



Knowledge & Exchange Platform towards
a Blue Economy for the Pacific Islands



1ST HIGH LEVEL PACIFIC BLUE ECONOMY CONFERENCE 23 - 24 AUGUST, 2017

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS



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Foreword

From depleting fish stocks to marine pollution, the ocean today is facing its “greatest threat in human history” and the need to conserve its resources is becoming more and more important. The ocean resources are limited and on top of that, the health of the oceans is also declining at an alarming rate, mostly due to anthropogenic activities.

The United Nations Ocean Conference in June 2017, which was co-hosted by the Governments of Fiji and Sweden, brought together all stakeholders from around the globe to solve the issues of the ocean. The Call of Action was adopted as well as more than 1000 voluntary commitments had been made to protect the ocean, cutting across all SDG 14 targets.

Because of the Pacific Islands Development Forum’s (PIDF’s) mandate of blue/green economy, it has a strong focus on SDG 14 target 14.7. The economic opportunities that the Pacific is provided by its ocean are enormous. However, the challenge is to understand the many aspects of ocean sustainability, from ocean health to pollution. The sustainability of the marine resources requires collaborative efforts from all sectors, including private sector, civil society organisations and the government.

Pacific island countries have large ocean spaces and their livelihoods and food security depend upon the ocean and coastal areas. It has traditional ocean industries such as fisheries/ aquaculture, maritime transport and tourism, as well as emerging industries like the offshore renewable energy, seabed mining, and marine biotechnology. In order to address the sustainability and governance of the ocean, changes are required at the national, regional and international levels. The existing industries must be managed sustainably and the emerging sectors must be embraced to have more diversified and resilient economies.

Economic growth, social inclusion and improved livelihoods as well as ensuring the sustainability of the resources are all components of the blue economy. Blue economy is not new as the Pacific island countries have benefited from their marine resources for centuries but what is new is: the realisation of the ocean’s value; the appreciation of its role in the sustainable economic development; and the realisation of the need to protect its resources and ecosystems.

This first high level Pacific Blue Economy Conference aims to bring all the stakeholders together to start the process of developing blue economies for the Pacific by providing a knowledge platform on the blue economy for the Pacific Islands and exploring lessons learned, innovations and emerging industries based on ocean resources.

Pacific Blue Economy Conference



Acknowledgements

The Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) acknowledges all who helped make the first high level Pacific Blue Economy Conference (PBEC) a success and it is envisioned that the PBEC outcomes will pave the way forward in achieving one of the commitments of the PIDF to the United Nations for the implementation of SDG14.

We have much pleasure in thanking our honored Heads of States, individuals from Private Sectors, NGO, Academics and Government Departments, in particular:

The Prime Minister of Fiji, Co-Chair of the UN Ocean Conference, the Honourable Voreqe Bainimarama for officiating and officially opening the conference, Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands and Chair of the Pacific Islands Development Forum, the Honourable Manasseh D. Sogavare, for his initiative in convening this conference, H. E. James Michel, Former President of Seychelles and Founder of the James Michel Foundation, for his keynote address, the Reverend François Pihaatae, General Secretary of the Pacific Council of Churches for his blessing of the Conference and the Hon. Milner Tozaka, Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Solomon Islands, in taking the role of the Chair for the Conference.

Our sincere appreciation also belongs especially to all our esteemed key note speakers, speakers, session chairs and moderators of the various sessions, for their insightful and innovative exchange of experience and knowledge in the form of informative presentations and video messages.

We also thank all the participants, for all their great scientific input and for many fruitful discussions and scientific interactions which culminated towards making the Pacific Blue Economy Conference such an enlightening and interactive conference.

PIDF takes this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge and thank all its donors and sponsors for their generosity and interest in the conference.

The Conference was the first step in developing sustainable blue economies in the Pacific and this 2-day journey has proven to be a knowledge platform that allowed for exchanges on the concept of the blue economy, based on participant experiences and knowledge.

All those who contributed to the conference: Thank you for all your excellent work!

Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BCG	Boston Consulting Group
CC	Climate Change
CI	Conservation International
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DRR/DRM	Disaster Risk Reduction/Disaster Risk Management
DSM	Deep Sea Mining
EEA	Environmental-Economic Accounting
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zones
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency
GLISPA	Global Islands Partnership
ILO	International Labour Organization
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
LMMA	Locally Marine Managed Area
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (UNFCCC)
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions (UNFCCC)
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
OAA	Ocean Algal Afforestation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OTEC	Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion
PBEC	Pacific Blue Economy Conference
PICT	Pacific Island Countries and Territories
PIDF	Pacific Islands Development Forum
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PIPSO	Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation
PIROP	Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy

PNA	Parties to the Nauru Agreement
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SNA	System of National Accounts
SPC	The Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SPTO	South Pacific Tourism Organisation
UN	United Nations
UNCLCS	United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme (<i>now UN Environment</i>)
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USP	University of the South Pacific
VDS	Vessel Day Scheme
WAVES	Wealth Accounting and Valuing of Ecosystem Services
WCPFC	Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WCS	World Conservation Society
WOC	World Ocean Council
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

1.0 Introduction and Background

As stewards of the world's largest ocean, Pacific Island Development Forum (PIDF) leaders gathered in Honiara, Solomon Islands, on 12 July 2016 and approved PIDF's hosting of the 1st High Level Pacific Blue Economy Conference (PBEC) in 2017.

The Conference was a two-day meeting held at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva on 23 and 24 August, 2017.

The overall goal was to provide a knowledge platform on the Blue Economy for the Pacific Islands and to explore lessons learned, innovations and emerging industries based on ocean resources.

The Conference built on the outcomes of the June 2017 United Nations (UN) Conference on Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14) and on existing Pacific commitments and frameworks, to provide a roadmap for refining the concept and implementing a Blue Economy in the Pacific.

More specifically, the objectives of this Conference were:

- To inform Pacific senior officials and stakeholders on emerging ocean resources management issues and opportunities;
- To assist the Pacific in defining the Blue Economy concept and ways to implement it;
- To support the Pacific by debating the complex issues surrounding the Blue Economy; and
- To facilitate exchange of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in the region and other parts of the globe on the concept of blue growth and the blue economy that are adapted and aligned with Pacific Island perspectives, priorities and solutions.

The event brought together more than 200 participants and included government, private sector, civil society, research institutions and academia, representatives of multilateral institutions, the UN and other development partners, international and regional organisations. The Conference was hailed as a truly multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder meeting on the Blue Economy for the Pacific Islands.

The Conference Information Note (Annex I) provides background on the development of the Blue Economy concept in the Pacific.

The full programme and list of participants and speaker biographies are attached as Annexes II, III and IV, respectively.

This Report outlines the proceedings and discussions of the 2-day conference. A conference summary was developed and agreed at the closing of the conference and is provided in Annex V.



Day 1

2.0 Official Opening

Chair: Hon. Milner Tozaka, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Solomon Islands
Secretariat: François Martel, Secretary General, PIDF

The Pacific Blue Economy Conference was officially opened by the Prime Minister of Fiji, the Honourable Voreqe Bainimarama. The Prime Minister of Tuvalu, the Honourable Enele Sopoaga and His Excellency, James Michel of Seychelles were also in attendance.

The Conference was blessed by the Reverend François Pihaatae, General Secretary of the Pacific Council of Churches. Reverend Pihaatae presented verses from a diversity of religions demonstrating the common basis and values of many of the world – to treat one another and Earth with respect. In his devotions he asked for blessing for the speakers ahead, that they may inspire action to conserve and sustain our ocean health.

A minute's silence was observed in respect of the passing of two climate leaders in August – the Honourable Tony de Brum, former foreign minister and climate ambassador of Marshall Islands and the Honourable Mattlan Zackhras, Minister in Assistance to the President of Marshall Islands.

Secretary General of PIDF, François Martel, welcomed guests and participants and noted that at the fourth PIDF Leaders' Summit¹ held in July 2016 in Honiara, Leaders had acknowledged the importance of SDG 14 and the need for healthy oceans for building healthy nations. In recognition of this, 2017 was declared the 'Pacific Year for the Ocean'. The PBEC was part of this campaign and one of the commitments of the PIDF to the United Nations for the implementation of SDG 14.

The Secretary General observed that it was part of the PIDF Charter and mandate to facilitate the use of tools, approaches and innovation such as the Blue Economy towards enabling Green/Blue Economies in the Pacific Islands. The Conference was the first step in building a roadmap for developing sustainable blue economies in the Pacific and this two-day journey should be a knowledge platform that will allow for exchanges on the concept of the Blue Economy, based on participant experiences and knowledge.



¹ PIDF, 2016

The Honourable Milner Tozaka, Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Solomon Islands, chaired the Conference on behalf of the Chair of PIDF, Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, the Honourable Manasseh Sogovare. Minister Tozaka welcomed participants and observed that everyone present at this conference shared a common vision for a future where all Pacific people enjoy spiritual, cultural and economic well-being through long-term food security, enhanced livelihoods and resilience to a changing climate. With the appropriate strategies, he stated that this was possible. Citing the Reviving Melanesia's Ocean Economy Report², Minister Tozaka noted that the Gross Marine Product for Melanesia alone had been estimated at USD5.4 billion per year and that the total value of the marine resources has been conservatively estimated to be USD548 billion. Management of our marine resources is therefore paramount.



Minister Tozaka stated that the Solomon Islands was delighted to be chairing a process to define, from the Pacific perspective, the Blue Economy, which he described as transitioning to sustainable use and management of marine and coastal resources towards an economy that generates food security, livelihoods and wealth while ensuring conservation and stewardship of our oceans to ensure they provide for future generations.



The Honourable Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji and Co-Chair of the UN Ocean Conference, welcomed participants to the conference and noted that we are at a point where our oceans face threats more severe than at any time in our history. He stated the need to give full consideration to the impacts that our development has on the oceans and the life they sustain. Developing strategies for growth in the context of a Blue Economy will take extra effort but in the longer term, investment made towards protecting the ocean and its resources will be well worth the immediate costs.

The Prime Minister highlighted the need to take a global perspective and learn from others moving towards blue economies. He noted that everyone is impacted by the ocean and that there is a need to work together to reverse the steady degradation that has ravaged our oceans for decades.

As co-chair of the UN Ocean Conference, the Prime Minister noted the move towards a global campaign to address

² WWF, 2016.

overfishing and pollution of the oceans by many different stakeholders.

He highlighted the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference and stated that the Fiji presidency is in fact a shared presidency with all Pacific Island nations. He noted also the interlinkages between climate change and the oceans.

He stressed the urgency for action, observing that we are already one degree above the temperature of the pre-industrial age and we are witnessing the destruction of our reefs from coral bleaching, with serious consequences for our food security, tourism and way of life as we know it. He urged that this should not deter us from action and instead the Pacific should continue to be seen as the “fiercest defenders” of our oceans and their resources. The Pacific can show the world how development and sustainable oceans management can go hand-in-hand. He urged participants to continue to inspire action and lead by example at home to live out the expectations we ask from the rest of the world.

H.E. Karmenu Vella, European Union (EU) Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, addressed the conference via video message. He congratulated the PIDF on organising the conference and highlighted the importance of the oceans to the planet’s well-being and spoke on the growing threats and pressures that affect all countries. The EU has launched a new agenda to improve the international governance of the oceans, which sets out 50 actions to ensure the sustainable use of the ocean and its resources³. Partnerships are being formed globally, including in the Pacific to deliver on the actions. Commissioner Vella advised that the EU is committed to continuing its partnership with all Pacific islands and he looked forward to the outcomes of the conference.

H.E. James Michel, Former President of Seychelles and Founder of the James Michel Foundation, gave the keynote address. He acknowledged the Honourable Manasseh D. Sogavare, Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands and Chair of the Pacific Islands Development Forum and applauded his initiative in convening this conference. His Excellency also thanked the President of Fiji and the Honourable Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama for hosting the conference.

H.E. Michel observed that although we live in different oceans, we have much in common and that all island societies are flag bearers for the ocean and for sustainable development. He outlined key threats and pressures to the ocean and said that small islands are at the frontline in terms of bearing its impacts. He stated that the Blue Economy is the key to the future – it is a transformative yet simple concept. He highlighted the need to treat the ocean with the same importance as has been given to the land but without making the same mistakes. Thus, in a Blue Economy, countries would take a sustainable approach to oceanic industries such as fishing, tourism and shipping – continuing to benefit in terms of revenue but also placing equal concern on addressing pollution, energy consumption and overharvesting. He further noted that the ocean



³ EU, 2016.

remains largely unexplored and there are many opportunities that we are yet to understand and fully harness.

He reflected that it had only been five years since the emergence of the Blue Economy at the United Nations Rio+20 Conference in June 2012. Island nations used the opportunity of the “green economy” to bring the still-evolving concept of the Blue Economy into the same world arena. A pre-conference report, ‘Green Economy in a Blue World’, outlined three basic principles of a Blue Economy:

- The ocean’s great resources should be used sustainably;
- Economic benefits should be distributed fairly; and
- The carbon footprint of the maritime states should be reduced.

He suggested that lengthy definitions were not necessary but that the basic premise of the Blue Economy is not simply about making *greater* use of the sea but about making *better* use of it too.

His Excellency outlined a number of initiatives that Seychelles has taken towards a Blue Economy and noted that the first step had been to create a separate department for the Blue Economy. This has been continued under the new government.

Partnerships – Seychelles and Mauritius have secured a unique agreement to jointly care for and develop a submerged feature known as the Mascarene Plateau, which connects the two nations. The plateau covers around 400,000 square kilometres of seabed.

Addressing piracy – the former Prime Minister advised that Seychelles has taken steps to address marine piracy, which was impacting negatively on the nation’s tourism and fisheries revenues.

Conversion of international debt to fund marine management – with the support of the then French President, Seychelles brokered a deal with the Paris Club whereby repayment of the country’s international debt of USD21.6 million would be restructured so that the funds to be repaid can be directed towards investment in ocean management and mitigating climate change. The funds are progressively invested in a local Trust Fund managed by representatives of all parties in the deal, i.e. The Nature Conservancy and other philanthropists. The Trust manages Seychelles’ investment in Blue Economy measures, which include the establishment of a marine sanctuary. He suggested that the Debt-for-Adaptation Swap concept may be used by other small islands that are in debt.

Seychelles has also launched “blue bonds” as a means of attracting private sector funding. This is based on the green bonds concept whereby investors buy bonds that go towards improving a country’s environment. The first blue bonds will be used to improve the management of Seychelles’ fisheries.

Zoning of territorial waters – to achieve a balance between conservation and development, a marine development plan is being prepared to distinguish between areas where fishing and other activities can be maintained and extensive reserves that will be left as they are. The main goal is for 30% of the territorial sea and EEZ to be zoned in high and medium biodiversity protection areas. This is being developed following extensive consultation with stakeholders.

In his conclusion, His Excellency noted that there were other things that could be done and that individual island states will have new ideas of their own. He stressed the importance of not waiting for others to determine island priorities. While acknowledging that countries must continue to engage in international forums, and look for help where this is available, he said that islands must consider themselves not as small island states but as large ocean states and to take action appropriately.

3.0 Outcome of the UN Conference on SDG 14 on Oceans, its relevance to the Blue Economy and a Way Forward for the Pacific

Session Chair: François Martel, Secretary General, PIDF

The United Nations Conference on SDG 14 on Oceans was held in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017. This session provided some perspectives on the outcomes of the Conference and highlighted issues of particular interest to the Pacific and in the context of the Blue Economy.

Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Honourable Enele Soso Sopoaga
Keynote address

The Prime Minister of Tuvalu, the Honourable Enele Soso Sopoaga, acknowledged the passing of the Honourable Tony de Brum and recalled his instrumental role in the climate change negotiations, particularly with regard to the High Ambition Coalition and the support he gave to Tuvalu in pushing for the 1.5 degree Celsius global warming limit to be included in the Paris Agreement.

He stressed the need for urgent action, stating that much has been discussed to date. He also urged that the traditional knowledge of indigenous communities be sought in moving forward with the Blue Economy, noting the intimate understanding that indigenous Pacific communities have of the ocean.

The Prime Minister discussed pressing issues in the region including marine pollution; deep sea and offshore oil and gas exploration; climate change; illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing; and management of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions.

Noting the many forms of marine pollution, he highlighted the increasing threat of microplastics to marine life and called for support to address this globally. He further called for the establishment of a Pacific protection zone from exploration for mining as was done for transportation of nuclear materials in the region. Failing this, he suggested that at the very least, countries should commence negotiations to develop environmental and safety agreements in managing such ventures. He noted that a ban would help address the climate change issue by reducing reliance on fossil fuel.

Acknowledging the work of Palau, Cook Islands and Kiribati in expanding their marine protected areas (MPAs), Prime Minister Sopoaga advised of Tuvalu's recent commitment to create MPAs in 10% of their EEZ. He highlighted the challenge of ocean acidification and its impacts on coral reefs as a major concern and stated that all countries must commit to reducing global greenhouse gas emissions towards achieving the 1.5 degree Celsius goal.

On the issue of IUU fishing, he urged countries to join and ratify the *Port State Measures Agreement to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing* and to continue to work toward registration and identification of all high seas vessels so they can be held responsible. He noted the destructive nature of deep sea trawling and urged action to ban this activity in the region.

Noting the progress towards an agreement to protect biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdictions, he urged that this be supported and actioned.

The Prime Minister raised the issue of loss of land through sea level rise and of the possible impact this may have on the extent of Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ). He urged countries to obtain legal consideration on this issue and to continue to push this in negotiations with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

On the issue of blue carbon trading, the honourable Prime Minister urged caution, stating that blue carbon trading will only delay action on the matter of reducing carbon emissions. He strongly expressed the sentiment that the Pacific should not entertain blue carbon trading as an option for emissions reduction. He added that blue carbon measures such as mangrove planting were good soft adaptation measures but stressed that they should not be traded.

He noted the need for coordination at all levels of the many actions being proposed and raised the question of who is dealing with these different issues and what are the legal frameworks (i.e. for addressing climate change and ocean issues in the context of a Blue Economy).

H.E. Peter Thomson, President of the General Assembly, United Nations (video)

H.E Peter Thomson hailed the inclusion of SDG 14 in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a global recognition of the need to take action to reverse the cycle of decline in which the ocean was caught as a result of accumulated human activity. Restoring the health of the ocean has now been firmly established as one of the great tasks of our time.

He noted that SDG 14 is also about increasing economic benefits of the ocean to small island developing states, including through fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.

The UN Ocean Conference helped raise global consciousness for restoring the oceans with seven partnership dialogues that helped bring together the best available science and put forward effective solutions. 1400 voluntary commitments were submitted at the conference and the document *Our Ocean, Our Future - a call to action*⁴ was adopted. Work is underway in the UN to analyse the conference outcomes and shape models for action and knowledge sharing.

He acknowledged the many different stakeholders involved in the conference and in particular, applauded the leadership of the co-chairs – the governments of Fiji and Sweden.

H.E. Thomson stated that action relating to climate change and action relating to the ocean were two sides of the same coin and he noted that it was fitting that the next meeting in the environment track was the climate COP 23, which will be chaired by Fiji.

He stressed the need to progress the Blue Economy with an intergenerational perspective and highlighted ocean sustainability of central importance.

The ocean economy (Gross Marine Product) is worth at least USD2.5 trillion, but H.E Thomson added that a quarter of all fish caught each year, worth about USD23 billion, is caught through IUU fishing and is taking value away from legitimate fisheries related ventures. Thus, the sustainable Blue Economy will require that IUU fishing is eliminated. He further highlighted a number of other actions that would be needed for a vibrant sustainable Blue Economy. These include: efficient and low impact ocean transport; traceability of fish stocks; sustainable management of marine ecosystems; introduction of blue bonds; removal of perverse fishing subsidies; and climate proofing of the development of the Blue Economy.

Finally, the Ambassador stressed the need to ensure that small communities are benefiting from the Blue Economy, noting that small scale fishing, whale watching, etc must be included in these efforts. He urged that a high bar be set for a Blue Economy so that all communities may enjoy the sustainable benefits of our common heritage that is the ocean.

⁴ UN, 2017.

The UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Osnat Lubrani, reflected that oceans generate half of the oxygen of the world and that how we move forward in managing and conserving the ocean affects all 7.5 billion people on the planet and not just those living along the coasts or directly deriving livelihoods from it.



She observed that the size of the Pacific Ocean and the area of ocean over which island countries have jurisdiction make SDG 14 essential for the Pacific region. Implementing SDG14 also contributes to the achievement of many other SDGs (water, gender, energy, jobs and growth, and climate change) and it is therefore integral to island sustainable development.

The Resident Representative further highlighted economic figures relating to the ocean economy, noting that in addition to USD100 billion in fisheries and agriculture, USD3 trillion is contributed through shipping, oil and gas. In addition the people rely on the ocean for food, employment and for renewable energy.

However the ocean has been compromised, with almost 40% of the ocean areas heavily affected through human induced activities, including over exploitation; pollution through plastics; pollution from nutrient runoff; and invasive species. She outlined the annual global costs of these problems and noted that marine policies, governance and market failures have contributed to these problems.

She outlined some proposed solutions which include:

- Promoting sustainable fisheries with benefits for both men and women.
- Supporting the recovery and reuse of nutrient pollution from agriculture, waste water and industry.
- Preserving coastal biodiversity and strengthening livelihoods and community based action.
- Slowing down and reversing ocean acidification.
- Scaling up proven policy and economic tools for plastic waste avoidance and recovery.
- Supporting countries to ratify and implement the convention on ship ballast water and sediments.

Ms Lubrani stressed that it was imperative for the Pacific to link SDG 14 to SDG 13 (Climate Change) for implementation of the Paris Agreement and keeping global temperature increase to below 2 degrees Celsius. Without stronger climate action our oceans will be further compromised and our future in peril. She urged all stakeholders to rally behind the Fiji COP23 presidency.

Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.
Pacific Ocean Commissioner & Moderator of Partnership Dialogue on SDG 14 Target 14.7 – UN Global Ocean Conference 2017, New York

Dame Meg Taylor provided a report on the discussions and outcomes of the UN Ocean Conference Partnership Dialogue 5: *Increasing economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets*, of which she was moderator. Seven partnership dialogues formed part of the key contributions to the UN Global Ocean Conference.

Partnership dialogue 5 was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada and H.E. Mr. Marko Pomerants, Minister of Environment, Estonia. The panel comprised of key high level policy makers from member states, intergovernmental and multilateral agencies⁵. The Partnership Dialogue enabled insightful exchange of experience and knowledge from the Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and Caribbean.

The ocean has become a critical element of economic planning and development and this is reflected in SDG 14 and its targets.

The theme of the Blue Economy aligns strongly with the common theme of this partnership dialogue, which called for a shift in the mindset and narrative from small vulnerable states to one of opportunity led oceanic states.

Three strategic areas were discussed in the dialogue:

1. Conservation opportunities – economic potential of marine conservation.
2. Technological opportunities.
3. Community based approaches.

The dialogue identified that despite some successes, there is still the challenge of defining the appropriate balance between conservation and achieving maximum utility of the oceans while achieving sustainability.

Policy coordination, inclusive policy development and cross-sectoral considerations are essential to ensure that outcomes reflect interests of all stakeholders, including small scale and artisanal fishers.

The Ocean Commissioner observed that while there has been progress in some Pacific countries in terms of strengthening the participation and contribution of coastal communities to national policies, additional efforts are required to support institutional strengthening and sustainability of community based management.

The dialogue noted that there is an emerging acknowledgement of the value of marine conservation in economic development and that limiting the extraction of marine resources in the short run can lead to longer term economic benefits. Furthermore, the panel discussions highlighted the interconnectedness of marine policy on other sectors. For example, the establishment of a shark sanctuary in the Maldives and Palau's marine protected areas (MPAs) have helped to stimulate economic activity in different aspects of the tourism industry, including community based participation.

Dame Taylor also acknowledged other efforts in the Pacific in establishing MPAs (Kiribati, Cook Islands and New Zealand).

The dialogue highlighted the potential for existing technologies to assist islands leap frog their development efforts, particularly in the fisheries sector. The example was given from the Caribbean of use of mobile phones to assist small scale fishers gain access to information on market demand and prices. Dame Taylor noted that such innovation calls for a paradigm shift in the business model currently employed at the community level. This would require marrying traditional knowledge with modern technology. She suggested that there is opportunity for the Pacific Islands region to be an incubator of new innovative technologies in the fisheries sector.

Some countries such as the Maldives are moving away from promotion of large scale fisheries to community based efforts. This has resulted in greater value being retained in local communities. The panel found that the success of this is based on the value that consumers and external markets place on

⁵ Full list of panellists and participants is available at <https://oceanconference.un.org/PartnershipDialogue5>.

sustainable fisheries and how well this has been assessed. Maldives has identified and assessed markets for sustainable fisheries and has already decreased the number of licences issued to foreign longline vessels. This has in turn increased the value of domestic fisheries and expanded the economic space for smaller scale fishers. Such systems require enhanced traceability methods which identify the origins of the sustainably sourced fish and policies that are based on the value rather than the volume.

Dame Taylor observed that in the Pacific region, it is mostly the economic value of pelagic fisheries that dominates the policy sphere of fisheries sectors and this is often at the cost of our coastal fisheries.

With regard to implementing the Pacific Oceanscape⁶ and the New Song for Coastal Fisheries⁷, in the context of the Blue Economy, the Pacific Ocean Commissioner put forward some recommendations:

- Investing in and using the best available science.
- Evaluating the importance of each sector in the Blue Economy and prioritising sectors in our own national and regional context.
- Accurately valuing national oceanic capital in order to make the right decisions on priorities.
- Anticipating and adapting to the impacts of climate change within our economies.
- Ensuring shared priorities and objectives when developing partnerships and investments.

Dame Taylor reflected on the commitments made at the Ocean Conference and urged that the Pacific strive for a better track record than that of the Samoa Pathway⁸ and to make the commitments a reality. She stressed that we are not starting from a zero base but that the necessary policies and partnerships are in place for sustainable development and management and conservation of our ocean resources. However, hard decisions must be taken. Coastal fisheries now form a key component of leaders' priorities on fisheries and a taskforce has been established on coastal fisheries. She further noted that implementation that takes a whole of region, whole of country and whole of government approach will need to be resourced.



⁶ Pratt and Govan, 2010.

⁷ FFA and SPC, 2015.

⁸ United Nations, 2014

4.0 The Blue Economy – the Global Experience

Session Chair: Iosefa Maiava, Head, UNESCAP Pacific Office

The objective of this session was to consider current global perspectives on a Blue Economy and in the context of climate change. Panellists discussed their own experiences in transitioning to a Blue Economy to generate growth and build resilience while preserving the ocean ecosystems and resources.

Prof. Gunter Pauli, Serial entrepreneur, author and initiator of The Blue Economy

Professor Pauli set the scene for this panel session and discussed several examples of adaptive management and innovative and efficient use of natural resources, which have ensured security for the communities involved. His work is based on understanding natural cycles, developing synergies and taking a whole of ecosystem approach towards creating economic and job security that is in harmony with nature. The cases highlighted were from Fiji (Montfort Boys Town – feeding fish using waste generated from pig farming), Indonesia (Surabaya – regeneration of 63 hectares of mangroves and farming of shrimps without adding feed), Australia (ocean water used to generate freshwater for tomato farming and drinking using natural processes), Spain (El Hierro – addressing overfishing by establishing reserves for brooding fish and developing self-sufficiency in water and power) and Bonaire (coral planting tourism)⁹. He also discussed the concept of “3D farming” and used an example from Indonesia (Sulawesi – growing seaweed to make gas).

Professor Pauli urged conference participants to stop focussing on the bad news, to become open to and scan for new opportunities and to seek inspiration from people who have done things. Opportunities need to be translated into language that investors understand. He stressed innovative yet practical and adaptive solutions based on lessons from nature and urged people to “go beyond your dreams”.

Professor Pauli highlighted his series of children’s fables which can be translated to reach children in the Pacific.

Paul Holthus, Founding President and CEO, World Ocean Council

Mr Holthus observed that the successes in bringing island issues onto the global stage have been critical to where we are today. He discussed the diverse and multiple uses of the ocean and noted that with increased global trade, the intensity of use is increasing. The private sector needs to be leading the change for sustainability and this requires responsible use and stewardship by all users, not just among a few or any one sector. Ocean industries will benefit from collaborating with other sectors as this will result in creation of synergies and economies of scale.

The World Ocean Council (WOC) is working to bring together global industries and the finance and investment community to lead the way in corporate ocean sustainability by take a global scale approach. Mr Holthus stated that the WOC vision is for leadership and collaboration, with the ocean being considered at the global scale, bringing together the local/artisanal with the industrial community.

The aim is to harness the vast potential of the industrial/private sector community to help address pressing needs of islands. He outlined cross cutting themes and priorities which a Pacific Ocean leadership group could focus on:

- Improving ocean knowledge, by harnessing and investing in the use of existing equipment and the host of vessels on the ocean.

⁹ Details of these and other cases are available at www.theblueeconomy.org

- Addressing disaster risk reduction by better prediction of hazards and understanding of risks.
- Decarbonising energy sources in small islands by uptake of new technologies.
- Tackling marine pollution, including at port facilities, by harnessing investments.

Mr Holthus stressed that harnessing investment through a collaborative platform was an important step in addressing these priorities.

H.E. Angus Friday, Grenada Ambassador to the United States

H.E. Ambassador Angus Friday reminded participants that small islands are in a position to harness the Blue Economy and take leadership to deliver something for future generations and that the Pacific is already a leader on the global stage as was seen in the lead up to Rio.

He observed that success in the Blue Economy requires that island nations work together as a bloc in order to sustainably manage and extract more value from their “blue gold” and ensure that the economic benefits accrue to communities. We are at a new wave of wealth creation and a new wave of hope for SIDS, with a great deal of growing interest in the Blue Economy. He noted that the OECD reports that the value of oceans is likely to outperform the value of other sectors by 2030 and quoted the WWF/BCG report which places the global economic value of the ocean at USD24 trillion and a World Bank estimate of the Caribbean marine resources at USD407 billion.^{10,11,12}

The Ambassador noted the need to think outside the box if small islands are to successfully harness the Blue Economy and discussed how Grenada is addressing this.

He stated that between Cuba and Grenada there are 69 medical schools in the region and there is potential to harness this intellectual capacity towards development of blue biotechnology within the region. He used the example of the AZT drug, which was developed from a sea sponge from the Caribbean, but the economic benefits of this are not seen in the region. By working together to protect their genetic resources, the region has the potential to realise benefits from blue biotechnology.

Medical tourism is another opportunity to develop higher value industries in the country. This would also help keep trained personnel in the region rather than exporting them elsewhere.

Ocean energy was identified as another area to collaborate on.

To ensure they can stay ahead of the curve, Grenada, in addition to the Masterplan for Blue Growth, is proposing a Blue Innovation Institute. This will serve as a global think tank, a regional centre of excellence and as a local “petri dish” to demonstrate technology and innovation, with a focus on marine spatial planning; natural capital enhancement; whole management of plastics; and food security especially aquaculture. Two cross-cutting themes – technology and financing will also be addressed. Importantly, it will allow the people of the region to be directly involved rather than relying too readily on ideas from outside.

Other plans include establishing model villages that are based around cluster innovations and industries. These will bring together the best people with global expertise and provide opportunities to develop some of the ideas from earlier years (1950s and 1960s).

¹⁰ OECD, 2016.

¹¹ WWF, 2016.

¹² Patil et al., 2016.

Grenada is also working on establishing a SIDS forum in the World Bank to focus on access to finance, particularly public-private finance. A paper is being developed for an idea for a global fund and the prime minister of Grenada will be writing to Pacific Island Leaders on this. There is opportunity to lead the way in mapping out how islands can get access to predictable funding and for islands to lead on the blue agenda, design our nations around the Blue Economy and innovate through home grown institutions.

Professor Edvard Hviding, University of Bergen, Norway.

Professor Hviding stated that the ocean is fundamental to historical and contemporary life in his own country, Norway, which was once the second largest exporter of fish and the third largest shipping nation in the world.

He discussed the impacts of different human activity on the ocean, including on coral reefs, and highlighted the interconnectedness of the ocean across the planet.

He noted that at the UN Ocean Conference in New York, in one of the seven partnership dialogues, Tuvalu had discussed the connection between UNCLOS and climate change, connecting SDG 14 and SDG 13. As the sea level rises, the boundaries become unstable, mobile and shifting and global legal attention is needed to understand the impact that sea level rise will have on the maritime boundaries of Pacific Island States. He stressed that without a secure ocean there will be no Blue Economy.

Discussion

Panellists addressed questions raised by the audience and the discussions are summarised here.

Blue boats and illegal fishing – on the issue of the illegal “blue boats” fishing in the Solomon Islands, it was clarified that the term “blue” is a reference only to the colour of the painted boats (from Vietnam) that are fishing illegally in the waters of some countries in the region. Addressing the illegal use of ocean space and marine resources requires a collective and multi-sectoral approach. There is work being done through the WOC and others to create a more comprehensive net of information using technology to identify and track who is fishing in our waters. Enforcement is also a challenge without adequate maritime security. It was also noted that Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu have worked together on similar issues in the past, particularly with regard to fishing in the high seas pockets, which do not come under any country’s EEZ.

Recognition of the subsistence economy – there was agreement on the need to explicitly recognise the role of the subsistence economy as the foundation of ocean and human well-being in the context of the Blue Economy. The Pacific may be considered as the global demonstration site for the role of the subsistence economy and how it has provided buffers against the challenges of a growing monetised economy. The subsistence economy is also categorised by certain divisions of labour based on gender and lessons and experiences should be shared globally. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and governments need to work with communities to understand their needs and also to share insights on changes that may be required to enhance sustainability and strengthen natural capital enhancement. In addition, support should be given to those within the subsistence sector with entrepreneurial and innovative ideas to enable them to move beyond subsistence in a sustainable manner. The island economies may be thought of as a continuum ranging from external economic actors to local and subsistence and they all have a role to play interacting with each other. Major economic actors should understand the subsistence economy and the people involved in it and ensure that their activities do not

undermine that economy and the national systems they depend on. Opportunities also exist for harnessing technology and innovations to strengthen the subsistence sector.

Changing mindsets of small and local businesses – the challenges of how to encourage small business and local business to employ research and development, innovation and changing the business model towards a Blue Economy was raised. It was suggested that we need to move beyond the innovation of technologies to changing the way we do business. An example was given of a business model that ensures that the monetary gains from sustainably sourced fish are shared back along the supply chain to the fishers, thus encouraging fishers to commit to sustainable fishing.

Aquaculture for food security – it was observed that currently there is little evidence that aquaculture is contributing substantively to food security in the Pacific islands. Changing the business model in this sector will require learning from other experiences and changing our mindset to ensure that aquaculture does not contribute to endangering the marine ecosystems. The business model for aquaculture has often been constrained by the geopolitics of the waters and where you can use the ocean – such as moving into open waters and rough conditions. A whole of system approach, that views the ocean as an entire global system, is needed. The point was made that currently the control of aquaculture is in the hands of the feed suppliers and those with the equipment. A more global approach that brings together the science with the operators and funders has the potential for a more natural and feed-free aquaculture approach that will help feed communities globally.



5.0 The Blue Economy: A Pacific Perspective

Facilitator: Dr. Jeremy Hills, Director, Institute of Marine Resources, University of the South Pacific (USP)

The session facilitator, Dr Jeremy Hills, introduced the session and reflected that ambitious, innovative examples of practical implementation on areas of the Blue Economy have been presented. It was important to look to the past for the future – the ancestry and collective culture of the peoples of the Pacific and the key to our future is held with the sea. He noted the following about the Blue Economy:

- It is a wide portfolio of activities – it is not just fish, fishing and selling fish.
- It looks into aspects of national sovereign debt and the exchange of that debt for management of fisheries and adaptation.
- It involves more diverse, more range of other aspects of national and national economies.
- There are existing policy frameworks which support a Blue Economy.
- There may be a need for trade off and a need for some tough decisions to be made.
- It must involve innovations but without losing collective cultures of the Pacific.

H.E. Hersey Kyota, Ambassador of Palau to USA, Chair of the Board of GLISPA

H. E. Hersey Kyoto paid homage to the President of Palau, Hon Tommy Remengesau, and his commitment to ocean conservation and management.

As Chair of the Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA), the Ambassador introduced the partnership as a dynamic island alliance formed in 2006 by President Remengesau of Palau and President James Michel of Seychelles. Since then GLISPA has grown exponentially and now has four island leaders – Presidents of Palau and Seychelles, Prime Minister of Granada and the Premier of the British Virgin Islands – championing the work of the partnership. GLISPA now has more than 25 active members including PIDF, more than 30 friends and two main supporters. They are united by one ocean to promote resilience and sustainable use of our island resources. He urged others to consider joining GLISPA¹³.

