this voluntary commitment is to launch the Fiji Whale and Dolphin Action Plan to protect whale and dolphins within Fijian waters. This commitment is a follow-up to the Fijian Governments declaration of the Fijian Exclusive Economic Zone as a whale sanctuary in March of 2003.

12. Sustainable Tourism Development Framework (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19854)

The objective of this voluntary commitment is to ensure that tourism development in Fiji is pursued within a sustainable framework to mitigate the possibility of negative impacts on Fijian ecology, society and culture. The Fijian Government established the Green Growth Framework in 2015 to serve as a sustainable development guide for all sectors of the Fijian economy. The development of the sustainable Tourism Development Framework will support green growth in Fiji and act as a practical sustainable tourism management tool.

FRENCH POLYNESIA

"As of 2002, we officially became the largest sanctuary in the world for marine mammals. The waters of French Polynesia host more than twenty species, where they can evolve freely, preserved and protected. Moreover, since 2012, all shark species are protected in our waters. This was a decision of paramount importance given that every year millions of sharks are killed around the world, mainly for the trade in their fins."
– President H.E Edouard Fritch

Full Plenary Statement
(http://statements.unmeetings.org/media2/14685320/french-polynesia.pdf)

1. Marine Educational Area Network (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20334)

Initiative where school children are directly involved in a citizen action project of local and participatory coastal management and marine environmental protection. The project contributes to conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of ressources, valorisation of ecosystemic services and sustainable development.

2. Te Tai Nui Atea - Marine Managed Area (5 million km2) (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20294)

French Polynesia has a 5 million km2 EEZ. The project is to create a Marine Managed Area at the size of the EEZ. It will be named : TE TAI NUI ATEA. This initiative aims at conserving and sustainably use our marine environment and its resources for our current and future generations. It is also our contribution to the regional and global effort to maintain and restore the health, productivity and resilience of our Ocean.

OCEAN
CONFERENCE
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, 5-9 JUNE 2017

KIRIBATI

In 2016 we declared our whole ocean area, all 3.5 million square kilometres of our EEZ as a shark sanctuary banning all commercial fishing of sharks. We offered mankind a gift, the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA) a Marine Protected Area that is over 11% of our total EEZ, an area equivalent to the size of California as a spawning ground for tuna. We are currently scaling up these efforts and now moving towards the creation of Community and village based MPAs throughout the country. We are taking leadership in all this.

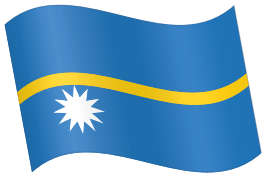
Full Plenary Statement
(http://statements.unmeetings.org/media2/14685129/kiribati.pdf)

1. Kiribati's voluntary commitment: Shark Sanctuary (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20680)

The Republic of Kiribati and its people declared all its waters a shark sanctuary in 2015, a move demonstrating the strong commitment towards the implementation of SDG 14. The sanctuary ensures conservation of sharks to protect and balance the marine ecosystem, including commercially important fish species and the health of marine habitats such as coral reefs. The shark sanctuary aims to sustain and develop Kiribatis economy from shark and marine related eco-tourism, in light of its 20 year vision focusing on fisheries and tourism. This reservation provides a source of income that will ease pressure currently placed on tuna, our single important resource.

Given the sharks highly migratory nature, establishment of this shark sanctuary contributes to the network of other countries in adopting measures to protect sharks by closing the waters in its three non-continuous zones spanning across the equatorial Pacific Ocean. This will provide long-term benefit for Kiribati and have far reaching positive impacts to region and the globe as a whole.

NAURU



"Our ocean has made our tiny Republic a global economic player. Some countries have oil. Others have timber or strategic minerals. We have tuna. Nauru, along with seven of our neighbours have taken proactive measures to sustainably manage our tuna and protect this critical source of revenue for our countries. The Parties to the Nauru Agreement, or PNA, has achieved among the highest standards for tuna sustainability in the world. Eight small countries cooperated to improve the regulation of a massive global industry." – President H.E Baron Waqa

Full Plenary Statement
(http://statements.unmeetings.org/media2/14685080/nauru.pdf)

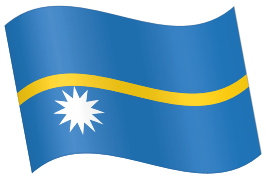
1. Avoid, Intercept, Redesign plastics to save our Ocean (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20219)

The Government of Naurus ongoing efforts with our development partners to address issues relating to Waste Management there is a lot more that needs to be done. The Government of Nauru joins forces with PARLEY A.I.R to address Ocean and marine plastic pollution.

2. Nauru Awareness and Beach Clean-up Campaign (https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20214)

Nauru is committed to preventing and reducing marine pollution through a one week nation-wide awareness and beach clean-up campaign. The objective of the campaign is to reduce land based pollution and litter on our beaches by raising awareness to inform the public about the problems related to marine litter. This nation-wide campaign will focus on raising awareness on the impact of pollution, particularly plastics on the marine life and the environment, to prevent pollution and influence a positive change in the culture of littering.

NEW CALEDONIA



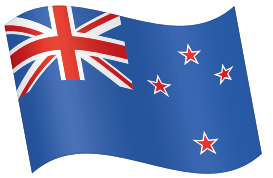
New Caledonia owns a vast maritime space which begins 12 nautical miles beyond the barrier reef and extends for as much as 200 nautical miles, or 1.3 million km2. This perimeter is defined by the governmental decree which created the Natural Park of The Coral Sea on 23 April 2014.

1. Coral Sea Natural Park management plan https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19341

New Caledonia owns a vast maritime space which begins 12 nautical miles beyond the barrier reef and extends for as much as 200 nautical miles, or 1.3 million km2. This perimeter is defined by the governmental decree which created the Natural Park of The Coral Sea on 23 April 2014.

The Management Plan writing process : It is a strategic document, the Natural Parks spine. The management plan outlines the expected outcomes, broken down into objectives, which it is necessary to reach to optimize the management and the protection of the maritime space covered by the Natural Park of the Coral Sea. The plan also outlines the measures that can be implemented. The development of the management plan is entrusted to the Maritime Affairs of New Caledonia Government who writes it in partnership with a management committee composed of 32 members (representing political and customary institutions, professionals and environmental associations). In the management committee decisions are taken collegially and are the result of a participatory approach.

NEW ZEALAND



New Zealand is a country surrounded by oceans. Our closest neighbours are almost 2,400 kilometres away. We have a long history of action to secure the health of our marine ecosystems and of the livelihoods that depend on them. We are a strong advocate of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the framework it sets for oceans. We have world leading fisheries management system and have put in place 44 fully protected marine reserves and a range of other types of MPAs that cover 30% of New Zealand's territorial sea and exclusive economic zone. – Conservation Minister Hon. Maggie Barry

Full Plenary Statement
(http://statements.unmeetings.org/media2/14685111/new-zealand.pdf)

1. New Zealand Marine Science Investments https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21068

The New Zealand government has a strong focus on science and innovation investments. A portion of this investment will, either directly or indirectly, support the SDG14 goals, for example through support of scientific research, databases and collections and infrastructure provision.

2. Implementation of best practice seabird by catch mitigation in commercial fisheries https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18367

By 2022 all commercial fisheries in New Zealand posing high risk to seabirds though by-catch will be implementing best practice seabird mitigation. Priority fisheries will be identified using a risk-based approach, mitigation options will be developed and/or modified to best suit local fleets and liaison officers will visit all vessels to ensure each vessel has in place a plan to implement this mitigation.

3. Climate change and ocean acidification: risks and opportunities for the seafood industry. Review project. https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18358

A review project that will produce a Technical overview of current understanding in New Zealand and a Non-technical Summary Report for stakeholders to summarise the issues and identify any risk mitigation approaches or potential opportunities that would be useful for the seafood industry. Provides technical support and knowledge transfer to NZ fishing industry.

4. New Zealand Fisheries Policy Reform: Future of Fisheries https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18355

Key elements of this Future of Fisheries work programme include: The Strategic Review of Fisheries Management System this project focuses on 3 priorities for our fisheries policy programme over the next 2 years: maximising value from our fisheries better fisheries information agile and responsive decision making.

5. Review of Hector's and Maui dolphin Threat Management Plan https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18352

The Hector's and Māui dolphin Threat Management Plan will be reviewed in 2018. The plan identifies human-induced threats to the dolphins and strategies to mitigate those threats. The plan is reviewed approximately every 5 years.

6. Estuary protected areas reporting https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18349

A gaps analysis will be undertaken of the spatial protection of estuarine system typologies in New Zealand. Protection is conferred from a range of marine and terrestrial tools such as Wildlife Reserves and Scientific Reserves. There are over 100 of these reserves in NZ. The Department of Conservation is the main manager of these areas and will work with Regional Councils.

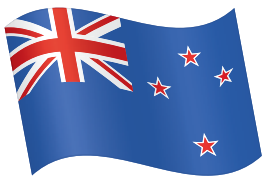
7.Threat Management Plan for the New Zealand Sea Lion 2016-2017 https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18346

The New Zealand Sea Lion/Rapoka Threat Management Plan provides a framework to achieve a stated objective of 'promote the recovery and ensure the long-term viability of New Zealand sea lions'. The TMP includes a number of research projects and the formation of a Forum and Advisory Group to maximise engagement with Treaty Partners and stakeholders on sea lion conservation and management.

8. Proposed MC11 Fisheries Subsidies Disciplines Implementing SDG Target 14.6 https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18343

New Zealand seeks an ambitious and effective prohibition on fisheries subsidies from the 11th World Trade Organisation Ministerial Conference in December 2017. To this end New Zealand has submitted a Proposal on disciplining fisheries subsidies, for Ministerial consideration. The proposal seeks an outcome that implements all elements of Sustainable Development Goal Target 14.6.

NEW ZEALAND



9. National Plan of Action for Seabirds (NPOASeabirds) https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18340

The National Plan of Action-Seabirds 2013 will be reviewed in 2017 and a revised plan will be announced in 2018. The NPOA-Seabirds sets out a strategic framework to reduce seabird by-catch to sustainable levels. The long term objective of the current NPOA-Seabirds is: New Zealand seabirds thrive without pressure from fishing related mortalities, New Zealand fishers avoid or mitigate against seabird captures and New Zealand fisheries are globally recognised as seabird friendly.

10. National Plan of Action for Sharks -The NPOA-Sharks https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18331

The National Plan of Action for Sharks (The NPOA-Sharks 2013) will be reviewed in 2017/18, with a revised plan to be announced in 2018/2019. The NPOA-Sharks 2013 sets out goals and five-year objectives for the conservation and management of New Zealands shark populations.

11. Living Water Programme https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18316

Living Water is a partnership between Fonterra and the Department of Conservation who are working together to improve biodiversity and water quality across New Zealand. This is a 10 year $US6.8 million partnership programme focused on improving biodiversity and water quality at five significant catchments where intensive dairying exists.

12. The South East Marine Protection Forum https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18310

To provide recommendations to Ministers on a network of marine protected areas along the south east coast of NZ consistent with the NZ Biodiversity Strategy and the Marine Protected Areas Policy and Implementation plan. The Government appointed Forum has been established to represent a wide range of stakeholders.

13. Marine protected area research, monitoring and reporting: Ecological Integrity and Sentinel Site programmes https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18295

Ecological Integrity: Air New Zealand has invested in DOCs flagship Ecological Integrity programme, enabling an expanded marine reserve research and monitoring programme to help DOC scientists better understand the diversity of our marine environment. The goal of the Ecological Integrity programme is to develop a monitoring and reporting framework as a science tool to enable comprehensive and integrated monitoring of marine ecosystem health and marine protected areas.

14. To undertake public consultation on a proposal to prohibit or control the manufacture and sale of personal care products containing microbeads in New Zealand and to consider the public submissions made as part of any future policy or regulatory changes https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18289

The objective of this work is to inform a policy process on the sale and manufacture of personal care products containing microbeads. A discussion document has been released and public submissions received.

15. New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries Aquatic Environment Research https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18280

Research programme addressing interactions between the seafood sector and the environment, particularly regarding: protected species interactions, seafloor effects, non-target catch and ecosystem effects.

16. To reform national marine protection through the introduction and implementation of modern marine protected areas legislation https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18274

The proposed legislation would introduce new decision making and establishment processes for designating marine protected areas in New Zealands coastal marine area. The proposed marine protected areas legislative reform aims to move New Zealand beyond marine protection focussed on creating marine reserves for scientific purposes and establish a flexible approach that enables protection, sustainable use and recreation in marine areas.

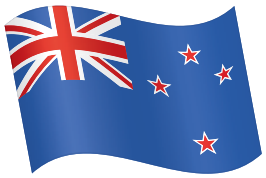
17. New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries Stock Assessment Research https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18262

Research to assess fish stock status and levels of sustainable catch.

18. To improve the regulatory framework for decommissioning offshore oil and gas installations and pipelines https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18241

The regulatory framework for decommissioning offshore oil and gas installations and pipelines will be improved through changes to legislation and regulations. These changes will help to ensure that the entire life cycle of New Zealand's offshore oil and gas operations are managed appropriately to ensure sustainable use of the marine environment; and that relevant obligations under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea are met.

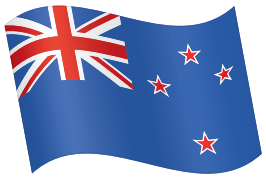
NEW ZEALAND



19. Supporting implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18238

New Zealand supports the strategies developed by Pacific Island countries aimed at achieving economic and sustainability objectives, particularly those that will improve fisheries management and reduce IUU fishing. Improved controls on fishing vessels entering ports are a key component of reducing IUU fishing, and the FAO PSMA provides an international tool to implement Port State Measures.

NIUE



"Through this approach, activities in the immediate production landscapes adjacent to marine and terrestrial protected areas will be managed to reduce threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services stemming from key production activities (e.g. tourism and agriculture). "

1. Application of Ridge to Reef Concept for Biodiversity Conservation and for the Enhancement of Ecosystem Services and Cultural Heritage in Niue https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=17050

The project will enhance Niues capacity to effectively create and manage protected areas for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of natural resources, and safeguarding of ecosystem services. It focuses on the expansion of its protected estate on land and on its marine areas through a combination of community conservation areas (CCA) and government-led protected areas. In CCAs, both strict protection and sustainable use zones will be identified and planned carefully, using innovative protection tools recognizing that tenure over most land areas is vested in local communities. This project has been designed to engineer a paradigm shift in the management of terrestrial, coastal and marine protected sites from a site-centric approach to a holistic ridge to reef comprehensive approach. Through this approach, activities in the immediate production landscapes adjacent to marine and terrestrial protected areas will be managed to reduce threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services stemming from key production activities (e.g. tourism and agriculture). Additionally, the project also introduces the concept of connectivity between landscape and seascape in Niue. Terrestrial protected areas will include a landscape that links strictly protected community areas (tapu) to each other to enhance their integrity and to form a functional ecological corridor between them. Similarly, the creation of a MPA at Beveridge Reef also satisfies the integrated and holistic approach promoted by the project by recognizing the link that is thought to exist between the Reef and mainland Niue through which the former serves as a source of recruitment for clams and other marine species that make up Niues coral reefs.

PALAU

"At a global level we must work together to establish, by 2020, an effectively managed and well connected system of marine protected areas within and beyond areas of national jurisdiction, covering at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas. We should also, in line with the science, increase our ambition and protect at least 30% of our marine areas by 2030 including designating marine protected areas beyond national jurisdiction."
President H.E Tommy Remengesau Jr.

