



## LISTENING TO THE PACIFIC

### FRAMEWORK FOR PACIFIC REGIONALISM REGIONAL INITIATIVE SUBMISSION TEMPLATE 2016

#### **The Framework for Pacific Regionalism**

The Framework for Pacific Regionalism represents a high-level commitment to pursuing deeper regionalism and establishes a process for developing and prioritising regional public policy. It articulates the vision, values and objectives of an enhanced Pacific regionalism. It also sets out an inclusive process by which anyone can propose ideas for regional initiatives to address key challenges facing the Pacific. For more information, [click here](#).

#### **Regional Issues and Guidance**

When preparing your submission, think carefully about why this is an issue of regional significance and why it should be placed before the Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum. For further information on the process and types of submissions being sought, please refer to the guideline below.

#### **To Submit a Regional Initiative**

1. Complete the below regional initiative template below.
2. Submit initiative to the Forum Secretariat by deadline: **5pm, Fiji time, Sunday 10 April 2016.**
3. Initiatives should be submitted to the Forum Secretariat, through one of the following ways:



## FRAMEWORK FOR PACIFIC REGIONALISM – REGIONAL INITIATIVE TEMPLATE

*Please complete each section below.*

### 1. Contact Details

*Please provide the following contact details:*

Name of individual or group submitting initiative

The New Zealand Tonga Business Council

Name and position of primary contact

Rachel Afeaki-Taumoepeau, Chairperson

Email address

Phone number

Fax number

Mailing address

### 2. Name of Initiative

Pacific Diaspora Engagement Initiative –promotes and supports Pacific diaspora-centred initiatives in investment, entrepreneurship, social and economic development



**3. What is the common regional issue or challenge that this regional initiative aims to address?**

*You may also want to address the following: What are the causes of this issue? Are there links to national, regional or international goals/policies?*

*Please limit your response to no more than 750 words.*

**Pacific Diaspora:** is the the term to describe a community of people who live outside their shared country of origin or ancestry but maintain active connections with it. A diaspora includes both emigrants and their descendants. While some people lose their attachment to their ancestral homeland, others maintain a strong connection to a place which their ancestors may have left generations ago. Many Pacific New Zealanders and Pacific Australians come from mixed heritage and therefore can claim membership in multiple diaspora communities.

Many Pacific diaspora groups are working to achieve greater impact and a stronger voice in matters that relate to their countries of origin. Pacific Diaspora communities make vital but often unrecognized contributions to the progress of their countries of heritage. They share goals with governments, businesses, and NGOs, including:

- Broad-based economic growth;
- Thriving civil society;
- Widespread participation in good governance;
- Access to global markets for skills and financial capital;
- Robust trading partnerships;
- Growing participation in science, technology and communication innovations

Growing Pacific Diaspora across NZ, Australia is increasing and rapidly based on recent census in both countries respectively. .

The purpose for the establishment of the Pacific Diaspora Engagement Initiative is for Pacific Leaders to review, measure and anticipate diaspora growth of such host Nations (NZ & Australia) and the measure the value and contribution this Diaspora market impacts on its Pacific home Nations.

Migration is the defining trend of our Pacific world today, within home Nations – fertility with specific ethnic groups is growing eg., Tongans. Yet even as Pacific people spread father apart, technological advances have created low-cost means of communication and transportation that bind us more closely together. Pacific Leaders need to recognize, measure and evaluate the value and purpose of its Pacific Diaspora and how this increasingly growing global market are now connected instantaneously, continuously, dynamically and intimately to their communities of origin. And as Pacific diasporas grow, their networks expand and intertwine, linking not only our Pacific region together but globally our world together. No other social network (if classified as this by governments) offer the same global reach—or commercial opportunity.



The common regional issues:

- 1 Home Nation population decline due to migration causing brain drain for local home Nation
- 2 Measurement and Evaluation of the value and contribution of the Pacific Diaspora Market to both home Nation and Host Nation ie., Tonga & NZ
- 3 Specific contribution of Pacific Diaspora to economic and social development of Home Country eg., Tonga Diapsora direct impact on Tourism, Education, Remittances/Foreign local Investment, Church, Culture & Handicrafts, Private-Public Sector Partnerships (formalised partnerships between Govt-Govt).

