



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM

Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) Strategic Work Agenda 2021

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This CROP Strategic Work Agenda sets out how CROP will work together over the year 2021 to deliver on Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders' decisions, including work priorities, objectives and deliverables, strengthening ways of working, and a calendar of engagements.
- 1.2 CROP Heads will monitor progress against this Strategic Work Agenda through their quarterly meetings, and provide a progress report to Forum Leaders at the *51st Pacific Islands Forum* to be held in Fiji in 2021.

2. About CROP

- 2.1 As set out in the *CROP Charter 2018¹* and guided by the *Framework for Pacific Regionalism* (FPR), CROP is a partnership of regionally owned, intergovernmental agencies that support PIF Leaders' increased commitment to regionalism and the principle objectives of sustainable development; inclusive and equitable economic growth; strengthened governance, legal, financial and administrative systems; and peace and security for all. The CROP architecture including CROP Heads, CROP Deputies and Taskforces and Working Groups is summarised in the diagram at [Attachment 1](#).
- 2.2 The *CROP Charter* defines the dual role of CROP as: (i) providing high-level policy advice and support to Pacific island countries and territories in the formulation of policy at national, regional and international levels; and, (ii) providing a forum to collectively respond to regional priorities identified by Forum Leaders through the public policy process of the FPR; and, (iii) providing a mechanism to ensure effective follow-up, implementation and reporting on progress.

3. CROP Work Priorities

- 3.1 In response to Leaders' decisions from the *50th PIF*, held in Tuvalu in August 2019 and arising issues, CROP's nine priorities for 2021 are:
 - a) *COVID-19 response and recovery;*
 - b) *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and strengthening the regional architecture;*
 - c) *Climate change and disaster resilience;*

¹ CROP Charter can be accessed here: <https://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/crop-charter-v9.pdf>

- d) *Sustainable ocean - advocacy and implementation;*
- e) *Sea level rise and maritime zones;*
- f) *Nuclear legacy issues;*
- g) *Regional security;*
- h) *Regional fisheries; and,*
- i) *Regional health issues.*

3.2 CROP will also continue to deliver on earlier Forum Leaders’ commitments and regional strategies that require ongoing focus and action through CROP Working Groups. See Section 5 for an update on the activities of CROP Working Groups in this regard.

3.3 In addition, CROP supports delivery of the *Smaller Island States (SIS) Strategy and Roadmap*, which will retire in December 2020. Due to COVID-19, the usual SIS meetings were not able to be held in 2020 and therefore, decisions on what will follow the SIS Strategy/Roadmap are yet to be made. In the interim, the five activities under the SIS Roadmap will continue and require CROP support on deliver including NCDs regional legislative framework; nuclear contaminants; and Joint SIS Proposal to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

4. Delivering on CROP Work Priorities

4.1 In response to the nine work priorities, the section below summarises the objectives, deliverables, delivery mechanisms, resource requirements, partnerships and measures of success to ensure effective achievement of Leaders’ decisions over 2020 - 2021.

a) COVID-19 response and recovery

<p><u>Objective:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Supporting an effective and timely regional response and recovery to COVID-19. b) Promoting uptake of Pacific priorities through the global/multilateral response to COVID-19.
<p><u>CROP deliverables</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical advice and input to support operations of the <i>Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on COVID-19 (PHP-C)</i> to facilitate the transportation of critical medical and humanitarian supplies across the Blue Pacific. • Support in the distribution of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine for the region including SPC supporting an urgent meeting of Pacific Health Ministers to consider a coordinated regional approach and strategy to access and distribution of vaccines, and targeted regional advocacy to the UNSG and WHO Director General. • Completing a socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19, for the consideration of Forum Economic Ministers and other relevant CROP agencies’ Ministerials at their meetings in 2021. Technical input and advice to support the work of the Economic Recovery Taskforce on COVID-19. • Collaboration and advice in the hosting of the 3rd Regional Development Partners Roundtable focused on COVID-19.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical input and advice into the World Health Organisation-led <i>Joint Incident Management Team (JIMT)</i> and its pillar working groups including social inclusion, logistics and partnerships. • Collaboration and advice to support Member engagement and advocacy on COVID-19 including through the UN and other international mechanisms. • Technical input and support towards clear and consistent communications on COVID-19 including through Leaders and Ministerial statements and briefs. • Collaboration and advice on the protection of CROP Staff as they are impacted upon by COVID-19, including clarity on the provision of vaccinations to international staff based in various locations.
<p><u>Key CROP agencies/delivery mechanisms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CROP Heads Meetings • CROP Taskforce for the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment for COVID-19 • CROP Corporate Directors Group
<p><u>Partnerships/stakeholder coordination mechanisms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHP-C Regional Taskforce and Ministerial Action Group • Forum Economic Officials Economic Recovery Taskforce • Joint Incident Management Team
<p><u>Financing/resource requirements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-prioritisation of regional cooperation funding towards COVID-19 response and recovery efforts, as required.
<p><u>Measures of success</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CROP agencies successful support towards the ongoing operation of the PHP-C and its five regional protocols. • Timely, targeted information and advice on regional vaccination provided to all members. • Completion of the socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19, to the satisfaction of Forum Economic Ministers, with effective follow-up to implementation recommendations. • Pacific priorities for COVID-19 recovery promoted to development partners and through global mechanisms including through the 3rd Regional Development Partners Roundtable on COVID-19 and UN General Assembly. • CROP agencies input considered and reflected in the work of the JIMT. • Clear and consistent communications on COVID-19 delivered by Leaders and Ministers. • Clear OHS guidelines for CROP on COVID-19 including on access to vaccinations.

