



PACIFIC OCEAN ALLIANCE MEETING 2022

**"ACCELERATING BLUE PACIFIC OCEAN
ACTION FOR 2030 AND BEYOND:
PATHWAY TO LISBON UN OCEAN
CONFERENCE"**

**7-8 JUNE, 2022 | SUVA, FIJI (HYBRID)
RECORDS OF THE MEETING**

“WE MUST CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER, IN ACCELERATING ACTION ON OCEAN, NOT FOR OURSELVES, BUT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE GENERATIONS AFTER US.”

- HENRY PUNA, PACIFIC OCEAN COMMISSIONER



Pacific Ocean Commissioner - Henry Puna (third from left) with members of the Pacific Ocean Alliance at the Opening Session of POA 2022 in Suva, Fiji.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Since its establishment and launch in 2014, the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (POC) as the mandated facilitator for the POA has convened **three** meetings. The first meeting was convened in 2015 under the title and theme '[High Hopes for High Seas](#)', while the second meeting was convened in 2016 jointly with the CBD Sustainable Ocean Initiative, under the theme: [Achieving economic benefit from sustainable use of marine Resources](#). The last meeting of the POA was held in 2019 under the theme: [Securing our future as the Blue Pacific Continent – Our People, Our Place Our Prospects](#).

The convening of the POA (Pacific Ocean Alliance) 2022 meeting came at a critical juncture where much implementation progress has been delayed due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal (27th June to 1st July, 2022) provided a critical opportunity for the Pacific to generate and inspire accelerated ocean actions globally.

This POA meeting served as an opportunity for the region to prepare accordingly for this global event, identifying collective priorities for ocean actions and approaches to drive global support. The POA has been scheduled to align with World Ocean Day on 8th June, to drive regional and global awareness of Pacific priorities for global ocean actions.

In line with the mandate of the POC to convene the POA, the overall intention was to facilitate an open and frank exchange between the alliance stakeholders on the diverse range of ocean issues. The meeting also provided the opportunity for the region to prepare for events rescheduled due to COVID-19. As such, a meeting of the POA will enable Pacific Ocean stakeholders to take stock of progress made in advancing regional priorities and discuss recurrent, new and emerging issues.

The specific objectives of the POA meeting were:

- i.) To strengthen the POA as a robust regional ocean-work coordination mechanism, mandated by Forum Leaders in 2010. The POC will be responsible for driving these reflections moving forward.
- ii.) Take stock of progress made in advancing regional ocean priorities, particularly progress since the last meeting of the POA in 2019. Identify further action required at the regional and international level, to inform and support collective advocacy and engagement by POA Members at upcoming ocean events.

iii.) Collectively consider respective POA Stakeholders plans for collective advocacy and engagement at the UN Ocean Conference to be held in Lisbon, Portugal from 27 June – 2 July 2022.

The two-day meeting was a combination of both plenary presentations, break-out group sessions, and exchanges among high-level decision-makers and POA members and stakeholders. The meeting included presentations of regional priorities and stocktake on implementation and facilitated discussion between POC and target stakeholders on ocean priorities and needed ocean action. The second day featured a special event in the morning at the Suva foreshore ground to celebrate World Ocean Day.

This document represents a “Record of the Meeting” which aims to capture and document the main points raised by speakers and discussants during the POA meeting sessions.

Supplementary to this document are the individual presentations and recordings available from these web links:

1. POA Meeting Papers

<https://opocbluepacific.org/publications/#pacific-ocean-alliance>

2. POA Presentations

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QXwo0KA3op3zEfjVoLi2Tt-BKhmVHC6?usp=share_link

3. POA Opening Statement

<https://opocbluepacific.org/pacific-ocean-alliance-meeting-opening/?fbclid=IwAR34g4SunZNnjD6ZsXK9Pc4DsBp6JO9p2I2cRbT4kbGkhR8MtN6hV0jW8Mc>

2.0 OPENING SESSION

In his welcoming statement the Pacific Islands Forum Secretary-General & Pacific Ocean Commissioner, Mr. Henry Puna was pleased to welcome all POA members to the meeting. This meeting was his first as Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Secretary-General and POC. The POC reiterated that much has evolved within the region as it is being faced with numerous geopolitical and strategic competition. However, this requires our collective action and highlights the need to work together, in accelerating action on Ocean, not for ourselves, but for the benefit of the generations after us.

