



# Regional Ocean Policy and Governance Dialogue



Hilton Fiji Beach Resort and Spa, Denarau, Nadi, Fiji - August 21-24, 2023

## Meeting Report

# 1.0 Introduction

The inaugural Pacific Regional Ocean Policy and Governance Dialogue took place in Nadi, Fiji from 21 to 24 August 2023. The Dialogue was the first event convened by the incoming Pacific Ocean Commissioner, Dr Filimon Manoni since assuming his role on 1 August 2023.

The event was attended by invited guests, the Honourable Steven Victor, Minister for Fisheries, Palau, and the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on the Ocean, Ambassador Peter Thomson. Government Officials from Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu; representatives of the European Union, Conservation International, academics and civil society groups participated. Also present for the opening segment were the Director General of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Dr. Manu Tupou-Roosen; Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Sefanaia Nawadra; Deputy Director General of Pacific Community (SPC), Paula Vivili; Deputy Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Esala Nayasi; and Deputy Director, Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP), Dr. James Perez Viernes also attended. The dialogue was also open to participants who registered virtually.

The full list of Participants is attached as **Annex 1**.

Representatives of regional and national media (Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Tonga) attended the dialogue and provided ongoing coverage during the week, as part of a collaboration among Pacific Islands News Association, Earth Journalism Network, Fiji Media Association and OPOC reporting on ocean policy and governance. A pre-dialogue media training workshop was held on 18 August.

The objectives of the Dialogue were to:

- Increase ***awareness and understanding*** of the landscape of ocean policy and governance at all levels (national, regional, and global) that are relevant to the Member Countries.
- Provide an ***interactive and effective space*** for Members ***to dialogue among themselves***, with ***relevant regional organisations, other regions from across the world***, and ***other stakeholders***, on the ***experiences*** of our regional ocean policy implementation, gaps, and its governance approaches.
- Facilitate a process that allow generation and discussions of ***recommendations and issues*** for strengthening the ocean policy landscape and governance framework relevant to Member Countries and the Pacific region.

The full programme is attached as **Annex 2**.

Other documents relating to the dialogue can be accessed on the OPOC website. <https://opocbluepacific.org/regional-ocean-policy-and-governance-dialogue/>

# Learning Day 1. Theme: Overview of Status Quo

Overview of the global and regional ocean policy and governance

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## 2.0 Opening Session

The meeting was opened by the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, Dr Filimon Manoni. He welcomed participants and assured them of his intention to create the dialogue as a safe space where they could freely exchange views, listen and try to understand different and sometimes divergent views. He urged them to consider ways to accommodate varying interests. And most importantly as a region, we need to be bold but in a respectful manner in pursuing our regional priority goals.

The United Nations' Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, Ambassador Peter Thomson expressed his admiration for the regional institutions, observing that they have stood the test of time and continued to deliver collaborative solutions that serve the best interests of the region and beyond. The establishment of the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC) and a dedicated Ocean Commissioner as its Leader in Palau marks a renewed chapter in the Pacific ocean's leadership, stewardship and advocacy, especially as we prepare for the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN Oceans Conference in France in 2025. There is a need for broad support towards OPOC and to enable it to carry out strong coordination and strengthen the collective voice of the region on the ocean, including, the implementing SDG 14.

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment of Palau, Hon. Steven Victor, gave the keynote address and committed Palau's support to OPOC. The regional collaboration with OPOC in the recently concluded BBNJ negotiations and other global processes were noted as the ideal starting points. The Hon. Minister emphasised the importance of science that is contextualised in the Pacific and takes into consideration our diverse Pacific traditional knowledge of resource management to help guide how we develop our own policy and governance mechanisms. While the success of concluding key processes such as BBNJ is a win for the ocean, we also recognise the need for coordinating and advocating broader ocean issues across the Blue Pacific – this work that sits at the core of OPOC's mandate. The strength of the collective was highlight and the Minister expressed confidence in this dialogue as a platform to engage in an open and honest dialogue in a genuinely Pacific atmosphere.

Heads and Senior representatives of attending Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) agencies also gave their remarks and affirmed their commitment to supporting the role of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner and OPOC in its renewed form as decided by Leaders in their Special Retreat held in Nadi, Fiji in February 2023.

There is a need to manage the 'crowded space' in ocean policy and governance and to take shared responsibility toward robust coordination at each scale of governance. The 2050 Strategy provides a renewed impetus to elevate and embrace cooperation at all levels. Our regional strength is when we have a clear mandate from Members, and everyone is clear on their role based on their comparative advantages.

## 3.0 Session 1: Global and Sectoral Ocean Policy and Governance Overview

*Facilitator: Keleni Seruvatu, Fiji*

This session explored the status of policy and governance at the global level and how these can support the regional and national levels, including for challenges such as coordination and gaps in data.

The Dialogue considered presentations from various global organisations including, from the Executive Director of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), Division for the Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the UN Office of Legal Affairs, UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) Secretariat and Regional Seas Office for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The meeting included a broad introduction to ocean governance as having three key elements: At the core of the legal and policy framework are the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the “*Constitution of the Ocean*” and the United Nations General Assembly. The key issues towards achieving effective integrated approach to ocean governance, arise from the fact that all three frameworks operate and need to interconnect at various levels or scales from multinational and global right through to national and local community levels. They also include different sectors (fisheries, shipping, marine science, protection of the marine environment, biodiversity etc) and actors (States, international organisations, private entities, local communities, civil society, etc.). The means for conducting global ocean governance and coordination is through the UN General Assembly resolutions on oceans and the law of the seas and on sustainable fisheries as also complemented by governing bodies of sectoral intergovernmental organisations, which provide guidance to UN agencies to support member states implementation of global oceans agreements. One of the inter-agency mechanisms at the global level which has a role to play as an element of ocean governance is UN-Oceans which seeks to enhance the coordination, coherence and effectiveness of competent organisations of the UN system and the International Seabed Authority. It is convened by UN/DOALOS and was established to strengthen and promote coordination and coherence of United Nations system activities related to ocean and coastal areas.

On the global commitments, the presenters recognise that despite the significant progress made so far, a lot of the existing global agendas such as the Aichi Targets, have not been fully met. If the current trajectory does not change, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Development Goal 14 on oceans, may well be on a similar path. For the Global Biodiversity Framework, a different approach was taken as it establishes the high-level outcome goals to be achieved by 2050. There are four goals for 2050 and 23 targets for 2030. For WCPFC, their role in developing harvest and related monitoring strategies, stock assessments and allocation of fishing rights has been crucial in ensuring sustainability of the fish stocks. It is important to pay attention to new technology and be mindful of dynamics to ensure consumers have the information they need to make informed decisions.