- Full Plenary Statement
http://statements.unmeetings.org/media2/14685090/palau-r1.pdf

1. The Palau National Marine Sanctuary https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=14321

In response to global recognition of imminent danger to our oceans and our planet, President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. signed into law the Palau National Marine Sanctuary Act (PNMS). This new law is one of the World's most ambitious ocean conservation initiatives to date aimed at not only protecting Palau's marine resources, but also at protecting the world's tuna stocks. This law will, after a four year transition, 1) create a no-take Marine Sanctuary (approx. 500,000 square kilometers) covering 80% of Palau's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), in which no fishing or any extraction of natural resources will occur and 2) create a Domestic Fishing Zone covering approximately 20% of Palau's EEZ in which traditional and domestic fishing activities will be allowed to provide fish solely for Palau's food security and the domestic market.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea, as an archipelagic State with over 600 islands and an integral part of the Pacific Ocean, which is our home, food basket, source of economic strength, livelihood and cultural identity. As custodians of the Pacific Ocean's bounty, we are duty bound to protect and secure its health and vibrancy and to sustainably use it so that it continues to remain healthy for our peoples and countries in the region, now and in the years to come. - H.E Max Rai, Permanent Representative and Ambassador of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations.

Full Plenary Statement
http://statements.unmeetings.org/media2/14685233/papua-new-guinea.pdf

1. Bootless Bay Managed Marine Area https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21432

Bootless Bay, located 20km southeast of Port Moresby, contains 4 islands. The largest, Motupore, is home to the University of Papua New Guinea's marine research centre. Loloata, another island, is home to an internationally renowned scuba diving and holiday resort. Bootless Bay carries great ecological and economic value to the country and the region.

2. Integrated Papua New Guinea Oceans Policy https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21364

The establishment of an integrated Oceans Policy complemented by a National Oceans Office. This is aimed at ensuring a coherent and coordinated national efforts to improve oceans and seas governance in Papua New Guinea. It intends to address all maritime activities, including SDG 14 under the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, in Papua New Guinea's maritime borders consistent with existing national laws and regulations as well as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

3. National Plan of Action to combat, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated Fishing https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20049

The goal of this NPOA-IUU is to identify actions that can help combat, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing. The NPOA-IUU is based on the UN FAO International Plan of Action to deter, prevent and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IPOA-IUU) fishing. It is a living document and has been reviewed four (4) times by key stakeholders in Papua New Guinea. It has also been audited by the European Union. Through this process of consultation, a number of key action items have already been achieved.

4. Designate the Jomard entrance as a particularly sensitive sea area https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21372

Given its ecological and economic value, this commitment suggests four two-way routes through the Jomard Entrance, aligned with, and centred upon the xisting charted preferred route.

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

"It is rightful that we are focusing this week on oceans and sustainable development. As a nation that is 99% ocean, we will not progress in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals without focusing on oceans and SDG14. We face deep challenges – from the local – marine and coastal pollution – to the global – including ocean acidification and climate impacts." – Hon. Mr John Silk, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Full Plenary Statement
http://statements.unmeetings.org/media2/14685161/marshall-islands-r1.pdf

1. Implementing Outcomes from RMIs 1st National Ocean Symposium https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21580

Understanding of the value and efficacy of supporting and strengthening cross-scale linkages between local, national, and international levels when it comes to addressing environmental issues, the RMI held its first National Oceans Symposium (NOS) on March 2017 bringing together all levels of government and civil society to raise priorities and key areas of concern particularly on climate change, sustainable fisheries, marine and coastal pollution, and coral reefs & marine protected areas. As the lead agency, the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority was supported in this initiative by partner agencies in the Coastal Management Advisory Council, which provides a platform for collaboration, integration, and technical advice across multiple sectors to support national conservation work (i.e. Reimaanlok) and other national priorities.

2. Participation in the Fisheries Forum Agency Vessel Monitoring Scheme and broader cooperation https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21572

The participation in the Forum Fisheries Agency's Vessel Monitoring Scheme (VMS), and the voluntary sharing of VMS data, and broader fisheries enforcement cooperation will allow for improvement in regional monitoring, control and surveillance through tracking of the fishing vessels in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

3. Blue Fee for coastal and marine resource sustainable management in the Republic of the Marshall Islands https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21568

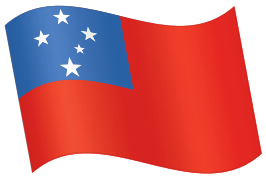
The Marshallese people have a proud history of sustainably drawing from available resources and protecting and conserving the natural environment upon which their livelihoods depend. The Reimaanlok National Conservation Plan was developed in 2008 as an overarching framework to provide principles,

processes, and guidelines for the development of community-based resource management plans and conservation areas based on scientific evidence, cultural values and future needs

4. Address the issue of marine debris and ghost gear through a conservation management measure at Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21512

Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority has begun efforts toward the development, of a Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) to address the issue of marine debris and ghost gear. The proposed CMM seeks to address target 14.1 with the support of like-minded members of the Forum Fisheries Agency and the WCPFC for the adoption of the measure at the upcoming annual Tuna Commission meeting in December 2017.

SAMOA



"The Pacific Ocean is the largest of the oceans domain, and over generations, our people have created an intimate relationship and a unique dependency on the ocean for our sustainable development, food security, social structures, livelihoods and tenure systems as well as traditional systems of stewardship governing its use. For us, the ocean is both a shared resource and a source of isolation. True, the ocean separates our islands but we also acknowledge that the ocean brings unity in a diverse and dynamically evolving world. It provides us with both opportunities and challenges, and is probably the one natural asset that all our islands have in common, and in abundant supply." Prime Minister Hon. Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi

Full Plenary Statement
http://statements.unmeetings.org/media2/14685107/samoa.pdf

1. Effective implementation of Monitoring, Control, Surveillance and Enforcement programmes for Samoa's fishery waters https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18433

The objective of this voluntary commitment is to support fisheries management objectives and to deter, prevent and eliminate illegal unreported and unregulated fishing activities for highly migratory fishing stocks in Samoas exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and in the western and central Pacific Ocean.

2. Ensuring Samoa's EEZ is free from destructive fishing through prohibition and regulation of fishing methods and gears https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18307

The objective of the voluntary commitment is to minimize incidental catches of non-targeted species and to prohibit the use of destructive fishing methods. Samoa has enacted legislation that prohibits the use of destructive fishing methods including explosives, traditional fishing methods and driftnet fishing activities in Samoas fishery waters.

3. Samoa's Community-based Fisheries Management Programme https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18298

The objective of the voluntary commitments is to ensure the long term sustainability of coastal fisheries resources for food security and livelihoods of coastal village communities. The implementation of the voluntary commitments is through a community based approach for fisheries and resources management where village communities work in partnership with the government in managing their coastal fisheries resources.

4. Avoid Intercept Redesign our ocean plastics https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=17836

The Government of Samoa (GoS) through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) is vested with the authority for the development and implementation of regulations, strategies and policies in regards to waste management. The MNRE manages various waste management activities mainly, litter, rubbish collection services, landfill maintenance and the sludge treatment facilities through various private contractors appointed by the GoS via the government tender process.

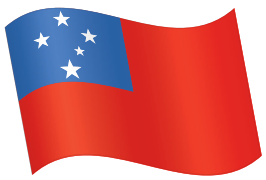
5. Sa Moana Folauga https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=17006

The Sa Moana Folauga is a voyage to build capacity and awareness on environment and natural resource management and to revive our voyaging heritage in communities in Samoa. This is to ensure communities are better ocean stewards through establishing protected areas and sustainable use of marine resources and switching to renewable energy alternatives to reduce carbon emissions.

6. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and SAMOA Marine Sanctuary https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16998

This commitment will establish a coordination mechanism and offers an integrated approach to ensure the conservation and the sustainable use of our oceans and marine resources. The Samoan way of life - the Christian way and the Faasamoa culture have an important role to play in the effectiveness of our MPAs. The Aleipata and Safata districts are important marine protected areas of Samoa.

SAMOA



7. River and Coastal Health Ecosystem Monitoring https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16990

Samoa commits to keep our waters clean and healthy from land-based pollution via river and coastal ecosystem. It was noted that 80% of marine debris is from land-based sources.

8. Waste Segregation, Storage and Disposal at Source https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16986

Solid waste management in Samoa is nevertheless slowly becoming a major concern. Samoa has already engaged the private sector in waste management and the system is working. However, there are efficiencies to be gained by economies of scale and better planning of the overall system.

9. Ocean Health Network for Samoa https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16754

This commitment will establish a coordination mechanism for oceans and marine work known as the Samoa Ocean Health Network, bringing together stakeholders in Government, NGOs, IGOs, Private Sector and the community to share information and advance Samoa's work on ocean conservation and the sustainable management of ocean resources.

10. Enhancing the protection, conservation and management of sharks, whales, dolphins and turtles in Samoas Exclusive Economic Zone https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16498

A National Marine Sanctuary will fill the gaps in existing marine resource protections and complement regulations already in place. Within a sanctuary, scientific research, monitoring, and education programmes are created to promote public awareness, understanding, appreciation and to foster a marine ethic of conservation and marine stewardship. In addition, a lucrative environment-friendly industry can be developed, e.g. whale and shark watching.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

"Solomon Islands along with its Pacific neighbours know that we are stewards of the largest expanse of Ocean in the world and its bountiful resource base. The ocean space under our collective jurisdiction is not only important to us. These spaces and their resources have a global significance as well. As such the Pacific region boasts a number of regional and sub-regional marine and ocean related frameworks, a testament to our strong commitment to improving governance on ocean and marine life issues. These frameworks remain very relevant today. Their implementation will also complement SDG14." – H.E Mr. Milner Tozaka, Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade.

Full Plenary Statement
http://statements.unmeetings.org/media2/14685145/solomon-islands.pdf

1. Support community based resource management in Solomon Islands https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20324

The Solomon Islands is a part of the global center for marine diversity. CTI region exemplifies the worlds marine richness, uniqueness and beauty of coastal and marine environment. Communities are the key actors in achieving sustainable management of marine and coastal resources to ensure food security, sustainable development, biodiversity conservation and adaptation to emerging threats (SINPOA 2009).

2. Improving Fisheries Management using Vessel Day Scheme, Solomon Islands https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20314

to improve the management of its tuna stocks, Solomon Islands commits to apply VDS within all its national waters (territorial, archipelagic and EEZ) and to all fishing vessels operating within these waters by 2018. Solomon Islands will also recognize this management in its Fisheries Management regulations, Tuna Management Plan, licensing and administration of fishing vessels. The regulation of VDS will be administered by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

3. Maritime boundaries and zones finalised for Solomon Islands https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20299

Solomon Islands commits to conclude its maritime boundaries and zones and deposit with United Nations Secretary General (UNSG) by 2018. By completing the mapping of its maritime boundaries, Solomon Islands puts itself in an ideal position to secure rights over its ocean space and embark on national process of developing an integrated National Ocean Policy and Marine spatial plan.

4. Review Pollution control component of the Environment Act by 2018 https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20289

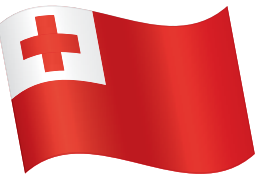
The Solomon Islands is a global center for marine diversity. And the ecosystem services of their ocean that deliver benefits to the people is worth more than

SBD$2.51 billion per/year. However, these services are under threat from rapid population growth and increased economic development activities. The rapid and increasing growth of industries, urban development and extraction of natural resources has introduced a broader challenge to Solomon Islands from pollution and waste

5. Integrated National Oceans Policy and Marine Spatial Plan for Solomon Islands https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19754

Two priority implementation tools that the Solomon Island Government commits to are an Integrated National Oceans Policy and a Nation-wide Marine Spatial Plan. So far the Government has conducted a valuation on the marine ecosystem, legal review on existing legislations, policies and strategies on ocean and marine use, describing and prioritizing key aspects for integrated ocean governance.

TONGA



As a large ocean State, Tonga holds Goal 14 very dear to its heart. The livelihood, culture, conservation efforts, and the overall sustainable development of Tonga is dependent on a healthy and resilient ocean due to the essential ecosystem services it provides, including the provision of oceanic resources, and importantly also, its role as a climate regulator. - Hon. Semisi T. Fakahau Minister for Agriculture and Food, Forestry, and Fisheries Head of Delegation of the Kingdom of Tonga

Full Plenary Statement
http://statements.unmeetings.org/media2/14685099/tonga.pdf

1. Advance science to inform decision making https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21392

This Initiative includes three major components: (1) marine scientific survey of the nearshore coral reef ecosystems in the Haapai and Vavau island groups; (2) evaluation of existing community fisheries catch data and monitoring programs; and (3) literature review of relevant marine research. These three components will support fisheries management, marine conservation, and the development and implementation of a marine spatial plan.

2. Implementation of Port State Measures Agreement to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21404

Part of the preparation for the implementation of the PSMA, Tonga has started a monitoring program to review its legislation to facilitate and cater for the requirements of PSMA. The first review of Tonga Legislation was conducted in February 2017. A workshop will be conducted in the last part of 2017 for the Ministry of Fisheries, Government ministries and relevant stakeholders to clarify the articles in the Agreements and further understand the obligations of Tonga to the the Agreement. The way forward in this regards will be focused on the implementation of the PSMA plus capacity building activities. The implementation of the PSMA is planned to be monitored annually.

3. Implementation of the Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement (NTSA) for monitoring, controlling, and surveying fishing in the region https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21508

The NTSAs objective is to enhance the active participation in cooperative surveillance and enforcement activities by providing a framework for Parties to share resources and exchange information, including fisheries data and intelligence.

4. Develop a Marine Spatial Plan https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21256

The marine spatial plan will be developed with the goal of sustainable, profitable, and enjoyable use of ocean resources, for today and for future generations. It will support improved fisheries and preservation of traditional uses. The Initiative will consider climate change and focus on approaches that achieve climate resilience and climate smart marine management practices.

5. Progressively implement the 2016-2024 Tonga Fisheries Sector Plan https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21464

The Tonga Fisheries Sector Plan has been prepared by with funding support from the World Bank and has received cabinet approval. The final plan represents the most significant strategic step towards more effective management of Tongas fisheries resources in over a decade. It lays out an ambitious program of reforms that build on existing programs, and encourage consideration of new policy directions that will place Tongas fisheries in a strong position through the four plan components:

1. Sustainability of community fisheries

2. Profitable commercial fisheries and aquaculture

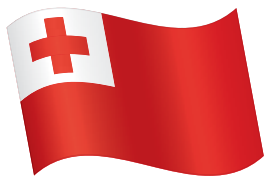
3. Public and private investment

4. Good governance and capacity building

6. Whale Sanctuary in Tongan Waters https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21420

The Royal Decree of 1978 by His late Majesty King Tupou IV, banned whaling in Tongan waters. This was re-affirmed during an International Conference on Whales in a Changing Ocean that was hosted by Tonga in April 2017. The Whale watching industry has boomed since this banning, which has increased revenue, through the tourist sector, into the country.

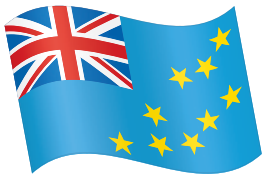
TONGA



7. 30% MPAs within Tongan waters https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21468

The term MPA, as used in Tonga, encompasses an array of levels of protection and conservation purposes from areas that allow multiple use activities, to areas that restrict take and/or access. Existing MPAs require different levels of protection to achieve their management goals, and that these diverse objectives offer different values to the national system that can help meet its goals and objectives to conserve natural and cultural heritage, and sustainable production of resources found in the coastal and marine environments. MPAs will be a neessary component of MSP, as their contribution to reducing negative impacts to ocean ecosystems is an important first step in viewing MPAs as a key component of MSP, rather than only a conservation and fisheries management tool.

TUVALU



"The fourteen Pacific Island Countries have improved monitoring, reporting and enforcement by putting in place a regional fishing register, and a vessel monitoring system that tracks fishing vessels around the clock. We have worked with the World Bank led Global Partnerships for Oceans, through our Pacific Regional Oceanscape architecture, focusing on sustainable management of Oceanic and Coastal Fisheries, conserving critical habitats and regional co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation." Prime Minister Hon. Enele Sosene Sopoaga

Full Plenary Statement
http://statements.unmeetings.org/media2/14685079/tuvalu.pdf

1. Tuvalu - Near-shore Fish-Aggregating Devices (FADs) https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21288

Least Development Country Funds (LDCF) resources will be used to put in place two near-shore FADs on each island. This, combined with the promotion of traditional canoe building and use (described below), will enable fishing communities to access more resilient, and relatively more abundant near-shore pelagic fisheries resources while reducing the pressure from fishing on reef resources, thereby enhancing their resilience in the face of increasingly intensive climate conditions.

2. Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21264

The purpose of this project is to reduce the impact of increasingly intensive wave activity, through the compounding effects of sea-level rise and intensifying storm events, that is amplifying coastal inundation and erosion. It is evident and well accepted that the effects of climate change will only worsen coastal inundation and erosion in Tuvalu. This project will increase the coverage of coastal protection from the baseline 570m to 2,780m benefiting nearly 29% of the entire population. Investments on coastal protection are directed at coastlines in three islands (Funafuti, Nanumea and Nanumaga) along areas that have a high concentration of houses, schools, hospitals and other social and economic assets (henceforth referred to as high-value coastline).

3. Strengthening the relationship between Fisheries Department and Island Kaupule https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19078

Enhancing and developing the capacity of the Kaupule to better manage and regulate local food fisheries supplying local needs and identifying ways that the Department of Fisheries could support the Kaupule in this area.

VANUATU

We are implementing the Pacific's first National Ocean Policy. This includes strong and clear actions to improve the sustainability of our different maritime sectors, whether fishing, shipping, deep sea mineral exploration or tourism. More innovative however, is Vanuatu's commitment by 2020 to implementing a national marine spatial plan to harmonize, across our ocean, where different uses, conservation and development will be promoted or controlled. – Hon. Seremaiah Matai Nawalu, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Bio-security.

Full Plenary Statement
http://statements.unmeetings.org/media2/14685289/vanuatu.pdf

1. National Marine Spatial Plan https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21632

A national, multiple-use marine spatial plan will be implemented to achieve a range of objectives to do with the ecologically sustainable use of Vanuatu's ocean.

2. Network of Marina Protected Areas https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21628

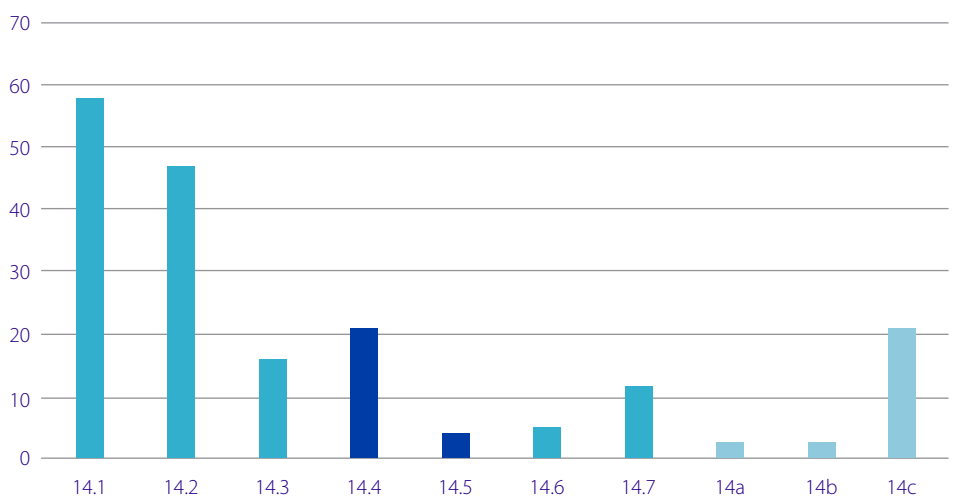
Create a national, ecologically representative, climate resilient network of marine protected areas including highly protected areas.

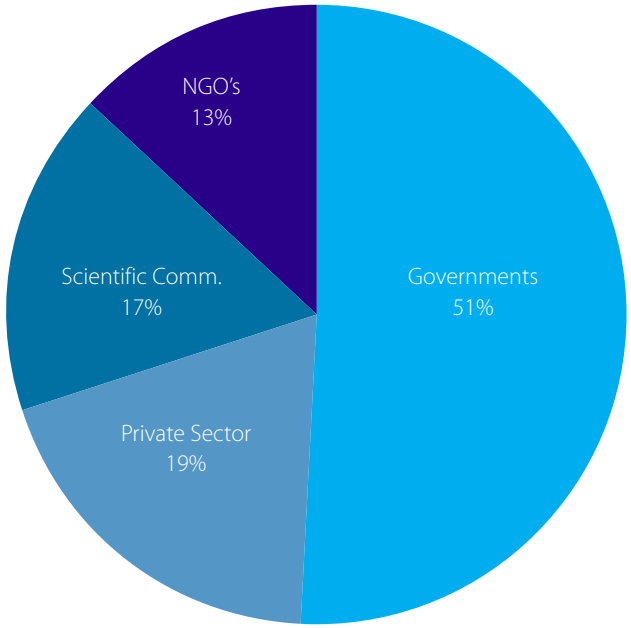
3. Establish a National Ocean Office https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21616

The National Ocean Office will be established within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to implement the National Ocean Policy.

Global Voluntary Commitments

Commitments By Goal





The majority of the voluntary commitments made in the Pacific are lead by government entities. In the coming months and years, there is expected to be a growing private sector presence

Targets

14.1 – By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

14.2 – By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

14.3 – Minimise and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels

14.4 – By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

14.5 - By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

14.6 - By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation

14.7 - By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism

14a - Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental

Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries

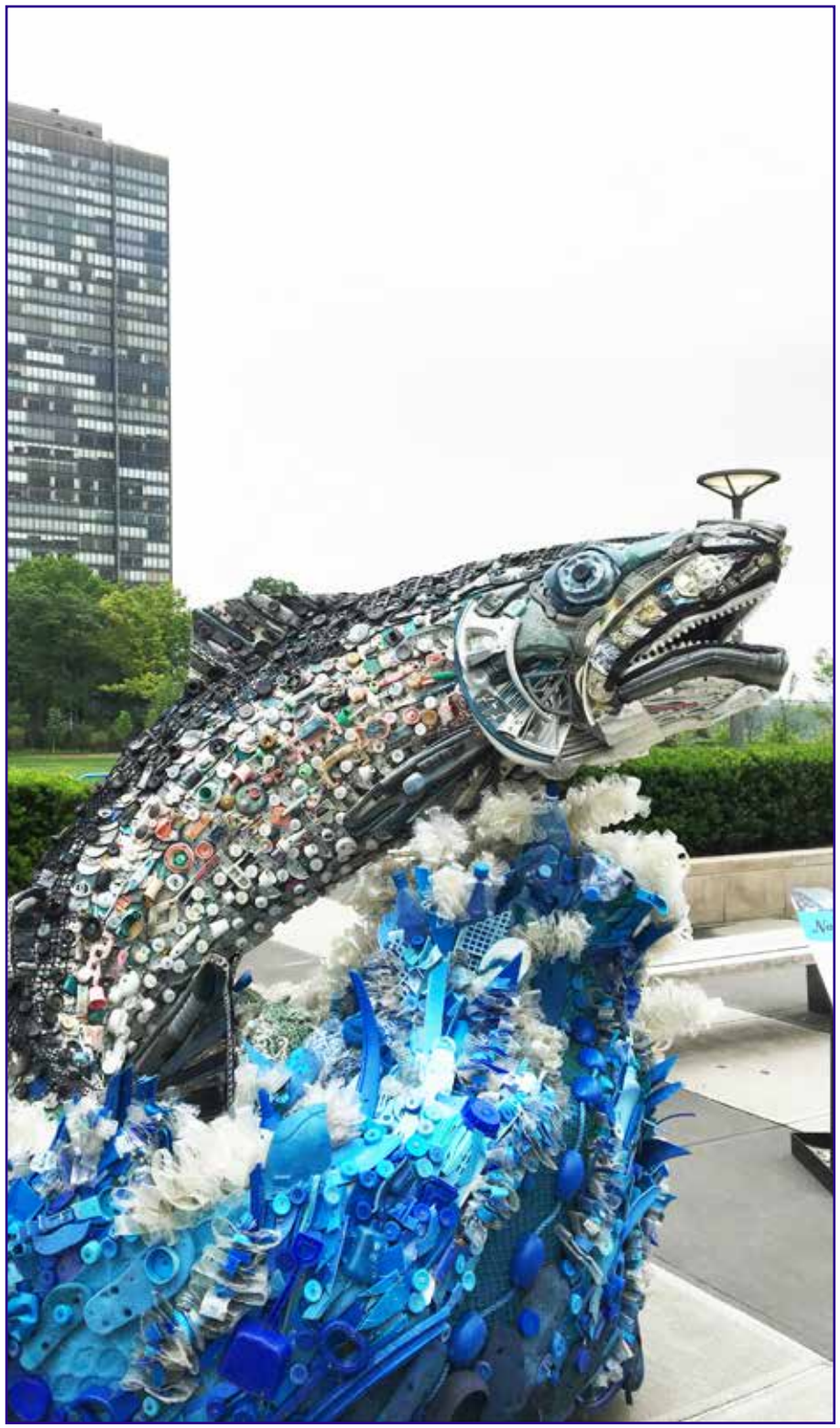
14b - Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

14c - Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want

14c - Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want

As illustrated by the above graph, goals 14.1 and 14.2 attracted the highest level of interest from the Pacific as it relates to targets and voluntary commitments.. With the exception of goal 14.4, the popular action areas for voluntary commitments are on tier 1 on the SDG roadmap. This demonstrates the Pacific's focus on working in areas where progress is yet to be made. It is unclear from the data gathered why greater emphasis is placed on some targets as opposed to others. While it is clear that not all targets have readily available baseline date to track progress towards implementation, this limitation is one in a host of possibilities for extensive focus to be placed on a narrow range of indicators. Furthermore, it should be noted that in areas where there is no past or present indicator measurement (14a, 14b, 14c), there are also fairly low levels of engagement through the voluntary commitments. Targets 14a-14c are not included in the Pacific SDG Roadmap; it is likely that this is due to the difficulty with which these targets could be successfully measured in the Pacific context.

There is also something to be said for the political impact of some of these voluntary commitments. Some of the Pacific's commitments build on institutions and projects which already exist. This would therefore necessarily positively affect the ability to monitor and track progress on the commitments. At this point in time, it is difficult to assess the follow through of the voluntary commitments. The Oceans dialogue has only just begun and demonstrates promise, particularly for the Blue Pacific.



Pacific Leadership in Side Events

The Blue Pacific – Our Sea of Islands, Our Livelihoods, Our Oceania : Achieving SDG14 through effective implementation of Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy

Lead organiser : Pacific Islands Foru Secretariat (the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner)

Pacific Islands Forum member countries – Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Samo, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) – FFA, PIFS, SPC, SPREP, USP, SPTO, PPA, PASO, PIDP

Implementing Agenda 2030 – Initiating Global Action on Ghost Gear

Lead organiser(s): Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga to the UN, Kingdom of Belgium, New Zealand, Vanuatu, World Animal Protection, Global Ghost Gear Initiative, South Pacific Regional environmental Programme

The Forgotten Fisheries : New commitments and partnerships for sustainable small-scale fisheries

Lead organiser(s): RARE

Co-organisers : Palau, Mozambique, Indonesia, IUCN and Bloomberg Philanthropies

Rebuilding Fisheries for People and the Environment

Lead organiser(s): Pacific Islands Forum ; Forum Fisheries Agency ; IUCN – Fisheries Expert Group ; FAO

Regional cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific and support the achievement of SDG 14

Lead organiser(s): ESCAP, Fiji, Bangladesh

Co-organisers : UNEP, Thailand, Palau, Pacific Oceans Commissioner

The Coral Triangle – Partnerships to Achieve SDG 14 (and more) in the World's Epicenter of Marine Biodiversity

Lead Organiser : The Government of Solomon Islands

Collaborative Partners – The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fiseries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) Regional Secretariat ; Coral Triangle Centre, Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, German Development Agency (GIZ), Asian Development Bank (ADB), The Government of Australia, USAID, Global Environment Facility, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)

Our Common Ocean : Resources, Rights, and Responsibilities – progressive policy alternatives and community led programmes

Lead organiser(s): The Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Pacific Partnerships on Gender, Climate Change and Sustainable Development through DIVA for Equality (Co-convenor) ; Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI) ; Local Marine Managed Network (LMMA) Pacific ; Regions Refocus

Going to Scale in the Ocean : from large scale MPAs to whole domain management : ridge to reef to ocean

Lead organiser : Cook Islands

Potential Partners : Cook Islands, Kiribati, Palau, New Caledonia, House of Ariki, Conservation International, Big Ocean network, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat/ Office of the Pacific Ocean Comissioner, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Pacific Islands Development Forum, Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), IUCN, University of Auckland, Moccasin Lake Foundation, Global Conservation Fund

Our Islands, Our Oceans, Our Future : Partnering for implementation of SDG14

Lead organiser : Palau Mission to UN

Partners : Global Island Partnership, Governments of Seychelles, Palau, Grenada, British Virgin Islands, Okeanos – Foundation for the Sea, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Polynesian Voyaging Society, Blue Guardians, Rare, The Nature Conservancy, Italy, IUCN, Sustainability Connections, PRECOVERY Labs

Big Ocean States building resilience for SDGs and Beyond

Lead Organiser : Pacific Island Development Forum

Partners : Government of Palau, UNDP, GEF Small Grants Programme, PRECOVERY Labs and Global sland Partnership (Seychelles, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Grenada, British Virgin Islands, Palau, Hawai'i Green Growth, IUCN, Italy, Rare, SCBD, The Nature Conservancy, Association for Overseas Countries and Territories)

Blue – Film Screening

Lead organiser(s): Government of Australia

Zone Based Management : A progressive tool to implement sustainable

fisheries commitments under SDG14

Lead organiser(s): Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency ; The Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office, World Bank, Forum Fisheries Agency member countries

Fiji's Leadership and Partnership on Ocean Management

Lead organiser(s): Fiji Mission to the UN

Coastal blue carbon ecosystems – supporting food security, sustainable oceans and climate action

Lead organiser(s): Government of Australia

In cooperation with Intergovernment Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, IUCN, Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy

Small Island Developing States : Taking the Lead for Sustainable Ocean Communities

Lead organiser(s): NGO Committee on Sustainable Development – NY, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Vanuatu to the UN, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives to the UN, Permanent Mission of Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the UN, Peace Boat US, Global Foundation for Democracy and Development, Form and Matter Foundation

Achieving sustainable fisheries development : a step change in Pacific Island communities

Lead organiser(s): Marshall Islands Permanent Mission to the UN

Super Reefs : Evidence of Climate Resilient Coral Reefs in the Pacific

Lead organiser(s): Conservation International in Partnership with Kiribati and featuring Dr Anne Cohen from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and Dr Greg Stone from Conservation International

The Pacific Voyage : Our Ocean, Our People, Our Pacific

Lead Organisers: The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Partners: Pacific island members of SPREP; Government of Sweden, Government of Republic of the Marshall Islands, Government of Solomon Islands, Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), International Atomic Energy Agency; Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre (IAEA/ OA-ICC) International Maritime Organization (IMO), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), UN Environment Programme (UNEP), World Animal Protection (WAP)

Advancing SDG 14 and the quest for a Blue Economy through the promotion of socioeconomic benefits for developing countries, including SIDS, and increasing scientific knowledge and research capacity: perspectives on deep seabed mining

Lead organiser(s): Kingdom of Tonga, Mexico, International Seabed Authority, UN DESA, and with the support of TOML/Nautilus Minerals Ltd.

