

## **REGIONAL INITIATIVE TEMPLATE**

Please complete each section below.

### **1. Contact Details**

Please provide the following contact details:

<b>Name of individual or group submitting initiative</b>	Cook Islands Voyaging Society
<b>Name and position of primary contact</b>	<i>Tua Pittman – Vice President</i>

### **2. Name of Initiative**

**Rama Voyage** – Vaka Marumaru Atua – Cook Islands | Vaka Faafaite – Tahiti | Vaka Gaulofa Samoa | Vaka Uto Ni Yalo – Fiji | Vaka Haunui – Aotearoa

### **3. Background and Rationale**

You may consider: What is the issue being addressed by this initiative? What are the causes of this issue? Are there relevant studies that have been carried out to support the issue? Are there links to national, regional or international goals/policies?

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

*The Pacific ocean stretches across some 165 million kilometres of area and covers close to 50% of all the earth's oceans. For most of the island inhabitants, the ocean is our major source of sustenance It is well documented that our lifeline is becoming increasingly threatened and may eventually mean the demise of some of our island homes.*

*Pacific Islanders are contending with the adverse impacts of  
climate change,  
over-fishing  
and Ocean pollution.*

*These challenges cannot be dealt with alone. The trans-boundary nature of our ocean means that there are no boundaries when facing climate change, over fishing and pollution. In this instance regional cooperation is needed more than ever to address these critical issues. This initiative seeks to work towards strengthening regional cooperation through education and awareness within and outside of the region about the challenges we face in an era of climate change and ocean degradation. This will be achieved through the use of the traditional sailing boats (vaka moana), where the crew will act as climate change awareness ambassadors.*



#### 4. Description

*Please provide a brief overview of this initiative. Try to address the following: Does this initiative contribute to a positive change to the region? What makes this initiative of importance to the Pacific region as a whole? Who would implement this initiative? Who are the main beneficiaries? Are regulatory or legislative changes required at the national level to implement this initiative? How would the initiative be funded? Has this initiative been carried out previously? What are the key risks in implementing this initiative? Are there any complementary projects and programmes currently active? What is the proposed timeframe for this initiative? How would the initiative be sustained over the proposed timeframe?*

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

*The Rama Voyage seeks to bring about change by using traditional voyaging and will be implemented by 5 Vaka. If the leaders accept this initiative, a sail plan will be developed which will kick off in mid 2016 over a four-month period.*

*This will include VAKA participation at key fisheries and climate change meetings in the region to carry the message of the importance of looking after our oceans.*

*We will train young voyagers from the Pacific region to become ambassadors on the impacts of climate change and ocean degradation on island dwellers. The voyagers will visit schools to educate our young on their first-hand experiences of change in our ocean.*

*Invitations will be extended to those that work in the areas of climate change and ocean management in the Pacific to sail on selected legs of the oceangoing journey.*

*As we sail into these small island states young people will have an opportunity to join the crew and sail to the next island port or country.*

*The VAKA has strong cultural and traditional significance to the people of the Pacific Islands, it is a powerful tool to educate and bring about awareness to these important issues.*

*One million US\$ dollars is sought to implement this initiative.*

*The main beneficiaries will be the Pacific Islands people.*

#### 5. Alignment to Regional Vision, Values and Objectives

Briefly describe how your initiative supports the vision, values and objectives set out in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. These can be found in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism document or in the submissions guideline document.

**Please limit your response to no more than 500 words**

*This initiative supports the Sustainable Development pillar of the Pacific Plan.*

*In particular, responding to climate change, and improving livelihoods and well-being.*

*Education and increased awareness will be achieved through, traditional voyaging to areas within the region and selected vaka voyagers to attend and deliver messages at key meetings & conferences.*

*Regional cooperation will be assisted by*

*The act of voyaging..travelling by the stars and being in touch with nature*

*A 5 day ocean voyage vs a 5 hour flight*

*Seeing & experiencing first-hand island challenges and opportunities...*

*Better understanding of the threat(s) in each island / nation*

*Increased cultural awareness of the similarities & differences between islands*

*Friendships will create stronger empathy and understanding*

*The crew who make these voyages throughout the Pacific will become leaders in the near future. Having established relationships in each country along the way will broaden their views.*