The keynote statement was delivered by the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy of the Ocean, Ambassador Peter Thomson. The Ambassador noted that it was the determination of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) that led to the creation of SDG14 but that “with legacy comes responsibility”. The Ambassador hoped that the POA meeting would reflect Pacific leadership and demonstrate and scaling up of Ocean action. He noted the vitalness of the Ocean for people and prosperity and the many opportunities for future innovation but noted that we must stop the decline in the Ocean's health. The forthcoming Pacific 2050 Strategy was welcomed as a “chart” to the future, but the Ambassador noted the need for adequate resources to implement the Strategy.

The Keynote statement by the representative of the co-hosts of the 2nd UN Ocean Conference, was by Portugal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mr Francisco Andre. Mr Andre noted the importance of the Ocean to Portugal and to achieving SDG14. He noted the importance of the forthcoming 2nd UNOC, with expected outcomes related to: the ocean-climate nexus, conclusion of BBNJ, plastic pollution, Biodiversity loss at COP15, ocean science through the UN Decade for Ocean Science, and build on of the first UNOC outcomes. Mr Andre noted the importance of engagement of all stakeholders, including private sector and youth, as well as both local and national action. He looked forward to a “new chapter of action” emerging from the forthcoming 2nd UNOC.

3.0 SESSION 1: PRESENTATION OF OCEAN PRIORITIES AND STOCK TAKE ON IMPLEMENTATION

Session one was set out to review progress made since the previous POA meeting in 2019. The plenary presentation provided an overview of POA 2019 and a stock take on the regional progress since then. Then a suite of presenters representing some of the main stakeholder groups required for a collaborative approach provided their perspective on progress since the last POA. Finally, delegates divided into smaller break-out groups to discuss progress and identify possible ways to accelerate delivery for our ocean.

PIF and OPOC presented a regional overview of progress of implementing key regional and international ocean commitments. They presented a flow chart of progress towards 2030 and key outcomes in relation to regional reporting on sustainable development from 2017 to 2022. OPOC also provided reflection on POA 2019 outcomes, with positive progress in some areas, including BBNJ, marine plastics, zone-based management and reporting on the State of the Ocean. The work coordinated by OPOC on creating a web-based portal of ocean-related initiatives was presented. The state of delivery of SDG14 was also reviewed, indicating that monitoring data were inadequate for most SDG14 targets, but that three SDG14 had “average progress” (SDG14.5, 14.6 and 14.b). Finally, the progress in delivering the strategic outcomes of the FPO was assessed, with an overall “Moderate Positive Change” across the 23 indicators.

To improve progress, it was suggested: strengthened reporting across partners and a more integrated M&E system, and strengthen implementation through more targeted / longer-term investments.

From Member countries, Fiji and Niue shared their experiences on SDG14 implementation. On behalf of the Fijian Government Mr Izhaar Ali presented on Fiji’s priorities and stock take on implementation. Mr Ali raised that the Fiji government has published a national oceans policy and has incorporated an ocean component into its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Moreover, Fiji has also placed a 10-year moratorium on seabed mining and the year 2020 had seen a ban on the use of single use plastics

The meeting also heard from Niue Director General, Ministry of Natural Resources, Dr. Josie Tamate presented on Niue’s initiative - the Moana Mahu

Marine protected area which has now been formalized. A sustainable financing mechanism was presented focused around an endowment trust instrument. The trust fund included flows from Ocean Conservation Credits (OCC) which are credits that enables buyers to become a stakeholder and direct contributor to Niue’s marine conservation, climate resilience and sustainable development efforts.

The representative of UNDESA-Chief of SIDS Unit, Mr Sai Navoti enlightened the meeting with a presentation on PSIDS and the implementation of SDG14. He raised that by 2022 no PSIDS was in track to implement SDG14. Although progress was “moderately increasing” in most PSIDS, most countries had “major” or “significant” challenges remaining in the delivery of SDG14.

SPREP noted that this decade has seen the prominence of two thematic areas- the UN Decade of Ocean Science and the UN Decade for ecosystem restoration. SPREP Director General (DG), Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra acknowledged the month of June as a hallmark month every year, this is when we commemorate World Environment Day and World Ocean Day. DG further outlined the evolution of global environment agreements which are associated with ocean work and emphasized the important connectivity between ocean and islands. He further highlighted there is a lot of data but perhaps not in the right place or where there are gaps that need to be filled. The demand needs to be created for data sharing. Highlighted CROP preparation on technical brief and delegations with regards to UNOC. However, regional coordination mechanisms need to be strengthened.