Voices from the Blue Frontier : Ocean Governance Between Blue Economy and Human Rights

Lead organiser(s): Pacific Islands Association of Non-Government Organisations (PIANGO)

The Pacific Moving Forward

In preparation for the UN Oceans Conference, high level actors from the region met in March to discuss their goals for the conference and beyond. These were ;

1. To make a joint declaration by Pacific Island Countries and Territories to significantly improve Ocean governance including through strengthening existing instruments and where necessary, the development of comprehensive frameworks to sustainably manage, conserve and develop our Ocean and its resources across all maritime zones, before 2020, with the goal of full implementation by 2030
2. Implement Actions for a Cleaner Pacific at all levels and Call for Global action to reduce plastics and all forms of pollution by 2025
3. Act on nuclear waste, radioactive and other contaminants, shipwrecks and World War II relics.
4. Create and facilitate a global operational observing system1 for Ocean Acidification & Ocean Health
5. Explore the feasibility of mechanisms for blue carbon and other potential benefits to be derived from healthy oceans
6. Mobilise new resources and align and target existing ones to deliver integrated ocean management commitments
7. Help facilitate Triennial UN Ocean Summits, supported by regional and sub-regional ocean summits until 2030
8. Invest in Data and Information Systems
9. Formalise maritime boundaries and secure rights over resources

During the Oceans Conference, these goals were furthered by way of the voluntary commitments, and the partnership dialogues. There were seven partnership dialogues, each on different topics; marine pollution; managing protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems; minimising ocean acidification; making fisheries sustainable ; increasing economic benefits to SIDS and IDCs and providing access for small-scale artisinal fishers to marine resources and markets ; increasing scienific knowledge, and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology; and enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the law of the Sea. These partnership dialogues were hubs of discussion, many of which forged commitments and partnerships to implement and facilitate SDG14.

Moving onwards from the Oceans conference, regional leaders met once again in Suva in July 2017. This was to discuss their goals and strategies for the upcoming COP23 in November. During the meeting, the following priorities were highlighted;

- Development of indicators (national, regional and global) as tools to measure the progress in Climate Action within the Oceans Sector
- Opportunities to contribute the Pacific Experiences to and learn from International Partnerships such as the Global Mangroves Alliances, International Blue Carbon Partnership, International Coral Reefs Initiative, etc
- Development a Pacific regional Action Plan to implement the UN Oceans Conference Call for Action and integrating climate action
- Capacity Building, scientific research and monitoring for ocean acidification in the region to inform management strategies
- development of IMO strategies at national and regional levels to reduce Carbon emissions from marine transport and promote the use of traditional voyaging practices as transformative technology clean marine transport
- the importance of ocean health to gender and climate change action by et al, addressing ocean acidification, sea level rise, coral reef die-off, loss of biodiversity and species extinction, marine plastics, heavy metal, nuclear fallout and other pollution, and ensuring no deep sea or sand mining

In a more practical vein, and building on the Oceans voluntary commitments, the following recommendations were made;

- establishment of a Global Work Programme on Oceans and Climte
- development of a concept for TEP focusing on OCeans and Climate that fits the TEP criteria and puts forward a list of experts from the Pacific
- ensure coordinated global and regional approach to research and monitoring to inform decision makers and policies including building technical capacity for PICs in research
- expansion and support of the work on community led ecosystem based adaption including protection of natural ecosystems such as blu-carbon sinks (resotration and protection of mangroves and sea-grasses_ and fisheries management

- development of a regional integrated action plan for the UN Oceans Conference Call for Action
- Recognition that the ocean connects many sectors in the Pacific ; it has the potential to bring all actors together to ensure a safe working space for the varied users of the ocean
- Integration of climate action into the Pacific Regional SDG Roadmap
- Recognition of the commitment to mobilise the necessary means of implementation including funding mechanisms to implement Ocean Climate Action
- Recognition that Pacific governments alone cannot implement Climate action and that they need the full support of non-state actors and regional organisation

The Pacific has this led the way in terms of moving forward the commitments made at the UN Oceans Conference, and this document, by way of codifying this progress, can somewhat track future movement towards the implementation of SDG14.

Regional Working Discussion Paper

Our Sea of Islands – Our Livelihoods – Our Oceania Regional Preparatory Meeting 15 – 17 March 2017 Suva Fiji

The regional preparatory process is seen as a key way to guide, engage, collate and promote the activities, priorities and voluntary commitments created by Pacific parties – leading up to the UN Ocean Conference to be held in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017.

The priority marine issues facing the Pacific region have been addressed by three regional thematic Working Groups that were established in early 2017, to provide technical support and guidance to the preparatory process:

- Pollution, biodiversity and conservation of ecosystem services (WG1) • Climate change and ocean acidification (WG2)
- Fisheries, fishing subsidies and blue economy (WG3)
- Ocean governance and technical capacity building (cross-cutting and considered by All WGs)

The thematic working groups, comprising CROP and UN agencies, regional and international NGOs, as well as academia and other regional and national actors, have carried out an analysis and assessment of current policy and planning instruments, strategic priorities, actions and commitments - in order to determine gaps and support needs to achieve SDG14.

This working paper aims to provide the Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the UN Ocean Conference, to be held from 15 to 17 March 2017 in Suva Fiji, a summary of the current regional context of the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and regional ocean policy in the Pacific. It also draws out cross-cutting and common elements underlined in all of the Working Groups papers, including: the importance of building on existing policies and agreements - as a means to catalyse and support both regional and national efforts to implement and achieve SDG14 targets; the need for integrated ocean management and biodiversity conservation; and, the need for effective ocean governance arrangements based on strong coordination and cooperation.

Background

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 doneso formillennia. There is a deep-held immutable link between theocean and Pacific peoples, which provides a uniqueness and vitality to our stewardship and responsibilities that not only covers the areas within the 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) boundaries, but includes marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ).

The Ocean faces many present-day and longer-term challenges to sustainability. Inherently dynamic, complex and interlinked - any changes to the state of the ocean are likelyto have knock-on effects. For example, anthropogenic perturbations such as global greenhouse gas emissions are having a significant, long-lasting and possibly existential impact on the natural and physical processes and resources that form our Ocean. The Pacific Ocean responds to human pressures in a way that is generally poorly understood and unique to our region. However, the effects of such pressure can be increasingly observed or measured, from global satellite data on ocean temperature to micro-plastic loadings in the guts of juvenile fish to high levels of organic pollutants in organisms residing in the deepest reaches of the ocean. Some changes in the Ocean areirreconcilable, some irreversible and some now areat atipping-point. Analysis and projections show how these impacts will extend across the region if we maintain business-as-usual attitudes.

Regional Ocean Policy Context

Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) have over the last several decades committed to a plethora of 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. Of key relevance are the ratification of multi-lateral environmental and management agreements and the endorsement of companion regional policy instruments for the seai, biological diversityii, climate changeiii pollutioniv and fisheriesv; as well as endorsement of more encompassing frameworks for sustainable development such as the Johannesburg Programme of Actionvi, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action forthe Sustainable Development of SIDSvii, and morerecently in 2014 the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathwayviii, which are complemented by regional instruments such as the Framework for Pacific Regionalismix, the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP, 2016) the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policyx (PIROP, 2002), the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape (FPO, 2010)xi, the Palau Declaration - the Ocean: Life and Future (2014) xii, and the Pohnpei Ocean Statement - a Course to Sustainability (2016)xiii.

There are also highly relevant sector policies, plans and strategies such as the Future of Fisheries Roadmap (2015), A New Song for Coastal Fisheries (2015), and a Cleaner Pacific 2015: Pacific Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016-2025xiv; and subregional instruments such as the Parties to the Nauru Agreement, the MSG Roadmap for Inshore Fisheries (2015) and the SIS regional strategy (2016-2020).

These international and regional instruments can only achieve their objectives through material support for implementation of national policies and plans of action that explicitly include holistic ocean management. Relevant national policies and plans include National Sustainable Development Strategies or National Development Planning instruments, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and national sector policies plans such as for fisheries, minerals, transport, tourism, energy and environment.

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Links between Regional Policy and Plans, and SDG14

There is strong resonance between SDG14 and the SAMOA Pathway, which is holistic, far reaching and includes regional thematic priorities on climate change, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable energy. The SAMOA pathway also specifically addresses oceans and seas inter alia sustainable use, conservation, pollution, research, coral reefs, IUU, smallscale fisheries development and management, subsidies capacity, cooperation and marine protected areas.

There is also strong resonance between SDG14 and the Region's ocean policy, with strategic actions of the PIROP (2002) including improving capacity, strengthening partnerships as well as prioritising information needs and co-operative mechanisms, and the FPO (2010) envisioning 'a secure future for Pacific Island Countries and Territories based on sustainable development, management and conservation of our Ocean', and with a strategic priority on "Listening, Learning, Liaising and Leading" which calls for improved and more carefully targeted use of knowledge, information and enhanced capacity, which cuts across the SDG14 agenda. The Palau Declaration on "The Ocean: Life and Future" stresses the convergence of efforts to improve the well-being of our Pacific people through sustainable ocean management, and the need for "integrated and mixed management approaches" which inculcates a holistic vision including jurisdictional rights, fostering good ocean governance, encouraging sustained action and facilitating adaptation to a rapidly changing environment. Within these high-level, regional approaches there sit strong and connected sector policies such as the Future of Fisheries Roadmap and the New Song for Coastal Fisheries with relevant SDG14 targets. There is also a growing body of national policies and strategies which provide support, appropriate to national specificities.

Regional Ocean Governance Arrangements – Advocacy & Coordination

Good ocean governance and strong coordination arrangements, within the multiple and nested regional policy frameworks has long been recognized. The FPO (2010) called for a strengthening of the regional institutional framework for ocean governance and policy coordination byestablishing a Pacific Ocean Commissioner, with professional support, to provide the necessary high level representation and commitment urgently required to ensure dedicated advocacy and attention to ocean priorities, decisions and processes at national, regional and international levels. The incumbent Pacific Ocean Commissioner (POC) is supported by the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC) which was set-up in late 2014. The POC facilitates the Pacific Ocean Alliance (POA), an open-ended network of government, non-government, private sector and civil society organisations launched in 2014, to advance coordinated and cooperative approaches towards integrated ocean management, including for the high seas.

The Leaders Pohnpei Ocean Statement: A Course to Sustainability (2016) reinforces the coordinating role of the POC and calls on OPOC and POA to provide the necessary technical, financial and administrative support to countries' implementation of SDG14. In addition, the Statement reaffirms the leadership, advocacy and facilitative role of a Pacific Ocean Commissioner.

Integrated Ocean Management

Working Groups highlighted the need for integrated ocean management and governance. Integrated ocean management would need to be applicable at all scales – across boundaries and sectors – to ensure the sustainable development, management and conservation of PICTs island, coastal and ocean ecosystem services to meet development aspirations, while ensuring and maintaining environmental health and ecological function.

An integrated management approach addresses the interface between island, atmosphere and ocean. It can take into account, for example, land based sources of pollution, coastal inundation into the land, salt water intrusion and aquifers, and marine species that rely on estuarine or freshwater environments at specific life-stages. By setting ecological, social, cultural and economic objectives, integrated ocean management can bring diverse coastal and ocean users together in a proactive way along spatial, sectoral and temporal dimensions.

Pacific Leaders have already committed to key regional frameworks and shared goals, with integrated ocean management a leading objective in the FPO and stated as part of the SAMOA Pathway (Paragraph 57: "We recognize that an integrated ecosystem approach to ocean-related activities is needed to optimize opportunities. It should be based on the best available science, give due regard to conservation efforts and precautionary approaches and ensure coherence and balance among the three dimensions of sustainable development."). Any future action should build upon these statements to support efficient, collaborative programmes of work. Targeted effort to align the integrated ocean management and good ocean governance approach - outlined in the PIROP and FPO, with national and other regional approaches such as the FPR and Regional SDGs implementation would bring rapid benefits.

For example, as described byWorkingGroup 1 -a coral reef threatened byland-usechangeand/or climate change and/or ocean acidification will be subject to stress. It may no longer be able to support reef fisheries, nursery habitats for juvenile fishery species, aquaculture, or seashells used in curio trades. It may also no longer be able to provide shoreline protection services or provide a source of new beach sand, and consequently subject near-shore and coastal infrastructure to hazard risks. Coastal industries such as tourism, and other economic, environmental, and cultural effects not easy to quantify would be impacted. This situation calls for an integrated ocean management approach from island to high seas.

Best Practice, Experiences and Lessons Learned

Some noteworthy and demonstrable changes and achievements that have been made in the region warrant examination to garner insights and foster ideas, innovation and initiative. They include the effective,

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sustainable and economically rewarding strategic initiative of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA), a sub-regional grouping that has significantly increased the revenue earned by their member countries, by introducing the Vessel Day Scheme for purse seine fishing across their EEZs. This innovative fisheries management approach has been particularly successful in shifting the balance of power, control and influence, while demonstrating greater stewardship and sustainability. Another regional example is the approach adopted by local communities to manage and sustainably use their coastal and marine areas over which they have traditional or more recently assigned tenure rights or ownership; this is the mainstay of the work of Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) Network and national initiative such as in Samoa and Tonga. The lessons from these experiences serve as valuable templates for the future sustainable use of ocean resources.

SDG14 – a Catalyst for Transformative Change?

The SDG14 process can be catalytic for transformative change if existing efforts, initiatives and processes can be strengthened. While the universality of the "integrated, indivisible" 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for "people, planet and prosperity" is highly relevant for the Pacific - the modality for uptake and ensuring that SDG14 builds on existing efforts and promotes "transformational" change will not be without its challenges.

SDG14 cannot beseenas anew start –itmustrecognizethe decades of previous effort, investment and learning in integrated ocean management in the region while leaning forward to determine how it must optimise the benefits to be gained from implementing and achieving SDG14. The region will need to determine the balance of the approach between the targets, the constituency through which action is best promulgated and the most appropriate ways to measure progress for the region. SDG14 can be an instrument to support the "transformative" change urged byLeaders, but that will require consultation and consensus, as well as political settlements and agreements on the best way forward to optimize equitable benefits while ensuring sustainable development, management and conservation of the ocean and its resources.

The SDG14 process could help strengthen integration and implementation of ocean management to achieve sustainable islands, livelihoods and ocean. However many other SDGs are inextricably linked to SDG14, including partnerships (SDG17), sustainable cities and communities (SDG11) and climate action (SDG13). This "indivisibility" of SDGs requires integration and cross-sectoral thinking rather than an inwards focus on any particular Goal - in isolation.

Pacific Commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs is high. The Pacific has been very active in the negotiation stages of the Post-2015 discussions and since 2012 Pacific Leaders have madepolitical commitments to the SDGs, includingtheircommitment in 2015, to fullyimplement the SDGs. An inclusive Pacific SDGs Taskforce (PST) has been established to give effect to the Leaders directives with agreement to develop a Pacific SDGs Roadmap to guide regional efforts across all the goals, including Goal 14. The PST has, in consultation with the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (PSSC), identified a DRAFT set of 109 SDG indicators for the Pacific, based on agreed criteria. In relation to SDG14, of the 10 global indicators 7 SDG14 indicators have been selected for the Pacific to monitor. Indicators 14.1.1 (marine pollution), 14.a.1 (marine scientific research and capacity) and 14.b.1 (involvement in small scale fisheries) have been removed. The list will be considered in the Pacific regional Sustainable Development Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue to be held in late May 2017 in Fiji and will be finalised by Leaders in Apia in September 2017.

This integrated approach must also apply to the targets within the goals and the distribution of effort and resources across, and at the interfaces between, targets and needs to be determined through consensus. Already there is a track record in the region for isolated treatment of targets, which has caused polarity in debate and thwarted consensus. For example, the SDG14.4, 14.5, 14.7 and 14.b target to conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas should be applied in conjunction with other tools to address the major threats and provide integrated management support to all communities and Pacificpeoples, and to coastal and oceanic resources. For instance, by sustainably managing 100% of oceans within the outer EEZ boundaries and the High Seas, countries will most effectively implement the extremely promising zone-based management of their valuable marine resources as well as meeting multiple SDG14 the MPA targets. If SDG14 is used in the right wayin the region, it can facilitate regional consensus and move towards a more integrated, less polarized and a substantive deliberative direction to deliver benefits to Pacific countries and their people.

