



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:



Email

FPR@forumsec.org



Post

C/O Pacific Regionalism Adviser
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
Private Mail Bag
Suva, Fiji



Hand Delivery

Reception
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
Ratu Sukuna Road
Suva, Fiji



Fax

+679 322 0215 Attention: Pacific Regionalism Adviser

Please note that all submissions must be made using this template.

For more information contact Pacific Regionalism Adviser Joel Nilon at the Forum Secretariat:

Email: FPR@forumsec.org | Phone: +679 322 0327

Feedback

Any feedback on this template or process: Email FPR@forumsec.org



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

Secretariat of the Pacific Community; IUCN Pacific Centre for Environmental Governance; Locally Managed Marine Areas Network; WorldFish; and ANCORS, University of Wollongong.

Name and position of primary contact

Moses AMOS, Director, Fisheries Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division

Email address

Phone number

Fax number

Mailing address

2. Name of Initiative

Coastal Fisheries – Averting the food, health, and employment crisis in the Pacific region

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.



Regional Issue

The increasing demand for coastal fishery resources from growing populations, combined with a decline in fish from over fishing and habitat destruction, is creating a food security crisis, and the subsequent negative health and economic impacts on Pacific Island communities will put ever greater pressure on the budgets and resources of national governments as they deal with these impacts. The improved management of coastal fisheries is vital in order to deal with the crisis.

Regional challenges

1. Weak coastal fisheries management

Ineffective and weak coastal fisheries management is a real tragedy in the Pacific region. Although coastal fisheries is of fundamental importance to the Pacific island people, the number of well-managed coastal fisheries in the Pacific islands is surprisingly small, despite a number of Leaders regional policy decisions relating to Coastal Fisheries. The situation is instigated by the inherent lack of management, monitoring and control at the national level; increased fishing pressure due to growing populations; a break down of traditional management mechanisms; excessive bias towards tuna fisheries by national governments, and the increasing buying power and appetite of Asian nations for coastal fishery products.

2. Population Increase

As the populations of many Pacific island countries and territories (PICTs) increases, their coastal fisheries resources markedly decline. Coastal Fishery resources are over-exploited in coastal zones close to markets and urban areas where the concentrated population creates the greatest demand for fish. It is very likely that the situation will become worse in the future.

3. Food and nutrition security

Coastal Fisheries provides most of the fisheries related nutrition for the Pacific people. SPC (2008)¹ states that currently fish provides 50 to 90% of the animal-sourced protein consumed in rural areas, and 40 to 80% in many urban centres. In general, most Pacific island countries exceed the world average per capita fishery product consumption rated of 16.5kg².

4. Livelihoods and economy

Coastal Fisheries provide the primary or secondary source of income for up to 50% of households in the Pacific region, wellbeing and traditions of Pacific Island communities, and on the economies and finances of their governments. At the national level, coastal fisheries carry significant economic and cultural value, contributing an estimated 49% of the total fisheries contribution to GDP.

Because the production of coastal fisheries is unlikely to expand in the future, the relationship between coastal fisheries and poverty will revolve around preserving existing welfare benefits through effective fisheries management.

5. Importance to Health

An ever widening gap between the available amount of fish, a healthy protein, and the amount of sustainable harvests from coastal fisheries has created a looming crisis, one that will have significant negative impacts on the health of the Pacific people, particularly in regards to combating the high and rising prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as heart disease and diabetes, and the incidence of obesity. The severity of the problems illustrated by the fact that nine of the 10 countries with the highest rates of overweight and obesity, and seven of the 10 countries with the highest rates of diabetes, are Pacific Island nations³.

Links to national, regional or international goals/policies

The regional initiative is linked to “*A New Song For Coastal Fisheries – Pathways To Change*”, which is designed to build on lessons learnt and past successes in order to meet the need for improved management of coastal fisheries.

¹ Secretariat of the Pacific Community (2008). *Status Report: Nearshore and Reef Fisheries and Aquaculture*. Noumea, New Caledonia.

² Gillett, R., and C. Lightfoot (2001). *The Contribution of Fisheries to the Economies of Pacific island Countries*. Asian Development Bank.

³ Cassels S. Overweight in the Pacific: links between foreign dependence, global food trade, and obesity in the Federated States of Micronesia. *Global Health* 2006;2. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/1744-8603-2-10>.



The essence of “New Song” was subsequently endorsed by Leaders in 2015 under the Future of Fisheries: A Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries 2015. Previous Leaders decisions include the emphasis on sustainable inshore and coastal fisheries management in the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape (2010) and the Vava’u Declaration in 2007 which called for effective management of coastal fisheries to support food security and sustainable livelihoods which led to the Apia Policy for coastal fisheries (2008).

Similar themes are embodied in the:

- Joint Forum Fisheries Agency/Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) report
- International Union of Conservation of Nature’s call for action
- Strategic plan of SPC’s Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (FAME)
- Outcomes from the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States
- Melanesian Spearhead Group’s Roadmap for inshore fisheries management and sustainable development 2014–2023
- 2014 Palau Declaration: The Ocean: Life and Future.

These declarations and documents collectively call on PICTs to implement integrated coastal resource management arrangements, drawing on the strengths and traditions of community, district, provincial and national levels of government to achieve sustainable island life.

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.

