State of Pacific Regionalism

REPORT 2019
This 2019 State of Pacific Regionalism Report offers a 2050 Vision for a Blue Pacific Continent, which seeks to embrace Pacific Islands Forum Leaders already agreed vision for the region, as stated in their 2014 Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR):

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.

The fundamental proposition underpinning this report is that "deepening regionalism" requires the implementation of a long-term roadmap towards a Blue Pacific continent. That is, Pacific regionalism will be best advanced through the realisation of the Blue Pacific Continent.

Therefore, the 2050 Blue Pacific Vision augments the Forum Leaders’ Pacific Vision in the following ways:

- Places a timeline of 2050 for achieving the Vision.
- Frames the Vision within the context of the Blue Pacific narrative.
- Develops strategies based on the Blue Pacific narrative to achieve the Vision.

It is through this lens that the 2019 State of Pacific Regionalism Report responds to the 2017 Forum Leaders’ endorsement of the Blue Pacific as the core driver of collective action for advancing the Leaders vision under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

This report seeks to inspire and invigorate Pacific Islands Forum Members to consider ways to achieve ‘deeper regionalism’ – in the firm belief that this is the most effective way of securing our viability as sovereign states – given our current context and the likely future scenarios confronting us.

As the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, it is my belief that this is indeed the only way forward for our region.

As ‘Epeli Hau’ofa observed, the Pacific Ocean is not what separates us but rather what joins us together as one ocean continent. The ecological wellbeing of the ocean is the source of our cultural, spiritual, economic, and social wellbeing as Pacific peoples. In fact there is no separation - our ecology, wellbeing and people "are not disconnected from each other. The breaking apart of that means culturally, socially, spiritually, those relationships start to fragment and become unhooked from each other."\(^1\)

Therefore, our shared stewardship and accountability for the wellbeing of our ocean speaks directly to the very issues that affect the region’s economic viability, its sustainable development aspirations, health, culture and the Pacific way of life\(^2\). It is because “we are the ocean” that we come together and act as one Blue Pacific Continent, as we have done throughout our history – and as we must again do now and into the future.

---

\(^1\)https://thefamiliarstrange.com/2018/11/12/ep-26-katerina-teaiwa/?platform=hootsuite
A History of Working Together

1. Working together to achieve common goals, and address common challenges and opportunities has been the driving motivation of the Pacific Islands Forum since its inception in 1971. As newly independent states, as the majority of the Forum Members were at this time, this attitude was founded on the belief that the Members of the Forum could achieve more together than alone.

2. Throughout its history, Forum Members have worked together to achieve shared objectives, particularly on issues of critical importance. Examples in this regard include:
   a. Collective diplomacy to secure key positions within the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS, in 1982) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2015);
   b. Ongoing efforts by the Forum throughout its history to support self determination aspirations of Pacific Island Countries and Territories;
   c. The establishment of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency in 1979 to support the management, control and development of the region’s tuna fishery;
   d. The signing of the Treaty of Rarotonga in 1985 to ensure that the South Pacific region remained a nuclear free zone; and,
   e. The Pacific Regional Assistance to Nauru (PRAN), 2003-2009 and the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) from 2003-2017 (undertaken under the Biketawa Declaration (2000)).

3. This commitment to work together was given further formal expression through the Leaders’ adoption of a vision for strengthened regional cooperation and integration in 2004, and through their adoption of the Pacific Plan for Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Integration (the Pacific Plan), in 2005.

4. The Pacific Plan was comprehensively reviewed in 2013 by an eminent persons group led by former Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Sir Mekere Morauta, KCMG. At its core, the 2013 review called for a more ambitious regionalism ‘project’ that sought to deliver bigger, game-changing results for the people of the region. In addition, the review highlighted that regionalism needed to be driven by political leadership, and needed to focus on securing political settlements amongst Forum Members if it were to genuinely advance regionalism. These messages notwithstanding, the review team found that there was an ongoing appetite for regionalism by Leaders, by Members, and by the wider community of the region.

5. The Pacific Plan was recast as the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR) in 2014. Under the FPR, there has been a continued focus on identifying and supporting priorities that are genuinely regional, while at the same time ensuring that the Leaders agenda is focused and prioritised. Inclusivity has also been a key pillar of the FPR - particularly to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are engaged in processes for identifying, implementing and monitoring agreed regional priorities.