Deputy Director for SPC-Geoscience , Energy and Maritime Division (GEM), Jens Kruger raised discussions on the Agenda 2030, SDGs, and informed that SPC member countries have requested for a center for ocean science and what linkages can be made with the UN Decade for Ocean Science, what are common denominators and aspirations. SPC also presented the overview of national and ocean policy landscape in the Pacific with particular reference to SPC existing programs such as the PCCOS and UN Decade for Ocean Science. SPC review on existing national ocean policies pointed to the common aspiration to the implementation of Integrated Ocean Management. Identified three pillars for a Pacific program of the UN Decade for Ocean Science which includes Science, Law & Policy and Culture.

From the Non-state actor’s (NSA) perspective, IUCN provided a presentation and emphasized the importance of healthy ecosystems International Union Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Oceania Regional Director Mr. Mason Smith

provided and nature-based solutions. IUCN noted that the region had 19.9% of EEZs of Pacific countries designated as Marine Protected Areas (MPA), which was above the global figure of 17.8% although most of this was from just seven Pacific countries. IUCN also discussed Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and the steps required to deliver such a plan based on Pacific experience. IUCN noted that a key message to Lisbon could be to financially support countries to progress MSP running parallel to their blue economy projects.

Some of the points covered in the emerging discussion were:

- For the last two years there has been a stagnation in terms of the region progressing the implementation of SDG 14. A major issue for the region was **data inadequacy and gaps**, and the need to address this fundamental issue before 2030. The meeting discussed the possibilities of holding a regional conference on data for the Pacific and the need to have an agreed system of data analysis, and an agreed standard of data system across all Pacific governments.
- There is also a **reporting capacity weakness** as while there is a lot of Pacific data these are often confined to each organizations' library and are not accessible to the OPOC, UNDESA and other agencies that are work on reporting. The meeting further noted that development cannot be done without the backing of credible data and that data transparency is paramount. Discussions further noted the need to have an agreed data methodology to monitor and assess the implementation of locally, regional and international SDGs. The multi-vulnerability index is an important process developed by the UN that can be applied universally by all countries to measure vulnerability. There was a suggestion to convene an intergovernmental conference on data.
- On more challenges around data, discussions noted that structures or processes are not in place for the **sharing of data** and that data sets are too decentralized and are difficult to consider. The role of technology was reiterated as looking at how we can move forward in terms of fisheries frameworks for instance that deal with data. There needs to be an overall transformation of mentality in dealing with the data issue. There was agreement that data sets be examined collectively and that having reliable data sets can assist the Pacific in leveraging funding.
- The meeting noted the suggestion that Niue present on their OCC initiative at an upcoming ocean side event at the margins of the PIF Leaders Meeting with the option of the Niue Premier presenting virtually. In terms of Niue's MPA, discussions acknowledged Tonga's assistance in providing patrol boats and that Niue would look at further means of protecting their MPA.

4.0 SESSION 1 – BREAK-OUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS

A range of points were raised in plenary following the breakout sessions, these included:

In relation to progress:

- PNG raised those four commitments were made MPA, Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA) and as of 2020 it has produced the National Oceans Office and have an existing National Ocean Policy. PNG has also launched its first marine scientific research facility.
- For Fiji, a total of 17 commitments were made at UNOC 2017 in areas of land and minerals resources and work has been underway at a global level to implement these. Fiji has also launched its National Oceans Policy.
- Marine Spatial planning is progressing well in countries such as Tonga, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. Associated with this is improving data on habitats and ecosystems.
- It was recognised that a number of countries in the region Samoa, Vanuatu and Fiji for example have banned plastics altogether or certain types of plastics. On this unified tangent the Pacific has moved to support a legally binding instrument at the UN to conclude instrument on banning plastics by 2024.
- Discussions noted that in terms of reporting on progress, a better job is needed in defining what "progress" means. It may be necessary to develop a consolidated view of regional and national commitments to measure progress against and regional organizations could provide support to help track commitments. One issue associated with measuring progress is that there is no common project-level for SDG14 progress to report against.
- It was also noted that there was no clear appreciation of the additional Voluntary Commitments that came on board though UNOC 2017 and this information needs updating and disseminating.

