

Palau Declaration on ‘The Ocean: Life and Future’

Charting a course to sustainability

Importance of the Ocean to us

1. As Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum, we have and will continue to play a central role in the stewardship of one of the greatest natural endowments in the world – the Pacific Ocean. It is the lifeblood of our economies and societies and is crucial to global climatic and environmental stability. It is the fabric of unity upon which we have woven individual and collective relationships and agreements on sustainable development, now and into the future. The Ocean is our Life and our Future. The people of the Pacific Ocean are a living testament to that truth. Our way of life, our culture, our direction and our actions should reflect that truth, as it is our very identity: People of the Ocean.

2. The well-being of our Pacific people remains the central point of reference and convergence for our efforts to sustainably develop, manage and conserve our Pacific Ocean and its resources. This is made all the more important as many of our countries are faced with: increased dependency on imported foods; a growing Non-Communicable Disease crisis in Pacific communities; slow to moderate economic growth rates; high transport costs; fossil fuel dependency; growing urbanization; growing population rates and adverse impacts from climate change. The health and productivity of the Pacific Ocean is significant for all of these development challenges, now and into the future.

Threats to the Ocean and populations

3. In our life time, a dangerous combination of human impacts has come to threaten the foundation of our Pacific livelihoods, which centers largely on the Pacific Ocean, and indeed those of the rest of the world. Over harvesting and overfishing, dangerous fishing practices and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU), damaging extractive industries, pollution, invasive species, coastal runoff, and other stressors (both local and exogenous) have weakened the resilience of many marine ecosystems and constitute a massive threat to the health and productivity of the ocean and its resources. Compounding these pressures, global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions are contributing to ocean warming, more frequent and extreme weather events, sea level rise and acidification and potential loss of territories present the greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and well-being of the peoples of the Pacific and one of the greatest challenges for the entire world. The implications of these challenges to the populations of the Pacific are very significant and must be addressed.

4. IUU fishing robs the Pacific of its development opportunities, reduces revenue from fisheries, undermines investment and employment opportunities and threatens the sustainability of fish stocks. A growing number of marine protected areas and conservation initiatives implemented in the region have significant opportunity costs largely borne by Forum Island countries themselves. Effectively implementing marine protected areas will provide global and regional benefits.

Lifting accountability across Ocean development

5. The outcome of Rio+20 Conference, *The Future We Want*, placed Oceans as central to sustainable development, stressing the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas, and of their resources, to sustainable development through their contributions to poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, food security and creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent work, while at the same time protecting biodiversity and the marine environment and addressing the impacts of climate change. It further called for the establishment of global sustainable development goals (SDG).

6. The Forum membership took a strong position on the importance of having a comprehensive stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal on Oceans complemented by comprehensive national, regional and international commitments and action as a key part of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and as central elements of our priorities as we prepare for the 3rd International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Apia, Samoa, 1 - 4 September 2014.

7. Leaders and communities have developed and are implementing many significant local, national, sub-regional, regional and international initiatives across all aspects of sustainable Ocean management. To this end, as a comprehensive regional umbrella framework, Forum Leaders approved the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy (PIROP) in 2002 and towards its reinvigorated commitment and implementation, endorsed the ‘Our Sea of Islands – Our Livelihoods – Our Oceania: a Framework for Pacific Oceanscape’ in 2010. These holistic Pacific Ocean policy frameworks for sustainable development are underpinned by some of the world’s most advanced regional multilateral organizations and processes.

Integrated and Mixed Management Approach

8. These umbrella frameworks stress the fact that the sustainable development, management and conservation of the Ocean can only be achieved through integrated and **mixed management approaches** to maximize benefits for our people and conserving our Ocean assets for future generations. This approach recognizes jurisdictional rights, fosters good ocean governance, encourages sustained action and facilitates adaptation to a rapidly changing environment. It also recognizes that what works best for one community or country may not work best and may not be possible in another – and in spite of our different approaches, we are fundamentally working towards the same objective – responsible and sustainable development of our Ocean and its resources.

A call to Action

9. We call on regional and global partners, including civil society and the private sector to work with members and the Forum Fisheries Agency to evaluate and implement appropriate solutions to address IUU and associated significant loss of fisheries earnings to Pacific Island countries. Accordingly, we welcome the entry into force of the Niue Treaty on Cooperation in Fisheries Surveillance and Law Enforcement in the South Pacific Region which provides for enhanced regional coordination and cooperation in fisheries surveillance and law enforcement,

for example through the sharing of fisheries data and intelligence and cross-vesting of fisheries enforcement personnel amongst parties.

