

Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021-2025



Roundtable



Pacific Islands Roundtable
for Nature Conservation



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The Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021 – 2025 was made possible through the support of the members and partners of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and support for publishing from the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) Phase 3 Programme (ACP MEAs 3).



Foreword

The 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas was originally to be hosted by the Government of New Caledonia at the Tjibaou Culture Centre in April 2020. However, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic the Conference had to be postponed and transformed into a virtual event that still ensured the active engagement of participants and the commitments and values of New Caledonia as host.

Hosting an internet based virtual Conference at such a scale using an interactive and bilingual platform was a challenging new mode of doing business for the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, its partners in the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation and the Government of New Caledonia. But despite the challenges the virtual Conference was a great success and it provided an opportunity to expand participation to include other stakeholders outside of the Pacific region. This resulted in more than 1,800 registered participants from across 50 countries. The Government of New Caledonia also hosted a High-level Segment involving Ministers and the Heads of Organisations from the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation, which resulted in the endorsement of the Vemööre Declaration.

For more than 45 years the Conference has been a significant meeting bringing together a diversity of stakeholders from Pacific island governments, communities, non-governmental organisations, donors, partners, youth groups, academia and more.

This new Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021-2025 was endorsed during the Conference and subsequently at the 30th SPREP Meeting by 26 Member countries and territories in 2021. It reflects the urgent need for transformative action in response to the multiple accelerating threats, both established and emerging, that are faced by nature and people in the Pacific. It identifies the key regional priorities for action which form the six Strategic Objectives for the Framework. Each of the Strategic Objectives have Action Tracks which reflected the themes of discussion during the 10th Pacific Islands Nature Conference. The Action Tracks were selected based on evidence provided in the State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands 2020 report and that connected with the Conference theme: Nature Conservation Action for a resilient Pacific. The commitments to action articulated by Pacific island countries and territories during the Conference are also addressed in the Vemööre Declaration which forms part of the Framework.

We would like to acknowledge the contribution and inputs received from governments, partners from the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation, non-government organisations, youth, community groups, experts, and participants prior to and during the Conference. The development of the new Framework would not have been possible without your continuous support, time and resources throughout the various consultation processes.

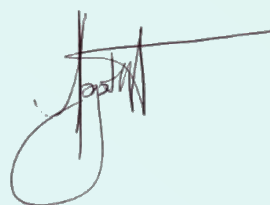
We especially wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Government of New Caledonia for its support, partnership and commitment in making the Conference a success. Finally, the new Framework is now ready for implementation and we urge all stakeholders to endorse and implement it over the next 5 years.



Kosi Latu

Director General

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment
Programme (SPREP)



Margaret West

Chair

Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation
and Protected Areas (PIRT)

Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021-2025

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Executive Summary

This Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021-2025 is the principal regional strategy document for environmental conservation in the Pacific. Its purpose is to provide broad strategic guidance for nature conservation planning, prioritisation, and implementation in our region. It reflects the urgent need for transformative action in response to the multiple accelerating threats, both established and emerging, that are faced by nature and people in the Pacific.

The Framework identifies the key regional priorities for action that are needed to make progress towards the 30-year Vision, Mission and Goals for conservation that were adopted by Pacific leaders in 2002. These regional priorities are presented in the form of six Strategic Objectives for the period 2021-2025:

- 1.** Empower our people to take action for nature conservation, based on our understanding of nature's importance for our cultures, economies, and communities.
- 2.** Integrate environmental and cultural considerations into the goals, processes, and trajectories of economic development in the Pacific.
- 3.** Identify, conserve, sustainably manage and restore ecosystems, habitats, and priority natural and cultural sites.
- 4.** Protect and recover threatened species and preserve genetic diversity, focusing on those of particular ecological, cultural and economic significance.
- 5.** Manage and reduce threats to Pacific environments and drivers of biodiversity loss.
- 6.** Grow Pacific capacity and partnerships to effectively monitor, govern and finance nature conservation action.

Each Strategic Objective is accompanied by selected Action Tracks that representing priority areas for implementation, and which reflect the key themes of discussion at the 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. The Strategic Objectives and Action Tracks were endorsed by the High-Level Session of the Conference, and commitments to action have been made in the Vemöore Declaration. The Framework provides Overviews of Best Practice as guidance for work undertaken within each Action Track by Pacific island countries and territories alongside their key regional partners.

The Framework also presents a set of eight Principles for Conservation Implementation in the Pacific. These constitute a code of conduct for all nature conservation initiatives within the Pacific region, and apply to all stakeholders across all the Strategic Objectives. The Principles are:

- Community rights
- Conservation from Pacific perspectives
- Ownership of conservation programmes
- Resourcing for longevity
- Good governance and accountability
- Coordination and collaboration
- Growing Pacific capacity
- Reinforcing resilience

Implementation of the Framework is primarily the responsibility of Pacific island countries and territories, supported by the member organisations of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) and other regional and domestic conservation partners and funders.

Mangroves at the mouth of the Labasa River, Vanua Levu, Fiji. Photo: © Stuart Chape



About this Framework

This Framework is the most recent in a series of regional Pacific strategies for nature conservation that have been produced approximately every five years since 1985. It replaces the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2014-2020.

This 2021-2025 Framework has been reviewed, discussed and endorsed by the participants of the 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas (Pacific Nature Conference), convened virtually in November 2020. It reflects the urgent need for coordinated action across the Pacific region to address both contemporary environmental crises, and emerging threats to Pacific environments,

communities, and economies. Commitments to action were articulated by Pacific island countries and territories at the 10th Pacific Nature Conference through the Vemöore Declaration, which also forms part of this Framework.

The Framework includes notes on the various responsibilities of stakeholders in its implementation, on its governance arrangements, and on monitoring and reporting of regional progress. Recognising the importance of alignment with other multilateral instruments and agreements, the Strategic Objectives of the Framework are linked to key global environment and development frameworks.

Purpose and scope of this Framework

The purpose of the Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021-2025 is to provide broad strategic guidance for conservation initiatives undertaken by all stakeholders in the region. It does this by:

1. Articulating a shared vision for nature conservation in the Pacific, with an emphasis on the interdependence of environmental, social-cultural and economic domains.
2. Identifying regional Strategic Objectives to guide conservation action in the Pacific, and focusing this work towards priority issues for the region.
3. Providing an intermediary or bridging function between global and national environmental frameworks.
4. Providing relevant guidance on best practice to stakeholders and conservation practitioners.
5. Ensuring coordination and collaboration between entities involved in conservation in the Pacific.
6. Encouraging mobilisation of partnerships and resources to address priority conservation issues for the Pacific.

The Framework is not a prescriptive document, and does not replace the fundamental rights and responsibilities of Pacific island countries and territories for planning, prioritising, and implementing their own nature conservation and environmental management regimes.

Who should use this Framework, and how?

Pacific governments and agencies should use the Framework as a source of broad strategic guidance for the development of national policies, programmes and priorities, including their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs); in fundraising and in reporting to funders and global agencies; and to inform their interactions with, and expectations of, their conservation partners.

Funders should integrate the Framework's Strategic Objectives and Principles for Conservation Implementation into their funding criteria, prioritisation processes, and wider decision-making for projects in the Pacific.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and other international and regional organisations should use the Framework to help shape their partnerships with Pacific governments and communities; for priority-setting, and project

scoping and development; for reference when drafting their own strategic plans; in fundraising and in reporting to funders and global agencies; and to guide their collaboration with other regional organisations.

Communities and civil society can use the Framework to hold governments, funders, NGOs, and other international and regional organisations to account about their partnership responsibilities and commitments to conservation action.

Private sector organisations may draw on the Framework to help guide their adoption of sustainable business practices, to clarify their environmental responsibilities in the Pacific, and to inform any conservation partnerships they may undertake with Pacific governments or communities.



Traditional stone fish traps, Naviti Island, Fiji. Photo: © Stuart Chape

Global and regional environmental governance

The Pacific participates in a complex system of global environmental agreements and frameworks, each with varying levels of influence over national and regional policies, and varying extents of implementation within those policies. The primary global mechanism for biodiversity conservation is the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) which [has adopted the 20 Targets of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework]. Pacific island countries and territories prepare their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to reflect the Goals and Targets of the CBD as well as their national priorities and regional commitments.

Demonstrating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is also a priority for Pacific island countries and territories, and is closely linked to national programmes of action for nature conservation. Appendix A links the Strategic Objectives of this Framework to both the [Targets of the GBF] and the SDGs.

Regional agreements and frameworks are a primary vehicle for regionalism in Pacific and a key element of regional governance. These generally outline collective approaches to selected regional issues, with the bulk of implementation responsibilities at the national level. Influential regional

frameworks include those on climate change and disaster risk management, ocean governance, pollution and hazardous waste, biodiversity and conservation, and political and economic regionalism. It is intended that the implementation of this Framework for Nature Conservation be consistent with the delivery of these other regional frameworks and agreements.

Appendix B lists global and regional agreements and frameworks of direct relevance to this Framework.