In relation to challenges and gaps:

- The impact of COVID-19 was significant based on the already stressed resources of countries. In terms of resources and biodiversity, there were also challenges in terms of updating infrastructure and support from government to effectively work on implementing and progressing commitments. Further issues involved the practical implementation of commitments including challenges with the different actors involved in oceans governance space.
- A fundamental and ongoing challenge is data collection and maintenance. There was a recognised lack of resources and real issues remained on exactly how to address the paucity of data. There is a need to take advantage of technology and artificial intelligence as well as improving cooperation, communication and collaboration in relation to data. A way to reduce transaction cost in engaging and leveraging data to make it more useful should be found. The UN Decade of ocean science offers a huge opportunity to engage with data collection.
- There were suggestions of the need to have a better understanding on what members want in relation to access to baseline information.
- There remains a gap between regional policies that are enacted, and the ones carried out at global and national level. Policies need to show linkages to ensure that there is a trickle-down effect on ocean management and sustainable management commitments.
- There were challenges highlighted, with capacities and resources within national governments. In terms of addressing challenges at the community level, the representative from Fiji Locally Marine Managed Area (FLMMA) focuses on information that came from the local level noting that FLMMA there were gaps in getting information from grassroots level as users of ocean resources. In terms of what could be done to address challenges and gaps, the group agreed that strong general partnerships were needed to implement these at national level.
- There were ongoing issues due to the complexity of the geography of the region in pursuing the realisation of commitments. This complexity includes the different stakeholder constituencies involved, the different expectations of the stakeholders and general differences on the ground that need to be navigated i.e. several languages in one country so there is a difficulty in communication.

- On banning plastics one of the challenges regionally is finding alternatives for plastics. Ensuring there are locally manufactured products to be an alternative for plastics. We need to look to manufacturing our own home-grown products i.e. coconut or bamboo-based straws, containers etc.
- Funding in relation to environmental protection and innovation is inadequate. Our local institutions and funding institutions fail to provide easily accessible funding for initiatives that are environmentally friendly.
- The existing structure to support the implementation of international commitments is inadequate. While the eagerness and will to make international commitments is available, a huge challenge is that there are no locally based mechanisms in-country to help us realize and implement on the international commitments. The regional mechanism as well as national ocean policies provide a good basis for an established practice and approach across the region.

In relation to opportunities:

- An opportunity is to emphasize on research, data collection, data analysis and maintenance of data on ocean maritime and research used by countries to effectively implement commitments. This can build on existing partnerships to improve data from sources such as the Pacific data hub. There should not be another data portal but rather we should build on and leverage existing portals to achieve positive outcomes More opportunities need to be provided to improve partnership and develop relationships so we can allow for better data sharing within our different organizations. Capacity development may facilitate such endeavors.
- Streamlining of different reporting lines under international and national reporting obligations would facilitate implementation. Practical opportunities include the creation of community-based programmes, data collection portals and systems.
- There are possibilities to create more opportunities for lesson sharing from innovative initiatives like those presented by Niue. This can help us up-skill our best practices, learn from each other and also endeavor to solve the challenges together. We also need to look at marrying narratives and complex issues such as traditional knowledge, climate refugees etc. A specific opportunity was recognized for further South-South cooperation to learn from each other and on best practice to finalize commitments

made at the UNOC 2017 conference.

- There is also scope to work with Pacific countries on a clear demarcation of roles and activities of different actors and how they can work together as partners in keeping a monitoring and evaluation space in the areas they work in. A further requirement is looking for funding, addressing multiple stakeholders and providing technical advice.
- There is a need to ensure that the region controls the narrative. The region needs to be involved with regionally and locally based journalists to share their stories on ocean management related issues. Strengthening partnerships and involving local journalists who have the passion for the Pacific and stories will help shape narratives associated with the Ocean.
- A number of opportunities were recognised including sustainable financing to progress SDG14. On improving sustainable financing, resource sharing should be encouraged as well as a more efficient use of resources.
- For example: What happens when tuna shifts west-east? Do we remain aid dependent vulnerable states? How do we juxtaposition value and vulnerability? The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent was welcomed as a starting point for targeted dialogue on such major framing issues.