*The Rama Vaka voyage will*

*Educate "Climate change awareness ambassadors"*

*Instill Island & National pride*

*create Pacific-wide thinking*

*develop responsible leaders*

## **6. Additional Information**

*Please provide or attach additional information in support of this initiative.*

**Please limit your response to no more than 5 pages.**

*Brochures, photos, educational awareness material etc of past journeys and educational work*

*Te Manava Voyage – Te Manava Vaka Festival celebrating “The Essence, the heart and soul of our origins of Vaka.” & the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Self Governance of the Cook Islands (Vaka Marumaru Atau, Faafaite, Te Matau A Maui, Gaualofa, Haunui) – Sailplan May-2015 Auckland-Rarotonga-Aitutaki-Atiu-Mauke-Mitiaro-Rarotonga*

*MUA Voyage - IUCN World Parks Congress (Vaka Marumaru Atau, Uto Ni Yalo, Gaualofa, Haunui) – Sailplan Sept-2014 – Cook Islands- Samoa, Fiji, Vanuatu – Gold Coast – Sydney - Auckland*

*Te Mana O Te Moana – an ocean awareness voyage (Vaka Marumaru Atau, Faafaite, Te Matau A Maui, Gaualofa, Haunui, Hinemoana, Uto Ni Yalo)*

*Sailplan 2011 – NZ – Tahiti – Hawaii – USA.*

*Sailplan Rtn Voyage 2012 –*

*USA – Mexico – Costa Rica (Cocos Is) – Ecuador (Galapagos) – Tahiti – Cook Islands – Samoa – Fiji – Vanuatu – Solomon Is – 2012 Festival of Pacific Arts*



## **7. Uploading initiatives to the Forum Secretariat website**

*In line with the process outlined in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, please note that all initiatives will be uploaded to the Forum Secretariat website at the close of the call for initiatives, i.e. 12 June 2015.*

## **8. Contact Details**

*For further information on completing this template, consult the submissions guideline or contact:*

Email: [FPR@forumsec.org](mailto:FPR@forumsec.org)

Phone: +679 322 0322 or +679 322 0324

# **GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING A REGIONAL INITIATIVE**

These guidelines are designed to assist those submitting regional initiatives through the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. For further information or guidance, contact the Forum Secretariat Pacific regionalism office:

**Email:** [FPR@forumsec.org](mailto:FPR@forumsec.org)

**Phone:** +679 322 0322 or +679 322 0324

## **1. About the Framework for Pacific Regionalism**

The Framework for Pacific Regionalism is a strategy for strengthening cooperation and integration between the states and territories of the Pacific region. It articulates the vision, values and objectives of an enhanced Pacific regionalism, and sets out a process for identifying ‘game-changing’ public policy initiatives that aim to take the region forward. For more information visit:

<http://www.forumsec.org.fj/pages.cfm/strategic-partnerships-coordination/framework-for-pacific-regionalism/>

## **2. Who coordinates the process for submitting a regional initiative?**

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders.

## **3. How do I submit a regional initiative?**

To submit a regional initiative, complete all sections of the regional initiative template and submit to the Forum Secretariat by no later **5pm, Fiji time, Friday 12 June 2015**. Submissions can be made via one of the following:

<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:FPR@forumsec.org">FPR@forumsec.org</a>
<b>Post</b>	C/O Pacific Regionalism Office, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji
<b>Hand Delivery</b>	C/O Reception, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Ratu Sukuna Road, Suva, Fiji
<b>Fax</b>	+679 322 0215

## **4. Who can submit an initiative?**

Any member of the public from any country or territory in the Pacific can submit a regional initiative. Groups of individuals or organisations, including government, civil society (including church or religious organisations), the private sector, community groups and CROP agencies may also submit initiatives.

## **5. What kind of information is required?**

In addition to background and technical information, initiatives should demonstrate that they require the oversight of Leaders, that they will positively benefit the Pacific and its people, and that they are regional (or sub-regional) in nature (rather than local or national). If the initiative is unable to demonstrate these things, it will not be recommended for Leaders’ consideration, or it may be recommended for Ministerial or officials level oversight.