10. We call for strengthened regional efforts to fix baselines and maritime boundaries to ensure that the impact of climate change and sea level rise does not result in reduced jurisdiction.

11. We call for members to ensure that, where appropriate, effective environmental impact assessments are undertaken and incorporated into approval processes for any extractive activities in the Pacific Ocean, and where necessary, the precautionary principle is applied. We further call for fisheries and extractive industries, stakeholders and States operating in the region to take on the responsibility to contribute to the rehabilitation of the Ocean and its resources.

12. We call on the global community to support the efforts of Forum Island countries to sustainably conserve their Ocean resources and explore ways to share costs and avoid a disproportionate burden on Forum Island countries.

13. We support a decision in favour of launching negotiations by September 2015 for an International Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

14. Taking ‘leadership through action’ promoted by the 44th PIF Majuro Declaration as our inspiration, we have prepared a list of current and proposed initiatives and commitments on the ocean taken by Forum member States. Those initiatives are listed with this declaration and serve as a basis and an inspiration for future integrated management approaches, actions and commitments by PIF nations as well as other nations and regional and international partners and institutions. These actions should assist to foster further implementation and accountability towards the achievement of the Post-2015 Development agenda and associated SDG on Oceans and Seas.

15. We call on the office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, with the support of the Pacific Ocean Alliance, to build on the actions listed with this Declaration and maintain a more comprehensive ongoing register of initiatives and relevant data and information across the spectrum of the Pacific Ocean as a basis for promoting and monitoring the sustainable development of our Ocean and fostering integrated management approaches, where appropriate. This register should assist in reducing individual country reporting in the long term and help to facilitate the necessary collective reporting from this region towards global monitoring efforts under the SDG on Oceans and Seas and the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

16. This Declaration will be presented by the Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum to the Secretary-General of the United Nations as a contribution to the global effort to support a comprehensive, effective and implementable stand-alone Oceans Sustainable Development Goal and to the preservation of our Pacific Ocean.

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Country	Current or proposed Initiatives or Commitments
Australia	<p><i>Jurisdictional Boundaries and Governance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Exclusive Economic Zone is approximately 10,095,600 km². • Australia has 6 shared maritime boundaries defined by agreements and treaties with the neighboring countries of Indonesia, PNG, New Zealand, Timor Leste, the Solomon Islands and New Caledonia. • In 2004, Australia made a submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCLCS) for 10 regions: Argo, Australian Antarctic Territory, Great Australian Bight, Kerguelan Plateau, Lord Howe Rise, Macquarie Ridge, Naturaliste Plateau, South Tasman Rise, Three Kings Ridge and the Wallaby and Exmouth Plateaus with a total claim of approximately 2 million km² of additional seabed territory. In 2008, Australia received the recommendations from the UNCLCS for all of the above regions, with the exception of the Australian Antarctic Territory. • Australia will increase support for Pacific Island Countries to secure and protect rights over their marine resources drawing on Australia's strengths in maritime boundary delimitation, marine spatial planning and ocean data management. This is delivered through an Australian Government Partnership for Development project involving the Australian Department of Environment, Geoscience Australia, The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), the University of Sydney and the Australian Attorney-General's Department (approximately AUD 6 million, 2014-16). <p><i>Fisheries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia will continue support for strong regional cooperation and assistance on oceanic fisheries, including through multi-year core funding support to the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems division (SPC FAME) (approximately AUD 10 million p.a., 2014-18). • Australian assistance is working to improve food security by supporting effective community efforts in fisheries and coastal resource management. This initiative will support community based efforts at provincial and national levels in three Pacific Island countries and will be delivered through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) in partnership with the Secretariat for the Pacific Community, World Fish and the University of Wollongong (AUD 6 million, 2014-17). <p><i>Other Ocean-related development priority areas</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (approximately AUD32 million, 2012-16) is helping 14 Pacific national meteorological services to make climate and oceans information accessible and useful to their governments and communities. The program continues the 20+ year collection and monitoring of sea level data in collaboration with SPC and Geoscience Australia, and produces important products such as tide prediction information used for disaster mitigation planning and by key industry sectors such as fishing and tourism.

