

Governing an Ocean Continent: resolving cross-scale coordination and capacity challenges

Pacific Regional Ocean Policy and
Governance Dialogue

21 August 2023



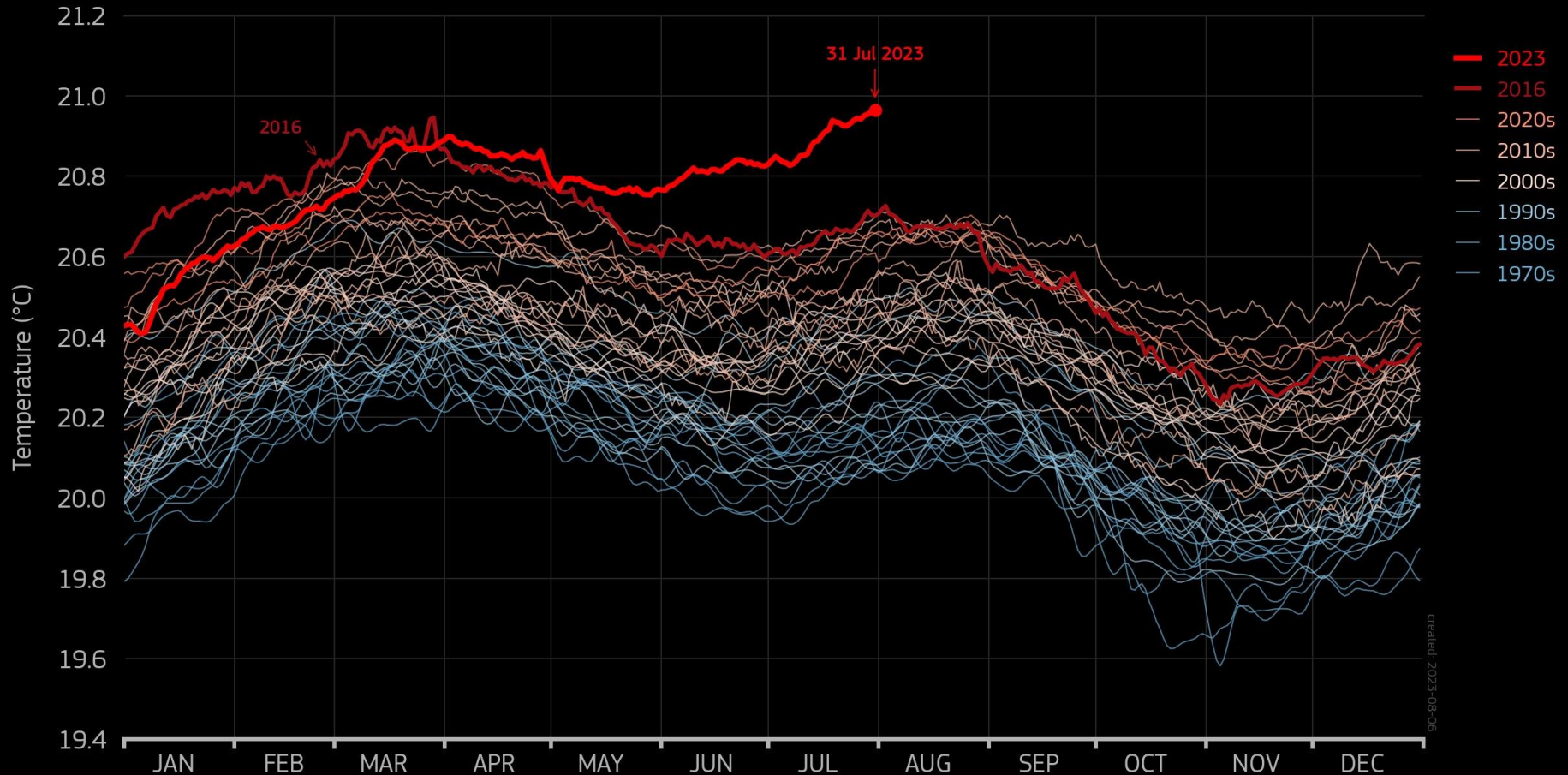
GLOBAL
CHALLENGES

UNIVERSITY OF
WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA



DAILY SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE 60°S–60°N

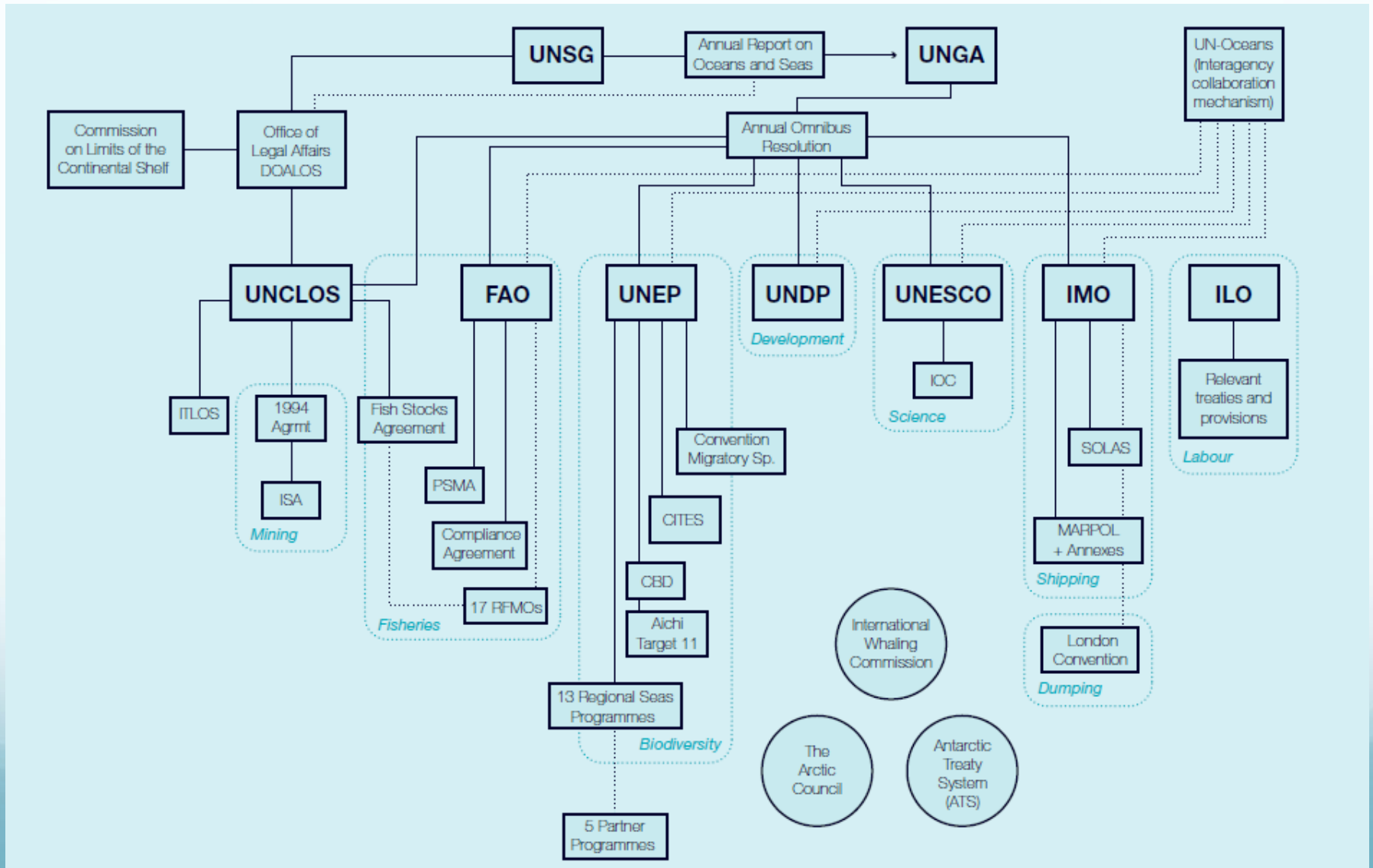
Data: ERA5 1979–2023 • Credit: C3S/ECMWF



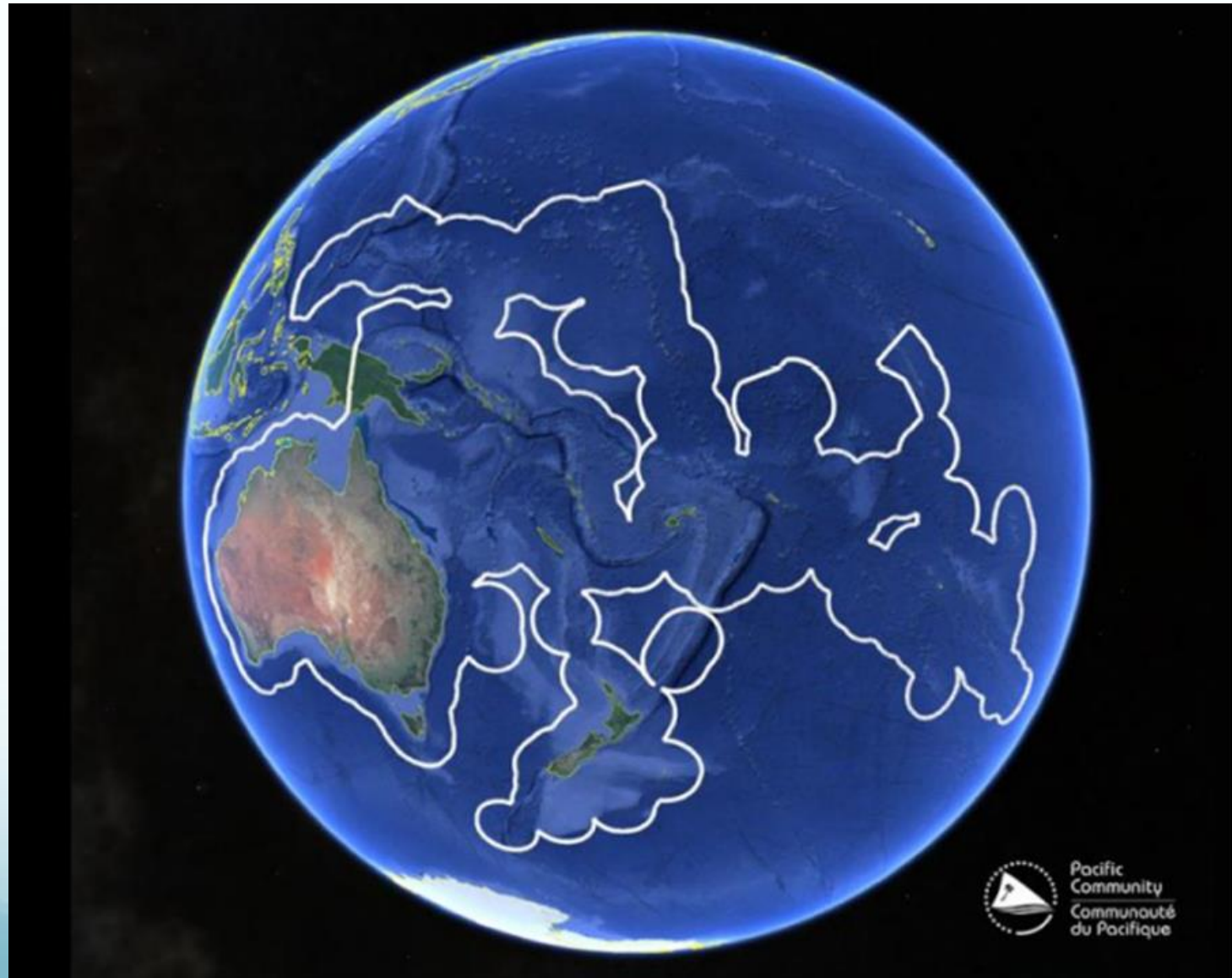
PROGRAMME OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION



Fragmented architecture

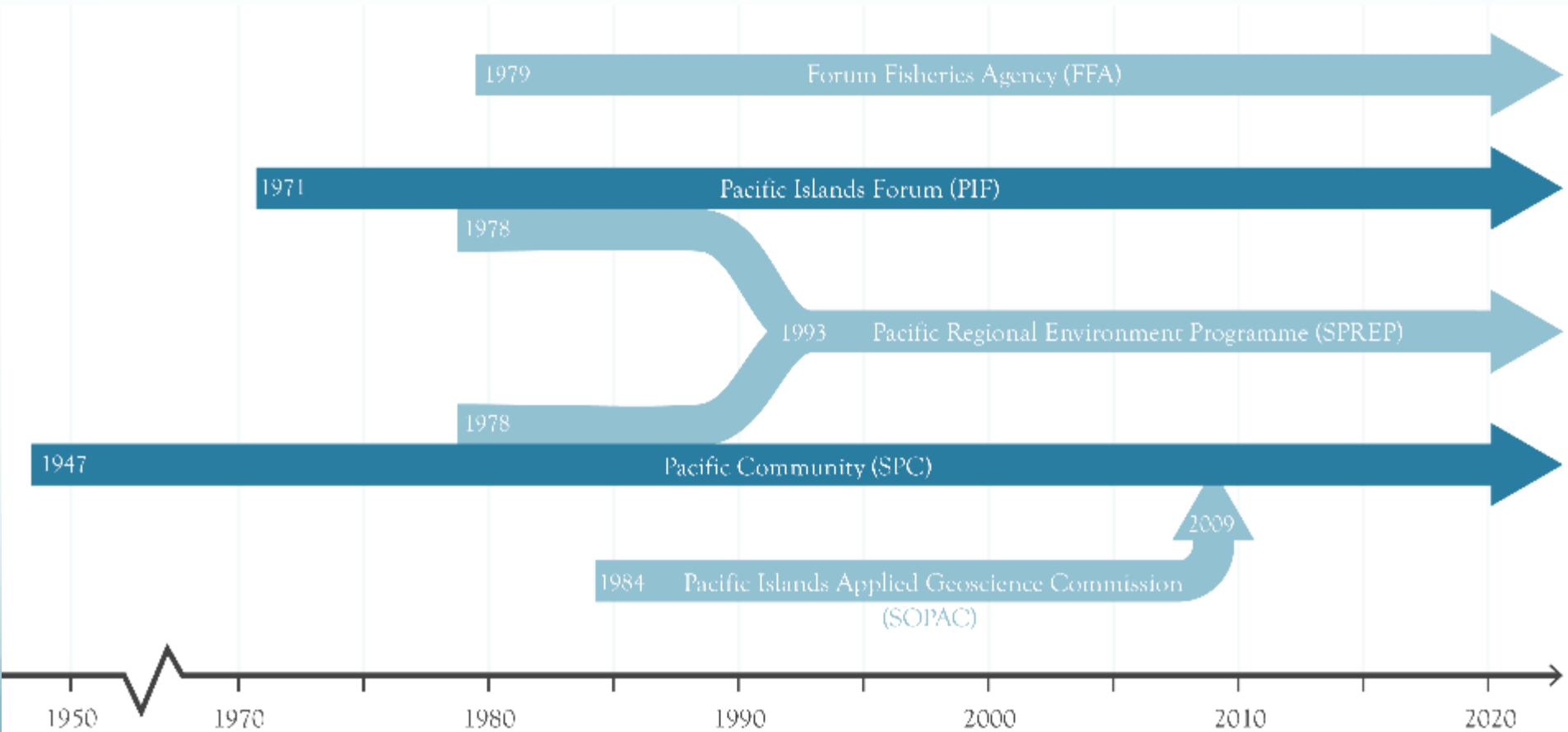


Blue Pacific Ocean Continent



Source: Pacific Community (SPC) (2020)

Timeline of regional institutions



Regional integration

- Recalibration through review and reform
- Establishing hierarchy on ocean issue areas
- Differentiating competence
- Addressing mandate creep
- Developing functional linkages
- Joint donor funding instead of competition for donor resources

Pacific Island Regional Ocean Policy

PACIFIC ISLAND REGIONAL OCEAN POLICY

VISION

A healthy ocean that sustains the livelihoods and aspirations of Pacific Island communities.