30-year Ambition for Pacific Conservation, 2002-2032

VISION

Healthy Oceans – Healthy Islands – Healthy People

Our people proudly honour, value and protect our natural and cultural heritage and cultural identity for the wellbeing of present and future generations; the waters of our streams, lagoons and oceans are bountiful and unpolluted; our mountains are wild, our forests intact and our beaches unspoiled; our towns and gardens are healthy and productive; our societies are vibrant, resilient and diverse; we have equitable relationships with our global partners and our economies thrive; our cultures and traditions are widely appreciated; and the products of our creativity and labour are especially prized.

MISSION

To protect and preserve the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Pacific islands forever for the benefit of the people of the Pacific and the world.

GOALS

Environment

The biodiversity and natural environment of the Pacific are conserved in perpetuity.

Society

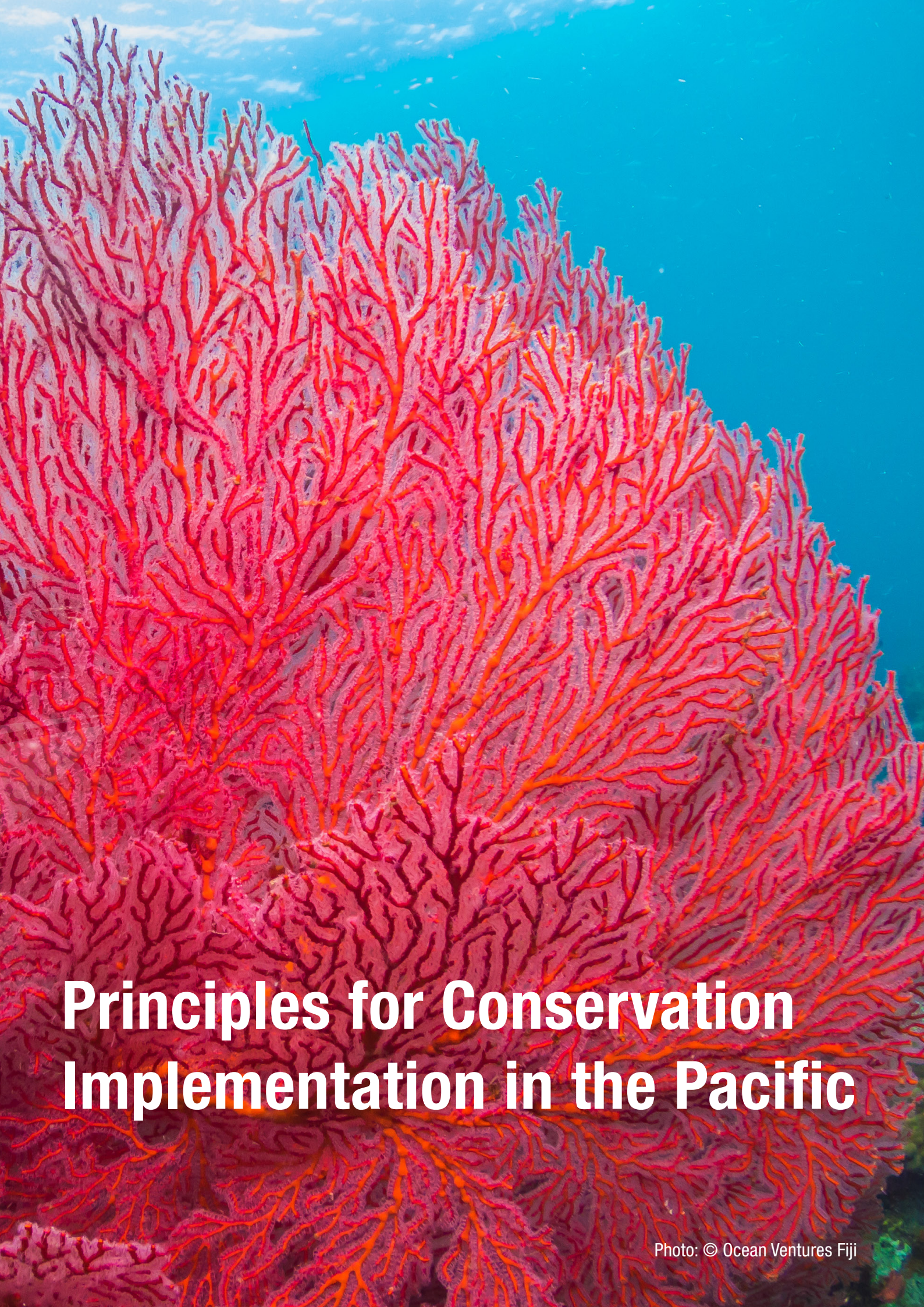
Pacific peoples are leading activities for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and the preservation of cultural heritage for the benefit of present and future generations.

Economy

Nature conservation and sustainable resource use are the foundation of all island economies.

About this 30-year ambition for Pacific conservation

The Vision, Mission and Goals were created and endorsed by the delegates of the 7th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in Rarotonga in 2002. They are 30-year statements of conservation ambition in the Pacific, and provide the overarching structure of this Framework and its predecessors.



Principles for Conservation Implementation in the Pacific



About the Principles:

A code of conduct for implementation of conservation programmes

These Principles articulate the critical components for implementing conservation projects in Pacific contexts. They are designed as a guide for designing, establishing, delivering and sustaining conservation programmes in the Pacific. They apply to all conservation initiatives undertaken in the Pacific region, not only those specifically linked to the Framework.

The eight Principles are mutually supporting, indivisible amongst themselves and are applicable across all six Strategic Objectives of the Framework. Their application will lead to enriched, more respectful relationships between conservation agencies and Pacific communities, and to a significant improvement in the conservation capacity of the region with corresponding progress towards the Vision and Goals of the Framework.

Principles for Conservation Implementation in the Pacific

1

Principle 1: Community rights

Pacific indigenous and local communities have the right to own, use, manage, and conserve their natural resources and wider environment.

National, regional and international partners will actively recognise, respect and support:

- Community property rights, including traditional rights over natural resources, and indigenous intellectual property relating to natural resources and cultural knowledge.
- Community decision-making practices.
- Community rights to design, prioritise, conduct, and publish research.
- Community rights to access information available on their resources, natural cultural heritage, and society in appropriate forms of language.
- Community rights to develop opportunities that support and sustain local livelihoods and wellbeing.

2

Principle 2: Conservation from Pacific perspectives

Natural environments are central to the cultures, identities, livelihoods, and development opportunities of Pacific communities. Nature conservation affects all aspects of social, cultural, and economic life and must therefore align with the values, priorities, and aspirations of these communities.

National, regional and international partners will actively recognise, respect and support:

- Community aspirations for development and wellbeing.
- Pacific approaches to conservation based on sustainable resource use, cultural heritage and expressions, and traditional, indigenous, and local knowledge.
- The need of some communities to use their own languages and protocols when engaging with or undertaking conservation initiatives.
- The importance of establishing and maintaining lasting individual and organisational relationships with Pacific communities.

3

Principle 3: Ownership of conservation programmes

Lasting conservation in the Pacific can only be achieved if national partners and local communities lead the design, implementation, and evaluation of conservation initiatives.

National and community partners will commit to:

- Exercising and building their capacity for leadership of conservation programmes.
- Greater engagement and ownership of conservation within the private sector and local organisations, including cultural, spiritual, business, sporting, youth, and women's organisations.

Regional and international partners will commit to:

- Respecting, encouraging, and helping to build capacity for national and community partner leadership of all conservation programmes.
- Aligning all conservation programmes, including regional and international initiatives, with national programmes, priorities, and aspirations.
- Strengthening and resourcing national and local partners as an alternative to establishing independent institutions or infrastructure.
- Ensuring all key programme decision-making takes place in-country alongside national and community partners, and is led by local conservation priorities.

4

Principle 4: Resourcing for longevity

Conservation initiatives must be adequately and appropriately resourced over time, by planning for the financial, social, organisational and cultural components of project longevity.

National, regional and international partners will commit to:

- Ensuring their conservation programmes are of scale and budget appropriate to the local context.
- Long-term strategic planning and resource mobilisation that sustains conservation over time.
- Adhering to best practices for supporting livelihoods and community wellbeing, including poverty reduction and enhancing community financial sustainability based on local biocultural resources.
- Developing appropriate new and improving existing methods and partnerships to sustain financial investment and resources for conservation.
- Ensuring that locally specific social, cultural, and equity factors are considered when decisions are made about conservation financing.

5

Principle 5: Good governance and accountability

Conservation is inclusive, participatory, accountable, transparent, equitable, and open to stakeholder scrutiny.

National, regional and international partners will commit to:

- Reinforcing inclusive and participatory approaches by involving all stakeholders, particularly community representatives, when designing, implementing, communicating, assessing, and reporting on conservation programmes.
- Ensuring systems are in place to enable full transparency and accountability to the people affected by conservation programme implementation and environmental regulatory services.
- Recognising and applying inter-generational equity and gender equality principles in all activities.
- Promoting and supporting cost-effective scaling up and adoption of best-practice conservation models.
- Developing and implementing durable, effective policies which are integrated across government agencies and governance levels.

National partners will commit to:

- Setting clear and standard processes for the establishment, operation, and accountability of international partners through formal agreements. These agreements should include a Code of Conduct with defined consequences for breaches and mechanisms to ensure transparency of operations.
- Establishing systems to register the conservation activities of all partners against national and local priorities, such as NBSAPs.
- Setting easily measured benchmarks to ensure progress against defined conservation objectives, with each partner held accountable for its commitments and progress.