In terms of the challenges and solutions identified during this session, for the different sectors, more emphasis is needed on climate change and technology, leveraging emerging and available technology to support countries do their job efficiently and effectively and to stay up to date with stakeholder management and stakeholder interests. At the national level, there is a mismatch between the commitment and the resources of ministries at the national level, with

limited funding to support implementation at national level, e.g., secretariat coordination and functionality, reporting and monitoring, and overburdening nations with reporting requirements. To this end, a comprehensive and holistic approach is needed: the lack of progress in certain areas undermined progress in other areas and numerous gaps were not addressed as well as duplication of efforts. The role of regional organisations was highlighted, not only in supporting countries negotiate global commitments, but helping countries localise those commitments and supporting implementation at the national level is equally important.

## 4.0 Session 2: Overview on State of Play for the Pacific Ocean Policy & Governance

*Facilitator: Tilson Ephraim, Nauru*

This session considered the status of Pacific regional policy and governance processes and frameworks.

For this session, the dialogue considered presentations from various regional organisations including, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat on the 2050 Strategy, OPOC on the Regional Ocean Policy and Governance Landscape, SPC on the evolution of ocean governance in the past decade, and from ANCORS on Governing an Ocean Continent: resolving cross-scale coordination and capacity challenges.

The key issues arising from the presentations include making sense of where we are today by understanding how we got here in the first place. The regional ocean policy and governance is a journey in itself and has shaped how the 2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent is today. The need for a regional policy is based on a need for coordination among existing and emerging sectors such as nuclear, pollution and fisheries. The adoption by Forum Leaders of the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy in 2002 and the Framework for the Pacific Oceanscape 2010 was an attempt to resolve the governance issues facing the region, including through the establishment of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner role and an OPOC office to support the role as the coordinating arm of the regional governance system.

The 2050 Strategy reflects these and other ocean governance commitments and there is an opportunity to ensure the harmonisation of mandates through the planning and implementation process. An implementation plan is currently being developed and Members will in due course agree on the regional collective actions and Leaders will consider as part of the Implementation Plan in November at their meeting in Rarotonga.

There was definitely no lack of success stories that could be drawn from for the 2050 Strategy such as the recently concluded BBNJ process coordinated by OPOC, and the process of establishing maritime boundaries, which were achieved through fostered cooperation that involved working through recognised regional bodies and establishing a multi-stakeholder group representative of the different diverse groups. There has also been marked increase in the rate of the creation of national ocean policies since 2016 and the recognition of the potential for long-term initiatives such as the UN Decade for Ocean Science in enabling an integrated ocean

approach to management that brings together science to improve decision support systems, culture and tradition knowledge, and robust legal instruments and policy frameworks.

In terms of the challenges and solutions, identified during this session. The fragmentation of institutions presents a challenge to the coherent implementation of the law of the sea, especially when the mandates of these institutions overlap. Fragmentation at the regional scale has progressively been reduced. In the Pacific region, constant review of the architecture has helped to overcome a siloed institutional approach. There was also the political will and authority to make the hard choices to overcome conflicts and differentiate competencies, to meet regional institutional mandates. Joint donor funding to support governance has also helped reduce competition for common donor resources.

Regional scale policies and the establishment of overarching coordination mechanisms have been instrumental in realising an integrated approach to oceans governance, strengthened by a deepening approach to regionalism. The upcoming review of the regional architecture can be viewed as again an opportunity to improve the coordination between institutions that form the basis for integration between ocean actors, norms, and issues under these agreed overarching policies. The significance of ocean issues for the region require separate and distinct cooperation mechanisms beyond the CROP such as the MSWG and OPOC. This Dialogue is demonstrative of the convening power of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner and is something that needs to happen more if we as a region are to resolve some of the systemic ocean policy and governance issues.

## 5.0 Session 3: Small Talanoa Breakout Groups: Reflect on Global and Regional State of Play

Participants met in small groups to further discuss global and regional ocean policy and governance.

### Key discussion points and takeaways

*What are the linkages between regional and global levels?*

- A one-ocean approach is needed. One in which collectively, the regional level provides connectivity between the global level and national level in terms of how regional advocacy prioritises and influences global commitments and decisions, and also at the national level, not only in terms of what role the regional level plays in localising the global commitments, but ultimately supporting implementation at the national level.
- The issue of transboundary threats is also important and one that needs to be discussed at the global level. A collective regional approach helps amplify issues of importance for the region at the global level.

*Are the existing governance arrangements sufficient? What are some of the policy and governance gap areas that need to be addressed?*

- There are multiple sector-based frameworks, and a coordinating mechanism is needed to harmonise these, address gaps and overlapping issues.
- Existing arrangements are sufficient but need to be reinforced with political will.
- Our people need to be in the driver's seat, and not regional organisations, NGOs or philanthropists. They are there to provide support and to equip Members with the necessary tools and information not only articulate but implement Member priorities. We also need the international community to provide the necessary political will to commit to the means of implementation.
- Global and regional governance arrangements can also create significant burdens on national administrations through reporting requirements.

*What are the unresolved/sensitive issues (including emerging ones)? How can these be addressed?*

- The dialogue discussed the need to address issues that are crosscutting in nature and do not fall clearly on one single organisation either at the national, regional or global level. An example used during the discussion was shipping related fisheries issues in which these are shifted to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) without any feedback to the fisheries forums to address the interlinking issues and vice-versa. This was identified as one of the major unresolved governance issues and it is also applicable to the ocean-climate, fisheries-labour issues and so on.
- Some of the sensitive issues discussed at the dialogue included nuclear pollution, loss and damage and climate justice. The issue of leveraging geopolitics to meet governance goals and fundraising was also raised. Also highlighted were issues of damage to the environment and the repercussions for the economies of Pacific Islands. The reality is that we have to be engaged with global partners and emphasis was placed on how can we be bolder in terms of what we want and how can we improve coordination is a discussion that needs to take place.
- In the Pacific, we are consensus based. Our strength has been us remaining as a collective and maintaining our solidarity on issues. How do we strike the balance between an ambitious agenda against the consensus-based approach?
- More efforts will need to be made to transform our blue economies, what do we want our economies to achieve, noting we also would need to understand the scaling up of commitments and partnerships.

*Approach to implementation and follow up and review?*

- Finance and trade linkages between regional and global level, is important and we need to get to the bottom of where all the money is going and examine if it is making a transformative impact.
- We need to start acknowledging how much has been done so far in terms of where we have come from and where we are heading. We need to simplify language and capacity building around enforcement. The key questions would be on how we channel funds, where we need to and develop practical policy issues.

## 6.0 Session 4: Facilitated Dialogue

*Facilitator: Pacific Ocean Commissioner, Dr. Filimon Manoni*

The panellists for this session were, Ambassador Peter Thomson, Hon. Steven Victor, and Taholo Kami, Ocean Advisor.

The dialogue explored how the region can be transformative and innovative in our approach to the question of robust ocean governance and the management of our resources. What are some of the broader ocean ideas that can enable us to achieve our broad goals and ambitions, whilst also transforming the lives of our people who rely daily on the health and resilience of the ocean and the world.