b) 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and strengthening the regional architecture

Objective:

- a) Quality and timely development of a *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent* that is owned and endorsed by all members.
- b) Initiation of a review of the regional architecture, to ensure a relevant, efficient and effective future regional system.

CROP deliverables

- Meetings and output of CROP Taskforce on 2050 Strategy
- Participation in and support for the FOC Sub-Committee on 2050 Strategy
- Technical input and advice to inform the development of the 2050 Strategy, including
 - mapping of regional policies;
 - drivers of change consultation process and report;
 - identification of regional goods;
 - development of scenarios;
 - themes for the 2050 strategy;
 - development of roadmaps/strategies;
 - draft 2050 Strategy;
 - implementation and monitoring and evaluation and learning processes; and,
 - any other technical support as may be requested by the Sub- Committee.
- Technical input and advice to inform the initiation of the Review of the Regional Architecture, as requested.

Key CROP agencies/delivery mechanisms

- CROP Taskforce on 2050 Strategy
- CROP Heads Meetings
- CROP thematic working groups – gender, human resources, health and population, marine, ICT, sustainable development, working arm on resilient development.
- Provision of advice to the Informal Working Group of Members
- CROP Agencies own review of Strategic Plan processes and the like.

Partnerships/stakeholder coordination mechanisms

- FOC Sub-Committee on 2050 Strategy and Informal Working Group
- Register of Regional Experts
- PIF regional policy consultations
- Governing Councils of respective CROP Agencies

Financing/resource requirements

While PIFS is expected to bear the financial burden of coordinating the delivery of the development of the 2050 Strategy and the Review of the Regional Architecture, CROP agencies are requested

to provide resourcing support in the following ways:

- Contribution of technical/expert advisory;
- Support to convene consultation meetings at respective CROP agencies, as required; and
- Support to convene technical workshops at their agencies as required.

CROP agencies to discuss and agree on resource contributions for this work, based on the overall workplan for the development of the 2050 Strategy, and required support from CROP.

Measures of success

- CROP agencies fully commit to the strategic objectives of the 2050 Strategy, and the related Review of regional architecture
- CROP agencies provide required technical and coordination support to the development of the 2050 Strategy and the Review of the Regional Architecture at CROP executive, management and technical levels.
- Draft 2050 Strategy developed for consideration of Forum Leaders in 2021.
- Review of Regional Architecture initiated in 2021, to the satisfaction of members.

c) *Climate change and disaster resilience*

Objective:

- a) Promoting Pacific priorities for climate change action in the lead up to, and at, COP 26 as guided by the *Pacific Voyage to COP 26 Plan* and the *Kainaki II Declaration on Urgent Climate Change Action Now*.
- b) Strengthened implementation of the *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific*, particularly through the *Pacific Resilience Partnership*.
- c) Strengthening the region's access to, and effective use of, climate finance.
- d) Finalisation, initial capitalisation and establishment of the *Pacific Resilience Facility*.

