This thematic area focuses on the region’s stewardship of the Blue Pacific Continent through collective responsibility, commitment and investment in its ocean and lands. This includes to invest in the region’s sovereignty and sovereign rights over its maritime zones and lands, such as to support its continental shelf claims.

Recognising the significant environmental and ecosystem-based services that the Blue Pacific provides to the planet, the region’s ability to benefit from its ocean and environment depends on its capacity to make the right policy choices, partnerships and investments, including by adopting a precautionary and forward looking approach to protect the region’s biodiversity, its environment and resources from exploitation, degradation, nuclear contamination, waste, pollution, and health threats.

The region has in place the Framework for Pacific Oceanscape which addresses the sustainable development and management of our ocean; the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas which guides nature conservation planning, prioritisation and implementation; and the Cleaner Pacific 2025, which is the region’s framework to address waste and pollution with thematic plans to address regional marine litter and regional marine spill contingency.

The region continues to face issues linked to the depletion of some ocean resources and the degradation of marine ecosystem. This has led to security concerns; land and ocean pollution; lack of waste management and disposal; and inefficient use of energy.

### Strategic Pathways

- **Governance**
  - Strengthen regional coordination and cooperation, including policy, regulatory and legislative measures that reflect a precautionary approach to address both the sustainable use and environmental conservation of ocean and land-based environment.

- **Inclusion and Equity**
  - Strengthen involvement by all Pacific peoples, including Non-State Actors, to ensure their cultural values and traditional knowledge are reflected in measures to conserve the ocean and land-based environment.

- **Education, Research and Technology**
  - Undertake scientifically based research, innovation and the use of data and information to inform policies and practices to protect and safeguard the Blue Pacific Continent.

- **Resilience and Wellbeing**
  - Support community level efforts to protect and conserve the ocean and land-based environment.

- **Partnerships and Cooperation**
  - The region’s partners commit to protecting the Pacific’s environment and resources from exploitation, degradation and pollution.

### Present Situation

The region has in place the Framework for Pacific Oceanscape which addresses the sustainable development and management of our ocean; the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas which guides nature conservation planning, prioritisation and implementation; and the Cleaner Pacific 2025, which is the region’s framework to address waste and pollution with thematic plans to address regional marine litter and regional marine spill contingency.

The region continues to face issues linked to the depletion of some ocean resources and the degradation of marine ecosystem. This has led to security concerns; land and ocean pollution; lack of waste management and disposal; and inefficient use of energy.

### Level of Ambition

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