Regional and international partners will commit to:

- Adopting systems that ensure transparency and accountability of their programmes at a national level.
- Providing timely, transparent, and comprehensive reporting on conservation programmes to national partners, including reporting on implementation of NBSAP priorities. Appropriate reporting must also be provided to community partners.

6**Principle 6:
Coordination and collaboration**

Conservation is more effective when partners coordinate, collaborate and work within a strategic framework.

National partners will commit to:

- Ensuring NBSAPs and locally devised conservation programmes are strategic, focused, and set clear local priorities for action.
- Taking a leadership role in coordinating all partners, including by providing national and local focal points for coordinating NBSAP and other programme implementation.

Regional and international partners will commit to:

- Working within the legislation, policies, strategies, programmes, and priorities established by national partners.
- Working with each other to ensure collaborative analysis, strategies, agreed priorities, and coordination of political engagement to avoid duplication or inconsistencies.
- Avoiding programming that competes with national partners for projects and funding.
- Strengthening existing and cultivating new partnerships that are culturally oriented, innovative, and results driven.
- Working to integrate environmental datasets and other forms of relevant information, and making this available in accessible formats to national and community partners.

7

Principle 7: Growing Pacific capacity

Increasing national, sub-national and community capacity to design, prioritise, direct, manage, implement, monitor and evaluate conservation programmes.

National partners and communities will commit to:

- Building effective and sustainable conservation capability and organisations through ongoing capacity development.
- Ensuring conservation is continuously improved by recording, disseminating, and incorporating lessons learned and best practices.
- Building capacity with and within local organisations, such as cultural, faith-based, sporting, youth, and women's organisations, as well as the private sector.
- Enhancing the capacity of conservation practitioners to use appropriate concepts and tools, including those of the private sector.

Regional and international partners will commit to:

- Supporting national partners in their efforts to build effective and sustainable institutions.
- Supporting national partners and communities in their efforts to develop core competencies such as leadership, project management, scientific monitoring, and financing.
- Ensuring their presence in-country does not undermine national and local institution-building or capacity development.
- Contributing to national and community partners' best practice by recording, disseminating, and implementing lessons learned.

8

Principle 8: Reinforcing resilience

Implementing nature conservation that supports the resilience and wellbeing of Pacific communities in the face of sudden or long-term disruption.

National, regional and international partners will commit to:

- Programmes and projects which focus on building resilience and adaptive capacity in Pacific communities, cultures and environments.
- Promoting innovative, community-based, and culturally grounded natural solutions, drawing on appropriate learning networks and the best available knowledge.
- Supporting communities to implement conservation activities by applying approaches and principles of ecosystem-based management and adaptation to their local context.
- Safeguarding traditional, indigenous and local knowledge, and supporting communities to utilise this knowledge for resilience and adaptation.



Strategic Objectives 2021-2025

Strategic Objectives 2021-2025

- 1. Empower our people to take action for nature conservation, based on our understanding of nature's importance for our cultures, economies, and communities.**
- 2. Integrate environmental and cultural considerations into the goals, processes, and trajectories of economic development in the Pacific.**
- 3. Identify, conserve, sustainably manage and restore ecosystems, habitats, and priority natural and cultural sites.**
- 4. Protect and recover threatened species and preserve genetic diversity, focusing on those of particular ecological, cultural and economic significance.**
- 5. Manage and reduce threats to Pacific environments and drivers of biodiversity loss.**
- 6. Grow Pacific capacity and partnerships to effectively monitor, govern and finance nature conservation action.**

Scope and purpose of the Strategic Objectives

The Strategic Objectives are broad priorities for nature conservation action in the Pacific. Work done within the areas of the Strategic Objectives, in a manner reflecting the Principles for Conservation Implementation, will contribute to progress towards the 30-year Vision and Goals of the Framework.

The purpose of the Strategic Objectives is to provide a coordinated strategic approach to conservation across jurisdictions in the Pacific region. Decisions around national goals, targets and indicators for their implementation are the responsibility of Pacific governments, supported by their partners.

Each Strategic Objective is accompanied by Action Tracks, representing the priority areas for implementation; these were identified at the 10th Pacific Nature Conference. Summaries of Key Challenges are noted for each Action Track, alongside Overviews of Best Practice for work undertaken within each Action Track. This best practice guidance applies the Principles for Conservation Implementation to the achievement of the Strategic Objectives. Key Partners and Programmes are also listed, to indicate the range of conservation programmes for each Action Track across our region; the list is not exhaustive, and for initiatives with multiple partners only the lead organisations are noted.

Strategic Objective 1

Empower our people to take action for nature conservation, based on our understanding of nature's importance for our cultures, economies, and communities.

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Examples of key partners and programmes
<p>Our people at the centre of conservation action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community rights over territories and resources may be insufficiently recognised, respected or enforced by other parties. • Some community members, or entire communities, may be excluded from decision making processes. • There may be insufficient local capacity or resources to negotiate positive outcomes in decisions about environmental management, or to manage or enforce conservation projects effectively. • Development or conservation projects may not take sufficient account of the close relationships between Pacific people and their places. • There may be conflict between the differing economic, social-cultural, and environmental aspirations of community members and other parties. • The expertise of local people in the theory and practice of conservation often goes unrecognised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rights of Pacific communities to make and implement informed decisions about the sustainable use of their environments, as full participants of conservation initiatives from design to implementation, must be actively upheld by all parties. These include the right to utilise traditional, indigenous, and local knowledge, and the right to access other forms of knowledge, data, or information. • Engagement with communities by other parties should be on an equal and mutually beneficial basis. Sufficient resources must be invested in community engagement to support long-term relationships. • Place-based conservation programmes should build the knowledge and capacity of Pacific communities (including women, youth, and people living with disabilities) to design and implement such programmes themselves. • Conservation initiatives should build the capacity of partner organisations and government agencies to learn from and engage with Pacific communities. • Monetary, livelihood, or other benefits should flow directly to communities through the comprehensive implementation of access and benefit-sharing policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security • SPREP-PEUMP Lui Bell Scholarship: Capacity development through research grants to Pacific islanders • SPREP-PEUMP community engagement in the planning and implementation of Rapid Biodiversity Assessments (BIORAPS) and Ecosystem and Socio-economic Resilience Analysis and Mapping (ESRAM) • TNC Voice, Choice and Action Framework • BirdLife Local Engagement and Empowerment programme and Capacity Development programme • SPC social inclusion programme



Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Examples of key partners and programmes
<p>Behaviour change for nature conservation through identity, traditional knowledge, education, heritage, and cultural expressions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of local cultural expressions and knowledge is sometimes not recognised within conservation narratives and behaviour change interventions. • In some contexts, Pacific people (especially youth) are becoming disconnected from their cultural heritage and natural environments. • Knowledge held by Pacific elders is sometimes not being passed on to the next generation. • There is a need to improve collective Pacific capacity to share successful initiatives in appropriate formats and with all relevant stakeholders. • Awareness campaigns and other behaviour change interventions are often not monitored and evaluated for effectiveness. • People and interests that benefit from environmentally degrading activities are often more powerful than those that are harmed, and lack incentives for voluntary behaviour change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All parties should recognise the right of Pacific peoples to determine how they value biodiversity and natural ecosystems, based on wellbeing, identity, connection to place, and traditional, indigenous, and local knowledge. • Government agencies and partner organisations must share environmental information with communities in ways that respect local values and are relevant to livelihood decisions. All parties must respect locally owned or community-derived information, and utilise this appropriately through mutual agreement and dialogue. • Awareness-raising initiatives should share relevant tools that have been successful in other communities. Members of Pacific communities are often the best people to share their information and experiences with other communities. • Education-for-conservation and art-for-conservation initiatives must value and celebrate Pacific cultural expressions by cultivating partnerships with our elders, educators, artists, athletes and community role models, as well as with our youth, women's, faith-based and cultural organisations. • Existing traditional schools of learning should be supported by conservation partners, as well as newer forms of education. • Enquiry-based learning approaches can be especially effective in reconnecting participants to their cultural heritage and natural environments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rare – Fish Forever program • BirdLife Local Engagement and Empowerment programme and Capacity Development programme • SPREP-PEUMP community engagement in the planning and implementation of Rapid Biodiversity Assessments (BIORAPS) and Ecosystem and Socio-economic Resilience Analysis and Mapping (ESRAM)



2 Million Tree Planting Campaign
Photo: © Roland Setu

Strategic Objective 2

Integrate environmental and cultural considerations into the goals, processes, and trajectories of economic development in the Pacific.