CROP deliverables

Climate change advocacy

- As guided by the *Pacific Voyage Plan for COP 26* and *Kainaki II Declaration*, support the Forum Chair and Leaders to advance the Blue Pacific's advocacy for strong climate change action in the lead up to, and at COP26.
- Coordination and technical advice to support Pacific negotiating teams in the lead up to and at COP 26 including the Pacific Pre-COP26 Preparatory meeting and a structured approach for identifying and supporting political champions/ambassadors on issues of common interest for COP26, to be endorsed by Forum Leaders in 2021.
- Facilitate enhanced climate change action from Forum Dialogue Partners, in line with the calls of the *Kainaki II Declaration* and the Paris Agreement obligations, including consolidating information on ambitious climate action initiatives adopted by Forum Dialogue Partners to inform Members' engagements.
- Facilitate enhanced access to, and effective use of, climate finance including through support to Pacific Direct Access Entities and strengthened capacity for implementation.

Pacific resilience and climate change action

- Support implementation of the recommendations arising from the review of the *Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP)* governance arrangement.
- Support communications and advocacy to build regional understanding of, and engagement in, the *Framework for Resilience Development in the Pacific (FRDP)* and PRP.
- Coordination and technical advice for the further implementation of FRDP including the Pacific Resilience Standards, monitoring and evaluation strategy and private sector engagement.
- Technical advice and input to support the finalisation and establishment of the *Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF)*.
- Support the work of the Regional Pacific NDC Hub, housed at SPC, in supporting Member states on their NDC commitments.
- Support joint CROP climate change events at CROP Agencies governing council meetings.

CROP agencies/delivery mechanisms

- One CROP Plus Team: SPREP, PIFS, SPC, USP, FFA, PPA
- CROP Executives
- Working Arm on Resilient Development (TBC)

Partnerships/stakeholder coordination mechanisms

- FOC Sub-Committee on Forum International Engagement and Advocacy
- PRP Taskforce, with SPC as CROP's nominated representative and SPTO as alternate representative
- PRP Support Unit - SPREP, PIFS, SPC

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Working Groups of FRDP.
<u>Financing/resource requirements</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CROP agencies' primary budget to support engagement in international climate negotiations with resources to be mobilised to support Pacific delegations.
<u>Measures of success</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full implementation of <i>Pacific Voyage to COP 26</i> plan. • Strong Pacific political engagement and advocacy in the lead up to and at COP 26 with international coverage and awareness of Pacific negotiating priorities. • Post-COP26 stock-take showing Pacific priorities being taken onboard in the COP26 outcome. • Wider support, recognition and utilisation of the FRDP and its Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy by Members and other actors. • Effectiveness of the PRP governance arrangement based on feedback from Members and other actors. • Pipeline of Pacific climate related projects and associated financing arrangements.

d) Sustainable ocean - advocacy and implementation

<u>Objective:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Promoting uptake of Pacific priorities for sustainable ocean management, use and conservation in global negotiations and events including the 2nd UN Ocean Conference, Our Ocean Conference, COP 15 on Biodiversity and BBNJ negotiations, based on the <i>Pacific Island Forum Leaders Ocean Statement 2021</i>. b) Coordinated implementation of the priorities of the <i>Framework for the Pacific Oceanscape</i>.
<u>CROP deliverables</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting and driving implementation the <i>Pacific Island Forum Leaders Ocean Statement 2021</i>, as the basis for strong and proactive international engagement and advocacy. • Member coordination, technical advice and briefings ahead of prioritised international ocean events including (i) Fourth Intergovernmental Conference to finalise the agreement governing Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ); (ii) 2nd UN Ocean Conference (UNOC) to support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14; (iii) 7th session of Our Ocean Conference; (iv) COP15 on Biodiversity, with the expiration and review of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity. • Tracked progress in the implementation of the priorities of the <i>Framework for Pacific Oceanscape</i>.
<u>CROP agencies/delivery mechanism</u>

- CROP Taskforce on International Engagement and Advocacy for Ocean Events – PIFS, FFA, SPC, SPREP, SPTO, USP, OPOC.
- Marine Sector Working Group – SPC, FFA, PIFS, SPREP, OPOC.

Partnerships/stakeholder coordination mechanisms

- Pacific Ocean Alliance
- Collaborative Centre for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2021-2030 – SPC/PCCOS

Financing/resource requirements

- CROP participation during intersessional period and regional negotiators meetings.
- CROP participation during the BBNJ negotiation meetings in New York (March 2020).
- PIFS has funding for ocean advocacy supported through development partner funding.