The economy of the Ocean – the "Blue Economy" – provides a diversity of benefits to Ocean states. Indicative figures from the MACBIO project for Fiji (under final validation), suggest that whilst the net annual value of the tuna industry is USD $20 million, subsistence fishing is worth $59 million to local communities and artisanal commercial fishing is worth up to $54 million. However, marine tourism in Fiji brings in revenue of $1.15 billion. Additional and less-appreciated benefits, such as the services offered by the ocean for coastal protection valued at between $6 to 10 million per annum. While each Pacific island country will have a different portfolio of benefits accrued from the ocean nevertheless these will need to be managed in an integrated way to maximise sustainable benefits.

Effective partnerships will be a vital way forward for delivery of SDG14. There is a wide diversityof partnerships identified in the region coveringdifferent thematic areas, different spatial scales, as well as having different constituencies. Some partnerships are genuine, durable, long-lasting and self-driven. Others are set-up during times of resource availability and then disappear. Thereis aneedto moreclearlyarticulatewhat partnerships and what features of those partnerships are necessary for an integrated and coordinated approach to SDG14 which are appropriate for our region. There is also the need to appreciate the requirement for a nested architecture of partnerships where some will be locally focused up to others in the Pacific that will need to be part of a global

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partnership. This is especially the case for global scale ocean, climate and earth-system wide commitments, operational observation systems and services.

Strategic thematic priorities and actions were identified by the three working groups (refer paragraphs 2 & 3). Their tasking to consider one or more SDG14 targets as well as the cross-cutting 14.a and 14.c included the identification and collation of initiatives and partnerships and needed actions to achieve the SDG14 targets. Based on current information contained in the matrices prepared by each of the working groups, more strategic outputs were identified as a possible, tentative way forward in relation to achieving SDG14 and its targets. These proposed strategic priorities and actions could be used by the Pacific as an initial platform to structure and articulate the regional Call for Action, as well as to inform the seven partnership dialogues.

Strategic recommendations to Partnership Dialogues Partnership Dialogue 1 - Addressing marine pollution

- The Pacific is heavily impacted by polluting practices outside of the Pacific region and needs to effectively engage with global partnerships, such as the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, Regional Seas Conventions as wellas global campaigns, such as the Clean Seas Campaign.
- Recognizing that land-based sources contribute to 80% of marine litter, call for action to assist countries to prevent and reduce marine litter through national, regional, and global efforts.
- Recognizing that land-based sources are by far the largest contributor to marine pollution, via waterborne(runoff)and atmosphericinputs, callforaction to assist countries to prevent and reduce marine pollution through national, regional, and global efforts.
- Levels of marine pollution depend on the amount of release to the environment as well as economic, cultural practices and governance arrangements. Controlling pollution requires a commitment to sustainable consumption and production, as well as exploration of renewable energy options.
- Support regional coordinated approaches such as Cleaner Pacific 2025; the key need is requisite resources to improve regional strategies.

Partnership Dialogue 2 - Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems

- Support the protection, preservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems through implementation of regional frameworks, such as the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape (FPO) and provide support the development and coordinated implementation of national or regional Marine Resource Plans.
- Promote integrated ocean management and governance that also addresses land-use management, using a ridge to reef or whole of island ecosystem approach and a range of tools, such as MPAs, LMMAs, CZM and MSP.
- Support the integrated management of coastal and marine ecosystems as part of the management of fishery species and the environments needed for their reproduction and growth.
- Protection, preservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems through implementation of regional frameworks, such as the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2014–2020.
- RecognizePacificSIDS traditional approachesto marine managed areas, such as LMMAs, as contributions to the total area of seas under sustainable use and conservation and as effective tools for integrated ocean management.
- Use marine spatial planning (MSP) for EEZs, for regional seas, and for the High Seas, as a tool to manage and increase resilience of not only fishery species but also a broad range of distinct marine ecosystems.
- Recognize the national efforts in the creation of MPAs and LMMAs, to meet their obligations to the Convention on Biological Diversity(Aichi targets), encouragecontinued action, and call for support to build the capacity of PSIDS Fisheries and Environment departments to enhance management and service provision.
- Global and regional consideration of the environmental management and conservation aspects of deep-sea mining activities, as well as offshore and High Seas fishing activities, including areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Partnership Dialogue 3 - Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification

- A global system for research and monitoring data on ocean ecosystem health, built from existing and new operational ocean observing partnerships.
- Promote the importance of integrated ocean management and governance across all EEZ's and oceans; highlighting the leadership already demonstrated by Pacific Islands such as zone based management, marine protected areas and fisheries management.
- Strongly reinforce the need for immediate and drastic reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions, recognizing the central role of oceans in mediating climate and the need to implement stringent reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Partnership Dialogue 4 - Making fisheries sustainable

- Seek the commitment of international community, particularly distant water fishing

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nations, to:

- Support harvest strategy approaches that limit total harvest in fisheries to sustainable levels.
- Implement zone based fisheries management approaches that effectively regulate the harvest of fisheries within jurisdictions and in the High Seas.
- Retain the ability to provide support to the domestic fisheries sector by resisting efforts to limit the support that national authorities (SIDS specific) can provide to enhance the capacity of domestic fleets.
- Reduce IUU.
- Remove the conservation burden imposed on SIDS.

Partnership Dialogue5 -Increasing economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

- Support the development of a Pacific "Blue Economy".
- Continue to enhance the economic benefits that SIDS get from the sustainable use of their marine resources, including through the diversification of economic returns within and beyond the fisheries sector.
- Support enhanced coastal fisheries management and monitoring, control and surveillance of coastal resources, to protect culture, livelihoods and food security of SIDS.

Partnership Dialogue 6 - Increasing scientific knowledge, and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology

- Secureresources and support to boost the PacificOcean Alliance and to develop the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner.
- Identified SDG14 priorities should guide the regional needs for research, capacity building, governance, enforcement, and the creation of partnerships to resource local, national, and regional actions.
- Improve monitoring data to support evidence-based management. This includes improved baseline inventories, data collection, monitoring and assessment of marine ecosystems; data for coastal marine ecosystems identified as a priority need.
- Call for stringent, long-term monitoring to assess effectiveness of MPA success in the context of global change and to build our understanding of marine ecosystems.
- Recognising the strong link between ocean and climate there needs to be a stronger recognition and improved integration between the ocean / SDG14 and the UNFCCC process, beginning with a focus on the COP23.

Partnership Dialogue 7 - Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

- Commit to sustainable shipping practices, including fishing vessel operations, as defined under the MARPOL Convention and its Annexes.
- Advocate the use of best practice relating to international shipping, to control marine pollution and debris as well as the impacts and spread of invasive species.
- Reiterate in line with international commitments and conventions, that when taking action on climate change and oceans, to respect, promote and address with maximum available resources, the structural gaps and obstacles in achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

Proven Global Leadership – the Way Forward

The region has demonstrated global leadership in the development of a regional ocean policy and appropriate regional sector-based action plans. The way forward is not as complex as it might appear but it does rely on promoting a common approach as much as possible, whilst recognising national and local specificities. The highest priority should be accorded to implementing existing policies. SDG14 does not provide better guidance for implementation but what it does provide is opportunity for global support on this and other SDGs - to catalyse regional implementation.

Discussion Paper I

Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting Towards the UN Oceans Conference Working Group 1 1:

Pollution, Biodiversity and Conservation of Ecosystem Services

Approach to the regional preparations

This discussion paper aims to provide PSIDS representatives at the Regional Preparatory Meeting with a summaryof the input byWorking Group 1 (WG1) on SDG Goal 14 and on the targets 14.1, 14.2, 14.5, 14.a and 14.c, and is designed to be read in conjunction with the attached matrix table that has been compiled by WG1 and cross-reviewed and validated by the other SDG 14 working groups.

This paper presents the needed action, means of implementation, and gaps in our knowledge or capacity to implement the necessary actions. In addition, it proposes voluntary commitments following the request from the Steering Committee for guidance on voluntary commitments.

One ocean: life, islands, home — SDG14

The ocean is at risk due to unsustainable consumption and destructive practices, with these risks multiplying quickly across sectors to undermine sustainable development locally and globally. The Pacific requires regionally and globally coordinated action because of the tremendous impacts of external activities on Pacific marine resources, ecosystems and communities.

In reverse, the benefits of ecosystem and species protection, conservation and sustainable use are also readily multiplied, supporting both ocean ecosystem health and community livelihoods and way of life.

The Pacific is leading in some areas of ocean management, and we call upon the global community to support and follow Pacific leadership.

We call for new transformative actions but also support for current programmes, frameworks, strategies and actions.

Conservation, sustainable management and restoration of marine ecosystems is needed to maintain ocean health, building climate resilience and sustainable development.

Integrated ocean management

Integration across sectors and governance bodies is needed to effectively manage scarce coastal and marine resources.

Pacific SIDS leaders have already committed to regional and global frameworks advocating integrated ocean management such as the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape and the SAMOA Pathway. Integrated ocean management should be the overall focus of our efforts:

- Sustainable use of the ocean needs an integrated approach that addresses multiple targets and indicators across SDG14 as well as other SDGs, targets and indicators.

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- Integrated ocean management includes coastal and off shore zones, recognising the also the links with terrestrial ecosystems and land-based activities.
- National governments need to establish and strengthen institutional framework and management systems needed to adopt an integrated approach.
- Integrated management can be accomplished using a range of tools, such as MPAs, LMMAs, CZM, etc., but any single tool should not distract from the overall integrated management approach.

Existing Regional Activities

See annex 1 for a list of existing activities and partnerships, along with suggestions of needed action, aligned with the SDG14 targets assigned to WG1.

SDG14.1: prevent and reduce pollution of the marine environment Regional context: Envisioning a Pollution-free Pacific

Marine debris and pollution have broad economic, social and environmental negative impacts, both directly and indirectly, via aesthetic, physical, chemical, biological, and human health effects. The environments and species we depend on for our health and livelihoods are threatened by marine pollution. Pollution places a financial burden on Pacific people both directly and indirectly.

Marine pollution is a significant threat to the Pacific, and land-based sources of pollution are by far the largest stressors on our coastal and marine ecosystems:

- Land-based pollution includes debris and chemical, physical (sedimentation), biological and nutrient pollution (including untreated human and animal waste), as well as atmospheric pollutants.
- Discarded plastic waste is one of the priority marine pollution issues facing the region.

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Pollution, Biodiversity and Conservation of Ecosystem Services

- Improved solid and waste water-management is crucial to prevent pollution and litter entering waterways and the ocean.
- Pacific states and territories are affected not only by waste produced locally but also by waste transported in by foreign vessels and by ocean currents. Remote, uninhabited island ecosystems show impacts of marine pollution and physical presence of debris.
- If we consider greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, as pollutants, the Pacific is already feeling the effects of this global pollution through the impacts of ocean acidification and climate change.
- The management of new development initiatives, such as deep-sea mineral activities, include potential pollution risks and need action to prevent and mitigate marine pollution.
- Ship-based pollutants, including atmospheric pollutants, oil and chemical spills and lost or discarded fishing gear (i.e. ghost gear) need to be addressed;
- Wrecks and derelict vessels especially fishing vessels are an eyesore and pollution risk in many pacific countries

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- Marine invasive species, a potential component of ballast water and hull fouling as well as transported on floating debris, are a threat to Pacific species and sustainable development; and
- Two other regionally significant sources of marine pollution are WWII wrecks and nuclear waste from old testing sites.

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Priorities:

- The Pacific is heavily impacted by polluting practices outside of the Pacific region and needs to effectively engage with global partnerships, such as the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, Regional Seas Conventions as well as global campaigns, such as the Clean Seas Campaign
- Recognizing that land-based sources contribute to 80% of marine litter, call for action to assist countries to prevent and reduce marine litter through national, regional, and global efforts
- Recognizing that land-based sources are by far the largest contributor to marine pollution, via waterborne (runoff) and atmospheric inputs, call for action to assist countries to prevent and reduce marine pollution through national, regional, and global efforts
- Commit to sustainable consumption and production: The management of marine pollution depends on economic and cultural practices as well as governance arrangements, making sustainable consumption and production as well as exploration of renewable energy sources important for the status of Pacific marine pollution.
- Commit to sustainable shipping practices, including fishing vessel operations, as defined under the MARPOL Convention and its Annexes.
- Support and use regional frameworks and cooperation to deliver actions such as the Cleaner Pacific 2025 Framework.

Suggested voluntary commitments:

- Focus on land-based sources of pollution:
  - Commitment to manage or ban the import and sale of plastic or polystyrene products and packaging
  - Bans of certain products, such as plastic drinking straws or single-use plastic bags, following the examples of Pacific countries that have banned plastic bags
  - Commitment to water treatment, increasing capacity to handle storm-water discharge and prevent discharge of untreated, nutrient-rich groundwater
  - Commitment to sustainable agriculture, reducing excessive fertilizer inputs into waterways
- Enforcement of MARPOL Convention requirements preventing ship-based discards of non-biodegradable waste. Commitment from the fishing industry is critical for the Pacific region

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Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting Towards the UN Oceans Conference Working Group 1 1:

Pollution, Biodiversity and Conservation of Ecosystem Services

- Make national and regional commitments to the Clean Seas Campaign

Partnerships:

- Cleaner Pacific Partnership

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- Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (including Global Partnership for Marine Litter – GPML): pollution reduction policies and measures, global partnerships
- Pacific Regional Centre for the Basel Convention
- World Animal Protection Global Ghost Gear Initiative (WAP-GGGI)

Existing Regional Activities

See annex 1 for a list of existing activities and partnerships, along with suggestions of needed action, aligned with the SDG14 targets assigned to WG1.

Needed action: All levels

- Assist Members meet IMO Convention obligations that contribute toward SOLAS (e.g. MARPOL, Cape Town Agreement)
- Resource mobilization for Cleaner Pacific 2025 implementation
- Ensure pollution reduction or removal strategies include include plastics, sewage, nutrients, chemical (industrial, shipping), sedimentation and other land-based sources.

Global

- Promote Clean Pacific partnership and their connection to relevant global partnerships
- Strengthen Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities: Support implementation of global partnerships through Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans
- Promote Triple R principles – Reduce, Recycle, Reuse – to minimize the creation and accumulation of non-biodegradable waste

Regional

- Regional Seas Programme Pacific: Support implementation of Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, Regional Seas Strategic Direction 2017-2020, Global Environment Facility projects
- Regional engagement with Ocean governance and Global Partnership of Action on Marine Litter including Discarded Abandoned Lost Fishing Gear.
- Support for coordinated implementation of commitments and obligations on marine pollution as set out in relevant MEAs and regional policies
- Regional governance mechanism to manage the pollution risks stemming from deep-sea mineral activities

National

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- Support national actions and programmes that support implementation of Cleaner Pacific 2025 to effectively manage waste and pollution
- Facilitate national connection to and participation in regional and global partnerships to address the reduction and removal of pollution from coastal and marine environments
- Support coordinated implementation of national policies and legislation (e.g., environmental impact assessment, waste management) on marine pollution with a view to improve compliance, and minimize or avoid catastrophic or irreversible impacts of pollution
- Implement integrated coastal resource management drawing on strengths and traditions of community, provincial and national levels
- Coastal resource/fisheries management initiatives incorporate and address watershed and other land based- pollution and their impacts
- National management to control and mitigate pollution impacts from deep-sea mineral activities

Discussion Paper I

Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting Towards the UN Oceans Conference Working Group 1 1:

Pollution, Biodiversity and Conservation of Ecosystem Services

SDG 14.2: sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems
Regional context: Ocean Life, Our Life

Pacific species have inherent value and support the wealth of human possibility in the Pacific region and worldwide. Conservation today also increases the "option value" of future use upon identification of valuable resources in the future.

Pacific development depends on coastal and marine ecosystems. The primary Pacific industries, livelihoods, and development opportunities stem from or rely on marine and coastal resources. Even for industries that are not explicitly marine-based, their presence on islands creates a dependence on coastal and marine ecosystems for resources, structure, and conditions, including weather and climate factors.