The regional Initiative

Coastal Fisheries – Averting the food, health and employment crisis in the Pacific region.

Main beneficiaries

The main beneficiaries are the Pacific island people, especially next and future generations, by having improved security of availability and access to protein from coastal fisheries, along with the dietary, health, economic, livelihood and cultural benefits that the sourcing and consumption of nutritious food provides.

However, in order to gain commitments to drive momentum at the national, greater increased political recognition as well as strong leadership and attention by the leaders is urgently required, on the value of coastal fisheries to food security, health, and rural development.

The three major benefit areas cover sustainable management and development, resilience and enhanced livelihoods and will require leaders to build on regional experiences to promote national action in the following areas:

1. Cost-effective and collaborative management that forms the basis for community livelihoods and national development
 - Adequate and relevant information to inform management and policy development at Community, sub-national and



- national levels.
 - Re-focused fisheries agencies valuing coastal fisheries management that are transparent, accountable and adequately resourced.
2. Resilient island communities with capacity to adapt to immediate and long term threats
- Strong and up-to-date management policy, legislation and planning.
 - National governments regulate trade of commercial species to ensure that pressures on these are kept to within sustainable limits
 - Reduction of “capacity enhancing” subsidies (e.g. boats, fuel, access to transport or ice) and shift to “beneficial” subsidies (i.e. those that demonstrably improve sustainability of wild stocks).
3. Enhanced livelihoods and food security
- Implementation of national strategies for fisheries diversification identifying priority communities based on food security risk and sustainability
 - Diversifying fish supply to rural and urban areas by developing sustainable small-pond aquaculture for freshwater fish.

Contribution to the vision, values and objectives of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism

The initiative contributes to providing a direction and encourages the coordination, cooperation and effective use of regional and other support services in the development of coastal fisheries management as a regional tool to avert the food security, health, and employment crises in Pacific rural communities.

At the regional level, it brings together initiatives and stakeholders with a shared vision of coastal fisheries management and a strong, coordinated approach. At the national and sub-national level, it seeks political recognition of the value of coastal fisheries to food security, health, community resilience, and rural development.

Complementary regional strategies, projects and programmes that are currently active

- A New Song For Coastal Fisheries – Pathways To Change
- Alternative futures for the Pacific food system

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.



The issue of coastal fisheries resource decline and the dire consequences arising from it need to be elevated to the highest political levels, and also beyond the fisheries sector. This is essential if hard decisions are to be made and real change is to occur on a meaningful scale. The very high economic and cultural value of coastal fisheries to the region, and the scale and nature of the negative impacts from the food security crisis, health and community resilience, underpins the vital need for the attention of leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum because:

- The animal-source protein supply of many Pacific island people which is mainly driven by coastal fishery resources is undergoing profound changes that will be felt for generations. The main pillars of food security – availability, access, and consumption of nutritious food – are being challenged by a rapid decline in coastal fishery resources, fishing pressure, rapid population growth, urbanisation, shortages of arable land, and cheap, nutritionally poor food imports from burgeoning global trade. As a result many Pacific island countries and territories are now dependent on imported food, and the incidence of NCDs is among the highest in the world.
- Climate change brings further threat as well as opportunities and is expected to cause significant losses of the coral reef, mangrove, seagrass and intertidal habitats that provide shelter and food for coastal fishery resources. Critical changes, such as warmer air and sea surface temperature, sea level rise, higher rainfall, and more acidic oceans are already “locked in” as are population increases to 2030, but the Pacific island countries response to these changes are uncertain and unpredictable particularly with respect to food security, health, community livelihoods and resilience.
- To gain commitments will require a greatly increased political recognition of the value of coastal fisheries to food security health, community livelihoods and resilience, and rural development, plus a related commitment to resource the sector, and to achieve this requires strong leadership and attention at the regional level.

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 | 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 | 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.

Delivery of submissions can be made via one of the following



Email

FPR@forumsec.org



Post

Pacific Regionalism Adviser
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
Private Mail Bag
Suva, Fiji



Hand Delivery

Reception
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
Ratu Sukuna Road
Suva, Fiji



Fax

+679 322 0215 Attn: Pacific Regionalism Adviser



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: Email: FPR@forumsec.org | Phone: +679 322 0327



Table 1 – Tests for Regionalism

TEST	CRITERIA FOR REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION
Market test	The initiative should not involve a service that markets can provide well.
Sovereignty test	The initiative should maintain the degree of effective sovereignty held by national governments (countries, not regional bodies, should decide priorities).
Regionalism test	<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">▪ establish a shared norm or standard▪ establish a common position on an issue▪ deliver a public or quasi-public good which is regional (or sub-regional) in its scope realise economies of scale▪ overcome national capacity constraints▪ complement national governments where they lack capacity to provide national public goods like security or the rule of law▪ facilitate economic or political integration▪ Where benefits accrue sub-regionally, the contribution to broader regionalism should be clear.
Benefit test	<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">▪ The relative costs and benefits for smaller island states (an “SIS test”)▪ How inclusive the proposal is of all stakeholders who might benefit from regionalism.
Political oversight test	The initiative should require the Leaders’ attention and input (as opposed to being within the mandate of Ministers or other governing bodies).
Risk and sustainability test	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.
Duplication test	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.