



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM
1971 - 2021

2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent

Frequently Asked Questions
September 2021





1. What is the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent?

The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent will develop a long-term vision for our region and outline the steps to achieve this vision. It is a regional strategy to protect and secure our Pacific people, place and prospects.

"The 2050 Strategy for our Blue Pacific Continent will be our North Star. As we chart our course as a region and as an organisation for the next 3 decades, the 2050 will take forward our ambition and our determination for a sustainable and inclusive future for all our people.

It will encapsulate how we can best work together. The 2050 Strategy will be our shared vision. At its core, it will uphold the cultural, economic and strategic aspirations of people and states across our Blue Pacific"

The Honourable Josaia V. Bainimarama

Prime Minister of Fiji and PIF Chair, 6 August 2021

Development of the 2050 Strategy is underway. Led by the Member countries of the Pacific Islands Forum, national and regional consultations have been held with civil society, private sector, youth, academia and the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific.

2. Why do we need a 2050 Strategy?

Pacific Leaders in Tuvalu in 2019, recognized a strong and resilient Pacific needs careful planning.

The 2050 Strategy outlines scenarios to help understand what our future could look like in 2050. This allows us to plan for the future we want. Forum Member countries and territories and CROP agencies will be able to mould their workstreams to deliver on the strategy.

3. What is the regional context?

The global and regional geopolitical and development context is shifting, and the region is faced with a range of external and internal factors that are reshaping it. Challenges include:

- Ongoing vulnerabilities to environmental, climate change, disaster risk and economic shocks;
- Continued dependencies on aid and external financing;
- Low levels of economic growth;
- Stubborn levels of poverty and rising inequalities;
- Structural constraints, generally recognised in issues such distance from markets, small productive base, high transport costs.

Interacting with these vulnerabilities and constraints is a changing global and regional context, including:

- The COVID-19 global pandemic that has seen unprecedented border closures resulting in immediate and long-term health, economic and social challenges;
- Emerging tendencies towards populism and nationalism;
- Challenges to multilateralism, including willingness to withdraw from regional political groupings, withdrawal from multilateral trade agreements, and increased preferences for bilateral actions;
- Rising inequalities causing social and political instability and undermining development;
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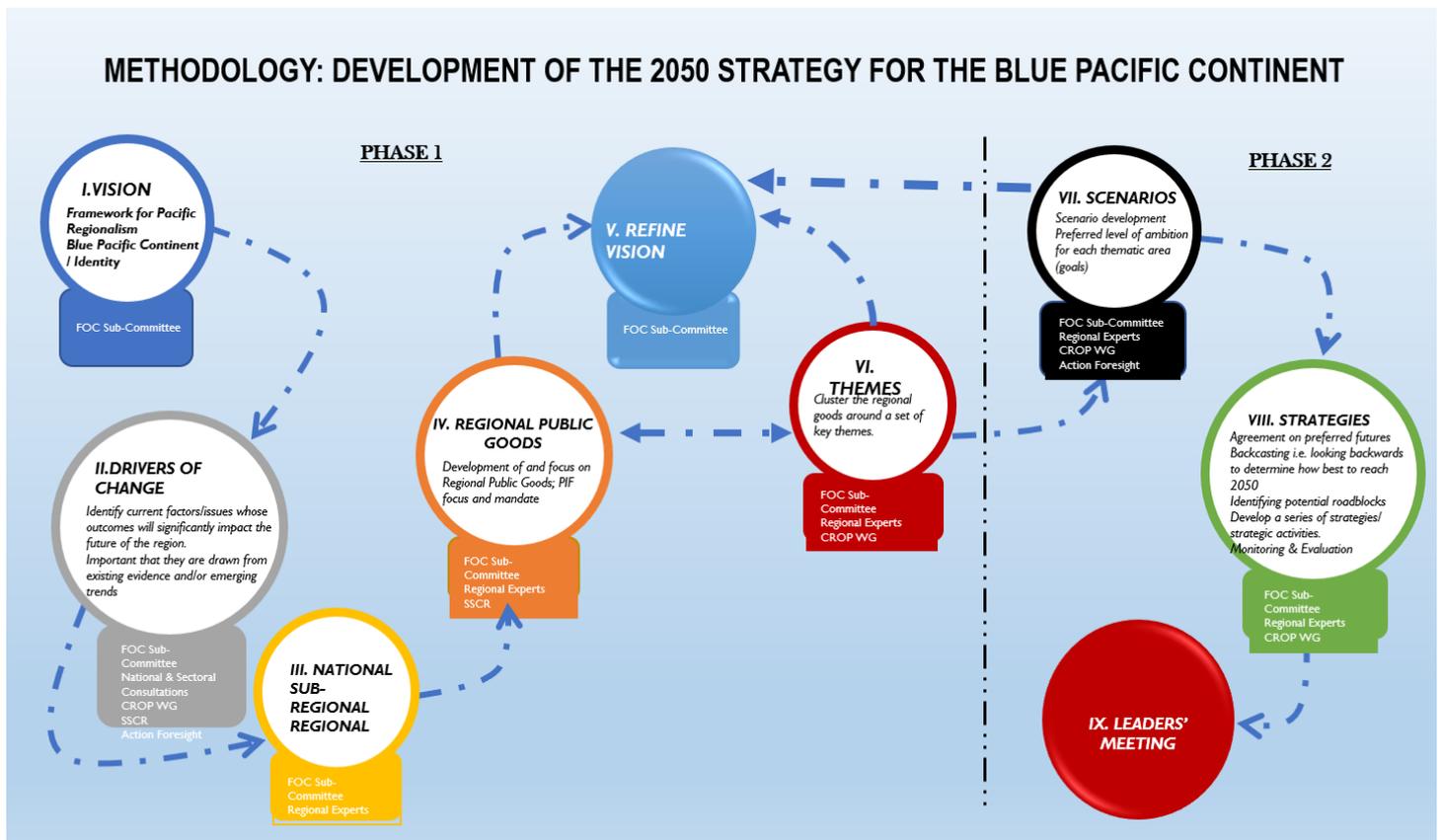
- Increased number of political actors and donors in the Pacific;
- Challenges to the stability of the global rules-based order and competition between Pacific Rim major powers; and
- Continued degradation of, and contestation for, natural resources.