### Key discussion points and takeaways

- Action is needed to address the immediate ocean issues that affect Pacific islands such as climate change which is causing more pronounced impact on low lying atolls like Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Kiribati.
- Maintain the call to action to keep to 1.5 degrees to stay alive.
- The Pacific has managed its ocean resources in such a way that our fisheries are still thriving, and this should be communicated globally.
- With the spike in interest on the ocean at the global level e.g., international financial institutions are keen to expand their ocean portfolios, and an increasing interest from philanthropists and countries to invest in ocean work. The Pacific region will need to leverage and capitalise on this momentum to increase financing for our proven efforts to sustainably manage our resources and improve resilience of our environment and this has been laid out in the 2050 Strategy.

### How do we coordinate our regional ask to meet the increase in investment on the ocean at the global level?

- We need to turn away from pilot projects approach and transform from vulnerable small island developing states to large ocean states that are transformational and sustainable:
  - E.g., making the Pacific a premier tropical seafood exporter in the world.
  - E.g., Marine research and teaching in tropical ocean a priority to support our regional interests. There is wide-spread exploitation of ocean resources, particularly, the non-tuna fisheries resources.
- Engagement of non-state actors (NSAs) is essential to ensure that the roll out or implementation of ocean governance is effective. Partnerships and involvement on basis of trust and fairness are important. Everyone has a role to play.
- We need to ensure that national policies direct finances to the people, otherwise monetising our resources is not meaningful, but we need to acknowledge the services the ocean provides.
- There were also important lessons shared regarding the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) that the ongoing discussions could draw inspiration from. There were also calls from the Caribbean region to work closely with the Pacific on issues of commonality towards the third UN Ocean Conference in 2025.

# Learning Day 2. Theme: National Experiences & Vision Setting

Learning from the national policy frameworks end with a Facilitated Dialogue (Recap)

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## 7.0 Session 5: Presentation of National Ocean Policies (NOP)

*Facilitator: Tekau Frere, OPOC*

This session considered presentations by Cook Islands, Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu on their national ocean policies and explored the processes used to engage stakeholders, implementation and financing arrangements.

National Ocean Policies have been developed to enable integrated, multi-sectoral approaches to ocean governance at national level. Key issues arising from the presentation and discussion include the need for efforts at national level to integrate different ocean sectors and for greater inclusivity of churches, civil society and community groups, including within national ocean steering committees and technical working groups. Some countries are approaching this by establishing working groups that are open to wider representation from the community. Emphasis on science and education, including a more holistic approach to science and traditional knowledge, was identified as a key need. The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) provides opportunity to meet these aspirations. Schools-based ocean programmes were highlighted as opportune ways to educate the next generation.

Financing approaches for implementation are still largely sector-based (e.g., fisheries) although several countries have also received support through various donors and partners for development of cross sectoral marine spatial plans. There is a need for integrated funding arrangements to implement the NOPs.

Regional approaches were identified as important in enabling coordinated and strengthened approaches to ocean governance and the need for regionalism was highlighted in addressing big issues such as Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, pollution, maritime domain awareness and security. Regional support was also needed for financing the implementation of NOPs and in the provision of legal support.

## 8.0 Session 6: Small Talanoa Breakout Groups: Reflect on State of Play

Small groups met to further discuss the status of ocean governance from a national perspective. Issues raised included tensions and also disconnect between global ocean policy and national contexts and fragmented implementation at all levels.

At the national level, there is a need to understand how countries may benefit from emerging carbon biodiversity markets; strengthen coordination arrangements that are fit for purpose both nationally and at community level; engage people and allow them to participate in the development of policies and to be well informed on decisions that will impact their lives. Commitment to implementation is needed beyond developing policies and systems need to be in place to enable implementation through effective coordination mechanisms by resourcing them. It was noted that the NOPs often have national committees where participation is voluntary. The level of commitment this can entail is often more than is feasible for volunteers.

Participants noted the challenges of accessing funds and the many different reporting requirements, which test institutional stamina and capacity. Opportunities exist for innovative financing mechanisms (non-traditional partners, philanthropies, etc) exist; these are being pursued at the regional level. Examples such as (Niue) ocean conservation credits and (Fiji) green bonds could provide case studies to help identify what is suitable and ethical for our context.

A key point raised was the need to identify income generating opportunities in the ocean space through the lens of sustainability; identifying what these opportunities are will give us robust information with which to go to financiers and present how they can help us. It was stressed that countries have sovereign rights to decide where they need investment to be directed and this should reflect national needs.

The need was noted for traditional knowledge to complement science to ensure policy issues and decisions are well informed and respect local customs.

## 9.0 Session 7: Presentations on approaches by different regions/sub-regions ocean policy and governance.

The session explored approaches by other regions on ocean policy and governance and was an opportunity to learn from their experiences. Presentations were made by Kareem Sabir, Senior Project Officer, Sustainable Development CARICOM Secretariat; Yvonne Waweru, Senior Governance Advisor, Western Indian Ocean Region Regional Ocean Governance Strategy; and Kenroy Simmons, Legal Adviser, Ocean Governance and Maritime Boundaries, Commonwealth Secretariat.

The presentations and discussions underscored the value of regional, collaborative approaches to ocean policy and governance which encompass the complex and diverse mandates, actors and interests relevant for integrated decision making. A regional policy or strategy aids in enhanced coordination and establishment of collaboration mechanisms, including technical

advisory groups. Co-creation approaches were advocated to enable stakeholder engagement but are time consuming and require innovative approaches to ensuring ongoing engagement.

A harmonised regional approach to the development of national ocean policies was outlined using a case study from the Eastern Caribbean region. A regional ocean policy team and national focal points enabled coordination while in other cases, agreed terms of reference provide a stable framework for collaboration across the region. The regional ocean policy further provides alignment with regional and international agreements. The harmonised approach allows member states who are at different stages to work together and help each other.

## 10.0 Session 8: 2050 Strategy

This session was an opportunity for participants to discuss the 2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent and its accompanying implementation plan. This was presented PIF Secretariat.

The 2050 Strategy was mandated by Forum leaders in 2019 to address the challenges that the region was grappling with. It was developed through an inclusive process with national consultations with all sectors, civil society, private sector and government.

The implementation plan development process is being undertaken by Multisectoral Expert Groups (MSEG) across the 7 thematic areas. The process is ongoing and members, civil society and CROP and Private sector are part of each MSEG.

A Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) working group established with SPC statistics and Pacific data hub has been tracking progress in terms of SDG. All countries have incorporated SDG indicators into respective national development plans and these will be recognised in the implementation plan.

Currently there are 13 collective actions in the Ocean and Environment Thematic Area implementation plan. A request was made for the inclusion of references to nuclear contaminants noting that there is no regional platform that provides for this.

# Talanoa Day 3. Theme: How to achieve our Vision

Facilitated Talanoa amongst participants on regional issues, challenges and recommendations.

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## 11.0 Talanoa Summary

Five talanoa break out groups were run in parallel, with participants having the opportunity to input to all discussions. The discussions are detailed here, and key issues have been collated into an issues summary paper circulated separately.