Measures of success

- Forum Leaders ocean statement developed and endorsed.
- Technical briefs developed for ocean events and utilised by Members.
- Representation of region’s positions and interests reflected in the treaty text for BBNJ and outcomes of international ocean events.
- SDG 14 reporting through Regional SDG Roadmap.

e) Sea level rise and maritime zones

Objective:

- a) Securing the limits of the Blue Pacific continent against sea-level rise and climate change. Collective efforts, including through the development of international law, to ensure that Forum Members’ maritime zones cannot be challenged or reduced as a result of sea-level rise and climate change.
- b) Concluding negotiations on outstanding maritime boundaries claims and zones.

CROP deliverables

- Technical and legal assistance through the Pacific Maritime Boundaries Consortium of Partners (led by SPC) to conclude outstanding maritime boundaries claims and zones.
- Technical assistance to support implementation of the priority legal options endorsed by Forum Foreign Ministers in 2020, through the FOC Specialist Sub-Committee on Sea-level rise in relation to International Law and its work programme. This includes:
 - supporting Members to undertake further and regular legal, technical and strategic discussions on the international law options for implementing the Leaders commitment; and,

- technical advice and coordination to inform the development and implementation of the work programme, including a communications and advocacy strategy on sea-level rise in relation to international law.

CROP agencies/delivery mechanisms

- SPC, FFA and the Consortium of Partners lead on the technical and legal aspects of supporting Members work on maritime boundaries and delineation of maritime zones.
- PIFS and OPOC undertake legal, political and policy support; high level diplomacy and advocacy; coordination of regional approaches.
- CROP agencies to support Members at the UN and in other relevant international processes.
- PIFS, SPC, FFA, OPOC to support Members collective efforts through the FOC Specialist Sub-Committee on Sea-Level Rise in relation to International Law.
- Marine Sector Working Group – SPC, FFA, PIFS, SPREP, OPOC.

Partnerships/stakeholder coordination mechanisms

- FOC Special Sub-Committee on Sea-Level Rise in Relation to International Law – includes Members representatives from UN missions.
- Pacific Maritime Boundaries Consortium of Partners.

Financing/resource requirements

- Funding for relevant policy and legal support to the FOC Specialist Sub-Committee has been allocated in the PIFS and OPOC budget lines, but may require additional funding resources.

Measures of success

- A greater number of maritime boundaries and maritime zones are finalised and concluded, with charts and schedule of coordinates deposited with the UNSG.
- Work programme of the Specialist Sub-Committee is finalised and endorsed by Forum Members.
- Communication and advocacy strategy on sea-level rise and maritime boundaries in relation to international law developed with implementation underway including proactive Pacific engagement to raise awareness and promote Pacific priorities for action.

f) Nuclear legacy issues

Objective:

- a) CROP technical support to address the ongoing impacts of nuclear testing in the Blue Pacific, particularly in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Kiribati and Fiji, and to support a comprehensive scientific assessment of the nuclear contamination issue in the Pacific.

CROP deliverables

- Collectively respond to requests for assistance from impacted Pacific Island countries with regards to environmental, health and human rights impacts.
- Continued implementation and monitoring of the CROP Taskforce's work plan to progress action on nuclear legacy issues, and to provide an update to the 2021 Forum Leaders' meeting.
- Undertaking an independent review of existing studies on nuclear contamination in the Pacific. This initial review will better inform the next steps towards commissioning an appropriate body to undertake a comprehensive, independent and objective scientific assessment of the contamination issue in the Pacific, including in the nuclear test site at Runit.
- Supporting Members in raising national, regional and international awareness including strategic communications, political advocacy to the United States and the United Kingdom, and Forum statements and actions at the UN.

CROP agencies/delivery mechanisms

- CROP Taskforce on Nuclear Legacy Issues in the Pacific, coordinated by PIFS.
- SPREP leads on environmental impacts, WWII wrecks.
- SPC leads on human rights and health issues and assists on environmental issues.
- USP and SPREP lead on educational awareness.

Partnerships/stakeholder coordination mechanisms

- RMI National Nuclear Commission.
- UN including UN Secretary General, UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, UN Human Rights Council.
- Regional civil society organisations focused on the environment, health and human rights, such as the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific (NFIP) movement, The Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC), The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)).
- Academia.

Financing/resource requirements

- Funding for this work has been allocated in PIFS budget, but will require additional funding resources, particularly to progress the independent assessment of the contamination issue in the Pacific.

Measures of success

- CROP Taskforce work plan developed and implemented, as endorsed by CROP Heads and with a progress update to Forum Leaders in 2021.
- Impacted Forum Members satisfied with the technical input and advice provided by CROP agencies to address nuclear legacy issues.
- TOR finalised and study initiated on contamination issues in the Pacific.
- Regional and international awareness-raising and advocacy initiatives delivered to build understanding and action on Leaders' priorities.