On the concept of the Blue Economy, he said that this was a way of life practiced for centuries by our forefathers. In Palau it is known as *Bul*. As a small island with limited natural resources, the people of Palau have always depended on the ocean for food security, livelihoods, recreational activities and economic benefit. However, in today's complex and expanding economy, the quest for wealth is leading to exploitation of natural resources at an alarming rate and without any plan for sustainability. He urged that Pacific countries, as stewards of the ocean and coastal resources, must come together and pledge not only in words but with concrete actions to protecting our ocean resources for generations to come. He highlighted the need for Pacific Islanders to take heed of traditional practices and knowledge even as they pursue island wealth and prosperity and used the example of *Bul* and its practice today in the form of marine protected areas, which are no-take zones enforced through marine law and marine park rangers.

In 2006 Palau joined the Micronesia Challenge, committing to effectively manage and protect 40% of their nearshore and 20% of terrestrial resources by 2020. The Ambassador reported that Palau now has 6,458 km² of nearshore marine area protected through the establishment of more than 150 Protected Areas. USD18 million has been secured towards the goal of USD55 million to support this work.

¹³ www.glispa.org

In 2016, Palau created the Palau National Marine sanctuary, which comprises 80% of the country's EEZ as a no-take zone. The remaining 20% EEZ is reserved for regulated sustainable domestic fishing to ensure food security for the future. Palau hopes to improve the migratory fish stocks within their EEZ by improving surveillance of their EEZ and expanding the fishing capacity of Palau waters. This would help increase revenues and preserve both pelagic and reef fish stock. A “pristine paradise” fee is also being explored with partners. Preservation and protection of the environment is essential to our economy.

John Tanzer, Practice Leader, Oceans, WWF International Video Message

WWF International Oceans Practice Leader, Mr John Tanzer, acknowledged the leadership of Sweden and Fiji at the UN Ocean Conference and highlighted the strong contribution from the Pacific in the dialogue on ocean conservation. He observed that global political will has never been higher and this is indicated through the inclusion of SDG 14 in the global sustainable development agenda. He stressed that with regard to ocean management, time is not on our side. WWF is working with partners and are keen to support the effective implementation of SDG 14 by elevating the role of the ocean in helping leaders achieve their economic and social agendas. Political and business leaders need to be supported to understand the inherent value of nature and biodiversity and the long term pay off of ocean conservation.

Mr Tanzer referenced the WWF report *Reviving the Ocean Economy*, which found that globally the ocean produces at least USD2.5 trillion annually from fishing and other activities. This is drawn from an from asset base conservatively measured at USD24 trillion. An assessment of the marine resources of the Melanesia region in 2016 (*Reviving Melanesia's Ocean Economy*) showed that if the ocean around Melanesia were its own economy, it would be the third largest economy in the Pacific, after Papua New Guinea and New Caledonia. The analysis also showed that those resources that contribute to this economy are not in good health – these include declining fisheries, mangrove destruction, marine pollution and loss of coral reefs. He stressed that the loss of tropical coral reefs due to bleaching is resulting in unprecedented loss of biodiversity. Half the Great Barrier Reef has been lost due to a recent mass bleaching event. The rest of our coral reefs will be lost in the next 30 years.

If well-managed, the tide can be turned. WWF is working to address political will and financial investment through a series of strategies.

He observed that terms such as Blue Growth, Blue Economy are being used in common policy language all over the world and that the language needs to be clearly defined. This needs to be done in order to establish a framework with clear measurable goals and targets that will seek a win-win solution. He cautioned that without such a framework, we risk undermining the very possibility of long term growth and development and may end up with a Blue Economy that is neither sustainable nor attainable and that continues business as usual.

WWF is working to address this and have recently developed a set of “Principles for a Sustainable Blue Economy”¹⁴ through a global consultation process. These principles can help serve as a navigational chart for stakeholders, including public and private sector and are fully aligned with the SDGs.

He highlighted examples from the Pacific, including the work on Fiji's Great Sea Reef that can be models for how conservation can help sustain healthy communities. WWF is keen to support the work of the Pacific as it moves forward in its quest for a sustainable Blue Economy.

¹⁴ WWF, 2015.

Jean-Michel Cousteau, Oceanographer, Ocean Futures, Savusavu

Mr Cousteau observed that there is only one big ocean on the planet. Humans are the only species on the planet that has the privilege to decide not to disappear.

We must manage the ocean, the planet and animals in the same way a business is managed and viewing each species as capital. Increased pollution is placing pressure on this capital. He highlighted the need to capitalise on the increased connectivity which makes it easier to share information, and emphasised the importance of education and investment in young people. A change in lifestyle is needed with investment in clean renewable energy. Mr Cousteau also raised the need to create living shorelines that can help reduce flooding and rising seas noting threats of climate change to erosion and to natural disasters and thus to people's lives.

He stated that there is opportunity to also communicate with decision makers and to try to reach their hearts. He gave the example of the creation of the largest MPA in Hawaii by President Bush and in 2016 expanded to four times the original size by President Obama following a visit to the MPA site.

Mr Cousteau highlighted their work of Ocean Futures with children in the villages within Savusavu, noting that education is paramount.

He pledged the assistance and support of Ocean Futures to the Fiji COP23 presidency and advised that he will be meeting with the governor of California to discuss supporting COP23.

Two short films were played highlighting the advocacy work of Ocean Futures and more information is available at www.oceanfutures.org.

Sarah Thomas Nededog, Board Chair of Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO)

Ms Nededog spoke on PIANGO's role on strengthening civil society engagement in development discussions, noting the need for inclusive partnership between government, civil society and the private sector. She stressed that the Pacific Blue Economy must embrace human rights, putting people at the centre of the development paradigm and recognising that improving human well-being is the ultimate outcome of development outcomes.

The commercial utilisation of oceans is steadily increasing with increasing demands resulting in conflict of interests. It is important to consider ethical values, especially to those who cannot advocate for themselves and to ensure both social and environmental safeguards.

She cautioned that there is a danger that the current processes to regulate ocean governance will overemphasise business, neglecting traditional aspects and knowledge in pursuit of profits. Ms Nededog also highlighted the experimental deep sea mining (DSM) project Solwara 1 in Papua New Guinea noting that the issue was raised during the UN Ocean Conference. DSM disregards the local communities and is not a sustainable strategy for Pacific Islands. She urged countries to be vigilant against development models that extract resources and to be courageous and bold with actions. She asked that future generations and the most vulnerable be given consideration in each decision being made.

Francis Chopin, the FAP-Pacific Aquaculture and fisheries Expert, Food and Agriculture Organisation

(FAO)

Mr Chopin noted that a Blue Economy requires a multi-sectoral approach in all key areas, including fisheries, and there is a need for collaboration across stakeholders at a scale that has never previously been perceived across nations and across public and private sectors. A business as usual approach will not be sufficient for a Blue Economy. A Blue Economy framework has implications that reach far beyond life below water and implementation of SDG 14 must be connected with all other SDGs.

FAO has introduced the Blue Growth initiative, through which it can assist countries to implement a Blue Economy and achieve their SDG targets. The Blue Growth framework addresses fisheries, food security, aquaculture and nutrition. Mr Chopin noted that FAO is the UN's proposed custodian for 21 SDG indicators, which range from SDGs 2, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15.

FAO's support to the Pacific region includes facilitation of the process towards accession to The Port State Measure Agreement, a binding instrument to combat IUU Fishing. FAO is also providing capacity to support implementation of this agreement. FAO has assisted with improving the management of small-scale coastal fisheries and addressing food security and nutrition through a series of guidelines in collaboration with other UN agencies.

Sefanaia Nawadra, Head, Pacific Sub Regional Office, UN Environment

Mr Nawadra noted that much had already been covered by previous speakers and he highlighted some additional areas for consideration.

Definitions - he cautioned against overly focusing on definitions and terminology, reflecting that the use of colours has tended to cause undue confusion. Rather, the need is to focus on sustainable development.

Existing national and regional frameworks - discussions should consider how the Blue Economy concept will fit into existing national priorities and not assume that there is a vacuum (e.g. a "green growth framework" may already reflect the Blue Economy principles and we do not need a separate "Blue Economy plan"). The focus should be on how we are emphasising and looking after the ocean. We need to focus on what we already have and strengthen these existing policies and strategies.

Partnerships – make use of existing partnerships and strengthen and innovate with these.

Defining our core business – organisations need to identify and work within their own core business. Working outside the core business leads to stressed human and financial resources. He urged coordination and building on one another's core businesses.

Marine pollution on UN agenda – Mr Nawadra noted that the Pacific Islands need to strengthen the inclusion of marine pollution as a major issue on the UN agenda and that there is opportunity to do this at the UN Environmental assembly to be held in Nairobi this year with the launch of the clean seas programme. He stated there is a need to elevate and action the voluntary commitment made at the ocean conference by the Pacific on marine pollution.

Mainstreaming and integration – he observed that while there are many pilot projects, these are rarely mainstreamed to become the norm. Reflecting that it has taken over 20 years to mainstream climate change to where it is now, he stressed that we need to aim to put oceans on the same level [of political will and action] as we have done for climate change but in less time.

Disaggregated data – Mr Nawadra stated that decisions are only good when they are informed. There is a demand now for the data and we have global indicators and so we need to start generating the necessary data.

Discussion

The need to engage children at an early stage was raised. Ms Nededog stated that this is what NGOs strive for, working with the most vulnerable persons, including children and people living with disabilities, to help them become involved in shaping their future. She added that PIDF and PIFS recognise the importance of including civil society together with the business sector and government to devise those strategies. We need to really truly start with the grassroots to make it successful – by working with schools, communities and the vulnerable and disenfranchised.

Mr Cousteau observed that education is meaningless if people are starving and suggested that security of food and livelihoods must be met in order for the poorer communities to be engaged.

Mr Chopin advised that FAO has recognised the need to broaden its audiences and stakeholders and is commencing partnerships with ministries of education as part of the dialogue.



6.0 Key Ocean Industries

Facilitator: Sue Miller Taii, Executive Director, Conservation International New Zealand and Pacific Islands

Ms Sue Miller Taii introduced the session noting that its purpose was to discuss the opportunities for existing industries facing the transition to more environmentally sustainable practices. It was also important to consider new and innovative investments, where technologies and business models and innovations are focused on promoting or restoring ocean health.

Hon. Alfred Jr. Alfred, Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce, Republic of the Marshall Islands

The Honourable Minister Alfred J. Alfred observed that the issues to be discussed at this conference are crucial and at the core of the nation building efforts in the Marshall Islands. He highlighted that the Marshall Islands are experiencing first-hand the impacts of climate change and also referred to the earlier impacts of nuclear testing in his country. He stated that this has strengthened the nation's resolve to address issues of ocean conservation and protection of its resources. Proper use of the ocean resources can translate into food and job security, and enhance livelihoods and economic growth.

The Minister observed that the implementation of the purse seine Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) has been made possible through cooperation with the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) and has resulted in an increase in the value of return to the PNA from USD60 million in 2010 to USD500 million in 2016. The success of the VDS suggests that, with the right operative framework it will be possible to increase economic benefits at domestic level from fisheries investment. The Ambassador advised that the Marshall Islands' fisheries information management system is a world class monitoring surveillance and control tool, which is used by PNA countries and Tokelau for monitoring the VDS. The system captures real time data for more accurate analysis and is a step towards detecting and deterring IUU.

He observed that the management of the regional oceanscape is complex and countries need to work collaboratively through the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), the PNA and the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) to continue to save the fisheries landscape and ensure that we are not left behind.

In light of the significant increase in revenue generated through the VDS, the Marshall Islands has applied a 3% blue fee on annual fisheries revenue. This will facilitate implementation of their sustainable development plan, *Looking Forward into the Future*. Community based conservation and managed areas working through traditional systems are also being supported and a national oceans symposium has been conducted to enable consultation at all levels.

The Hon. Minister observed that maritime transportation is the lifeline of Micronesia's communities and that meaningful sustainable development aspirations must be considered against that. There are plans to transform Marshall Islands' domestic maritime sector to a low carbon one. The development of sustainable transportation initiatives is not just a mitigation effort but one of adaptation. He acknowledged the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Tokelau for their support on this project.

He urged countries to stand up and make their voices heard at the global level.

Hon. Semisi Fakahau, Minister for Agriculture, Food, Forests and Fisheries, Tonga.

The Honourable Minister Semisi Fakahau spoke on the value of indigenous knowledge and gave examples of how the moon, wind and tide can be used for determining fishing sites.

He stated that Tonga was unique in declaring its national territorial boundaries in 1887 through a royal proclamation. The country was defined as being made up of islands, reefs, foreshore and waters. The UNCLOS, which resulted in the creation of EEZs, became effective in 1994, 107 years after Tonga's own declaration. He noted that Tonga's definition did not separate the ocean from its land.

The Hon. Minister stated that there has been a great shift in perception regarding the value placed on ocean resources and that effective management of these resources is vital for a Blue Economy. For many countries, ocean resource development has been included in their long term plans. He highlighted the need for increased cooperation and capacity development, and increased scientific knowledge through more research in small island developing states.

He highlighted Tonga's Strategic Development Framework 2015–2025, which entails seven national outcomes that support the SDGs and the Samoa Pathway Outcomes and are being mainstreamed at the sectoral level. The Tonga Fisheries Management Plan is one of these.

Tonga has established 22 Special Management Areas, similar to the community managed marine protected areas in other island countries. Prior to this, Tonga used an open access system (no traditional tenure or management), meaning that people could fish where they wanted. This worked well when fishing was only done for food. However, once people started to sell fish for money, inshore areas have become overexploited. Now communities have been empowered to take full control and manage designated inshore areas.

The Hon. Minister noted that he is encouraged to see the commitment of many Pacific Island governments in the creation of large marine areas and whale sanctuaries. Tonga, which is the most important breeding location for the Oceania humpback whale in the Pacific, established its waters as a marine sanctuary and this was further discussed in the parallel session on tourism.

Following the plenary presentations, participants moved into three parallel sessions aimed at further exploring key ocean industries in the context of a Blue Economy.



Parallel Session 1: Oceanic Fisheries (Britannia)
Facilitator: Sue Miller Taei

Dr Johann Bell, Conservation International

Dr Johann Bell commended the VDS as a best practice and noted that it has resulted in an increase of 400% in revenue for PNA members and Tokelau.

He reflected on the vital role of fish for food security with the Pacific consuming a minimum of 35 kg/person/year. Most of this is provided from subsistence and small scale inshore fisheries. As populations grow, there is a need to plan for food security using the minimum of 35 kg pp/year.

He advised that the key problem is that most fish comes from coastal fish habitats over time and the time is coming when these coastal fish stocks will not be able to provide the quantities needed. He noted that key regional frameworks such as the *New Song for Fisheries* and the *Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Coastal Fisheries* have been developed to help manage the situation. However, he cautioned that even with good management, the situation will be made worse with the added effects of climate change (coral bleaching and acidification).

He suggested that one option would be to use the abundant tuna resource to fill the nutritional gap and will only require a small fraction of the industrial catch. However, he added that in 2020 the tuna required for food security will be only 2% of the entire industrial catch but that this figure will rise to 6% by 2035.

He recommended fish aggregating devices offshore for rural communities to move the pressure away from inshore. For urban communities, transshipments could supply smaller tuna and bycatch from commercial fishers. Funding could come from licenses for tuna fisheries.

He noted that adaptation options to climate change will require managing tuna according to discreet populations and not as one stock.

Dr Bryony Townhill, Marine Climate Change Scientist, The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), UK

Dr Townhill introduced the Commonwealth Marine Economies (CME) programme in the Pacific. Within the programme there are also a number of smaller projects being conducted in different countries. CME focuses on sustainable initiatives to promote economic growth and prosperity. The projects aim to put in place actions that will support a sustainable Blue Economy without the need for significant money or resources. The main objective is to provide skills and expertise to monitor and manage the surrounding marine environment of small island states. The programme is in the Pacific, Caribbean and Indian Ocean and works closely with governments, ensuring capacity building and integration into policy.

CME is currently working with countries to produce a Pacific Marine Climate Change report card. It aims to summarise existing marine climate change research and bring it in a form that policy makers can use in decision making.

She mentioned work being done in Vanuatu on pollution assessment in the harbour, marine litter, blue carbon storage of sea grass beds and to build a risk framework to enable the government to clean up the harbour and build resilience in the ecosystems.

Discussion

Small scale fishers and equitability – it was observed that a lot of fishers have moved from food/subsistence fisheries to a small scale cash economy. The redistribution of bycatch from large tuna fishing vessels is leaving these small scale fishers without an income. Similarly, the placement of FADs in Vanuatu has resulted in local commercial fishing operators taking over these areas and taking the fish for themselves. Consideration needs to be given to addressing this conflict between small scale fishers and large commercial interests and making sure the benefits are equitable to all of society.

Dr Bell also noted that issues are different in different countries. He advised that in Vanuatu, the near shore FADs are meant for subsistence/small scale fishers who currently cannot go further out due to safety concerns. A second group of FADs, placed further out, is needed for large scale fishers. He also advised that training programmes are being developed to implement maritime safety for small boats and fishers so they can travel further out however all this requires careful planning and he referred to the afore-mentioned GCF application, which will take a country by country approach.

Farming of tuna – a question was raised on whether the Pacific is exploring tuna farming as is being done elsewhere. Dr Bell advised that the species being farmed are the southern Atlantic blue fin tuna, which is a high value fish targeted at the Japanese market. In the Pacific, the fish destined for canning is worth up to USD2 per kg while the second fishery targeting larger tuna fetches USD8–11 per kg. This makes it difficult to make a profit through farming.

Effects on pregnant women of consuming tuna – a question was raised about the risks of mercury consumption, given the focus on turning to tuna as a food source. Dr Bell advised that this was a valid concern that is being discussed and explored. A recent study on mercury levels had been conducted in women in six rural centres in the region¹⁵. Dr Bell noted that the study showed that almost all the women studied had blood mercury levels in excess of US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. He stressed that these women were consuming extremely large amounts of tuna – between 80 and 100 kg/person/year. He referred to an analysis by SPC and USP that showed that people could consume up to 16 meals of 250 grams of skipjack tuna a month and remain below the EPA limit (of safe blood mercury level). He added that people don't just consume tuna but other types of fish species and that sampling for mercury would need to be done for women in all countries and for all types of fish to better understand how this can be managed.

Current confidence in climate change models for pelagic and nearshore fisheries – Dr Townhill noted that there are many models available but that it is necessary to take into consideration a number of models to manage fisheries.

Climate change impact on size of fish – Dr Townhill responded to a question on the current debate that sea temperature rise will result in decrease in fish size by 20%. She said that there are also some indications that at certain latitudes fish size will increase for the same reason. However globally, indications are that fish size will decrease due to higher temperatures.

¹⁵ Bell, L., 2017.

Dr Townhill further stated that this is based on the assumption that there is no fisheries management in place. She suggested that other factors need to also be considered (such as pH levels) in terms of how they interact and that resilience could be built by enabling management conditions that could allow adaptation over time.

Success of the PNA as a collaborative example of benefit sharing – the PNA's Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) was hailed a true best practice and a method of ensuring equitable sharing of benefits. Dr Bell explained that the VDS came about because the skipjack tuna tend to move around according to whether we are in a La Nina or an El Nino season. This means that in some years the tuna will be more prevalent around some countries than others. The eight PNA countries agreed to get together and put a cap on the amount of tuna they will allow to be caught in total in their region each year. Using scientific analysis based on past data and other tools, they determine how many fishing vessel days this is equivalent to and then apportion the days to each of the countries. The system allows countries to sell their allocated days through another PNA member. Thus, for example, if during a La Nina season the fish are prevalent in Papua New Guinea but not in Kiribati, Kiribati may sell its fishing days through Papua New Guinea. The system thus ensures that all participating nations can continue to benefit regardless of whether boats are actually fishing in their waters or not. Dr Bell highlighted that the VDS story should be better shared through the media.

Aquaculture – questions were raised from Vanuatu on whether tilapia farming can enhance coastal communities and from Kiribati, where introduction of tilapia has resulted in loss of milkfish, a traditionally important species on one of the outer islands. Dr Bell observed that tilapia, which is a freshwater fish, is a very simple and quick fish to farm and requires minimal equipment and costs. Where a community has a rapidly growing population, tilapia farming in ponds can help to keep the fishing pressure off the reef. Tilapia is an introduced species and its impact on biodiversity in the islands is unclear although there are suggestions that in Fiji, tilapia may be responsible for the loss of goby fishes in the Rewa River. However this is not proven and other factors, such as habitat destruction, may also have been responsible. He explained that there are two types of tilapia – Mozambique and Nile. The Nile tilapia is being farmed in several countries, including Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Vanuatu and Samoa. Regarding the Kiribati issue, Dr Bell said this would be worth looking into further.

Working conditions – the International Labour Organization (ILO) raised the issue of working conditions for fishers and advised that ILO is working on studies to better understand these conditions in the Pacific.



Parallel Session 2: Marine and Coastal Tourism
Facilitator: Mark Borg

Christina Leala Gale, Manager – Sustainable Tourism Development, South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO)

Ms Leala Gale advised that the SPTO is an intergovernmental regional organisation serving 17 member countries and has a private sector membership base of 100. China is a non-beneficiary member. In 2015 SPTO established its sustainable tourism unit with the aim of ensuring sustainability in tourism. This is a significant task as tourism is at a difficult stage, it is multi-facted and there is no “one size fits all” in tourism.

She added that tourism is highly vulnerable to climate change and disasters and there are limited opportunities and financing for training in sustainable tourism.

Awareness of sustainable tourism is low and there are different interpretations within government and the private sector. She highlighted that 2017 is the Year of Sustainable Tourism which aims to build awareness on the value of doing business sustainably.

Ms Leala-Gale noted the need for collaboration with partners, private sector members, NGOs and others who have the knowledge and expertise relevant for environmental conservation. SPTO is in the process of becoming an affiliate member of WTO and is creating links with the Caribbean.

She observed that there is no data on environmental impacts of the tourism sector. Data, information and research on sustainable tourism remain inadequate. As an example, Ms Leala-Gale noted that data in the National Tourism Offices is limited to collecting information on visitor arrivals and they rely on others to calculate contributions to economic development.

She outlined a number of opportunities that the SPTO will be pursuing.

In collaboration with SPREP, SPTO is developing coastal tourism guidelines on environmental impact assessment. This will help increase awareness and understanding of EIAs and promote best practice and compliance relating to EIAs.

A joint voluntary commitment (with SPREP) was made to the UN Ocean conference on whale watching to promote best practice and collaboration.

There is opportunity to better track how well are we doing through a partnership with Sustainable Travel International.

Work has started on looking at better monitoring consumption in the tourism sector through a Pacific Tourism sustainability monitoring programme (online toolkit). The aim is to help hotels to self-report and self-monitor.

SPTO hopes to better support work at the national level on sustainable tourism policies and it was noted that Cook Islands and Niue have already developed such policies.

There is a need to develop Pacific Quality Standards for tourism products and services. It was noted that guests often expect a unified standard. Vanuatu is developing their standards with EcoTourism Australia while several countries have accreditation programmes for accommodation. Ms Leala-Gale noted the need to ensure that any standards take into account the social and environmental aspects.

She also noted a marine ecotourism study being carried out by SPREP, the establishment of a Pacific sustainable tourism network to share information and best practices and promote champions and she advised that Samoa's prime minister is the Sustainable Tourism Ambassador.

Colin Philp, Manager Leleuvia Island Resort and President, Fiji Voyaging Society

Mr Philp explained that Leleuvia does not have the benefit of being located close to key tourism destinations such as Nadi, the Mamanucas or the Coral Coast and it has had to make itself a destination in its own right. Leleuvia is located midway between the chiefly island of Bau and Fiji's first World Heritage site – Levuka. Their main focus has thus been culture and history, marine environment and ocean sports and the resort is driven by desire for a low impact, sustainable ecofriendly tourism business.

At an early stage the resort commenced working with the community and in 2012 contracted workers from eight different villages to help build bures for the resort using traditional practices. All the contracted groups included elders and unemployed youth to ensure skill transfer to the youth. Up to 70% of the materials used in the construction of the bures came from within a 6 km radius of the island.

A 7.5 km² marine reserve was established in June 2013 and has proven successful as the reserve is in a favourable patch of ocean with deep water currents bringing nutrients from the ocean; large mangrove areas close by and large rivers feeding the Bau Waters with nutrients from the main island. The Reserve is protected by Fish Wardens who were trained through the Department of Fisheries. Coral planting and reef surveys were a necessity but these are now also guest activities along with turtle tagging and whale and dolphin watching. The resort continues to work closely with the Department of Fisheries.

Other sustainable measures include import substitution by growing vegetables on the island and the introduction of a plastics ban in 2016.

Mr Philp added that Leleuvia's point of difference is the large range of ocean sports it offers – more than any other hotel in the region.

He highlighted some challenges which include a lack of government incentives that encourage tourism operations to follow the Leleuvia example; illegal fishing and the need to ensure that visitor numbers remain in check with what the island's natural resources can sustain.

Mr Philp made some recommendations for enabling similar businesses:

- Tax incentives and low interest loans for businesses taking the initiative to be environmentally sustainable
- Like minded businesses working together, sharing ideas and supporting each other
- More value placed on maintaining environmentally sustainable practices

He stated that there are many of "positives" in a business such as Leleuvia including:

- Huge market for people looking for a "Leleuvia" type tourism product
- Low impact on the environment means the marine and bird life keeps on improving and is an added incentive for visitors to return
- Leleuvia has a positive impact on visitors with many saying they have changed their habits after visiting the island
- Staff have become Ocean Warriors
- Very positive community partnerships.

Hon Semisi Fakahau, Tonga

The Hon. Minister advised that King Taufa'ahau put in place a policy in 1978 to ban whaling in Tonga. As a result, the population of whales has slowly recovered and is now around 3000.

Since then, 11 countries have established whale sanctuaries.

He highlighted the significant revenue can be generated from whale watching. Whale watching has provided an important stepping stone in promoting eco-tourism as tourists also enjoy diving and observing marine ecosystems.



Discussion

The issues discussed are summarised.

Awareness raising – SPTO explained that they went on a roadshow and explained to each community what we were doing. It was only after this that they got buy-in from the communities.

Renewable energy – it was noted that the most important areas for renewable energy are the housing sector and transportation sector (cruise ships). They use the most energy and could be a potential starting point to consider renewable energy. The cruise ship sector also inputs significantly into the community. SPTO advised that currently they do not have the technical knowledge to support their members in many areas, including in addressing emissions reductions. Mr Philips advised that in Leleuvia most of the energy usage is on boats. Currently this is 80,000 litres of unleaded and 12,000 litres of diesel. They are looking at other options, including sailing. He noted that one area that is forgotten is cruising tourism, which has very little footprint on the environment. He suggested that this could be used for tours, whale watching, etc.

Replication of use of traditional knowledge – a question was raised on how SPTO might support other traditional activities for tourism, for example the calling of dolphins in Solomon Islands. SPTO advised that the ultimate goal is to promote sustainability in all their destinations. One of the challenges is that there is no platform to showcase best practices and to enable traditional knowledge holders to tell their stories. However a lot of good things are happening now and SPTO would like to promote organisations and enable them to learn from each other. A comment was made that tourism in the Pacific should try and shy away from the type of tourism practised elsewhere and to ensure that benefits go to the local community and government rather than being exported.

Incentives for good practices – suggestions were made for community involvement and governments to provide an enabling environment that will encourage good practice in the tourism industry.

Visitor number control – addressing a question on how to determine maximum visitor numbers, Mr Philips advised that one indicator for Leleuvia is its sewerage system. He reminded that an important issue to be addressed for islands is reduction of waste.

Standards and guidelines – it was recommended that tourism ventures need to work with local enforcement agencies and government ministries and to support communities to use their own bylaws where practical. The government provides the enabling environment - legislation.

Parallel Session 3: Coastal Fisheries and Community Livelihoods

Facilitator: Viliame Kasanawaqa

Mr Justin Hunter, J.S. Hunter Pearls Fiji Ltd

Mr Hunter introduced J.S. Hunter Pearls, which he founded in 1999 in Savusavu. He presented the voluntary commitment to the UN Ocean Conference led by the Fiji Pearl Association with the Government of Fiji. The voluntary commitment is to establish a public private partnership towards establishing a sustainable and blue economy that is community-based and will enhance the effectiveness of locally managed marine areas, integrated coastal management, and land and sea management programmes, while also creating meaningful employment and income generating opportunities for communities involved in pearl farming.

The proposed partnership will involve the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area (FLMMA) network and Women in Fisheries. The objectives are: the preservation of marine ecosystems; social and economic sustainability; and a sustainable luxury model for Fiji and globally. Implementation of this voluntary commitment will also address SDGs 1, 5, 8, 10, 12 and 13.

**Mr Francis Chopin, FAP-Pacific Aquaculture and Fisheries Expert, FAO.
Community Fisheries and Community Livelihoods**

Mr Chopin observed that the problems in the Pacific were not dissimilar to those in other island countries where, despite large bodies of water, there is ongoing depletion of local/coastal resources. Island nations must also deal with high costs of imports and export.

He stated the need to further investigate what is going wrong in the communities in which we are working and to also identify what is right. He suggested that this would help identify the root cause, for example, the issue of resource depletion may be associated with beach erosion, health of people, etc. He urged the need to be broad and open in our thinking.

Alifereti Tawake, Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs)

Mr Tawake noted that coastal fisheries and coastal livelihoods are inseparable and that seafood is connected to the people. He advised that 90% of the Pacific Island population depends on coastal fisheries for protein, with a large part of this forming the subsistence economy. He stressed the need to take the subsistence economy into consideration.

To address the reality of declining coastal fisheries resources, there is a need to take a different approach and to change the terminology and thinking from fisheries development to fisheries management. He stated that communities need to be intentionally empowered to manage their fisheries. We need to work with communities so they are able to exercise their rights and responsibilities and to pass this on to future generations. Mr Tawake described the use of MPAs and traditional management tools in 470 villages in Fiji (through the LMMA network) and stated that it is possible to restore our fisheries village by village, and island by island. He noted the need for village plans to take an integrated ridge to reef approach that focuses beyond fisheries and addresses issues of connectivity from the land and down to the fisheries. He reflected that this is embodied in our Pacific thinking, where the *vanua* or the land and the sea are inseparable.

Mr Tawake also noted that solutions such as aquaculture are being discussed and he stressed that well managed coastal fisheries should be basis of sustainable aquaculture. He stated that we should not lose hope of managing what we have in terms of our coastal resources and that well-managed sustainable fisheries should be the foundation of a blue economy.

Cathy Joyce, Pacific Ocean Culture Pte.

Ms Joyce introduced her business, Pacific Ocean Culture, which is an integrated aquaculture company with the vision for “affordable abundance of nutrition”. She observed that nearly half the fish consumed globally comes from aquaculture and highlighted that aquaculture can help address the issue of overfishing.

She noted the need for the aquaculture industry to include communities and small scale farming and discussed the work being done by Pacific Ocean Culture which hopes to help address the issue of overfishing by developing a sustainable seafood industry in Fiji. The business is partnering with the Fiji National University to help in capacity development. Pacific Ocean Culture has a goal of zero waste, which it aims to achieve through an integrated system and to provide employment to skilled workers.

Ms Joyce advised that aquaculture can help improve rural livelihoods, provide an affordable nutrition resource and a sustainable resource for the Blue Economy.

Discussion

Mr Hunter responded to a question on pearls and explained that pearls are grown from oysters. However Hunter Pearls is also exploring giant clams. He noted that the industry has to be sustainable and environmentally benign (i.e. not impact coastal fisheries) as food security is essential.

It was observed that the aquaculture industry in the Pacific has not been highly successful in the last 50 years and there was no clear understanding on what the reasons are.

Suggestions were made that aquaculture needs to be seen as having a place side by side with coastal fisheries, with a focus on regenerating the ocean for future generations. New ideas and technologies need to be explored to enable a range of prices to be brought to the market. Processing systems need to be monitored to ensure sustainability.

The need to manage aquaculture to prevent environment impacts was acknowledged. Involving the communities in management as part of their integrated village plans was suggested.



7.0 Innovation in the Blue Economy – Emerging Industries

Facilitator: Andrew Foran, Head, Pacific Centre for Environmental Governance, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Dr Andrew Foran introduced the session and outlined the format. He noted the shift from the small and the vulnerable to that of large ocean and opportunities and highlighted the ongoing need for balance between conservation and resource development and for adherence to the Rio principles and values and ethics as emerging industries is explored.

Dr Andy Stevens, Research Director of the CSIRO Coastal Development & Management Program, CSIRO

Dr Stevens provided an overview, from his perspective on opportunities and challenges regarding the three emerging industries to be discussed and on considerations as we move forward on emerging industries.

Marine Renewable Energy (MRE) – there are four key types of technologies: offshore wind, wave, tidal and Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) /salinity. While some pilots have been set up, but none are really operating at scale other than in Hawaii, Caribbean and Australia. There are potential benefits in terms of meeting energy demand for small islands and remote communities in a cost competitive manner. Strong governance structures are in place through the Barbados declaration on renewable energy¹⁶ and the Samoa Pathway. He noted that while MRE is environmentally relatively benign, the technology is still a decade away. There are risks of raising financial capital at the early stages of technology but these are generally borne by the companies. Local capacity will need to be built at all levels to incorporate, plan and develop these technologies within existing national systems.

Deep Sea Mining (DSM) – this is still a controversial, expensive and untested issue. Dr Stevens advised that there are a number of different types of mineral beds to be exploited but the technology is expensive process. The Solwara project in Papua New Guinea is expected to become operational by 2019. He Opportunities for small island states depends on what sovereign royalties will accrue from the activity. Guidelines have been developed by the International Seabed Authority and while some countries have granted leases, others such as Tonga, have put in place legislation to manage DSM. The key challenges are: expensive and untested technology; significant scientific uncertainty on the impacts of DSM on the environment; strong social opposition and no clear benefit in terms of jobs for local people.

Blue Carbon and Afforestation – mangroves, seagrasses, can contribute significantly to carbon sequestration while macroalgae and microalgae can deliver a range of other Blue Economy products – bioremediation, buffering of nutrients and carbon dioxide, biofuel etc. Blue Carbon stocktake is predicated around carbon inventories and markets. Most countries are looking at reporting on it as part of their Nationally Determined Commitments (NDC) and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) in the UNFCCC context. A number of international partnerships are being formed for science, policy and finance mechanisms and a range of legal frameworks and tools are starting to be developed. Dr Stevens stated that REDD+ may or may not be the right mechanism to implement this, particularly for mangroves. Capacity building is needed in terms of measuring and implementation. Financing needs to

¹⁶ Barbados Declaration on Achieving Sustainable Energy for All in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), 2012.

move beyond philanthropic investment to corporate investment and stewardships and this will require verifiable standards.

In moving forward, Dr Stevens he stressed the need to learn from the past and to have foresight in terms of what it is we want. He recommended two books regarding going forward: *Waves of Prosperity* (Greg Clydesdale) and *Souls of the Sea - in the age of the algorithm*.

Dr Stevens stated that frameworks exist already and that bringing these together to navigate a way forward should be the focus. He noted the need for systems thinking, which brings together the different needs and takes a multi-sector approach to planning and development. The availability of tools and technology, including satellite data and smart technologies and the need for marine spatial planning. There is a range of emerging industries with potential benefits and risks and social acceptability. He suggested the need for a roadmap that will ensure we “play our cards right” in terms of what we want.

Following the presentation, participants moved into three parallel sessions to further discuss some of the key emerging industries in the context of the blue economy.

*Parallel Session 1: Seabed Resources
Facilitator: Andrew Foran*

Akuila Tawake, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, (SPC)

Mr Tawake commented that no DSM has yet taken place in the Pacific islands region. However, there has been interest and a number of exploration projects are being undertaken within national jurisdictions in the international sea bed area. SPC was approached a decade ago by Pacific Island Countries to assist them develop legal frameworks because of interests shown by private companies who wanted to carry out exploration projects.

There is the potential availability of minerals such as cobalt, copper, gold and manganese within national and international waters. Three exploration companies are presently active in the region: Nautilus Minerals, Neptune Minerals and the Korean Institute of Science and Technology (KIOST). Exploration licenses have been granted by Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu and a DSM mining licence was granted to Nautilus Minerals in January 2011 by Papua New Guinea. There is also DSM interest in the International Seabed Area of Nauru, Tonga, Kiribati and Cook Islands.

Mr Tawake advised that in terms of technology development, Nautilus is the only company with a mining license and they have completed and delivered the equipment to Papua New Guinea. The mining support vessel is due to be completed in 2018. He noted that other countries are also involved in DSM, including China, Korea and Japan and Japan is already conducting trial mining at the Okinawa Trough south of Japan.

He highlighted the main drivers of DSM in the Pacific as the opportunity to participate in a new economic sector and to provide an alternative source of economic development, which will hopefully contribute to the well-being of Pacific communities.