### 11.1 Drivers to facilitate coordination – STARFISH ISLAND

**Question 1: Ocean and climate nexus, shifts in ocean resources, new responsibilities under the BBNJ treaty and future plastic treaty, the SDGs, and sustainable blue economy as drivers of regional /national policy coherence across sectors, and regional and national level ocean policies? What are other drivers (especially emerging issues)?**

There are many processes and topics that would benefit from improved coordination either because they were by nature cross-sectoral, or their impacts were cross-sectoral and at various scales. These should be considered when implementing the 2050 strategy.

Examples include:

Cross-sectoral processes:	Cross-sectoral themes	Issues with impacts (and possible conflicts of interests) across sectors
BBNJ SDGs 2050 strategy and its implementation plan	Food security Maritime transport Science Geopolitics (identified as potentially undermining regional unity under the 2050 strategy)	Protected areas Deep Sea Mining Security IUU fishing Land-based sectors Maritime boundaries Nuclear legacy

Coordination is needed at the international, national, regional, sub-regional levels and this coordination must reduce the burden on the human resources of small islands. A suggestion/recommendation was made to identify ocean **focal points** to:

Coordinate with national stakeholders;

Need to coordinate as a region and be the entry point to the country, as well as to mainstream ocean considerations across sectors of government and society.

## **Question 2: Is there scope under the 2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent vision and principles for updating the regional ocean policy framework?**

The regional governance structure as articulated by the 2050 strategy and the regional architecture can assist in coordination. Coordination mechanisms already exist, including the Pacific Ocean Alliance (POA) and the Marine Sector Working Group (MSWG). However, there is a need to provide a space for member states (at various levels) to coordinate on ocean issues. An umbrella mechanism is needed to provide coherence and OPOC was identified as having a role to play in this. However, caution should be applied to avoid the duplication of mandates.

Some suggested that OPOC should stay clear of ocean-related political issues as they were already dealt with by the PIF. Others, on the contrary, indicated that all ocean issues are political and OPOC was well suited to coordinate on them.

In light of this discussion, it was suggested that before making any decision on who should be doing what, it was important to have a clear picture of who is currently doing what in the region. In light of the ever changing national and regional ocean priorities, as well as the formal and informal expansion of various actors' mandates, it was thus suggested that OPOC:

Take stock and assess the current ocean-relation regional architecture. In doing so, it should identify how member states have benefited from existing arrangements. The goal of this stock take is to make recommendations on how to ensure that the regional architecture is effective and efficient by meeting current gaps and clearly demarcate different mandates; Review and upgrade the Framework for the Pacific Oceanscape in light of the 2050 strategy.

## **Question 3: What is needed to identify strategic investment priorities, build economies of scale and drive donor harmonisation?**

The regional financing principles could be used to manage financing partnerships and ensure countries manage their own priorities (avoid funding being donor-driven).

Participants recognised the role of the OPOC, including through the POA, to coordinate with financing partners to ensure that the delivery of finance is effective in meeting the needs of countries (and communities) as identified and assessed by them.

Some participants saw a role for OPOC to provide support in drafting financing proposals and reporting to alleviate the burden on their administrations. Others, on the contrary, did not see this to be a role for OPOC but see this as a gap area.

In this regard, some saw OPOC's role as enabling strategic coherence and to promote cross-sectoral economic assessments.

### **Other elements considered:**

Based on discussions on the three questions, participants discussed the terms of reference for the Pacific Ocean Commissioner and OPOC. The dialogue identified the following:

### **Advocacy and visibility:**

Some participants indicated that Member States already know what they want and have set their priorities. The POC and OPOC would thus need to provide strategic guidance on how to amplify the voices of the region on topics of priority, foster the convening of different actors to advance priorities, and enhance networking. The role of the POC and OPOC in advocacy and visibility would be both direct (as POC himself) as well as through member states.

### **Coordination and facilitation of dialogue:**

There seemed to be strong support for the role of the POC/OPOC in coordination at different levels and between different actors:

Coordination of the CROP.

Providing a space for member states to coordinate on ocean issues.

Coordination with international partners.

Because coordination is a difficult task, it was suggested to elaborate a realistic scope and timeline on coordination work.

The role of the POA was highlighted as important but needed to be strengthened because it provides a space for coordination between and among different stakeholders: Member States, CROP, NSA (suggestion to add Churches and traditional knowledge holders), international partners, and the private sector.

On traditional knowledge holders: there was a discussion on how to be inclusive about traditional knowledge holders at the regional level, considering that this is an important aspect of informed decision making (as a complement to western science) while being at the same time a very localised type of knowledge. Suggestions were made to consult with traditional chief councils where they exist. However, this was also recognised as a challenge.

## **11.2 Achieving integrated ocean policies – TURTLE ISLAND**

### **Question 1: How can the regional ocean policy and governance frameworks (e.g., the 2050 Strategy) improve cross sectoral regional policy coherence and cooperation?**

Participants identified technical national focal points as a means to improve cooperation and policy coherence. They identified the national focal points as a pathway for communication with CROP agencies and non-state actors (NSA) in order to prevent overlap, duplication and conflict.

Participants recognised that the 2050 strategy unites the region and provides a single space to set out a common direction to overcome a fragmented approach to governance.

### **Question 2: What are the barriers to the development of integrated National Ocean Policies (NOP)?**

Participants identified the following as barriers to the development of integrated NOPs:

- Recognise that countries are in different stages in terms of the implementation of their NOP. This means there are opportunities to share lessons learned with countries in the development stage of their NOPs e.g., through templates or guidelines.
- Important to take into account national circumstances to ensure NOPs are fit for purpose.
- Important to involve industry in NOP planning.
- Development of NOPs is costly as is their implementation. It was suggested that there should be model NOPs and guidelines for NOP resourcing. It was highlighted that national administrations need to take ownership of the process and modify any guidelines to suit their unique national challenges and circumstances.
- High turnover in national agencies is a challenge for administrations. The need to build stronger systems to retain institutional knowledge was identified. Donors also identified high turnover as a challenge, as donors frequently needed to re-establish relations with national focal points. When such turnover occurs, there is need for sustainable points of contact, rigorous systems to retain institutional knowledge and capacity building to alleviate loss.
- Lack of synergies between different institutions, policies and actors

**Question 3: How can the regional ocean policy and governance framework value add to national level ocean policy and whole of government coordination?**

Participants enquired whether OPOC could play a role in coordination and implementation of the 2050 strategy. They identified the value of OPOC as a conduit for the needs of member states including by bringing different actors together and breaking down institutional silos.

Participants identified the following roles that OPOC could play:

- Convene ocean leaders to share success stories.
- Support treaty implementation, in particular the BBNJ Treaty.
- Collaborate with CROP agencies on regional ocean goals and priorities.
- Assist in accessing funds to deliver on oceans governance.
- Convene dialogues to identify governance gaps and ensure that the right people are in the room.
- Advocate on ocean-climate finance through a consolidated regional approach.
- Systematically build capacity through sustainable programme with incentives that result in retaining staff and institutional knowledge.
- Align NOPs with regional goals and norms set under regional strategies.
- Advocacy to amplify awareness of regional ocean priorities, including in non-ocean spaces (e.g., UNFCCC).