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Examples of key partners and programmes
<p>Sustainable and resilient ocean economies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rapid deterioration of marine ecosystems undermines many Pacific livelihoods and threatens progress on eliminating poverty. • The proliferation of ocean-based economic activities results in high cumulative environmental impacts, with sectors not yet planning collectively to reduce impact. • Current economic models promote short-term use of natural resources, with a lack of accountability for social or environmental consequences. • There is still very limited consideration of the applicability of circular economies in Pacific contexts. • Some forms of blue economy may reinforce existing inequalities, with benefits not necessarily experienced by Pacific communities. • Global health crises and other shocks may disrupt island economies, with a risk that unsustainable short-term solutions may be adopted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National ocean policies should be developed, implemented, and enforced, and should reflect regional and international agreements on ocean governance and conservation. Ocean policies should promote integrated management of different economic sectors, whilst upholding the interests of communities. • Existing legal frameworks should be strengthened, and environmental considerations should be mainstreamed across national legislation. • Regional policy frameworks for ocean economies should be developed, focusing on resilient, equitable, and locally led economies that support the wellbeing of Pacific peoples. • Environmental and cultural impact assessments must be strengthened, including assessment quality, compliance monitoring, enforcement capacity, and integration into planning processes. Monitoring of the effectiveness of conservation initiatives, as well as monitoring of adverse impacts and their mitigation, is important for adaptive management. • Monitoring and enforcement of all marine and maritime industrial and commercial activities must be strengthened. • All economic development and conservation initiatives must have robust processes for seeking free, prior and informed consent from communities and uphold their interests and values. • Finance mechanisms should be redirected to secure the protection, restoration and resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems, as well as the communities dependent on them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Environment Sustainable Blue Finance Initiative • USP-PEUMP Certificate Programme on Pacific Ocean Finance • Pacific Resilience Partnership • TNC Electronic Monitoring Program • BirdLife Marine Programme • SPREP-IUCN (PEUMP/APC-SIDS): Support for marine spatial planning across jurisdictions • SPC Pacific Territories Regional Project for Sustainable Ecosystem Management (PROTEGE) • SPC Vulnerability and adaptation of coastal fisheries to climate change

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Examples of key partners and programmes
<p>Sustainable and resilient island economies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global health crises and other shocks may disrupt island economies, with a risk that unsustainable short-term solutions may be adopted. • The transformation of land use for economic development can involve deforestation, soil erosion, and loss of traditional agricultural systems. This ultimately leads to lower economic, social, and environmental resilience. • Shifts towards monocultures and cash crops lowers local biological and economic diversity, and increases community vulnerability to environmental and market dynamics. • Many countries are experiencing increasing social-economic inequality, including between urban and rural areas. • Current economic models promote short-term use of natural resources, with a lack of accountability for social or environmental consequences. • National legislation and policy is often sectoral rather than holistic, and may not reflect regional or international agreements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pandemic recovery strategies must aim to ‘build back better’ to support economic, environmental and social cultural wellbeing in the Pacific. Recovery should aim beyond ‘sustainability’, to regeneration. • Place-based conservation initiatives should recognise and support the importance of diverse agroecological systems for social-cultural, environmental and economic resilience. • Environmental and cultural impact assessments must be strengthened, including assessment quality, compliance monitoring, enforcement capacity, and integration into planning processes. Monitoring of the effectiveness of conservation initiatives, as well as monitoring of adverse impacts and their mitigation, is important for adaptive management. • Existing legal frameworks should be strengthened and environmental considerations should be mainstreamed across national legislation. • All economic development and conservation initiatives must have robust processes for seeking free, prior and informed consent from communities and uphold their interests and values. • Government agencies and partner organisations should facilitate opportunities for Pacific communities to participate actively in island-based sustainable economic activities that provide fair and just economic returns. • Businesses, especially small and medium enterprises, should be supported to establish resilient practices, including building transparent and sustainable supply chains that foster community wellbeing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN Energy, Ecosystems and Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative (EESLI) • Pacific Resilience Partnership • Micronesia Challenge • Micronesia Conservation Trust Livelihoods Program • SPREP-PEUMP By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Initiative • SPC Pacific Territories Regional Project for Sustainable Ecosystem Management (PROTEGE)

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Examples of key partners and programmes
<p>Nature-based Solutions (NbS) to sustain our social-ecological systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NbS can have unforeseen negative impacts if applied without proper social and environmental safeguards or equity considerations. Perceived trade-offs between environmental, social and economic health can impede cross-cutting action to address all of these. Some attempted NbS fail due to the absence of an effective governance structure or mandate. Likewise, some fail to become adequately embedded in local or national governance processes. It can be difficult to identify indicators and metrics for the social, economic and environmental effectiveness of NbS. Although usually cost-effective compared to other solutions, NbS are often radically underfunded compared to the scope of their objectives. Path dependency associated with solutions more familiar to decision-makers, such as 'grey' infrastructure, may inhibit the uptake of NbS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All NbS projects must be designed and implemented with demonstrable benefits for human and ecological wellbeing, where possible at multiple scales. NbS must be designed to equitably balance trade-offs between achievement of their primary goals and the continued provision of multiple benefits. NbS aiming at climate change mitigation must also have demonstrable benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem integrity. Traditional practices and indigenous Pacific knowledge systems must be acknowledged and supported within NbS projects. As with all conservation initiatives, NbS must be based on inclusive, transparent, and empowering governance processes. Scenario-planning tools should be utilised to explore alternative and sustainable economic pathways adapted to local, national and regional contexts. NbS projects should utilise tools which provide environmental and social-cultural safeguards for economic projects, such as impact assessments and spatial planning. NbS must be designed to address community-level challenges as identified by resource users, with environmental and social-cultural co-benefits documented and communicated. NbS should aim to 'build back better' from the impacts of COVID-19, in order to support economic, environmental and social cultural wellbeing in the Pacific. NbS practitioners should utilise the <i>IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KIWA Initiative Oceania Nature-Based Solutions Collaboration Hub IUCN/SPREP Coastal Marine Ecosystem Resilience Programme SPREP-PEUMP By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Initiative Pacific Ridge to Reef (R2R) SPC-UNDP Managing Coastal Aquifers in Selected Pacific SIDS (MCAP) SPC Pacific Territories Regional Project for Sustainable Ecosystem Management (PROTEGE)



Forest research. NFI camp near Kupiano, Papua New Guinea. Photo: © Cory Wright

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Examples of key partners and programmes
<p>Environmentally and culturally sensitive tourism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some models of tourism, especially those with mass visitor numbers, have significant environmental and cultural impacts. • There is a risk that reliance on mass tourism creates greater vulnerability to global shocks, such as pandemics. • Travel restrictions due to COVID-19 risks the collapse or downsizing of many Pacific tourism enterprises. Potential impacts of this are the increased attractiveness of extractive industries such as mining or forestry, the disappearance of tourism-supported conservation projects, and increased harvesting pressure on wild species as people return to their villages. Conversely, it may also mean the temporary suspension of some detrimental tourism practices. • Some tourism operators consider environmental concerns to be a lower priority compared to the economic stresses of the pandemic. • Foreign-owned tourism operators may be difficult to influence or to regulate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pandemic recovery strategies must aim to ‘build back better’ to support economic, environmental and social cultural wellbeing in the Pacific. Recovery should aim beyond ‘sustainability’, to regeneration. • Tourism operators must proactively improve their efficiency of resource use and disposal, including best practices related to electricity, water, and waste. • Government agencies should mainstream environmental and cultural considerations as part of national and regional tourism development planning, and prioritise forms of tourism that enhance environmental and social-cultural wellbeing. • The tourism sector and partner organisations must participate in national or regional initiatives to reduce environmental threats, particularly those directly related to tourism practices. • The tourism sector should contribute economically to efforts to preserve the natural and cultural heritage that it relies upon. • Agencies and partner organisations should explore and encourage opportunities for local communities to establish small-scale sustainable tourism activities. • Appropriate indicators should be used to measure progress in the transition to more environmentally and culturally sensitive tourism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) programmes • ACP Support Programme for Small Island Developing States • Pacific Organic Tourism and Hospitality Standard

Tourist resort, Momi bay, Fiji
Photo: © Stuart Chape



Strategic Objective 3

Identify, conserve, sustainably manage and restore ecosystems, habitats, and priority natural and cultural sites.

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Examples of key partners and programmes
Effective marine protected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are challenges in assessment, monitoring, and enforcement of MPAs at all scales. Most MPA data focuses on spatial coverage, but it is much harder to measure the quality, effectiveness or equity implications of protection. • It is a continuing challenge to ensure that MPAs are adequately designed and sited to achieve multiple social, cultural, economic and ecological objectives. • Some forms of spatial protection may conflict with the livelihood needs of local communities. • Some local communities are reluctant to share protected area data or formally register their protected areas, due to concerns that this may impact their autonomy and customary rights. • Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) are yet to be adequately mapped in the Pacific. • The representative coverage of MPAs across marine ecoregions remains low. • There are ongoing challenges in integrating deep sea habitats into networks of MPAs. • There is not yet an accepted process for establishing MPAs on the high seas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The customary rights of communities to their locally managed marine areas and fisheries must be upheld. When effectively managed and monitored, these should be included in registers of natural and cultural protected areas. Customary rights must not be eroded through protected areas or spatial planning processes. • All Pacific communities should have support to establish locally managed or conserved marine areas if they wish to do so, including support to undertake or participate in appropriate marine spatial planning processes. For partner organisations, this might mean investing in capacity building networks and learning hubs to advance effective and lasting implementation. • Data should be collected on the spatial extent, habitat type, species presence/abundance, and health of protected areas over time, including through traditional, indigenous and local knowledge. Community members should be supported to lead or take part in the monitoring of protected areas, as appropriate. • Sufficient long-term resourcing must be made available for assessment, monitoring, enforcement, and other management actions in MPAs. This includes resourcing for government agencies and sustainable financing mechanisms to support the long-term role of local communities. • The identification and management planning of priority sites must take their changing role in seascape-level ecological functioning and connectivity into account, including across political jurisdictions and on the high seas. • MPA design and management should consider ways to reduce land-based impacts on coastal ecosystems. These may not be within the scope of communities to address and may require coordinated action across government agencies and partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN Marine Programme • IUCN Oceania Protected and Conserved Areas Programme, including BIOPAMA • SPREP-IUCN (PEUMP/APC-SIDS): Support for marine spatial planning across jurisdictions • Locally Managed Marine Area Network • Micronesia Challenge • WWF Accelerating Coastal Community-Led Conservation Initiative • BirdLife Marine and IBA/KBA programmes • SPREP-PEUMP By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Initiative