Mr Tawake outlined the SPC-European Union DSM project, which involved a number of activities across all countries in terms of policies, legislations and regulations development. Cost-benefit analyses were also conducted using three case studies from Cook Islands, Marshall Islands and Papua New Guinea.

Maureen Penjueli, Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG)

Ms Penjueli stated that the key question to be addressed is whether seabed mining is an economic opportunity for our countries and nations. PANG has undertaken work to look at the complexities of seabed mining and over the past years has focused on a critique of the SPC model mining legislation. She observed that DSM has been discussed in a narrow context and excluded good indigenous voices. The legislations were drafted in 2011 when little was known about the sea floor. To put things into perspective, she stated that we know more about the surface of our moon than we do about the ocean floor. We are learning more and more about the complexities of the ocean floor as the research improves.

Seabed mining remains highly speculative as an untried, untested industry in relation to economic benefits, a point that has been raised in several reports¹⁷, including internal reports of Nautilus, one of the mining companies in the region. Despite this, many Pacific countries have issued licenses, which together cover almost 500 million km² of ocean floor for exploration, and Papua New Guinea has also issued a license for mining. Ms Penjueli stated that many of the licenses were issued in a climate where governance was lacking any oversight (through public consultations, scientific advisory boards, etc). For example, in 2013, it was found that Vanuatu had issued over 140 licenses in the previous five years and without the knowledge of successive governments. She reflected that countries such as Australia, New Zealand and Mexico have chosen to take a cautionary approach instead.

Ms Penjueli stated that the model legislation put out by SPC in 2013 (adopted by PIF leaders in 2012) framed seabed mining as having little or no impact and considered a low-risk venture. Further, it over-emphasises economic benefits and opportunities for foreign investment. As a result, the model legislation lacks environmental safeguards and environmental impact assessments are left for states to decide whether they should or should not apply. She noted that the analysis had also found that key sectors had not been consulted and that the legislation failed to give special interests groups' attention, including women, children and indigenous groups. She stated that these groups would feel the brunt of any impacts of DSM activity.

She urged Pacific island countries to adopt the more precautionary stance of their neighbours, to require stringent EIAs, and to try to lobby countries to enact a moratorium on DSM until adequate scientific and research is available. She also cautioned that countries should be ready to combat the marine pollution [that will result from DSM]. She welcomed Fiji's recent announcement that no DSM activity is likely to take place in Fiji's EEZ as well as the call from the Prime Minister of Tuvalu for a ban on DSM.

Discussion

PIANGO requested information regarding the formula used for the cost benefit analysis and whether the costs included opportunity costs in terms of the minerals being extracted and the livelihoods involved. SPC advised that it had contracted the cost benefit analysis to Cardno and the report is publicly available¹⁸. The costs included environmental and operational. PANG has undertaken an independent assessment of the Cardno assessment and modelling used.

H.E. the Solomon Islands Ambassador to Fiji observed the challenge of reconciling the discussions on Blue Economy with discussions on seabed mining. He urged that countries, in light of their commitments

¹⁷ World Bank, 2016.

¹⁸ Cardno, 2016.

to Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, consider whether seabed mining is really part of the future we want or whether we were allowing ourselves to be dictated by the interests of others.

SPC viewed its role as providing technical advice and the decision [to allow DSM] rests with Pacific Island Countries. However, PANG considered that regional technical agencies must do better in terms of the technical advice given to help countries make informed decisions. The development of the model legislation by SPC was funded by the EU, which is vested in this issue. On the issue of reconciling DSM with the Blue Economy, PANG was of the view that if the ocean is the basis for our health and our wellbeing, then we have to situate [our decisions] in this context. PANG has conducted a comprehensive independent EIA and undertaken an assessment of the Cardno assessment and modelling.

Mr Jeff Ardron (Commonwealth Secretariat) observed that the discussion around DSM has been ongoing for almost a decade and asked what has evolved in that time. Mr Tawake advised that in terms of the science, there has been continuous collection of data to better understand mineral resources as well as environmental studies. Island countries have been better informed over the last ten years. He stressed that the principal role of SPC was to provide better advice and let the country decide. He also noted that the EU has been pulling [its DSM interests] out of the Pacific but was investing in its own DSM projects in Europe and there are a number of European companies involved in DSM. Dr Andy Stevens advised that scientific research and understanding is evolving and increasing with regard to the biology of deep sea beds, impact of tailings on the marine ecosystems, restabilisation of sea beds, etc. There are a number of scientific and advisory working groups and guidelines are being developed. Ms Penjueli stated that the scientific community is doing a lot around biodiversity, sea floor and water columns, but that more needs to be done to improve our understanding in order to inform decisions at the national level. There is a need to understand DSM impacts on other use areas of the ocean such as fisheries, migratory species and tourism. She advised that PANG has approached FFA and PNA to help with assessments to understand how DSM will affect productive industries such as tuna and food security issues. On the issue of tourism she noted that in some cases the DSM tenements are very close to the tourism sites for example, in Fiji, it is as close as 8 km away. She also noted that new information is coming to light that connects the deep sea vents to climate change. Science, livelihoods, customs and rights must also be taken into consideration when making decisions.



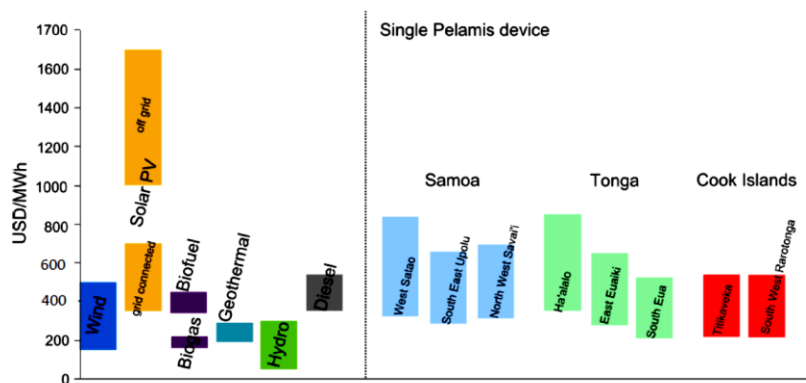
Jens Kruger, Manager, Ocean and Coastal Geoscience, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

Mr Kruger observed that Pacific islands countries pay twice more for fuel than other countries. He also advised that 70% of Pacific populations are living without access to modern forms of energy. Since fuel is used to generate energy for most of the countries, this puts PICT populations at a disadvantage in terms of access to energy. He noted that Cook Islands, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu are aiming to source 100% of their energy from renewable sources¹⁹. The key issue is to identify responsible energy sources for countries to help reduce their dependency on fossil fuel. Identifying these alternate energy sources require good data.

Mr Kruger advised that wave energy could be harnessed to generate electricity in the Pacific. A cost analysis of wave energy in the Pacific has been conducted by the Pacific Community with funding from the EU²⁰. He discussed different options for harnessing wave power, which include ocean thermal devices, turbines, attenuator and Pelamis. Pelamis is not yet commercially running. The SPC-EU study concentrated on Pelamis devices, identifying costs of installation, etc. A map was shown and wave heights were indicated).

Mr Kruger advised that costs of energy from different sources in the Pacific were also compared (graph shown on slide).

Comparison of the Cost of Energy for different energy sources in the Pacific



Adapted from Syngellakis 2011

He noted that Fiji is already producing 50% of its energy from renewable resources (e.g. Monasavu dam), and a new power plant using biogas has just been opened. He suggested that for countries such as Samoa, Tonga and Cook Islands, the cost of operating Pelamis device is promising and this could stimulate and develop a new industry.

Information on the estimated cost of producing wave energy for different locations is available at wacop.gsd.spc.int/.

¹⁹ PIFS, 2013.

²⁰ http://wacop.gsd.spc.int/Atlas/Reports/WACOP-Wave_Energy.pdf

Discussion

A comment was made noting that according to the presentation, there is not much potential for wave energy or renewable energy in the Marshall Islands. Mr Kruger advised that the study was carried out for only the Pelamis device. There are other devices that could be explored that might be more promising for the Marshall Islands. Given that the Marshalls has rough northern waves, other devices should be considered.

Regarding whether there is information comparing the cost of this device with other options such as Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC). Mr Kruger advised that studies are being conducted by USP and South Korea in Tuvalu and Tarawa. Information from these studies will hopefully help to provide a picture of other marine renewable resources. He added that when talking to politicians and investors this is the type of information that is needed. Korea is the market leader in OTEC and the results from the study are awaited. OTEC uses the temperature difference between that of deep water and shallow water to generate energy and needs platforms similar to oil rigs to help with the heat exchange.

Regarding a question on creating energy from waves on the reef, it was explained that this is done using a device which has a column of air that allows the wave energy to be directed through a turbine that then generates the energy. The USP engineering department has conducted a feasibility study on the south coast of Viti Levu.

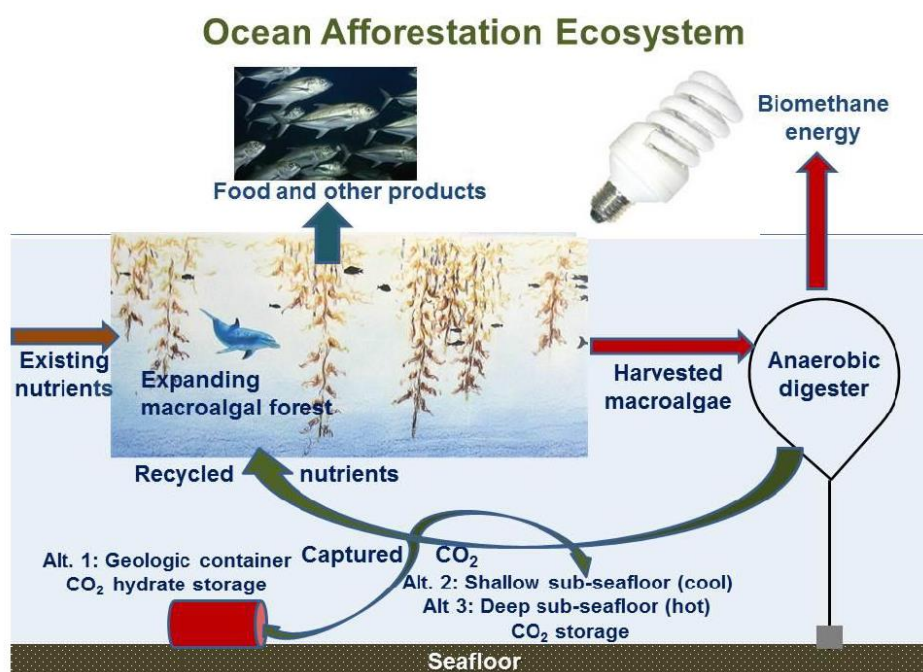


Parallel Session 3: Ocean Afforestation and Blue Carbon
Facilitator: Dr Tommy Moore, SPREP

Dr Antoine de Ramon N'Yeurt, Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (PaCE-SD, USP)

Dr N'Yeurt discussed Ocean Algal Afforestation (OAA) and its opportunities and implications, noting that although this is something new for the Pacific region, it has been done elsewhere.

OAA is a negative carbon emission technology, which uses the growth of natural populations of large seaweeds (macroalgae) to reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations through photosynthesis. Dr N'Yeurt advised that if 9% of ocean were to be covered with seaweed farms, this would potentially lead to reduction of CO₂ by 19 tonnes/year. In full operation, OAA could restore climate in less than 30–50 years to get back to pre-industrial levels. He explained the uses of marine algae, which can be harvested to produce biomethane and biocarbon dioxide via anaerobic digestion. The biocarbon dioxide is sequestered and the plant nutrients remaining after digestion are recycled to expand the algal forest and increase fish populations, in an Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture process. Dr N'Yeurt also suggested that, based on the marine algae covering 9% of the World's ocean surface, the amount of biomass produced could also increase sustainable fish production to potentially provide 200 kg/yr/person for 10 billion people.²¹



The Pacific is known to be abundant in seaweed (i.e. presence of algal blooms) and the USP is looking at using seaweed as biofuels or in animal feed. Dr N'Yeurt gave examples of low cost small and larger scale seaweed farming and biogas production. He also noted that seaweed can be used as fertilisers and gave an example from the island of Beqa in Fiji.

²¹ N'Yeurt, et al., 2012.

Francis Areki, Conservation Director, WWF Pacific

Blue Carbon – Reducing Climate Change impacts by conserving coastal ecosystems.

Mr Areki outlined the WWF principles for a sustainable Blue Economy noting the need for the Blue Economy to be scientifically based and founded on the premise that no economy can sustain itself when natural resources are being depleted to an extent to which they cannot recover. A sustainable Blue Economy is thus, a marine economy that:

- Provides social and economic benefits for current and future generations.
- Restores, protects and maintains the diversity, productivity, resilience, core functions and intrinsic value of marine ecosystems [Zero Impact to positive restorative impact].
- Is based on clean technologies, renewable energy, and circular material flows.

Mr Areki discussed the economic value of the ocean, including the value of the ecosystem services it provides. He stressed the importance of sustainable management of the ocean and coastal ecosystems in order to provide food and economic security for the future.

He observed that coastal ecosystems have very high rates of carbon sequestration, with mangroves and saltmarshes averaging between 6 and 8 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per hectare per year. Sea-grass beds average a rate of 4 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per hectare/year. Comparatively, tropical forests average between 1.8 and 2.7 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per hectare/year. Protecting coastal ecosystems will ensure that the stored carbon remains intact while continuing to sequester additional atmospheric carbon. Mr Areki advised that as an example, clearing mangroves within our countries will lead to 240 million tonnes of carbon entering the atmosphere per year. He added that effectively managing these blue carbon reserves would also help provide breeding grounds for fisheries enabling food security and income, and strengthen resilience of coastlines. He noted the need to apply ecosystem-based approaches to resource management (linking the land and sea) and to recognise the rights of local communities and their management capability and to be inclusive, transparent and equitable with regard to financial benefits generated. He also urged that national and regional policies on blue carbon be developed along with appropriate monitoring and verification systems.

Prof. Gunter Pauli, Serial entrepreneur, author and initiator of The Blue Economy

Prof. Pauli noted that we have removed forests, mangroves, corals and seaweed in ways that ensure none of it is able to regenerate. He suggested a “three-dimensional” (systemic/circular) approach that will enable regeneration. He gave a series of examples to highlight what can be done both on land and in the ocean, including seaweed generation over a 3 metre depth of submersion; successful efforts in regeneration and salt water farming by Dr Carl Hodges²²; etc. He urged that systemic, three-dimensional approaches be considered when seeking solutions to problems.

²² <http://circulatenews.org/2017/04/a-story-of-regeneration-and-reforestation-from-eritrea/>

Discussion

A question was raised regarding how seaweed farming may impact on other activities such as pearl farming. Mr Justin Hunter (Hunter Pearls) noted that it would be important to identify the optimum mix of seaweed types to address acidity levels in aquaculture.

Concern was raised on the need to start small and take a precautionary approach in new ecological interventions. However another point of view was voiced that doing nothing at all is equally not recommended and that it is possible to learn by doing. A third point of view was that governments are not attracted to small – they want solutions to their problems and thus to attract investment requires larger scale activities.



Day 2

Douglas Frantz, Deputy Secretary General, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Video message

Mr Frantz observed the importance of this conference in developing and setting policies for a sustainable Blue Economy. Underscoring the level of urgency involved, he referred to an award-winning documentary series with which he had been personally involved. Titled *Altered Oceans* and published in 2006 by the Los Angeles Times, the series highlighted the ways in which the World's oceans were being chronically afflicted with illnesses caused by humans. These included pollution and overfishing, runoff that was killing marine organisms, toxic algal masses causing deaths of marine mammals, drifting debris polluting beaches and ensnaring wildlife, and rising ocean acidity causing coral deaths. He stressed that this was 11 years ago and that the ocean has since gone from being "sick" to needing "intensive care". It was therefore essential to not just contemplate developing a sustainable ocean economy but to seriously look at how we are to save the ocean. He reflected that failure to save the ocean will mean failure for the Planet as a whole.

Mr Frantz referenced the OECD report *The Ocean Economy in 2030*, which predicts that by 2030, the ocean economy will double to a value of USD3 trillion and employing 40 million people. However the report also recognises that these trends cannot continue and that business as usual no longer works. The need is to find ways to balance the economic influences against the need for environmental protection. OECD believes that there is a need to understand the systemic linkages between diverse issues such as climate, overfishing, ocean ecological systems, energy and water.



8.0 Education, research and capacity building: challenges for a growing Blue Economy

Session Chair: Dr. Hugh Govan, Adjunct Senior Fellow, University of the South Pacific (USP)

Dr Govan introduced the session by quoting from the chapter on capacity building in the Pacific Oceanscape. He stated that the focus is on action.

Dr Jeremy Hills, Director, Institute of Marine Resources, University of the South Pacific (USP).

Dr Jeremy Hills referred to the recent ocean conference, noting that there were a large number of participants, partnership dialogues and voluntary commitments. He asked what the “game changer” is from the conference and what actions will be taken now that the conference is over.

He quoted from the World Bank report *Potential of the Blue Economy*²³ and expressed that the Blue Economy is about change and moving away from business as usual to considering economic development and ocean conservation as compatible propositions. Research and capacity building is fundamental to changing business as usual and Dr Hills highlighted three areas to be considered.

Diversity – growth in Blue Economy will require a skilled workforce and promotion of science, technology, innovation and multi-disciplinary research. He stressed that it is not about marine science graduates but that a diversity of people are needed to drive this change towards a Blue Economy. He highlighted the push by PICTs for traditional knowledge to be included in decision making processes involving the management of the high seas and raised the question of how this can be implemented (bringing together the traditional knowledge with the science in a meaningful manner). He suggested that there is a need to look at islands the way islanders look at islands – using values and judgements from islanders to understand islands and taking a trans-disciplinary approach (nissological trans-disciplinary science).

Inclusion – there is a need for the inclusion of societal groups, especially women, young people, local communities, indigenous peoples and marginalised or under-represented groups. However, Dr Hills observed that true inclusion does not happen. He stated that knowledge is power and is held within a small group of people and kept there. He asked whether we are extending and engaging partnerships and observed that only a minority of the partnerships from the Samoa Pathway were sustainable and durable. Many projects are based on projects or resource reliant and are not natural self-functioning partnerships. It is possible to change partnerships and create networks. Need to look at the partnerships and consider why they are not delivering. Research and capacity can help us track partnerships through social network analysis and understand what is happening.

Financing – there is a need for capacity in financing. Public financial management is very important in directing money to where it is most needed. There is a need to also track development partner finance in the region. He showed an early stage indicative assessment which suggests that development partner funds are going towards conservation and sustainable ocean communities (SDG 14.2). Less is going to SDG 14.7 (sustainable ocean development). Focus is on conservation as opposed to sustainable economic development. Need to understand much more about the financing and those providing the funds.

²³ World Bank and UNDESA, 2017.

The Blue Economy is about transition. It is not about business as usual. It requires evidence based information, data and a number of areas that build out from that – diversity, inclusion and financing.

Dr Tommy Moore, SPREP

Dr Moore stated that education is the key to overcoming poverty and is key to ensuring that all members of society have equitable opportunity to achieve success and a fair access to growth.

Ocean literacy is needed to achieve a Blue Economy. Ocean communities, experts and decision makers need to be able to talk to one another on ocean issues. An ocean literate person understands the importance of the oceans is able to communicate about it and is able to make decisions. He noted that in many communities there is no separation of ocean and land and bringing traditional knowledge and scientific knowledge together can help empower communication. However, it is one thing to make these statements at a higher level and another to address it in practice.

In terms of education, Dr Moore stated that the ocean should be securely embedded in the primary education system and at the same time suitable adult education systems should be available. He reflected that only a handful of universities have a dedicated marine science programme and that only 6% of the global ocean science research is coming from the Pacific islands.

He highlighted the importance of research and data to inform decision making and for monitoring and evaluation and noted that there is scope for partnerships with industry - maritime transport, fisheries - which can collect data during their routine operations.

Dr Moore also highlighted the constant challenge in the region of capacity noting that there is competition for skilled professionals.

In conclusion, he stressed that education drives innovation and economic growth and that the Blue Economy requires future generations to be literate in traditional knowledge and modern science. People must be able to communicate with each other.

Peneshuro Lefale, Climate Change Advisor, Tokelau

Mr Lefale discussed the concept of Earth system science as working to understanding the processes and interactions between land, air and the ocean. He highlighted that what is going on globally impacts on each individual on each small island. For example, satellite monitoring data, which is helping us understand climate information - El Nino / La Nina cycles, early warning systems, sea level rise, ocean surface temperature, etc. – provides the information for scientists that will impact at the individual level.

He noted that the ocean is relatively new in terms of scientific research and there is a lot to be learnt. More must be invested in ocean research.

Mr Lefale discussed the Tokelau “Living with Change” strategy, which addresses mitigation, adaptation and development for Tokelau. He noted that the processes used to develop the strategy involved understanding and identifying scientific needs.

Discussing the upcoming climate change conference, Mr Lefale referred to the Pacific’s call to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius and suggested that this may now be an unachievable goal. He highlighted that even if all the voluntary commitments made under the NDCs were implemented, the planet is looking at a global temperature rise of between 2.7 and 3.4 degrees Celsius. Mr Lefale stated that it was his opinion that achieving the 1.5 degree goal will not be possible without some form of

climate intervention or geoengineering. He cautioned that there are currently no governance mechanisms on geoengineering and urged that countries become familiar with the concept and understand its far-reaching consequences.

Jeff Ardron, Adviser, Ocean Governance, Commonwealth Secretariat

Mr Ardron commenced his presentation by asking the question “how much do we need to know in order to act?” and stated that we will never know enough. It is important, regardless of what terms we use, to focus on healing the planet and regenerating it. He reflected on the previous day’s presentation about a resort which is building sustainability as part of what they are doing – they are learning from doing.

He further highlighted the need to draw upon solutions from nature and that solutions are not linear, rather a network of connections are needed to identify solutions. Stressing the importance of connections between people, Mr Ardron noted the value of generalists who are able to see bridges and make connections and synthesise knowledge from the different disciplines. At the same time, specialists are important when a problem cannot be solved otherwise.

Mr Ardron concluded his discussion by stating that we must take action based on the information available to us now and to have the courage to act on what we know.

Discussion

Participants raised a number of issues which are outlined below.

Moving the regional university towards a multidisciplinary and country-needs driven approach – several questions were raised regarding how the USP could do better to support the needs of countries in the Blue Economy, providing the types of skills needed in negotiations, research, advising policy makers, etc. as well as addressing the multi-disciplinary approach.

Dr Moore noted that USP was doing a great job but one of the challenges in the Pacific is that of distance and this leads to significant challenges. Improvements in technology and communities are needed.

Dr Hills advised that the USP is a purposeful entity for the region, which means it must be different from other universities in other countries. It is a CROP agency has a role to play in the region. There is a need to think about what the USP does for the region. He noted the need for an island flavour in all the disciplines and for USP to be more purposeful. He added that it was important not to isolate USP because there are many players in building capacity in the region. PIANGO, for example is involved in capacity building. However, he reminded the conference that Pacific islands are members of the USP. They therefore should engage actively in the development of USP’s new strategic plan, which is currently being development and ensure their needs, including the Blue Economy, are addressed in the plan.

Changing mindsets – it was observed that there are many perspectives [on the Blue Economy]. The challenge is how we can work towards a concept in the region where most people share the same mindset and work together to find a solution, for example, one of the key principles of the Blue Economy is development within conservation limits. It was also noted that political leaders are often more focused on land issues than that of the ocean. *Panellists addressed this in their closing remarks.*

Closing Remarks

Dr Hills stressed that it is not possible to fight against natural processes. We can however, work with natural processes to build resilience and learn to cope with them. He referred to the “hidden Blue Economy”, which provides many services that are not valued, such as coastal protection. If we don’t get those services, it will cost a lot of money to address (coastal erosion/loss of land). The ocean absorbs a lot of our mess and we need to value the ocean for this, not just in raising revenue.

On the issue of finance and development assistance, he said that ultimately at some point in time, Pacific islands should not need development assistance and be able to stand on their own feet. They need to view development in a more sustainable way to move forward and look to not depending on others in time to come.

Dr Moore stated that ocean governance is currently a fragmented space with different sectors and groups doing their own thing. We need to work together to cooperate and coordinate.

In the area of science and traditional knowledge, SPREP has been working with communities to develop their own climatic indicators based on their local/traditional observations and knowledge. This is helping to improve climate literacy in the sense that scientists are better able to communicate seasonal forecasts with communities and they are better able to communicate what they are experiencing and what has changed.

Mr Lefale agreed with an earlier point about changing the USP name to be the Pacific University. On the issue of capacity, he suggested having a regional pool of expertise that takes away the need for countries to build their own capacity. He suggested that key priorities be identified for scientific research and this be shared out, building on each other’s strengths. He noted also that a lot of work in the research in the region is project-based and seldom builds on existing strengths and lessons. A more programmatic approach needed.

Mr Ardron mentioned a five-part series by the Commonwealth Foundation on the Blue Economy. He observed the challenges of targeting mindsets and said that if people could see the fish, perhaps they would care more about them. He commended the work of Jacques Cousteau and his father Jean-Yves Cousteau who have helped raise awareness of the ocean.

He stressed that governments will enable innovations but not innovate because their role is to lead the people and make the law. Similarly we cannot expect universities to set the priorities – this is the job of the governments. The universities should then research the topics for which they are able to be funded.

There is a tension between people opposed and those in favour versus people who must make decisions now – he suggested that there is a need to build trust and recognise that our different voices must come together to find solutions that is a Pacific way.

Wrapping up the session, Dr Govan stated that there appeared to be consensus to avoid a case of “paralysis by analysis” and urged that focus needs to be on actions.



9.0 Blue growth and ocean governance - balance between use and protection of the ocean

Session Chair: Taholo Kami

Mr Kami introduced the session and noted that governance has not been a happy issue for small island states. We have had mixed performances. How do we shift from a history of poor governance of our natural resources and start to act like large ocean states. There is rhetoric but is not reflected in our budgets. We need to stop acting as small dependent island states. Our challenge is can we get the governance of oceans right.

Hon. John Maneniaru Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Solomon Islands

The Honourable Minister stated that the present mindset is that economic necessity must override everything else. This needs to change as no economic measure can succeed if not balanced with environmental sustainability. He stated that the value of the ocean to people's livelihoods and cultures cannot be overstressed.

Ocean governance involves many sectors, making this a complex matter because of political jurisdictions, competing uses and different interpretations of sustainable ocean governance.

It is helpful for policymakers if they understand the economic value of the ocean resources they are trying to manage. A study conducted in 2013 by the regional MacBio project, jointly implemented by SPREP, IUCN and GIZ, assessed the value of specific sectors including fisheries, mining, tourism, regulatory services and foreign investments, etc. These assessments provide quality information and tangible evidence of the value of ocean resources to policymakers.

The Solomon Islands has taken steps towards a Blue Economy and formulated the Ocean 12 Initiative towards an integrated approach to manage our ocean. In 2015 an ocean summit brought together 12 government ministries to discuss how to better manage and develop the ocean sustainably. This resulted in the Solomon Islands Ocean 12 Initiative, which will seek potential for synergies, complementarity and coordination while aiming to minimise conflict and develop an Integrated Ocean Governance (IOG) policy. He highlighted the complexities of developing such a policy, noting the many components that need to be addressed, which include legal, institutional decision-making knowledge, compliance, skills, maritime spatial planning, financial and consultation and participation. He was hopeful that despite the challenges, the Ocean 12 initiative can help drive blue ocean governance. He acknowledged the support of MacBio in these efforts.

The Hon. Minister noted that regional governance mechanisms exist such as the PNA vessel day scheme, which has served the PNA countries as a management conservation tool and as an economic tool. It has also enabled timely collection and reporting of data, assisting in the effective management of tuna and is an example of how we can collaborate regionally.

He highlighted the importance of a detailed assessment of the different uses of the ocean to better understand these uses, the value of the ocean and its contents. This will help with providing data for informed decision making and good ocean governance. The Hon. Minister stated that there is a general mindset that economic necessity must override everything else. He stressed that as this mindset needs to change as no economic measure can succeed unless it is supported by a healthy environment.

He reflected that there is a need for countries to become responsible for our own destiny and those local solutions are needed to address local problems. The role of governments is to create an enabling environment and to ensure that mechanisms are implementable on the ground – frameworks and legislation need to have the required support on the ground.

Dr Jan Steffen, Project Director, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries (MACBIO)

Dr Steffen observed that there are many regional ocean policies in place, starting with the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy (PIROP) in 2004 and that the strategic plans of the CROP agencies suggest that there isn't any shortage in acknowledging the importance of the ocean for the Pacific and the planet.

He stated that one of the big problems that must be addressed is that of hidden values. While most people are aware of the [economic] contribution of tuna, many are unaware of invisible values, such as the services provided by marine ecosystems. Understanding and awareness of these hidden values will make it more possible to implement integrated ocean management and make better informed decisions. He advised that while there may be a perception that data is not available, it is often there and using local experience and traditional knowledge can help extract and make this more visible. He advised that conservative estimates have placed the value of Fiji's marine ecosystem services at FJD2.5 billion. But this could be lost forever without effective conservation and management.

Dr Steffen emphasised the need for a series of other considerations, including:

- *Marine spatial planning* – integrated and participatory planning – that is an ongoing process seeking to balance ecological, economic and social objectives.
- *Capacity building combined with the right instruments* – establishing free open source data, use the information without expensive additional software costs to countries.
- *National consultations* that reach the local level.
- *Effective use of available information* – e.g. the role of spatial data in post TC Winston damage assessments was an example of how data can be used.

Dr Steffen stated that SDG 14 is central to the implementation of the sustainable development agenda in the Pacific. A recent study shows how the core benefits of SDG 14 links with all other targets of Agenda 2030. Central to this is SDG 17 on partnerships and there is a need to encourage and inspire stakeholders on the forming genuine partnerships and more coalitions of the ambitious.

Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, Tui Macuata, Fiji. Community Based Marine resource management: culture, livelihoods, and governance

The Tui Macuata, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, spoke on the importance of governance and leadership at the community level stating that communities must take ownership of their resources, strengthen conservation and have their protected areas recognised by the government. This is now with government.

A key issue relates to consent for usage of the area. He advised that over the last 15 years, 100 licenses at \$1000 were issued to the commercial fishers. Local fishers paid \$20. To address the issue of commercialisation, it was agreed in 2014 to reduce the number of licenses issued to 100 per year, with 30 for commercial and the rest to local fishers. The community will not issue licenses unless they come

through the Department of Fisheries. As part of the process, those seeking licenses had to go through a Marine Safety course, to ensure that their fishing boats adhered to standards. In addition, the fishers must keep records of their fish catch using the Data Catch Record booklets. This caused some agitation however understanding the need for sustainability of the qoliqoli was key. Ratu Katonivere noted that 60% of the fish sold in Suva comes from his qoliqoli so the people are dependent for their livelihoods on this.

The government has been approached for a review of the fisheries laws to address the challenges faced and ensure people are taking ownership of their resources.

The Tui Macuata stressed the need to work with and to encourage communities to value their fisheries. He reminded the conference that at community-level, the pressing concern is not the science or policy - it is to get money so they can send their children to school. Communities need to be helped to realise the value of what they have and learn to use it wisely for their own benefit.

“In the community, their only concern is getting the money to send their kids to school, to enjoy, to have what people in the urban areas have – we need to get down to the community level and focus our efforts on helping the communities to realise the value of what they have”. Tui Macuata, Fiji.

Dr. Nicholas Conner, Co-lead, Ecosystem Services Thematic Group, International Union for Conservation of Nature Commission on Ecosystem Management.

Dr Conner explained how a better understanding of the economic value of coastal marine resources can help in decision making.

He stated the need for a system of environmental-economic accounting (EEA), which incorporates information on the environmental and social impacts of economic development. EEAs can help government decision making for Blue Economy development, giving policy makers an idea of where things are going and what they can do about it. Good data is needed on these different environment, social and economic interactions.

Dr Conner presented an explanation of the System of National Accounts (SNA), which are used to guide national developmental planning and budgeting. SNAs do not show the quantity and quality of the specific natural assets or natural capital that contribute to the economy (e.g. building materials, water, energy, crafts). Incorporating sustainability into development requires that the value of natural capital and ecosystems (and their services) be included in national accounting. Dr Conner presented an example that showed how combining economic and environmental information in an EEA can assist policy makers see linkages and determine appropriate policies that can help protect/rebuild natural capital levels to enable continuing sustainable development.

He noted that many PICTs are currently exploring/developing accounts for a range of purposes e.g. tourism satellite accounts in Fiji and energy accounts in Federated States of Micronesia. However he stated that further work is needed, including a high-level understanding of the usefulness of EEA to bring about government commitment. He recommended small demonstration projects that link SNA and

environmental data and for EEA thinking to be integrated into strategic planning. He noted that assistance is available from UNESCAP, World Bank (WAVES²⁴), UNEP and NZ Statistics.

H.E. Angus Friday, Grenada Ambassador to the U.S.

H.E. Angus Friday spoke on the experience of Grenada in relation to how they have addressed governance in the Blue Economy. He also observed that Grenada was forced by a crisis (devastation by cyclone) to look for alternatives and opportunities to help the nation recover and grow. This is what led to the birth of the Blue Economy in Grenada.

He stressed that governance in the context of the Blue Economy has to start with natural capital. The natural capital must be treated like a bank account – leave the principle alone to increase the value and live off the interest.

He highlighted four key aspects to good governance: 1) science; 2) stakeholder convergence [vision]; 3) administration and finance; and 4) monitoring & enforcement.

The Ambassador observed that communities know a lot about their natural capital and what was needed was for them to buy into the vision – there was a need to go beyond thinking of mangroves or fish alone and to start taking into account geospatial thinking. He gave an example from the north of Grenada, where the largest submarine volcano in the western hemisphere can be found. There is significant genetic material in the volcano vents and this is considered part of the country's natural capital. The area is also a turtle nesting site. Protecting it has required working with communities to craft a story and design a whole new industry so that they could benefit from the industry. This took a lot of time and eventually resulted in shared vision. The entire vision was not just about what not to do but what to do – it includes life science and biotourism opportunities. These benefits are being communicated across Grenada through a series of publications.

It is vital to have a shared vision of the opportunities, bearing in mind that people in communities want to send their kids to school and improve their lives. Governance must be about opportunity.

He highlighted the need for financing for upscaling activities and discussed the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, which has a goal of 20% conservation of nearshore marine areas by 2020. In the case of Grenada a debt for nature swap will allow financing of their policy goals. The ambassador highlighted the challenge of monitoring and enforcement and the need to have greater domain awareness – being able to understand everything happening within the ocean-space through integrated information systems, surveillance, etc.

²⁴ Wealth Accounting and Valuing of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) is a World Bank-led global partnership that aims to promote sustainable development by ensuring that natural resources are mainstreamed in development planning and national economic accounts. (<https://www.wavespartnership.org/>).

Discussion

Mr Donglin Di of the ILO noted the need to also highlight the issue from a human dimension. The representative encouraged all Pacific island states to ratify the ILO Maritime Convention and the ILO Convention on Workers' Rights to protect seafarers and fishermen.

Her Excellency Reteta Rimmon of Kiribati noted the importance of global recognition of maritime boundaries given the impact of climate change, making reference to permanent maritime boundaries and changing baselines and requested that this be reflected in the conference outcomes. The Ambassador also reflected on the success of the VDS and its value to improving the economic returns to Kiribati.



10.0 Financing the Blue Economy

Session Chair: Iosefa Maiava

Rob Jauncey, Pacific Office representative, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Mr Jauncey advised that there is a range of different financing sources to help countries and Pacific businesses invest in sustainable blue/green growth. He stated that the total GDP of Pacific countries is well over USD20 billion and that there is scope to mobilise domestic funding such as through the Fiji National Provident Fund and sovereign wealth funds of Tuvalu and Kiribati. At the international level, there are several options for mobilising funds which include international sovereign financing and foreign direct investment (FDI). Currently Pacific Islands (excluding US and French territories) receive USD2.5 billion per year international sovereign financing and that this is increasing. By 2020 the total volume of international sovereign financing could increase to USD3.5 billion, largely as a result of multilateral funding from ADB, World Bank and the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The funding details are outlined in the slide presentation. It is expected that one-third of multi-laterally sourced financing will come from ADB and World Bank by 2020.

He highlighted that both ADB and World Bank do not just act as banks (i.e. providing loans) but that they provide 100% grants to the smaller Pacific Islands and 50% grants to Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. He advised that Pacific countries adopt a precautionary approach and seek grants up front to avoid getting into the type of debt stress that has been seen in the Caribbean nations.

Other financing options include disaster insurance, contingent credit lines, green bonds, marine protected areas.

He highlighted the GCF as a huge opportunity for financing. The GCF contains \$8 billion of which 50% is for adaptation rather than mitigation. Almost USD250 million has been approved for Pacific in the past 18 months (12% total). ADB has helped Fiji and Cook Islands secure funding through GCF. A range of regional agencies and partners are also helping countries access GCF resources.