- Development of a communications and advocacy plan to ensure a proactive and strategic approach to raising awareness and action on nuclear issues with key regional and international stakeholders.

g) Regional security

Objective:

- a) Implementation of the *Boe Declaration Action Plan*² to positively and proactively shape the regional security environment as per the commitments and thematic priorities of the *Boe Declaration on Regional Security*.

CROP deliverables

Activities under the *Boe Declaration Action Plan* that will require CROP technical advice and support include:

- Refreshing the *Human Security Framework 2012 – 2015*
- Refreshing the *Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2012 – 2015*
- Development of a *Regional Mechanism for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR)*
- Continued documentation of climate security related issues and activities in the region adding to definition of climate security from a Pacific perspective.
- Raising awareness internally and externally about the climate security implications and priorities in the region.

CROP agencies/delivery mechanisms:

- PIFS, SPC, SPREP (*Human Security Framework*)
- SPC, PIFS, Gender Working Group (*Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security*)
- SPC – PIEMA, FFA, FRDP Taskforce and Regional Law Enforcement and Legal Agencies (*HADR*)

Partnerships/stakeholder coordination mechanisms

- FOC Sub-Committee for Regional Security
- Regional law enforcement and legal agencies
- Pacific Resilience Partnership

Financing/resource requirements:

² Boe Declaration Action Plan can be accessed here: <https://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/BOE-document-Action-Plan.pdf>

- Funding and resourcing will need to be sought and secured for those initiatives that remain unfunded.

Measures of success:

- Quality human security framework developed for the region aligned to SDG 16 and other SDGs relevant to security and the priority areas of the Boe Declaration.
- Quality Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security developed for the region aligned to security and the priority areas of the Boe Declaration.
- Quality Regional Mechanism for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR) developed for the region aligned to security and the priority areas of the Boe Declaration.
- Progressive understanding and appreciation of climate security issues in the region and defined by the region.
- Greater awareness internationally about the unique climate security issues in the Pacific region.

h) Regional fisheries

Objective:

- a) Strengthening regional fisheries including through the Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting and progressing independent review on maximising the sustainable economic returns from the region's fisheries, for the consideration of Forum Fisheries Ministers and Leaders.
- b) Increasing the engagement of non-state actors in community-based fisheries.

CROP deliverables

- Progressing independent review on maximising the sustainable economic returns from the region's fisheries, for the consideration of Regional Fisheries Ministers and Leaders in 2021.
- Supporting the convening of the 2021 Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting to progress regional action on coastal fisheries issues and broader ocean governance and sustainable management issues as they pertain to fisheries.
- Implementing the proposed new mechanism for increasing the engagement of non-state actors in community-based fisheries incorporated in the Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries.

Key CROP agencies/delivery mechanisms

- FFA - management and development of tuna fisheries.
- SPC – management and development of coastal fisheries and aquaculture, fisheries science.
- SPREP – climate change and marine litter.
- PIFS – coordination of Forum Leaders' positions.
- Inter-agency Working Group – oversight of the independent review.

Partnerships/stakeholder engagement mechanisms

- Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (RFMM)
- Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) meeting
- SPC Heads of Fisheries meeting (HoFs) and Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries (RTMCF)
- PNAO
- WCPFC

Financing/resource requirements

- The FFA annual budget is dedicated to the implementation of RFMM and FFC Ministers decisions in relation to oceanic fisheries.

Measures of success

- Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting held, as supported by CROP technical input and advice to deliver outcomes statement.
- The first community-based fisheries session incorporated within the RTMCF is held, supported by CROP technical input and advice, with outcomes delivered to RFMM.
- Independent review on maximising the sustainable economic returns from the region's fisheries finalised and endorsed by Forum Leaders with recommendations then implemented.

i) Regional health issues

Objective:

- a) Supporting a more consolidated and concerted effort at national, regional and global levels to drive better health outcomes, particularly combatting non-communicable diseases and supporting those agencies working to improve the health of Pacific people.
- b) Coordinate regional and consolidated efforts for cervical cancer prevention and treatment modalities that could be adopted across the region.

CROP deliverables

- Implementing the NCD Roadmap (including its monitoring framework MANA).
- Supporting relevant health commitments under regional and international treaties: Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED), Pacific Platform for Action Pacific Framework on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PFRPD), Pasifika Call to Action on Early Childhood Development, FRDP, Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- Finalisation of draft Pacific legislative framework for NCDs.