Pacific Ocean ecosystems are of global value. While the ocean is a key component of the cultures of Pacific people, the ocean is also our global heritage and global safeguard supporting all planetary life.

Coastal and marine ecosystems are strongly influenced by the nearby land use and management. These links are particularly fast and obvious on small islands. This linkage demands integrated ocean management for effective sustainable development.

The Pacific has one of the highest rates of endemism globally, i.e. the presence of species that are not found anywhere else in the world. We know more about terrestrial Pacific species than marine, but Pacific island biodiversity and ecology in general are understudied. We can expect research to readily identify new species with yet undefined value to Pacific ecosystems and societies.

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Sustainable management of coastal and marine resources will rely on multiple tools and approaches to meet target SDG 14.5 on conservation of marine areas.

Priorities

- Promote integrated ocean management and governance that also addresses land-use management, using a ridge to reef or whole of island ecosystem approach.
- Integrated management can be accomplished using a range of tools, such as MPAs, LMMAs, CZM, MSP, etc., but should be applied within an integrated management approach.

- Improved baseline inventories, data collection, monitoring and assessment of marine ecosystems to enable informed and integrated ocean management. Data for coastal marine ecosystems were identified as a priority need.
- Support for the protection, preservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems through implementation of regional frameworks, such as the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape (FPO), supporting the development and coordinated implementation of national or regional Marine Resource Plans.
- Support the integrated management of coastal and marine ecosystems as part of the management of fishery species and the environments needed for their reproduction and growth.
- Advocate the use of best practice relating to international shipping, to control marine pollution and debris as well as the impacts and spread of invasive species.
- Global and regional consideration of the environmental management and conservation aspects of deep-sea mining activities as well as offshore and high seas fishing activities, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Suggested Voluntary commitments:

- Recall the leaders existing decisions and commitments, and promote them as global best practice examples on ocean governance, including the SAMOA Pathway, the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape and the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner.
- Replicate creation of national conservation funds, following the examples of Palau (PAN Fund Green Fee) and Republic of Marshall Islands (Blue Fee)
- Commitment to rigorous Environmental Impact Assessment and incorporation of EIA results into development decisions
- Commitment to wetland protection and management, by becoming party to the Ramsar Convention framework
- Promote and support cultural approaches to oceans

Discussion Paper I

Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting Towards the UN Oceans Conference Working Group 1 1:

Pollution, Biodiversity and Conservation of Ecosystem Services

management such as the locally managed marine areas as effective management tool for conservation and sustainable use

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Partnerships

- Pacific Ocean Alliance
- Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac): SPC, SPREP, Partner countries (x14), Australian BOM, Goescience Australia, DFAT
- Round table for Nature Conservations and Protected Areas
- LMMA regional network and various national level networks

Existing Regional Activities

See annex 1 for a list of existing activities and partnerships, along with suggestions of needed action, aligned with the SDG14 targets assigned to WG1.

Needed actions: All levels

- Improve the enabling conditions (e.g. governance, institutions, legislation, enforcement, funding) and capacity for integrated coastal and ocean management
- Support the mainstreaming of ecosystem-based management (EBM) approaches and principles into ocean sector policies, legislation, strategies and actions on the ground (Shipping, fishing, DSM, energy, tourism, etc).
- Improve knowledge of ocean ecosystems and the application of information - to achieve integrated and ecosystem-based management of oceans.

Global

- BBNJ regime: Assist Pacific Island Countries to effectively engage in the emerging BBNJ regime
- Strengthenthe Honolulu Challenge,an initiativemeant to increaseaction on Invasive Alien Species including marine invasive species.

Regional

- Support implementation of Framework for Nature Conservation and protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region
- Improve SIDS capacity for valuing and integrating cost benefit analyses into decision-making on coastal and marine resources.
- Garner resources and support to boost the Pacific Ocean Alliance and to develop the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner
- Regional management to protect and manage deep-sea ecosystems, as part of the whole marine ecosystem

National

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- Support implementation of EBM approaches, and assist with knowledge-sharing and lessons from the field
- Support implementation of policies, plans, strategies and legislation for marine resources (e.g. tuna plans, sharks, bêche-de-mer, coastal fisheries, aquaculture, bycatch, etc.) that take an EBM approach to management approach
- Develop and enforce efficient and effective legislation and regulations covering coastal management and ecosystem services
- Improve baseline inventories and monitoring of critical coastal marine habitats (e.g. mangroves, seagrass, coral reefs) for better informed national and local scale management, and ensure these are integrated into decision-making processes.
- Encourage and support implementation of community-driven approaches at national and subnational scales, and communities are empowered to be stewards of the environment/natural resources.
- Increase transparent and effective public expenditure on measures to improve coastal hazard risk management plans
- Mainstreaming national finance (from public and private sector) towards the management of coastal and marine systems, and which are linked to national sustainable development plans and policies.
- PICTS implement integrated coastal resource management drawing on strengths and traditions of community, provincial and national levels (FPO Action 3A)

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Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting Towards the UN Oceans Conference Working Group 1 1:

Pollution, Biodiversity and Conservation of Ecosystem Services

- Explore and build on MSP mechanisms (FPO Action 3B)
- National management to protect and manage deep-sea ecosystems, including from deep-sea mineral activities

SDG14.5: conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas
Regional context

The Pacific is already a world leader in marine spatial management. Managed areas and sanctuaries are mechanisms for the spatial protection of fishery species, but also of iconic species and environments, rare and threatened species, and for partial protection of migratory species.

Marine spatial planning and marine protected areas are a key tool for use in integrated ocean management, and the aspirations of 14.5 fall broadly under 14.2 (and 14.4). In drafting SDG 14, the global community, led by the Pacific islands, felt that it was important to establish a goal on the protection and conservation of a portion of the ocean. This goal is not at odds with integrated oceans management and instead reflects the global belief that the ocean be managed for more than just extractive purposes.

Spatial protection is not by itself sufficient to protect from impacts that transcend spatial boundaries. Land-based water-borne and atmospheric pollution affect protected areas and non-protected areas alike, meaning that threats like climate change, eutrophication, sedimentation, and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting towards the UN Ocean Conference Compendium of documents

Ocean acidification cannot be addressed by establishing sanctuaries alone. However, reducing pressures can support ecosystem and species resilience, and marine spatial management is one component of such protection.

The enforcement of spatial protection is a key issue, particularly considering the vast marine sanctuaries established by Pacific leaders.

Sustainable management of coastal and marine resources will rely on multiple tools and approaches. An indicator of 10% area set aside as MPAs is insufficient to reflect the overall sustainable ocean management efforts in the Pacific, and should be addressed under 14.2. The indicator for 14.5 does not capture the full breadth of the target, focusing only on marine protected areas and not other forms of conservation. Additional Pacific regional indicators are needed to capture these other conservation efforts.

As such, the focus of this discussion paper considers that the previous priorities emphasised under SDG14.2 will capture the priorities for spatial management as well.

Priorities:

- Protection, preservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems through implementation of regional frameworks, such as the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2014–2020
- Recognize Pacific SIDS traditional marine managed areas (e.g., LMMAs) as contributions to the total area of seas under sustainable use and conservation and as effective tools for integrated ocean management.
- Recognize that MPAs and LMMAs function within a system of integrated ocean management
- Recognize the national efforts in creation of MPAs and LMMAs, to meet their obligations to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Aichi targets), encourage continued action, and call for support to build the capacity of PSIDS Fisheries and Environment departments to carry out essential planning and enforcement functions.
- Use marine spatial planning (MSP) for EEZs, for regional seas, and for the high seas, as a tool to protect and increase resilience of not only fishery species but also a broad range of distinct marine ecosystems.
- Call for stringent, long-term monitoring to assess MPA/MMA success in the context of global change and to build our understanding of marine ecosystems

Suggestions for voluntary commitments:

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- Establishment of long-term monitoring programs for established MMAs
- Commitments to support a variety of critical marine ecosystems, from coastal to deep sea
- Restoration and protection of ecosystems that take up and store carbon dioxide, including coastal wetlands (seagrasses, mangroves, marshes, and reefs) as well as coastal forests and large, long-lived species such as the great whales

Discussion Paper I

Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting Towards the UN Oceans Conference Working Group 1 1:

Pollution, Biodiversity and Conservation of Ecosystem Services

Partnerships:

- Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas – plus thematic working groups

Existing Regional Activities

See annex 1 for a list of existing activities and partnerships, along with suggestions of needed action, aligned with the SDG14 targets assigned to WG1.

Needed actions: All levels

- Improve the enabling conditions (e.g. governance, institutions, legislation, enforcement, funding) for designing and implementing marine managed areas
- Ensure all types of marine managed areas (e.g. MPAs, reserves, LMMAs, etc.) are managed within a wider integrated coastal and ocean management framework, and draws on strengths and traditions of community, provincial, national and regional levels
- Support development of linked database systems at global (e.g. World Database on Protected Areas, UNEP/CEP database, UNEP/MAP, etc.), regional (e.g., PIPAP) and national levels to house information on area-based conservation measures and provide tools for monitoring effectiveness.
- Provide best practice coastal management to local communities, to increase their commitment, engagement and stewardship of coastal areas
- Improve adaptive management and effectiveness of existing MPA sites.

Global

- National/regional implementation of MPAs / MPA-networks, focus on governance and effective management. Regional Seas Programme/Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia: Support implementation of Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017-2020 BBNJ regime – assist countries to become party to and implement new Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction global instruments, including deep seabed and pelagic zones
- Support for the implementation of EEZ-wide conservation and management measures and argue for compatible measures in the high seas (i.e. BBNJ)

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Regional

- All PICTs to endorse the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council (PGSC) and PGSC strategy, working toward improved geospatial management standards in the region
- Develop better mechanisms for sharing lessons learned, including peer-to-peer learning opportunities

National

- Support implementation of participatory, science-based marine spatial planning initiatives within broader context of integrated coastal and ocean planning, to identify areas for heightened regulation
- Ensure there is support and recognition for community-managed marine networks
- Develop mechanisms to ensure monitoring and evaluation of management effectiveness leads to adaptive management

SDG14.a, 14.c: knowledge, capacity, and law Regional Context

Ocean Knowledge, Management and Governance

Our agreed upon Pacific priorities for ocean management should drive how we address 14.a and 14.c: research needs, capacity building needs, governance needs, enforcement, monitoring and reporting, etc.

The economic benefits of sustainable management generally outweigh the costs of assessments and implementation. Marine research and innovation also have direct economic benefits, in addition to supporting ecosystem health that underpins marine goods and services.

National Ocean Policies are under development by some Pacific island countries. The creation of such policies, potentially supported by national advisory councils coordinated with the regional Pacific Ocean Alliance and the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, is supported as a target action.

Existing Regional Activities

See annex 1 for a list of existing activities and partnerships, along with suggestions of needed action, aligned with the SDG14 targets assigned to W.

Discussion Paper II

Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting Toward the UN Oceans Conference Working Group 2:

Climate change and ocean acidification

This discussion paper aims to provide PSIDS leaders and representatives at the Regional Preparatory Meeting with a summary of the input by Working Group 2 (WG2) on SDG Goal 14 and on the targets 14.3, 14.a and 14.c, and is designed to be read in conjunction with the attached matrix table compiled by WG2 and cross-reviewed and validated by the other SDG 14 working groups.

Presented below are the priorities for each target as proposed by WG2, some suggested UNOC Calls to Action and Voluntary Commitments, some key existing or potential Partnerships required to drive implementation, and a summary list of other Needed Actions identified by the working group,lookingat the global, regional and national levels. Further detail and a broader list of actions and information are provided in the attached matrix table.

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Whilst focusing on the specific targets of SDG14, Working Group 2 also recognize the interdependence of ocean and climate, and the central role of oceans in regulating climate and in mitigation and adaptation. Climate change impacts will exacerbate and/or put increased pressure on achieving the other SDG14 targets.

WG2 also note the need to take an integrated approach to managing Oceans, one that takes into consideration the complexity associated with ocean and coastal ecology and marine uses, and that also extends beyond the marine ecosystems to include the land-based sources of Ocean impacts.

Priorities

- Promoting and strengthening integrated oceans management and governance
- Increasing the global recognition of the interdependence of oceans and climate
- Enhanced country capacities and regional coordination on addressing the vulnerability of Pacific coastal and ocean ecosystems and communities

Suggested UNOC Calls to Action

- Promote the importance of integrated ocean management and governance across all EEZ's and oceans; highlighting the leading work already being done in the Pacific Islands such as zone based management, marine protected areas and fisheries management.
- Resources and support to boost the Pacific Ocean Alliance and to develop the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner
- Stronger recognition and integration of the ocean and SDG14 in the UNFCCC process, beginning with a focus on the COP23
- Strongly reinforce the need for far more rapid reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions, in line with commitments under the Paris Agreement, recognizing the central role of oceans in climate and the need to implement stringent reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to avoid disastrous consequences on coastal and island communities, marine ecosystems, and ocean chemistry.
- Reiterating, in line with international commitments and conventions, that when taking action on climate change and oceans, to committing to respect, promote and address with maximum available resources, the structural gaps and obstacles in achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

Suggested Voluntary commitments

- Re-endorse the leaders existing decisions and commitments, and promote them as global best practice examples on Ocean governance, including the Samoa Pathway, the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape and the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner.

Partnerships

- Pacific Ocean Alliance
- Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) Network
- Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT)

Needed actions ALL LEVELS

- Advocacy and raising awareness of the need and best practices for, and implementation of, integrated ocean management and governance
- Support more integrated forms of land-sea and ocean planning (Marine Spatial Planning MSP) and integrated coastal and marine management that address ecological, social, cultural and economic values and uses

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Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting Toward the UN Oceans Conference Working Group 2:

Climate change and ocean acidification

- Support for the implementation of Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) and regional policies and arrangements related to oceans at all levels
- Further develop and apply mitigation measures using the oceans, such as implementing "Blue carbon" policies, reducing CO2 emissions from ships, developing ocean-based renewable energy, and considering (long-term/no-harm) ocean-based carbon capture and storage.

GLOBAL ACTIONS

- Advocacy and raising awareness of the Framework for Pacific Oceanscape for resource mobilization
- Develop a BBNJ legal instrument under UNCLOS
- Improved synergies and coordination of ocean issues in and between thematic clusters of UNOC
- Support the ongoing drafting of the IPCC Special Report on Ocean and Cryosphere

REGIONAL ACTIONS

- Develop a Regional Integrated Ocean Management framework
- Support to strengthen coordination mechanisms (OPOC/POA) and regional implementation of the FPO
- Regional discussions to progress integrated marine planning and integrated ocean and coastal management
- Reduce vulnerability of pacific coastal/ocean ecosystems and of human settlements, and build the management capacity, preparedness, resilience, and adaptive capacities of coastal and island communities
- Conducting a gap assessment of capacities, stakeholders' roles and delivery, in the Ocean-Climate nexus, including national capacities and also in sectors (eg. coastal fisheries, oceanic fisheries, monitoring for climate change impacts)
- Speeding up uptake and transfer of technology in Ocean-Climate to the Pacific, in particular in terms of remote sensing and the capacity to collect and analyse data, networking and partnerships
- Enhancing capacity in oceanography in the Pacific region– liaising with institutions, provision of scholarships
- Creation of National Ocean Policies and/or establishment of National Ocean Advisory Councils to clarify and streamline communication and integration of ocean-related needs with needs for other environmental management, meteorology, and disaster risk management

NATIONAL ACTIONS

- Awareness of, and support for national implementation of Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape
- Strengthen multi-sectoral coordination and integrated ocean management
- Include sustained ocean observation as part of national commitments to increase knowledge to manage marine ecosystems sustainably, and understand the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification

Target 14.3: Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification

Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels

Regional context

Increased global emissions of greenhouse gases have decreased the pH of the tropical Pacific Ocean. This acidification of the sea water causes dramatic changes in aragonite (calcium carbonate) saturation, with implications for calcifying organisms, such as corals, some plankton, and shellfish, and impacts on vulnerability due to reduced shoreline protection from coral reefs.