Cause of issue:

This issues needs to be addressed by Pacific Leaders due to the increased growth of the Pacific Diaspora in NZ and Australia – and lack of measurement and evaluation of the value and impact (positive or adverse) between both home and host Nation.

Point note – increased migration will continue from home Nation to host Nations, and the growth of ethnic specific Pacific Diaspora is fastest growing in countries such as NZ due to fertility increase eg., Tongans on average birth twice as more than New Zealanders.

Pacific Islands such as Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Niue already are already represented in NZ more than 50% in population in New Zealand (Tonga popl: 103,000, NZ Tonga population 60,000 (NZ 2013 Census), Samoa popl 195,000 (World Population Prospects), NZ Samoa 144,000 (NZ 2013 Census).

NZ Treasury has stated that there is no official statistical measurement of what and how the Pacific population to include the Pacific Diaspora of New Zealand contributes towards NZ's economy and its bilateral impact back to its home Nation.

The Pacific population is expected to grow and grow quickly via fertility primarily followed by migration. With climate change being a very strong challenge for many of the smaller islands the latter option is becoming more of a reason to leave one's own home nation.

Below are recent Census statistics of the population levels of a selected few Pacific Nations from both New Zealand and Australia:

**2013 Census NZ**

144,000 Samoan (up 10 %)



62,000 Cook Island Maori (up 7%)

60,000 Tonga (up 20%)

14,445 Fijian, 10,929 Fijian Indian

23,883 Niue

**2011 Census Australia**

25,096 Tonga

55,846 Samoa

16,191 Cook Island

23,768 Fiji

3,149 Niuean

**4. Briefly describe this regional initiative**

*You may also want to address the following in this section:*

*How would this initiative contribute to a positive change to the region?*

*Who are the main beneficiaries?*

*How would the initiative contribute to the vision, values and objectives of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism?*

*Has the initiative been carried out previously?*

*What are the key risks in implementing this initiative?*

*Are there any complementary projects and programmes that are currently active?*

***Please limit your response to no more than 750 words.***



This regional initiative would require the establishment of a taskforce group represented across NZ, Australia, Tonga, Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Fiji.

The taskforce group will be seek to identify, promotes and supports Pacific diaspora-centered initiatives in countries and regions of pacific diaspora origin. This initiative should form to be a non-partisan initiative that engages global diaspora communities, the private sector, civil society, and public institutions in collaborative efforts to support economic and social development.

The taskforce group initially will be managed via a public-private partnership between Pacific Governments (Nations engaged – who indicate interest, at this stage recommendation is Tonga, Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Fiji), NZ, Australia Treasury and from NZ – Pacific Business Councils (at this stage).

A Taskforce group to engage home and host government representatives and key stakeholders from key sectors to be engaged: Treasury, Private-Public sector agencies, respective communities.

Data collected should be defined and developed by professional statistical agencies within home Nations.

Home Nations such as Tonga, Samoa, Fiji, Niue, Cook Islands to work towards inclusion of statistics provided and begin to acquire own statistics within sectors to measure more effectively diaspora contribution.

The growing Pacific Diaspora population along with home Nation governments would benefit from this initiative with the ability to contribute and assist with social and economic development in both Nations.

Pacific Diaspora communities make vital but often unrecognized contributions to the progress of their countries of heritage. They share goals with governments, businesses, and NGOs, including:

- Broad-based economic growth;
- Thriving civil society;
- Widespread participation in good governance;
- Access to global markets for skills and financial capital;
- Robust trading partnerships;
- Growing participation in science, technology and communication innovations

Growing Pacific Diaspora across NZ, Australia is increasing and rapidly based on recent census in both countries respectively.

Other countries have done similar initiatives – eg., USA and African Nations but why not the Pacific?



