

# Pacific Regional Ocean Policy and Governance Dialogue

21 - 24 AUGUST, 2023

NADI, FIJI



## Draft Ideas/Issues Arising out of the Pacific Regional Dialogue on Ocean Policy and Governance

### 1. Improving coordination

#### *At national level:*

- 1.1 The creation of National Ocean Policies was highlighted as a critical enabler for greater cross sectoral integration both nationally and at various regional and global levels.
- 1.2 National focal points can provide a means to improve cooperation and policy coherence. This is in addition to the established official focal points that are usually through the Foreign Missions and Foreign Ministries. National focal points are a pathway for mainstreaming ocean considerations across sectors of government and society through communication and coordination with national stakeholders, including with non-state actors (NSA). They can also coordinate with the regional agencies, including through OPOC with CROP agencies and be the entry point to the country. This will prevent duplication.

#### *At regional level:*

- 1.3 The 2050 strategy unites the region and catalyses the region's thematic priorities and common direction. It provides the unique opportunity to re-set and refocus on becoming more coordinated and shift away from taking fragmented approaches. The regional governance structure as identified in the 2050 strategy and the regional architecture can further enhance regional coordination.
- 1.4 The role of the Pacific Ocean Alliance (POA) needs to be strengthened as 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, private sector.
  - *There is also a need to further harmonise monitoring and evaluation processes, as well as reporting requirements on the various regional and global commitments such as the 2050 Strategy, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Global Biodiversity Framework, and the Framework for the Pacific Oceanscape.*
- 1.5 A preliminary assessment is needed to provide a clear picture of who is currently doing what in the region. Given the ever-shifting ocean priorities, as well as the formal and informal expansion on various actors' mandates, it was thus suggested that coordinating bodies such as OPOC take steps that would enhance coordination. These steps include:
  - (a) *Carrying out a stocktake to assess the current ocean-related regional thematic areas and the relevant actors. In doing so, it should identify how member states have benefited from existing arrangements. The goal of this stocktake is to make recommendations on how to ensure that the governance systems are effective and efficient by meeting current gaps and clearly demarcate different mandates; and*
  - (b) *Review and upgrade the Framework for the Pacific Oceanscape in light of the 2050 Strategy.*

1.6 Support treaty implementation, in particular, the “Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction” (BBNJ treaty).

1.7 Convene multi stakeholder dialogues such as this to look at the identification of gaps and ensure that the right people are in the room for these conversations.

## 2. Support for development and implementation of integrated national ocean policy

2.1 Develop models, including lessons learned, to enable updating (or development) of national ocean policies to make them fit for purpose. National administrations would need to take ownership of the process and guidelines.

2.2 NOPs to be accompanied by costed implementation plans to enable effective implementation. This should include costs of establishing and convening national committees and covering costs of participation, noting that volunteer arrangements are not always sustainable. Implementation of ocean policies should be integrated into national budgets and planning.

2.3 Effectively engage industry and private sector in NOP process, including to consider ways and means on who are the key stakeholders on ocean policy within the region and how stakeholders can be coordinated in their support to national governments. [see also 4.0]

## 3. Financing

3.1 Improved and shared understanding is needed of the funding landscape – there is a need to map the financing partners, including new and non-traditional opportunities and share information with countries; develop procedures and guidelines to assist countries. There were suggestions that OPOC works with regional partners to provide this mapping.

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

## 4. Learning and Sharing

4.1 Leverage the opportunities available through various international processes, including the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the implementation of the BBNJ instrument.

4.2 Identify capacity needs through country-led processes, and address them through dedicated programmes including, e.g., 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.

## 5. Engagement and Advocacy

5.1 Clearly articulate regional ocean issues and priorities which are to be advocated at various levels. A consolidated regional advocacy is needed to amplify Pacific voices on international stages, including in multilateral processes, to support advancing regional priorities to inform and influence the global ocean discourse.

5.2 Effectively inform and engage communities, including traditional knowledge holders, private sector, industry, youths, gender advocates on ocean-related policies and commitments. This engagement is also to ensure that Pacific peoples’ interests and well-being remain at the heart of the ocean considerations.

- 5.3 A consolidated calendar of national, regional, and international relevant meetings could be compiled by OPOC and shared. This calendar would help in optimizing and consolidating meeting, planning as well as support engagement and advocacy.
- 5.4 Convene ocean leaders to share success stories and discuss ocean priorities and issues, including emerging issues to build understanding and common positions.

***Participants identified the following roles that OPOC could play:***

- ***At the national level: support in providing relevant capacity***
- ***At the regional level: coordination***
- ***At the international level: advocacy***