**11.3 Capacity needs for institutional coordination and policy alignment – CRAB ISLAND**

**Question 1: What would be the elements of an assessment of regional and national capacity needs for effective institutional coordination and policy alignment?**

Participants identified elements required for an assessment of capacity needs, including:

- Institutions concerned
- Policies to be assessed, including on issues such as environment and fisheries etc
- Mapping strengths and weaknesses
- Finance

- M&E systems
- National research gaps

Participants suggested that OPOC, in light of its convening power for integrated capacity assessments and regional coordination, could provide support in assessing gaps and funding requirements.

**Question 2: How can we build our regional and national capacity for effective institutional coordination and policy alignment?**

- Participants identified the education system as a mechanism to build capacity.
- The University of the South Pacific (USP) is well placed but needs to be strengthened to meet the needs. National universities also play an important role in delivering capacity building.
- Capacity building programmes are also available through regional and national government agencies.
- Challenges that impede adequate capacity building include: the loss of built capacity (through loss of national staff to regional or international organisations (NGOs and CROP)), lag between the identification of needs and the delivery of the necessary training.
- A capacity needs assessment may be helpful at the national level to help elaborate strategic planning and career pathways.
- Some other solutions highlighted included embedding capacity building requirements in project development, scholarship, twinning, graduate programmes, secondment, attachment arrangements between regional organisations and national governments, trainings should be in country rather than abroad, rotate postings in CROP agencies.
- It was recognised that there is a need to learn from lessons, including looking at what has been done outside of our region.
- It was indicated that overall, there needed to be strategy and coherence in delivering capacity. There could also be national-led gap analyses to inform school curriculum or strategic workforce plans (career pathways). Some indicated that there needed to be a whole-of-ocean approach across our ocean-related strategies before conducting gaps analyses.

**Question 3: What would be the performance indicators of a well-functioning ocean coordination mechanisms?**

Participants identified the following as performance indicators:

- Well-trained negotiators
- Number of students
- Curriculum at USP
- Assessing whether gaps remain or diminish after an amount of time
- Number of requests demanded by Members on CROP
- Vacant positions in national governments
- Demonstration of returned scholars in target positions.

## **11.4 What mechanisms would provide greater cross sectoral integration at national and regional levels – OCTOPUS ISLAND**

### **National Policy institutions and Regional Policy institutions**

- National mechanisms include the governance systems established at national level through National Ocean Policies or various frameworks to coordinate various national stakeholders, in particular, government systems, provincial communities, civil society and private sector.
- Regional mechanisms include governance systems established at the regional level through regional policies, frameworks or decisions to coordinate various issues for the region.

#### **Issues Raised:**

- There is no clear formal linkage between national and regional mechanisms. Although there are ad hoc arrangements on how regional organisations support national ocean policy committees and technical working groups on specific issues.
- Recognise that the role of coordination mechanisms is to bring together the different stakeholders and that they are working together towards the same goal.
- The important role of coordination mechanisms is crucial for global advocacy.
- There are important monitoring and evaluation processes happening at the national and regional levels and the various regional global commitments such as the 2050 Strategy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Global Biodiversity Framework, which provide an opportunity to harmonise reporting.
- Emphasis was also placed on the importance of National Ocean Policies which will provide greater cross sectoral integration at various levels.
- There were also discussions on the importance of (CROP) and to consider providing coordinated support to Members, including from CROP and international organisations. This is also an important approach in terms of CROP providing their advisory role.
- Acknowledging that knowledge and information sharing is important, and that the relevant information should get to the right people. There are established focal points but there was emphasis on the creation of technical focal points from the respective Ministries. There were also suggestions to request countries to nominate focal points.
- Knowledge sharing and education was an important discussion noting there is more effort required to focus on research and development in Leaders' priority areas such as Ocean Finance and Ocean Financing.
- As a region for the ocean, the regional architecture was considered important in terms of creating an intergovernmental space at the regional level for the ocean. The group also noted that there are other relevant sub-committees whose work relate to the ocean.
- Recognising that there are mechanisms to provide greater cross sectoral integration such as the FFA, Partnership Level Agreements (PLA) and the SPREP National Environment Management Agreements (NEMA).
- Most of the discussions recognised that most of the work is progressing at the national level. However, this link between the technical level and political level is crucially important.

- Progressing from pilot project funding to program funding to ensure key existing initiatives e.g., Pacific Islands University Research Network (PIURN), Pacific International Maritime Law Association (PMLA).

### **11.5 What are the financing requirements for building institutional capacity for the development and implementation of national ocean policies. CORAL ISLAND**

#### **How are the financing needs assessed?**

NOPs need to align to national Sustainable Development Plans. Currently some are disconnected.

- Implementation plans for the NOPs are needed.
- Need to map out the needs that should be supported financially and then develop detailed actions.
- Working committees are needed to enable integration and need to include ministries of Finance and Economy.

#### **How are they secured and delivered?**

- Demonstrate successes and leverage existing arrangements.
- Address fragmentation amongst ministries at national level as well as among donors – the NOPs are the mechanisms to help drive this integration and build a common understanding.
- What type of financial instruments are available and what are the requirements?
- Countries need to be informed on where to get information on partners/NGOs advocating for private sector entities e.g., blue carbon, carbon credits.
- Financial enabling environments are needed to regulate ocean-based products
  - Regulatory frameworks
  - Risk assessments
  - M&E – outcome reporting
- Lessons learned and experiences from each other (Fiji Oceans Pathway partnership Initiative under the Climate trust fund; Niue ocean conservation NOW)
- Learning exchange between countries
- Transparency and accountability on how other mainline ministries get access to share funds
- Involvement of the private sector – how to bring them into the discussions e.g., biodiversity credits, carbon markets, insurance, etc
- Need to look at scale in terms of the infrastructure to manage large scale funds.
- Long term, country-led institutional funding available – where possible donors providing bilateral assistance could focus on institutional and capacity strengthening to manage risks.
- Multi-sectoral approach means more “competition” for access to funding currently dedicated to a particular sector.
- Need for a strategic assessment or baseline analysis of what are people doing in this area; clarity on who is doing what to reduce overlap.
- It’s good to have a baseline of where countries are at but also need to map the capabilities of regional organisations (NGOs and CROP) so that they know where to inject support.

## **What can be done at the national and regional level to improve the delivery of adequate financing support for ocean policy development and implementation?**

- Is oceans in the right ministry to support/encourage cross sector sharing
- Understand how whole of government approaches are being carried out
- Map the financing partners and share information with countries; develop procedures and guidelines to assist countries
- Manage the grants/funding and look at financing protocols
- Build capacity in negotiations for ODA
- Look at examples of governance from each other and other regions (SINOP Ocean 12+ enabling cross ministerial coordination.
- To ensure ocean management is integrated into national budgets and planning, go through the FEMM.
- A potential model for financing is provided below:
  - Regional architecture
    - What is needed?
    - Who is doing it?
    - Principles for financing
    - Capacity
    - Manage partnerships
  - We need to rethink what we are capable of undertaking and looking beyond our perceived limitations.