## 5. Why does this initiative require the attention of the Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum?

*Please consider whether this initiative requires the attention and consideration of the Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum in order to be implemented and outline why this is the case. Could it not be overseen or implemented at the level of Ministers, officials or by a regional agency?*

*Please limit your response to no more than 750 words.*

This initiative requires the attention of the Leaders as it clearly addresses the need to

- treasure the diversity and heritage of the Pacific and seek an inclusive future in which cultures, traditions and religious beliefs are valued, honoured and developed and
- supports full inclusivity, equity and equality for all people of the Pacific.

This initiative would also address the principle objectives for the Pacific Island Forum's Regionalism framework concerning:

- Sustainable development that combines economic social, and cultural development in ways that improve livelihoods and well-being and use the environment sustainably;
- Economic growth that is inclusive and equitable;

This initiative needs to the support the PIF, both NZ and Australia's government and key agencies to ensure this initiative works.

The discussion must be initiated by our Leaders – now, and we should not wait and be reactive to a situation to begin to look at the Pacific Diaspora as a contributing regional/global community.



## 6. Attachments

Please attach additional information in support of this initiative.

*Please attach no more than 3 pages.*

## 7. Uploading initiatives to the Forum Secretariat website

In line with the process outlined in the [Framework for Pacific Regionalism](#), all submitted initiatives, inclusive of all attachments, will be publicly available via the Forum Secretariat website.

## 8. Guidelines and Contact Details

For further information on completing this template, consult the submissions guideline below or contact Pacific Regionalism Adviser Joel Nilon at the Forum Secretariat: Email: [FPR@forumsec.org](mailto:FPR@forumsec.org) | Phone: +679 322 0327



## Submission Guidelines

These guidelines are designed to assist those submitting regional initiatives through the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. For more information contact Pacific Regionalism Adviser Joel Nilon at the Forum Secretariat:

Email: [FPR@forumsec.org](mailto:FPR@forumsec.org) | Phone: +679 322 0327

### 1. About the Framework for Pacific Regionalism

The Framework for Pacific Regionalism represents a high-level commitment to pursuing deeper regionalism and establishes a process for developing and prioritising regional public policy. It articulates the vision, values and objectives of an enhanced Pacific regionalism. It also sets out an inclusive process by which anyone can propose ideas for regional initiatives to address key challenges facing the Pacific. For more information, [click here](#).

### 2. How do I submit a regional initiative?

To submit a regional initiative, complete all sections of the submission template and submit to the Forum Secretariat by no later **5pm, Fiji time, Sunday 10 April 2016**.

Submissions must be made on this template. Submissions made directly via email, letter or other format will not be considered.



### 3. Who can submit an initiative?

Any interested stakeholder can submit a regional initiative. This may include individuals, or groups of individuals or organisations, including government, civil society (including church or religious organisations), the private sector, community groups, multilateral agencies and CROP agencies.

### 4. What information is required?

In completing the regional initiative template, you should:

- a. Identify and seek to respond to issues and challenges that are common to the Pacific region and that could be best addressed through a regional response.
- b. Demonstrate that a high level political decision needs to be made.

**This is not a process for seeking endorsement of existing projects or activities. No standing fund exists in which to allocate funds to initiatives that are endorsed.** Submissions that consist of projects or initiatives that may be ordinarily carried out under the governance arrangements or work-plan of the submitting organisation are unlikely to be successful.

- c. Demonstrate how the initiative would contribute to one or more of the objectives of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

### 5. What assistance will the Forum Secretariat provide through this process

The Forum Secretariat will provide general advice and suggestions to those making submissions. This advice will include clarifying the information set out in this guideline, such as how initiatives can be completed and submitted; the type and level of information sought; the assessment process; and clarification of the overall process.

### 6. Assessment process

- Step 1** The Forum Secretariat will collate all submitted initiatives and check them for completeness.
- Step 2** The Forum Secretariat will, in collaboration with CROP agency officials and other experts as required, conduct a first round of assessment of all submitted initiatives using the tests for regional action (see Table 1 below).
- Step 3** The Forum Secretariat will provide all assessed initiatives to the Specialist Sub-Committee on Regionalism (SSCR), which will assess initiatives against the vision, values and objectives set out in the Framework (see Table 2 below). Reports on current regional initiatives under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism that are in progress will also be considered by the SSCR when they assess initiatives.
- Step 4** Based on its assessment of all submissions, the SSCR may recommend a limited number of initiatives to Forum Leaders. Those initiatives recommended to Leaders will be first sent to the Forum Officials



Committee for commentary and incorporation on the Leaders' annual meeting agenda. Forum Leaders will then receive the final recommendations of the SSCR and make decisions on these at the annual Forum Leaders Meeting. In 2016 this meeting will take place in the Federated States of Micronesia

Proponents whose initiatives have been selected for Leaders' consideration will be informed of this selection within two weeks of the SSCR's decision. All proponents will be informed in due course of the outcome of their submissions.