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<p>Australia cont'd</p>	<p>Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia's marine protected area estate has recently been expanded to 3.2 million square kilometres, covering approximately 36 percent of the waters within Australia's jurisdiction. This makes it the largest representative network of marine protected areas in the world. The Australian Government is undertaking a review of recently declared marine reserves to provide additional opportunities for stakeholder engagement on management arrangements. The external boundaries of the marine reserves will remain unchanged. • Australia is part way through a decade-long reform process to ensure the long-term protection of the Great Barrier Reef. Queensland Government and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority are developing the <i>Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan</i>. The Plan will provide an over-arching framework to guide the protection and management of the reef from 2015 to 2050. It will guide the sustainable management of the Great Barrier Reef through the implementation of a range of actions, including the new Reef Trust (to commence operation in 2014–15). <p>Pollution Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) is undertaking a three year research project from 2011–14 to investigate the threat posed by marine debris to Australian wildlife and ecosystems and to develop a national risk assessment tool for wildlife species affected by marine debris. The research is underpinned by a national survey of where, and how, marine debris accumulates along Australian coastlines.
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<p>Cook Islands (CI)</p>	<p>Jurisdictional Boundaries and Governance □</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Exclusive Economic Zone is 1,977,000 km². • The Cook Islands has 5 shared maritime boundaries with neighboring countries, all of which have been finalized and are defined by agreements and treaties with American Samoa; France; New Zealand (Tokelau); Kiribati and Niue. • All Cook Islands EEZ boundary coordinates, agreements and supporting legislation have been deposited with the United Nations Department of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (DOALOS), have been published in the DOALOS Bulletin and are available on their website. • In April 2009, CI was the first Pacific Island country to submit a claim of extended Continental Shelf (eCS) to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCLCS). The area of additional seabed claims beyond the EEZ is known as the area near to the "Manihiki Plateau" and is approximately 400,000 km². CI has been defending this claim before the UNCLCS since 2010. <p>Other Ocean-related development priority areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvesting of deep sea minerals in an environmentally safe manner. • Allocation of exploration acreage as a first stage of the sustainable development of seabed mineral resources. • 'Pacific Oceanscape' and its linkages across regional Marine Managed/Protected Areas.
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<p>Cook Islands (CI) cont'd</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more ecological, integrated and harmonious approach to ocean use and sustainable development <p>Conservation and Pollution Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine protected areas • Waste management (both land based and mitigating against potential ocean pollutants e.g. runoff, oil spills, etc.). • Ecosystems based management measures. • Land based measures to avoid marine pollution. • Access benefit sharing (sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies). <p>Culture and traditional integrity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional marine resource management. • Utilizing traditional knowledge for management and maximizing the benefits from their use.
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<p>Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)</p>	<p>Jurisdictional Boundaries and Governance □</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Exclusive Economic Zone is approximately 3 004 321 km². • FSM has 4 shared maritime boundaries with its neighboring countries, 3 of which have already been fixed and are defined by treaties with the PNG, the RMI and Palau. The FSM has 1 remaining maritime boundary with Guam and is in the final stages of negotiation with the USA on this boundary. • In May 2009, the FSM made a joint submission with PNG and the Solomon Islands (SI) for a joint area of claim of extended Continental Shelf (eCS) to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCLCS) in the area known as the “Ontong Java Plateau.” The area of additional seabed claims beyond the EEZs is approximately 600,000 km². FSM, SI and PNG are expected to make a presentation to the UNCLCS in August this year. • In August 2013, FSM made a second submission to the UNCLCS for the claim in the “Eauripik Rise” region for an additional seabed area of approximately 144,000 km². <p>Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micronesia Challenge: In 2006, Micronesia committed to effectively protect 30% of in-shore marine areas and 20% of Terrestrial areas by 2020. As part of its commitment to this initiative, the FSM’s four States have put in place State legislation to support the establishment of protected areas networks. Additionally, the FSM has invested its own financial resources to leverage international funding, currently bringing FSM’s Micronesia Challenge Endowment Fund to approximately US\$4.5M. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shark Protection: In 2011 to 2013, the four FSM States enacted shark protection