GOAL

The goal of this policy is to ensure the future sustainable use of our ocean and its resources by Pacific Island communities and external partners

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Improving our understanding of the ocean.

Sustainably developing and managing the use of ocean resources.

Maintaining the health of the ocean.

Protecting the peaceful use of the ocean.

Creating partnerships and promoting co-operation.

Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape

FRAMEWORK FOR A PACIFIC OCEANSCAPE

VISION

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

GOALS

Integrated ocean management

Adaptation to environmental and climate change

Liasing, listening, learning and leading

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Jurisdictional rights and responsibilities

Good ocean governance

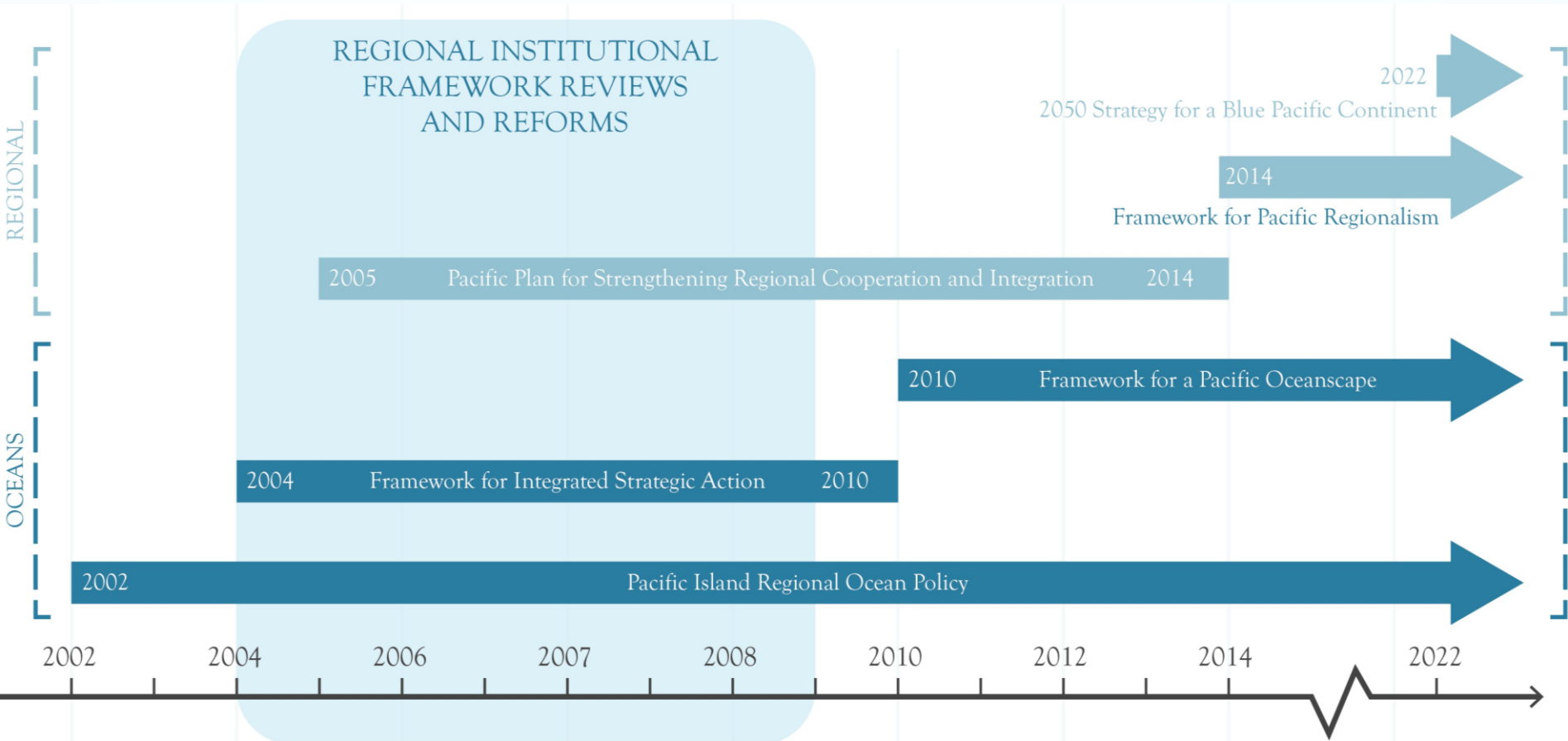
Sustainable development, management and conservation