However, global and regional developments are also raising new opportunities for the Pacific region to explore:

- Increased political attention on the role of oceans in development;
- Increased political attention on the climate change crisis facing Pacific island Nations
- Advances in technology that can enable the region to overcome limitations of distance;
- A set of agreed values that underpin Pacific regionalism, including the cultural values that help guide the region;
- New global frameworks and methodologies for valuing the immense ecosystems and biodiversity of the Pacific;
- Shifts in the global power and with globalisation; and
- Significant increased investment by the multilateral development institutions in the Pacific.

4. How is the 2050 Strategy being developed?

The work to develop the 2050 Strategy is led by a Forum Officials Committee (FOC) Sub-Committee on the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific, which is chaired by Fiji and Vanuatu, with the inclusion of CROP agencies as observers. This Sub-Committee has endorsed this approach to develop the 2050 Strategy:





Phase 1

Step 1. Create a working vision that projects what 2050 will look like.

Step 2. Drivers of Change; identifying factors or issues that will significantly impact the future of the region.

Step 3. National, Sub-Regional and Regional classification; grouping factors/issues from Step 2 to better understand where we can address these drivers of change.

Step 4. Regional Public Goods; from step 3 develop a list of drivers of change to be addressed at the regional level - these are the regional public goods.

Step 5. Refine Vision with the guidance from Step 4.

Step 6. Develop Themes; from Step 4, the regional public goods will be clustered around a set of key themes.

Phase 2

Step 7. Scenarios will be developed for each theme identified above.

Step 8. Develop a series of strategies/strategic activities.

Step 9. The 2050 Strategy will be presented to Leaders at their meeting in 2022

5. Which step are we up to now?

We are currently up to Phase 2, Step 8 - Develop a series of strategies.

We will identify strategies and strategic activities based on the outcomes of the second round of consultations. These consultations were conducted across Forum Member countries, including the government, non - state actors, and youth. In addition, a regional stream of consultation was conducted including CROP agencies, sub - regional groups, civil - society organisations, private sector organisations, law enforcement agencies, and the 2050 FOC Sub - Committee.

6. What is the relationship between the 2050 Strategy and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism? Will the 2050 Strategy replace or supercede the Framework for Pacific Regionalism?

Through the Leaders' adoption of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR) in 2014, the Blue Pacific Narrative in 2017, and their decision to develop the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, Forum Leaders continue to place high priority on regionalism - including regional cooperation, coordination, and integration, as well as collective diplomacy - as a key means to achieve their vision for the region.

The FPR was adopted by Forum Leaders as the overarching policy framework to guide Pacific regionalism - setting out the high level vision, objectives, values and principles, as well as guidance around the need to engage the entirety of the regional architecture, and other key stakeholders, in the process to identify and deliver on regional priorities.

In relation to the FPR, the 2050 Strategy can be viewed as a complementary and mutually reinforcing strategy that articulates key thematic areas with specific sub-strategies that articulate how the regional architecture can work together to achieve the region's vision by 2050.



In particular, the 2050 Strategy is about articulating a long-term strategy for Pacific regionalism that responds to the region's most important challenges. It will not replace or supercede the FPR but strengthen it by acting as a specific strategy to achieve its intended objectives.

7. What is the relationship between the 2050 Strategy and other regional/global frameworks?

One of the initial steps in the process to develop the 2050 Strategy was to map existing regional policy frameworks, noting that the mapping needed to be comprehensive and inclusive of national level policies and strategies with relevance to the 2050 Strategy. This mapping exercise was requested as a means to ensure that the 2050 Strategy complements and builds upon existing regional policies and frameworks.

The Sub-Committee also noted the importance of assessing the progress of implementation of existing strategies and policies, within the context of identifying where and how the 2050 Strategy should commence, based upon, and linked to existing and relevant regional policy frameworks.

This policy mapping exercise is currently ongoing and will be completed to inform the latter stages of the development of the 2050 Strategy.

8. How do I get involved or find out more?

If you would like to be involved in the development of the Strategy at the national level, please contact your country's Foreign Affairs Government Ministry.

If you would like to be involved in the development of the Strategy at the regional level, please reach out to your focal contacts within PIFS or information services info@forumsec.org for more information.