## **6. What assistance will the Forum Secretariat provide to those submitting initiatives?**

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 basis on which initiatives are assessed; and clarification of the overall process. Forum Secretariat staff can also provide background information, such as that on the Pacific Plan Review and on the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

## **7. Selection and Assessment Process**

Initiatives will be received by the Forum Secretariat. Secretariat staff will collate all initiatives and check them for completeness and viability. Forum Secretariat staff will forward complete and viable initiatives to the specialist sub-committee on regionalism who will apply the tests for regional action, each of which has an indicative weighting attached (see Fig. 1 below). The specialist sub-committee will also assess initiatives against the vision, values and strategic objectives set out in the Framework (see Fig. 2 below). Progress reports on current regional initiatives under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism that are in progress will also be considered by the specialist sub-committee when they assess initiatives.

Following their assessments, the specialist sub-committee will select initiatives to be forwarded to Leaders for their consideration. Those initiatives selected for Leaders consideration will be first sent to the Forum Officials Committee for further consideration and incorporation on the Leaders annual meeting agenda, and then to Leaders at their annual Forum, to take place in 2015 from 7-11 September in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Those whose initiatives have been selected for Leaders oversight will be alerted of the progress of their initiative within one week of the specialist sub-committee's decision. At this stage, the specialist sub-committee is expected to meet on the week starting 13 July.

In addition to these selections, the specialist sub-committee will determine if initiatives not selected for Leaders consideration should be put forward to Ministerial or officials meetings for their oversight. Those whose initiatives have been selected for Ministerial or officials level oversight will be notified of the progress of their initiative within one week of the specialist sub-committee's decision.

The specialist sub-committee may also recommend some initiatives be further developed and re-submitted at a later date. Those whose initiatives are in this category will be notified within one week of the specialist sub-committee's decision. The specialist sub-committee will also recommend that some initiatives not be taken forward. Those in this category will also be notified of this outcome within one week of the specialist sub-committee's decision.

In all of the above scenarios, the Forum Secretariat, as the coordination point for this overall process, is responsible for maintain contact with all groups and individuals that have submitted initiatives.

## **8. What if an initiative is selected for implementation by Leaders?**

Those who have submitted initiatives that have been selected by Leaders for implementation will be alerted of the progress of their initiative within two weeks of the completion of the annual Forum Leaders meeting. Implementation arrangements, including funding, governance, and monitoring arrangements will be established immediately following the Leaders selections, in consultation with the submitting party, the proposed implementing agencies, funding partners, and any other relevant organisations or stakeholders.

## 9. Further help and feedback

For further information or guidance or to provide feedback on the process, contact the Forum Secretariat Pacific regionalism office: Email: [FPR@forumsec.org](mailto:FPR@forumsec.org) or Phone: +679 322 0322 or +679 322 0324.

**Frequently Asked Questions** will be placed at the Framework for Pacific Regionalism website: <http://forumsec.org/pages.cfm/strategic-partnerships-coordination/framework-for-pacific-regionalism/>

**FIG. 1: TESTS FOR REGIONAL ACTION**

<b>TEST (<i>Indicative weighting</i>*)</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION</b>
<b>Market test (5%)</b>	The initiative should not involve a service that markets can provide well.
<b>Sovereignty test (10%)</b>	The initiative should maintain the degree of effective sovereignty held by national governments (countries, not regional bodies, should decide priorities).
<b>Regionalism test (30%)</b>	The initiative should meet one of the following criteria at a sub-regional or regional level, in support of national priorities and objectives: <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 (20%)</b>	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: <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 (20%)</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 (10%)</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 (5%)</b>	The initiative should not be currently under progress by another organisation or process, and there should be no duplication of effort.

*\* Weighting applied to each test is for the purpose of guiding submitters. Weights are an indication as to how the tests will be applied by the assessors.*



## FIG. 2: REGIONAL VALUES AND OBJECTIVES

### **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.









# A PACIFIC CALL for GLOBAL ACTION



## Our Pacific Promise to the world



**Our Promise:**  
**3.7 million km<sup>2</sup>**  
 of our Exclusive Economic Zones are  
**Managed Marine Areas**

- PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION**
- Provides 50% of world tuna production annually
  - Thousands of small coastal and rural village communities that express their remarkable ethnic diversity in simple daily life including the traditional management of customarily owned resources
  - Most people on islands depend directly on natural resources for their food, water, livelihoods and traditional cultures
  - An ocean that is blessed with the most extensive coral reef system and highest marine diversity in the world
  - Vast distances between islands favours rare and unique species and huge biological variety