Liasing, listening, learning and leading

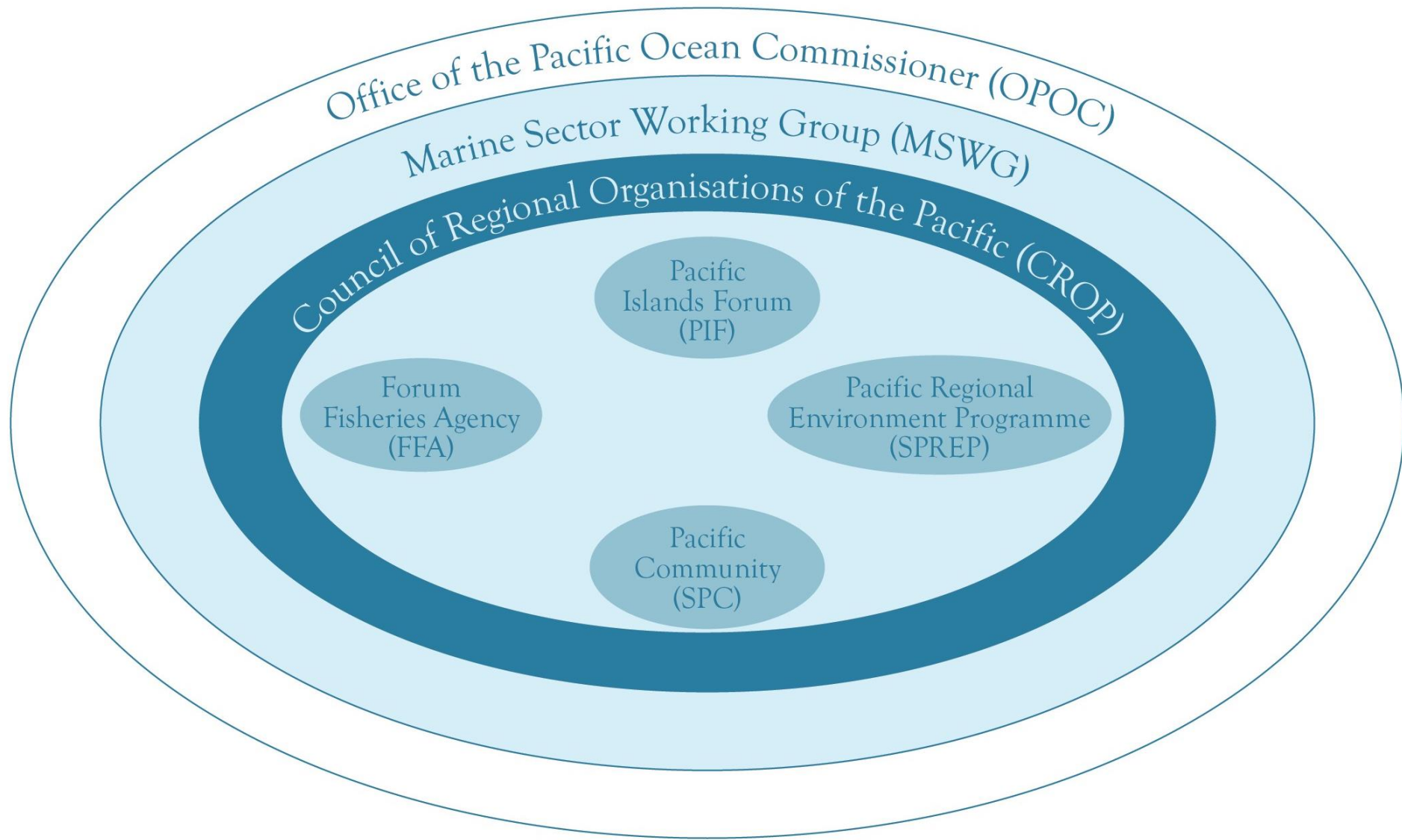
Sustaining action

Adapting to a rapidly changing environment

Timeline of regional policies



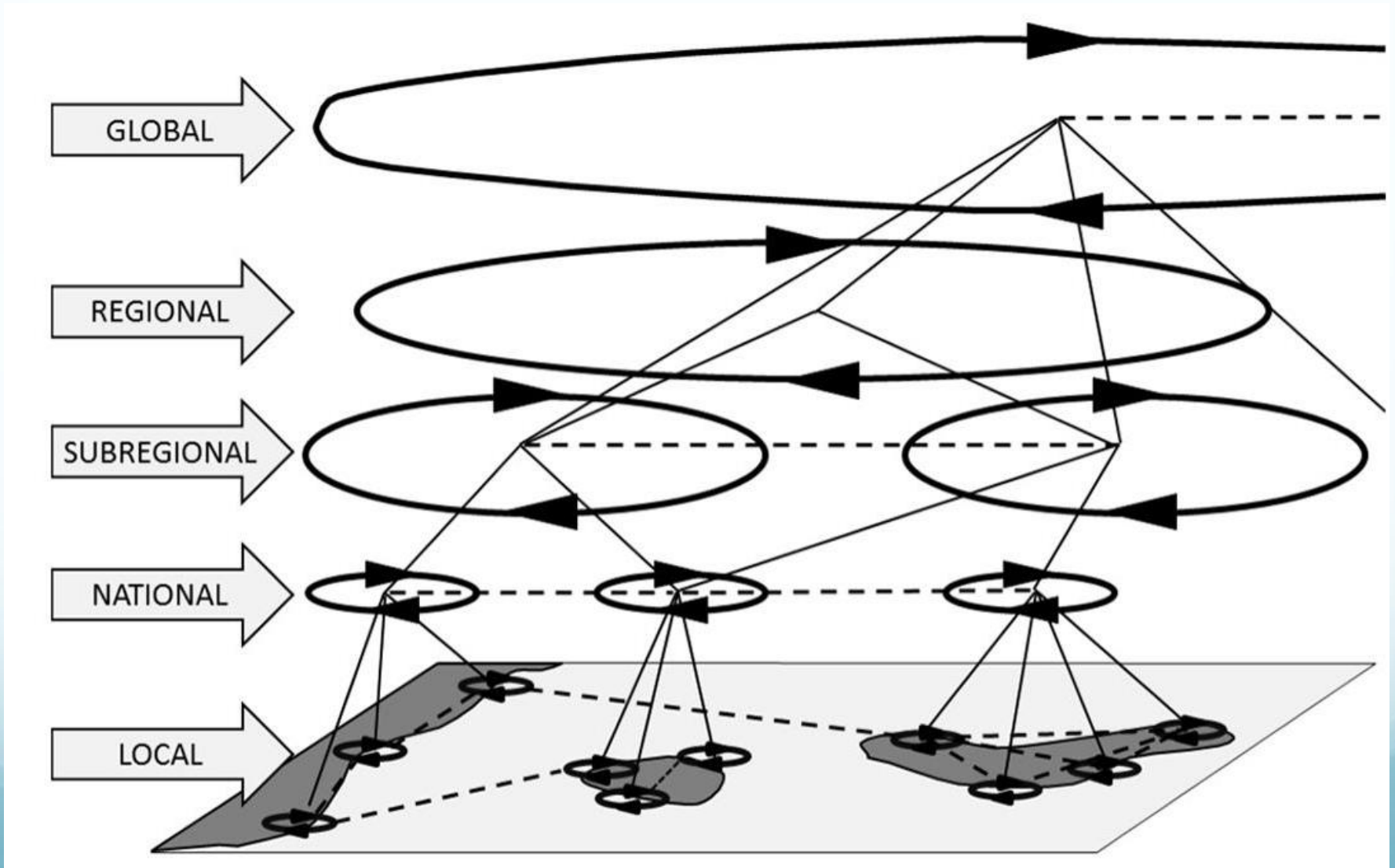
Coordination mechanisms



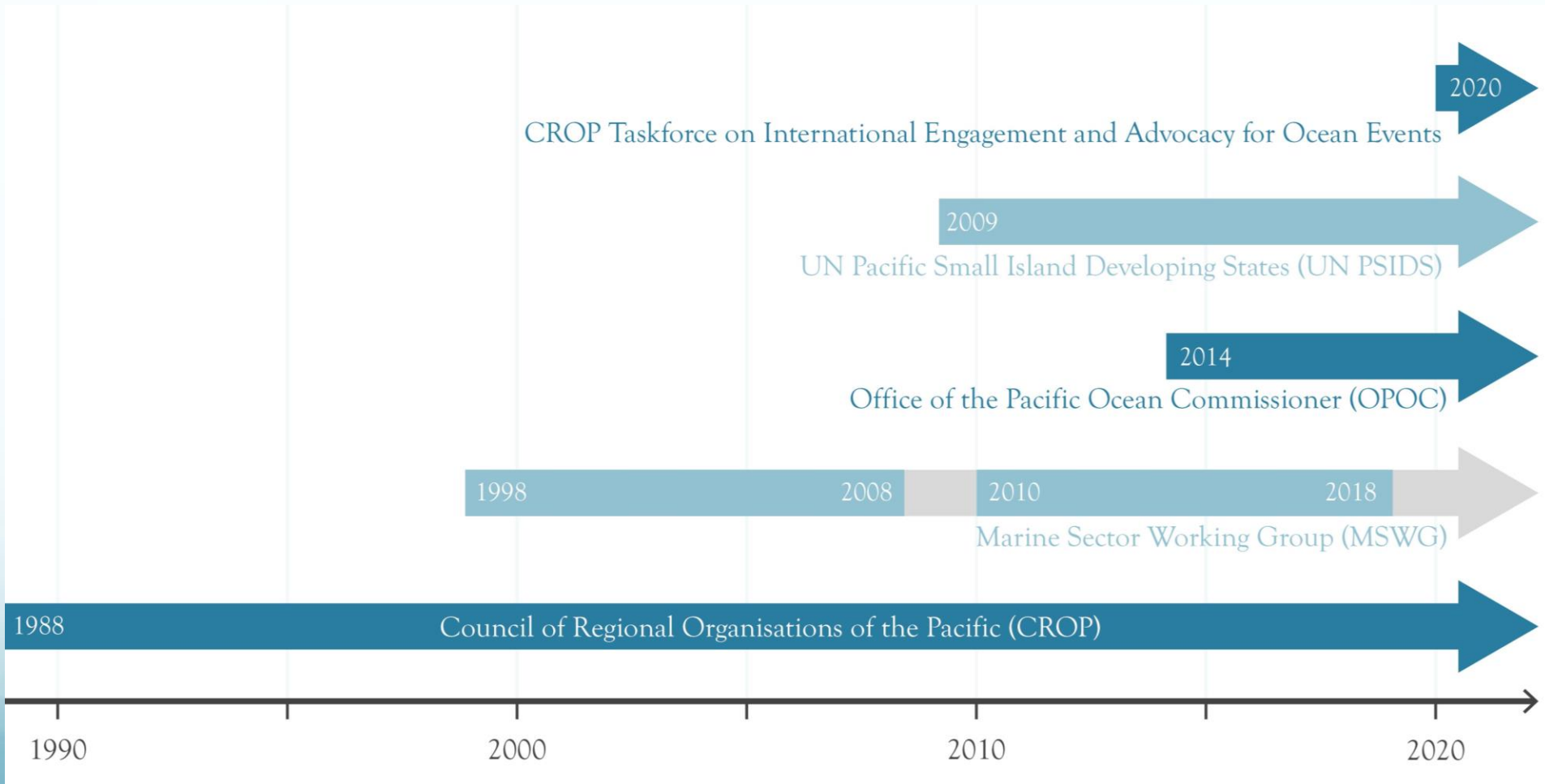
Coordination mechanisms

- CROP: new Charter improves **transparency and accountability** to Member States