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<p>Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) cont'd</p>	<p>laws prohibiting the possession of sharks and shark-finning by foreign fishing vessels. The FSM national government is currently considering a national shark protection law. When enacted, the FSM will become the largest shark sanctuary in the world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yela Conservation Easement Endowment: In 2014, the FSM created a conservation easement for the Yela Watershed, which puts under permanent protection the last remaining terminalia (Ka) stand in the world. This is the first conservation easement established in the Pacific.
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<p>Kiribati (KI)</p>	<p><i>Jurisdictional Boundaries and Governance</i>□</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclusive Economic Zone is 3,460,100 km². • Kiribati has 9 shared maritime boundaries and has finalized all of these through agreements and treaties with France (French Polynesia), Cook Islands, New Zealand (Tokelau), Nauru, RMI, Tuvalu and the USA. • In December 2012, KI made a submission for an area of claim of extended Continental Shelf (eCS) to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCLCS) in the area in the Line Group. The area of additional seabed claims beyond the EEZ is approximately 100,000 km². KI will be expected to defend this claim in the next few years. • Jurisdictional boundaries and governance with specific focus on greater regional and international monitoring and regulation on illegal and unregulated fishing. As a longer term objective, we would like further exploration in maintaining our sovereignty over our maritime boundaries in the event our nations disappear as a result of sea level rise. <p><i>Fisheries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries with specific focus on greater support to the development of our fishing industry with the objective of maximizing returns to us as resource owners through greater participation in the industry, particularly through onshore processing and value addition. <p><i>Conservation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation and pollution, with specific focus on a push for a compensation model similar to the REDD Plus for forests.
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<p>Nauru</p>	<p><i>Jurisdictional Boundaries and Governance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclusive Economic Zone is 320,000 km² • Nauru has 2 shared maritime boundaries which have been agreed by treaty with Kiribati and the Marshall Islands. <p><i>Fisheries and Food Security</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nauru is, and intends to continue, taking action to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase the economic gains received by Nauru from the exercise of its rights over the tuna resource as a contribution to the sustainable development of its country;
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<p>Nauru cont'd</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure effective participation by Nauru in regional tuna management activities; ○ Minimize any adverse impacts of tuna fishing and related activities on non-tuna species and the marine environment; ○ Eliminate illegal fishing activity in the fisheries waters of Nauru; ○ Protect the interests of small-scale tuna fishers, noting their contribution to food security; ○ Improve the nutritional standards of the Nauruan people through increased availability of fish, including tuna and bycatch species taken during tuna fishing, as a source of food in Nauru; ○ Implement non-negotiable minimum terms and conditions for foreign fishing vessel access and a limit on the number of purse seine vessels operating in the region under bilateral licensing arrangements through the vessel day scheme; ○ Implement and enforce conservation and management measures for the coastal fisheries and marine environment. <p><i>Protection of the Coastline</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nauru is implementing a project to identify areas with coastal erosion and collect information on countermeasures to be proposed to the districts. ● Nauru is establishing a shoreline monitoring system for long-term observation as part of a baseline data set. ● Nauru will soon adopt and implement measures to address locally controllable causes of erosion. <p><i>Sustainable Development at the UN</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nauru, along with allies, championed the inclusion of Oceans as a central issue in sustainable development outcomes, including in “The Future We Want,” and as a stand-alone priority area in the Sustainable Development Goals. Nauru intends to continue its active engagement in this work to ensure that the issue continues to receive high visibility.