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Examples of key partners and programmes
<p>Marine ecological integrity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and global environmental pressures are escalating, with direct impacts on marine ecological integrity. These pressures include the loss and degradation of habitats, coastal development and pollution, over-fishing, climate change, and ocean acidification. • The rapid increase of many Pacific island populations and the associated increased rate of resource use is putting pressure on coastal marine ecosystems. • Across the Pacific there are relatively few long-term monitoring programs, or easily accessible datasets, for many key marine ecological indicators. • Ecosystems that are resilient in the face of one anthropogenic threat may be highly vulnerable to another. • Vulnerable marine ecosystems may not be explicitly mentioned in policy frameworks. • There is a risk that some restoration projects may be doomed to failure if they do not address the causes of decline. • Significant financial, capacity, and institutional barriers remain for Pacific islanders wishing to undertake training or become employed as marine ecologists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threatened or significant ecosystems and habitats should be assessed, mapped, and monitored. These include coral reefs, seagrass beds, and other Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) or Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). • Strategic environmental assessment and marine spatial planning processes should be established and implemented at national, sub-national, and community levels. These should be comprehensive, inclusive, and equitable, and should plan to manage marine ecosystems actively and adaptively for multiple types of benefits, such as biodiversity, food security, shoreline protection, and social-cultural values and functions. • Protections, regulations, and any other conservation measures must be designed, implemented, and enforced in partnership with local communities. Such measures should address multiple anthropogenic pressures to recover ecological resilience, integrity, and functioning. • The restoration of coastal ecosystems should be a key focus for conservation partnerships, ensuring that all partners understand and share the prioritisation of indigenous species. • Sustainable traditional ocean management should be promoted and defended by all parties, as should the right of Pacific communities to exercise these practices. • Businesses and other organisations must ensure fair and equitable economic returns to communities for their marine products. • Regional capacity to deliver effective and integrated ocean governance must be strengthened, including appropriate conservation measures for the high seas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KIWA Initiative • Coral Reef Rescue Initiative • Pacific Mangroves Initiative • SPREP-PEUMP Integrated ecosystem strategies and coastal zone management planning • SPREP-PEUMP Climate change adaptation strategies integrated into coastal community plans • TNC Reef Resilience Network • WWF Accelerating Coastal Community-Led Conservation Initiative • BirdLife Marine and IBA/ KBA programmes

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Examples of key partners and programmes
<p>Effective terrestrial protected areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are challenges in assessment, monitoring, and enforcement of protected areas at all scales. Most data focuses on spatial coverage, but it is much harder to measure the quality, effectiveness or equity implications of protection. • It is a continuing challenge to ensure that protected areas are adequately designed and sited to achieve multiple social, cultural, economic and ecological objectives. • Across the region there is limited utilisation of appropriate evaluation protocols such as Protected Area Management Effectiveness. • Protected areas do not necessarily align to areas important for biodiversity or ecosystem functioning. • Some forms of spatial protection areas may conflict with the livelihood needs of local communities. • Some local communities are reluctant to share protected area data or formally register their protected areas, due to concerns that this may impact their autonomy and customary rights. • Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) are yet to be adequately mapped in the Pacific. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The customary rights of communities to their locally managed areas and agrobiodiversity systems must be upheld. When effectively managed and monitored, these should be included in registers of natural and cultural protected areas. Customary rights must not be eroded through protected areas or spatial planning processes. • All Pacific communities should have support to establish locally managed or conserved terrestrial areas if they wish to do so, including support to undertake or participate in appropriate spatial planning processes. For partner organisations, this might mean investing in capacity building networks and learning hubs to advance effective and lasting implementation. • Data should be collected on the spatial extent, habitat type, species presence/abundance, and health of protected areas over time, including through traditional, indigenous and local knowledge. Community members should be supported to lead or take part in the monitoring of protected areas, as appropriate. • Sufficient long-term resourcing must be made available for assessment, monitoring, enforcement, and other management actions in protected areas. This includes resourcing for government agencies and sustainable financing mechanisms to support the long-term role of local communities. • The identification and management planning of priority sites must take their changing role in landscape-level ecological functioning and connectivity into account, including their impact on freshwater and marine ecosystems, alongside the values and interests of communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN Oceania Protected and Conserved Areas Programme, including BIOPAMA • Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) • SPREP-PEUMP Integrated ecosystem strategies and coastal zone management planning • SPREP-PEUMP Climate change adaptation strategies integrated into coastal community plans • Micronesia Challenge • BirdLife IBA/KBA programme

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Examples of key partners and programmes
<p>Terrestrial ecological integrity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local and global environmental pressures are escalating, with direct impacts on terrestrial ecosystems and their associated cultural values. These pressures include the loss and degradation of habitats, land development and pollution, forestry, invasive species, mining, wildfires, the conversion of diverse agroecological systems into monocultural cropping spaces, and the many effects of climate change. The rapid increase of many Pacific island populations and the associated increased rate of resource use is putting pressure on many terrestrial ecosystems. Across the Pacific there are relatively few long-term monitoring programs, or easily accessible datasets, for many key terrestrial or freshwater ecological indicators. Ecosystems that are resilient in the face of one anthropogenic threat may be highly vulnerable to another. Vulnerable terrestrial ecosystems may not be explicitly mentioned in policy frameworks. There is a risk that some restoration projects may be doomed to failure if they do not address the causes of decline. Significant financial, capacity, and institutional barriers remain for Pacific islanders wishing to undertake training or become employed as terrestrial ecologists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threatened or significant ecosystems and habitats, such as native forests, should be assessed, mapped, and monitored in partnership with communities. Strategic environmental assessment and spatial planning processes should be established and implemented at national, sub-national, and community levels. These should be comprehensive, inclusive, and equitable, and should plan to manage terrestrial ecosystems actively and adaptively for multiple types of benefits, such as biodiversity, food security, soil and water health, carbon capture, and social-cultural values and functions. Protections, regulations, and any other conservation measures must be designed, implemented, and enforced in partnership with local communities. Such measures should address multiple anthropogenic pressures to recover ecological resilience, integrity, and functioning. The restoration of forest ecosystems should be a key focus for conservation partnerships, ensuring that all partners understand and share the prioritisation of indigenous species. Sustainable traditional land management, forest use, and farming practices should be promoted and defended by all parties, as should the right of Pacific communities to exercise these practices. Businesses and other organisations must ensure fair and equitable economic returns to communities for their forest and agricultural products. Sustainable financing mechanisms should be established to support place-based conservation and management, especially to support the role of landowners and local communities. Where possible, indices that consider ecological integrity, ecological benefits to people, and governance components (for instance, the Freshwater Health Index) are a useful tool to make sense of monitoring data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KIWA Initiative Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) SPREP-PEUMP Integrated ecosystem strategies and coastal zone management planning SPREP-PEUMP Climate change adaptation strategies integrated into coastal community plans BirdLife IBA/KBA, Invasive Alien Species and Preventing Extinctions programmes SPC Pacific Territories Regional Project for Sustainable Ecosystem Management (PROTEGE) SPC-UNDP Managing Coastal Aquifers in Selected Pacific SIDS (MCAP) SPC Regional Forest Inventory Facility

Strategic Objective 4

Protect and recover threatened species and preserve genetic diversity, focusing on those of particular ecological, cultural and economic significance.

