

Waves of Change: Harnessing Technology to Power the Sustainable Blue Economy

Session 7: Strengthening Governance for a Sustainable
Ocean Economy

Pacific Ocean Commissioner, Dr Filimon Manoni

12.05pm -12.35pm

Tuesday 26 May 2026

2:55pm–3:25pm Fiji Time

OPOC

The Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC) serves 18 Member countries in the Pacific Region mainly, 18 members: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Some of the key roles that that OPOC plays in the region include;

- advocacy, coordination and collaboration on oceans governance issues in the region and in international forums; and
- building capacity and awareness in the Pacific region, coordinating with CROP agencies and developments capacity to strengthen oceans governance across and multi-sectoral ocean issues.



OPOC in the Pacific

- Assists Pacific countries develop national oceans policies;
- Coordinates across the region to create united Pacific positions for BBNJ negotiations including capacity building;
- Coordinates united Pacific positions and strong Pacific representation at the United Nations Oceans Conference;
- Facilitates deep sea mining discussions and build capacity in the region on the issue; and
- Coordinates information resources, sourcing funding, including coordinating CROP agencies to assist member countries as well as ensuring participation of Pacific representatives at regional and international forums related to oceans governance.





2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent

Regional collective commitments on Oceans by PIF Leaders under the 2050 Strategy:

- “To secure a future for our people, we will deepen our collective responsibility and accountability for the stewardship of the Blue Pacific Continent and protect our sovereignty and jurisdiction over our maritime zones and resources, including in response to climate change induced sea level rise, and strengthen our ownership and management of our resources.”
- “To protect our ocean and environment, we commit to safeguarding the integrity of our natural systems and biodiversity through conservation action and by minimizing activities that degrade, pollute, overexploit, or undermine our ocean and natural environment.”



2050 STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2023-2030

Phase I - 2050 Strategy for the
Blue Pacific Continent

*Setting the Foundations Towards
Transformational Change*



Ocean and Environment

This thematic area focuses on the region's stewardship of the Blue Pacific Continent through collective responsibility, commitment and investment in its ocean and lands. This includes to invest in the region's sovereignty and sovereign rights over its maritime zones and lands, such as to support its continental shelf claims. Recognising the significant environmental and ecosystem-based services that the Blue Pacific provides to the planet, the region's ability to benefit from its ocean and environment depends on its capacity to make the right policy choices, partnerships and investments, including by adopting a precautionary and forward-looking approach to protect the region's biodiversity, its environment and resources from exploitation, degradation, nuclear contamination, waste, pollution, and health threats.

Level of Ambition

All Pacific people live in a sustainably managed Blue Pacific Continent, while steadfastly maintaining resilience to threats to its environment.

Goal 1

The Pacific Regions Ocean and environment are sustainably managed and are resilient to threats.

People Outcomes



1.0 Improved climate resilience, food security, prosperity and wellbeing of all Pacific Peoples including vulnerable communities and marginalised groups through sustainable management of ocean and land-based ecosystems.

System Outcomes



1.1 Improved sustainable management of fisheries.

1.2 Fully secured established maritime zones under the UNCLOS, and maximized and protected enjoyment of jurisdictional rights and entitlements that flows from these zones, and on the high seas and airspace.

1.3 Improved sustainable management of agriculture and food systems.

1.4 Improved sustainable management of forestry.

1.5 Reduced and Halted Biodiversity loss and risk of extinction of known threatened species, caused by multiple threats on both terrestrial and marine environment.

1.6 Strengthened waste management and reduction in all forms of pollution and effective mitigation of various threats to the ocean and land-based environment inclusive of nuclear contamination.



Regional Collective Actions

Policy and Frameworks

1. Develop a regional approach for addressing the removal of hazardous wastes including nuclear contamination such as the Runit dome, WWII wrecks, UXO and wartime debris.
2. Review the regional waste and pollution policy framework (Cleaner Pacific 2025) and other relevant regional policies to ensure a regional approach to support and monitor Safe Circular Economy including Sustainable Consumption (and Production).
3. Review of the regional ocean policy framework (Framework for the Pacific Oceanscape) and relevant regional environment policies to ensure effective and timely consideration of overlapping sectoral and national interests and helps to integrate sectoral ocean policies as well as ocean governance across jurisdictions.
4. Develop as appropriate regional models for managing natural resource sectors, including ensuring that all environmental, social, and economic risks are comprehensively understood.

Governance and Oversight

5. Protection of key biodiversity areas through well-designed networks of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures to prevent extinctions and reduce extinctions risk for threatened native species.

Capacities and Capabilities

6. Develop a Pacific Centre of Excellence on Deep Oceans Science.

7. Support Members efforts to the signing, ratification and implementation of the new legally binding instrument on BBNJ and strengthening management in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) in line with the current aspiration of the region moving towards a Blue Pacific Continent.
8. Support members' efforts in relation to the pursuit of an ambitious, comprehensive, international legally-binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.
9. Adoption of ecosystem-based tools and customary approaches to manage and improve ecological integrity, biosecurity, sustainable productivity, and climate resilience of ocean and land-based resources.
10. Meaningful participation of all Pacific peoples, particularly women and girls in all their diversity, in ecosystem-based management, that is in harmony with cultural practices and knowledge and contributes to strengthened sustainable use of land and ocean-based resources.

Financing

11. Coordinated regional engagement with international funders to access new areas of financing to improve the resilience of natural ecosystems.

Partnerships, Engagement and Advocacy

12. Strengthen political leadership, stewardship and coordinated advocacy to influence global policies and commitments.
13. Continue advocacy and promotion of the Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the Face of Climate Change - Related Sea-Level Rise.

2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent: the Pacific's North Star



**Thank you for
your attention.**

End.