There are also opportunities for private sector investment in sustainable projects across the region, including from fishing license revenues (USD500 million per year), FDI (USD600 million) and renewable energy

ADB can also provide part financing to private investors interested to invest in sustainable projects across the region to encourage sustainable and inclusive development across the region. He stressed that the enabling environment needs to be right for the private sector to invest.

Jacques Dugasse, Chief Executive Officer, James Michel Foundation, Seychelles

Mr Dugasse discussed the background and processes involved in the Seychelles Debt for Adaptation Swap and highlighted the “SIDS Debt Trap” explaining that in the early 1990’s many SIDS resorted to borrowings to finance their national development programmes. During 2007–2009 the debts of SIDS grew by an average of 9%. This resulted in uncontrolled borrowings by many SIDS who were unable to get themselves out of debt.

The Seychelles undertook studies to identify how it could grow itself out of their debt trap and explored specifically, debt for nature swaps. Mr Dugasse explained how debt for nature swaps work: the debt

owned by a debtor is renegotiated to fund conservation or climate change activities and depends on the willingness of commercial banks or government to sell debt at less than the full value of the original loan.

With the support of GLISPA, Seychelles was able to put in place their debt for adaptation swap in 2016. Mr Dugasse outlined the general process:

1. An indebted country establishes a debt for nature programme and invites participation from conservation organisations.
2. An international conservation organisation and local private and public organisations reach agreement on the programme
3. The participating conservation organisations verify that sufficient funding will exist for the debt purchase or that debt donations or partial forgiveness may be possible.

The conditions in favour of the Seychelles Case for the debt for adaptation swap included:

- huge EEZ – 1.4 million km²
- key regional marine mammal site
- key global seabird breeding ground
- 174 species of coral
- natural resources (fisheries/tourism) over 60% of GDP
- global leader in promoting SIDS, Blue Economy
- leading the West Indian Ocean Challenge.

Mr Dugasse noted that Seychelles had high debt levels of over 120% of GDP, although some debt was attributable to natural disaster recovery costs. Seychelles also had other threats and risks, which included:

- low growth
- limited fiscal space for investment in the environment and adaptation to climate change
- high vulnerability to external shocks
- natural disasters and climate change
- global financial crisis.

The Seychelles Government and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) concluded an agreement under which the TNC would act as funder/donor and purchase the debt title from the Paris Club. The debt title was transferred to the Seychelles in exchange for an endowment in the name of Seychelles Conservation and Climate Change Adaptation Trust Fund (SEYCAT) which will provide funding for a number of conservation programmes. Activities funded by the USD21.6M debt for adaptation swap in the Seychelles involve expanding and securing MPAs and establishing no take areas²⁵.



For further information on the Seychelles debt for adaptation swap, please visit <https://convergence.finance/knowledge-detail/3p1S3pSTVKQYYC2ecwaeiK>

Dr Thomas recommended taking a regenerative approach to development. Nature is capable of regeneration (compare mangroves with seawalls) and humans have the capacity to enable this. He suggested that our focus should be on development that encourages regeneration of nature (as opposed to “sustainability”, which only results in a “net zero” situation). Regenerative development allows opportunity for greater positive changes to occur.

When it comes to climate finance, we need to think about what we are investing in. There is focus on carbon (trading) and he suggested that carbon is a proxy for measuring certain inputs. In Australia carbon financing industries are being developed with communities and there is a move to shift the conversation from co-benefits to “core benefits” for communities, which help address their development needs. A graph was shown that models what might happen if carbon funds are delivered to the hands of the communities. The models suggest increased income levels, increased biodiversity and reduced fishing pressures. He noted that there will be trade-offs with changes in traditional practices as people move to different occupations (eg carbon farming).

Dr Thomas highlighted the need to connect communities with industries and the private sector. He stressed that it is about the people and that investment needs to be in children, in people as well as place, and should be done in a way that will help us thrive in the long term future.

Dr Melissa Walsh, Ocean Finance Manager for Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Programme

Dr Walsh stated that ocean management science and governance are necessary for the Blue Economy but they are not sufficient. She stressed that not getting marine conservation finance right means putting the community at risk. The funding gap for marine conservation globally is USD7 trillion and growing. Funding also lacks diversity

She observed that there are many tools for finance – grants, trust funds, debt for adaptation swap, payment for ecosystem services, loans, offsets – however we need to fit the mechanism to the right context and for matchmaking that links the opportunity to the need. She further noted that SDG 14 is receiving less investment/ capital than the rest of the SDG's.

The lack of capacity in ocean financing was highlighted as a key issue. There is a need for specialists who can speak the language of ocean conservation and business. People need to be able to carry out due diligence and conduct risk and return profiles, measuring impact, etc.

Dr Walsh outlined her vision for improving finance in the Pacific region to include:

1. New and more finance
2. Profiling – guidance for each country on what type of finance are appropriate in your context
3. Capacity building – bringing together investors, building an intermediary group, upskilling local practitioners.

Paul Holthus, Founder and CEO, World Ocean Council

Mr Holthus spoke on the role of the business community in developing the ocean investment platform; enables interaction between the players, synergies and economies of scales at the global level and catalyses the interaction between investors and community - matchmaking. He recommended the creation of a Pacific Ocean Business Leadership and focusing on a Pacific Ocean investment platform to leverage the synergies and replicability in the Pacific and around the world.

Mr Holthus advised on the World Ocean Summit for Business Leaders, which would take place in Halifax, Canada from 29 November to 2 December 2017.

Prof. Gunter Pauli, Serial entrepreneur, author and initiator of The Blue Economy

Professor Pauli observed that innovative approaches are needed in order to bring in new financing. He gave an example of an innovation which allows solar panels to work on both sides (charging photovoltaic cells and heating water at the same time). However financing will not cover both – there are finances for PV systems alone and water heating alone. It is time to connect the dots in financing. He also mentioned the possibility of crowd-funding to support innovations.

Discussion

Incorporating environmental safeguards into financing – the point was made that donor funds are being made available for investment but there are minimal controls to prevent damaging/unsustainable practices. In response, Mr Jauncey advised that most investors want to see sustainable investment however, where they do not follow good practice, governments need to clamp down on these activities. Dr Walsh suggested that there are options such as performance bonds whereby companies are required to put up a certain amount of money up front and if they fail to meet standards, the funds are retained nationally.

Need for action and champions – the Minister of Fisheries for Solomon Islands commented that there is sufficient information and knowledge available. He observed that it was time to start taking action that will both benefit the people and protect the ocean.

Funding for sustainable maritime transport – in response to a question on what funds might exist for this; Mr Holthus advised that there are opportunities in the global shipping industry. He gave the example of some innovative research currently being conducted involving a new type of marine engine.

Analysis of funding for the SDGs – in response to a question on whether the analysis of SDG funding considered funding for “hard” versus “soft” projects, Dr Thomas advised that the information he had provided on this is still at an early stage and that further and deeper analysis will be helpful.

Scaling up and finding innovative financing mechanisms – Ambassador Friday suggested that there needs to be a disruption in the flow of financing to support the funding of innovative projects at the speed and scale that is needed. He used the term “uberisation” of finance to underscore how smart use of the internet can help support such aims. He also suggested crowd funding as a possible option. Dr Thomas agreed on the need to improve on the distribution of finance and outlined a project that his school is currently working on. Dr Walsh observed that crowd funding should be approached with caution, bearing in mind the staff time and planning required versus the returns. She advised that there are also other options such as where teams compete for a certain set of funds. Mr Holthus reflected that

the internet was valuable for bringing people together to communicate, however investors do want to meet with and talk to those that are creating the opportunities.

Ethics in Financing – Professor Pauli observed that the problem is that financing currently does not have ethics at its core and he gave examples of the use of Bitcoin and of the Uber organisation, both of which are founded on unethical practices. He strongly urged against subscribing to anything that violates ethical and social codes of conduct.

National Ocean Accounts – Mr Maiava acknowledged the earlier presentation by Dr Conner on the inclusion of what is currently invisible into national accounts. He advised that UNESCAP had made a voluntary commitment at the Ocean Conference to assist interested countries to set up ocean accounts, which would help countries develop budgets that reflect better the value of the oceans. needs. UNESCAP is already assisting with national energy, land and tourism accounts and relevant data from these accounts would be migrated to an ocean account.



11.0 Developing Blue Economies for the Pacific

Facilitator - Howard Politini, Chair of Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO)

Mr Politini introduced this session noting that it was in two parts. Following presentations, participants would work in facilitated groups to consolidate their thinking around a Blue Economy for the Pacific.

Honourable Elehi Kelihiano Kalolo, Minister for Climate Change, Tokelau

The Honourable Elehi Kalolo commenced his address with a brief prayer and acknowledged the government of Fiji and the organisers of the conference. He reflected that while the idea of the Blue Economy may seem new, in fact islanders have been living a Blue Economy all along.

He provided a description of Tokelau, highlighting the vulnerability of small islands to climate change and to human and natural hazards. He advised that Tokelau has three atolls, well apart from each other, and the nearest neighbour, Samoa, is 500 km away. Tokelau's inter-island transport system is solely maritime based, with no airports and travel to Samoa takes up to 40 hours. Some of the key development challenges are climate change, fisheries, water, agriculture, food, health, energy and transportation security, and waste management.

The Honourable Minister noted the different global interpretations of the Blue Economy. He quoted from the Polynesia Leaders' Group 2016 "Te Moana - declaration on the ocean", which states that Pacific people view the economy from an oceanic lens and that the ocean is the cornerstone of people's cultural identity, social cohesion and unity.

In developing a framework for the Blue Economy, Minister Kalolo highlighted the need for an integrated, systemic approach that takes into account the following questions:

- What are culturally and locally appropriate desires to transform our lives from small islands to large ocean states?
- How can we place our cultural and traditional and indigenous knowledge systems in the context of the Blue Economy?
- What are the implications of the Blue Economy on issues of power - on who leads and who makes decisions, who benefits, on institutional arrangements, and on gender balance and social justice?

He further urged that the Blue Economy framework be based on existing mechanisms such as national development frameworks and regional and international strategies and agreements.

Jeff Ardron – Adviser, Ocean Governance, Commonwealth Secretariat

Mr Ardron advised that the Commonwealth Secretariat has a long history of working on maritime boundaries and has helped resolve disputes in this area. It also works on natural resource management and ocean governance. He explained that the Commonwealth is request-driven and only provides advice to those who want assistance. However, working only on a country-by-country basis is challenging in some areas and there is a need for the Commonwealth Secretariat to look at the Blue Economy from a regional perspective. He further observed that there is a great deal of innovative thinking, will and desire surrounding the Blue Economy the Pacific Islands region but that there are challenges that also need to be addressed.

Referring to current work of the Secretariat on the Blue Economy, Mr Ardron advised on the availability of a series of blue economy publications by the Commonwealth Secretariat that are available online²⁶. He also noted concerns relating to “ocean grabbing” whereby small scale subsistence fishers and others may be in danger of losing their traditional rights and access to the ocean and coastal areas due to changes in policies or other initiatives.

Mr Ardron outlined the proposal to develop a Commonwealth Blue Charter, which will help raise the Blue Economy onto the give the Commonwealth discussion platform and thus give the Secretariat the mandate to become more involved in the Blue Economy at a regional level. There is opportunity for Pacific Island Countries to be engaged in the process of the drafting of the ‘Blue Charter’ in order to ensure interests are protected and advocated. He noted that the Blue Charter would include the same 16 principles agreed to under the Commonwealth Charter by the 52 members in 2015. A draft framework is expected by November 2017, with drafting and revisions between October 2017 and March 2018. The document would be presented at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in April 2018 in London.

Dr Hugh Govan, Adjunct Senior Fellow, University of the South Pacific (USP) Sue Miller Taei, Executive Director Conservation International New Zealand and Pacific Islands

Dr Govan discussed the annual monetary value of different oceanic industries to the Pacific Islands compared with what is accrued from these industries to countries outside the region. He showed that the majority of earnings from oceanic fisheries (USD3-4 billion) goes outside the region while only a fraction (USD0.5 billion) remains in the region. In contrast, the value of coastal fisheries stays in the region (USD0.5 billion) and is important for subsistence or traded locally with very little coastal fisheries of interest to the international region²⁷. He noted that there are notable exceptions such as beche-de-mer, shark finning and blue boats. While more data is needed for other industries, Dr Govan stated that both tourism and cruise ship industries are likely to be providing far less value to the region than externally. Other industries for which significant data is not available or which are still in infancy are DSM, aquaculture and marine genetic resources.

He reflected that virtually all of the region’s ocean economy depends on having and nurturing a healthy marine environment. He cautioned against waiting for major new windfalls (in potential ocean industries) and to instead focus on sustaining and improving the flow of benefits to islanders from what we do have.

Dr Govan further noted that coastal fisheries rely on a very small percentage of the EEZs. Communities manage these areas but are hampered by land-based and commercial pressures.

He highlighted the ongoing issue of oceanic fishing pressure, noting that despite the success of the PNA, there is still concern on how to deal with fishing boats which are responding to the governance arrangements by fishing for migratory species in the high seas. The high seas account for 70 million km² of unprotected ocean over which tuna traverse.

Dr Govan stressed that resource management costs money on a daily basis, and is not something that can be done through projects. Daily costs include monitoring by Fisheries, licensing, etc. Most Pacific Islands are spending relatively little on fisheries management compared to the value of fisheries resources and SPC is now monitoring this year by year so they can see whether funds can be moved around.

²⁶ <https://books.thecommonwealth.org/series/commonwealth%20blue%20economy%20series>

²⁷ Govan, 2017.

Dr Govan noted the following success factors:

- ‘Community’ at all spheres, working with the right people within the community.
- Constructive and fair and equal partnerships – technical support, knowledge should be ‘on tap not on top’.
- Innovation in the use of existing rights, both UNCLOS, also traditional and custom rights (PNA, WCPFC, etc.)
- Appropriate, consistent and targeted support – to be seen as an investment
- Leadership – some key resource management actions may not be popular and not easy to implement.

Sue Miller Taii, Executive Director Conservation International New Zealand and Pacific Islands

Ms Miller Taii stressed that the Blue Economy is only one part of our relationship with the ocean and that it shouldn’t dominate. She observed that the subsistence Blue Economy has been around for a long time and is fundamental to our people’s well-being and to the health of the ocean.

She observed that the EEZs were only determined between 1995 and 2015 and countries are still learning to manage these zones. By claiming these areas of the ocean and negotiating their borders under UNCLOS, countries took on the right and responsibility to “explore, exploit, conserve and manage” their EEZs.

She described the changing nature of Pacific Island boundaries and maps, reflected on the ability of islanders to adapt to change, and highlighted how Pacific Islanders have affected change by making people view the ocean in a different way. The Blue Economy needs to be able to support these changes.

Ms Miller Taii noted that there are a lot of regional plans, including the Pacific Oceanscape, the Pacific Plan and the New Song for Coastal Fisheries, and that action is needed now to implement these. She further highlighted the need for ocean management to be integrated so that management within EEZs is harmonised with what is happening on the high seas.

She summarised a list of considerations for the group discussions:

- Implementation of UNCLOS.
- Secure the maritime boundaries - recognise each other’s boundaries as permanent while awaiting official recognition by the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCLCS) and encourage others who have domain in our region to recognise and respect these boundaries.
- MPAs should be seen as core business tools in managing the ocean from coastal areas through the EEZ to the high seas.
- Base our work on and about culture.
- Adapt to climate change.
- Take a whole domain approach – ridge to reef to ocean and deep waters.
- Implement policies and frameworks.

Group Discussions

Following the presentations, participants broke into smaller groups and used a series of guiding questions to further discuss and input to the Blue Economy concept. Participants engaged actively in this activity and it was noted that a special feature of this session was the opportunity for government

ministers and ambassadors, private sector representatives, academics and scientists and conservation practitioners to discuss issues together. Groups recorded their discussions and provide this to the PIDF team. Overlapping ideas have been collated and are presented below. As official rapporteurs were not present during these discussions, some points may require clarification.

Thoughts on the Blue Economy

Participants discussed their own ideas of what they see as constituting a Blue Economy. The word cloud (see figure xx) has been produced from the initial brainstorm. Some additional thoughts are noted:

- There is a need for a shared definition of Blue Economy for all sectors, that is, public, private sector and CSOs.
- Understanding of Blue Economy requires better governance, data and policies. These are mainly dependent on the resources available.
- The basis of Blue Economy should be a community-based definition to define a consensus and focus on agreed principles.
- Rethink development.
- Take ownership of our own development.
- Past strategies for economic development have not worked; proposals for the green and blue economy are business as usual and are failing our people.



Figure 1: The Blue Economy - first thoughts

What is lacking and not being done through current frameworks and commitments?

- There needs to be more adaptability and responsiveness in the systems so that countries and the regional organisations can respond to new conditions and events.
- How countries operate varies and therefore, there is a difference in understanding of principles and ethics. Programmes and activities need to be country-specific, problem-driven and solution-oriented. Individual country contexts and national capacities and starting points need to be taken into consideration when looking at regional initiatives. *Recommendation is that PIDF start discussions about Blue Economy at the national level.*
- Lack of trade and links between PICTs – there is a lack of links between islands thus lacking mutually shared understanding of what the blue economy is – and so there's no contextualisation to the actual Pacific environment.
- Intellectual and financial resources sit with the regional institutions. Countries are increasingly looking at independent actions and moving away from regional actions. This can be about what is fit for purpose.
- Need to understand and identify the barriers that are stopping communities from taking part in better governance. Identify the barriers, social benefits and work with cross-sectoral organisations and inform the politicians on what to do, also keeping in mind economic development.
- We must recognise that communities also have a monetary/economic interest when it comes to resource management and we cannot presume that cultural and traditional ways of caring for the environment will prevail. A balance is needed.
- We haven't paid attention to the local communities and their stories, research on what's in our communities, our environment and our oceans.
- Traditional knowledge should be part of the framework of the commitment plan. There needs to be an upgrade on traditional knowledge on conserving our oceans.
- The principles and ethics surrounding sustainability need to be upheld when discussing development of the Blue Economy.
- Boundaries and sovereignty issues and determination are also lacking.
- At the national level there is a need for: resource mobilization; country-driven processes; Interdepartmental coordination, voice of the grassroots; addressing the subsistence economy.
- Responsive donor arrangements, donor alignment, multi-level/multi-sectoral coordination needed.
- Economics are not being balanced with the impact on the marginalised and grassroots populations (our elders, children, persons with disabilities).
- There's disconnect with transportation and communication systems.
- Review of existing institutional and governance mechanisms and frameworks (national, regional, international) and alignment with national development plans/strategies.
- Not enough Research and Development and a lack of human development.

How can countries build on or incorporate existing commitments?

- Monitor the voluntary commitments made – keep these transparent and publicise and incentivise the accomplishments. Review the voluntary commitments and identify if these are “business as

usual” and whether or not they are effective models to bring the results that we need to protect our environment and generate positive and ethical practices.

- Build the empowerment from the bottom up.
- The region should be defining itself, rather than accepting labels (PICs, SIDS, etc.) imposed from outside.
 - Incorporate Natural Capital Protocol into local level business reporting to record and assess resource consumption/supply chains.
 - UN Agencies > CROP Agencies > National Governments > Municipal Governments > NGOs/CSOs > Faith-based organizations > Private Sector > Communities.
- Secure the marine boundaries between countries – islands can disappear or appear and that can change EEZs. Secure agreement in the Pacific ocean neighbourhood. A legal gap in UNCLOS; it does not consider what happens if countries lose their land. Countries (or the region) must register boundary coordinates with the UN. Regional empowerment: see Actions 1a and 1b of the Oceans Conference outcome doc. The region could declare to recognise each other's boundaries in the face of climate change – and then invite the US to join the declaration!
 - Pacific community of nations needs a High Seas strategy – responsive, recognising the relationships and dynamic between high seas and national waters.

What are the roles of different stakeholders in developing blue economies for the Pacific region?

Stakeholder	Role
Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive policies that encourage equitable growth • Encourage youth to shift their mind-set towards entrepreneurial thinking • Be a facilitator; provide an enabling environment for the private sector to flourish. • Support local entrepreneurs through simplified, less fragmented and less burdensome legal frameworks; less hardship to the entrepreneurs when setting up businesses. • r
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good governance - enforce penalties and incentives ensuring fairness and high ethical conduct • Protect the most vulnerable from exploitation and abuse • Provide insurance & re-insurance (SWISSRE?) • Develop Blue Economy related legislation that can safeguard environmental sustainability of the businesses in terms of fisheries; reduce pollution of the waters • Ensure businesses submit data as a business registration or licensing requirement • Pilot best practices for limited terms with the private sector
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Action needs to be reflected in the budget
Communities, including youth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become more involved, take ownership and start to view the ocean as a viable source of income • Take more responsibility for the maintenance and health of the ocean resources and better safeguard them

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage/shift mindset of our youth to be service providers instead of service reapers • - there needs to be connecting of dots to make local fishermen in the islands have better access to national and international markets • need to take ownership and endorse initiatives- this needs to be supported by the government. The community is usually left behind in the development of policy and planning for economic development. • Ensure the inclusion, viewpoints and engagement of elders, young people, persons with disabilities, fishers, small store/business owners and farmers in decision making, consultations and awareness activities.
Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • should be growing the economy.
Non-State Actors (NGOs, CSOs, etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public awareness, outreach, capacity building and are the connectors. • Build the capacity of community groups to be the links to the community to help communities be more participatory • Be involved in planning for development.
Development Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • should ensure that they align their policies with national and regional priorities.
Academia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research, education and training.
IGO (CROP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • should look at policy advice, capacity building, education, training, research, data collection • need to take the national agenda to the rest of the world
UN Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deal with funders, policy advice, capacity building, education, training, research and data collection
Multilateral Agencies to.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work with investors, innovators, connectors, promoters
The media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • publish more community related stories • include a climate change section in our papers to better educate our rural communities

What capacities are to be developed for the Pacific island countries in progressing their blue economy work?

- Building capabilities in the different (already established) bodies, institutional capacity. Review existing national and regional systems by better utilising CROP agencies for expertise.
- Training for communities to develop specific and realistic steps for their respective communities to carry out activities in the homes, work sites and community venues that will reduce adverse impact; train communities to be participatory in work sessions, policy discussions and high level meetings; support the work of NGOs who have access to and work on the ground directly with the marginalised populations to be better programme and finance managers.
- Means for transmission of traditional knowledge
 - Social sciences and ethnography at tertiary level
 - Primary school curriculum mainstreaming

- Legislative capacity - academia and businesses can partner with the NGO sector to articulate laws and policies that they can bring to government to safeguard human rights while encouraging social mobility.
- Need to have Cost-Benefit Analysis on centralised/decentralised training needs
- Risk management training for investments.
- Build capacities for national mechanism for addressing, mitigating, and compensating.
- Vocational certification for farmers, fishermen, etc.
- Capacity development of the local climate action workers in the technical scientific areas on blue economy issues.
- Need to training and education, not just in the formal section, but also to highlight traditional knowledge.
- Enhance capacity in environmental literacy, incorporating traditional knowledge for communities. There needs to be better research on what currently in existence traditionally.
- Training in monitoring and evaluation.

What first steps are needed, given that there are existing regional and national commitments and roadmaps?

- Don't rush things. There is much to learn (blue carbon, deep sea resources). Do a bit more due diligence – have the hub (PIDF?) do country visits, understand the different contexts, and the knowledge gaps and capacity/skill needs (e.g. emerging ocean industries).
- Natural resource assessment and validations should be done as first steps.
- Develop a blue economy template or model for the region, built on what is shared, what is common, what is agreed; and that can be realised in local terms, specific to each country, applicable. Developing it nationally would be advisable together with a gap analysis. This can integrate existing statements and initiatives. There needs to be a timeframe for this.
- Bi-annual review of the commitments and roadmaps to ensure that they are appropriate, culturally relevant, people centered, and reflective of the basic fundamental needs of the community while ensuring that there are no adverse impacts on the environment.
- Knowledge sharing and developing a shared vision on the blue economy – perhaps the development of a checklist that will ensure that there is no harm on our people and our environment – making sure that those plans and approaches that have failed and have continued to the level of “illness” our oceans and environment are now experiencing are not repeated or continued.
- Help and guide communities to understand the lifestyle choices we make that are ultimately leading to the demise of our oceans and environment such as use of plastics, buying more cars, using cars instead of walking, putting waste and trash in our oceans or our lands etc.
- Focus on who is benefitting and who is being harmed by any approach, plan or policy that is being proposed. Questions must always be asked and answered: “Who is the development for? Who is going to prosper? Who is going to be left behind or harmed?”
- Strengthening of institutions, the regional bodies and research institutions. Involve USP in planning and more.
- There are also some priority issues than can be sped up, things that are well understood – e.g. tuna and high seas fisheries.
- Survey of payment distribution > money in and money out of communities.
- Local production models through nature-based solutions > closed loop and circular economies (reducing import reliance)
 - i. Reducing synthetic inputs >

- ii. Ridge-to-Reef planning
- iii. Integrated land management with inputs to Marine Environment
- iv. Formalise and strengthen biosecurity and invasive species control

12.0 Partner Statements

A number of development partners of PIDF attended and participated in the conference. Statements were made by Argentina, Belgium, China, International Labour Organization; Norway, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Russia.

The development partner statements are provided in Annex

13.0 Summary of Discussions and Closing

The summary of the conference was shared with participants for review and comment before its acceptance by consensus as a record of the general discussions of the conference.

The **PIDF Chair, the honourable Minister Tozaka**, acknowledged the government of Fiji for agreeing to host the conference at short notice. He reflected that the objective at the start of the previous day was to translate all of our existing commitments into a sustainable blue economy. He stated that participants would leave the conference with not only a deeper understanding of many of the challenges but they will also have been inspired by many of the opportunities that the Blue Economy represents. As Pacific people, he stated we have a deep cultural and social tie to the ocean. We also know that the ocean is in crisis we have failed in managing our oceans effectively. He said that strong regional, national and local governance and leadership can address and reverse this crisis and action cannot wait.

The distinguished Chair discussed some of the good practices in the region that were discussed during the conference and said that locally-driven, home-grown solutions were much more likely to be sustainable. He stressed the need for application of the precautionary principle in untested emerging industries. He highlighted key areas for focus including coastal fisheries and subsistence fishers and urged countries to invest in their oceanic and coastal fisheries management through their own budgets and not only look to external financing.

He reflected that this conference and its follow-up actions form part of the PIDF commitment from the UN Ocean Conference. As Chair of PIDF he urged PIDF to take the conference discussions and use this as the basis for a Blue Economy Roadmap and incorporate it into their strategic plan.

Minister Tozaka thanked the PIDF Secretariat for the technical support at such short notice and also thanked the participants for the rich and inspirational discussions. He asked that before people left the conference they commit to doing one thing that follows up directly on the discussions from the conference. He urged participants to go beyond their dreams.

Mr François Martel in giving his closing remarks, observed that at the beginning of the conference he had envisaged a journey – a knowledge platform on the ocean economy and the concept of the sustainable Blue Economy – that would bring together participants' ideas and know-how to assist PIDF in developing a blueprint for the blue economy in the context of the Pacific. He stated that this multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder gathering had achieved this and that the outcomes of the conference will form PIDF's collective contribution to the region's SDG 14 roadmap in particular target 14.7.

He observed that in addition to existing ocean industries, the conference had discussed emerging industries in the context of a sustainable Blue Economy and that a range of lessons had been learned regarding mobilising innovative financing mechanisms for the Blue Economy.

The Secretary General outlined the next steps from the conference, noting that the conference summary would be presented to the PIDF Chair and the president of the UN General Assembly as the first steps towards our voluntary commitment.

He advised that further work should be “inspired by nature, based on traditional ocean wisdom and be built on nissological transdisciplinary science”.

He acknowledged in particular, the govt of the Solomon Islands, the government of the Republic of Fiji and UNESCAP and thanked all other stakeholders who provided assistance, advice and support in planning and preparing for the conference. He highlighted support from GLISPA, SPREP, the LMMA Network, UN Environment Sub Regional Office for the Pacific, WCS, CI, WWF, FFA, IUCN, Ocean Futures Society, USP and the governments of Kazakhstan, Pakistan and the State of Qatar.

Secretary General Martel acknowledged all participants and the various teams that supported the conference.

The Reverend François Pihaatae reflected on the discussions of the two days and read a motivational prayer titled “A Step Along the Way”. The prayer reminds that we are working towards a bigger vision, one that we may not see in our own lifetime but we must continue and strive towards our goal, doing our best we can. The Reverend closed the conference with a blessing for the wisdom, courage and skills to put our plans into action, for fellowship and safe travels.



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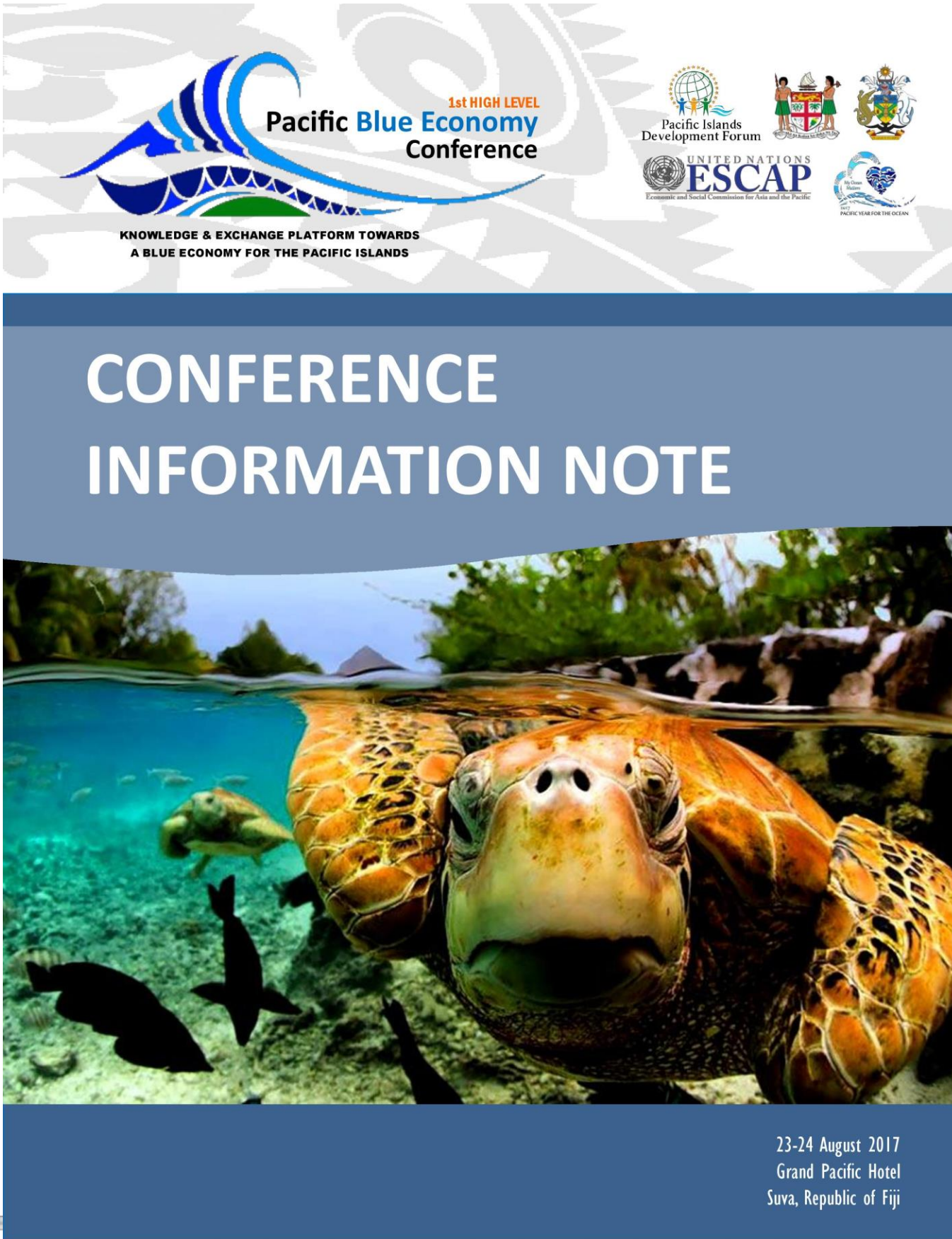
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Annexes

Annex I: Information note



1st HIGH LEVEL
Pacific Blue Economy
Conference

**KNOWLEDGE & EXCHANGE PLATFORM TOWARDS
A BLUE ECONOMY FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS**

Pacific Islands
Development Forum

UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

PACIFIC YEAR FOR THE OCEAN

CONFERENCE INFORMATION NOTE

23-24 August 2017
Grand Pacific Hotel
Suva, Republic of Fiji

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THE RATIONALE FOR A PACIFIC BLUE ECONOMY

Our marine environment and ocean resources are central to sustainable development and poverty eradication in the Pacific islands, providing food security, economic development, spiritual and cultural inspiration, and an array of ecosystem services that include coastal protection and carbon sequestration. However, the long-term health and vitality of the ocean is under threat from rapidly increasing populations, overharvested fisheries, land-based activities, coastal development and from climate change impacts.

Reversing this destruction and restoring the integrity of the Pacific ocean is an imperative that has been recognised across the region and is reflected in declarations, commitments and a number of regional frameworks and strategies.

Despite intent, there has been limited success in implementation at the national level, with disconnected policies and decision making based on limited understanding of the real value of the resources being extracted or of the ecosystems being disrupted. If we are to ensure that future generations of Pacific islanders are to continue to benefit from our ocean environment, then we must be able to value our natural resources as capital for future gains and to make investment decisions accordingly.

For many Pacific islands, our natural resources are mostly ocean/marine-based. The concept of a blue economy offers an opportunity to look holistically at the natural capital in this “blue” environment in terms of how its wealth can be best harnessed to give maximum and on-going returns in a sustainable way.

While there is no universally agreed definition, the concept of a blue economy is generally understood to be a coherent, integrated, science-based approach to managing the economic development of the ocean and its resources, while improving human well-being and social equity, and preserving the environment and the integrity of marine and coastal ecosystems.

A blue economy is based on clean technologies, renewable energy and circular material flows to secure economic and social stability over time, while keeping within the limits of one planet¹.

Implementing a blue economy will require a move away from business-as-usual practices to embracing more inclusive, equitable and integrated approaches to the way in which marine resources and ocean ecosystems are valued, used and managed.

It has been suggested that a blue economy offers a mind-set for managing business risks, improving decision making, generating new opportunities and collaborating across sectors towards something that is potentially 'truly transformational and sustainable'².

¹ WWF Principles for a Sustainable Blue Economy. WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme.

² Whisman, R., and Reyes, A. 2015. Blue Economy for Business in East Asia: Towards an Integrated Understanding of Blue Economy. Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA).

Green Growth/ Green Economy & Blue Economy

The blue economy builds on and incorporates the principles of green growth or green economy. The Rio+20 outcome statement – The Future We Want - uses the term “green economy” to describe an approach or paradigm that emphasises the four core elements of sustainable development agreed at the first Rio Summit in 1992, notably:

- the precautionary principle;
- the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity;
- the principles of intra-generational and inter-generational equity; and
- the internalisation of environmental costs, including the polluter pays principle³.

The Rio+20 outcome refers to a “green economy” as an important tool for achieving sustainable development. A green economy should contribute to poverty reduction, sustained growth, social cohesion, and employment without compromising the ability of ecosystems to function.

It is worth noting that the Rio+20 discussion of a green economy does not differentiate between sectors; rather, the use of the term “green” is in the context of these principles of sustainable development. The initial use of the phrase “blue economy” by Pacific island developing states was in the lead up to the Rio+20 summit in 2012, to highlight the importance of conservation and sustainable management of marine and ocean resources within the context of a green economy. A blue economy is thus guided by the same paradigm as that of a green economy, and “blue” is used to focus emphasis on the ocean (and coastal resources).

With the inclusion of Sustainable Development Goal 14, “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” in the sustainable development agenda, the imperative now is to ‘operationalise’ these concepts.

³ UNGA, 2012. 66/288: The Future We Want. Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 July 2012.

Relevant Regional Policies & Frameworks

The Pacific has developed a number of policies and frameworks, which along with other regional (and international) ocean related strategies, declarations and initiatives, seek to meet the following general key objectives for ocean issues in the region and thus provide a good foundation for a blue economy focus:

- (1) increasing the share of benefits that Pacific island countries receive from the use of their marine living resources;
- (2) reducing over-fishing beyond maximum sustainable yields, destructive fishing practices, and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; and
- (3) building the resilience of marine ecosystems, and coral reefs in particular, to the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification, among other impacts.