5.0 SESSION 2: INTERACTIVE SESSION ON FUTURE COMMITMENTS AND COLLABORATIVE ACTION

The plenary discussion concluded with the realization that there are many significant questions and issues that permeate governance of the Ocean in the region. Prior to the start of the session, the moderator provided a number of strategic questions for the POA to consider against the discussion on future commitments. The following were key questions raised:

1. What would it take for the Pacific Countries to be the biggest sustainable tropical supplier of seafood to the world?
2. What happens when tuna shift to the east due to forecasted climate change? What happens to tuna-dependent countries like Kiribati, RMI, etc.?
3. What is the meaning of Large Ocean States in the context of 100% management and 30% protection of our ocean?
4. Are our values reflected in the regimes of our national ocean policies?
5. What does all of these priorities mean in terms of getting the data right?
6. How does the issue of morality pan out in the future?
7. How do we weigh value and vulnerability?
8. So far, the Pacific has not made any big commitment collectively? How do we collectively shift the narrative of possibility for the Pacific?

A presentation on the forthcoming 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent was delivered by PIF Regionalism Adviser, Mr. Joel Nilon. The presentation provided information on the 2050 Strategy, including rationale and mandate leading to the development of the strategy; work undertaken to develop the strategy; an overview of the 2050 strategy; and next steps including seeking Forum Officials Committee's (FOC) endorsement of the strategy. It was stated that the 2050 Strategy will be endorsed by Leader in due course, and a related review of the regional architecture will also commence.

The meeting had discussions on what could be done to really foster movement

across the region and for the first 10 year to get the ball rolling (short to medium term phase). The meeting also discusses an implementation plan that will address course of action once the Leaders have endorsed the 2050 Strategy.

Break-out groups were mobilised and a set of structured questions were provided to focus discussions. The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent was welcomed as a starting point for targeted dialogue on such major framing issues.

In relation to accelerating action:

- There were proponents suggesting further investments in communities at the grassroots level. It was noted that there are huge information gaps from the grassroots level which is vital for integrated ocean governance.
- There was also a view that Traditional Knowledge (TK) needs to be further recognised, especially at a regional and international TK level. The interface between TK and ocean science and how they jointly contribute to ocean governance needs unpacking. There is a need to look at the value or leveraging opportunities, whether it's a resource or opportunities around conservation and oceanic ecosystems.
- Discussions acknowledged the need for a forum/platform on sharing of ideas and resetting narratives/mindsets and sharing knowledge and experience. The meeting further noted the importance of the multi-vulnerability index and the need to take ownership, most importantly on how best to bring together the work we are all doing for better coordination.
- Discussions further noted French Polynesia's commitment to the ocean agenda and acknowledged their willingness to work on the 2050 Strategy. French Polynesia has a lot of tuna stocks and are looking to managing these to achieve sustainable fisheries.

In relation to improved coordination:

- The meeting noted the question on whether existing coordination mechanisms are fit for purpose. One challenge was about elevating such Ocean-related discussions to the Leader's level, and what mechanism this would require? It was recognised that coordination mechanisms that have worked in other regions may be useful to consider within a Pacific context.
- Moreover, in looking at how Ocean initiatives support the livelihood of Pacific peoples, it was recognised that a different approach and different level of governance at community level would be required. Most importantly, Pacific peoples should really know what we want. Further community-level engagement, accepting that existing mechanisms are not fully adequate, was recognized as important.
- The meeting also noted the following questions: what foundations will provide for a greater platform for the kind of effective implementation that we are talking about today and whether we were doing enough to provide the foundation.

In relation to future commitments:

- It was broadly accepted that the future is held within the Pacific, and that we have the solutions. This includes on setting narratives, building on the current work in terms of ocean management, and zone-based management schemes.
- It was questioned if the 2050 Strategy was predominantly purposed for resource mobilization. The region has developed its own success approaches such as the Parties to the Nauru Agreement, but such mechanisms were not being promoted across the Blue Pacific Continent.
- Setting out a trajectory to 2050, it is noted that in the ocean space there are multiple users, and voices are getting louder. A broader Ocean constituency with potential for an increasing level of conflict can be expected.