6. In 2017, the Forum Secretariat published the first State of Pacific Regionalism Report, describing the context in which Pacific regionalism played out. Among other issues, the report underlined the growing geopolitical competition between global...
powers that were acting out in the region, whilst concluding that above all, it was important that Pacific regionalism be based on "making the most of what we have", highlighting that in our ocean, what we have is an immense resource that could provide for our development, security, and prosperity.

7. In keeping with this sentiment, in 2017, Forum Leaders endorsed the Blue Pacific narrative as the core driver of collective action for advancing the Leaders vision under the FPR. Through this endorsement, Leaders recognised the Blue Pacific as a new narrative to provide a foundational basis and direction for Pacific regionalism.

8. Furthermore, the Blue Pacific has called for working together as one ‘Blue Continent’ to harness our shared ocean identity, geography and resources to drive positive change in the region’s sociocultural, political and economic development. This narrative encourages that we assert our shared ocean geography and resources for the security and good of our ocean and the prosperity of our people.

Figure 1: Towards a Blue Pacific Continent
9. Opportunities include valuing our wealth not only in terms of shared natural capital (such as from fish, minerals, genetic materials) but also our shared ocean ecosystems and biodiversity; our collective cultural and linguistic diversity as well as our ocean cultures; seeking ‘green fees’ for overflight and sea transit; considering the development of a Pacific Ocean Sustainability Fund; and accounting for the value of our ocean for future generations.

10. At present, the Blue Pacific narrative remains a source of high-level guidance for the development of regional policy and action, and serves as the basis for Forum engagement and advocacy principles and messages.

11. This history suggests that there has been an ongoing willingness within the Forum to work together to identify and deliver on discrete issues of regional significance such as climate change, fisheries management or ocean governance, but less focus on – as the Pacific Plan Review called for – thinking about regionalism as a sustained and long-term project. However, it is worth noting that in the form of the Blue Pacific narrative, the region now has the basis for such an approach.

The Evolving Context and Imperative for Pacific Regionalism

12. The section above outlines the historical policy context, showing how and why we can and should work together as a Blue Pacific Region. In addition, this history demonstrates that Forum Members have come together most effectively when it was imperative to deal with issues essential for their ongoing viability as sovereign states. The examples raised above UNCLOS; decolonisation; the Rarotonga Treaty; RAMSI; the Paris Agreement, all are instances where the Forum has come together to deal with critical challenges that if not addressed, would have had a profound impact on their ongoing viability as sovereign states.

13. This report suggests that the Pacific Islands Forum is again at a critical moment in history, where, due to evolving global and regional circumstances, working together as a collective is once again vital for the viability of its Members’ existence as sovereign states.

14. The linked challenges and risks arising from the impacts of climate change and geopolitical competition have a direct bearing on the interests, national security, and in some cases the long term viability of Forum Member countries. The analysis contained within this report concludes that current and emerging geopolitical and climate change risk-related circumstances and dynamics call for a fundamental re-thinking of the way in which we work together, as Forum Members and partners, while also as stewards of an increasingly environmentally threatened and geopolitically contested Pacific ocean. This report recalls and supports Forum Leaders’ ongoing commitment to deepen Pacific regionalism suggesting the need for a robust forward-looking approach to increasingly interconnected and complex regional threats.

15. Furthermore, it is proposed that the components of a long-term strategy for Pacific regionalism are to be found not in any new or borrowed approach, but in bringing together the key messages of the founding principles of the Pacific Islands Forum, the 2013 Pacific Plan Review, the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, and the Blue Pacific narrative. In doing so, what emerges is a sustained regionalism ‘project’ based on a vision for a Blue Pacific Continent; that is, an ambitious regionalism project with a long-term objective or vision for a Blue Pacific Continent, whose realisation requires, among other things, focused political dialogue on short, medium and long-term strategic opportunities for advancing regionalism.

16. This proposed approach represents a continuity of the trajectory of Pacific regionalism in the Forum context, and in many ways, it is similar to the moves along the regionalism trajectory that other regional blocs have historically taken. That is, moves towards deeper forms of regionalism have often been spurred on by an urgent and common challenge. For instance, the African Union, driven by the need to embrace Pan-Africanism in the face of decolonisation-related security issues, and the European Community, in trying to establish itself in the post-war environment, embraced deeper forms of regional cooperation and integration, in response to the urgent challenges of the time.