## **12.0 Closing**

The Commissioner thanked participants and presenters, including virtual participants, for their active engagement throughout the dialogue and advised on next steps. He noted the opportunity for further discussions over the following two days and that OPOC would take guidance from the week's discussions going forward.

Commissioner Manoni reflected on the constructive discourse on issues of great importance to the region and noted the wide cross-section of expertise and viewpoints. He thanked all participants for their role in kick starting the process of moving forward with OPOC and improving our management of our ocean and to leave it in a better condition for our future generations.

Minister Steven Victor gave his closing remarks highlighting the impact of climate change is making the ocean one of the greatest threats to our communities. The sense of urgency is real and he thanked participants for coming together to look at finding common solutions to help safeguard the region's most valuable resource. He stressed the need for coordination, noting that the high-level climate dialogue being held concurrently in Suva has the ocean at the heart of that conversation. He urged OPOC to focus on coordinating and harmonising these conversations and ensure that ministers are well advised.

Ambassador Peter Thomson thanked the Commissioner and OPOC team for the successful workshop and expressed confidence that OPOC will achieve the high expectations being set for it. He cautioned that attaining synergies among regional bureaucracies is not easy. The

establishment of the office in Palau is relevant for all in the region and must be a world class event supported by all. He highlighted the UN Ocean Conference in two years' time and urged that countries go beyond strategies to action. Proposals and financing should be prioritised and future ideas should be based on good science. He stressed the need to improve education systems and to teach ocean literacy to children.

Taholo Kami closed the meeting with a prayer.

## 13.0 Site Visit

Participants spent the final day of the Dialogue with the Ocean Commissioner participating in an off-site programme that included a visit to Tivua Island with a marine biologist. This was an opportunity for participants to have further discussions in smaller groups within the natural environment. A coral planting session followed by snorkelling over the coral garden area was part of the programme.

# Annex 1: List of Participants

REGIONAL OCEAN POLICY AND GOVERNANCE DIALOGUE  
21 – 24 AUGUST 2023, NADI, FIJI

## FINAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE

	<b>Countries/Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1	OPOC	Dr Filimon Manoni	Pacific Ocean Commissioner
2	United Nations	Ambassador Peter Thomson	UNSG's Special Envoy for the Ocean
3	Palau	Minister Steven Victor	Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment.
4	Vanuatu	Mr Steve William Hango	Desk Officer, Maritime and Ocean Affairs Division, Department of Foreign Affairs
5	Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)	Mr Glen Joseph	Director, Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
6	Kiribati	Ms Kabure Yeeting	Director of GeoScience Division, MFMRD
7	Kiribati	Ms Riria Moaniba	Senior Fisheries Officer, Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources Development
8	Nauru	Mr Tilson Ephraim	Director of Legal Affairs
9	Nauru	Ms Jasmina Jones	Policy and Legal Manager
10	PNG	Ms Emma Pongopia	Foreign Service Officer, Department of Foreign Affairs
11	Tonga	Dr Siola'a Malimali	Deputy CEO for Fisheries
12	Fiji	Mrs Keleni Seruvatu	Director Multilateral, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
13	Fiji	Mr Izhaar Ali	Ocean Specialist, Climate Change Division, Office of the Prime Minister
14	Palau	Ms Adelle Lukes Isechal	Applied Scientist/Marine Spatial Planning Coordinator, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment.
15	Australia	Mr Dominic Ransan-Cooper	Assistant Director Pacific Climate Negotiations and Oceans Section
16	Australia	Ms Bridgette Cottrill	Senior Policy and Development Officer
17	Cook Islands	Ms Alex Herman	Seabed Minerals Commissioner, Seabed Minerals Authority
18	Cook Islands	His Excellency Jim Armistead	High Commissioner to Fiji
19	New Zealand	Mr Jonathan Paul Peacey	Senior Advisor Pacific Ocean and Fisheries, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
20	Samoa	Mr Afele Faiilagi	Assistant Chief Executive Officer-Environment and Conservations Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
21	Samoa	Mr Tau Jurgen Kappus	Principal Foreign Service Officer-International Relations Division,

			Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
22	New Caledonia	Mr Gaston Wadrawane	Official Representative of New Caledonia to Fiji
23	Solomon Islands	Mr Fredrick Dotho	Senior Conservation Officer- Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology
24	Solomon Islands	Mr Samson Houaitahona Maeniuta	Acting Deputy Director- Offshore Fisheries- Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
25	Solomon Islands	Mr Alan Aba	Chief Policy Officer- Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
26	French Polynesia	Mr Jean-Marc Karel Teriihauroa Luciani	Senior Technical Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries
27	Waait Institutes Blue Prosperity Fiji	Mr Arthur Sokimi	Blue Prosperity Fiji – Site Manager
28	University of Fiji	Ms Priyatma Singh	Lecturer
29	Fiji National University	Ms Lia Bogitini	Lecturer
30	East-West Center- Pacific Islands Development Program	Mr Rufino Varea	Joint Doctoral Research Fellow
31	Island Innovation	Ms Zahidah (Zaidy) Afrin	Government & Industry Liaison Officer
32	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)	Mr Esala Nayasi	Deputy Secretary General- Strategic Policy & Programming
33	PIFS	Mr Michael Crowe	Regional Security Adviser
	PIFS	Mr Calvy Aonima	Legal Officer
34	PIFS	Dr Salome Taufua	Resource Economist- Fisheries
35	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Ms Celina Elvira Garcia	Ocean Climate Policy Specialist, Blue Pacific Finance Hub, ADB.
36	Kami Pasifiki Solutions	Mr Taholo Kami	Ocean Advisor
37	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)	Mr Sefanaia Nawadra	SPREP Director General
38	SPREP	Ms Anastacia Amoa-Stowers	Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) Coordinator
39	Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources & Security (ANCORS)	Ms Genevieve Quirk	PhD Candidate
40	ANCORS	Ms Dominique Benzaken	PhD Candidate
41	Tufuga Law Firm & Consultancy	Mr Fagaloa Tufuga	Principal
42	The European Union Delegation to the Pacific	Ms Kim Edou	Ocean Programme Manager
43	Great Barrier Reef Foundation	Ms Theresa Fyffe	Executive Director Projects & Partnerships,
44	Great Barrier Reef Foundation	Ms Nicola Thomson	Director of Pacific Partnerships
45	Pacific Fusion Centre	Ms Anna Naupa	Associate Director
46	Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP)	Dr James Perez Viernes	Deputy Director
47	The Pacific Community (SPC)	Dr Paula Vivili	Deputy Director General
48	SPC	Mr Jens Kruger	Deputy Director, Ocean and Maritime, GEM
49	SPC	Mr Herve Damlamian	Team Leader, Ocean Prediction and Monitoring, GEM
50	SPC	Ms Virginia Rokoua	