- MSWG: revision of TORs can ensure decision making is accountable to Member States and **restricts** donor driven agendas
- OPOC: strong convening power can improve institutional **harmonisation** and strengthen **unity** as a diplomatic bloc

Multilevel governance



Timeline coordination mechanisms



Source: Quirk (2023)

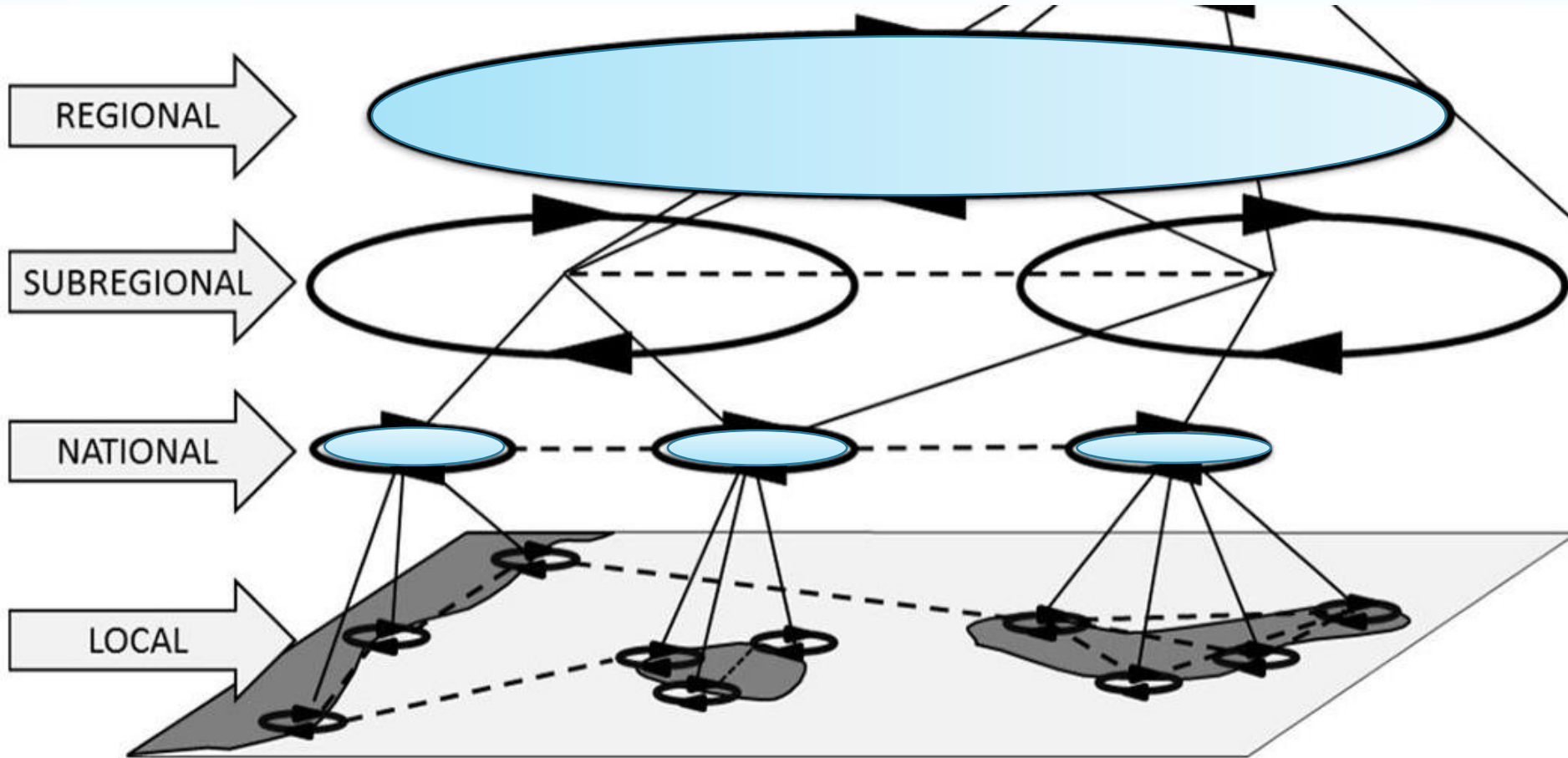
Regional/International

Mandate	CROP	MSWG	OPOC	PSIDS	Taskforce
Coordinate institutions to improve coherence	X	X	X		
Advise on issue area overlaps and integrated oceans governance	X	X	X		
Coordinate advice on international oceans governance	X		X	X	
High-level representation and advocacy on ocean issue areas			X	X	X

