

## **PNG Presentation on the National Ocean Policy**

### **1. Reasons for establishing the NOP**

Two main reasons:

Firstly, the Primary Purpose for establishing the National Oceans Policy (NOP) is to develop and establish an Integrated Ocean Management System within PNG's national jurisdiction and at the same time establish a Framework for Regional and International Cooperation and Collaboration in Areas Beyond its National Jurisdiction. The NOP is a 10-year policy that will run from 2020 to 2030.

Second, Papua New Guinea developed its MZA 2015 without a policy support, hence, the formulation of the National Ocean Policy to fill this void.

### **2. Goals and governance structures of NOP? How are different sectors and stakeholders involved?**

- The main goal of PNG National Ocean Policy is designed in a way to provide a framework to improve ocean governance and management. It aims to provide the strategic direction for planning, resource allocation and to promote sustainable management and use of ocean resources within and beyond PNG's national jurisdiction.
- Through the establishment of NOP, the National Oceans office was established. The Office is currently under the Department of Justice and Attorney General.
- For coordination purposes, The National Oceans Committee (NOC) was established as a coordinating mechanism of the NOP. DFA and DJAG are co-chairs of the Committee and comprises of central government agencies like the Dept of Prime Minister & NEC, DJAG, DNPM, DFA and key government implementing agencies whose role cuts across the oceans, environment and climate change space, and academies from UPNG. All decisions and actions taken in relation to the implementation of the NOP are discussed and agreed in the NOC meetings.
- In terms of legal governance, the MZA is the legal framework for ocean governance in PNG. The MZA defines the country's National Baseline and Maritime Zones, consistent with the technical requirements of UNCLOS. It further ensures that PNG's rights and

obligations in those zones are reflected in the legislation consistent with the governance framework under UNCLOS. It also provides maritime jurisdictional limits for enforcement of PNG's responsibilities as against the rights of other coastal States

- In line with the MZA and the NOP, PNG has successfully developed its Marine Scientific Research Guideline which was launched last year. The overall objective of the MSR Guidelines is to provide information and main steps and processes for competent international MSR organizations when applying for MSR in PNG waters. It also includes measures for accessing marine genetic resources of PNG, their products and derivatives for scientific research, commercial and any other purposes connected therewith and to ensure equitable sharing of the benefits accruing therefrom.
- The Marine Scientific Research Committee is the body that vets all applications received and comprises of key government Departments and Agencies.
- For Marine Scientific Research, the MSRC Committee convenes meetings as and when needed and decisions and actions taken are guided by the MSRC guidelines.

**3. Identifying linkages to regional and global ocean policies? NOP implementation and follow up and review? Is there a need for a regional approach to support development and implementation?**

- At the global level, the NOP reflects our commitment to SDG14, UNCLOS, Fish Stocks Agreement, BBNJ, CBD and linked to the Paris Agreement as well.
- At the regional level, it reflects our commitment to the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific and our collective efforts in the region to protect the oceans.
- There are still many challenges at the national level to fully implement the NOP such as coordination issues, gaps in existing legislations, funding and budget support, access to appropriate resources / facilities/technologies, infrastructures and data amongst others.
- To address some of these challenges, we are pleased that SPC is offering its support to PNG through a legal expert to carry out review

on our existing legislations that are tied to Oceans to address some of these gaps.

- All of us are connected by the Blue Pacific Ocean and there is indeed a need for a regional approach to support implementation of NOP.