



# Navigating Fiji's Blue Horizon: A Dive into the National Ocean Policy



# Contents



1. Introduction
2. The need for a National Ocean Policy ('NOP')
3. Fiji's Marine Resources
4. Objectives of Fiji's NOP
5. Goals and Governance Structures
6. Collaboration and Partnership
7. Linkages to regional and global ocean policies
8. Challenges and Opportunities
9. Policy Implementation and Monitoring
10. Need for regional approach to support development and implementation
11. Conclusion
12. Q&A

# Introduction



- The ocean has always been a source of wonder and inspiration but it has also been a key part of our planet's ecosystem. Fiji's with its pristine waters and rich marine resources understands this better than most.
- In this presentation we will explore the importance of the Fiji's National Ocean Policy, understand its governance structures, the opportunities and challenges and how the Pacific as a region could contribute towards the conservation of our shared resource.



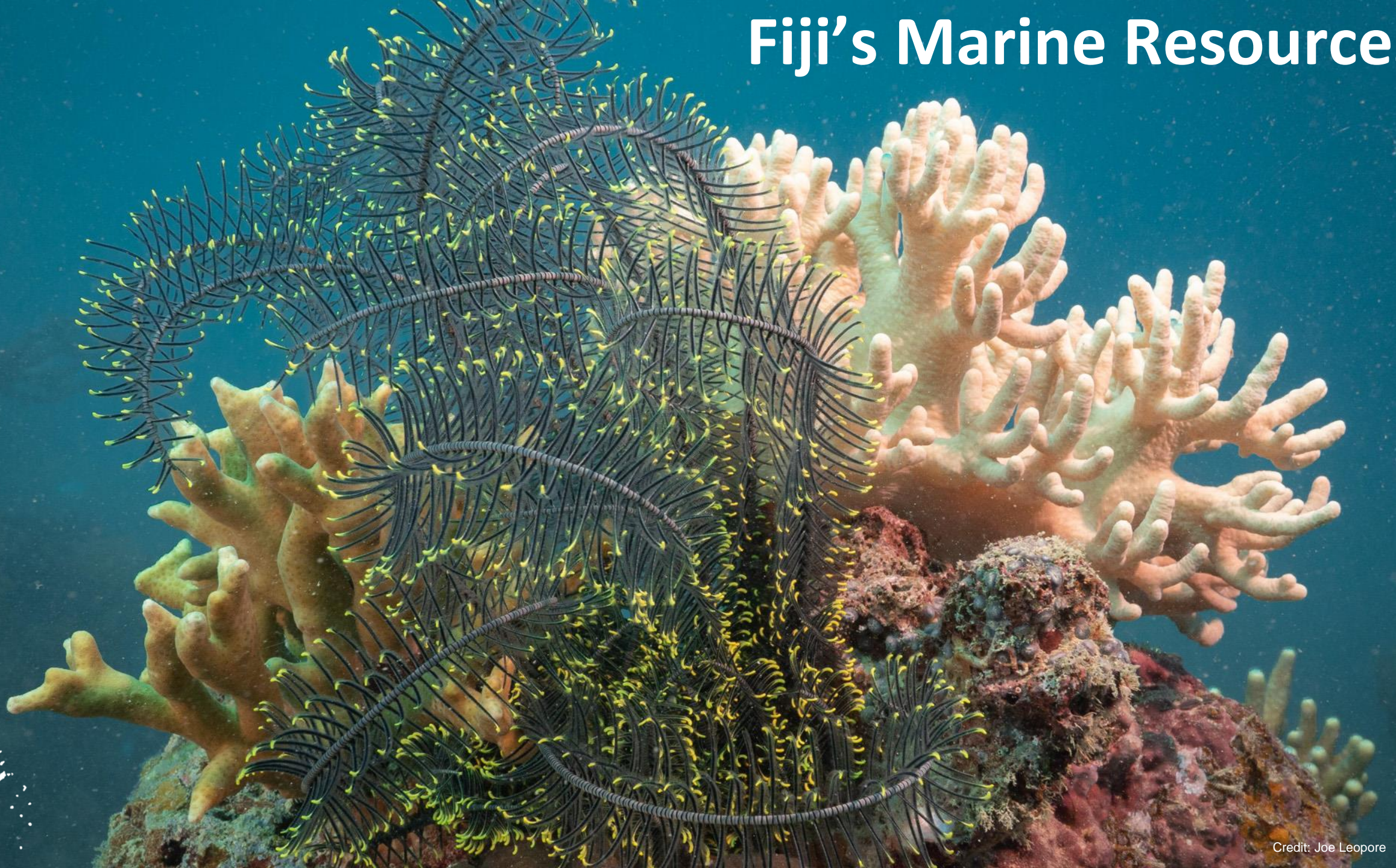
# Need for a National Ocean Policy



- Fiji's marine environment is facing a range of challenges and opportunities that require coordinated approach.