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Examples of key partners and programmes
<p>Reducing threats to threatened and migratory marine species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population numbers of keystone species are declining across the Pacific, with wider ecological impacts. Migratory marine species are threatened by interactions with fisheries, illegal wildlife trade, unsustainable harvest, tourism pressure, pollution, loss of significant island habitats, invasive species, and climate change. There is a loss of Pacific cultural knowledge relating to threatened and migratory marine species. There is a relative lack of scientific data on the status, connectivity, and threats to many IUCN Red List marine species in the Pacific. Most knowledge relates to nearshore species, with a scarcity of information about offshore species. There are challenges in ensuring that research data is adequately disseminated to governments and regional organisations in ways that are useful for management decisions. Decisions about management of migratory marine species often require cooperation across multiple national jurisdictions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species-specific conservation and recovery plans should be developed, resourced, and implemented in partnership with Pacific communities. These should promote links between threatened marine species and cultural heritage. Partner organisations should strengthen systems and capacity for monitoring threatened marine and migratory species, by developing their relationships with Pacific communities and by sharing data between national and regional agencies. All parties must support Pacific island scientists and knowledge keepers, including through training in taxonomy and biodiversity assessments, and ensure transmission of knowledge by establishing paid positions in these areas of expertise. Likewise, partner organisations must support non-Pacific island scientists to understand the central role of indigenous taxonomies in conservation monitoring. Appropriate social, cultural, and economic incentives should be established for reducing direct overexploitation and trade of threatened marine species, in partnership with community leaders and relevant stakeholders. Partner organisations should ensure long-term financing to monitor and recover threatened and migratory marine species. Regional cooperation is critical to increase protection and enforcement across sub-national and national boundaries, reflecting the natural ranges of threatened migratory species. Government agencies and other organisations should partner for the management of priority species, including essential partnerships between environmental managers and biosecurity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine Turtle Use and Trade Initiative Marine Research Foundation-SPREP-PEUMP Marine turtle extinction risk assessments SPREP-PEUMP Cetacean Review in the Western Central Pacific Ocean SPREP-TRAFFIC-SPC-PEUMP Building capacity of Pacific CITES Parties TNC Electronic Monitoring Programme USP-PEUMP research programmes Bilateral support from partner countries for CITES and marine species action plans BirdLife IBA/KBA, Marine, Migratory Birds and Preventing Extinctions programmes

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Examples of key partners and programmes
<p>Reducing threats to threatened and migratory terrestrial species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population numbers of keystone species are declining across the Pacific, with wider ecological impacts. • Many terrestrial species in the Pacific are threatened by illegal wildlife trade, unsustainable harvest, pollution, land use change and loss of significant habitats, invasive species, and climate change. • Many island endemic species have highly specialised habitats and ecological interactions, making them highly vulnerable to a range of threats. • There is a loss of Pacific cultural knowledge relating to threatened and migratory terrestrial species. • There is a relative lack of scientific data on the status, connectivity, and threats to many IUCN Red List terrestrial species in the Pacific. • There are challenges in ensuring that research data is adequately disseminated to governments and regional organisations in ways that are useful for management decisions. • Decisions about management of migratory species often require cooperation across multiple national jurisdictions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species-specific conservation and recovery plans should be developed, resourced, and implemented in partnership with Pacific communities. These should promote links between threatened marine species and cultural heritage. • Partner organisations should strengthen systems and capacity for monitoring threatened marine and migratory species, by developing their relationships with Pacific communities and by sharing data between national and regional agencies. • All parties must support Pacific island scientists and knowledge keepers, including through training in taxonomy and biodiversity assessments, and ensure transmission of knowledge by establishing paid positions in these areas of expertise. Likewise, partner organisations must support non-Pacific island scientists to understand the central role of indigenous taxonomies in conservation monitoring. • Appropriate social, cultural, and economic incentives should be established for reducing direct overexploitation and trade of threatened terrestrial species, in partnership with community leaders and relevant stakeholders. • Partner organisations should ensure long-term financing to monitor and recover threatened and migratory terrestrial species. • Regional cooperation is critical to increase protection and enforcement across sub-national and national boundaries, reflecting the natural ranges of threatened migratory species. • Government agencies and other organisations should partner for the management of priority species, including essential partnerships between environmental managers and biosecurity officials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) • Pacific Bat Forum Group (PacBat) • Bilateral support from partner countries for CITES implementation • BirdLife IBA/KBA, Invasive Alien Species and Preventing Extinctions programmes • SPC Oceanic Fisheries Programme

Strategic Objective 5

Manage and reduce threats to Pacific environments and drivers of biodiversity loss.

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Examples of key partners and programmes
<p>Ending unsustainable fishing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The large size of Pacific EEZs, together with the limited regional capacity for monitoring and enforcement, makes compliance with fisheries regulations a major challenge. • Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing remains a key threat to Pacific fisheries. The majority of IUU fishing occurs through rule-breaking by licensed vessels, such as misreporting or underreporting. • Reducing unintentional harm to non-target species through bycatch remains a challenge across the region. • There is a need to find sustainable alternatives to depleted fish stocks, especially in nearshore and reef fisheries, to maintain food security while allowing stocks to recover. • The shifting distribution of important pelagic fish stocks due to climate change will cause significant disruption to Pacific fisheries, and introduce new uncertainties to fisheries management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All parties should support local and community-based fisheries management where possible, especially practices based on traditional, indigenous, and local knowledge. • Fisheries management should take an ecosystem-based approach that considers impacts on both target and non-target species, as well as the cumulative effects of other maritime activities. • Land-based impacts on coastal fisheries, such as those from logging, mining, and agricultural activities, should be actively managed and reduced where possible. These are often not within the scope of communities to address and require coordinated action across multiple government agencies and other partners. • Relevant parties must continue to strengthen national and regional monitoring, control, and surveillance systems and capacity, including in collaboration with local communities where applicable. • Catch monitoring should be strengthened, including through increased observer coverage, electronic and remote monitoring, and dockside compliance inspections. • The monitoring and regulation of transshipment activity should be strengthened, including through analytical identification and traceability techniques and by enforcing stronger sanctions. • Government agencies and partners must ensure implementation of the regional Port State Measures framework. • National and regional agencies and their partner organisations must address inshore IUU fishing in partnership with coastal communities, ensuring that programmes emphasise links to human rights, health, cultural and heritage values, and livelihoods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPREP-PEUMP By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) Initiative • WWF Community-based Fisheries Management Programme • SPREP-PEUMP-WWF-FFA Port-based extension programme for by-catch mitigation in the Pacific longline fleet • USP-PEUMP Diploma Programme on Fisheries Investigation and Prosecution • TNC Coastal Fisheries and Electronic Monitoring Programmes • Rare: Fish Forever program • BirdLife Marine Programme

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Examples of key partners and programmes
<p>Ecosystem - based approaches to climate change, pandemic and disaster response</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a global gap in human and financial capacity to support ecosystem-based approaches. Only a very small proportion of international climate finance is directed to ecosystem-based approaches. • Across much of the Pacific there is poor-quality baseline data at the local scale. • National legislation and planning, including that related to ecosystem-based approaches, sometimes does not sufficiently align with local livelihoods and customary law. • In some contexts there may be significant uncertainty about the effectiveness and longevity of ecosystem-based approaches. • The general absence of cross-sectoral or landscape/ seascape level approaches can mean that different sectors and agencies send out conflicting messages about responses to climate change, health crises, and other disasters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pandemic recovery strategies must aim to ‘build back better’ to support economic, environmental and social cultural wellbeing in the Pacific. Recovery should aim beyond ‘sustainability’, to regeneration. • Regional agencies and partner organisations should create and utilise learning exchanges and platforms for action to build regional capacity within, and linkages between, communities and programmes working on nature conservation, human health, and disaster and climate resilience. • All parties must implement relevant agreements for climate change and disaster risk management, such as the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific, with priority given to ecosystem-based approaches and solutions. • All parties should co-design synergistic linkages between programmes and projects to maximise the multiple benefits of ecosystem-based approaches for nature conservation, climate and disaster resilience, and human health. • Pandemic and disaster preparedness and recovery planning should be based on systems thinking that incorporates interactions between ecological, human, and animal health, when possible within natural boundaries such as watersheds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KIWA Initiative • IUCN Melanesian Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Resilience Program (M-CMERP) • ACP Support Programme for Small Island Developing States • SPREP-PEUMP Integrated ecosystem strategies and coastal zone management planning • SPREP-PEUMP Climate change adaptation strategies integrated into coastal community plans • Pacific Ridge to Reef (R2R) • SPREP-SPC-PIFS-USP Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) • SPC-PIFS-World Bank Pacific Resilience Program (PREP)

Dead forest on disappearing island, Solomon Islands
Photo: © Stuart Chape



Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Examples of key partners and programmes
<p>Deep-sea mining (DSM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is limited information available on the potential impacts of DSM, including its spatial and temporal effects and the nature of cumulative impacts with other types of threat. • Vast areas of the deep sea have not been explored and the biodiversity or functioning of these ecosystems is yet to be understood. • Across the region there is a widespread lack of awareness of the potential impacts of DSM among decision-makers and other stakeholders, including communities. • The economic stress of the COVID-19 pandemic may make DSM more attractive to decision-makers as a new industrial opportunity for the Pacific, despite there being no guaranteed economic benefits of DSM to Pacific island countries and territories. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government agencies and regional partners should establish and enforce requirements for rigorous and independent environmental and cultural impact assessments, and strategic environmental assessments, of all elements of proposed industrial activities impacting deep-sea environments. Compliance with the recommendations of these assessments must be rigorously enforced. • All parties must uphold the rights of Pacific communities and civil society organisations to meaningfully participate in decisions about prospecting or mining in deep-sea environments, and ensure that these activities include robust processes for seeking free, prior, and informed consent from communities. • A precautionary approach should be applied to DSM and prospecting activity, including ensuring that the environmental, social and economic risks are comprehensively understood, and not proceeding until it can be clearly demonstrated that impacts can be managed to ensure the effective protection of ocean ecosystems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG) initiatives • WWF-Deep Sea Conservation Coalition ‘No Deep Seabed Mining’ Initiative • IUCN Pacific Centre for Environmental Governance (PCEG) • SPC-PEW collaboration ‘Improving engagement with the International Seabed Authority on DSM governance’