17. The Pacific is at a similar moment in its own trajectory, where current circumstances have determined that regionalism can no longer be regarded as an option for Forum Members, or remain focused to achieving economies of scale or activity based efficiencies. Forum Members must embrace a deeper form of regionalism, based on a strategic vision for a Blue Pacific Continent, because it is essential to securing the viability of our existence as independent, vibrant, prosperous, and secure Pacific states.

18. The next section of this report outlines the potentialities, in the form of alternative futures or scenarios for the challenge of realising our Blue Pacific Continent.

---

*Figure 2: Key Presuppositions underpinning the 2050 Blue Pacific Vision.*

*We are the traditional, spiritual and sovereign stewards of the Blue Pacific Continent and the vast ecological biodiversity that exists within it (the ocean unites us);*

*In the Blue Pacific Continent, there is no distinction between our ecological biodiversity, our cultures and our social and economic wellbeing (we are the ocean);*

*Its purpose is for our very existence and survival. By deepening collective responsibility and accountability for the stewardship of the Blue Pacific Continent, we can secure our future for ourselves.*
SECTION 2: THE BLUE PACIFIC SCENARIO

1. The future is a contested space. It is undefined and unpredictable. Though we cannot forecast and pre-determine the future, the Blue Pacific narrative is the cornerstone of the region’s collective effort to influence it.

2. The Pacific region faces major challenges that are evident through two interconnected dimensions of risk. The impacts of climate change and the implications of heightened geopolitical activity and competition in the region are both a threat to Pacific regionalism, and are also issues that are dependent on regionalism to be addressed. Our shared efforts to secure the future viability of the Blue Pacific will be dependent on our ability to address and manage these risk dimensions and their interconnected implications.

Climate Change

3. Under current trends global temperature rise will exceed 1.5°C by as early as 2030. The implications of this trajectory taking into account the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC’s) Special Report on 1.5°C and a range of localised analysis and regional projects will be devastating for the region. To avert and manage the worse versions of these risks, requires both global political actions and robust transformative regional and national actions. The risks and impacts of climate change are inherently transboundary and the exposure and vulnerability to the impacts of climate change that many Forum Island Countries’ (FICs) must now consider and manage is unprecedented.

4. The greenhouse gas emissions from FICs are statistically negligible in relation to cumulative global emissions with many FICs contributing to less than .01% of global emissions. Set against the cumulative carbon sequestration potential of the ecosystems and economic exclusion zones of the Blue Pacific region, in totality, emissions from FICs are likely to be net negative. The Pacific continues to experience damaging impacts of climate change whilst also absorbing and buffering the acceleration of these impacts. Both of these services and damages are undervalued globally.

5. Climate change is a clear and present threat to the wellbeing, development, and national security of Forum Member Countries. It continues to exacerbate development challenges and is a growing threat to the viability of social, economic, political, and cultural structures and systems.

6. A recent report on existential climate related security risk provides a 2050 scenario which the authors claim is the most effective approach for thinking through the possibilities for responding to the unprecedented climate emergency that we all face.

Geopolitical Competition

7. The 2017 State of Pacific Regionalism Report highlights increased geopolitical activity in the region for various reasons – including global power competition, access to resources and the foreign policy approaches of Pacific Rim countries. This interest has only intensified since the publication of the last report, only two years ago. Since that time, Forum Members have been presented with the Indo-Pacific Strategy, the Belt and Road Initiative, and unprecedented levels of bilateral engagement from a

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/148cb0_a1406e0143ac4c69196d3003bc1e687.pdf
number of states, driven by a range of interests – including access to the ocean and its resources.

8. Increasing interest can of course be beneficial to Forum members. Equally, it can serve to destabilise and disintegrate Forum solidarity impacting upon the region’s collective ability to address the impacts of climate change and protect shared oceanic resources.

Increasing Strategic Foresight through Scenario Building

9. Shaping the future through intention and the consideration of different potential or probable scenarios is an exercise that has increased in relevance and practice as global challenges become increasingly systemic and complex. The values and vision of the Blue Pacific have been articulated in reference to both hindsight and foresight.