- The ocean is a key part of the Fijian culture and it sustains the livelihoods of thousands however it is under threat from climate change and overfishing, pollution and other human activities.
- A National Ocean Policy is needed to address these challenges and to provide strategic guidance on how best to mobilise resources towards marine conservation, efficiently utilizing the Government machinery.



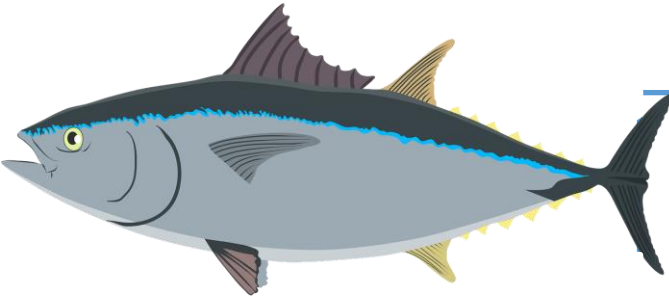
# Fiji's Marine Resources





Fiji's marine resources are among the most rich and diverse in the world.

Marine tourism generates FJ \$1.15B in revenue (2014)



Gross value of Fiji Tuna is approx. FJ \$55m/year with FJ \$20m retained in the economy

Valuation of Fiji's marine ecosystem services (2014)

FJ \$2.5<sup>b</sup>





# Objectives of Fiji's National Ocean Policy



- Fiji's National Ocean Policy is focused on ensuring the sustainable use and management of Fiji's ocean resources.
- The policy aims to promote economic growth while protecting the environment and improving the livelihoods of Fijians.
- One of the key objectives is to establish a coordinated approach to ocean governance ensuring that policies and practices are aligned to the overall goal of sustainable development.