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<p>New Zealand (NZ)</p>	<p><i>Jurisdictional Boundaries and Governance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exclusive Economic Zone is approximately 4,000,000 km². ● In 2006, New Zealand made a submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCLCS) for 4 regions: Northern, Eastern, Southern and Western. In 2008, NZ received the recommendations from the UNCLCS for all of the above regions confirming its rights to approximately 1.7 million km² of seabed territory outside the existing EEZ. ● In 2012, Tuvalu, France and New Zealand (Tokelau) jointly submitted to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, in accordance with Article 76, paragraph 8, of the Convention, information on the limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial seas of the three coastal States is measured in the area of the Robbie Ridge.
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<p>New Zealand cont'd</p>	<p><i>Fisheries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Zealand priorities and support for the Pacific's "blue economy" through investments in sustainable fishing• A comprehensive regional framework for South Pacific albacore is a high priority for New Zealand. New Zealand has committed, along with the region's fisheries Ministers, to finalizing the "Tokelau Arrangement" as a management framework for South Pacific albacore that establishes limits within EEZs. We call upon other Leaders to join us in encouraging distant water fishing nations to support a compatible conservation and management measure on the high seas through the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) meeting in December 2014.• Investments in Pacific Island countries' collective and individual capacity to manage and develop their fisheries resources through better management and opportunities to leverage larger revenues and more jobs. New Zealand will continue to contribute to these results through funding of quality advice and services to Pacific Island countries by their regional agencies (Forum Fisheries Agency; Secretariat to the Pacific Community), as well as through partnerships between New Zealand and individual countries. These investments have steadily increased over the past 5 years and will average over \$11 million a year through to 2017. <p><i>Other Ocean-related development priority areas</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Over the last three years, New Zealand has supported the production of electronic navigation charts for a number of Pacific countries. From July 2016 cruise and cargo vessels operating in the region will need to use electronic charts. New Zealand has also supported a successful pilot project in Vanuatu that has developed a risk-based assessment to identify priority areas for improvements to navigation and worked with the Government of Vanuatu to develop a collaborative model for undertaking hydrographic survey work.• New Zealand funds a number of ocean-related activities in the Pacific in the areas of conservation, fisheries, ocean science, bio-security, including working through partnerships with the University of the South Pacific (USP), Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), and the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).• New Zealand, in partnership with SPREP, also supports the "Turtle Monitoring and Eco-tourism Development Project" that is getting underway in four Pacific island countries (Fiji, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Tonga). The project aims to enhance capacity and commitment in the Pacific region to conserve and sustainably manage endangered marine turtle populations and to achieve sustainable economic benefits and improved livelihoods for local communities in the region through turtle-related ecotourism activity. <p><i>Conservation and Pollution Control</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Zealand's Biodiversity Strategy and the New Zealand Marine Protected Areas Policy (2005) provide for the implementation of international and domestic commitments to marine protection.• New Zealand seeks to establish a comprehensive and representative network of MPAs across its marine habitats and ecosystems through a range of existing
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<p>New Zealand (NZ) cont'd</p>	<p>legislative tools. New Zealand has 38 marine reserves covering about 1.7 million hectares, or about 9.5% of New Zealand's Territorial Sea (12% when other types of marine protection are included).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benthic Protection Areas – about 32% of NZ's EEZ is closed to bottom trawling and dredge fishing through fisheries regulations.