10. As stated in the Pacific Plan Review (2013), the region as a whole is experiencing significant social, economic and environmental change and challenges, whilst also being subject to new levels of geopolitical interest within and beyond its shores. But the region is vulnerable, and it remains significantly dependent on the economies and goodwill of others.

11. The nature of the region’s reaction and response to these vulnerabilities and dependencies, in the form of climate change, geopolitics, global economic transitions, and technological acceleration will be central to this future narrative. The reactions and responses to these challenges and associated opportunities will in turn be largely defined by the way in which Pacific intention is organised. Pacific Island states will either address these challenges as a collective, do so in groups, face threats as individuals, or embrace specific partnerships. The variable in each case is the degree of collective action - or regionalism - that exists. It is therefore the state of regionalism within each potential future which will, in no small part, shape national outcomes, experiences, and wellbeing.

---

82013 Pacific Plan Review, Executive Summary, p. 13
12. Foresight is neither a science nor a fiction. It is an exercise in potentiality. The below descriptions of possible future scenarios are simply potential stories and illustrations to consider in parallel, narratives that may have credibility, descriptions that could act as counterfactuals to the assertion that a united Blue Pacific is a preferred future state. It is through such considerations and insights into future states that the Blue Pacific narrative gains relevance and importance and we can embark on the journey to secure our future in the Pacific.

**Scenario A:** A Region of Regions: Multiple circles of influence collide in a politically divided and spatially demarcated set of Pacific zones.

13. Pacific Countries have increased the emphasis on bilateral relationships with specific global powers. These relationships define respective climate change responses with different degrees of success. Some countries face pressure to accelerate their integration with global powers and act to align their interests. The cohesiveness of the Pacific identity and Pacific Way is eventually replaced by a further fracturing of the region into distinct economic and geopolitical zones of influence. PICs prioritize particular geopolitical allies and become less able and inclined to leverage regionalism as a tool. PIC economies are defined and influenced by bilateral investments, interests, and relationships. A two speed economy emerges within countries as distinct local and offshore business interests develop in parallel. Countries act as buffer zones for geopolitical interests and receive passive income in exchange of property rights.

**Scenario B:** Autonomy without Solidarity: Remote Islands in an uncertain Pacific.

14. Climate change impacts continue to propel PICs towards an array of partnerships, and overlapping spheres of influence vie for recognition. The pursuit of funding to offset climate change impacts continues to distort political coherence driving a range of political trade-offs as PICs remain under pressure to self-source solutions. PICs use an unstructured and dynamic approach to foreign policy prioritising resource opportunities over collective interests. This approach yields mixed results. As political settlement and collectivism erodes the potential for conflict rises. Climate change puts pressure on mobility and unstructured solutions lead to instances of civil unrest. Resource extraction is accelerated to help diversify increasingly exposed and vulnerable economies.

**Scenario C:** The Pacific Commodity: Economic dependency on a single preferential partner.

15. Conflict and geopolitics lead to a shift in Pacific alliances as all PICs pursue a single relationship. Whilst resources become more readily available to combat the superficial impacts of climate change, the cultural structures of the Pacific are compromised and become increasingly indistinct. The Pacific becomes a managed commodity, its resources are utilized systematically, its countries become way points and avenues for extraterritorial interests. As PICs prioritize a collective partnership with a single global power, regional autonomy and sovereignty is sacrificed along with a range of international alliances and partnerships. Foreign policy is simplified and standardized. Labour mobility between states improves.

**Scenario D:** A Blue Pacific Continent: United through shared efforts to protect sovereignty and leverage benefits through collectivism, the Blue Pacific identity gains strength in a time of major environmental and political regime shifts.

16. The Pacific’s collective weight enhances the regions’ voice and helps to leverage fit for purpose solutions both regionally and internationally. The Pacific strategically leads and coordinates vulnerable country interests and advancing political pressure required to progress regional interests. The impacts of climate change remain a major challenge, however, regional initiatives help to advance the Pacific’s response and accelerate innovation. Regionalism is prioritized and used to offset external influence without comprising external partnership. The Pacific economy becomes rooted in shared ventures, the enhancement of national
economic strengths, and the incorporation of economically beneficial ecological protection initiatives which offset the major decline of fisheries. Climate change impacts drive changes to economies, human settlements, and environmental activities. Environmental wealth becomes increasingly valuable, measurable, and managed. Low carbon transitions and transformative regional climate change responses are collectively leveraged at scale.