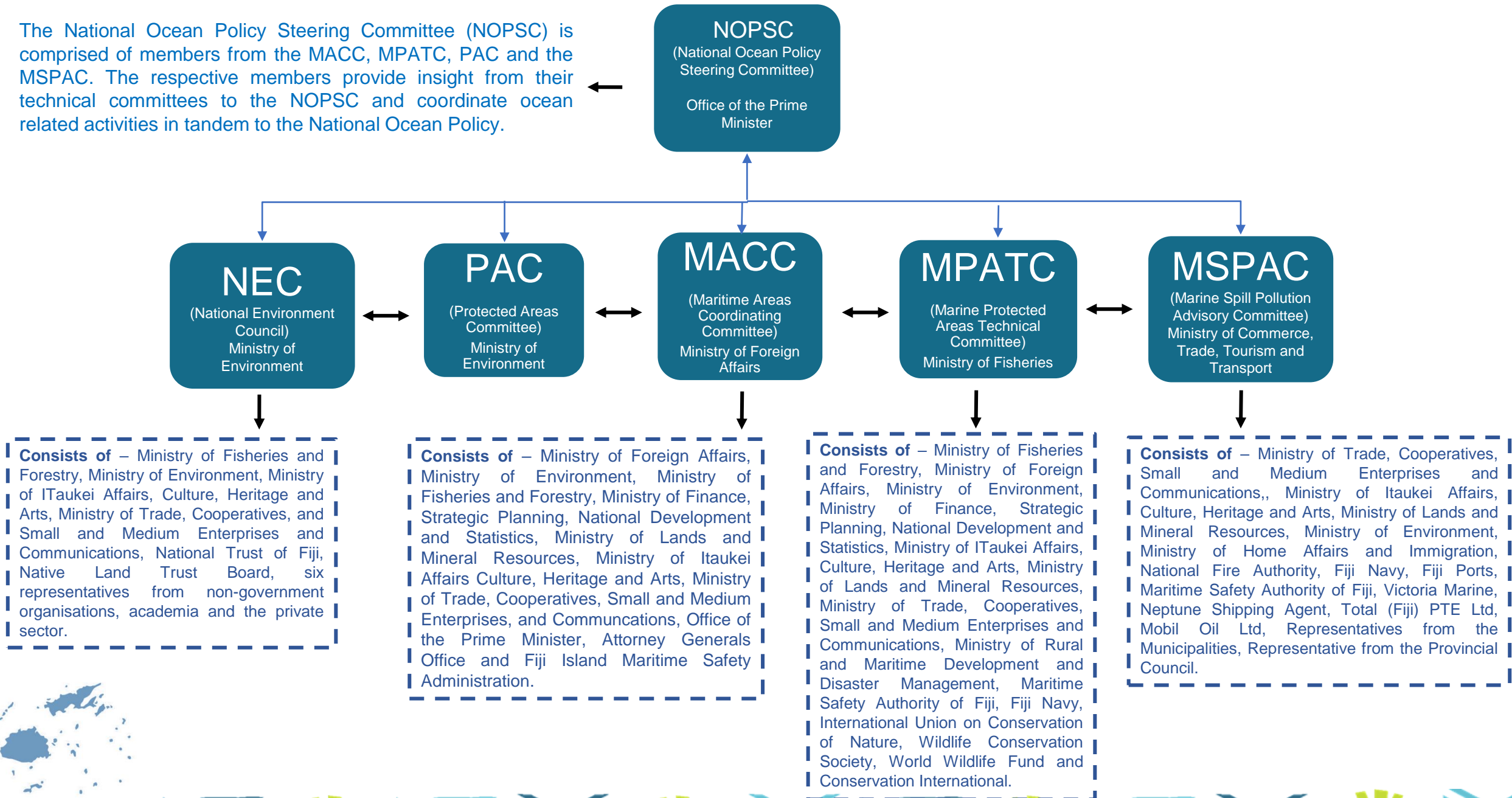


# Goals and Governance Structure





The National Ocean Policy Steering Committee (NOPSC) is comprised of members from the MACC, MPATC, PAC and the MSPAC. The respective members provide insight from their technical committees to the NOPSC and coordinate ocean related activities in tandem to the National Ocean Policy.





# Collaboration and Partnership





- Three scientific advisors from the University of the South Pacific, Fiji National University and University of Fiji;
- Implementing entity – Blue Prosperity Fiji
- NGO observer





# Linkages to regional and global ocean policies



- The NOP is based on the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (Ocean Panel), Sustainable Ocean Plans (SOP).
- It is linked to regional and international policies and agreements such as:
  - United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS): Fiji is a signatory to UNCLOS and aligns its policy to the principles and obligations as set forth under the convention
  - Sustainable Development Goal: The NOP is designed to assist in the delivery of SDG14 – Life Below Water.
  - Paris Agreement: Although the PA focuses primarily on climate change the implications of climate change on the oceans are considered in the NOP as well as measures to increase resiliency.



- 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent: Although published slightly earlier than the 2050 Strategy, the NOP does take into account the importance of ocean conservation and its importance to the region.
- Biodiversity Conservation: The NOP integrates elements of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in its efforts to ensure the protection of marine biodiversity.



# Challenges and Opportunities



- Fiji's marine environment faces a multitude of challenges from overfishing, pollution and climate change.
- These challenges threaten both the health of the ocean and the economy and the livelihoods of people.
- However, the NOP includes measures to improve:
  - Fisheries management;
  - Reduce pollution;
  - Protect marine habitats; and
  - Promote sustainable tourism.



# Implementation and monitoring



- Monitoring and evaluation are an ongoing process of the NOP.
- It will be revised every 5 years under the guidance of the NOPSC as determined by the implementation process.
- The NOP has its own MEL segment, tracking implementation and providing indicators of progress.
- The MEL will report on two formal levels:
  - Outputs from the delivery of activities; and
  - Outcomes which contribute to the delivery of the goals.
- The NOPSC meets every quarter to understand progress and provide stakeholders an update on challenges.