51	SPC	Mr Yolisaguyau Tom'tavala	Maritime Policy and Legal Adviser, GEM
52	SPC	Mr Hans Wendt	Integrated Ocean Management Adviser, GEM
53	SPC	Ms Janice Mose	Ocean Advocacy and Strategic Engagement Adviser, GEM
54	SPC	Dr Katy Soapi	Coordinator: Partnerships and Engagement, PCCOS
55	SPC	Mr Martin Chong	Programme Coordinator PEUMP PMU, FAME Division
56	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Mr Semisi Seruitanoa	Membership Officer, Oceania Regional Office (ORO)
57	Conservation International (CI)	Ms Susana Waqainabete-Tuisese	Senior Director, Pacific Ocean and Island Program, Asia Pacific Field Division
58	Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG)	Mr Joey Tau	Ocean Campaigner
59	Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)	Dr Manu Tupou-Roosen	Director General
60	Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)	Dr Pio Manoa	Deputy Director General
61	PANG	Mr Jason Titifanue	Research Intern
62	Footprints in the Sand Consulting	Ms Seema Deo	Consultant
63	PIFS	Ms Lavinia Tomtavala	Research Officer
64	PIFS	Mr Jonacani Drobula	IT Support
65	OPOC	Mr Peni B. Suveinakama	OPOC Manager
66	OPOC	Ms Tekau Frere	OPOC Adviser
67	OPOC	Ms Mereseini Marau	Ocean Communications Officer
68	OPOC	Ms Mere Koroivosa	OPOC Admin & Data Management Assistant
69	Radio Kiribati- Broadcasting Publication Authority	Mr Maman Boikawai	News Reporter
70	Vanuatu Daily Post	Mr Ezra Toara	News Reporter
71	Fiji TV	Ms Iva Danford	News Reporter
72	PacNews	Ms Makereta Komai	PacNews Editor
73	Islands Business	Ms Samantha Magick	Editor
74	PacNews	Ms Elenoa Masi	Consultant
75	Tonga TV	Mr Vahefonua Tupola	Journalist
76	Fiji Broadcasting Corporation (FBC)	Mr Bose Vavataga	Journalist
77	FBC	Filipe Naikaso	Journalist
78	Fiji Sun	Waisea Nasokia	Journalist
79	Fiji Times	Siteri Sauvakacolo	Journalist
80	Fiji Times	Reinal Chand	Journalist

#### **VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE**

	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1	Solomon Islands	Ms Gladys Kamia Isihanua	Assistant Secretary, Ocean and Climate Change Desk- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
2	Climalysis	Dr Jeremy Hills	Consultant
3	University of Wollongong	Mr Lucky Wuwung	PhD Candidate
4	University of Wollongong	Prof Quentin Hanich	Researcher
5	UNDOALOS	Ms Alice Hicuburundi	Principal Legal Officer
6	UN CBD	Mr Joseph Appiott	Marine Coordinator

7	CARICOM Secretariat	Mr Kareem Sabir	Programme Manager, Sustainable Development
8	Western Indian Ocean Region Regional Ocean Governance Strategy	Ms. Yvonne Waweru	Senior Governance Advisor
9	Commonwealth Secretariat	Mr. Kenroy Simmons	Legal Adviser, Ocean Governance and Maritime Boundaries
10	University of the South Pacific	Dr Jack Dyer	Lecturer in Ocean Policy and Governance
11	Alliance of Small Island States	Ms Anama Solofa	Marine Policy Analyst
12	Palau	Gwen Sisor	Ocean Advisor to the PSIDS Chair
13	UNEP	Nancy Soi	Coordinator, UNEP Regional Seas Programme.
14	WCPFC (TBC)	Rhea Moss-Christian	Executive Director
15	Agence Française de Développement (AFD)	Pauline Dubin	Policy Officer- Pacific Regional Office

**END**

# Annex 2: Programme

Pacific Regional Ocean Policy and Governance Dialogue

21 – 24 August 2023

FINAL REVISED AGENDA

<b>Time</b> <i>Monday</i> <i>21 August</i>	<b>Learning Day 1</b> <i>Theme: Overview of Status Quo</i> <i>Overview of the State of Play with global and regional ocean policy and governance.</i>
<b>0800 – 0945</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>0900 – 0945</b>	<p><b>Opening Ceremony</b> MC: Peni Suveinakama (OPOC)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>Pacific Ocean Commissioner</b>, Dr Filimon Manoni, (Welcoming remarks – 8 min)</li> <li>ii. <b>UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean</b>, Ambassador Peter Thomson (Invited Guest Speaker – 8 min)</li> <li>iii. <b>Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment of Palau</b>, Hon. Steven Victor (Keynote Speaker – 8 min)</li> </ol> <hr/> <p><b>Reflections by CROP Heads</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Deputy Director General of PIFS, Esala Nayasi (5 min)</li> <li>ii. Director General of FFA, Manu Tupou-Roosen (5 min)</li> <li>iii. Director General of SPREP, Sefanaia Nawadra (5 min)</li> <li>iv. Deputy Director General of SPC, Dr Paula Vivili (5 min)</li> </ol> <p><b>Group Photo &amp; Morning Tea (0945-1015)</b></p>
<b>0945 – 1015</b>	Morning Coffee/Tea Break
<b>1015 - 1200</b>	<p><b>Session 1: Global and Sectoral Ocean Policy and Governance Overview</b> Facilitator: Keleni Seruvatu, Fiji</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>UNDOALOS</b>: Alice Hicaburundi, Principal Legal Officer (10 min)</li> <li>ii. <b>UN CBD</b>: Joseph Appiott, Marine Coordinator (10 min)</li> <li>iii. <b>UNEP</b>: Nancy Soi, Coordinator, UNEP Regional Seas Programme (10 min)</li> <li>iv. <b>WCPFC</b>: Rhea Moss-Christian, Executive Director (10 min)</li> </ol> <p>Status of policy and governance globally? What are the strengths and weaknesses of global, ocean policies and governance? How can global policies and governance support the regional and national levels? Opportunities for PSIDS to inform global discourse? How can we address the data gaps?</p>
<b>1200 – 1300</b>	<p><b>Session 2: Overview on State of Play for the Pacific Ocean Policy &amp; Governance</b> Facilitator: Mr. Tilson Ephraim, Nauru</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific</b>: Viliame Bovoro, Team Leader 2050 Strategy (7 min)</li> <li>ii. <b>SPC</b>: Katy Soapi, Coordinator, Pacific Centre for Ocean Science (7 min)</li> <li>iii. <b>OPOC</b>: Peni Suveinakama, Ocean Analyst &amp; Manager, Regional Ocean Policy and Governance (7 min)</li> <li>iv. <b>ANCORS</b>: Genevieve Quirk (10 min). Sharing perspectives on which areas of ocean policy and governance works, what could be improved and opportunities for the future.</li> </ol>
<b>1300 – 1400</b>	Lunch Break
<b>1400 – 1500</b>	<p><b>Session 3: Small Talanoa Breakout Groups: Reflect on Global and Regional State of Play</b> Facilitator: Overall Facilitator</p> <p>What are the linkages between regional and global levels? What are some of the policy and governance gap areas that need to be addressed? What are some of the unresolved and sensitive issues? How can these be addressed? Are the existing governance arrangements sufficient? Approach to policy implementation, follow up and review?</p>
<b>1500 - 1530</b>	Afternoon Coffee/Tea Break
<b>1530 - 1700</b>	<p><b>Session 4: Facilitated Dialogue on taking Pacific Ocean Ideas Forward</b> Facilitator: Pacific Ocean Commissioner, Filimon Manoni</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean</b>, Ambassador Peter Thomson</li> <li>ii. <b>Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment of Palau</b>, Hon. Steven Victor</li> <li>iii. <b>Taholo Kami</b> (Civil Society Rep)</li> </ol>