### **7. Leaders' decisions on initiatives**

Forum Leaders' decisions on initiatives will be publicly announced through the Forum Leaders' Communique that is issued at the conclusion of the Leaders' meeting. As directed by Leaders, the Forum Secretariat will initiate implementation of the decisions in consultation with the proponent, the proposed implementing agencies, funding partners, and other relevant organisations or stakeholders.

### **8. Further help and feedback**

For further information or guidance or to provide feedback on the process, contact Pacific Regionalism Adviser Joel Nilon at the Forum Secretariat:



**Table 1 – Tests for Regionalism**

<b>TEST</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION</b>
<b>Market test</b>	The initiative should not involve a service that markets can provide well.
<b>Sovereignty test</b>	The initiative should maintain the degree of effective sovereignty held by national governments (countries, not regional bodies, should decide priorities).
<b>Regionalism test</b>	<p>The initiative should meet one of the following criteria at a sub-regional or regional level, in support of national priorities and objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ establish a shared norm or standard</li><li>▪ establish a common position on an issue</li><li>▪ deliver a public or quasi-public good which is regional (or sub-regional) in its scope realise economies of scale</li><li>▪ overcome national capacity constraints</li><li>▪ complement national governments where they lack capacity to provide national public goods like security or the rule of law</li><li>▪ facilitate economic or political integration</li><li>▪ Where benefits accrue sub-regionally, the contribution to broader regionalism should be clear.</li></ul>
<b>Benefit test</b>	<p>The initiative should bring substantial net benefits, as demonstrated by a cost-benefit analysis. The distribution of benefits across countries and across stakeholders within the region should also be considered—particularly with respect to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The relative costs and benefits for smaller island states (an “SIS test”)</li><li>▪ How inclusive the proposal is of all stakeholders who might benefit from regionalism.</li></ul>
<b>Political oversight test</b>	The initiative should require the Leaders’ attention and input (as opposed to being within the mandate of Ministers or other governing bodies).
<b>Risk and sustainability test</b>	The initiative should demonstrate a robust risk and sustainability evaluation, be based on a sound implementation plan, be supported by some identified funding, and demonstrate available capacity and experience for successful implementation.
<b>Duplication test</b>	The initiative should not be currently under progress by another organisation or process, and there should be no duplication of effort.



## **Table 2 – Vision, Values and Objectives of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism**

### **Vision:**

Our Pacific Vision is for a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion, and prosperity, so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives

### **Values:**

- We value and depend upon the integrity of our vast ocean and our island resources.
- We treasure the diversity and heritage of the Pacific and seek an inclusive future in which cultures, traditions and religious beliefs are valued, honoured and developed.
- We embrace good governance, the full observance of democratic values, the rule of law, the defence and promotion of all human rights, gender equality, and commitment to just societies.
- We seek peaceful, safe, and stable communities and countries, ensuring full security and wellbeing for the peoples of the Pacific.
- We support full inclusivity, equity and equality for all people of the Pacific.
- We strive for effective, open and honest relationships and inclusive and enduring partnerships—based on mutual accountability and respect—with each other, within our sub-regions, within our region, and beyond.

These Pacific regional values will guide all our policy-making and implementation.

### **Principal Objectives:**

- Sustainable development that combines economic social, and cultural development in ways that improve livelihoods and well-being and use the environment sustainably;
- Economic growth that is inclusive and equitable;
- Strengthened governance, legal, financial, and administrative systems; and
- Security that ensures stable and safe human, environmental and political conditions for all.