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Examples of key partners and programmes
<p>Battling invasive species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacific islands are ‘extinction epicentres’ that are amenable to a wide range of potentially invasive species. • Invasion risks are increasing with increased travel and movement of goods. • Wider environmental pressures such as climate change increase the vulnerability of Pacific communities and ecosystems to invasive species, and intensify the impacts of these species. Conversely, invasive species also increase the vulnerability of Pacific communities and ecosystems to climate change. • There is a need for more effective knowledge- and skill-sharing across the Pacific, as management approaches may be highly specific to a particular species and environment. • There is a major regional gap in ‘on the ground’ practical initiatives targeted at priority invasive species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The presence and impacts of invasive species must be measured and monitored, with attention to filling knowledge gaps on the social, cultural, and economic impacts of invasive species and on the effectiveness of management actions. • National and regional agencies, and their partners, must plan to prevent the movement of invasive species into and among islands, both domestically and regionally. • Priority sites and species must be protected from invasive species threats through partnerships with biosecurity, land-use planning, and communities, drawing on traditional, indigenous, and local knowledge. • Native species, priority sites, and habitats must be restored as part of invasive species management approaches, with long-term monitoring of the cascading impacts and benefits of restoration. • All parties should partner for biosecurity, for knowledge exchange around best practice, and for increased regional resourcing of invasive species management and native habitat restoration. • Local communities should be involved in all areas of invasive species management, including project selection, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. This will enhance the chances of projects succeeding and outcomes being sustained. • All parties should implement the <i>Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL) • Pacific Invasive Learning Network (PILN) • Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) • Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP) • Micronesia Challenge • BirdLife IAS programme • SPC Biosecurity programme & pest risk analysis
<p>Preventing plastics pollution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a very high proportion of plastic in waste streams in the Pacific, as well as marine litter and microplastics. • The transboundary nature of marine plastic pollution means that Pacific ecosystems will continue to receive plastic waste independent of their domestic rates of plastic consumption or pollution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional and government agencies and their partners should adopt systems thinking that accounts for entire value chains, and which identifies strategic intervention points to tackle the ‘hotspots’ related to plastic pollution. These may be at the design, production, consumption or waste management phases. • Management actions should be targeted as high on the waste hierarchy as possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN Plastic Waste Free Islands • ANZPAC Plastics Pact • BirdLife Marine programme • USP-PEUMP research programmes

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Examples of key partners and programmes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is very difficult to monitor or manage the illegal dumping of plastic waste at sea. There is a substantial waste burden from the fishing sector, largely in the form of abandoned, lost, or derelict fishing gear. • There are high costs associated with recycling in the Pacific, both for in-country recycling systems and for transporting off-shore. • There is relatively low awareness of the cross-cutting impacts of plastic pollution on food security, health and well-being, ecosystem integrity, and economies. Pacific peoples are especially affected by these impacts, due to our intimate cultural and livelihood links to the ocean. • Many islands have high dependency on imported products with plastic components or packaging. • Lack of extended producer responsibility (EPR) policies in the region, meaning that Pacific peoples are burdened with the responsibility of finding a remedy for increased plastic pollution. • Current economic models promote short-term use of natural resources, with a lack of accountability for social or environmental consequences. • There is still very limited consideration of the applicability of circular economies in Pacific contexts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources and trends of plastic waste should be identified using waste audits, citizen science, and appropriate landfill management tools. Spending on plastic waste should be measured, including the cost of landfill management, clean-ups, and habitat rehabilitation. • Pacific countries and territories should legislate for extended producer responsibility and product stewardship schemes. • Pacific countries and territories should adopt policy and law frameworks prioritising plastic pollution prevention over waste management, with specific references to plastic pollution elimination. • Pacific countries and territories should adopt importation and trade restrictions on problematic plastics and polymers, including single-use bioplastics. • All parties should promote prevention, return, recycling, and traditional and innovative alternatives to plastic, with the engagement of local communities and businesses. Ensure that traditional knowledge holders and craftspeople are fairly compensated and acknowledged through FPIC processes. • Government agencies and their partners should commit to engaging in a circular plastics economy and engage with proponents driving upstream changes at international, regional, national, and local levels. • Pacific countries and territories must continue to advocate internationally for the elimination of plastic pollution, especially by Pacific Rim countries, and for a global treaty on plastic pollution. • All parties should implement the Cleaner Pacific 2025 strategy and Pacific Regional Action Plan – Marine Litter 2018-2025. 	

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Examples of key partners and programmes
<p>Preventing terrestrial, freshwater and marine pollution (non-plastic)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are challenges in ensuring effective enforcement of existing regulations around waste, chemicals and pollution (WCP). • There is a lack of monitoring data related to specific catchments or localities. This is a significant gap as pollution may be highly site-specific. • Across the region, solid waste is mostly disposed of in land environments, including landfills and informal dumps; burning is also a common practice. There are serious funding limitations for implementing other disposal methods, despite the ecological and human health impacts of current practices. • Preventing pollution in the upper part of a catchment may involve a significant local cost whilst mostly benefitting ecosystems and communities downstream. • Current economic models promote short-term use of natural resources, with a lack of accountability for social or environmental consequences. • There is still very limited consideration of the applicability of circular economies in Pacific contexts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and reporting for WCP management activities, and the receiving environment, should be expanded. • All parties should implement the Cleaner Pacific 2025: Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy. Government agencies should develop or finalise their national WCP strategies and action plans aligned with this strategy. • Pacific island countries and territories should develop and implement practical and enforceable WCP legislation. • All relevant partners should work to implement integrated, cost-effective, technically appropriate and culturally acceptable practices and technologies that minimise and manage WCP from multiple sources. • Government agencies and their partners should develop inventories of hazardous waste, to facilitate appropriate management. • Pacific communities must be fully involved in WCP management that impacts their island or ocean territories, including through the use of traditional, indigenous, and local knowledge. • Capacity development for WCP management professionals and stakeholders should be a priority across the region. • Government agencies and their partners should commit to transitioning towards ‘circular’ economies in waste-producing sectors, and should engage with proponents driving upstream changes at international, regional, national, and local levels. • Regional and government agencies and their partners should adopt systems thinking that accounts for entire value chains, and which identifies strategic intervention points to tackle the ‘hotspots’ related to WCP. These may be at the design, production, consumption or waste management phases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL) • USP-PEUMP research programmes

Strategic Objective 6

Grow Pacific capacity and partnerships to effectively monitor, govern and finance nature conservation action.

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Examples of key partners and programmes
<p>Science and traditional knowledge for target-setting and monitoring</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are regional challenges in the capacity to collect, analyse, interpret and share data for diverse audiences and decision making. • Relevant regional indicators are needed that can be used to inform real time decision making for adaptive management. • The expertise of local people in the theory and practice of conservation often goes unrecognised. • It is very difficult to quantify the importance of nature for people within national or regional indicators. • Regional indicators that draw on data from diverse environmental and cultural contexts may risk oversimplify complex trends. • Significant financial, capacity, and institutional barriers remain for Pacific islanders wishing to undertake training or become employed in nature conservation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All parties should support the development of domestic and community-level monitoring capacity, including monitoring based on cultural indicators and traditional, indigenous and local knowledge. Where appropriate this data should feed into national and regional knowledge management systems. • All parties must safeguard the rights of Pacific communities to make informed decisions about when and how target-setting and monitoring will occur, and must likewise uphold indigenous sovereignty over locally derived environmental and cultural information. This is especially important at the design phase of conservation initiatives. • Centralised data services should be utilised to assist with monitoring and evaluation of conservation and management activities, and to provide accessible data for environmental management. • Agencies and their partners should collaborate for information collection and analysis, reporting, and open and timely sharing of environmental information. • All parties should plan for sustained environmental reporting in changing conditions, including preparedness and disaster risk management. • All parties must support Pacific island scientists and knowledge holders, and ensure transmission of knowledge by supporting or establishing paid positions for indigenous knowledge holders within nature conservation initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TNC Voice, Choice and Action Framework • USP-PEUMP research programmes • SPREP-PEUMP community engagement in the planning and implementation of Rapid Biodiversity Assessments (BIORAPS); Ecosystem and Socio-economic Resilience Analysis and Mapping (ESRAM) and Integrated Ecosystem Management Planning • UN Decade of Ocean Science