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<p>Niue</p>	<p><i>Jurisdictional Boundaries and Governance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Niue's Exclusive Economic Zone is approximately 317,508 km². Niue has 3 maritime boundaries, 2 of which have been agreed through treaties with the USA (for American Samoa) and the Cook Islands. It has 1 remaining boundary to be agreed and signed with Tonga and negotiations will commence soon. • Niue is among the first four countries in the region to submit its Market Access Offers. Niue has met its 80% mark demand by the European Union. • Signing of the Niue Treaty Subsidiary Act (NTSA). The original Treaty allows only bi-lateral arrangements for a specific term. The Niue Subsidiary Treaty is open and has no set term. This allows Niue and other countries cross-vestment of power in the jurisdictions of others that have signed the Agreement. • FAO IUU Agreement – mechanism used to deter and report illegal activities within coastal states. Awaiting endorsement from cabinet. • The Review of Niue Fisheries legislation with FFA (commenced beginning of 2013). <p><i>Fisheries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Niue Fisheries have ongoing procedures in place to monitor fish stock levels, while at the same time checking and evaluating whether sustainable measures are working or not. Limits have been submitted to the WCPFC (Western Central Pacific Fishing Commission) of all major target fish species. Niue has two tier measures of limits –Offshore (Commercial)and Artisanal (local). <p><i>Other Ocean-related development priority areas</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R2R – Ridge 2 Reef Project – Sustainable and Development Concerns. EIA (Environment Impact Assessment). The aim is to have an Eco-system approach. This has been approved by the cabinet and will lead to MPA's (Marine Protected Areas). • Investigating aqua-culture feasibilities – aim is to replenish stocks, not to introduce new species. • There is potential for marine based activities (i.e. diving, fishing charters, reef tours) to increase economic growth in Niue. Niue Tourism is committed to ensuring that Sectors are managed and developed in a sustainable manner and would seek the support and guidance by other Government Agencies such as Fisheries and Environment in doing so. <p><i>Culture and traditional integrity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection of stories from locals regarding traditional knowledge and methods of
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<p>Niue cont'd</p>	<p>fishing, e.g. the Niueanvaka. DAFF and SPC have committed funding to produce and publish books (agreed to printing of 600 copies).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement towards protection of the Uga(Coconut Crab) brought on by concerns of people. Collecting data and investigating regulations surrounding this.
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<p>Republic of Palau (ROP)</p>	<p><i>Jurisdictional Boundaries and Governance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclusive Economic Zone is approximately 606,846km²; inshore Fishing Area 1,989km². 0.4% coral reefs of world, 1% sea mounts of world. • Palau has 3 shared maritime boundaries with neighboring countries and has agreed to 1 through treaty with FSM. It has 2 outstanding boundaries with Indonesia and the Philippines. • In May 2009, Palau submitted a claim of extended Continental Shelf (eCS) to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCLCS). The area of additional seabed claims beyond the EEZ is approximately 280 000 sq.km. Palau is expected to begin the process of the defense of this claim before the UNCLCS in the next few years. • Party to UNCLOS, Driftnet Convention, CITES, CBD, Niue Treaty, PNA, WCPFC. <p><i>Other Ocean-related development priority areas</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism:Significant commitment to support the expansion of sustainable marine-based tourism. Tourism spending is 50% of Palau's GDP – main growth potential exists in niche marine-based tourism markets, such as game fishing and diving. <p><i>Conservation and pollution control efforts</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micronesia Challenge: In 2004, Micronesia committed to effectively protect 30% of in-shore marine areas by 2020. Palau passed Legislation in 2009 to create a departure fee financing mechanism to fund the effective management of protected areas (Green Fee). Palau has already met its fiduciary commitment and developed Protected Area Network (PAN) Regulations clarifying the role of the Minister of Natural Resources, Environment and Toursim and creating a Protected Areas Network Coordinator, Technical Committee, and Steering Committee. • Shark Protection: In 2008, a shark-finning law was passed to prohibit shark-finning, as well as prohibiting the taking of reef fish, turtles, rays, sharks and marine mammals by foreign fishing vessels. In 2012, Palau declared its EEZ as the world's first shark sanctuary, prohibiting the taking of any shark within the EEZ. <p><i>Development and Conservation efforts</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palau National Marine Sanctuary: Declaration of intent to establish the Palau National Marine Sanctuary to support maximizing eco-tourism growth, food security and local sustainable fisheries development in Palau and will contribute to conservation efforts in Palau and the region. The Sanctuary consists of a no-take zone comprised of over 80% of Palau's EEZ and a local sustainable fisheries development zone in the remaining 20% of the EEZ. The Sanctuary will prohibit fish exports.