- Calling for support from development partners and governments to continue to scale up implementation of NCD Roadmap recommendations, particularly to address NCD policy and legislation gaps at the national level.
- Coordination and reporting on support addressing cervical cancer treatment and prevention.

CROP agencies/delivery mechanisms

- PIFS, SPC
- CROP Working Groups: Sustainable Development and Gender

Partnerships/stakeholder coordination mechanisms

- Regional Pacific mechanisms: Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Development, ECHO Taskforce, Regional Reference Group on Disability, Disability Taskforce
- Heads of Health in the Pacific meetings (annual in April)
- Ministers of Health in the Pacific meetings (biennially)
- Pacific Director of Clinical Services Meeting (biennially)
- Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) Meeting – to become the Pacific Directors of Public Health Meeting from 2020 (biennially)
- Pacific Heads of Nursing Meeting (biennially with inaugural meeting to be held in February 2020)
- WHO World Health Assembly - WHA (annually in May)
- WHO Regional Committee Meeting - RCM (annually in October)
- Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Development (PRC4ECD) and its Steering Committee – recently established Ministerial Council including Ministers of Health (regularity of meetings TBD – likely to be annual)
- UN agencies: WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA
- FEMM and FTMM – where relevant

Financing/resource requirements

- Currently participation at all meetings (except last WHO meetings) is fully supported by development partners.
- SPC funded by development partners. Support to countries limited to available resources based on country priorities.
- Funding gap in implementation of country work in some PICTs.

Measures of success

- MANA Dashboard, Healthy Islands Monitoring Framework indicators
- Pacific Roadmap on Sustainable Development
- Progress on implementing Leaders priorities in health and relevant sectors

5. Delivering on existing priorities

5.1 CROP agencies will continue to deliver on existing Forum Leaders' commitments and strategies through CROP working groups, with key priorities for the coming year summarised below.

a) Gender equality

Objective

Advancing regional gender equality commitments; and to provide technical assistance to effectively mainstream gender into the work of CROP.

The key role of the CROP Gender Working Group is:

- providing advice to CROP Executives and PICTs on gender equality issues and emerging trends to support effective, efficient and coordinated regional responses;
- ensuring CROP coordination and collaboration to support the implementation, international advocacy, monitoring and reporting of Pacific Leaders' gender equality commitments; and,
- collaborating to strengthen organisational capacity and mainstream gender equality within CROP.

Key deliverables for 2021

- Support the review of the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED) in 2021. The outcomes to be tabled through the PIF processes.
- Contribute to the COVID-19 Assessments as endorsed by the Forum Economic Ministers particularly the CROP led Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19.
- Support SPC with the convening of the Pacific Women's Triennial and Ministers for Women's Meeting.
- Support Pacific Member countries with preparations for the 65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).
- Continued liaison with the Pacific Gender Equality Coordination Group.

b) Sustainable development

Objective

CROP technical support to implement and monitor sustainable development progress directly and indirectly as part of the Pacific Sustainable Development Roadmap, Steering Committee and working group.

Key deliverables for 2021

- Collectively respond to member countries sustainable development requests under the scope of people, prosperity, planet, partnership and peace.
- Technical advice and input to assist the Pacific Sustainable Development Steering Committee and working group deliver on actions required under the Pacific Sustainable Development Roadmap. The input includes assistance with the implementation, monitoring and update of the Pacific Quadrennial and Biennial report on Sustainable Development.
- Directly support Members with national, regional and overall sustainable development strategies and actions aligned to the 2030 Agenda.

c) Human resources development

Objective

Raise the levels of education of the peoples of the Pacific through programmes in the formal and non-formal education sectors at all levels, from pre-school to adult, and across all delivery mechanisms, both public and private sector. To ensure efficiency, this wide coverage should be balanced through a prioritisation of issues that recognises the needs of the region.

Key deliverables for 2021

- Ensuring effective collaboration amongst Implementing Agencies in the implementation of the Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF).
- Support the convening of the Forum Education Ministers Meeting (FEEdMM) in April 2021 through discussion papers on regional education policies.
- Effectively performing its role as part of the regional Local Education Group (LEG) for the Global Partnership on Education Funding for PacREF.
- Supporting the convening of the meeting of Pacific Heads of Education Systems (PHES).
- Developing an update annual report on the implementation of PacREF to support the monitoring and evaluation process.
- Support the research to be conducted by World Bank and USP-IOE as funded by MFAT under the PacREF Research Framework.

d) Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

Objective

Support developments in the following priority areas that will be vital in 2021 to promote regional socio-economic growth:

- Accessibility and connectivity
- ICT infrastructure
- Cybersecurity
- Digital transformation
- ICT monitoring and evaluation

Key deliverables for 2021

Cybersecurity

- Developing legislations and assistance with relevant laws and frameworks
- Cybersecurity indexing for Pacific countries

Promoting Regional Cybersecurity Awareness

- Awareness and outreach programmes
- Developing Cyber education for school systems
- Online safety ethics and initiatives

Spectrum Management

- Developing and establishing National Table of Frequency Allocations
- Creating Spectrum Toolkits for the Pacific region e.g. NFAT, Channeling Plans

Internet Governance

- Research on Internet operations and infrastructure expansion
- Best Practices for CCTLD management and utilisation

ICT Data

- ICT Development Indexing for the Pacific
- Standardised practices and guidelines for Pacific ICT data

ICTs for SDGs

- Maximizing universal ICT coverage (SIDS and LDC)
- ICTs for economic empowerment

Telecommunications Infrastructural Development

- Peering hub and IX for the Pacific's Internet traffic
- Submarine cable infrastructure

6. CROP ways of working

6.1 In line with the *2018 CROP Charter*, CROP will work together through the mechanisms and approaches summarised below, and according to the CROP Calendar ([Attachment 2](#)):

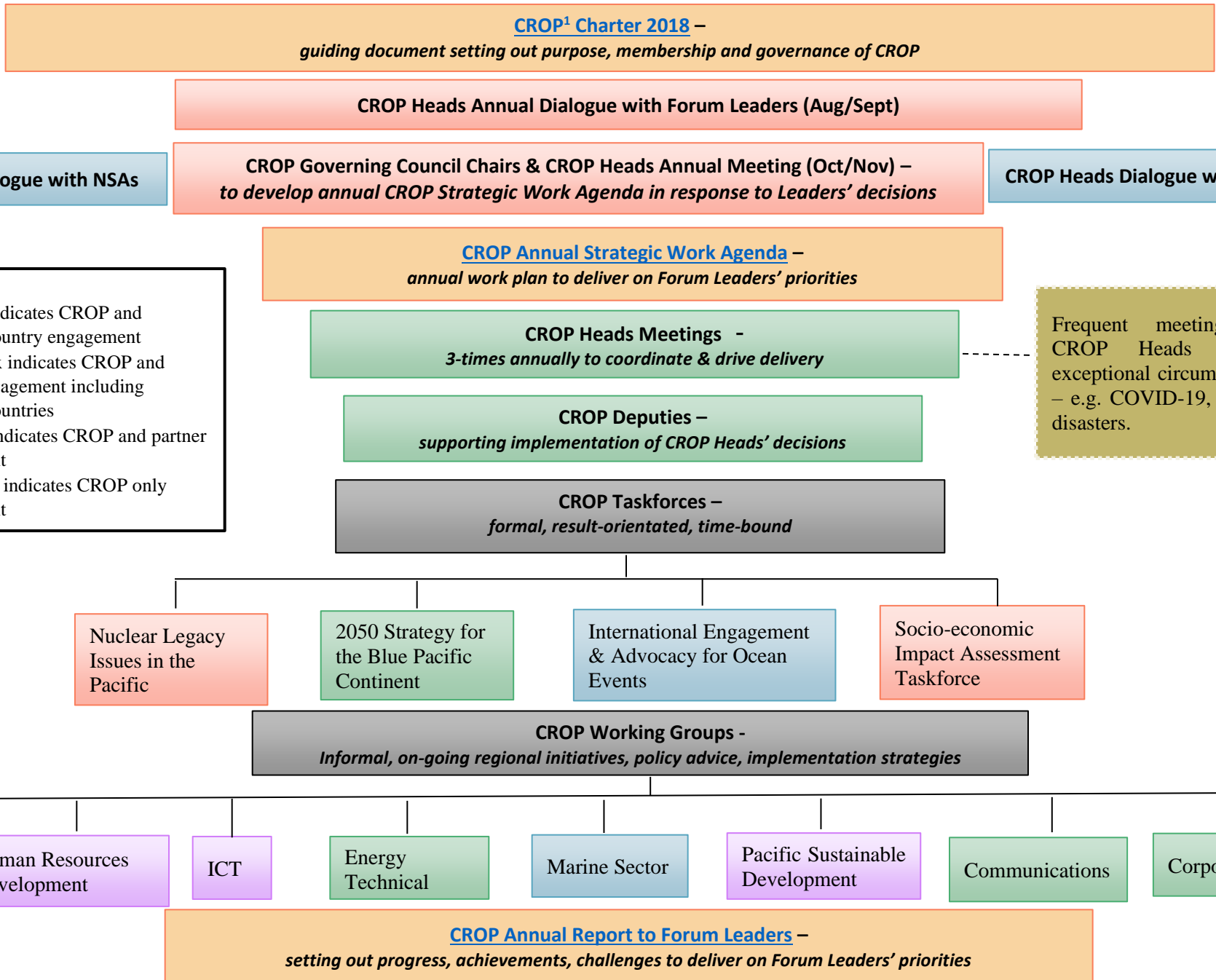
- **Strategic leadership and executive meetings:** an annual meeting of CROP Heads and Governing Council Chairs to agree on the CROP Strategic Work Agenda in the fourth quarter, and three meetings of CROP Heads to ensure strategic oversight and drive delivery.
- **Implementation through CROP Taskforces and Working Groups:** establishment or continuation of results-orientated and time-bound Taskforces to deliver on Leaders' decisions in addition to Working Groups for coordination on ongoing regional commitments.