6.0 SESSION 3: PRESENTATION & DISCUSSIONS ON UN OCEAN CONFERENCE

The focus of Session 3 was preparation for the UN Oceans Conference; a particular focus was on the regional contributions of the 8 Interactive Dialogues (ID) of the UNOC. Presentations to this end were provided by UN-DESA, OPOC, SPREP and SPC. The following comments were made in the plenary discussion in relation to the respective Interactive Dialogue sessions:

In relation to ID 1- Addressing Marine Pollution (Lead: SPREP, PIF)

- On this thematic area, discussions noted this includes land-based pollution, plastics, solid waste discharges, and others. SPREP has been engaged in getting more information in regional preparations towards this issue and acknowledged DFAT's assistance in organizing the region's preparations.
- Discussions noted that an issue was to improve sources of pollution from both land and sea; this is aligned to the Cleaner Pacific implementation plan 2021 to 2025. SPREP, in partnership with CROP, is aligned to the UNEA 5.2 Resolution on entering into a new legally binding agreement on a plastic solution by end of 2025.
- The meeting noted that Forum Ministers had adopted this issue as an agenda item. There is a close linkage between the technical briefs and the messaging. Discussions noted Japan' ALPS (Advanced Liquid Processing System) radioactive water decontamination issue and the potential threat of nuclear contamination, World War II wrecks etc. The meeting sought clarity on the ALPS issue being referenced inside the messages guide.

In relation to ID 2 - Managing, protecting, conserving, and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems (Lead: SPREP)

- The meeting noted the need to push for support for effective spatial protection and to be in line with Pacific communities, and the need to look at national commitments to enhance conservation and restoration of marine coastal ecosystems.

- There were discussions on the regional coordinated approach to take to Lisbon, and how it builds on the first UNOC in 2017.
- As biodiversity underpins the ecology of entire ocean system and form entire boundaries it is important to recognize rights-based approach of these communities in terms of governance and sustainable use of ecosystem.
- Discussions noted that the mangrove ecosystem needs special attention as it provides local food on which locals depend on for their livelihood and the need to have this incorporated. This was especially noted in relation to PNG where mangroves are an important ecosystem for fisheries and having a gender lens towards approaching these thematic areas is equally important. However, it was also noted that separating specific habitats from the wider marine ecosystems can lead to a less integrated approach.
- It was suggested to strengthen language around climate change impacts and mitigation; framing to strengthen climate-ocean nexus.
- Those could be included in the broader links between economic value and benefits derived by PICs from those ecosystems and how it impacted the broader finance needs. The need for innovative finance to support management of ecosystem is absolutely critical.
- There was a recognized need to support global action to develop and implement the emerging post global biodiversity framework under the CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity).

In relation to ID 3 - Oceans Acidification - Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification, deoxygenation and ocean warming. (Lead: SPC)

- It was recognized that ocean acidification affects coastal ecosystem and damages livelihood in the ecosystem. The primary concern is hindrance of marine species productivity and growth. OPOC noted that the ID on this issue was in-line with the PIF Leaders Ocean's Statement 2021.
- On monitoring and prediction to strengthen national disaster response reduction strategies it was noted that communities had experience, knowledge and strategies for natural disasters. Thus, there was a suggestion to include this traditional knowledge.
- It was noted that there was a need for investment on people and capacity. In terms of ocean acidification, there is a need to not only understand

impacts on the ocean and environment but also on the people, linking it back to ourselves and the environment is important. Not only talking about impacts on ocean but on the environment and the people as well.

In relation to ID 4 - Fisheries - Making fisheries sustainable and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets. (Lead: SPC, FFA)

- This dialogue topic places ecosystem approach at the center, not increase exploitation but improve economic outcomes at expense of environment climate change which will need up to date scientific knowledge to deal with changing environment. Data and scientific knowledge are important. Ocean habitat is under threat, invasive species, blue carbon require protection for opportunities in carbon market, several opportunities to develop blue economies exist.
- Regional roadmap for sustainable fisheries highlights that protection of future generation is essential and highlighting special circumstances of SIDS; the ocean resource will help address and overcome challenges on COVID 19.
- Suggestion to strengthen links noting fisheries is a large commodity in the region, greatly affected by climate change impacts. So, referencing the need for investment to support PICS to adapt to shifts in tuna species and support grassroots sustainable financing will be critically important.
- Also, a suggestion was made to recognize this as a critical priority area for data collection, because it's hard to do much without data to see if there is economic resilience.
- It was noted that Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) is affecting fishing and has been used in protected areas as well and there has been pledges to stop the use of these devices.