Regional commitments include:

(i) Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape 2010 designed to catalyse action in support of the Pacific Islands Regional Oceans Policy (PIROP), to ‘protect, manage and sustain the cultural and natural integrity of the ocean for present and future generations and for the broader global community’. The overall intent of the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape is to foster stewardship at all levels ‘to ensure in perpetuity the health and wellbeing of our oceans and ourselves’.

The Framework identifies 6 strategic priorities for immediate implementation, namely:

- establishing ‘jurisdictional rights and responsibilities’,
- fostering ‘good ocean governance’,
- supporting ‘sustainable development, management and conservation’,
- promoting ‘listening, learning, liaising and leading’, sustaining action, and
- facilitating adaptation to a rapidly changing environment.

(ii) **Melanesian Spearhead Group Roadmap for Inshore Fisheries Management and Sustainable Development (2015-2024)** – toward a vision to create well managed, sustainable inshore fisheries, using community-based approaches that provide long-term economic, social, ecological and food security benefits to communities.

(iii) **A New Song for Coastal Fisheries – pathways to change: the Noumea strategy** – an innovative approach to dealing with declines in coastal fisheries resources and related ecosystems, based on a return to community-based ecosystem approaches to fisheries management, and complementing the Melanesian Spearhead Group Roadmap.

(iv) **Future of Fisheries: A regional roadmap for sustainable Pacific fisheries** – sets 11 clear goals for oceanic and coastal fisheries and indicators to measure progress for the next 10 years, requiring facilitation through Forum Fisheries Agency and the SPC working together with high level political commitment and direction, and whole-of-government implementation at national level.

(v) **SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (A/Res/69/15; UN 2014)** – the outcome of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, re-emphasising the need for integrated development for sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all, focusing on 30 priority areas, which include oceans, food security, climate change, biodiversity, sustainable tourism, gender equality and women's empowerment, water and sanitation, sustainable transport, partnerships and financing.

Declarations of relevance include:

- i. Pohnpei Ocean Statement: A Course to Sustainability (September 11, 2016);
- ii. Polynesian Leaders Group, Te Moana O Hiva: Declaration on the Ocean (June 28, 2016)
- iii. Palau Declaration on The Ocean: Life and Future: Charting a course to sustainability; (29 August, 2014)
- iv. Suva Declaration on Climate Change (2-4 September, 2015);
- v. Taputapuātea Polynesian Leaders Group Declaration on Climate Change.
- vi. UN Ocean Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. Pacific islands made a number of voluntary commitments at the UN Oceans Conference held in June 2017 and committed to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Summary of regionally identified priorities towards a blue economy

As part of the Pacific preparations for the Rio+20 Conference, countries met in Apia, Samoa to discuss priority tasks or actions towards addressing ocean issues. These are provided here as a guide for discussion only and are not intended to be an exhaustive list.

Financing implementation of regional plans. Long-term technical and funding support for national level implementation is needed to realise enduring tangible benefits from ocean resources for Pacific islands.

Improving Ocean Governance particularly: (i) the capacity to enforce internationally agreed fisheries rules on the high seas; (ii) sustainable development of fisheries; (iii) monitoring, control and surveillance; (iv) compliance with Flag State duties to ensure conservation of living resources on the high seas; (iii) IMO standards for maritime safety, security and marine environment protection to fishing vessels; and (iv) removal of perverse incentives like vessel and fuel subsidies that encourage distant water fishing.

Maintaining the Health of the Ocean including a new international programme to address ocean acidification; reducing the impacts of climate change; the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency, coastal protection and re-vegetation, conservation of wetlands and mangroves; the expansion of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs); improved management of land-based activities and sources of pollution; and combating invasive species as a key threat to the health of the oceans in particular from ballast water and hull fouling.

Sustainable Development and Management of Ocean Resources including Fisheries, which is by far the largest use of ocean resources in the region; more equitable sharing of the benefits of fisheries within the region; tourism as a major industry for Pacific islands, most of which takes place on or related to the coast and ocean; sustainable alternative sources of aggregate (sand and gravel); and exploration of coastal and offshore oil and gas under suitable precautionary principles and in line with best international practice.

This Conference

As stewards of the world's largest ocean, Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) Leaders gathering in Honiara, Solomon Islands, on 12 July 2016 approved for the PIDF to host the 1st high level Pacific Blue Economy Conference (PBEC) in 2017.

This Conference will be a two-day meeting to be held at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva, Fiji on 23 and 24 August, 2017.

The overall goal is to provide a knowledge platform on the blue economy for the Pacific Islands and to explore lessons learned, innovations and emerging industries based on ocean resources.

The Conference will build on the outcomes of the June 2017 UN Conference on SDG 14 and on existing Pacific commitments and frameworks, to provide a roadmap for refining the concept and implementing a Blue Economy in the Pacific.

More specifically, the objectives of this Conference are:

- to inform Pacific senior officials and stakeholders on emerging ocean resources management issues and opportunities;
- to assist the Pacific in defining the blue economy concept and ways to implement it;
- to support the Pacific by debating the complex issues surrounding the blue economy; and

to facilitate exchange of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in the region and other parts of the globe on the concept of blue growth and the blue economy that are adapted and aligned with Pacific islands perspectives, priorities and solutions.

The Conference is open to all registered participants. Registration closes on 16 August 2017.

Please register at <https://goo.gl/forms/pK5j3oIS2RnPsmEN2> (direct link) or visit <http://pacificidf.org/1st-high-level-pacific-blue-economy-conference/>

Further Reading

1. 2016 PIDF Leaders Summit Outcome Document, <http://pacificidf.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/2016-Leaders-Summit-and-Presummit-Outcome-Document.pdf>
2. United Nations World Ocean Assessment, United Nations, http://www.un.org/Depts/los/global_reporting/WOA_RegProcess.htm
3. Global Ocean Commission (2014). From Decline to Recovery A Rescue Package for the Global Ocean. <http://www.ctknetwork.org/wp-content/documents/pdf/GOC-Full-Report.pdf>
4. United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/70/L.64. Modalities for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/303&Lang=E
5. Park, K.S, 2014. *A Study on rebuilding the classification system of the ocean economy*, Center for the Blue Economy in Monterey Institute of International Studies, Monterey, California. http://centerfortheblueeconomy.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/10.29.14.park_kwangseo.the_ocean_economy_classification_systemfinal_21.pdf
6. Principles for a Sustainable Blue Economy. WWF BALTIC ECOREGION PROGRAMME. http://www.wwf.se/source.php/1605623/15_1471_blue_economy_6_pages_final.pdf
7. Gunter Pauli, The Blue Economy: <http://www.theblueeconomy.org/videos.html>
8. Cyrus Rustomjee, Financing the Blue Economy : https://www.cigionline.org/sites/default/files/pb_no78_web.pdf
9. WHAT IS BLUE CARBON? <http://thebluecarboninitiative.org/blue-carbon/> Samoa Pathway 3rd SIDS Conference <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sids2014/samoapathway>

Contact

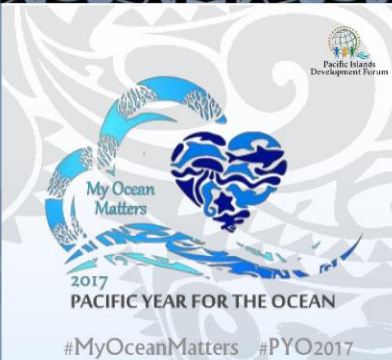
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Event weblink
<http://pacificidf.org/1st-high-level-pacific-blue-economy-conference/>

Conference Social Media Handle: #PBEC @PIDF01


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2017
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ENHANCE COLLABORATION IN ACHIEVING SDG14 TARGETS where all are advocating towards a common mission

RECOGNISE THE THREATS POSED TO OUR OCEANS through the over harvesting and mismanagement of resources, as well as land-derived and sea-based pollution

RECOGNISE THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE on the Ocean's ecosystems & our people's livelihood & continued existence on low lying islands

RECOGNISE THE NEED TO CONTROL EMISSIONS that



A United, Distinctive & Sustainable Pacific Society

Pacific Islands Development Forum
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Republic of Fiji

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1st HIGH LEVEL Pacific Blue Economy Conference

Knowledge & Exchange Platform towards
a Blue Economy for the Pacific Islands

PROGRAMME

1st HIGH-LEVEL BLUE ECONOMY CONFERENCE

Pacific Blue Economy Conference Partners



DAY 1 - Wednesday 23 August, 2017

TIME	SESSION (Britannia Ballroom)
	Chair: Hon. Milner Tozaka, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Solomon Islands Secretariat: François Martel, Secretary General, PIDF
8.00 Onwards	Registration
8.30 – 8.35	Opening Devotion – Reverend François Pihaatae, General Secretary, Pacific Council of Churches
8.35 – 8.45	Opening Remarks – Hon. Milner Tozaka, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Solomon Islands
8.45 – 8.55	Welcome Remarks - Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama – Prime Minister of Fiji & Co-chair of UN Global Ocean Conference 2017, New York
8.55 – 9.00	Video Opening Message: H.E. Karmenu Vella, EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.
9.00 – 9.15	Keynote Address - James Michel – Former President of Seychelles and Founder of the James Michel Foundation
9.15 – 9.45	<i>Group Photo, Tea/Coffee Break</i>
	Session Chair: François Martel, Secretary General, PIDF
9.45 – 10.30	SDG 14 and the Blue Economy Objective: To share knowledge and experiences from the UN Ocean Conference in the context of blue economy. Video Message <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Peter Thomson, President of the General Assembly, United Nations Keynote Speaker <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Prime Minister of Tuvalu Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Osnat Lubrani, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative (TBC) Dame Meg Taylor, Pacific Ocean Commissioner & Chair of Partnership Dialogue on SDG14 Target 14.7 - UN Global Ocean Conference 2017, New York Session chair: Iosefa Maiava, Head, UNESCAP Pacific Office (TBC)
10.30– 11.50	The Blue Economy: The Global Experience Objective: To discuss the global perspective on blue economy and how it can be applied in the Pacific. Lead Presenter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor Gunter Pauli, Serial entrepreneur, author and initiator of the Blue Economy Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Holthus, Founding President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), World Ocean Council H.E Angus Friday, Grenada Ambassador to the United States of America Professor Edvard Hviding, Department of Anthropology, University of Bergen, Norway Interactive Discussion

DAY 1 - Wednesday 23 August, 2017

	<p>Session Chair: Dr. Jeremy Hills, Director, Institute of Marine Resources, University of the South Pacific (USP)</p>
11.50 – 1.05	<p>The Blue Economy: A Pacific Perspective Objective: To discuss blue economy in a Pacific perspective and its opportunities implications and impact.</p> <p>Lead Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Hersey Kyota, Ambassador of Palau to USA, Chair of the Board of GLISPA Video message, John Tanzer, Practice Leader, Oceans, WWF International <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jean-Michel Cousteau, Oceanographer, Savusavu Sarah Thomas Nededog, Chair-Pacific Islands Association of Non-Government Organisations (PIANGO) Francis Chopin, Senior Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Sefanaia Nawadra, Director, Head, Pacific Sub Regional Office, United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) <p>Interactive Discussion</p>
1.05 – 2.05	Lunch
	<p>Session Chair: Sue Taei, Executive Director, Conservation International New Zealand and Pacific Islands</p>
2.05 – 3.25	<p>Key Ocean Industries Objective: To discuss the opportunities for existing industries facing the transition to more environmentally sustainable practices, where technologies and business models and innovations are focused on promoting or restoring ocean health.</p> <p>Plenary (Britannia room) Video message: Douglas Frantz, Deputy Secretary General, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Alfred Jr. Alfred, Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce, Republic of the Marshall Islands Hon. Semisi Fakahau, Minister for Agriculture, Food, Forests and Fisheries, Tonga <p>Parallel session 1: Oceanic Fisheries (Britannia Room): Facilitator: Sue Taei, Executive Director, Conservation International New Zealand and Pacific Islands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof. Johann Bell, Fisheries Consultant, Conservation International (CI) Dr Bryony Townhill, Marine Climate Change Scientist, The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), United Kingdom Peter Cusack, Regional Coordinator - Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) <p>Interactive Discussion</p> <p>Parallel session 2: Marine and Coastal Tourism (Matua Room 1): Facilitator: Mark Borg, Team Leader Programme Management, Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christina Leala Gale, Manager – Sustainable Tourism Development, South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) Colin Philp, President, Fiji Islands Voyaging Society and Manager, Leleuvia Island Resort, Fiji <p>Interactive Discussion</p> <p>Parallel session 3: Coastal Fisheries and Community Livelihoods (Matua Room 2): Facilitator: Viliame Kasanawaqa, Team Leader Policy Research & Evaluation, Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justin Hunter, J. Hunter Pearls Fiji Ltd. Francis Chopin, Senior Fisheries & Aquaculture Officer, The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Alifereti Tawake, Council Chair & Technical Advisor, Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) Network International Cathy Joyce, Pacific Ocean Culture Pte Ltd, Fiji <p>Interactive Discussion</p>
3.25 – 3.55	Tea/Coffee Break
	<p>Session chair: Andrew Foran, Head, Pacific Centre for Environmental Governance, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)</p>
3.55 – 5.15	<p>Innovation in the Blue Economy: Emerging Industries Objective: To discuss the opportunities and challenges of emerging industries and policy implications within a blue economy context.</p> <p>Plenary (Britannia room) Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Andy Stevens, Research Director of the CSIRO Coastal Development & Management Program, (CSIRO)

DAY 1 - Wednesday 23 August, 2017

	<p>Panelists:</p> <p>Parallel session 1: Seabed Resources (Britannia room)</p> <p>Facilitator: Andrew Foran, Head, Pacific Centre for Environmental Governance, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Akuila Tawake, Akuila Tawake, Team Leader, SPC-EU DSM Project, Pacific Community (SPC) Maureen Penjueli, Coordinator, Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG) <p>Interactive Discussion</p> <p>Parallel session 2: Ocean Energy (Matua room 1)</p> <p>Facilitator: Arpana Pratap, Team Leader Member Capacity, Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jens Kruger, Manager, Ocean and Coastal Geoscience, Pacific Community (SPC) <p>Interactive Discussion</p> <p>Parallel session 3: Ocean Afforestation and Blue Carbon (Matua room 2)</p> <p>Facilitator: Dr. Stacy Jupiter, Melanesia Director, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Antoine de Ramon D'Yeurt, Lecturer, Pacific Center for Environment and Sustainable Development (PaCE-SD), USP Francis Areki, Conservation Director, WWF Pacific. Professor Gunter Pauli, Serial entrepreneur, author and initiator of the Blue Economy <p>Interactive Discussion</p>
5.15 – 5.50	Development Partner Statements
5.50 – 6.10	Wrap up by Chief Rapporteur: Marita Manley
6.30 - 8.00	<p>Welcome Reception</p> <p>Hosted by Hon. Milner Tozaka, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Solomon Islands</p> <p>On behalf of the PIDF Chair - Location: Pool Side</p>

DAY 2 - Thursday 24 August, 2017

8.15 – 8.30	<p>Summary of Day 1</p> <p>Chair: Hon. Milner Tozaka, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Solomon Islands</p>
	Session chair: Dr. Hugh Govan, Adjunct Senior Fellow, University of the South Pacific (USP)
8.30-8.35	OECD Video Message - Douglas Frantz - Deputy Sec General - OECD
8.35 – 9.45	<p>Education, research and capacity building: challenges for a growing blue economy</p> <p>Objective: To discuss what technical, scientific, economic and finance knowledge or skills are needed for a blue economy.</p> <p>Lead Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Jeremy Hills, Director, Institute of Marine Resources, University of the South Pacific (USP) <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Tommy Moore, Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System Officer, Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Penehuro Lefale, Senior Advisor, Climate Change, Tokelau Jeff Ardron, Adviser, Ocean Governance, Commonwealth Secretariat. <p>Interactive Discussion</p>
9.45 – 10.10	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>
	Session chair: Taholo Kami, Oceans and Climate Advisor
10.10 – 11.30	<p>Blue growth and ocean governance - balance between use and protection of the ocean</p> <p>Objective: To provide a platform for discussions and to explore how to strengthen ocean governance at the regional level drawing on lessons learned from past regional experiences and develop concrete recommendations for advancing good oceans governance as a cornerstone of blue economy development.</p>

DAY 2 - Thursday 24 August, 2017

10.10 – 11.30	<p>Lead Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. John Maneniaru, Minister for Fisheries, Solomon Islands Dr. Jan Steffen, Project Director, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries (MACBIO) <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, Tui Macuata, Community Based Marine resource management Nicholas Conner, Co-lead, Ecosystem Services Thematic Group, International Union for Conservation of Nature Commission on Ecosystem Management H.E Angus Friday, Grenada Ambassador to the United States of America <p>Interactive Discussion</p>
	Session chair: Iosefa Maiava, Head, UNESCAP Pacific Office
11.30 – 12.40	<p>Financing the Blue Economy Objective: To discuss blue financing and new and innovative financing mechanisms.</p> <p>Lead Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rob Jauncey, Pacific Office representative, Asian Development Bank (ADB) Jacques Dugasse, Chief Executive Officer, James Michel Foundation, Seychelles (TBC) <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Sebastian Thomas, Lecturer Sustainability Governance & Leadership, University of Melbourne Dr. Melissa Walsh, Ocean Finance Manager, Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP) Paul Holthus, Founding President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), World Ocean Council Professor Gunter Pauli, Serial entrepreneur, author and initiator of the Blue Economy <p>Interactive Discussion</p>
12.40-12.50	Partner Statements
12.50 – 1.40	<i>Lunch</i>
	Session chair: Howard Politini, Chair of Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO)
1.40 – 3.10	<p>Developing Blue Economies for the Pacific Objective: To provide a platform for discussions for developing a roadmap for blue economies in the Pacific.</p> <p>Lead Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Elehi Kelihiano Kalolo, Minister for Climate Change, Tokelau Jeff Ardron, Adviser, Ocean Governance, Commonwealth Secretariat Dr. Hugh Govan, Adjunct Senior Fellow, University of the South Pacific (USP) Sue Taei, Executive Director, Conservation International New Zealand and Pacific Islands <p>Interactive Discussion</p>
3.10 – 3.30	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>
3.30 – 4.30	Summary of Conference Outcomes
4.30 – 4.45	<p>Farewell Address Hon. Milner Tozaka, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Solomon Islands</p>
4.45 – 5.15	<p>Closing Remarks François Martel, Secretary General, Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF)</p>
5.15 – 5.20	<p>Closing Prayer Reverend François Pihaatae, General Secretary, Pacific Council of Churches</p>
5.30 - 6.30	<p>Side Event Professor Gunter Pauli, Serial entrepreneur, author and initiator of the Blue Economy</p>
6.30 – 8.30	<p>Farewell reception and dinner hosted by PIDF Hosted by François Martel, Secretary General of PIDF Location: Pool Side and Britinnia Ballroom</p>

Pacific Islands Development Forum

1ST HIGH LEVEL PACIFIC BLUE ECONOMY CONFERENCE

PIDF CONFERENCE: SUSTAINABLE OCEANS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

23-24 AUGUST, 2017 GPH, SUVA, REPUBLIC OF FIJI

BE INVOLVED IN INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH
GLOBAL GUEST SPEAKERS



Gunter Pauli

The Huffington Post called him "The Steve Jobs of Sustainability". His Latin American friends rather call him "The Che Guevara of Sustainability". He works with what is locally available, focuses on the generation of value.

Professor Gunter Pauli is founder and Chairman of PPA Holding and of more than 10 other companies, founder and CEO of the European Service Industries Forum (ESIF), Secretary General of the European Business Press Federation (UPEFE), founder and president of the Foundation "Mozarteum Belgicum", Chairman and President of Ecover, and advisor to the Rector of the United Nations University in Tokyo (Japan). His entrepreneurial activities span business, culture, science, politics and the environment. He founded the "Zero Emissions Research and Initiatives" (ZERI) at the United Nations University in Tokyo, and subsequently established The Global ZERI Network as a foundation, redesigning production and consumption into clusters of industries inspired by natural systems. Part of his many initiatives include the design of a solution for the plastic soup floating in the oceans and the creation of a protective zone with islands to avert rising sea levels. Gunter has published 20 books (written 16 - edited 4), which have been printed in +30 languages and 365 fables bringing science and emotions to children. Over 17 million copies have been distributed worldwide. His publications include "The Blue Economy 2.0: 200 projects implemented, \$4 billion invested and 3 million jobs created", "From Deep Ecology to Blue Economy: 21 Principles of the New Business Model"

He has been visiting lecturer and professor at universities in on all continents, and has advised governments, entrepreneurs and industry leaders on how to implement breakthrough innovations that permits society to better respond to the basic needs of all, starting with water, food, housing, health and energy.

A keen educationalist, former President James Alix Michel was directly involved in the creation of the University of Seychelles. He remains as the chancellor of the university, and the patron of the *James Michel Blue Economy Research Institute* at the university.

James Alix Michel was, until he became President, the longest serving Cabinet minister in Seychelles. Michel propelled Seychelles on the international scene as an ardent advocate of the cause of small island developing states, the preservation of the environment and, more recently, the "Blue Economy". Under Michel's presidency, Seychelles started its journey to become the first country in the world to have a comprehensive marine spatial plan for its entire ocean territory, which continues to be developed through an ongoing full survey of the Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone. In February 2017 he set up the **James Michel Foundation** in order to further promote the Blue Economy concept. He has been responsible for the promulgation of legislation transforming half of Seychelles' territory into nature reserves – the highest proportion in the world. During his Presidency, Michel co-chaired the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) to promote action to build resilient and sustainable island communities for all islands. With his leadership, GLISPA has mobilised political support for the Blue Economy and marine protected areas within island regions of the world.

Sustainable development that reduces the vulnerability of Small Island States to climate change, food and energy crises remains at the forefront of Michel's agenda. He is also one of the patrons of the World Sustainable Development Forum (WSDF).



James Alix Michel



Jean-Michel Cousteau

Explorer. Environmentalist. Educator. Film Producer. For more than four decades, Jean-Michel Cousteau has dedicated himself and his vast experience to communicate to people of all nations and generations his love and concern for our water planet.

Since first being "thrown overboard" by his father at the age of seven with newly invented SCUBA gear on his back, Jean-Michel has been exploring the ocean realm. The son of ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau, Jean-Michel has investigated the world's oceans aboard *Calypso* and *Alcyon* for much of his life. Honoring his heritage, Jean-Michel founded **Ocean Futures Society** in 1999 to carry on this pioneering work. Ocean Futures Society, a non-profit marine conservation and education organization, serves as a "Voice for the Ocean" by communicating in all media the critical bond between people and the sea and the importance of wise environmental policy. As Ocean Future's spokesman, Jean-Michel serves as an impassioned diplomat for the environment, reaching out to the public through a variety of media. He has produced over 80 films and received the Emmy amongst numerous other awards. Reaching millions of people globally through Ocean Futures Society, Jean-Michel continues to produce environmentally oriented adventure programs and television specials, public service announcements, multi-media programs for schools, web-based marine content, books, articles for magazines, newspaper columns, and public lectures.

As Chairman of the Board and President of Ocean Futures Society, Jean-Michel travels the world, meeting with leaders and policymakers at the grassroots level and at the highest echelons of government and business.

Email: secretariat@pacificidf.org

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THIS CONFERENCE

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More specifically, the objectives of this Conference were:

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- to support the Pacific by debating the complex issues surrounding the blue economy; and
- to facilitate exchange of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in the region and other parts of the globe on the concept of blue growth and the blue economy that are adapted and aligned with Pacific islands perspectives, priorities and solutions.

The Conference was chaired by the Hon. Milner Tozaka, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Solomon Islands, on behalf of the Chair of PIDF, the Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, the Hon. Manasseh Sogavare. The welcoming remarks were eloquently provided by the Prime Minister of Fiji, the Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, co-chair of the UN Ocean Conference held in June in New York and Chair of the UNFCCC COP23, who welcomed official delegations from 12 Pacific island countries and territories, and more than 30 development partners to the region.

More than 200 participants took part in the two-day event. They included a various audience made of government, private sector, civil society, research institutions and academia, representatives of multilateral institutions, the UN, and other development partners, international and regional organizations. This was a truly multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder conference on the Blue Economy for the Pacific Islands.

This Conference Summary, with Key Recommendations and Proposed Actions, together with the Proceedings of this Conference, form the first steps of a blueprint for the Pacific Islands Development Forum to contribute to the implementation of the SDG 14 and to the further development of Blue Economy in the Pacific.

To access conference documents please refer to

<http://pacificidf.org/1st-high-level-pacific-blue-economy-conference/>

Pacific Blue Economy Conference Partners



THIS CONFERENCE

As stewards of the world's largest ocean, Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) Leaders gathered in Honiara, Solomon Islands, on 12 July 2016 and approved PIDF's hosting of the 1st high level Pacific Blue Economy Conference (PBEC) in 2017.

This Conference was a two-day meeting held at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva, Fiji on 23 and 24 August, 2017.

The overall goal was to provide a knowledge platform on the blue economy for the Pacific Islands and to explore lessons learned, innovations and emerging industries based on ocean resources.

The Conference built on the outcomes of the June 2017 UN Conference on SDG 14 and on existing Pacific commitments and frameworks, to provide a roadmap for refining the concept and implementing a Blue Economy in the Pacific.

More specifically, the objectives of this Conference were:

- to inform Pacific senior officials and stakeholders on emerging ocean resources management issues and opportunities;
- to assist the Pacific in defining the blue economy concept and ways to implement it;
- to support the Pacific by debating the complex issues surrounding the blue economy; and
- to facilitate exchange of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in the region and other parts of the globe on the concept of blue growth and the blue economy that are adapted and aligned with Pacific islands perspectives, priorities and solutions.

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Pacific Blue Economy Conference Partners



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS & PROPOSED ACTIONS

- Creating a sustainable Pacific Blue Economy will require the collective and coordinated actions of many stakeholders. Partnerships across governments, the private sector and civil society organisations are needed to shape this future - a future which is people-centred, and places human rights and human dignity at its core.
- Semantics around definitional issues can detract from getting the work done. Various terms - blue economy, green growth, blue growth, sustainable development, regenerative growth - are all used to describe a value-based system that ensures that development today does not undermine the resource base available for future development. A sustainable Blue Economy is one in which the use of our oceans today enhances rather than undermines natural capital and does not compromise the ability of future generations to generate cultural, social and economic wealth.
- Many commitments have been made and actions taken. The focus should be on implementation and actively monitoring existing commitments to ensure they are appropriate, people-centered and reflective of the needs and aspirations of all stakeholders. Climate action and ocean action are two sides of the same coin, and the Pacific will continue to ensure both remain at the top of the global agenda.
- The foundation of the Pacific Blue Economy is the coastal and near shore fisheries which are integral to the lives, livelihoods, social and cultural wellbeing of Pacific Islanders. Governance and leadership at the community level is critical and communities need to be supported to better understand the value and lead the management of their resources. Incorporating the value of marine resources and ecosystems into national statistical accounts can also make the value of these resources more evident to decision makers.
- The current economic model has resulted in overfishing, increasing marine pollution and climate change. A sustainable Blue Economy requires a rethink of our current economic system including expanding marine protected and managed areas at the national and local level, addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, banning microplastics and microbeads and phasing out single use plastics, developing innovative business solutions and supporting ethical investments and ensuring that education systems are developing ocean-literate populations.
- A healthy ocean is the foundation of our fisheries and tourism industries. Improvements in regional and national governance arrangements can secure and strengthen the revenue from these sources. The Parties of the Nauru Agreement (PNA) have demonstrated that locally grown solutions, driven by our own leaders, can successfully drive transformation towards a sustainable Blue Economy.
- Emerging industries, such as deep sea minerals, ocean afforestation and bioprospecting, where appropriately regulated, can support additional revenue streams from the ocean asset base. Additional research is needed to better understand the economic, social and environmental costs and benefits and their distribution. Participatory marine spatial planning and the full engagement of affected communities in the decision making process is required.
- Resource rights holders should be supported by government to promote integrated planning, reduce the negative impacts of land-based activities and address illegal and non-compliant activities. Adequate recurrent resourcing from within government budgets needs to be allocated for sustainable ocean use and conservation.

- Most research on islands is not done from a Pacific perspective. Research is needed that looks at islands the way they are viewed by Islanders. Nurturing future ocean literate leaders must start at the primary school level. More discussions are needed at the national level to facilitate locally-driven solutions. There is a need to revisit our traditional knowledge, learn from our communities, support research efforts to drive local research and build capacity.
- Capacity development and research are fundamental to transforming business as usual, and to drive innovation and development. A diversity of skills, people and multidisciplinary approaches are needed to implement sustainable blue economies. Governments, drawing on national needs should set priorities for our tertiary and vocational educational institutions using existing institutional planning and governance mechanisms. Scientists need to engage policy-makers, understand how decisions are made and provide timely inputs.
- The ratification and implementation of the UN Convention on the Laws of the Seas (UNCLOS) provides a means to secure rights over our maritime domains and respect each other as neighbours. As a region, the Pacific could declare to recognise each other's boundaries in the face of climate change while awaiting official recognition by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UN CLCS).
- The private sector can grow a sustainable Blue Economy given the appropriate and coherent regulatory environment and can be an ally in dealing with non-compliance. Governments should drive policies that encourage equitable growth and provide incentives for businesses and non-profits that raise ethical standards and promote fairness. Governments should implement, monitor, enforce and strengthen policies and laws to protect people and the environment. Government budgets should reflect commitments to the oceans and the climate. Governments can streamline existing legislation and reduce fragmentation to encourage local entrepreneurs and create an enabling environment to do business better. Innovative business models require innovative financial solutions. Ethics needs to be at the centre of financing mechanisms if they are to be truly sustainable. A Pacific Region Ocean Business leadership coalition for Corporate Ocean Responsibility is being established.
- This summary is the first step in a blueprint for the Pacific Islands Development Forum Strategic Plan on the Blue Economy. More importantly, it will form a collective contribution to the implementation of SDG14 (Life under water), with special emphasis on target 14.7 to which the concept of the Blue Economy has been associated.

THE BLUE ECONOMY IN THE PACIFIC CONTEXT

The People of the Pacific are stewards of the world's largest ocean basin. As large ocean states, the identity and culture of Pacific Islanders is intimately tied to the health of oceans. The foundation of the Pacific Blue Economy is the coastal and near shore fisheries which are integral to the lives, livelihoods, social and cultural wellbeing of Pacific Islanders. The incredible ocean asset base also allows various industries to generate value from the natural capital of the Pacific. Melanesia's annual "gross marine product" was estimated by WWF to be at least USD 5.4 billion, with a total "ocean asset base" of USD 5.5 billion. Globally the ocean generates USD 2.5 trillion in value - if it were an economy in its own right it would be one in the world's top ten economies. Pacific economies are reliant on fisheries, tourism, and the ecosystem services provided by coastal ecosystems, all of which depend on the ocean's health. As such, the Pacific will face widespread consequences from the degradation of our oceans.

A sustainable Blue Economy is integral to the Pacific way of life. As children of the Pacific no one else's lives are more intimately tied with the ocean and their management. Development must proceed with ocean sustainability as a central concern - with a focus on intergenerational equity and enhancing the natural capital of oceans for future generations.

SDG 14 is central to the development of all Pacific Islands. Achieving the vision of a sustainable blue economy has links to all of the SDGs - for example to SDG 13 (climate change), SDG 5 (gender equality), and SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth). Climate action and ocean action are two sides of the same coin, and the Pacific will continue to ensure both remain at the top of the global agenda. Climate change and sea level rise were not considered as part of the original drafting of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and work is ongoing and should be strengthened to understand the possible legal threat posed by sea level rise to the maritime boundaries and baselines of Pacific Island Countries.

Political will to promote the Blue Economy has never been higher. Pacific Island leadership has been crucial in international fora and in promoting locally-driven solutions. Leadership by Palau, Kiribati, New Caledonia and the Cook Islands has resulted in the designation of about 3,200,000 km² of ocean as marine protected areas.

Many commitments have already been made. Realising a truly sustainable blue economy requires the vision, knowhow, and courage to take action to achieve existing commitments, plans and strategies. New initiatives should build on existing institutional and governance structures. Partnerships across governments, private sector organisations and civil society are required to shape this future - a future which is people-centred, and places human rights and human dignity at its core.

The current siloed economic model has resulted in overfishing, increasing marine pollution and climate change. A sustainable Blue Economy requires a rethink of our current economic system. A number of key measures were highlighted during discussions:

- a) Several countries in the region have shown leadership in designating large areas of oceans as Marine Protected Areas. Locally-managed marine areas that build on traditional management practices and knowledge, have the ability to promote community engagement and enhance the tourism product and experience.
- b) Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing must be addressed and public-private partnerships strengthened to increase monitoring, surveillance and improve enforcement. Compliant businesses are useful allies in tackling non-compliance. Making more use of existing assets such as shipping vessels and satellites can support detection efforts.
- c) A ban on microplastics and microbeads, and a phase out of single use plastics was recommended as a first step to addressing plastic pollution of the marine environment.
- d) Innovative enterprise development that produces income and wealth in harmony with enhancing our natural capital should be promoted. Participants offered several examples of zero-waste, closed-loop and sustainable business models. These enterprises need to become the norm rather than the exception. An inventory of opportunities translated into a language that investors understand can facilitate scaling up these initiatives.
- e) Opportunities exist for shifting towards sustainable sea transport that can support the reduction of fuel imports whilst maintaining and expanding services to outer islands.
- f) Innovative financing mechanisms, such as the Caribbean and Seychelles experiences with debt-for-nature swaps, were discussed. A specific session on innovative financing schemes identified opportunities to mobilise investment funds.
- g) Education and ocean literacy are crucial to changing our economic development pathway. Instilling in children the connection and the knowledge to protect and conserve the ocean is vital. Partnerships with Ministries of Education and schools can be used to nurture the stewards of the future. Pacific culture is based on story telling. Storytelling should be promoted in all schools - remembering traditional knowledge, understanding the new science, and designing new business models.

Semantics around definitional issues can detract from getting the work done. Various terms - blue economy, green growth, blue growth, sustainable development, regenerative growth - are all used to describe a value-based system that ensures that development today does not undermine the resource base available for future development. A sustainable blue economy is one in which the use of our oceans today enhances rather than undermines natural capital and does not compromise the ability of future generations to generate cultural, social and economic wealth. Action is needed to scale up existing initiatives that are working and develop new opportunities, translated into language that investors understand.

KEY OCEAN INDUSTRIES

Pacific subsistence and formal economies are highly dependent on our oceans. The oceanic fisheries industry is one of the largest formal and informal employers and generators of economic wealth. Historically, much of that wealth has not been equitably distributed between distant water fishing nations and Pacific Island Countries.

Improvements in regional governance arrangements, such as the Vessel Day Scheme of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement, have resulted in an increase in revenue from fishing licenses from USD 60million in 2010 to USD 400million in 2016. More collaborative efforts that improve the management of our ocean resources and the revenue they generate are needed.

The tourism sector is founded on a healthy marine environment. Tonga's multi-million dollar whale watching industry resulted from the leadership and vision to ban whaling in 1978. Palau has determined that marine based tourism and local fisheries are more valuable than commercial fisheries and has declared 80% of their EEZ as a National Marine Sanctuary.

All coastal communities in the region are dependent on the ocean for livelihoods and food security and they play a vital social safety net for Pacific people. Traditional knowledge and management practices can be strengthened to support coastal communities take ownership in the management of their own fishing grounds and coastal resources. During parallel sessions, many successful examples and challenges were highlighted and shared.



FISHERIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Pacific relies heavily upon its pelagic fisheries, which contribute considerably to the GDP for some countries. These fisheries are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and these impacts are being considered by regional fishery managers as they plan for the future. Warming oceans will likely result in some species migration and warming oceans and ocean acidification may also have negative impacts on fish survival and growth rates.

It was noted that in the near future coastal fisheries will no longer be able to provide enough fish for communities. Adaptation measures discussed included making more use of by-catch from commercial fleets for food security. Effective governance mechanisms would be needed to ensure equitable distribution of benefits. The deployment of near shore fish aggregation devices can also assist in supporting community access to oceanic fisheries. Integrated fish farming based on zero waste and emissions can also contribute to food security.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Sustainable tourism requires appropriate commitment from government to create incentives for investment, share and promote best practice and support community based tourism. Showcasing successful private sector case studies can support increased awareness of sustainable practices among stakeholders. A regional network of sustainable tourism operators will be a first step in realising a platform for knowledge exchange.

Standards can help promote the type of tourism development that we want. Further work on defining these standards, building on experiences of countries in the region that have taken the lead such as Vanuatu, are needed. Coastal tourism environmental impact assessment guidelines can promote sustainable tourism development.

More research and data is needed to better understand the environmental footprint of the tourism sector. Opportunities exist for greening the accommodation and transport segments in the sector.

New tourism models that promote sustainable growth are based on nurturing an emotional connection between tourists, their environment and their experience (e.g. coral nurseries and replanting). These connections can help to sustain repeat tourism business.