Maritime choke points



Regional/National



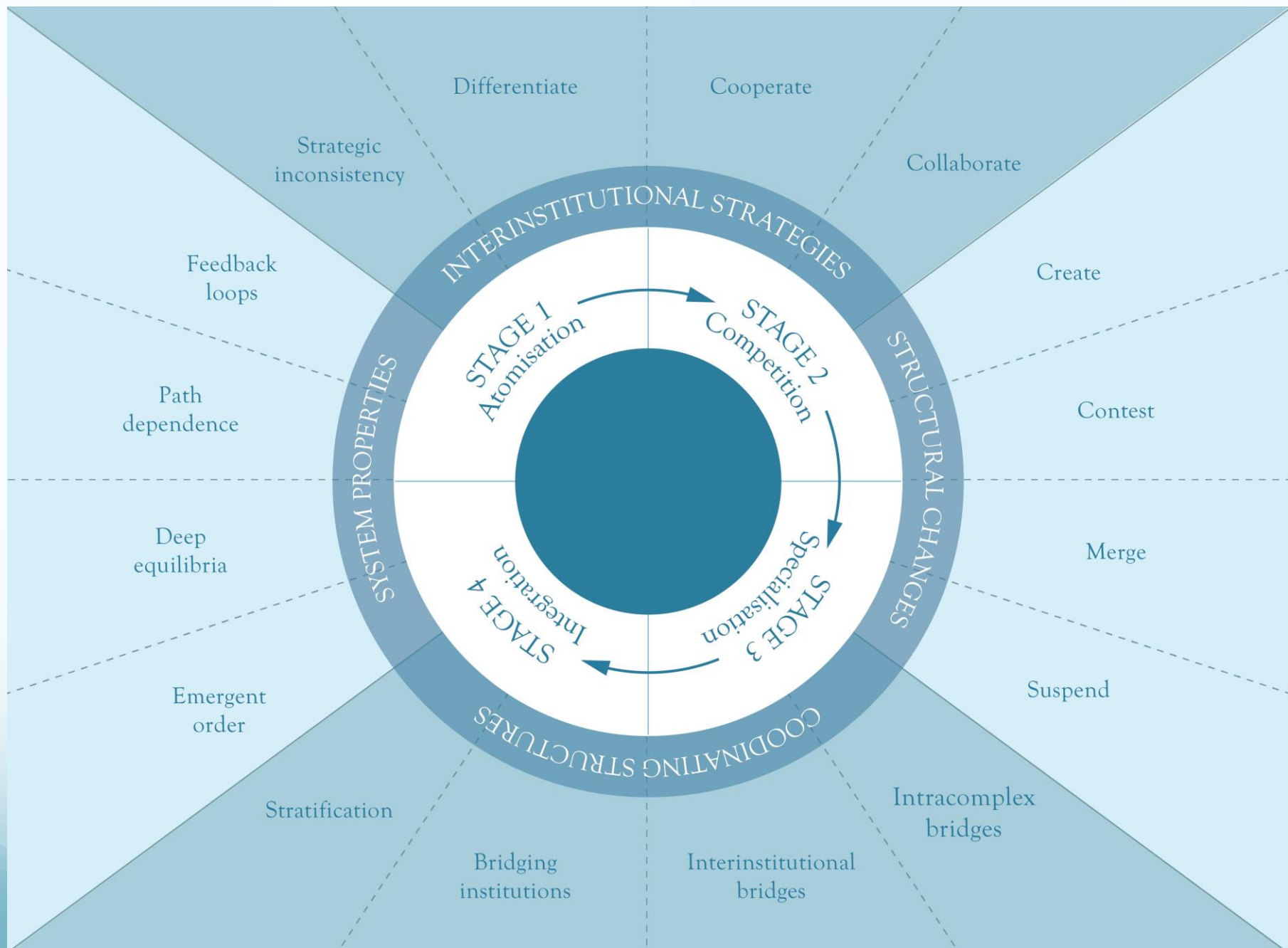
Regional/National

Coordination mechanisms may be needed:

- for **oversight** to deal with overlaps in competence between ministries such as fisheries and environment
- recalibrate and **prioritise** governance with the available resources
- **connect** constituencies at the sub-national level in an accessible and accountable way
- connections between scales are **two way** – incorporate community innovations and knowledge systems

Ocean continent stewardship

- Continuous oversight to evaluate, **recalibrate** and harmonise institutional competences
- Coordination and coherence within each level of governance as well as **across scales** of governance
- Informed by science and **indigenous knowledge** systems
- **Future proof** the region by acting as one Blue Pacific Ocean Continent



Source: Quirk (2023)

Questions?

- Fa'afetai
- Māuruuru
- ko rab'a
- Meitaki
- Thank you
- Kommol
- Vinaka
- Kinisou
- Si Yu'us Mā'āse'
- Merci
- Oue tulou
Fakaaue lahi
- Sulang
- Tenkyu
- Tank iu
- Mālō
- tangkyu
- Koutai