In relation to ID 5 - Circular Blue Economy - Promoting and strengthening sustainable ocean-based economies, in particular for SIDS and LDCs (Lead: SPREP, PIFS)

- The important role of fisheries was noted here as a commodity and maybe those links should come out in this ID.
- Also recognize the grassroots level blue economies and the need for sustainable financing, including the informal sector.
- Suggestions were also made for further recognition of traditional and indigenous knowledge and practice when it comes to fisheries and link fisheries to food and nutritional security.

In relation to ID 6 - Increasing scientific knowledge and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology. (Lead: SPC)

- Data is key to supporting decision making and the need to put it in the messaging. Particularly on long term partnership that can help collect information we get partnerships but they are often short term, importance of long term genuine partnership that can help us connect data and monitoring need for decision making
- It should be more widely recognised that inclusive scientific knowledge should include traditional knowledge. A target research which links these knowledge systems and creates benefits derived from research to our Pacific countries. Traditional knowledge should be treated equally with scientific knowledge
- There was also an expressed need for a stronger emphasis on building capacity of young professionals with a focus on ocean partnership and investment from international organizations.
- There was also a call for integration into the school curriculum to facilitate generational change; there is a lot of ocean knowledge and experience to support this.

In relation to ID 7 - Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law, as reflected in UNCLOS. (Lead: PIFS, OPOC)

- No specific comments were forthcoming as the messaging as provided in the messages guide was quite clear and reflecting the Leaders Declaration.

In relation to ID 8 - Leveraging interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (Lead: SPC)

- OPOC noted the broader linkages between the goals, leveraging interlinkages between SDG14, and recognizing SDGs are interconnected. This helps to align these approaches with the SAMOA Pathway.
- It was suggested to reinforce the messaging on food security which is heavily dependent on oceans, and there is a need to increase interlinkages between SDG and PSIDS in this regard.
- It was noted that supporting efforts in maritime boundaries in line with Pacific Leaders Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the face of Climate Change-related Sea Level Rise and in relation to other ocean policies implementation can help us achieve SDG 14.
- It was noted the importance of providing support to women in non-traditional sectors, such as women in maritime, women in fisheries, women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics).
- Development on capacity building for young people was deemed important, including science and traditional knowledge.
- It was suggested that this dialogue is important in addressing silos, improve synergies, looking at the drivers of ocean ecosystem and biodiversity loss.
- There was also an opportunity to reiterate that the ocean is central to life in the region and reframing SIDS as big ocean states remaking the case of the high linkage of the Ocean to all SDGs in the Pacific.

7.0 SESSION 4: SHARING PLANS – REGIONAL COLLABORATION AND ATTENDANCE TO LISBON 2ND UN OCEAN CONFERENCE

This session focused on practical and logistical considerations on the UNOC, including identifying attendees, planned side events and support for IDs.

The meeting agreed that it would be useful to call for support on events led by Pacific because sometimes there aren't many people available to support events.

The meeting noted the importance of networking and keeping stakeholders in touch/through instant messaging platforms such as WhatsApp.

A consolidated document was put together for regional attendees to inform each other's side events and engagements at the UNOC.



Closing remarks were provided by the Commissioner Mr Henry Puna who acknowledged the discussions over the past two days at this Pacific Ocean Alliance meeting.

The Commissioner noted that following the POA discussions there is significant appetite for further discussions, and he hoped to continue this in the near future.

The Commissioner firmly believed that different interests and viewpoints are very, very important to finding innovative resolutions and ideas on Ocean issues, particularly as we move forward to 2030 and beyond.

The Commissioner recognized that we all have different roles and together “we can all make a difference” but we need collective decisions.

The Commissioner identified a number of priorities moving forward, including:

1. Scaling up our efforts to reduce the ongoing issue of data, that is, data for decision making and reporting.
We have heard of suggestions at this meeting on a possible Intergovernmental Conference on data (ocean data).
2. Improved coordination of the Pacific Ocean Alliance, and across multiple sectors and at all levels.
3. Support the call to amplify and advocate key Member initiatives.
4. Call for support to Members in their efforts to progress the achievements of their SDG14 and ocean regional commitments.
5. Means of implementation, particularly finance are urgently needed.

Finally, the Commissioner concluded with a saying:

“ **TO GO FAST, YOU GO ALONE. BUT IF YOU WANT TO GO FAR WE MUST GO TOGETHER.** ”