- **Provision of policy and technical advice:** to inform advice to Forum Leaders and Ministers; the development of strategies and reports; and the work of the Specialist Sub-Committee on Regionalism.
- **Supporting international advocacy and collective communications:** supporting delivery of the annual action plan of the FOC Sub-Committee for Forum Engagement and Advocacy; support Member engagement with Forum Dialogue Partners and development partners; and undertaking joint CROP communications campaigns.
- **Stakeholder engagement:** high-level engagement with key regional partners to address regional priorities including an annual CROP Heads’ dialogue with the UN and non-state actors.
- **Accountability and reporting:** Assessing and reporting on progress against the CROP Strategic Work Agenda through an annual written report to Forum Leaders and an annual dialogue with Forum Leaders on the side-lines of the 51st PIF. In addition, CROP Heads updating and reporting to their governing councils on their membership and participation in CROP and on the performance of CROP.

6.2 With a focus on continual improvement, specific initiatives to strengthen the work of CROP in 2021 will include:

- a) **Monitoring and evaluation** – strengthening M&E of CROP’s collective work programme.
- b) **Communications** – strengthening joint CROP communications around key events and initiatives, particularly in the areas of COVID-19, climate change and resilience and sustainable ocean management.
- c) **Corporate harmonisation** – progressing opportunities for shared corporate services and joint procurement, for efficiency gains and cost savings.

CROP Architecture and Coordination Arrangements



Key :

- **Red** box indicates CROP and Member country engagement
- **Purple** box indicates CROP and partner engagement including Member countries
- **Blue** box indicates CROP and partner engagement
- **Green** box indicates CROP only engagement

Frequent meetings of CROP Heads during exceptional circumstances – e.g. COVID-19, natural disasters.

¹Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) membership comprises the following Pacific regional intergovernmental organisations: [Pacific Aviation Safety Office \(PASO\)](#); [Pacific Community \(SPC\)](#); [Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency \(FFA\)](#); [Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat \(PIFS\)](#); [Pacific Power Association \(PPA\)](#); [Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme \(SPREP\)](#); [Pacific Tourism Organisation \(SPTO\)](#); [The University of the South Pacific \(USP\)](#); [Pacific Islands Development Program \(PIDP\)](#) (Membership currently under review)

2021 CROP Calendar

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH 24 Mar: 3 rd Special Council Meeting of PASO and Regional Aviation Officials Meeting
APRIL 13-14 Apr: Forum Education Ministers Meeting 28 Apr: Regional Aviation Ministers Meeting	MAY 3 - 7 May: Pre-Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) 118 workshops and meetings 10 – 14 May: Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) 118 20-21 May: 91 st USP Council Meeting 26-27 May: SPTO Board of Directors meeting	JUNE 29 - 30 Jun / 1-2 Jul: Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) 119 (TBC)
JULY 1-2 Jul / 6-7 Jul: FFC18 Ministerial (TBC) 5 Jul / 9 Jul: Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (TBC) Jul: Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (TBC)	AUGUST Aug: 51 st Pacific Islands Forum (TBC)	SEPTEMBER 6-10 Sep: 30 th SPREP Meeting
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER 11-12 Nov: 92 nd USP Council Meeting 23-25 Nov: CRGA51 (TBC) 26 Nov: SPC Conference12 (TBC)	DECEMBER