**Significant Eventualities**

17. Regardless of which of the above scenarios occurs in future, two climate-related outcomes would appear at this stage to be highly likely, and for the purposes of this report, are worth raising for Forum Members to be cognisant of:

   a. Firstly, across the range of potential and probable climate change scenarios, major changes to Pacific fisheries will occur. Under the current emissions trajectory, ocean warming will severely reduce marine catch potential in the south west Pacific with significant losses expected up to 2040 and reductions of average marine catch potential of 20-100% likely to be commonly experienced by the majority of Forum countries between 2040-2060. Under such trends, the Pacific fishing industry is likely to collapse entirely by 2080; and

   b. Secondly, multilateral climate finance flows and foreign direct investments are also anticipated to decline and become strained over the next thirty years as a greater number of developed countries experience the direct detrimental impacts of climate change and are as a result required to refocus investments on domestic challenges.

18. These factors are likely to accelerate the impacts of climate change in the Pacific as previous sources of income to help manage and offset physical impacts are eroded. These anticipated factors further increase the pressure for Pacific nations to pre-empt risks, reorganize economic and ecological systems, and increase their collective control and ability to benefit from shared resources. Other iterations of climate risk projections, suggest that the isolation of Pacific islands, relatively low populations of Forum Islands Countries, and access to natural resources will help shield the Pacific region from certain arising global challenges, such as armed conflict and mass migration.

19. Exploiting the unique qualities, potential, and opportunities the Pacific has against the risks and challenges the region is likely to be required to endure is the primary focus of the approach to deeper regionalism that the Vision for a Blue Pacific Continent proposes. This is further articulated in the next section of this report.

---

SECTION 3: A 2050 Vision for a Blue Pacific Continent

1. To paraphrase the Leaders Pacific Vision, ‘In 2050 the Blue Pacific Continent is a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity. In 2050, all Pacific people are leading free, healthy and productive lives’. The realisation of this Leaders vision for the region is the result of continued commitment to collective political agreements, institutions and systems that, together, created the Blue Pacific Continent.

2. In late 2010, before the turn of the new decade, the world was in a period of transition. The post-World War global order led by the US was over, and a rising China with its plans for rebooting global trade links coupled with shifts in technology, data and knowledge flows, were creating an emerging globalisation. It was a period of globalisation in transition. These shifts of course, brought with them great geostrategic and geopolitical competition. The Blue Pacific was a beneficiary of this competition, receiving great interest and financial support from major actors. However, it was the foresight of Forum Leaders that saw the long-term potential in this context for establishing a powerful political bloc and a viable Blue Pacific Continent.

3. In 2050, the Blue Pacific Continent has long been recognised as the world’s only ocean continent. While Pacific countries successfully secured their maritime baselines and outer limits of the Continent, in perpetuity, the Blue Pacific Continent is characterised by more than simply an expression of a geographical space. Rather, the Blue Pacific Continent is also defined by agreements, institutions and systems that promote, govern and deepen collective responsibility and accountability for the shared sovereign stewardship of the Pacific Ocean and its traditional and spiritual wellbeing.

4. The Blue Pacific Economy is the world’s first, and leading economy grounded in ecological sustainability and wellbeing. Ecological data is recognised as a regional public good that is successfully accounted for and leveraged within the digitized/data driven and ‘green/blue’ global economy. As a result, by 2050, the per capita GDP of the Blue Pacific Economy continues to be on par with the world’s leading regional economies.

5. During the period of heightened geopolitical interest in the region, the Blue Pacific successfully leveraged its strategic value for investments in infrastructure and technology. As a result, the Blue Pacific consists of advanced and resilient towns and cities, and many communities remain safe and secure on remote outer islands. In fact, outer island communities are now seen as a major asset for the Blue Pacific as a result of technology and infrastructure that enable them to collect, monitor and audit the ecological wellbeing that underpins the Blue Pacific Economy. Such developments also enabled the Blue Pacific to be more connected with the world and with each other. In particular, new ports in Nauru and Kiribati now enable ships to utilize equatorial currents to travel more efficiently between Latin America and Southeast Asia.