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<p>Papua New Guinea (PNG)</p>	<p><i>Jurisdictional Boundaries and Governance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclusive Economic Zone is approximately 2,403, 321 km². • Papua New Guinea has 4 maritime boundaries, all of which have been agreed through treaties with Indonesia (land & maritime boundary), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Solomon Islands (SI) and Australia. • In May 2009, PNG made a joint submission with FSM and SI to submit a claim of extended Continental Shelf (eCS) to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCLCS). The area of additional seabed claims beyond the EEZ is known as the "Ontong Java Plateau" and is approximately 600,000 km². All 3 PICs will be making their first submission defense before the Sub-commission of the UNCLCS in August 2014. • In the same month, PNG also made a second preliminary submission for two other areas known as the "Mussau Ridge" and the "Eauripik Rise" regions. PNG will be expected to move this to a full submission in the next few years. <p><i>Fisheries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Papua New Guinea is committed to managing our fisheries resources through the following policies and regulations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fisheries Management Regulation 2000 ○ Fisheries Management Act 1998 ○ National Seas Act ○ Whaling Act <p><i>Other Developments</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Papua New Guinea National Fisheries Authority (NFA) has embarked on a national small grants program to support sustainable fisheries through fish farming for both coastal and inland fish farming. • Currently in Papua New Guinea there is a ban imposed by PNG National Fisheries Authority on the harvesting and export of Bech-De-Mer. • The PNG National Fisheries Authority has a small grants program to support and scale up the fisheries industry. • Pacific Maritime Industrial Zone (PMIZ) to be designed and implemented in Madang, PNG. <p><i>Conservation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PNG stepping up efforts in the Coral Triangle area as one of the countries within the Coral Triangle area. Coral Triangle efforts in PNG are an integrated approach by Government and NGO's. • The PNG Office of Climate Change and Development has embarked on a one million mangrove initiative to improve coastal marine ecosystems. • PNG Department of Environment and Conservation are working with Australian authorities to improve conservation of the Great Barrier Reef.
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<p>Papua New Guinea (PNG) cont'd</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions taken to protect reef species in Kimbe, West New Britain and New Ireland provinces in PNG.
<p>Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)</p>	<p><i>Jurisdictional Boundaries and Governance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclusive Economic Zone is approximately 2,000,117 km². • RMI has 3 shared maritime boundaries, which have been agreed through treaty agreements with FSM; Kiribati and Nauru. It is currently negotiating a territorial claim with the USA over the ownership of Wake Island (referred to by the Marshallese as “Enenkio” Island). <p><i>Ongoing Sub-regional Conservation Initiatives</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micronesia Challenge: In 2006, Micronesia, including the Republic of the Marshall Islands, committed to effectively protect 30% of in-shore marine areas by 2020. As part of its commitment to the Micronesia Challenge, RMI adopted the Reimaanlok “Looking to the future”, which is the national policy framework that guides the development of the Micronesia Challenge and its national protected areas network. Additionally, RMI has endorsed the Micronesia Challenge Business Plan/Sustainable Financing Plan, which has leveraged millions of dollars in grants and technical assistance. Currently, RMI’s Micronesia Challenge Endowment Account sits at US\$3.5M. Additionally, RMI is developing legislation that will establish national financing mechanisms to support continued capitalization of the Micronesia Challenge Endowment fund and the implementation of the Reimaanlok across the RMI. • Shark Protection: In 2011, RMI declared all of its waters a shark protection zone, creating the World’s largest Shark Sanctuary. The RMI shark protection law, which is the most stringent of all shark laws around the world, puts a total ban on possession of sharks by any fishing vessel, as well as prohibits shark-finning.
<p>Samoa</p>	<p><i>Jurisdictional Boundaries and Governance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Exclusive Economic Zone is approximately 132,009 km². • Status of Samoa maritime boundaries – Samoa has 4 maritime boundaries with Tokelau (NZ territory), American Samoa (USA), Tonga and Wallis & Futuna (France). • Samoa is yet to commence negotiations with these countries. <p><i>Fisheries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samoa has declared its purse seine fishing limit of 150 days to the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. • Samoa ratified the Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement, which further strengthens the collaboration and cooperation of the Pacific region on fisheries monitoring and surveillance and broader law enforcement activities. • Samoa further strengthens its domestic tuna fisheries management through its implementation of the National Plan of Actions on Sharks and Turtles.