# Climate Change Act



- The Climate Change Act (CCA) gives the NOP its legislative foundation.
- Implementing agencies are now required by law to report to the National Ocean Policy Steering Committee (NOPSC) on progress and implementation of respective activities which alligns to the Policy outcomes.
- Fiji's role as a global ocean champion is significantly reflected in domestic policy.
- Reference - PART 13—Oceans and Climate Change



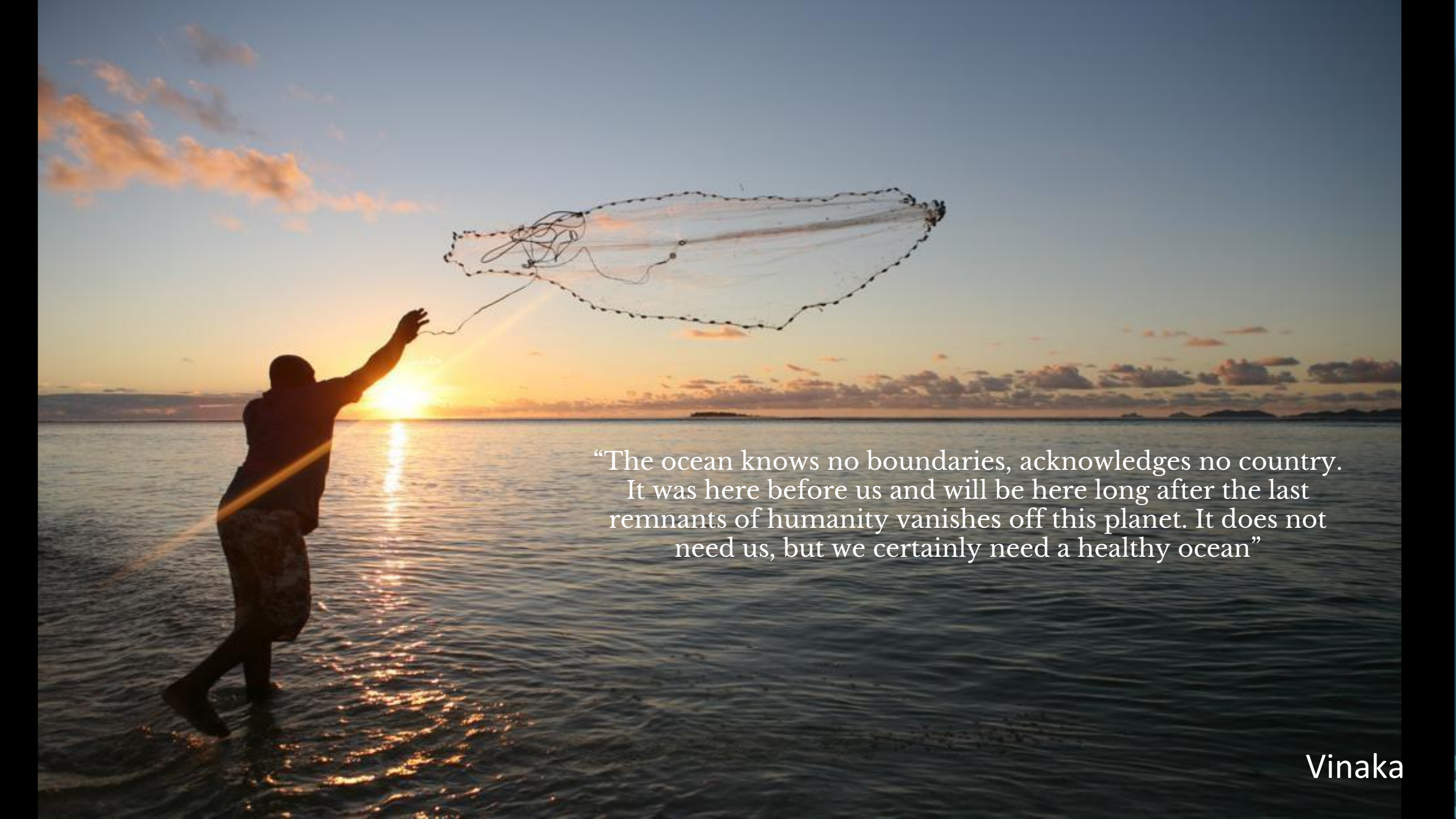


# Need for regionalism



- It is imperative that PSIDS come to the fore on ocean action.
- As large ocean states, countries in the Pacific have a shared affinity based on our similar use of the ocean and its resources.
- Coordinating with neighboring countries and regional organisation will allow for a more coordinated and effective approach to managing oceans resources.
- A regional approach can also help address issues such as illegal fishing, pollution, maritime domain awareness and security.





“The ocean knows no boundaries, acknowledges no country. It was here before us and will be here long after the last remnants of humanity vanishes off this planet. It does not need us, but we certainly need a healthy ocean”

Vinaka