In the Pacific Islands region ocean acidification will affect coastal fisheries through degradation of coral reefs and the effects on the early life stages of reef fish and invertebrates, and also has potential negative impacts on tuna - more research is needed on the direct effects on tuna and on improving the knowledge of the food webs that support tuna. Ocean acidification will also impact tourism; aquaculture of pearl oysters, marine ornamentals, and possibly shrimp; and the role that coral reefs play in coastal protection.

Accurately measuring and monitoring marine chemistry is technically intensive, with even the global capacity limited for this crucial data collection. Capacity for monitoring data and analysis is a critical need for Pacific states, and this capacity development is encouraged under UNCLOS XIII and XIV.

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Addressing present stressors and management issues for coral reefs and coastal fisheries will also build resilience to ocean acidification.

Source:

Pacific islands ocean acidification vulnerability assessment, SPREP 2016 UNEP Fact Sheet, 2017

Indicator

14.3.1 (Tier 3): Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations

Comment from the SDG Working Group and regional Stats meeting: Indicator needs work -proposed text for indicator – "average and daily range of ph and aragonite saturation".

Note – This indicator does not fully reflect the target, as it does not work towards minimizing and addressing the impacts of ocean acidification

Priorities

- Increase ocean acidification and ecosystem monitoring in the region and globally
- Incorporate potential impacts of ocean acidification and warming oceans into global, regional, and national planning and policies
- Meeting and exceeding the goals of the Paris Agreement for CO2 emissions reductions
- Increasing the recognition of ocean acidification and oceans at the UNFCCC process

Suggested UNOC Calls to action

- A global system for research and monitoring data for ocean acidification and ocean ecosystem health, built from existing and new data partnerships
- Strongly advocate for the strengthening of ocean acidification and oceans in the UNFCCC process, beginning with a focus on the COP23
- Strongly reinforce the need for far more rapid reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions, in line with commitments under the Paris Agreement

Suggested Voluntary Commitments

- Incorporation of the impacts of ocean acidification and warming oceans into regional and national adaptation planning
- Establishment of a regional ocean acidification monitoring network
- Meet and exceed commitments under the Paris Agreement, and the Pacific to continue to be a global leader on this
- Becoming Party to the Ramsar Convention on wetlands (including reefs) to gain access to a framework to support key buffering ecosystems and OA-sensitive ecosystems such as seagrass.

Partnerships

- Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification – building on an initial collaborative effort and focusing on i) Research and Monitoring; ii) Identification and Implementation of Practical Adaptation and Resilience Building Actions and; iii) Capacity Building and Awareness Raising
- The Ocean Acidification international Reference User Group (OAiRUG)
- Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) - UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), International Councilfor Science (ICSU), UNEP
- Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System (PI-GOOS) • Pacific Ocean Research Alliance – in conceptualization stage

Needed Actions ALL LEVELS

- Ocean acidification data collection and monitoring Suggested voluntary commitment:
  - Establishment of a regional ocean acidification monitoring network
- Increased funding to establish observation networks, instrumentation and to support necessary training in the region

Suggested UNOC Call to action:

  - Funding support to strengthen ocean acidification research and monitoring data in the region
- Raise awareness on ocean acidification
- Integration of gender into climate change and ocean acidification planning and actions
- Mitigation measures using the oceans, with increased demonstration projects in the Pacific Islands on 'blue carbon', reduction of emissions

Discussion Paper II

Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting Toward the UN Oceans Conference Working Group 2:

Climate change and ocean acidification

from ships, and ocean based renewable energy

GLOBAL ACTIONS

- Continue to ensure that countries meet and exceed their NDC under the Paris Agreement Suggested voluntary commitments:
- Meet and exceed commitments under the Paris Agreement, the Pacific to continue to be a global leader on this
- Recognition of ocean acidification and oceans in the UNFCCC process
- Support and design of a global ocean acidification observing network making use of standardized methods

REGIONAL ACTIONS

- Assessment of regional impacts, guidance on adaptation, and incorporation of the impacts of ocean acidification and warming seas into regional planning and policies

Suggested voluntary commitments:

  - o Incorporation of the impacts of ocean acidification and warming oceans into national adaptation planning

- Access to Climate Finance
- Design and support for a PI Ocean Acidification Observing Network • Further work on ocean acidification impacts
- Capacity building and coordination

NATIONAL ACTIONS

- Establishment of national ocean acidification monitoring programs Suggested voluntary commitments:
- Establishment of a regional ocean acidification monitoring network
- Assessment of national level impacts, guidance on adaptation, and incorporation of the impacts of ocean acidification and warming seas into national planning and policies Suggested voluntary commitments:
- Becoming Partyto Ramsar Convention on wetlands (includingreefs) to gain access to a framework to support key buffering ecosystems and OA-sensitive ecosystems
- Conservation of seagrass beds to locally buffer pH changes
- Protection of reef areas from boat traffic, destructive fishing or overfishing, and land-based nutrient pollution to boost reef resilience to climate change and acidification
- Capacity building and coordination

Target 14.a. Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology

Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries.

Regional context

Increasing scientific knowledge and developing research capacity play a critical role in the sustainable development of the oceans, seas and their resources, and are also critical for ensuring the protection and preservation of the marine environment.

Pacific leaders have identified the need to strengthen national capacities in marine scientific research, recognising the benefits that could be derived from investing more in this field as a means to increase scientific knowledge of the marine environment and to support national and regional economic growth in marine sectors, such as shipping and offshore energy, as well as in security and defence.

Target 14.a is relevant to and underpins work on the other SDG14 targets and their components, including on ocean acidification, marine ecosystems and fisheries.

Indicator

14.a.1 (Tier 3): Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology

Note: This indicator does not well represent the target, as it only focuses on marine technology

Priorities

- Increased availability and application of marine data, research and knowledge in decision making
- Increase capacity building, ocean stakeholder engagement, and effectiveness of partnerships

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Climate change and ocean acidification

- Assess and appropriate the value of ecosystem services provided by the ocean and coastal ecosystems

Suggested UNOC Call to Action

- A global system for research and monitoring data for ocean ecosystem health, built from existing and new data partnerships
- Establish regional oceanographic centres to increase cooperation among States on ocean-climate research and multi-disciplinary observation in the Pacific (in accordance with SAMOA Pathway decision 58.f)
- Fundingto support SIDS and LDC sciencecapacitybuilding, in accordance with UNCLOS Part 13 and 14

Suggested voluntary commitments

- Implement a regional research alliance
- Increase in support for marine science and research – both academically and within government
- Formation of national oceans advisory councils
- Establishment of a regional data access mechanism or clearing house to ensure long-term data and knowledge custodianship

Partnerships

- Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System (PI-GOOS)
- Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) - UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), International Councilfor Science (ICSU), UNEP
- Pacific Islands Universities Research Network (PIURN)
- Pacific Ocean Research Alliance – in conceptualization stage

Needed Actions ALL LEVELS

- Better follow through on obligations under UNCLOS Parts 13 and 14 (marine scientific research and technology transfer)

GLOBAL ACTIONS

- Commitment and support to raise ocean literacy in SIDS
- Expansion and continued support for global ocean observing programs

REGIONAL ACTIONS

- Increase marine and ocean literacy in the region Suggested voluntary commitments:
  - Use of global standardized methodology and variables (e.g. Essential Ocean Variables) in national marine monitoring programmes
  - Increase in support for marine science and research – both academically and within government
- Strengthening of existing or formation of a regional ocean advisory council (e.g. Pacific Ocean Alliance and the Marine Sector Working Group)

Suggested voluntary commitments:

- Form national oceans advisory councils
- Research and development on cost effective sustainable transport
- Establish a regional oceanographic centre to increase cooperation among States on ocean-climate research and multi-disciplinary observation in the Pacific (in accordance with SAMOA Pathway decision 58.f)
- Expand existing and develop new oceanographic marine education and research programs tailored to achieve the goals of SDG 14
- Continued and increased support for ocean observing programs such as the Pacific Sea Level Monitoring program, and increase availability of in situ data, models, forecasts, and knowledge products
- Expansion and continued support for regional ocean observing programs

NATIONAL ACTIONS

- Identify oceans focal points within ministries, NGOs, CSOs; and form interdisciplinary national ocean advisory councils and promote coordination at national level of ocean/marine issues

Suggested voluntary commitments:

- Form national oceans advisory councils
- Establishment of national ocean observing programs
- Encourage and support marine education programs in schools and universities

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Climate change and ocean acidification

- Support to create legal framework for marine genetic resources and bioprospecting research
- Development of citizen science programmes, incorporating local ecological knowledge to enhance and inform management

Target 14.c. Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law

Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want.

Regional context

Pacific countries were a driving force in bringing about the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in 1982, and in the decades since have consistently acted and urged the international community to ensure that conservation and management of the high seas must be strengthened. Formalization of Exclusives Economic Zones is made under UNCLOS, and this legally underpins and enables conservation and development management of their EEZ's by Pacific Island countries.

Pacific Island countries are also signatories to a broad range of other laws and conventions relating to the Ocean, including the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), the Noumea Convention and Protocols, the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA), the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Nagoya Protocol, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and the Ramsar Convention. There are also emerging regimes/instruments relating to Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions (BBNJ) and Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) - those areas of ocean for which no one nation has sole responsibility for (commonly called the high seas).

Indicator

14.c.1 (Tier3): Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources

Notes from Regional Stats meeting: Further clarity needed. Likely to include current BBNJ negotiations. No current regional data available, although measurement in terms of compilation is being done, possible to be compiled regionally.

Priorities

- Formalisation of maritime boundaries under UNCLOS
- PICs to meet the global standards of positioning and transition to a global reference frame (allowing for interlinked and accurate mapping)
- Support for BBNJ negotiations to allow for ocean management across jurisdictions in a way which does not undermine existing regional fisheries instruments
- Clarify UNCLOS Part XI on seabed mining and its relationship to the BBNJ Process

Suggested UNOC Call to action

- Support for PSIDS to complete formalisation of maritime boundaries under UNCLOS
- Support for PSIDS to strengthen monitoring and enforcement within their maritime boundaries, including an increase in the use of remote technology and private sector partnerships

Suggested voluntary commitments

- All PICs to become signatories of UNCLOS and members of UNESCO-IOC

Needed Actions ALL

- Formalisation of maritime boundaries under UNCLOS
- Significantly strengthening monitoring and enforcement within maritime boundaries, including an increase in the use of remote technology and private sector partnerships.

GLOBAL ACTIONS

- Support for Pacific island countries effective engagement in BBNJ regime negotiations

REGIONAL ACTIONS

- All PICs to become signatories of UNCLOS and members of UNESCO-IOC Suggested UNOC Call to action:

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- Funding support for countries to complete formalisation of maritime boundaries under UNCLOS

Suggested voluntary commitments:

  - o All PICs to become signatories of UNCLOS and members of UNESCO-IOC
- Support for PICs to define their international and national boundaries
- Advance Climate Change Pacific issues in BBNJ including MPAs in the Area and the relationship between BBNJ and seabed mining

NATIONAL

- All PICs to complete formalization of maritime boundaries •PICs engagement in in BBNJ negotiations

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Fisheries, Fisheries Subsidies and elements of the blue economy

Composite summary of findings and recommendations on regional priorities, current initiatives and potential areas for additional action as they relate to the sustainable development and management of Ocean based resources: Fisheries, Fisheries subsidies and elements of the Blue Economy - Targets: 14.4, 14.6, 14.7, 14a and 14b

Thematic Working Group Three (3) has considered the relevant regional priorities that already exist, current intergovernmental initiatives and partnerships, and potential additional actions needed to achieve the SDG14 targets related to fisheries, fisheries subsidies and economic benefits from the sustainable use of marine resources.

The following reflects a synthesis of the observed outcomes of WG 3:

Target 14.4: By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

Effective zone-based management, including science-based management techniques was recognised, ending destructive practices, overfishing and reducing Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fisheries are priorities for Pacific SIDS, and are areas where the Pacific are the leading the world by example. A substantive raft of regional commitments relating to the regulation and management of fisheries have been established. These include institutional frameworks and management initiatives such as: the Future of Fisheries Roadmap; the New Song for Coastal Fisheries; the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) roadmap for inshore fisheries; the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Harvest Strategy Work Plan; the Implementing Agreements of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA); the PNA's vessel day management schemes; the Tokelau Arrangement for the management of south Pacific Albacore; regional fisheries surveillance programs; the Coral Triangle Initiative, and the Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) network.

While the existing program of work in the Pacific, at the regional, sub-regional and national levels, to implement sustainable fisheries management is substantive, there remain areas of weakness where additional support and commitments may benefit. In particular, the implementation of national and subnational sustainable fisheries management regimes supporting community stewardship and supporting monitoring control and surveillance of coastal fisheries remains challenging, but represents a critical area for ongoing work given the importance of coastal fisheries to Pacific countries. Most commercial coastal fisheries are poorly regulated and the relevant regional coastal fisheries policies call for a co-management approach.

In offshore fisheries, a key challenge is to engage and get the support of foreign fisheries nations in the adoption of harvest strategies fortuna species, which would effectively limit the total harvest from Pacific tuna populations and by default improve the management of high-seas fisheries, which is a key priority for Pacific countries. A major challenge to achieving sustainability of Pacific Island regional tuna fisheries is to shift the focus away from flag State-based decision-making to Zone-Based Management, where decisions on stock sustainability are driven by the consensus of coastal States. Improving the management of by-catch, implementing CITES, and improving trace ability of fish products are also priority areas that need further action in the Pacific, but also at the global level.

The establishment of an integrated Ocean Governance framework for sustainable development, management and conservation across all marine sectors, including non-fish sectors remain a key priority for the region. Such an approach is based on and should be advanced on the basis of the Framework for Pacific Oceanscape, a key priority agreed and adopted by Leaders. An integrated management approach was further endorsed by Leaders in the 2016 Forum Communique.

Concepts under this target, that are important to the Pacific include:

- The recognition of the importance of commercial and artisanal coastal fisheries to livelihoods and food security, particularly to SIDS,
- Pacific leadership in demonstrating and proliferating experience in community-based natural resource management which is being emulated around the world,
- The leadership of the Pacific on implementingzone based fisheries management which has been shown to successfully manage the harvest of migratory fish species, and the need for zone based management to be supported by the international community and implemented in areas beyond Pacific EEZs,
- The need for improved management of high seas fisheries, given

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that unsustainable fishing in the high seas compromises the ability of Pacific states to maintain sustainable fisheries within their jurisdictions,

- Retaining the words "at least" in relation to achieving levels that produce maximum sustainable yield (MSY) in any outputs from international processes, including the Oceans Conference Call for Action. Ensuring international mechanisms enable social and economic considerations beyond just biological sustainability is critical, for example if the south Pacific albacore fishery were to managed only to MSY, the result would be a significant degradation of the stock from current levels, far beyond the point at which the fishery was economically viable for Pacific countries.
- Ensuring the continued implementation of Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management, including through improving the management of by,catch and byproduct species and managing the impact on the broader health of marine ecosystems.
- The establishment of an international regime that would seek to equitably protect Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdiction.
- Commitment by relevant development partners for timely implementation of WCPFC precautionary Harvest Strategy.
- Commitment to strengthen Developing,States and RFMO capacity,for fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance
- Effective management of catch of non-target species.
- Implementation of effective and appropriate catch documentation schemes for oceanic and industrial fisheries that involve coastal States in the process of certifying whether or not fish caught in their waters were taken in accordance with their laws and fishery management mechanisms.

The Pacific Headline Indicator to measure progress against this target is the proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels. While this indicator maybe measurable for industrial fisheries (mainly tuna) in the Pacific, the necessary data and assessments to measure the sustainability of coastal fisheries is likely to be a challenge, and therefore additional indicators to track progress in coastal fisheries should be considered, and some suggestions have been provided in the WG3 matrix.

Target 14.6: By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.