COASTAL FISHERIES & COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS

Coastal fisheries and community livelihoods are inextricably linked. 50% to 90% of our population depends on coastal fisheries for their protein and subsistence fisheries provide an important source of food security and a vital social safety net while generating equivalent financial benefits for national economies to the offshore/tuna fisheries. Their decline can be reversed by investing and empowering communities to revive and enhance traditional management methods. Integrated development planning that places the cultural, social and economic needs of the community at the centre can support the improved management of fisheries.

Aquaculture can provide a source of employment and, when using properly selected species and locally appropriate management methods, a sustainable source of protein. Public-private partnerships between training providers and the private sector can promote the development of employment opportunities and skills transfer.

INNOVATION IN THE BLUE ECONOMY: EMERGING INDUSTRIES

A number of emerging industries have the ability to generate new economic opportunities and revenue streams, utilising our ocean and its resources. It is important to create a portfolio of opportunities that have withstood the critical assessment of both scientists and entrepreneurs.

Marine Renewable Energy has the potential to be cost competitive with traditional energy sources. Financial capital, local feasibility assessments and institutional capacity to develop renewable energy projects are key constraints. No operational projects currently exist in the region. Feasibility assessments are being undertaken.

The extraction of deep sea minerals (DSM), has been recognised as a potential economic opportunity and several countries have issued exploration licenses to mining companies. Papua New Guinea is the only country to have granted exploitation licenses with the aim to be operational in the first quarter of 2019. DSM remains controversial with divergent views on its potential environmental and social impacts. The technology remains expensive and untested and there is significant scientific uncertainty relating to how vulnerable the environments are and how widespread the impacts will be.

There is currently limited evidence to suggest DSM will create local employment benefits. More research is needed to better understand the deep-sea environments, species and habitats that will be impacted, and the nature of those impacts. The precautionary principle should be used to guide decisions.

A number of partnerships on blue carbon and ocean afforestation are emerging. Afforestation, with seaweed for example, can provide economic opportunities. Concerns were raised about the potential of trading in blue carbon to delay necessary climate action.

Bioprospecting, if properly regulated, can lead to benefits for Pacific Island Countries. There is a need to develop national and regional frameworks to promote and regulate bioprospecting and drug discovery research and development, under the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing

Multi-sector planning and improved scientific information is required to support decision-making. Participatory marine spatial planning and the full engagement of affected communities in the decision making process is required in this process to ensure equal representation, especially for women and disadvantaged people.

Parallel sessions provided the opportunity for participants to discuss these emerging industries in more detail.

DEEP SEA MINERALS (DSM)

Scientific information has improved in the last decade but significant uncertainty remains. Governance arrangements, capacity to conduct and review environmental impact assessments and the ability to monitor external companies are weak.

Civil society and community groups should be consulted during the development of legislation. The principles of Free, Prior, Informed Consent must be met and the rights of indigenous people to be fully engaged in the decision making process upheld.

Further research is needed to better understand the potential economic benefits, the distribution of those benefits and the environmental and social impacts of DSM.

OCEAN ENERGY

Traditional fuel sources are expensive in the Pacific and all countries have ambitious renewable energy targets. Using the ocean to generate renewable energy is in its feasibility stage. Further research is needed to assess the potential of renewable wave energy in the region.

OCEAN AFFORESTATION AND BLUE CARBON

Ocean algal afforestation (OAA) is the restoration of denuded macroalgal (seaweed) beds and the development of new beds and free-floating arrays. Macroalgae grow at extremely rapid rates, making them good candidates for carbon sequestration and offsetting the impacts of ocean acidification. OAA is a relatively new approach that has not been practiced at scale in the Pacific.

Seaweed is abundant in the Pacific, and is especially noticeable in relation to algal blooms. In addition to being a valuable carbon sink, seaweeds can be used for animal feed, fertilizer, and to generate biofuels. When farmed, seaweeds can regenerate the biodiversity of molluscs, sponges, and fish.

The appropriate scale of OAA and aquaculture was discussed with arguments being made for large and transformative investments versus small scale investments to ensure local community engagement, with some discussion of the governance challenges facing both options. These issues require further discussion and research.

Based on a recent study, it was noted that the value of marine ecosystem services in Melanesia is worth more than USD 550 billion¹. The study demonstrated the financial costs that occur when key ecosystem services are lost, such as the removal of mangroves leading to greater vulnerability to storm surge and coastal inundation. It was further noted that based on projected population growth, by 2030 Fiji's coastal fisheries would no longer be able to support its population and that habitat restoration and investment in aquaculture would be needed. The valuation of coastal ecosystems must consider the intrinsic values they provide for communities.

The potential to increase carbon sequestration in mangroves by careful management and pruning of trees (which leads to an increase in root biomass) was noted. Mangroves offer valuable carbon storage but also offer so many other ecosystem services as nurseries, coastal protection and waste filtration systems.

The Blue Economy needs to be scientifically based and founded on the premise that no economy can sustain itself when its natural resources are not being sustainably managed.

¹ Hoegh-Guldberg, O. et al. 2015. *Reviving the Ocean Economy: the case for action - 2015*. WWF International, Gland, Switzerland., Geneva, 80 pp.

EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity development and research are fundamental to transforming business as usual, and to drive innovation and development. A diversity of skills, people and multidisciplinary approaches are needed to implement sustainable blue economies – beyond only marine scientists and earth systems scientists - but also social scientists, economists, finance managers, policy analysts, information brokers, educators and cross-disciplinary generalists.

Capacity development happens in many places and across many institutions. Governments, drawing on national needs should set priorities for our tertiary and vocational educational institutions using existing institutional planning and governance mechanisms.

Most research on islands is not done from a Pacific perspective. Research is needed that looks at islands the way they are viewed by Islanders. Data can be collected from existing processes such as shipping operations and communities. Working with and building on local and community knowledge in appropriate ways is an opportunity and challenge.

Ocean literacy requires not only an understanding of the importance of the oceans, but the communication of this and the use of science to make policy relevant and inform related decisions. The oceans and the rest of the earth systems interact and earth system science is needed to ensure we understand these interactions, including the impacts of climate change. Education must start at primary school level.

Scientists need to engage policymakers and understand how decisions are made. Partnerships between educational institutions, regional organisations and civil society can help ensure that leaders and decision-makers give appropriate attention to the sea compared to the land.

The question is not how much capacity do we need but what should be done to ensure we have the right amount of information to act, and to make an informed decision? We will never have enough information so we should not let the paralysis of analysis prevent action. We know enough to action many of our existing commitments and we should manage with the knowledge we already have, learning more as we go along, and sharing our experiences.



CONFERENCE SUMMARY: PACIFIC BLUE ECONOMY CONFERENCE

BLUE GROWTH AND OCEAN GOVERNANCE

Governments play a crucial role in creating an enabling environment and enforcement mechanisms to promote a sustainable blue economy. The Parties to the Nauru Agreement's success in increasing revenue from fisheries demonstrates that locally-grown solutions, driven by our own leaders, can successfully drive transformation towards a sustainable Blue Economy. Transparency across the value chain is critical to building trustful relationships.

Governance and leadership at the community level is critical and communities need to be supported to better understand the value of their own resources and take the lead in their management. Improved access to information at the local level is critical and can be supported by innovative information and communication technology partnerships.

The cultural, social and economic values that our oceans generate are often hidden. Conducting research to make these values more explicit to be used by policy makers, civil society and communities can support more informed decision-making and integrated ocean management. The lack of data is often raised as a constraint to informed decision-making processes. However, data is often being collected and under-utilised.

Incorporating the value of marine resources and ecosystems into national statistical accounts can also make the value of these resources more evident to decision makers. The piloting of 'oceans accounts' in the Pacific could guide and consolidate this work around SDG 14.

Marine spatial planning as an integrated and participatory planning process is a tool that, when carried out inclusively, facilitates the process of integrated management that seeks to balance social, environmental and economic development.

Strengthening governance arrangements should start with highlighting opportunities rather than highlighting what shouldn't be done. Recognition should be given to the livelihood needs and priorities of resource owners and these should be central in promoting the Blue Economy.

The rights of seafarers and fishers were raised in discussions and ratification of International Labour Organisation's Maritime Labour Convention and the Work in Fishing Convention were encouraged.

FINANCING THE BLUE ECONOMY

A range of funding mechanisms are available that can support the financing of the blue economy. Bilateral and multilateral funding sources to the Pacific are projected to grow in the next few years. The Green Climate Fund presents an opportunity to access further funding.

Carbon finance has traditionally looked at paying for carbon storage or enhancement with other co-benefits. A shift in focus to livelihoods and other benefits as being core benefits is needed. Mechanisms that support communities to generate their own self-sustaining revenues are needed for example by using coral replanting initiatives to attract tourists. Reservations were expressed by other participants that related to carbon trading in the context of delaying action on climate change.

Analysis of existing development and climate finance highlights that a relatively low proportion of the available finance is being made available to support SDG 14 compared to other SDGs. Money is partitioned in a way that is difficult to access. Regenerating the oceans requires patient and concessionary capital that can help scale up efforts.

The economic cost of environmental degradation is occurring faster than the finance is growing to promote ocean conservation. A significant funding gap exists that needs to be closed, partly through diversification of traditional funding sources such as grants and trust funds to funding sources to payment for ecosystem services, debt swaps loans. Many different mechanisms exist and we need to better match the mechanisms to the specific context. More people are needed that can speak the language of conservation and business and can invest in educating investors. Innovative finance options are available.

Innovative business models require innovative financial solutions. Many investors want to invest in sustainable solutions. However, unless there is a successful demonstration of positive impact, raising capital for this kind of finance is difficult. Ethics needs to be at the centre of financing mechanisms if they are to be truly sustainable.

DEVELOPING BLUE ECONOMIES FOR THE PACIFIC

The Ocean Economy generates significant value, most of this for the foreseeable future relies on healthy natural resources for the fisheries and tourism sector, but a large portion of fisheries and tourism revenue does not remain within our region. Coastal fisheries represent the foundation of our blue economy and values largely accrue to rural communities that constitute the majority of the population. All of these value streams and opportunities require a healthy ocean. The first priority and motivation should be sustaining and improving the benefits and their equitable distribution for Pacific Islanders.

Emerging industries may in future generate additional revenue possibilities.

Resource rights holders need to be supported by governments to create an enabling environment that promotes integrated planning, reduces the negative impacts of land-based activities and addresses illegal and non-compliant activities. Adequate recurrent resourcing from within government budgets needs to be allocated for sustainable ocean use and conservation.

Success factors for sustainable blue economies include targeted engagement with communities - in the broadest sense - local communities and resource owners as well as communities of partners such as the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA). Partnerships that utilise external resources and technical expertise must be based on fair and equal partnerships that promote local leadership and ownership. Existing rights must be exercised wisely to promote effective management whether at local, national or international levels.

Leadership, trust, and open ongoing communication are required to implement measures that are in the long-term interest of society but may be unpopular in the short term. For example, restricting sea cucumber harvesting is necessary to allow stocks to recover but may not be popular with harvesters in the short term.

The ratification and implementation of UNCLOS provides a means to secure rights over our maritime domains and respect each other as neighbours.

A SHARED VISION

The Pacific Blue Economy vision is based on sustainability in these areas - ecological, socio-economic, institutional and community. The Pacific should define its own development pathway and take ownership of the development process.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

Further work is necessary to better understand the barriers to improved governance. More awareness and consensus is needed about the values and ethics that underpin sustainability concepts and how they can be translated into policies and legislation.

Intellectual and financial resources often reside with regional institutions. More discussions are needed at the national level to facilitate locally-driven solutions. Countries need to drive processes, and partners and donors need to align and have responsive mechanisms that enable them to do that. There is a need to revisit our traditional knowledge, learn from our communities, support research efforts to drive local research and build capacity. More work is needed to understand the real potential of different business options.

The Pacific is unique in that local communities have a high degree of autonomy and responsibility for managing their local resources. While progress has been made at improving governance and economic gains at the macro level challenges remain in realising similar benefits in coastal ecosystems and communities. Identifying the barriers to success at the local level is a key concern in progressing a sustainable and equitable blue economy.



BUILDING AND ENHANCING EXISTING COMMITMENTS AND NEEDS

The following measures were proposed to build on and enhance existing commitments:

- Secure maritime boundaries and recognise the threat to these boundaries from climate change. As a region, the Pacific could through declaration recognise each other's boundaries in the face of climate change while awaiting official recognition by UN CLCS and invite others to join them in doing so;
- Support existing partnerships that address the management of the high seas in a responsive way, recognising the relationships and dynamics between high seas and national waters;
- Develop a cross-sectoral Pacific Regional Ocean Business leadership coalition for Corporate Ocean Responsibility.
- Support national discussions on what developing a blue economy at the national level means to better identify needs, opportunities, skills and gaps;
- Actively monitor and review existing commitments to ensure they are appropriate, people-centred and reflective of the needs and aspirations of all stakeholders;
- Develop campaigns that support citizens' understanding of consequences of consumption patterns and alternatives;
- Strengthen comprehensive education for youth groups and primary school curricula;
- Strengthen research institutions to provide timely inputs to evidence-based decision making process; and
- Promote innovative enterprise development that aligns to a sustainable blue economy.

A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Governments should drive policies that encourage equitable growth and provide incentives for businesses and nonprofits that raise ethical standards and promote fairness. Governments should implement, monitor, enforce and strengthen policies and laws to protect people and the environment. Government budgets should reflect commitments to the oceans and the climate. Governments can streamline existing legislation and reduce fragmentation to encourage local entrepreneurs and create an enabling environment to do business better.

The private sector can grow a sustainable blue economy given the appropriate and coherent regulatory environment and can be an ally in dealing with non-compliance. Companies and industry groups can demonstrate business leadership and corporate ocean responsibility to advance ocean sustainable development, science and stewardship in the Pacific Region.

Policy development and planning processes should be participatory and include community voices, men, women, elders, youth, children and the disadvantaged - Civil society groups should be supported to create public awareness, outreach and capacity development and are crucial connectors to people and communities, particularly those that are most vulnerable and marginalised in society.

Academic and educational institutions can support these efforts through targeted research, education and training based on appropriate needs-assessment or country input and can build environmental and ocean literacy. Development partners can support these efforts by providing links to funding mechanisms, policy advice, capacity building, education, training, research, data collection. The media are crucial partners in ensuring community voices are heard.



NEXT STEPS

This Conference Summary and its Proceedings will form the first steps of a blueprint for the Pacific Islands Development Forum Strategic Plan on the Blue Economy. More importantly, it will form a collective contribution to the implementation of SDG14 (Life under water), with special emphasis on target 14.7 to which the concept of the blue economy has been associated. The PIDF Chair, the Government of the Solomon Islands, will provide this as our contribution on SDG14 to the implementation of the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development and to the UN President of the General Assembly as part of PIDF's commitment made for the Global Ocean Conference's Call for Action.



Annex 1 DAY 1 - Wednesday 23 August, 2017

TIME	SESSION (Britannia Ballroom)
	<p>Chair: Hon. Milner Tozaka, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Solomon Islands</p> <p>Secretariat: François Martel, Secretary General, PIDF</p>
8.00 Onwards	Registration
8.30 – 8.35	Opening Devotion – Reverend François Pihaatae, General Secretary, Pacific Council of Churches
8.35 – 8.45	Opening Remarks – Hon. Milner Tozaka, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Solomon Islands
8.45 – 8.55	Welcome Remarks - Hon. Josaja Voreqe Bainimarama – Prime Minister of Fiji & Co-chair of UN Global Ocean Conference 2017, New York
8.55 – 9.00	Video Opening Message: H.E. Karmenu Vella, EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.
9.00 – 9.15	Keynote Address - James Michel – Former President of Seychelles and Founder of the James Michel Foundation
9.15 – 9.45	<i>Group Photo, Tea/Coffee Break</i>
	Session Chair: François Martel, Secretary General, PIDF
9.45 – 10.30	<p>SDG 14 and the Blue Economy</p> <p>Objective: To share knowledge and experiences from the UN Ocean Conference in the context of blue economy.</p> <p>Video Message</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Peter Thomson, President of the General Assembly, United Nations <p>Keynote Speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Prime Minister of Tuvalu <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Osnat Lubrani, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Dame Meg Taylor, Pacific Ocean Commissioner & Chair of Partnership Dialogue on SDG14 Target 14.7 - UN Global Ocean Conference 2017, New York <p>Session chair: Iosefa Maiava, Head, UNESCAP Pacific Office</p>
10.30– 11.50	<p>The Blue Economy: The Global Experience</p> <p>Objective: To discuss the global perspective on blue economy and how it can be applied in the Pacific.</p> <p>Lead Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor Gunter Pauli, Serial entrepreneur, author and initiator of the Blue Economy <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Holthus, Founding President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), World Ocean Council H.E Angus Friday, Grenada Ambassador to the United States of America Professor Edvard Hviding, Department of Anthropology, University of Bergen, Norway <p>Interactive Discussion</p>

DAY 1 - Wednesday 23 August, 2017

	<p>Session Chair: Dr. Jeremy Hills, Director, Institute of Marine Resources, University of the South Pacific (USP)</p>
11.50 – 1.05	<p>The Blue Economy: A Pacific Perspective Objective: To discuss blue economy in a Pacific perspective and its opportunities implications and impact.</p> <p>Lead Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Hersey Kyota, Ambassador of Palau to USA, Chair of the Board of GLISPA Video message, John Tanzer, Practice Leader, Oceans, WWF International <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jean-Michel Cousteau, Oceanographer, Savusavu Sarah Thomas Nededog, Chair-Pacific Islands Association of Non-Government Organisations (PIANGO) Francis Chopin, Senior Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Sefanaia Nawadra, Director, Head, Pacific Sub Regional Office, United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) <p>Interactive Discussion</p>
1.05 – 2.05	Lunch
	<p>Session Chair: Sue Taei, Executive Director, Conservation International New Zealand and Pacific Islands</p>
2.05 – 3.25	<p>Key Ocean Industries Objective: To discuss the opportunities for existing industries facing the transition to more environmentally sustainable practices, where technologies and business models and innovations are focused on promoting or restoring ocean health.</p> <p>Plenary (Britannia room) Video message: Douglas Frantz, Deputy Secretary General, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Alfred Jr. Alfred, Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce, Republic of the Marshall Islands Hon. Semisi Fakahau, Minister for Agriculture, Food, Forests and Fisheries, Tonga <p>Parallel session 1: Oceanic Fisheries (Britannia Room): Facilitator: Sue Taei, Executive Director, Conservation International New Zealand and Pacific Islands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof. Johann Bell, Fisheries Consultant, Conservation International (CI) Dr Bryony Townhill, Marine Climate Change Scientist, The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), United Kingdom Peter Cusack, Regional Coordinator - Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) <p>Interactive Discussion</p> <p>Parallel session 2: Marine and Coastal Tourism (Matua Room 1): Facilitator: Mark Borg, Team Leader Programme Management, Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christina Leala Gale, Manager – Sustainable Tourism Development, South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) Colin Philp, President, Fiji Islands Voyaging Society and Manager, Leleuvia Island Resort, Fiji <p>Interactive Discussion</p> <p>Parallel session 3: Coastal Fisheries and Community Livelihoods (Matua Room 2): Facilitator: Viliame Kasanawaqa, Team Leader Policy Research & Evaluation, Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justin Hunter, J. Hunter Pearls Fiji Ltd. Francis Chopin, Senior Fisheries & Aquaculture Officer, The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Alifereti Tawake, Council Chair & Technical Advisor, Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) Network International Cathy Joyce, Pacific Ocean Culture Pte Ltd, Fiji <p>Interactive Discussion</p>
3.25 – 3.55	Tea/Coffee Break
	<p>Session chair: Andrew Foran, Head, Pacific Centre for Environmental Governance, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)</p>
3.55 – 5.15	<p>Innovation in the Blue Economy: Emerging Industries Objective: To discuss the opportunities and challenges of emerging industries and policy implications within a blue economy context.</p> <p>Plenary (Britannia room) Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Andy Stevens, Research Director of the CSIRO Coastal Development & Management Program, (CSIRO)

DAY 1 - Wednesday 23 August, 2017

	<p>Panelists:</p> <p>Parallel session 1: Seabed Resources (Britannia room)</p> <p>Facilitator: Andrew Foran, Head, Pacific Centre for Environmental Governance, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Akuila Tawake, Akuila Tawake, Team Leader, SPC-EU DSM Project, Pacific Community (SPC) Maureen Penjueli, Coordinator, Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG) <p>Interactive Discussion</p> <p>Parallel session 2: Ocean Energy (Matua room 1)</p> <p>Facilitator: Arpana Pratap, Team Leader Member Capacity, Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jens Kruger, Manager, Ocean and Coastal Geoscience, Pacific Community (SPC) <p>Interactive Discussion</p> <p>Parallel session 3: Ocean Afforestation and Blue Carbon (Matua room 2)</p> <p>Facilitator: Dr. Stacy Jupiter, Melanesia Director, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Antoine de Ramon D'Yeur, Lecturer, Pacific Center for Environment and Sustainable Development (PaCE-SD), USP Francis Areki, Conservation Director, WWF Pacific. Professor Gunter Pauli, Serial entrepreneur, author and initiator of the Blue Economy <p>Interactive Discussion</p>
5.15 – 5.50	Development Partner Statements
5.50 – 6.10	Wrap up by Chief Rapporteur: Marita Manley
6.30 – 8.00	<p>Welcome Reception</p> <p>Hosted by Hon. Milner Tozaka, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Solomon Islands</p>

DAY 2 - Thursday 24 August, 2017

8.15 – 8.30	<p>Summary of Day 1</p> <p>Chair: Hon. Milner Tozaka, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Solomon Islands</p>
	Session chair: Dr. Hugh Govan, Adjunct Senior Fellow, University of the South Pacific (USP)
8.30-8.35	OECD Video Message - Douglas Frantz - Deputy Sec General - OECD
8.35 – 9.45	<p>Education, research and capacity building: challenges for a growing blue economy</p> <p>Objective: To discuss what technical, scientific, economic and finance knowledge or skills are needed for a blue economy.</p> <p>Lead Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Jeremy Hills, Director, Institute of Marine Resources, University of the South Pacific (USP) <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Tommy Moore, Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System Officer, Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Penehuro Lefale, Senior Advisor, Climate Change, Tokelau Jeff Ardron, Adviser, Ocean Governance, Commonwealth Secretariat. <p>Interactive Discussion</p>
9.45 – 10.10	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>
	Session chair: Taholo Kami, Oceans and Climate Advisor
10.10 – 11.30	<p>Blue growth and ocean governance - balance between use and protection of the ocean</p> <p>Objective: To provide a platform for discussions and to explore how to strengthen ocean governance at the regional level drawing on lessons learned from past regional experiences and develop concrete recommendations for advancing good oceans governance as a cornerstone of blue economy development.</p>

DAY 2 - Thursday 24 August, 2017

10.10 – 11.30	<p>Lead Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. John Maneniaru, Minister for Fisheries, Solomon Islands Dr. Jan Steffen, Project Director, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries (MACBIO) <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratu Willame Katonivere, Tui Macuata, Community Based Marine resource management Nicholas Conner, Co-lead, Ecosystem Services Thematic Group, International Union for Conservation of Nature Commission on Ecosystem Management H.E Angus Friday, Grenada Ambassador to the United States of America <p>Interactive Discussion</p>
	Session chair: Iosefa Maiava, Head, UNESCAP Pacific Office
11.30 – 12.40	<p>Financing the Blue Economy</p> <p>Objective: To discuss blue financing and new and innovative financing mechanisms.</p> <p>Lead Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rob Jauncey, Pacific Office representative, Asian Development Bank (ADB) Jacques Dugasse, Chief Executive Officer, James Michel Foundation, Seychelles <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Sebastian Thomas, Lecturer Sustainability Governance & Leadership, University of Melbourne Dr. Melissa Walsh, Ocean Finance Manager, Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP) Paul Holthus, Founding President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), World Ocean Council Professor Gunter Pauli, Serial entrepreneur, author and initiator of the Blue Economy <p>Interactive Discussion</p>
12.40-12.50	Partner Statements
12.50 – 1.40	Lunch
	Session chair: Howard Politini, Chair of Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO)
1.40 – 3.10	<p>Developing Blue Economies for the Pacific</p> <p>Objective: To provide a platform for discussions for developing a roadmap for blue economies in the Pacific.</p> <p>Lead Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Elehi Kelihiano Kalolo, Minister for Climate Change, Tokelau Jeff Ardron, Adviser, Ocean Governance, Commonwealth Secretariat Dr. Hugh Govan, Adjunct Senior Fellow, University of the South Pacific (USP) Sue Tai, Executive Director, Conservation International New Zealand and Pacific Islands <p>Interactive Discussion</p>
3.10 – 3.30	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>
3.30 – 4.30	Summary of Conference Outcomes
4.30 – 4.45	<p>Farewell Address</p> <p>Hon. Milner Tozaka, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Solomon Islands</p>
4.45 – 5.15	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>François Martel, Secretary General, Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF)</p>
5.15 – 5.20	<p>Closing Prayer</p> <p>Reverend François Pihaatae, General Secretary, Pacific Council of Churches</p>
5.30 - 6.30	<p>Side Event</p> <p>Professor Gunter Pauli, Serial entrepreneur, author and initiator of the Blue Economy</p>
6.30 – 8.30	<p>Farewell reception and dinner hosted by PIDF</p> <p>Hosted by François Martel, Secretary General of PIDF Location: Pool Side and Britinnia Ballroom</p>

ANNEX 2

NOTE ON CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

The Conference attracted more than 200 delegates from 35 countries and territories, thirteen of them from the Pacific. It was attended by representatives of governments, private sector and civil society for the following Pacific Island countries and territories: Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Wallis & Futuna.

Heads of delegations from Pacific Island countries and PIDF members were as follows:

- Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister, Republic of Fiji
- H.E. Sebastian Anefal, Ambassador of the Federated States of Micronesia to Fiji, FSM
- H.E. Reneta Nikuata, High Commissioner of Kiribati to Fiji, Kiribati
- Hon. Alfred Jr. Alfred, Minister for Natural Resources and Commerce, Republic of the Marshall Islands
- H.E. Kim Aroi, High Commissioner of Nauru to Fiji, Nauru
- Ms Sandrine Bellier, Office of International Relations, New Caledonia
- Ms Sarah Thomas-Nededog, Board Chair, Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO)
- Mr. Howard Politini, Chairperson, Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO)
- Hon. Milner Tozaka, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Solomon Islands
- Hon. Elehi Kalolo, Minister for Climate Change, Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau
- Hon. Semisi Fakahau, Minister for Agriculture, Food, Forests and Fisheries, Tonga
- Hon. Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Prime Minister, Tuvalu
- Mr. Soane Paulo Mailagi, Chair – Finance Commission, Assemblée territoriale de Wallis & Futuna



NOTE ON CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Other countries that were represented at the Conference included:

Argentina, Australia, Belgium, the People's Republic of China, European Union, France, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, State of Kuwait, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, State of Qatar, United States of America, the United Kingdom and Republic of Seychelles.

Also in attendance were speakers, representatives and participants from more than 80 organisations as follows:

Asian Development Bank (ADB); Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS); BRICS Law Institute, Russia; the Commonwealth Secretariat; Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture, UK; Coastal Development & Management Program, CSIRO – Australia; Conservation International NZ & Pacific Islands programs; Climate Change programme of the Government of Tokelau; DAWN; Ecosystem Services Thematic Group, International Union for Conservation of Nature Commission on Ecosystem Management; Environmental Law Association; EU Commission on Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries; Fiji Citizens Constitutional Forum; Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation; Fiji – ECREA; Fiji Islands Voyaging Society; Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area (FLMMA); Fiji Ministry of Employment, productivity and Industrial Relations; Fiji Ministry of Local Government, Housing, Environment, Infrastructure & Transport; Fiji Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Fiji Ministry of iTaukei Affairs; Fiji Ministry of Agriculture; Fiji Ministry of Public Enterprises; Fiji Ministry of Fisheries; Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) – Pacific sub-regional office; FSM Chamber of Commerce; Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI); Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA); Global Vision International;





Green Growth Leaders Coalition (GGLC); Housing Assistance Relief Trust (HART); Integrity Fiji; International Labor Organization (ILO); International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); James Michel Foundation (Seychelles); J Hunter Pearls Fiji Ltd; Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society; Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA); Kuwait Fund; Leleuvia Island Resort; Locally Managed Marine Area Network International (LMMMA); Loop Pacific; Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries (MACBIO- project); Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG); Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources of Solomon Islands; Ministry of Environment of Solomon Islands; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External trade of Solomon Islands; Ministry of Works of Tuvalu; MRV Legal Consultancy, Fiji; Nauru Sustainable Development Board; Northern Fauro Resources; Pacific Community (SPC); Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); Pacific Council of Churches; Pacific Islands Forum (PIFS); Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA); Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO); Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN); Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPISO); Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP); Pacific Dialogue; Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG); Pacific Ocean Culture PTE Ltd, Fiji; Project Survival Pacific; Reproductive & Family Health Association of Fiji; Sana-tan Youth Wing, Fiji; South Pacific Tourism Organization (SPTO); Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); United Nations ESCAP Pacific Office; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations General Assembly; University of Bergen, Norway; University of Melbourne, Australia; University of the South Pacific (USP); University of Turku, Finland; University of Wollongong, Australia; World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Pacific and International; World Ocean Council (WOC) and Zero Emissions Research & Initiatives (ZERI).

The Conference Summary on the Blue Economy for the Pacific was adopted at the conclusion session of the Conference on Thursday, 24th August 2017.



"1st HIGH LEVEL PACIFIC BLUE ECONOMY CONFERENCE"
SUSTAINABLE OCEANS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

**Knowledge & Exchange Platform towards
a Blue Economy for the Pacific Islands**

The largest place on the planet is in trouble. Oceans cover about 70% of the Earth's surface, and ocean ecosystems generate at least US\$ 21 trillion in economic benefits each year. But a perfect storm of massive challenges, from collapsing fisheries to plastic pollution to ocean warming and ocean acidification, is threatening the integrity of marine ecosystems. These threats put at risk the essential benefits Pacific people receive from our healthy ocean: sustainable fisheries, coastal protection, carbon sequestration, and coastal economic activities including marine tourism and community livelihoods. We simply cannot survive — let alone prosper — if we do not reverse the destruction of the Pacific ocean's natural capital. In order to provide transformative change and to turn these threats into opportunities, the PIDF Leaders approved for PIDF to organise the first High Level Pacific Blue Economy Conference (PBEC) on 23-24 August 2017. It will bring together Governments, Civil Society, Private Sector, regional organisations, development partners and the academia and will focus on the outcomes of the Ocean Conference on SDG 14. It will identify the opportunities the blue economy offers Pacific Islands in order to sustainably manage and conserve their ocean resources for the benefit of their economies and people.

Date: August 23rd-24th, 2017
Venue: Suva, Republic of Fiji

For further information contact:

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Team Leader Member Capacity
Mobile: (679) 946 9433
apratap@pacificidf.org

Visit our website for registration: www.pacificidf.org
Email: secretariat@pacificidf.org
Follow us on Twitter: @PIDF01
Like us on Facebook: Pacific Islands Development Forum

Logos: UN ESCAP, Pacific Islands Development Forum, Global Island Partnership, WWF, UNEP, Pacific Community, IUCN, FFA, SPREP, Conservation International, Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society, WCS, Government of Kazakhstan.

Interested sponsors and partners are invited to provide an expression of interest.

Pacific Islands Development Forum,
56 Domain Road, Suva, Republic of Fiji,
Phone: (679) 3311518 Fax: (679) 3311529,

Annex VII: Presentations

4.0 The Blue Economy – the Global Experience

Mr. Paul Holthus's Presentation – [Download Link](#)



The Blue Economy: *The Global Experience* *The Ocean Industry Perspective*

Paul Holthus, CEO
World Ocean Council
paul.holthus@oceanCouncil.org
www.oceanCouncil.org



The Multiple Use Ocean



Growing Ocean Use

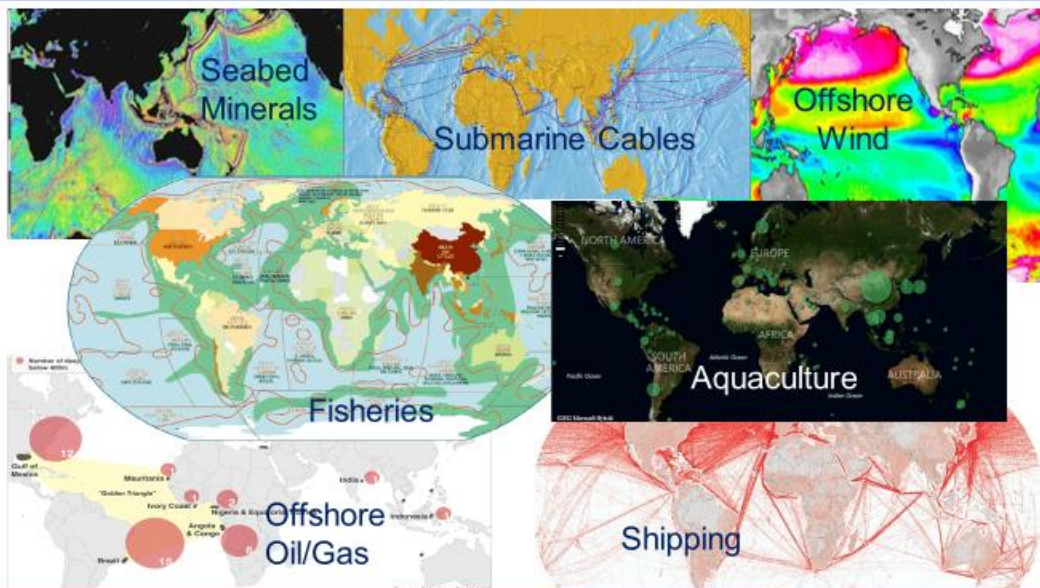


- Shipping
- Mariculture/Aquaculture
- Offshore oil and gas
- Mining / Seabed mining
- Fisheries
- Cruise and coastal tourism
- Dredging
- Submarine cables/pipelines
- Offshore wind energy
- Wave/tidal energy
- Ports/marinas
- Recreational boating/use
- Desalination
- Navy/military use
- Carbon sequestration

Expanding

- Kinds of use
- Levels of activity
 - Duration
 - Intensity
 - Frequency
- Location of activity
 - Geographical Extent
 - Frequency
- Finance/Investment
- Insurance
- Maritime Legal

Global Ocean Industry Activity



The Ocean Business Community Challenge



- **Ocean industries require access and social license** to use ocean space and resources
- Many of the **critical issues** creating impacts and affecting access and social license are **cross-cutting or cumulative**
- Sustaining ocean health and productivity requires **responsible use** and stewardship **by all users**
- Best **efforts by a single company**, or an entire industry sector, **are not enough** to secure ocean health
- Ocean **industries will benefit from collaboration** with other sectors to **create synergies** and **economies of scale** to address impacts and ensure access and social license
- **Need a structure/process** for business leadership and collaboration

World Ocean Council



WOC – the International, Cross-Sectoral Business Leadership Alliance

- **Bringing ocean industries together**, e.g. shipping, oil/gas, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, offshore renewables, etc.
- **Catalyzing private sector leadership and collaboration** in
 - Advancing “Corporate Ocean Responsibility”
 - Communicating responsible ocean industry/economy
- **70+ members worldwide; 34,000+ in global industry stakeholders network**

Goal: Healthy, productive global ocean and its sustainable use and stewardship by responsible ocean business community

Creating business value for responsible companies

- Access and social license for responsible ocean use
- Synergies and economies of scale in addressing issues
- Stability and predictability in ocean operations

Global Ocean Industry Perspective



Major Cross-Cutting Framework Areas:

- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the Ocean Business Community**
- **Ocean Investment Platform**
- **Young Ocean Professionals Network**
- **Sustainable Ocean Summit**
- **Regional Ocean Leadership Groups**

Global Ocean Industry Priority Themes



- **Ocean Knowledge Improvement**
 - “Smart Ocean / Smart Industries”
Data from Industry Vessels/Platforms of Opportunity
- **Food Security**
 - Sustainable fisheries/reduced IUU fishing
 - Sustainable aquaculture
- **Disaster Risk Reduction**
 - Port/coastal infrastructure adaptation and resilience
- **Energy Decarbonization**
 - Ocean renewable energy: Offshore wind, wave, tidal, etc.

Global Ocean Industry Priority Themes (cont.)