6. The Blue Pacific continent is imbedded in a deeply inter-connected global system yet ably and consistently exercises its strategic autonomy within that system. It is a ‘non-aligned’ region, promoting peace and cooperation amongst all actors engaging with the Blue Pacific on its own terms. It maintains a nuclear free status and leverages its geography strategically to broker and facilitate peace within and around the Blue Pacific.

7. In somewhat of a return to the past, in 2050, citizens of the Blue Pacific freely move across the continent. There are no borders within the Blue Pacific, rather only a single, connected ocean continent.
Towards the Blue Pacific Continent – Policy Roadmaps

8. As the Chinese proverb goes, a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. To realise the 2050 Vision for Blue Pacific Continent will require a long-term strategy that identifies immediate, short and long term steps along the way. Such an approach is not new to the Forum – the Pacific Plan Review recommended that a long-term project for regionalism should be supported by the development of policy ‘roadmaps’ or ‘sealanes’.

9. The purpose of such roadmaps is not only to lay out a long-term vision or goal for regionalism, but more importantly to focus our attention on the conversations and political settlements required today in order to progress us along the pathway. While initially these roadmaps will be distinct, we envisage that they all lead towards a single destination – collective and accountable stewardship of the Blue Pacific Continent.

10. Below we offer two examples of policy roadmaps for advancing the region towards the 2050 Vision for the Blue Pacific Continent. The first example roadmap relates to establishing and securing the perimeters and boundaries of the Blue Pacific Continent. The second example relates to the establishment of an Ocean Data System for the Blue Pacific Continent that would serve to shore up our ecological data. For example, both start with establishing baselines.

11. In order to progress along this suggested path, the region would need to:
   a. Consider and agree on the outline of a 2050 vision for a Blue Pacific Continent;
   b. Establish the key areas for policy roadmaps and sealanes to achieve this vision; and
   c. Task the Secretary General to identify the regional governance and resourcing requirements – including with respect to the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific – for implementing this strategy.
### Figure 3: Policy Roadmap for Establishing the Blue Pacific Continent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past Initiatives</th>
<th>Current Initiatives</th>
<th>Next Steps</th>
<th>5-10 years</th>
<th>10 -20 years</th>
<th>2050</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decolonisation</td>
<td>Blue Pacific narrative</td>
<td>Research on legal and political implications of claiming outer limits of the Blue Pacific continent</td>
<td>Engagement and advocacy for recognition of Pacific position on maritime boundaries and climate change</td>
<td>From rights to sovereignty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of PIFS</td>
<td>Maritime boundaries delimitation (SPC)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNCLOS – EEZ and rights</td>
<td>Australia-SPC Maritime Boundaries and CC project</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarotonga Treaty</td>
<td>PLG Statement on maritime boundaries and CC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRAN</td>
<td>PNA Leaders statement on maritime boundaries and CC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAMSI</td>
<td>BBNJ negotiations, particularly adjacency</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PACER Plus</td>
<td>Pacific Forum Line</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Figure 4: Policy Roadmap for a Digital Ocean Data System for the Blue Pacific

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past Initiatives</th>
<th>Current Initiatives</th>
<th>Next Steps</th>
<th>5-10 years</th>
<th>10 -20 years</th>
<th>2050 Vision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICT Working Group</td>
<td>SPC Data Hub</td>
<td>Establishment of data baselines for Blue Pacific ecology</td>
<td>Establishment of national data hubs for Blue Pacific ecology</td>
<td>A single Blue Pacific Oceans Account</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy</td>
<td>SPREP – National data hubs for environmental data.</td>
<td>Agreed 2050 Digital Ecosystem for the BP roadmap</td>
<td>Establishment of national oceans accounts</td>
<td>Shared legislative and regulatory systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Samoa Regional Meeting on Digital Pacific</td>
<td>Establishment of Roadmap Steering Committee</td>
<td>Development of national legislation on data sovereignty, privacy etc.</td>
<td>Digital Ecosystem for the Blue Pacific recognizing, regulating and leveraging ecological data as a public good.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ANU Data 61</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNESCO Oceans Accounting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PCC Reweaving the Ecological Mat in the Pacific project</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>