While the elimination of subsidies has not been identified as a priority in regional fisheries policy, the problem of competition-distorting subsidies given to north Pacific flag vessels operating in the Pacific is a recognised problem as it allows those vessels to operate profitably on depleted stocks that cannot support PSIDS-based operators. The primary mechanism that the Pacific is using to tackle this problem though is seeking to limit the total harvest of tuna across the Pacific, thereby ensuring that sustainable and profitable fisheries are maintained, regardless of the economic conditions of individual fleets.

Subsidies in coastal fisheries include some aspects of outdated fisheries support from national government and some donors i.e. the subsidized gear, transport to market, ice and lack of user fees that goes with the fisheries development strategies. A substantiated swing,towards coastal fisheries management away from coastal fisheries development may begin to allay fears that current and ongoing development efforts are in effect unsustainable coastal fisheries subsidies.

This target places a heavy accent on the prohibition of unsustainable subsidies and in particular, capacity enhancing subsidies, and subsidies that target or benefit IUU fisheries. In order to achieve the Leaders Decision to increase the economic returns from Fisheries, in addition to a total limit on harvest, additional policy interventions may be required. The weight of any international prohibition or efforts at curtailing capacity enhancing support should be borne by those nations that have disrupted or degraded biomass through conveying unsustainable subsidies to their fleets. While the benefit of such efforts should be acknowledged, PICs should resist any across-the-board prohibition of capacity enhancing subsides and should demand special considerations for SIDS under any new WTO disciplines on fisheries subsidies. Efforts to restrict IUU fisheries through international best practice and binding conventions are seen as a key opportunity to address harmful and unsustainable practices.

Moreover, international and regional policy development processes should

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focus on securing positive outcomes for small-scale and artisan fishers in relation to resource mobilisation and support. This includes ensuring that prohibitions related to capacity enhancing subsidies do not impinge on the ability of small-scale fishers to scale up their capacity and output. More concretely, any outcomes within the WTO Rules negotiations on Fisheries subsidies should include a carte blanche exemption for small-scale artisanal fishers. In this view, nothing in national, regional or multilateral frameworks should restrict the ability of national authorities in SIDS to provide both resource and market access support to small-scale, coastal fisheries.

The Pacific Headline Indicator for 14.6 is progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat IUU fishing. It should be noted however that this indicator is not very useful for measuring progress towards the prohibition of negative subsidies. Subsidies that contribute towards IUU fishing are only a part of the IUU problem, and this broad indicator does not drill down on subsidies themselves. As such, other indicators for measuring progress in the Pacific against this target have been suggested in the WG3 matrix.

Concepts under this target, that are important to the Pacific include:

- Agreement by WCPFC member States to Target Reference Points for key tuna stocks that will maintain or restore biomass to a level that is high enough to allow PSIDS fishing enterprises to operate economically without the need for future subsides.
- Recognition of the need for balance in terms of assisting fishers and achieving sustainable management.
- Provide targeted support to coastal fisheries interventions to improve sustainability.

The headline indicator is the progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Target 14.7: By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism

A key priority for the region is increasing the economic benefit obtained by Pacific countries from the sustainable use of marine resources. This priority is embedded in the FPO as well as reflected in Leaders Decisions, including the Pohnpei Ocean Statement and the policy objectives underpinning the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR). Within these priority areas, achieving an integrated management and development framework remains critical to successfully balancing competing economic, ecological and community-based imperatives. Of particular concern is the need to further develop and implement coastal resource management arrangements to ensure that the resources can sustain current or envisaged contributions to wellbeing and economy. Progress is needed at the national and regional level towards the further development of key marine mineral resource sectors, as well as marine economic and ecosystem services. Some of the potential opportunities identified include: transport, marine renewable energy, deep sea minerals (marine bioprospecting), tourism and aquaculture. Target 14.7 provides an opportunity for progressing national and regional opportunities in identified sectors, including through the establishment of strategic partnerships and undertaking voluntary commitments.

Scoping and Concepts to be taken forward:

1. A Blue Economy2 includes environmentally and socially sustainable commercial activities, products, services, and investments that depend on or affect coastal and marine resources, ecosystems, and species. The Pacific can show leadership by developing its Blue Economy using best environmental practice aligned with Pacific values.
2. Conservation can produce economic value. For example, conservation action to restore fish stocks could produce an economic gain of USD 50 billion per year.3 Industry must be engaged constructively and collaboratively to achieve such conservation action.
3. The ocean provides services in addition to products and profits. The ocean brings great wealth to Pacific island countries, with only a small fraction of that wealth already translated into economic terms. In addition to the present and potential economic values of ecosystems and species, the ocean provides inherent supporting, regulating, and socio-cultural ecosystem services, e.g. climate regulation and nutrient cycling, often ignored and under-valued because they are free. For example, globally, coral reefs protect at least USD 5,995 million of built capital, with other estimates exceeding this value. The expense of ecosystem restoration or compensation for the loss of these ecosystem services is greater than the cost of preservation.4

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4. Sustainable branding can support species and economies simultaneously. For example, the Marine Stewardship Council approved a Pacific free-school purse-seined skipjack fishery in 2016. This fishery does not use fish-aggregating devices, reducing the amount of bycatch. According to news from the Parties to the Nauru Agreement, in 2016, tuna fishing fleets delivered over 55,000 metric tons of MSC-certified tuna to market, with potential demand for 100,000 tons in 2017: "MSC-certified skipjack and yellowfin from PNA waters now account for over 90% of all MSC-certified tuna traded globally. […] PNA's MSC chain of custody system is now seen as the global standard for free school caught tuna." Further exploration of sustainable labelling for other Pacific marine resources will require support for the assessment process and required industry changes.
5. Environmentally sound tourism is a key opportunity for Pacific islands. Tourism accounts for 7.2% of regional GDP and 5.8% of employment. Approximately half of all international tourists travel to coastal areas, globally. Coral reefs attract 350 million people and drive over USD 30 billion each year in tourism revenue globally. Pacific species and heritage offer unique tourism value. Whale-watching is a multi-million-dollar Pacific industry, with further potential. In Palau, the lifetime value of a live shark is USD 1.9 million for dive tourism.
6. Pacific underwater cultural heritage is largely undeveloped for tourism. There are over 4,000 heritage sites in the Pacific, many accessible to snorkelers and divers.
7. Deep sea marine minerals may provide an alternative source of economic growth if suitable for commercial exploitation.5 The economic viability varies by mineral type and location.6 The DSM industry has an opportunity to create a socially responsible extractive industry, while minimising its environmental impact to the greatest extent possible.7
8. Sustainable maritime transport is a key need for the Pacific. The Pacific is heavily reliant upon shipped goods, which brings the risk of invasive species (the lead cause of extinction of endemicPacificspecies) and the pollution associated with shipping. Shippinghas acompelling case as the most energy-efficient freight service, but sustainable growth will rely on innovation to maintain reasonable costs and reduce its environmental impacts as well as a good governance framework over the sector.
9. Access to benefit sharing for marine bioprospecting and genetic research will help grow Pacific economies. Marine genetic resources are of potentially great economic value, but our present knowledge of many marine species is insufficient for informed, sustainable management.
10. Protecting diversity today can grow tomorrow's Blue Economy. Undiscovered species, which may already be at risk of extinction, might have either economic use value or option value, containing profitable information or products. For example, land conservation in Mexico provided significant value (USD 230–330 million) from the genetic information preserved in an area containing a wild grass that can be used to develop viral-resistant strains of corn.8

The region has established a Fisheries Taskforce mandated to seek approaches that will result in increasing the economic returns from the fisheries sector. The efforts of this multi-agency Taskforce build on the work of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the PNA. Beyond fisheries, the work of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner through the mandate of the FPO, is establishing a platform for shepherding an integrated approach to ocean governance and policy coordination.

One of the key challenges to the Pacific achieving target 14.7 is the high cost of regional tuna management and MCSthat is borne by PSIDS either through direct expenditure or forgone revenue and other development opportunities as a result of conservation. It is therefore important to pursue an international commitment to remove any disproportionate burdens, including by implementing Article 24.2 (c) of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement. The distribution of responsibility for conservation and to meet Target 14.7 should be equitable, requiring commitments to sharing and supporting conservation within PSIDS.

Other actions needed to enhance the Pacific's work toward target 14.7 include, the conclusion of the work of the Fisheries Taskforce and the implementation of resulting recommendations. This may include the domestication and development of services attached to the oceans. The implementation of regional coastal fisheries polices and transforming the institutional approach to coastal fisheries should also enable the economic benefit from those fisheries to be enhanced over time. A similar approach related to the sharing of obligations related to management and conservation in non-fisheries sectors should be considered and where practicable pursued.

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Beyond the fisheries sector, strengthening the capacity of countries to value biodiversity and ecosystems, introducing more fulsome monetisation of marine-based resources, building on the current development of marine tourism, and pursuing the development of a blue economy approach will be critical to expanding economic opportunities for PICs. Other opportunities include marine bio-prospecting, renewable energy, transportation, and deep sea mineral activities. These opportunities should be explored within the context of an integrated management framework with the aim of benefit-sharing.

Concepts under this target that are important to the Pacific include:

- Support for the development of a Pacific Blue Economy, with legislative frameworks safeguarding the use of marine environments as well as mechanisms to calculate the costs and benefits of marine resource use;
- Implementation of the regional policies on sustainable coastal fisheries management through community approaches to ecosystem-based fisheries management, adapted to individual national contexts
- The full implementation of the Leader's Decision to increase the economic returns from the fisheries sector while sustaining the ecosystems and species that provide this resource for the future;
- International commitment by the UN States to pursue equitable distribution of responsibility for conservation actions falling upon PSIDS, including by implementing Article 24.2 (c) of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement;
- Strengthen the capacity of countries to effectively value biodiversity and ecosystems and to integrate their sustainable management into development planning, investments and accounting, including the establishment of 'natural capital accounting' and 'satellite accounting' to measure the value of marine-related economic sectors;
- Creation of MPAs as a means of supporting marine tourism;
- Support for the development of sustainable coastal and marine tourism, including the safe and sustainable management of Pacific underwater cultural heritage;
- Support for sustainable aquaculture processes and market development;
- Support for the development, legislative framework, and rigorous environmental impact assessment of renewable energy technologies, including marine renewable energy;
- Access to benefit sharing for marine genetic resources and marine bioprospecting and harvest for novel industries, such as the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries;
- Research and capacity building to measure and monitor progress toward economic development targets as well as the status of coastal and marine ecosystems;
- Commitments to sustainable maritime transport, including support to meet obligations to IMO instruments, such as the MARPOL Convention and the BMW Convention; and
- International cooperation to prevent and respond to the spread of invasive species.

The Pacific Headline Indicator for 14.7 is sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in Small Island Developing States, least developed countries and all countries. Recognising the difficulties of this indicator (further explained in the WG3 matrix), other potential indicators to measure progress include: (1) the proportion of PSIDS benefiting from economic opportunities from the ocean, (2) the expansion of GDP as a consequence of newly explored economic opportunities, (3) increase in the use of and production of sustainable ocean-based energy sources, and (4) reduction in catch from overexploited fish stocks and increase in total export value. (5) Coastal fisheries – stabilize or reverse the decline in contribution by coastal fisheries (nutrition and health, ecosystem health, economic and cultural value, jobs etc) through the implementation of sound management of key coastal commercial species.

Target 14.a: Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular Small Island developing States and least developed countries

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This target is cross-cutting across all of the thematic areas and therefore WG3 only considered it in the context of fisheries and blue growth.

Critical to securing the transformative effects on national economies that the full implementation of target 14 can achieve is the need to inter alia increase scientific knowledge and research capacity.

The key priorities for the region in this view include ensuring evidence-based advice to support the fisheries sector, the commercial use of the deep sea, and the coastal island environments. Such an approach is also imperative for the development of the broader 'oceans economy'. While some regional organisations including relevant CROP agencies are invested in the development of scientific approaches, gaps remain, particularly in the area of coastal marine habitats and coastal fisheries. Further to that, the capacity of regional and national institutions to address current and future needs, and integrate existing scientific knowledge into decision-making processes remains a challenge. A number of actions, many of which are consistent with other thematic areas, would contribute to achieving this target, including capacity development assessments, improved inventories and monitoring, and a refresh of school and university curricula in an effort to bridge these emerging capacity gaps.

Concepts under this target that are important to the Pacific include:

- Improve understanding of critical information gaps for precautionary management including baseline inventories and monitoring of critical coastal marine habitats (mangroves, seagrass and coral reefs) and of their fisheries as appropriate;
- Conduct capacity needs assessments to determine capacity gaps and training needs;
- Review and redesign curricula and the establishment of capacity building strategies;
- Create regional data centres for long-term data and knowledge custodianship, supporting integrated ocean management by increasing availability of information across sectors;
- Record local and traditional knowledge about marine species and processes for future generations of Pacific people, acknowledging the quick pace of social change;
- Research and capacity in the key areas outlined above.

The Pacific Headline Indicator for 14.1 is the proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology should be checked against other working groups.

Target14.b: Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets Ineffective coastal fisheries management is a real threat to the productivity of Pacific fisheries, as it is these fisheries that currently provide Pacific islanders with most of their nutrition, employment, and artisanal market opportunities in the fisheries sector. However, access for artisanal fishers to marine resources is less of a problem in the PSIDS region than other regions due to traditions of marine tenure. Access to markets is facilitated or hindered by the logistics of domestic supply chains in SIDS.

Regional coastal fisheries policies emphasis the importance of empowering communities through strengthening community user rights and providing the optimum enabling environment for fisheries management which has communities at its center. The successes of communities in managing coastal resources are underpinned by such rights and we believe that the Pacific leadership in this regard demonstrate the importance of appropriate small-scale fishers rights at a global level (as highlighted in the FAO Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines for instance).

A key priority in this regard is the effective balancing of coastal developments, commercial fisheries development, and maintenance of access to marine resources for small-scale artisanal fishers. A range of institutional frameworks exist, but vary significantly between countries depending on their legislative and cultural context. As integrated oceans management is further progressed in the Pacific, including through the use of tools such as marine spatial planning process, the empowerment of community based management and continued recognition of small-scale artisanal fishers will provide critical support to culture, livelihoods and food security in PSIDS.

Further actions and commitments to enhance PSIDS achievement of this target include commitments by PSIDS governments to empowering local marine management, ensuring that international community support for coastal fisheries management applies to ensure fisheries and not just protected areas, and support for the development of sustainable livelihoods through small-scale artisanal fisheries.

Crosscutting considerations

In an effort to diversify economic opportunities for PSIDS, a broader commercial framework should be considered based on integrated development and management techniques, including through marine

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spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management. An effective balancing mechanism will facilitate the opportunities to secure welfare enhancement for the peoples of the region.

Summary Policy Outcomes – Key Strategic Objectives

- Support the shift in practices and approaches that increase the sustainability of use of marine resources in developing nations, sustaining a Pacific Blue Economy;
- Develop an integrated governance framework to increase the economic benefits from the sustainable use of ocean space and resources;
- Seek the commitment of international community, particularly distant water fishing nations, to:
    - Support harvest strategy approaches that limit total harvest in fisheries to sustainable levels,
    - Implement zone-based fisheries management approaches that effectively regulate the harvest of fisheries within jurisdictions and in the high seas areas beyond national jurisdiction,
    - Pursue efforts aimed at the remove the conservation burden imposed on SIDS.
- Implementation of national and subnational sustainable fisheries management regimes that support community stewardship
- Support enhanced coastal fisheries management and monitoring, control and surveillance of coastal resources, to protect culture, livelihoods and food security of SIDS;
- Continue to enhance the economic benefits that PSIDS get from the sustainable use of their marine resources, including through the diversification of economic returns within and beyond the fisheries sector;
- Retain the ability to provide support to domestic fisheries sector – resist efforts to limit the support that national authorities (SIDS specific) can provide to enhance the capacity of domestic fleets; and
- Reduce IUU fishing.

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