	What are some of the big ocean ideas you would like for the Pacific to take up to UNOC? How can we be better custodians? How can we be more inclusive on ocean governance at all levels? How can we address the difficult ocean issues for the region?
<b>1730 - 1930</b>	<b>Welcome Reception and Dinner</b>
<b>Time</b> <b>Tuesday</b> <b>22 August</b>	<b>Learning Day 2</b> <b>Theme: National Experiences &amp; Vision Setting</b> <i>Learning from the national ocean policy frameworks</i>
<b>0900 – 1100</b>	<p><b>Session 5: Presentation of National Ocean Policies (NOP)</b> Facilitator: Tekau Frere (OPOC) 10 min each Presenter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>Vanuatu:</b> Stevie Williams, Desk Officer, Maritime and Ocean Affairs, Foreign Affairs</li> <li>ii. <b>Papua New Guinea:</b> Emma Pongopia, Foreign Service Officer, Foreign Affairs</li> <li>iii. <b>Cook Islands:</b> Alex Herman, Seabed Minerals Commissioner</li> <li>iv. <b>Samoa:</b> Afele Faiilagi, Assistant Chief Executive Officer Environment</li> <li>v. <b>Republic of the Marshall Islands:</b> Glen Joseph, Director, Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority</li> <li>vi. <b>Fiji:</b> Izhaar Ali, Ocean Specialist, Climate Change Division, Office of Prime Minister</li> <li>vii. <b>Solomon Islands:</b> Gladys Isihanua, Assistant Secretary, Ocean and Climate Change Desk</li> </ul> <p>Reasons for establishing the NOP? Goals and governance structures of NOP? How are different sectors and stakeholders involved? 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?</p>
<b>1100-1130</b>	<b>Morning Coffee/ Tea Break</b>
<b>1130 – 1330</b>	<p><b>Session 6: Small Talanoa Breakout Groups: Reflect on State of Play</b> Facilitator: Overall Facilitator</p> <p>Discuss linkages between national, regional and global levels? What are the issues (including emerging ones) in terms of current ocean policies and governance? How can they be addressed? Are the existing governance arrangements sufficient? Approach to implementation and follow up and review?</p>
<b>1330-1430</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
<b>1430 – 1530</b>	<p><b>Session 7: Presentations on approaches taken by different regions on ocean policy and governance</b> Facilitator: Teuru Passfield, Senior Foreign Service Officer, Treaties, Multilateral and Oceans Division</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>CARICOM Secretariat:</b> Kareem Sabir, Senior Project Officer, Sustainable Development (10 min)</li> <li>ii. <b>Western Indian Ocean Region Regional Ocean Governance Strategy:</b> Yvonne Waweru, Senior Governance Advisor (10 min)</li> <li>iii. <b>Commonwealth Secretariat:</b> Kenroy Simmons, Legal Adviser, Ocean Governance and Maritime Boundaries (10 min)</li> </ul>
<b>1530-1600</b>	<b>Afternoon Coffee/Tea Break</b>
<b>1600 - 1700</b>	<p><b>Session 8: 2050 Strategy</b> Viliame Bovoro, PIFS</p> <p>Presentation and discussion on the 2050 Strategy and Implementation Plan process.</p>

<b>Time</b> <i>Wednesday</i> <i>23 August</i>	<b>Talanoa Day 3</b> <i>Theme: How to achieve our Vision</i> <i>Facilitated Talanoa amongst participants on regional issues, challenges and recommendations.</i>
<b>0900 – 1030</b>	<p><b>Recap of the issues raised:</b> Peni Suveinakama <b>Introduction to the Talanoa process</b></p> <p><b>Talanoa facilitators:</b> Dominic Ransan-Cooper, Australia Tekau Frere (OPOC) Genevieve Quirk, ANCORS Peni Suveinakama (OPOC) Seema Deo (Overall facilitator)</p> <p><i>(refer to session briefs)</i></p> <p><b>What are the drivers to facilitate coordination? How do we achieve integrated ocean policies? What are the capacity needs for institutional coordination and policy alignment? What mechanisms would provide greater cross sectoral integration and national and regional levels? What are the financing requirements for building institutional capacity for the development and implementation of national ocean policies?</b></p>
<b>1030-1100</b>	<b>Morning Coffee/Tea Break</b>
<b>1100 - 1300</b>	<b>Main Talanoa cont'd</b>
<b>1300-1400</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
<b>1400 – 1500</b>	<b>Main Talanoa cont'd</b>
<b>1500-1530</b>	<b>Afternoon Coffee/ Tea break</b>
<b>1530 - 1645</b>	<b>Report back from the Talanoa sessions</b>
<b>1645-1700</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b> Filimon Manoni, Pacific Ocean Commissioner
<b>1730 - 1800</b>	<b>Informal Kava Session</b>
<b>Time</b> <i>Thursday</i> <i>24 August</i>	<b>Talanoa Day 4</b> <i>Theme: Moving forward to Implement our Vision</i> <i>Finalise recommendations</i>
<b>0730</b>	Depart Hilton Hotel via Shuttle
<b>0800 - 0930</b>	<p><b>Site Visit to Tivua Island with Marine Biologist: Mangrove and Coral Planting</b></p> <p>Depart Denarau Marina at 8:00am headed for Tivua Is</p> <p><b>Small group discussions.</b> <b>Media interviews</b> <b>Coral planting</b></p>
<b>1100 - 1200</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1500 - 1700</b>	Depart Island and Arrive back at Denarau Marina

**Note: OPOC Programme for Friday 25 August 2023 (9am – 12pm)**

	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>TIME</b>
1	Presentation by OPOC on its current Program 2023 – 2026: Focus on key future platforms of engagement and initiatives: i. POA ii. BBNJ iii. UNFCCC COP iv. 2023 Year of the Ocean	09:00 – 10:00am
2	Discussion on key matters arising from Dialogue for OPOC	10:00 – 10:30am
	Morning Tea	10:30 – 11am
3	Way forward – Wrap up (End of Meeting)	11:00 – 12:00pm
	Lunch	12:00pm

-ENDS-