- **Marine Pollution Reduction**
 - Plastics/Port Reception Facilities
 - Biofouling/invasive species, Marine sound
- **Marine Biodiversity Conservation**
 - Marine protected areas
- **Ocean Governance, Policy and Planning**
 - UNCLOS/BBNJ, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) ...
 - Marine Spatial Planning, Ocean zoning
- **Climate Change**
 - Ocean acidification

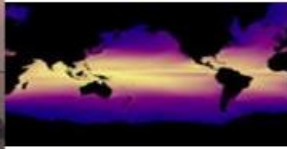
Pacific Region Business Action Areas



Create a *Pacific* Regional Ocean Business Leadership Group

Pacific Ocean Business Leadership initiatives/priorities could include:

- **Improve Ocean Knowledge** through data collection from industry ships, including on acidification (*Pacific* Smart Ocean - Smart Industries)
- **Address Climate Change/Reduce Disaster Risk** through port/coastal infrastructure adaptation and resilience
- **Decarbonize Energy** by advancing ocean renewable energy: Offshore wind, wave, tidal, etc.
- **Reduce Marine Pollution:** 1) **Develop Port City Reception Facilities** for maritime debris and land based pollution sources, including plastics; 2) **Address biofouling/invasive species** through policies and practices
- **Develop the *Pacific* “Ocean Investment Platform”**



WOC Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS) Halifax, 29 Nov-2 Dec 2017

www.Oceancouncil.org

Paul Holthus, CEO
World Ocean Council
paul.holthus@oceancouncil.org

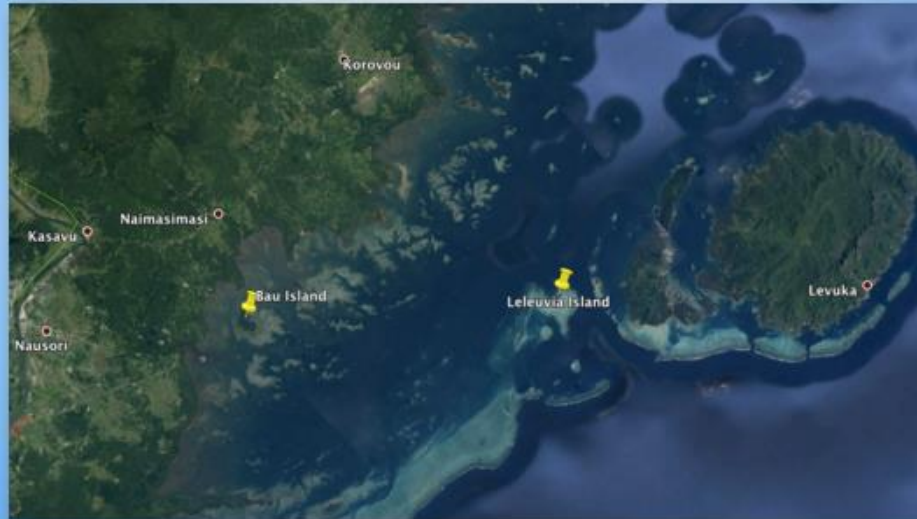
6.0 Key Ocean Industries

Parallel Session 2: Mr. Philip's presentation – [Download Link](#)



Location

Midway between the chiefly island of Bau and Fiji's only World Heritage Site - Levuka



Main Focus of Leleuvia

- Culture and History
- Marine Environment and Ocean Sports



Bure Building

In 2012 we built 20 new Bure's, 2 x 20 Bed Dormitories and a Central Restaurant/Bar facility



Roof Framing

Eight different Villages were contracted to provide materials, skills and labour



Misimisi Thatching

In 2012 alone \$400,000 was injected into the Moturiki economy



Making the Bitu walls

For most the skills used to build the Bure's on Leleuvia had not been practised for many years



Fitting the walls

Many of the contracted workers went on to be full time employees as Boat Drivers, Maintenance Workers and Dive Instructors



Magimagi

Skilled tradesmen from Fulaga provided the magimagi work

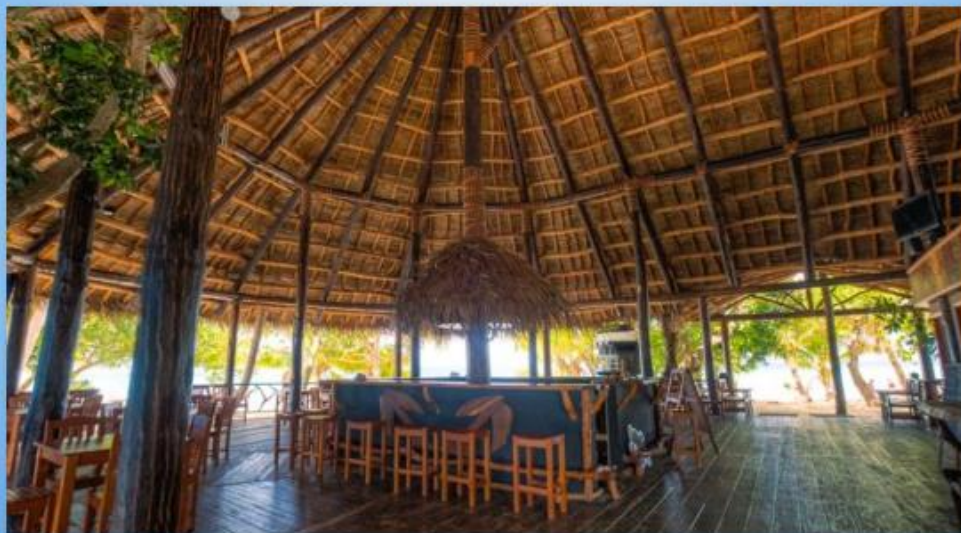


Bure's



Central Facility

Includes a 80 seat restaurant, bar, kitchen, office and gift shop and the Waisiliva Art Gallery



Marine Protected Area



Marine Conservation

- Fish Wardens training conducted on island for staff and members of the neighbouring community
- Coral Planting to restore our host reef
- Reef Surveys



Marine Conservation

- Turtle Tagging
- Whale and Dolphin Monitoring
- All done in conjunction with the Fisheries Dept and overseas agencies



Import Substitution

Growing our own produce means we have fresh vegetables and fruit on demand



Challenges

- No Government incentives that encourage tourism operations to follow the Leleuvia example
- Illegal Fishing
- Ensuring visitor numbers remain in check with what the islands natural resources can sustain



What would help

- Tax incentives and low interest loans for businesses taking the initiative to be environmentally sustainable
- Like minded businesses working together, sharing ideas and supporting each other
- More value placed on maintaining environmentally sustainable practices



Positives

- Huge market for people looking for a “Leleuvia” type tourism product
- Low impact on the environment means the marine and bird life keeps on improving and is an added incentive for visitors to return
- Leleuvia has a positive impact on visitors with many saying they have changed their habits after visiting the island
- Staff have become Ocean Warriors
- Very positive community partnerships

Photo: Tor Johnson

Vinaka



Parallel Session 3: Mr. Justin Hunter's presentation



THE FIJI PEARL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

PRESENTATION: JUSTIN HUNTER

"The Fiji Pearl Development Plan proposes a Public Private Partnership / Limited Liability Company between the Fiji Government and Fiji Pearl Association to cooperate in the development of a National, community-based, pearl farming industry to enhance the effectiveness of locally managed marine areas, integrated coastal management, and land and sea management programs, while also creating meaningful employment and income generating opportunities for communities involved in pearl farming."

– Commitment 2 Summary announced by FIJI GOVT at the UN World Oceans Conference towards achieving SDG14. (oceanconference.un.org)



THE FIJI PEARL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

PRESENTATION: JUSTIN HUNTER

Commitment welcomed by CIBJO with President, Gaetano Cavalieri, included in the Fiji side panel at the UN Oceans Conference.

"The Public Private Partnership being proposed in Fiji offers the promise of building an industry, from the grass roots up, founded on a sustainable and valuable product that is supported by responsible and sustainable environmental practices. Just as the potential economic and social benefits to the country are dependent upon a viable business model, the business model requires an economic environment in which all stakeholders feel they are benefiting. The one goes hand in hand with the other. And this is all only possible over the long-term if the marine environment is responsibly managed. It is the very epitome of a win-win-win situation."

–Gaetano Cavalieri



THE FIJI PEARL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

PRESENTATION: JUSTIN HUNTER

Pearl farms serve as important regulators of water quality; as pearl farmers naturally adopt the role of sea stewards in order to protect their investment.

Through the engagement of indigenous communities, their inclusion of local knowledge and inherent governing/ institutional structures, the plan provides a model for effective conservation - offering tangible economic benefits in return for marine preservation with a long term goal of future generations assuming the role of **Stewards of the Sea**.



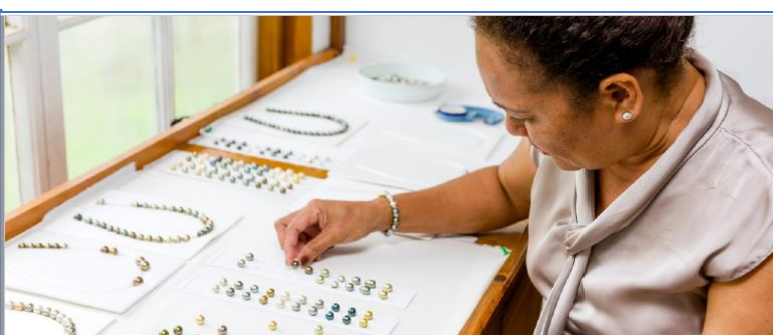
THE FIJI PEARL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

PRESENTATION: JUSTIN HUNTER

2. SOCIAL & ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY (The greatest threat to environmental preservation is poverty)

- A key concern for Locally Managed Marine Areas, Integrated Coastal Management Programs and Marine Protected Area's is in finding the balance between conservation and economics so both man & nature benefit.

- Women & Youth to directly benefit from community owned farms through employment, capacity building and eventually income generated from pearl revenues. This alternative source of income will furthermore create added incentives for conservation by reducing pressure on our reef fish stocks.



THE FIJI PEARL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

PRESENTATION: JUSTIN HUNTER

3 .INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED PRODUCT ACKNOWLEDGED AS SUSTAINABLE LUXURY

Very few products, especially in the luxury market, that make an impact in conservation and specifically SDG14 as the cultured pearl. Organic by nature, the only gem formed inside the body of a living animal.

The success of Fiji's pearl industry based on finding the perfect relationship between Man and Nature. Through partnerships with vested stakeholders we believe this industry can grow to be an example, for not just the luxury sector, but also other local primary industries. The unique story of our ocean gem will set a new benchmark for sustainable luxury on a global platform.



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

The Pacific Blue Economy Blue Growth and SDGs - An FAO perspective

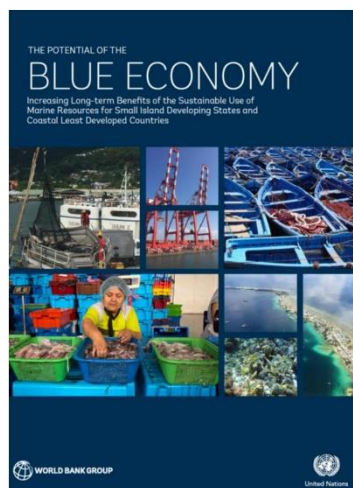
Francis Chopin
FAO Subregional Office Samoa

PACIFIC BLUE ECONOMY CONFERENCE - Knowledge & exchange platform towards a blue economy for the Pacific Islands



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

The “blue economy” and its link to SDGs?



The Blue Economy is a CONCEPT

Its effective implementation can facilitate timely achievement of SDGs

A “Business As Usual” approach will not be sufficient for the Blue Economy



3

PACIFIC BLUE ECONOMY CONFERENCE - Knowledge & exchange platform towards a blue economy for the Pacific Islands

FAO assistance to countries to implement a Blue Economy and to support their SDG targets



4

PACIFIC BLUE ECONOMY CONFERENCE - Knowledge & exchange platform towards a blue economy for the Pacific Islands

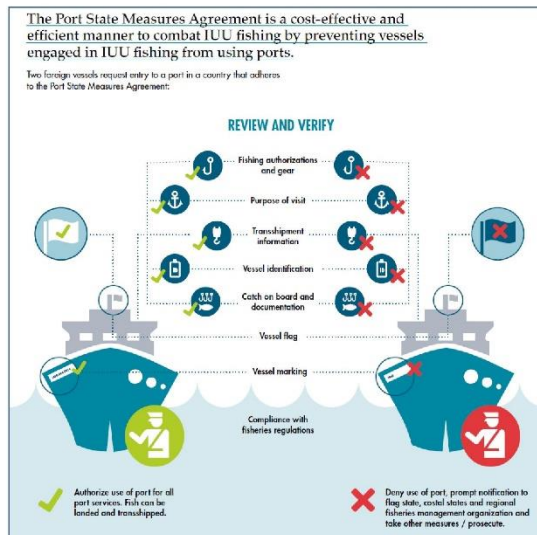
FAO support to countries in the Blue Economy, Blue Growth and SDGs



PACIFIC BLUE ECONOMY CONFERENCE - Knowledge & exchange platform towards a blue economy for the Pacific Islands

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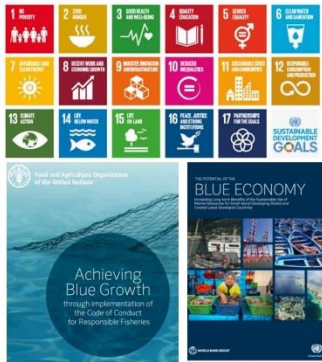
A binding Instrument to combat Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing - The Port State Measure Agreement



**REDUCING ILLEGAL, UNWANTED
AND UNREGULATED FISHING**



Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food security and Poverty Eradication



VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY ERADICATION.

What it is:
Negotiated voluntary guidelines

What it does:
Recognizes and supports the important role of small-scale fishing communities

Since: 2014

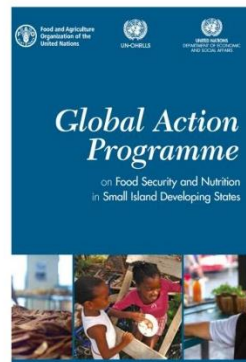
Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food security and Poverty Eradication

Concordance with “The New Song for Coastal Fisheries: Pathways to Change”



Food Security & Nutrition SIDS

S.A.M.O.A. PATHWAY – A GLOBAL ACTION PROGRAMME ON FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION FOR SIDS



UNDERNOURISHMENT



OBESITY



IMPORTS

FOOD IMPORTS TODAY > 5 billion \$/year

↑ +50%
SINCE 2000



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Thank You

Francis Chopin

Francis.chopin@fao.org



PACIFIC BLUE ECONOMY CONFERENCE - Knowledge & exchange platform towards a blue economy for the Pacific Islands

7.0 Innovation in the Blue Economy – Emerging Industries

Parallel Session 2: Jens Kruger's presentation



Setting the scene, framing the problem

70% of the PIC population currently lack access to modern forms of energy, and are seriously disadvantaged by having to pay an estimated 200-300% above the world average for petroleum.

Cook Islands, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu are aiming at 100% of energy from renewable sources (Majuro Declaration 2013)

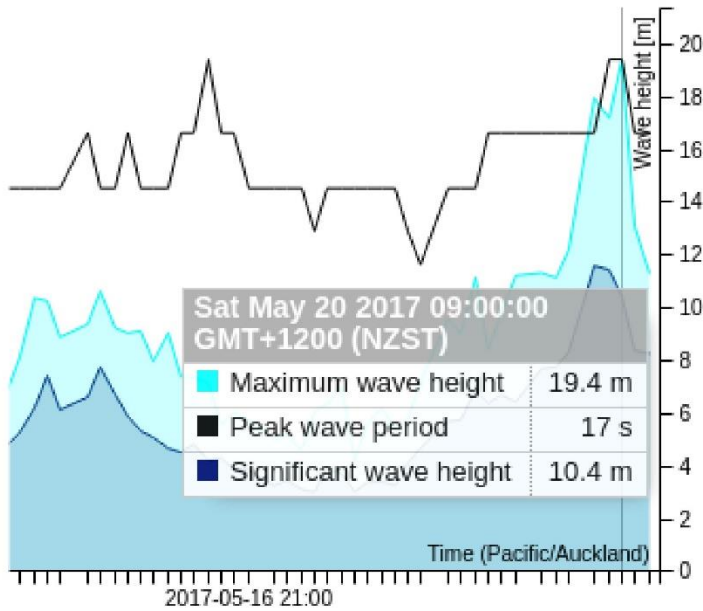


Quiz

What is the largest wave recorded in the Pacific Ocean?

- A. 10m
- B. 20m
- C. 30m

go&wander©



Moored in a water depth of 150m south of NZ, this is the world's southern-most wave buoy moored in the open ocean.

On 20 May 2017 the wave buoy in the Southern Ocean recorded a **19.4m** wave.

Source: www.metocean.co.nz

Wave energy as a resource to generate electricity in the Pacific

- Can marine renewables reduce our dependency on fossil fuels ?
- Is wave energy an abundant and accessible resource in the Pacific, and can it be competitive ?
- Will this contribute to electrification and improve Pacific livelihoods ?



Cost analysis of wave energy in the Pacific

wacop.gsd.spc.int/



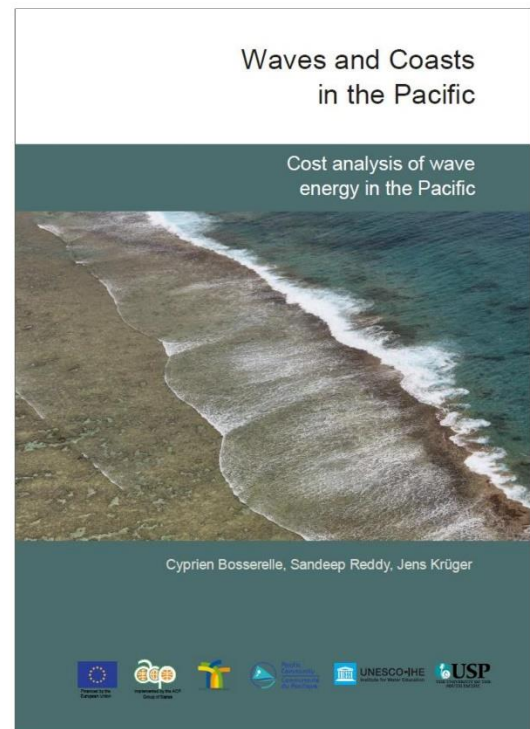
Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



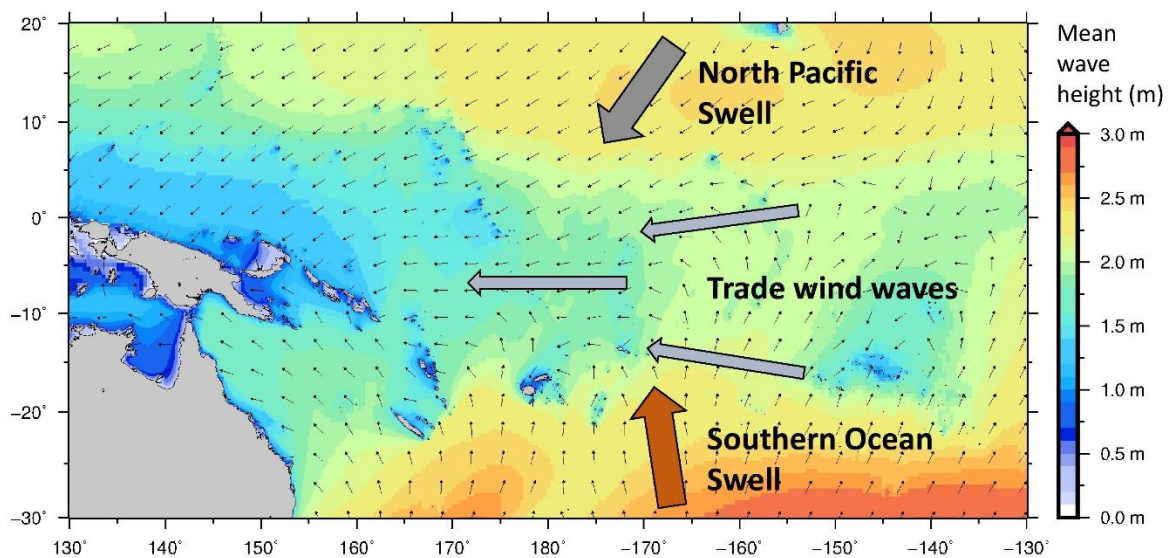
This project is funded by the EU



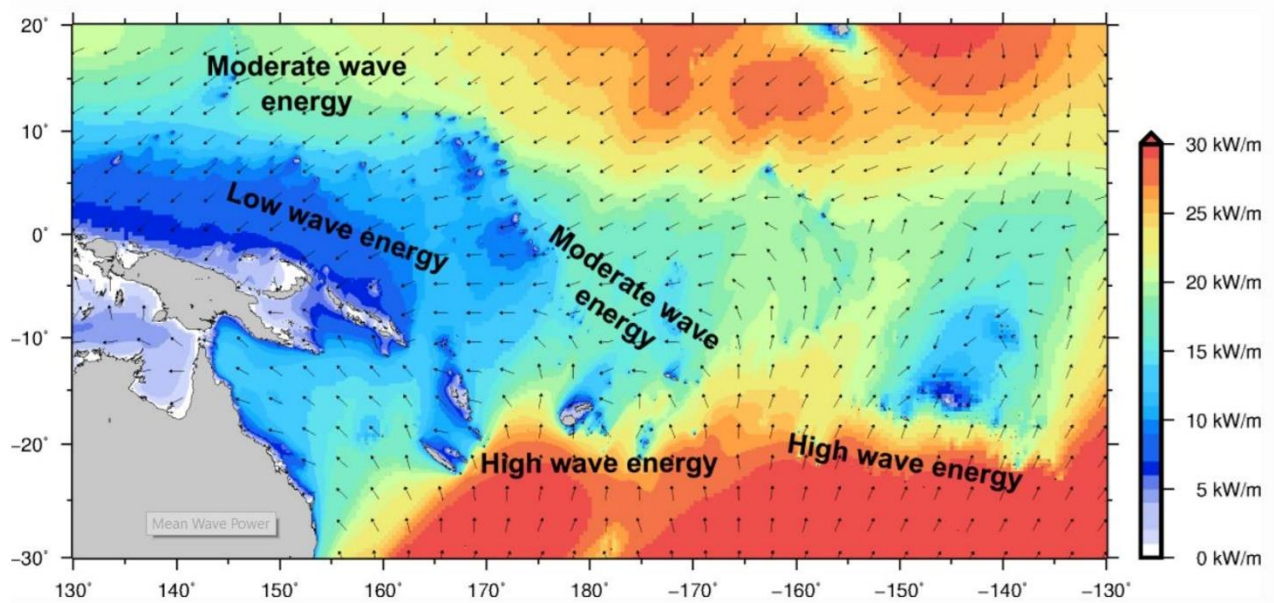
ACP S&T PROGRAMME



Mean Wave Height and Direction across the Pacific

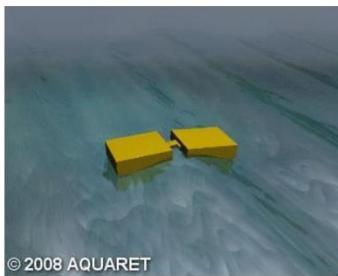


Mean Available Wave Power



Emerging industries: Wave energy conversion

- Energy can be captured and converted into electricity by wave energy converter (WEC) machines.
- These WECs have been developed to extract energy from shoreline out to the deeper waters offshore.

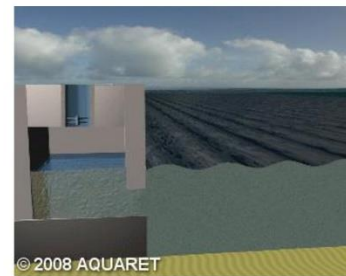


Attenuator



Point absorber

Source: www.emec.org.uk



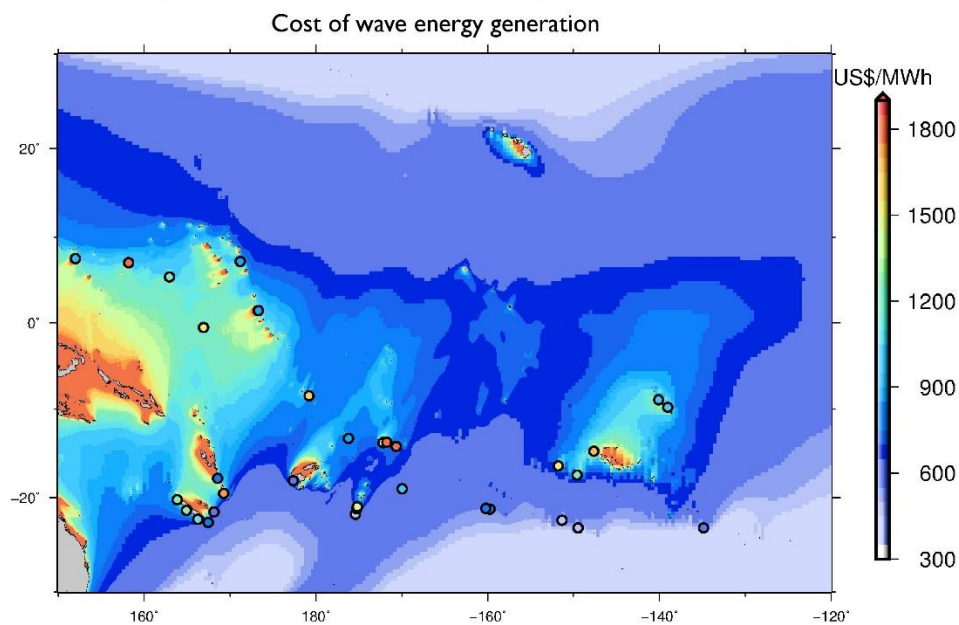
Oscillating water column

Pelamis

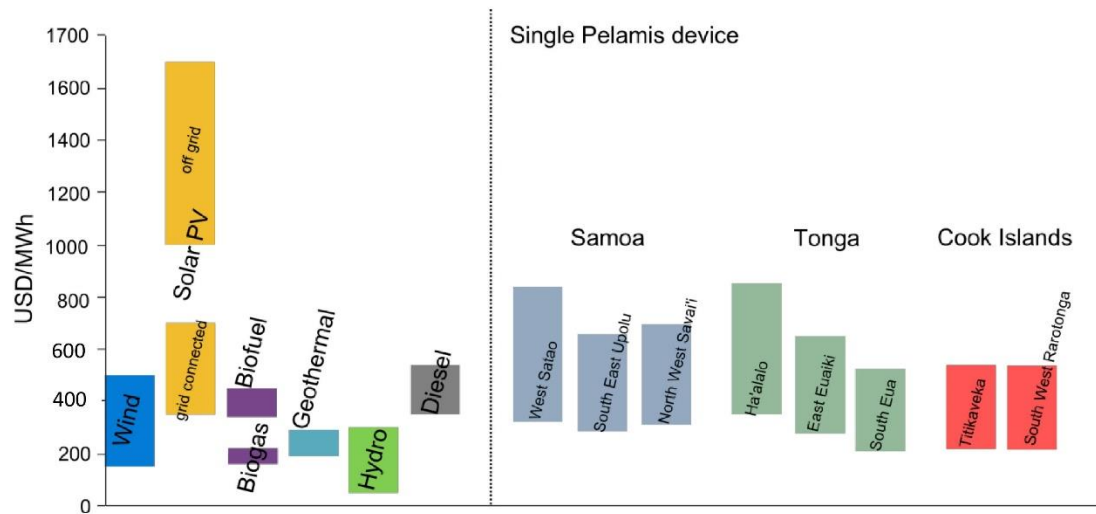
- The European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC), Orkney Islands, Scotland was created to kick-start a marine renewables industry, and devices such as the Pelamis.
- The last of the Pelamis devices is currently being decommissioned (July 2017)



Research Results

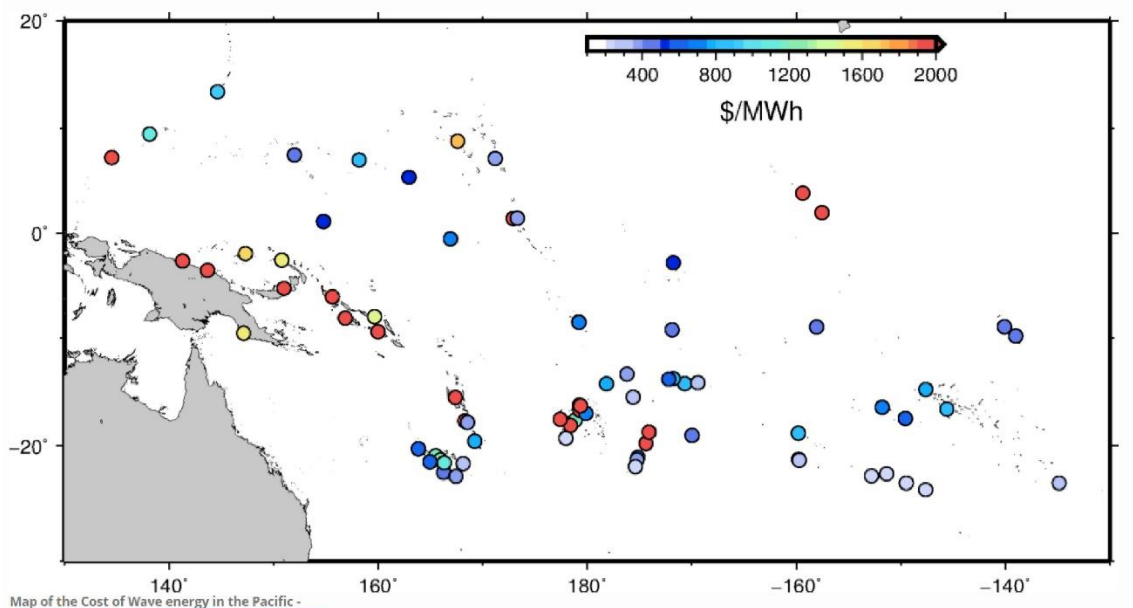


Comparison of the Cost of Energy for different energy sources in the Pacific



Adapted from Syngellakis 2011

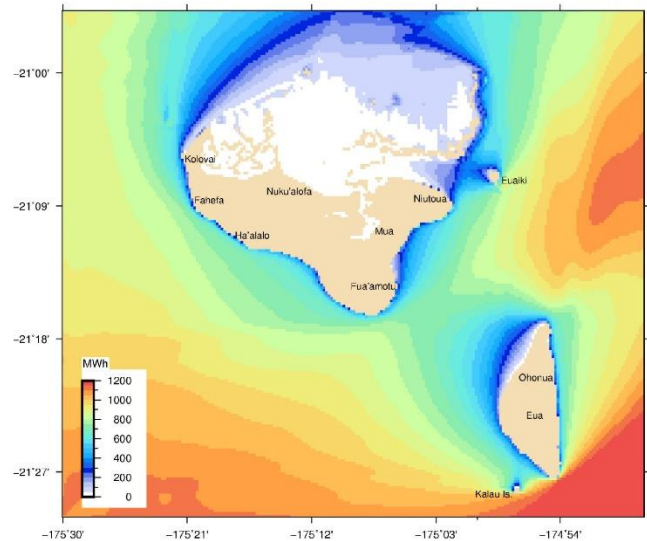
Want to know the estimated cost of wave energy at your location? wacop.gsd.spc.int/



Key messages

- For islands south of 20 degrees latitude wave energy generation may have real potential to compete with fossil fuel energy generation; particularly the Austral Islands, French Polynesia
- Tonga, Cook Islands and New Caledonia may also benefit from further investigation
- Countries with a mean energy flux of less than 7kW/m are unlikely to benefit from wave energy with present technologies

Mean annual power output for a single Pelamis device
in Tongatapu, Tonga



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



www.spc.int
jensk@spc.int

10.0 Financing the Blue Economy

Mr. Rob Jauncey's presentation: [Download Link](#)



FINANCING THE BLUE ECONOMY

Rob Jauncey, Asian Development Bank

ADB

A range of financing sources

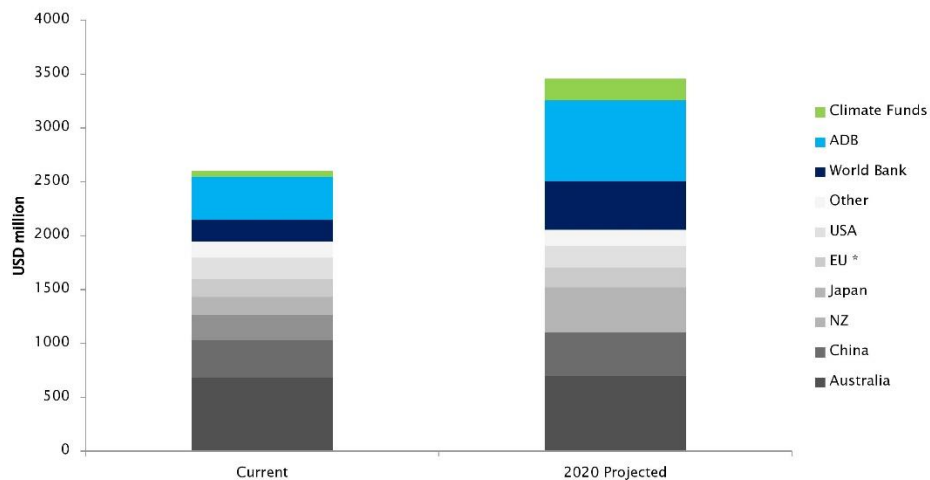


- Domestic public sector resource mobilization
- Domestic private sector investment
- International sovereign financing
- Foreign direct investment (FDI)

ADB

2

International sovereign flows are increasing... ...especially from multilateral sources



ADB

3

Multilateral Development Banks



- ADB: From \$300m/ year to \$600m+
- World Bank: From \$150m/ year to \$350m
- “Banks” in name only
 - 100% grants to FSM, Kiribati, Nauru (ADB), RMI, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu;
 - 50% grants to Solomon Islands, Vanuatu
- New financing options
 - Disaster insurance, contingent credit lines, Green bonds, marine protected areas



WORLD BANK GROUP

ADB

4

Green Climate Fund



**GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND**

- \$8 billion pledged
- 50% adaptation
- Almost \$250m approved for Pacific in 18 months (12% of total)
 - Fiji urban water (\$31m, ADB, Dec 2015)
 - Tuvalu coastal protection (\$33m, UNDP, July 2016)
 - Samoa flood management (\$58m, UNDP, Dec 2016)
 - Cook Islands energy (\$12m, ADB, Dec 2016)
 - Vanuatu climate info (\$26m, SPREP, Dec 2016)
 - Solomons Tina hydro (\$86m, WB April 2017)
- Possibly \$300m/ year

ADB

5

Private Sector Investment Opportunities



- Fisheries licenses: \$450m/ year
- FDI: \$600m/ year
- Renewable energy: scope for \$2 billion in private investment
- ADB, World Bank, GCF looking for opportunities
- Blending public and private (PPPs)

ADB

6



Dr Sebastian Thomas

Office for Environmental Programs
School of Ecosystem and Forest Sciences
Sustainability Science Lab
Australian-German Climate-Energy College
Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute

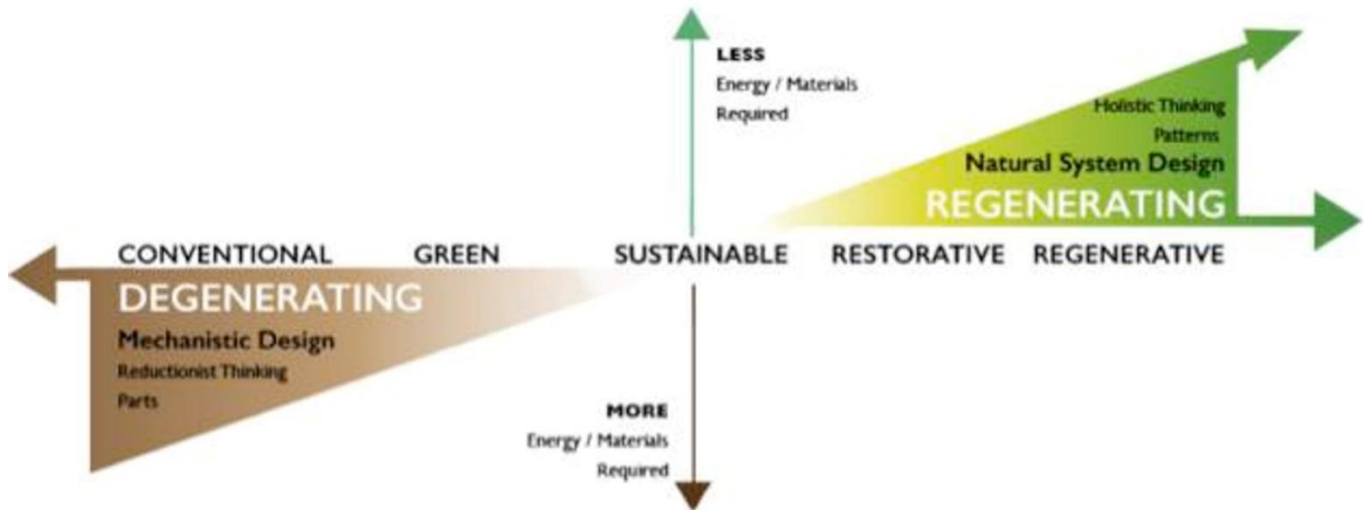


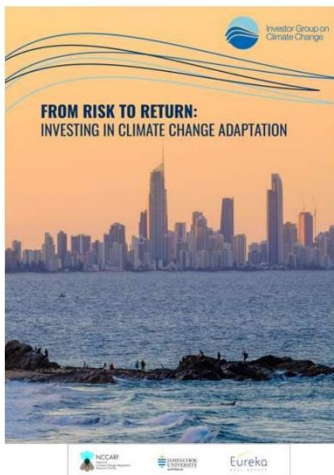
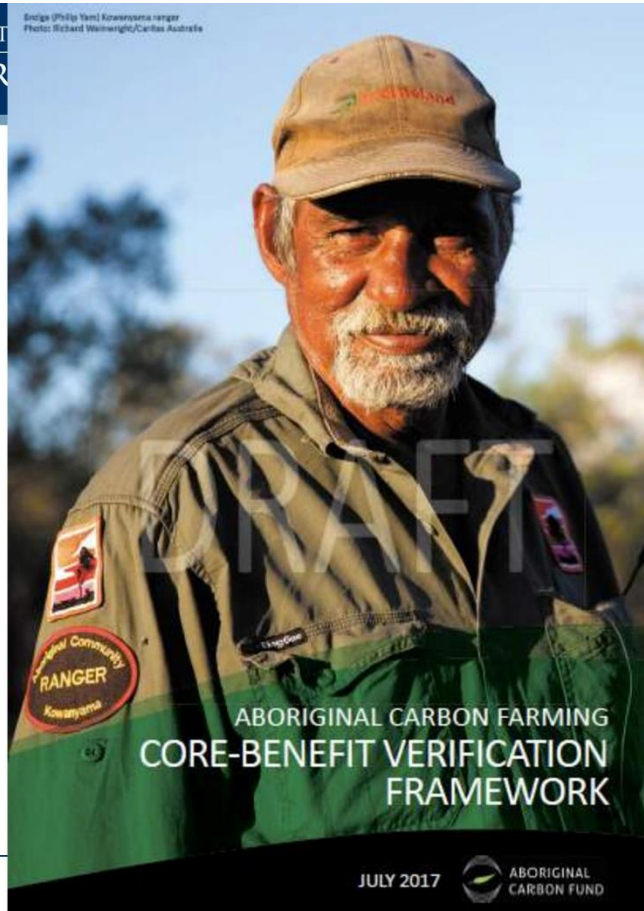




AN ECONOMY

Place - Culture - Enterprise - Government - Commons





Constraints:

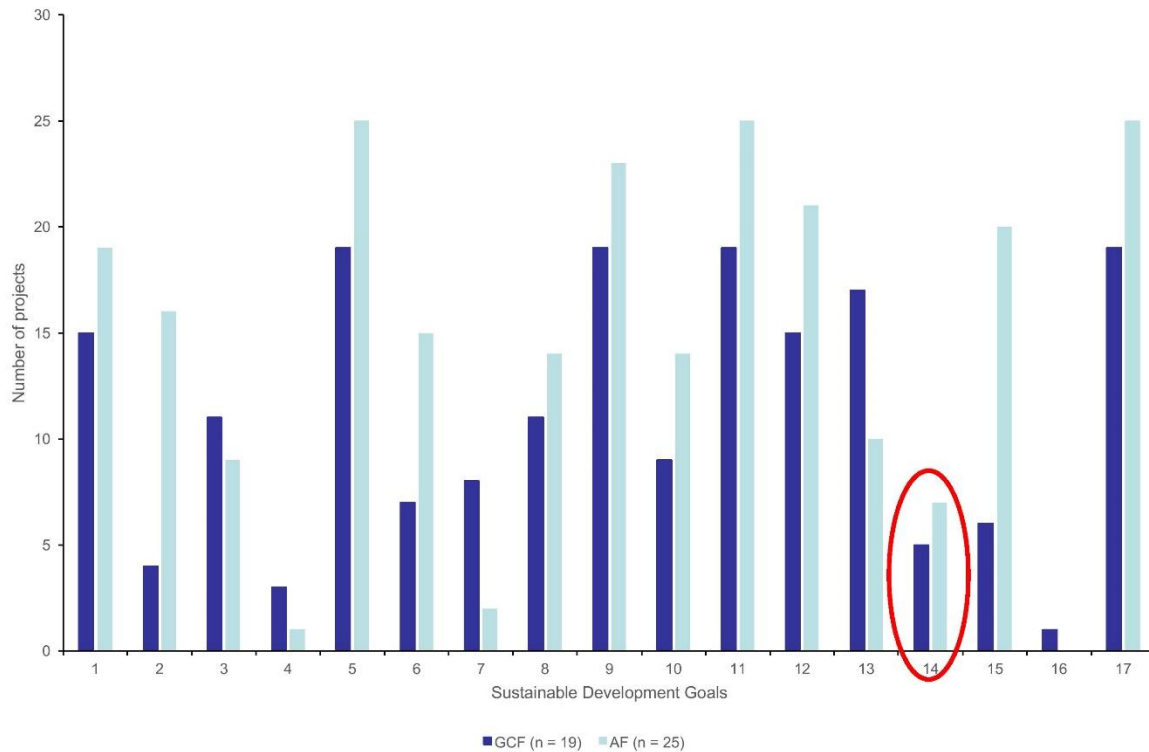
- Clearly defined project scope with explicit adaptation component
- Credible proponent
- Revenue stream and ROI
- Adequate project scale
- Accepted framework for financial benefit (value add)
- Effective coordination across levels of government

Enablers:

- Blended mitigation and adaptation investment solutions
- Aggregation models to achieve scale
- Work with carbon finance agencies to develop measurement models
- Coordinated approach to cross-government funding and implementation
- Collaborative approach: build on social impact bonds and impact investment

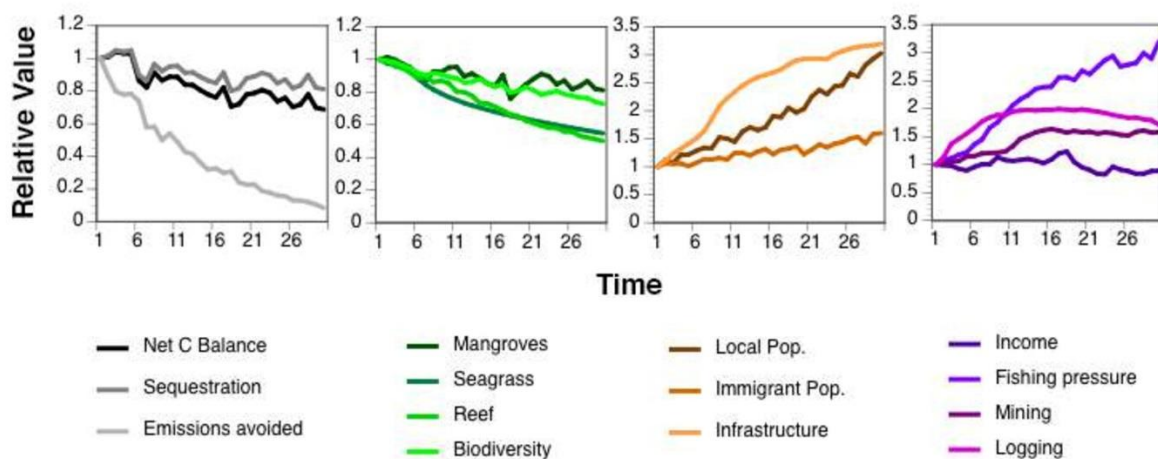


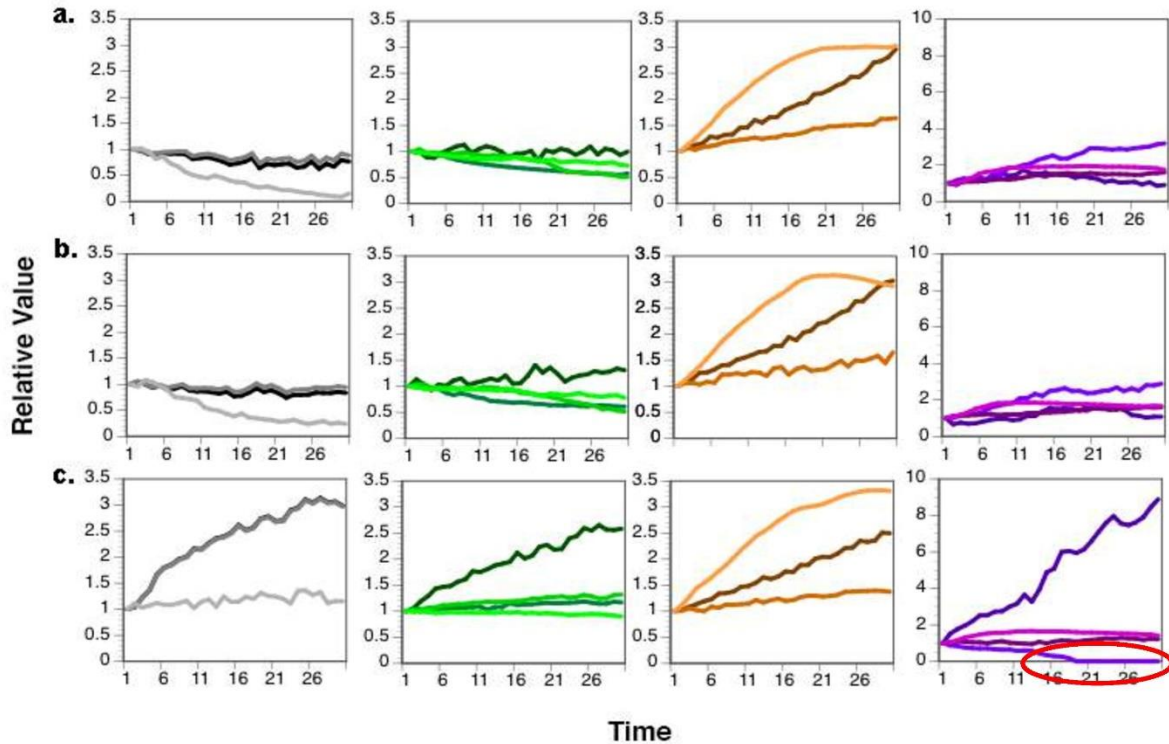
Projects funded in the Asia-Pacific region



Social-ecological impacts of climate finance

Sabah, Malaysian Borneo





- *Healthy blue carbon ecosystems*
- *Establishing a regenerative livelihoods program in a network of communities, addressing local needs and aspirations*
- *Building a connected regional blue economy with international market partners*



- [Scales] Spatial – Temporal – Governance
 - Science – Policy – Practice
 - Traditional knowledge
 - Changes, trade-offs
 - Build the value network
 - Integrated value propositions
-





sebastian.thomas@unimelb.edu.au

SustainabilityScienceLab.com



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MELBOURNE

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11.0 Developing Blue Economies for the Pacific

Jeff Ardon's presentation – [Download Link](#)



The Commonwealth Blue Charter initiative

Developing Blue Economies for the Pacific
PIDE Blue Economy Conference, 23-24 Aug 2017, Suva

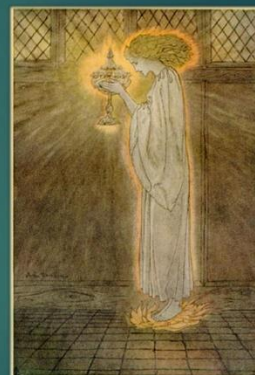
Jeff Ardon
Adviser (Ocean Governance)
Trade, Oceans and Natural Resources Directorate



Closing thought: The Blue Economy is like...

“The Holy Grail”

- ▶ A dish, plate, stone or cup [...] According to legend, it has special powers and is designed to provide happiness, eternal youth and food in infinite abundance.
- ▶ “[Perceval] later learns that if he had asked the appropriate questions about what he saw, he would have healed his maimed host, much to his honour.”



Wikipedia; illust: Arthur Rackham

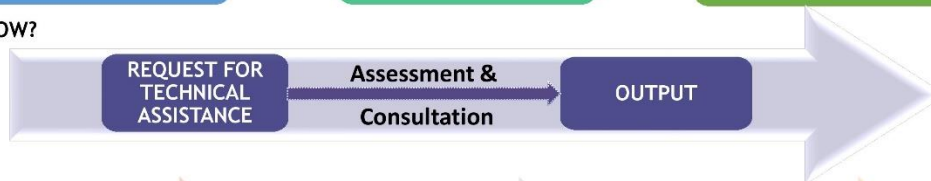
Ocean
Economy

2

WHAT?



HOW?



WHO?



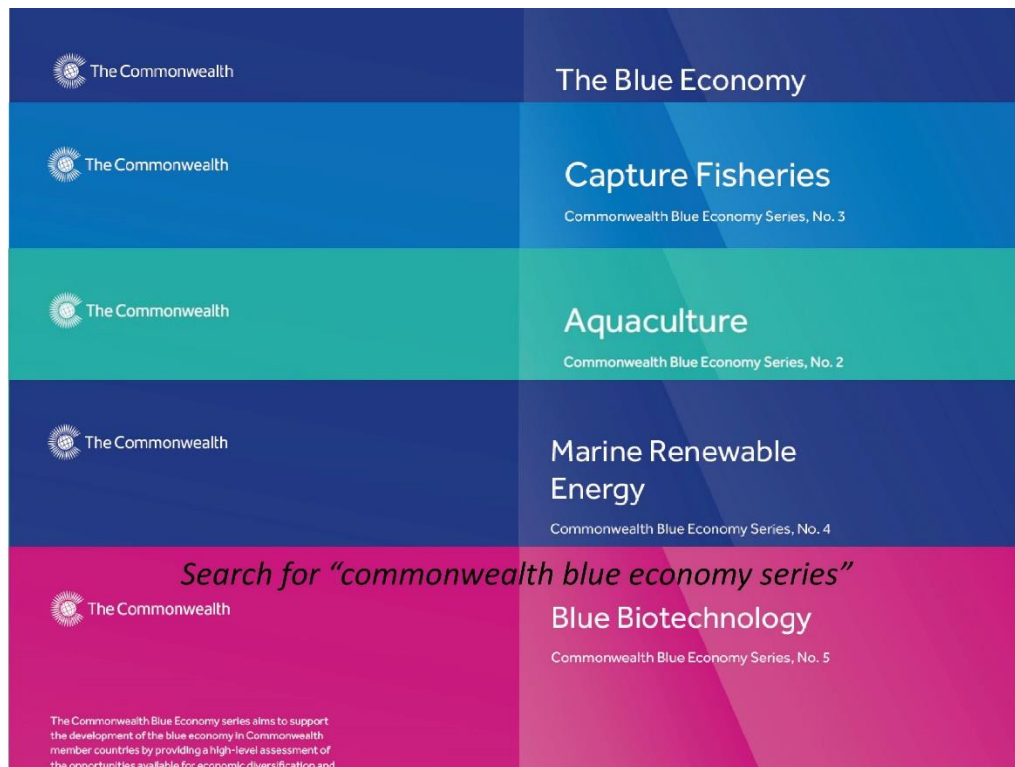
FORO MUNDIAL DE PUEBLOS PESCADORES
WORLD FORUM OF FISHER PEOPLES
FORUM MONDIAL DES POPULATIONS DE PÊCHEURS



BLUE CARBON: Ocean Grabbing in Disguise?

June 25, 2016 | News, Report | 0 Comments | 0 ♥

New report produced by [fisher movements from across the world](#). The report challenges the political and economic elites and their project to privatise our nature through the Blue Carbon mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. It also emphasises a series of *real solutions* which are rooted in the knowledge and culture of fisher peoples.



A Brown Wolf in Blue Sheep's Clothing?



Marine Policy
Volume 57, July 2015, Pages 61-68

Ocean grabbing

Nathan James Bennett ^a   , Hugh Govan ^b , Terre Satterfield ^a 



Commonwealth Charter (2013)

Affirming our core Commonwealth principles of consensus and common action, mutual respect, inclusiveness, transparency, accountability, legitimacy, and responsiveness,

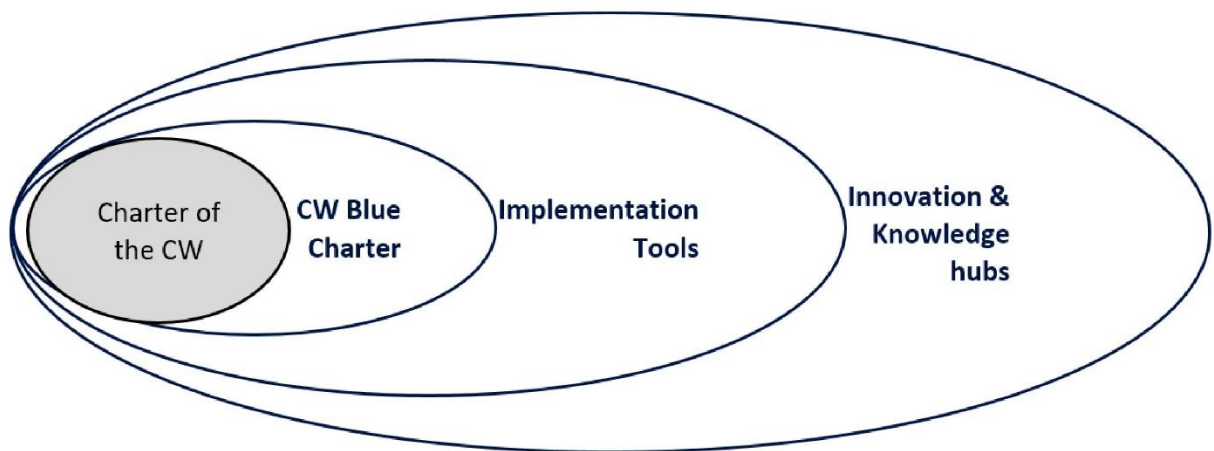
Reaffirming the ~~core values~~ and principles of the Commonwealth as declared by this Charter:

- 
1. Democracy
 2. Human rights
 3. International peace and security
 4. Tolerance, respect and understanding
 5. Freedom of Expression
 6. Separation of Powers
 7. Rule of Law
 8. Good Governance
 9. Sustainable Development
 10. Protecting the Environment
 11. Access to Health, Education, Food and Shelter
 12. Gender Equality
 13. Importance of Young People in the Commonwealth
 14. Recognition of the Needs of Small States
 15. Recognition of the Needs of Vulnerable States
 16. The Role of Civil Society

7



Three layers built on a principled core



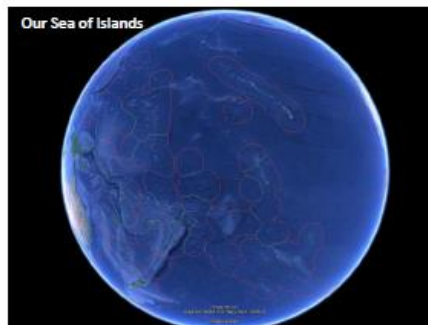
Timelines

- Now: Draft framework
- Sept: advisory group established
- Oct – March: drafting & revisions
- April 2018: CHOGM (Commonwealth Heads of Govt Meeting) in London, UK

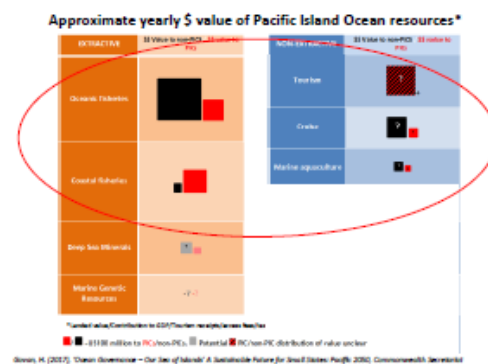
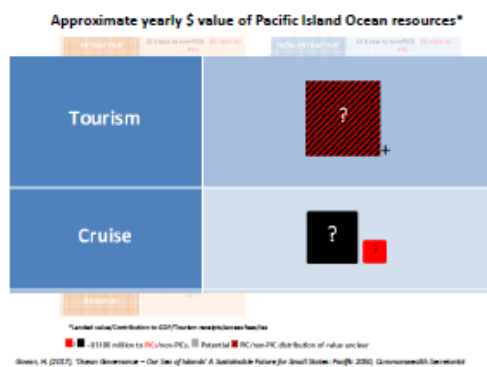
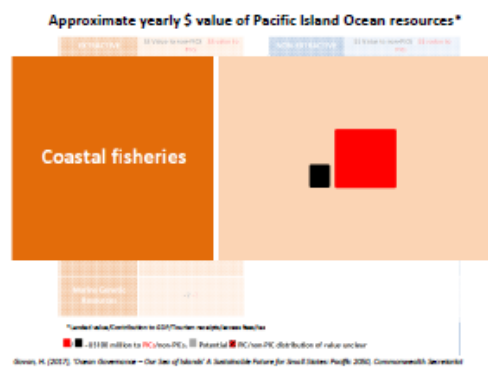
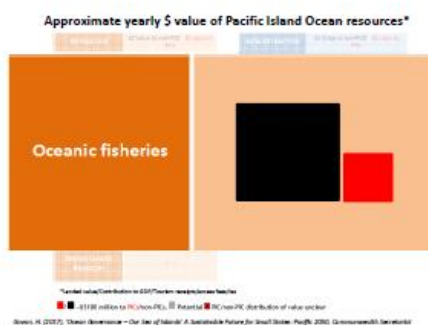
More info: **Jeff Ardron**

j.ardron@commonw
ealth.int
+44 207 474 6351





An overview of the Ocean Economy



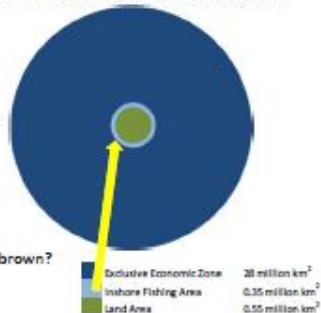
Ocean economy

- Virtually all depends on a healthy Ocean
 - Oceanic fisheries
 - Coastal fisheries
 - Tourism
- Shouldn't wait for major new windfalls
- First priority - sustaining and improving the flow of benefits for islanders

Coastal fisheries in Pacific Islands

- Communities 'manage' but
- Land based impacts
- Commercial pressure

Role of government in partnership or recolour to brown?

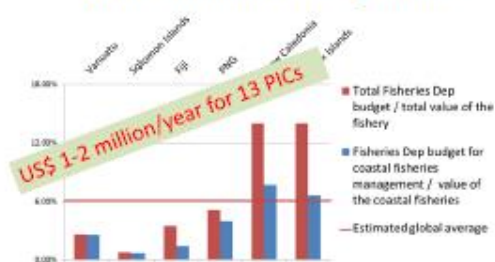


Oceanic fishing pressure



Very low expenditure particularly in countries with expected problems or deficits in coastal fisheries production

Low government expenditure on coastal fisheries management

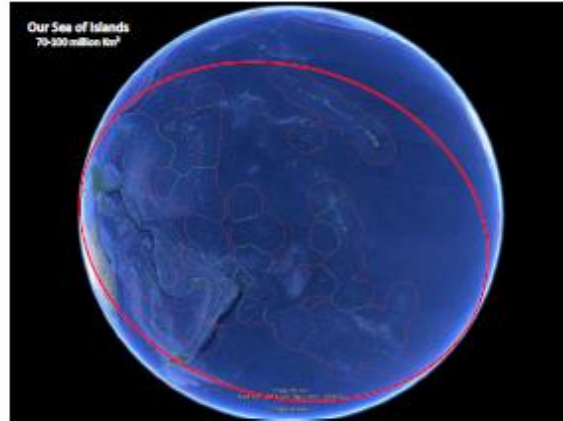


US\$ 1-2 million/year for 13 PICs

Source: Report and analysis from 2013 using value data (2000-2009) and budget data (Fishes Department 2012)

Success factors

- “Community” whether at local or regional level
e.g. PNA
- Constructive and fair partnerships – technical support “on tap not on top”
- Innovative use of existing rights – EEZ, CMT, UNCLOS, PNA or WCPFC?
- Appropriate, consistent and targeted support \$\$
- Leadership – some key resource management actions may not be vote winners but will leave legacy



12.0 Partner Statements

Belgium
H.E. Mr. Marc Mullie, Ambassador-designate of Belgium
Speaking points Pacific Blue Economy Conference
Fiji, 23 – 24 August 2017

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to begin by **thanking Fiji**, in particular the **Honorable Frank Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji, and his government** for hosting this event.

Belgium and the islands of the Pacific, and indeed the whole world community, share a **common interest** with this region **in protecting our natural ocean environments**. We see this as a truly international responsibility. The health of our oceans, seas and coastal areas is indispensable to ensure a sustainable future for all of us. Oceans create sustainable jobs and an income for many people. They therefore contribute to the eradication of poverty and to human development.

Belgium hosts one of the most important **data collection centers** on marine research in the city of Ostend. It is linked to the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). Last March we organized a **capacity building workshop** on ocean management for the SIDS in Brussels and Ostend. In order to achieve a better understanding of oceanic ecosystems, we support declaring the decennium 2021-2030 as the *'International Decennium for the promotion of oceanic-related science'*.

My country has adopted an ambitious **'marine litter action plan'** and very recently purchased a new **research ship** featuring more than 500 m² of labs and a capacity for 28 scientists and technicians. In the **International Maritime Organisation** Belgium has taken an initiative to the reduce CO₂-emissions from maritime transport (representing 80% of the emissions in the Pacific!). We favour the conclusion of a **UN treaty on 'Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction'** and we hope we can count on the support of all participants here. Several **Belgian companies** provide tailor-made solutions in the blue economy field, ranging from wave, solar and wind energy, to dredging and desalination solutions and the recycling of ocean waste.

Additionally, Belgium is contributing 100.000€ to a project on addressing the so-called **'ghost fishing gear'**. Each year, more than 640,000 tonnes of 'abandoned gear' enters our oceans, damaging ecosystems and harming marine life. By marking fishing gear to increase its visibility, this project aims to track and reduce the level of 'ghost fishing gear' in the South Pacific. The project is run by the NGO 'World Animal Protection' and is led by a Belgian Director.

Belgium is particularly concerned with the **impact of climate change** and remains firmly committed to realising the Paris Agreement objectives. Through financial and expert support, Belgium will actively contribute to the success of the upcoming **COP 23**, chaired by Fiji. This is a good example of how we can successfully collaborate across continents.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, without water, there is no life. We only have one planet, 70% of which is covered with water and healthy oceans are essential for global ecosystem stability. It is our responsibility to embrace the opportunity provided by this first high level 'Pacific Blue Economy conference' to **emphasize the importance of implementing SDG 14 and create economic opportunities for the countries of this region**.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION
Statement by: Donglin Li
Director
ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The ocean is not only critical to the wellbeing of the planet, it also is a workplace; an important source of employment. Over 350 million people depend on the ocean for their livelihood, either in tourism, shipping or fishing. 38 million workers around the world are engaged in capture fishing.

Promoting decent work is crucial for sustainable development as it contributes to ending working poverty, ensuring safety and health, and achieving equality. Yet there are significant “decent work deficits” for many people working at sea and in the ocean economy.

At its worst, this includes such problems as child and forced labour and abandonment of seafarers, long working hours, non-payment of wages and hazardous conditions of work. These violations of labour rights are not only detrimental to the workers concerned: they also damage the reputation of the fishing and shipping industry and those competing legally and fairly.

The ILO makes a unique contribution towards addressing these deficits by adopting international labour standards, drawn up by representatives of governments, employers and workers, and closely monitoring their implementation. Countries ratifying ILO conventions commit themselves to applying them in law and practice and reporting on their implementation.

Let me draw your attention to the two key ILO Conventions concerning living and working conditions at sea.

First, the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), 2006, provides a comprehensive set of standards governing living and working conditions of seafarers. It has now been ratified by 83 ILO member States and covers around 90% of the world fleet by gross tonnage. The ILO has witnessed impressive efforts from the shipping industry, seafarers’ organizations and governments to promote decent work by implementing this Convention. Six countries in the Pacific have ratified the MLC: Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, and Tuvalu.

Similarly, the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) aims to set out standards governing conditions of work on fishing vessels. This Convention will enter into force in November 2017.

The ILO encourages all States to ratify and implement these Conventions, as a crucial contribution to the fulfillment of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

Decent work conditions, productivity and innovation need to apply in the same way that apply to the places we work inland. The „blue economy” can potentially bring economic growth and job creation to Pacific countries that is inclusive but this will not happen unless more effective steps are taken to have an integrated approach to coastal-ocean territories.

Social dialogue can help to improve decent working conditions for the blue economy. We need to increase social dialogue so that those issues at risk for workers and for employers can be addressed and planned for a better future of work. The ILO stands ready to assist with this dialogue and with fostering decent job creation for a Just Transition to a blue economy in the Pacific.

Coordinated action by all concerned and at all levels is critical. Ministries responsible for labour, fisheries, maritime safety tourism and planning should work together to build links between SDG 14, SDG 8 and other SDGs, thus ensuring decent work and the long-term sustainability of both ecosystems and the economy.

The ocean is a workplace and seafarers and fishers, as all other workers, have the right to decent work. Thank you.

**Speech of Dr. U. Suleimen,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of Singapore
at the 1st High-Level Pacific Blue Economy Conference
(Suva, Fiji, 23-24 August 2017)**

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Bula vinaka and my warm greetings to you all!

It is my great pleasure and honour to be with you today at this important conference.

I want to congratulate PIDF on the launch of the 1st High-Level Pacific Blue Economy Conference.

We believe that this conference will help to focus international attention on the challenges facing the Pacific region and small island nations in general.

It has a potential to become an important platform for dialogue and for developing practical actions across Pacific.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Some of you could be surprised and puzzled why the Ambassador of Kazakhstan is speaking at this Conference of Pacific Island nations.

After all, Kazakhstan is the biggest landlocked country in the world with a climate no one would describe as tropical.

But these obvious differences couldn't shadow the challenges and common goals.

The climate change, for example, poses a terrible threat to all nations. Kazakhstan, of course, does not risk being flooded by rising sea-levels.

But climate change also poses an enormous risk to the quality of life of our citizens and our hopes for the future.

This summer, the third in a row, is abnormally hot. In Almaty, the biggest city, temperatures springing up to 45 degrees Celsius.

At the same time, many areas of our country face increased pressure on already scarce water resources because of rising temperatures and more extreme droughts.

Climate changes have become a global factor. In this context, it is difficult to overestimate the importance of the world's ocean for the life of all mankind.

Without decisive and coordinated actions at the national, regional and, above all, global level to address climate change and create a sustainable economy, all our prospects are under threat.

Of course, global action will be successful if individual countries take the actions necessary to achieve the goals of limiting emissions and promoting sustainable development.

Participating in these endeavors, in 2010 at the Six Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED-6) in Astana, Kazakhstan, my Government presented its pioneering Green Bridge initiative to link Asia and the Pacific with Europe through green growth. The program focuses on water and natural resources management; development and efficient use of renewable energy sources; food security and sustainable agriculture; eco-friendly urban systems and climate risk resilience.

MCED-6 focused attention on issues related to further promoting Green Growth as a sustainable development strategy for Asia and the Pacific

through, among other things, sustainable use of resources, low carbon development and sustainable development

From June 10th to September 10th, Astana is hosting the International Exhibition "EXPO-2017" on the theme "Energy of the Future". The flagship technologies of "green energy " are being demonstrated in the capital of Kazakhstan. Hosting the EXPO-2017 Kazakhstan contributes to the global sustainable development. The exhibition will give a strong impetus to further transition to a "green economy."

On the facilities of the EXPO-2017, after the closure of the exhibition, Kazakhstan has offered to launch an International Center for the Development of Green Technologies and Investment Projects under the aegis of the United Nations. The Center will promote the development of technologies and their transfer to developing countries.

This year Astana hosted a number of major international events, including the Ministerial Conference on Energy and the Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (11-14 June 2017). These events were supported by five UN regional commissions, including ESCAP, as well as international organizations in the energy sector. The signing of the Ministerial Declaration and the Joint Statement of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the regional commissions of the United Nations has become a practical outcome and flagged the importance of the "Green agenda."

For the Small Island Developing States (Pacific SIDS), "green economy" is a "blue economy" that prominently features oceans. The resilience, survival, and prosperity of SIDS are connected to oceans. Healthy, productive and resilient oceans and coasts are critical for poverty eradication, access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, livelihoods, economic development and essential ecosystem services

We believe that the development of the Blue Economy has immense potential in the Pacific. It will boost SIDS economies, generate new employment, promote entrepreneurship and interconnectedness of the regional economy utilize untapped potential of the ocean and contribute to sustainable development and climate change mitigation.

My country closely cooperates with ESCAP in the field of "green economy." This UN Agency has a lot of projects in Pacific. Some projects have already been launched jointly with ESCAP. For example, Kazakhstan participated in installations of biogas systems in SIDS of the Pacific region that developed the capacity of these countries in climate change and renewable energy. To date, Kazakhstan has invested more than \$ 900,000 in the implementation of these projects.

Kazakhstan has established the Agency for International Development (KazAID), a single body to direct and coordinate efforts, to do the most good and build partnerships with its international and national counterparts to maximize impact.

For example, my country has already funded around 1,000 Afghan young people to study at Kazakhstan's universities so they can return home with the skills and expertise to improve life of their

communities. The new joint program with Japan focused on expanding the economic independence and rights of Afghan women shows Astana's determination to step up this help.

While Afghanistan and Central Asia have rightly been made the priority for aid projects, KazAID's help goes beyond neighboring countries. Last year, training courses in energy, healthcare, and agriculture were provided to professionals from 23 African countries.

Kazakhstan closely cooperates with the United Nations Development Programme to provide efficient and value for the money assistance.

Kazakhstan stands ready to share its experience and assist to Pacific SIDS.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me conclude my intervention by wishing you all success and fruitful work at the Conference, as well as prosperity to people of Fiji and a wider Pacific region.

Thank you for your attention.

Vinaka Vakalevu.

Russia Statement: 1st High-Level Pacific Blue Economy Conference Development Partners Statements

(23rd August 2017, Suva, Fiji)

Preserving the Ocean

The Russian Federation, which has the marine borders of more than 38,000 km, is an active and consistent adherent of preserving seas and oceans, including through strengthening international cooperation in this area.

We are convinced that balanced attention of international community to all challenges without artificial prioritization of certain issues of preservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources is an indispensable condition for achieving the 14th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-14).

The Russian Federation proceeds from the follow priorities on oceans preservation:

1. It is necessary to guarantee complete and unified application of global norms of international law in the field of marine environment preservation by all interested parties. Oceans and seas are our mutual heritage. Therefore, the responsibility for their preservation rests equally with all countries regardless of the level of development and the length of sea border.
2. It is important to strengthen the regime of regional conventions on the protection of seas against pollution, which enable to react by applying an individual approach – what means more effectively – to specific conditions and mechanisms of contamination of different seas. The Russian Federation – as an active participant of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea area, the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against pollution and the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea – can value in practice the real output from these legal tools.

3. The increase of efficiency of oceans preservation activities directly depends on the accuracy of scientific grounds, assumed as a basis for making decisions. In this regard, the Russian Federation supports the proposal of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO of an International Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) “Towards the ocean we need for the future we want”.

4. Greater coordination as well as eradication of duplication and competition in the UN work on oceans and seas are of great importance for the successful achievement of the SDG-14. Considering this, we call the interested parties to employ existing organizations and platforms (such as the IOC of UNESCO, the UN Environment Programme, etc.) for implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the part concerning the SDG-14 more actively prior to making a decision to establish alternative dialogues.

5. Our country is a consistent adherent of a reasonable balance between the interests of marine environment protection and other lawful activities at sea. We believe that while developing new norms on decrease of negative effects of shipping and fishing on environment we have to take into account capital and exploitation costs of shipping industry for their implementation. Otherwise, countries (first of all – developing ones) can be confronted with the growth of transport costs that will considerably affect their rate on integration into global trade. Moreover, a slowdown of demand for services of water transport (the most ecological one as of today) will affect transport connectivity – one of the most important factors for successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda, according to the Group of 20.

As one of leading sea fishing countries the Russian Federation works on preserving water bio-resources reserves and decreasing an excess industrial load.

On January 1, 2016 a law – which is one-of-a-kind in the world – on the prohibition of the drifter fishing in an exclusive economic zone came into force in the Russian Federation.

In June 2017 our country registered a voluntary commitment to continue the development of international public-private partnership on the preservation of the environment of the Baltic Sea within the framework of the platform “Saint Petersburg initiative 2013”.

We consider that elaboration of balanced recommendations on the implementation of the SDG-14 should remain the prerogative of the High-level political forum (HLPF) on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Only the HLPF is capable to ensure indivisible and interconnected examination of all SDGs and arrival at integrated intersectional solutions for the 2030 Agenda challenges.