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Samoa cont'd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samoa's Community-Based Fisheries Management Program now has a total of 98 participating coastal villages with Village Fisheries Management Plans and Village By-Laws which protect and manage their coastal fisheries resources.
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Solomon Islands (SI)	<p><i>Jurisdictional Boundaries and Governance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Exclusive Economic Zone is approximately 1,602,704 km². • The Solomon Islands has 5 shared maritime boundaries, 3 of which have been agreed by treaty with PNG; Australia and France (for New Caledonia). It has 2 remaining boundaries to be negotiated with Fiji and Vanuatu. • SI has submitted a joint claim of extended Continental Shelf (eCS) to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCLCS) with the FSM and PNG for the "Ontong Java Plateau" submission area. The Solomon Islands will be expected to make a presentation with the FSM and PNG for the defense of this claim before the UNCLCS in August this year. • In addition to the above claim area, SI has also submitted a preliminary joint claim for eCS with Fiji in the "Charlotte Bank" region, and also submitted a third preliminary joint claim for eCS with Fiji and Vanuatu in respect to the "North Fiji Basin" region in 2009. All countries are expected to work together to progress these claims before the UN in the next few years.
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Tonga	<p><i>Jurisdictional Boundaries and Governance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Exclusive Economic Zone is approximately 666,658 km². • The Tonga Navy conducts maritime surveillance on a regular basis in their EEZ. • Tonga is a party to the longstanding (1993) Niue Treaty on Cooperation in Fisheries Surveillance and Law Enforcement in the South Pacific Region along with Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa for the purposes of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the fisheries resources of their exclusive economic zones and fisheries zones, as well as to enhance their ability to enforce efficiently their fisheries laws and deter breaches of such laws. • Tonga, along with several neighboring countries, signed a shiprider agreement with the U.S. in 2010 to receive assistance and training from the U.S. Coast Guard that supports maritime security efforts in Tongan waters. • Tonga has 6 shared Maritime Boundaries, 1 of which has been agreed to by Convention with France (on behalf of Wallis & Futuna). It has yet to commence negotiations on the remaining 5 boundaries with Fiji, Samoa, American Samoa (USA), New Zealand and Niue. • In May 2009, Tonga submitted a claim of extended Continental Shelf (eCS) to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCLCS) in the
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<p>Tonga cont'd</p>	<p>eastern part of the Kermadec Ridge and in April 2014, Tonga made a second submission to the western part of the Lau-Colville Ridge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tonga expects to defend its claim on the second submission before the UNCLCS early next year. • Having successfully presented its candidature, Tonga, for the first time, was elected on 24 July 2014 at the 20th Session of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) in Kingston, Jamaica, by the State Members of the ISA for a seat on the Authority's Council for the term 2015 - 2018. • In June 2014, the Tonga Government approved the Seabed Minerals Bill for submission to the Legislative Assembly. It is expected to be passed any time now. <p>Fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tonga is committed to managing its fisheries resources through legislation which includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone Act ○ Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Proclamation ○ Fisheries Management Act 2002 ○ Fisheries (Conservation and Management) Regulations 1994 ○ Fisheries (Local Fishing) Regulations 1995 ○ Fisheries Management (Conservation) Regulations 2008 ○ Fisheries Management (Processing and Export)(Amendment) Regulations 2010 ○ Fisheries Management Act 2002 Special Management Area Order ○ Fisheries Regulations 1992 ○ Stowage of Gear Regulations <p>Other Related Legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whales Watching and Swimming Act 2008 • Whales Watching and Swimming Regulations 2013
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<p>Tuvalu</p>	<p>Jurisdictional Boundaries and Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Exclusive Economic Zone is approximately 756,400 km² • Tuvalu has 3 shared maritime boundaries, of which 1 has been agreed to with Kiribati. The remaining 2 boundaries are currently being negotiated with Fiji and France (Wallis & Futuna). • In December 2012, Tuvalu submitted a joint claim of eCS with New Zealand (with respect to Tokelau) and France (with respect to Wallis & Futuna) for a joint area of claim for additional seabed territory of approximately 18,000 km². All 3 countries will be expected to defend this joint claim before the UNCLCS in the next few years. <p>Fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A key objective of Tuvalu's Tuna development and management plan is to maximize the long term economic and social benefits for the people of Tuvalu from the
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<p>Tuvalu cont'd</p>	<p>development of tuna resources and to ensure the sustainability of harvesting of tuna resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuvalu places much hope for future economic growth on the fishery resources contained within its large EEZ, which covers 900 000 sq km. • Domestic fishing in Tuvalu is quite small compared to the activities of foreign fleets in Tuvalu waters. The tuna catches of the foreign fleets are very large and the money generated from access fees is a critically important source of government revenue • Fisheries centers have been established on several outer islands with the intention of providing fishers there with income earning opportunities • Tuvalu aims to increase the participation of private sector interests in tuna fishing through the provision of infrastructure needed to foster development, such as a anchorage for fishing vessels, and land availability for constructing support services, like processing and/or storage facilities. <p>Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuvalu established its first marine protected area within the Funafuti lagoon in 1996. Many of the other islands in Tuvalu have established such areas – with objectives much broader than just fisheries management i.e. biodiversity conservation.
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<p>Vanuatu</p>	<p><i>Jurisdictional Boundaries and Governance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Exclusive Economic Zone is approximately 641,455 km². • Vanuatu has 3 shared maritime boundaries that are yet to be finalized with the Solomon Islands, Fiji and France (New Caledonia). • In April 2009, Vanuatu submitted a preliminary joint claim of eCS with Fiji and Solomon Islands for the “North Fiji Basin” region and in August 2009, Vanuatu submitted a second preliminary claim for the area close to the islands of Leka (Hunter) and Umaenupne (Mathew). • Vanuatu will be expected to upgrade Solomon Islands (SI) these preliminary claims to full submissions for the UNCLCS in the next few years before preparing for the defense of these claims.
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