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Examples of key partners and programmes
<p>Governance that works for nature conservation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are regional challenges in ensuring accountability and transparency in governance processes. • Within Pacific governments, environment agencies are often understaffed and have high rates of turnover. • Across the Pacific there is insufficient institutional and financial capacity for effective environmental governance. • There are complex jurisdiction issues for transboundary hazards, or species that rely on both land and sea habitats. • Transparency and accountability in decision making remains a challenge, at all scales of governance and within all kinds of organisations. • In many cases processes for engaging with Pacific communities remain inadequate, including ensuring free, prior, and informed consent for conservation initiatives. • Existing national, regional, and global legal frameworks may be insufficient to address the Pacific's current environmental crises. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacific island countries and territories should strengthen existing national and regional legal frameworks, and give due weight to the enforcement of environmental considerations across ministries and regional agencies. Where appropriate, the influence of environmental ministries in government decision making should be strengthened. • Transparency and accountability should be strengthened by establishing systems for free access to information on decision making, and by resourcing independent regulatory bodies where appropriate. • Government agencies and their partner organisations must ensure that conservation partnerships enhance the implementation of local, regional, and international laws and agreements as well as new and existing programme linkages. • All parties must contribute towards accountable, transparent and courageous political leadership for addressing ultimate and proximate threats to biodiversity: both domestically, within our region, and as a strong Blue Pacific voice in global negotiations. • Regional ocean governance should continue to be integrated across national jurisdictions. • Pacific island countries and territories, and their partners, should explore novel articulations of environmental law appropriate to their contexts, including legal recognition of the inherent rights, voice, and agency of natural entities as understood by the indigenous peoples of the Pacific. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACP Multilateral Environmental Agreements programme • IUCN Pacific Centre for Environmental Governance (PCEG) • Micronesia Conservation Trust/PIMPAC environmental law fellowship • Bilateral support from partner countries to support MEA implementation • BirdLife Local Engagement and Empowerment programme and Capacity Development programme • SPC-SPREP-USP Global Climate Change Alliance Plus - Scaling up Pacific Adaptation project

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Examples of key partners and programmes
<p>Sustainable financing for nature conservation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global sources of finance targeted at nature conservation are far smaller than those for broader sustainability initiatives, and is insufficient to meet the requirements of conservation. • Competing priorities within national budget allocations limit the finance available for nature conservation. • The most commonly available sources of conservation finance (such as official development assistance, grants, domestic budgets, etc) are those least likely to be scalable. • In many contexts there are limited opportunities to directly generate sustainable income for conservation initiatives. • The timeframes of project and funding cycles are often different from what is optimal for effective conservation. • Not all conservation initiatives will have a financial return on investment, despite having meaningful impacts for nature and people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All parties should embrace a regional, collective, Blue Pacific approach to conservation partnerships and financing. • Government agencies should establish and enforce licence fees for environmentally impactful activities, alongside fines for breaches. These should be invested in resource management, regulation and enforcement. • The co-benefits of nature conservation initiatives to access novel areas of financing should be emphasised (for instance, co-benefits for areas such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, economic and community development, human health, and human rights). • Local conservation initiatives should be encouraged and supported to be self-sustaining where possible, including through equitable partnerships with the private sector. • Funders, government agencies and partner organisations should encourage the redirection of public and private sector finance to support the delivery of equitable and sustainable conservation. • Where appropriate, national or regional conservation trust funds should be utilised to support community-based conservation at scale. • Funding organisations should increase the availability and accessibility of small grants to enable and support community-level conservation initiatives within the Pacific. • Compulsory or voluntary visitor fees can be a useful finance mechanism at the national or local level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN Pacific Centre for Environmental Governance (PCEG) • IUCN Oceania Protected and Conserved Areas Programme, including BIOPAMA • Micronesia Challenge

Implementation and communication of the Framework

Addressing the multiple environmental crises facing the Pacific region depends on rigorous implementation of regional and global frameworks, agreements, and policy documents, including this one. Implementation of this Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021-2025 is the collective responsibility of its broad range of conservation stakeholders, although these responsibilities differ between groups of stakeholders (see section ‘Who should use this Framework, and how?’). The Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) also has a particular role in promoting, facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the Framework.

Communication to ensure visibility and understanding of the Framework among stakeholders is a critical factor for its successful implementation. PIRT will prepare and execute a communication plan to promote implementation of the

Framework among its own member organisations on working groups, Pacific government agencies, and other stakeholders. This will require commitment to an ongoing programme of strategic and focused engagement across the region, and appropriate resourcing to facilitate this. PIRT will also engage proactively with donor agencies to encourage the Strategic Objectives and Principles of the Framework to be integrated into funding criteria, project prioritisation, and reporting processes.

A key principle of multilateral agreements is that the delivery of any one agreement or framework should be consistent with that of others. Implementation of this Framework should therefore occur in a manner that aligns with other relevant global and regional frameworks; a selection of the most directly relevant are presented in Appendix B.



Cook Islands, Rarotonga. Photo: © AddieStudio.com

Governance arrangements

As above, this Framework is intended to be ‘owned’ by all Pacific conservation stakeholders collectively, with PIRT having overall responsibilities for its governance. SPREP is the permanent secretariat for PIRT, and in this function will administer the Framework, arrange for high-level endorsement, lead the resolution of any issues arising, and undertake regular liaison with CBD focal points within Pacific government agencies.

The Framework will be presented to Pacific leaders for formal endorsement at the 30th SPREP Meeting, September 2021. Other stakeholders are likewise invited to formally endorse the Framework and make commitments to its implementation.

The Framework will be reviewed and updated at the 11th Pacific Nature Conference, planned for 2025.

Measuring progress

The broad strategic nature of the Framework makes measuring progress significantly more difficult than for many other environmental agreements. This 2021-2025 Framework deliberately avoids establishing quantifiable targets, considering that this is the right and responsibility of Pacific island countries and territories as part of their engagement with the CBD and their own national planning processes. It is also considered that capacity constraints would inhibit the establishment of a set of regional conservation targets and indicators accompanied by their own monitoring and reporting regime, since in many cases producing National Reports to the CBD already constitutes a major burden of work for officials. Establishing systems for measuring progress has been an enduring challenge for all previous Pacific conservation frameworks and action strategies.

The environmental monitoring and reporting systems of the Pacific have evolved significantly in the last five years. The SPREP-led data management project 'Inform' has produced a set of core national environmental indicators to help Pacific island countries and territories meet their existing domestic and international reporting obligations. They have been designed to be repeatable to demonstrate trajectories in key aspects of environmental health, and are

the foundation of the State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report (SOEC). As the SOEC is produced at the same five-yearly intervals as the Framework, it makes sense to consider it as the monitoring mechanism for the Framework.

It is recommended that the next Framework review, planned for 2025, should include a qualitative assessment of progress on the six Strategic Objectives based on the time-series trends revealed by the Inform indicators in the updated SOEC, as well other relevant regional datasets. If considered appropriate, this assessment can be included in the SOEC. This is intended as a flexible and adaptive approach that considers emerging as well as existing environmental datasets and metrics. Strengthening the explicit linkages between the SOEC and the Framework will be a key priority in the early stages of the next review process for both documents.

Optional additional approaches for assessing progress include compilation and analysis of National Reports produced for the CBD, if desired; and working with PIRT member organisations and donor agencies to track their implementation of the Framework over time. These analyses are likely to constitute significant bodies of work, and will need to be resourced appropriately.

Process for the development of this Framework

This Framework is the result of an extensive consultation process involving representatives of Pacific government agencies, CROP agencies, PIRT member organisations, funding agencies, and other conservation stakeholders from across the region. This was primarily through an online survey circulated widely to stakeholders, and through individual interviews where appropriate. A consultation and feedback session involving staff from Pacific government environment departments was also held in Apia in February 2020, as part of a separate workshop organised by SPREP. Additionally, a desktop review of the 2014-2020 Framework was undertaken, focusing on its key features and how these delivered on its purpose.

A draft Framework was prepared based on key messages from this consultation, and received comments from SPREP, PIRT members, and CBD focal points from Pacific island countries and territories. The draft was presented to the 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in November 2020, and received further input and feedback in a series of facilitated virtual discussions with some of the most knowledgeable conservation practitioners in the Pacific. This final Framework is a product of the collective experience and perspectives of all those who participated in its development.

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Vemööre Declaration

**Commitments to nature conservation action
in the Pacific islands region, 2021-2025**

Vemööre¹ Declaration: Commitments to nature conservation action in the Pacific islands region, 2021-2025

Preamble

We, representatives of the governments of 14² Pacific island countries and territories, our partner countries, and the Heads of Organisations of 11³ members of the Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation, gathered for the High-Level Session of the 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, declare that the global biodiversity crisis is urgent, and that transformative action must not be delayed. This crisis is an existential threat to our Pacific Ocean, our Pacific islands, and to ourselves as Pacific peoples.

We join world leaders that met at the UN Summit on Biodiversity 2020 and recognised the current planetary emergency of interdependent crises of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation and climate change that requires urgent and immediate global action.

We note with grave concern that none of the global 2011-2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets have been fully met. The Blue Pacific collectively calls for all countries to adopt a strong deal for nature and people, to reverse or halt the loss of our natural ecosystems and put nature on a path to recovery by 2030.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a stark reminder of the dependency of all our societies on healthy and resilient natural ecosystems. Our necessary social and economic recovery from the pandemic is a regional and global opportunity to transform our collective relationship with the natural world, and to build back better.

We recognize the potential of our Pacific islands to lead the world in ecological stewardship, drawing on our rich indigenous heritage and the close relationship of our communities with the land, sea and sky.

We welcome the Leaders Pledge for Nature: United to Reverse Biodiversity Loss by 2030 for Sustainable Development and its ten commitments. We are committed to full and integrated implementation of the many existing international and regional efforts to address the biodiversity crisis, including the *Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021-2025*, the *Sustainable Development Goals*, and the *post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*. In this Declaration we recognise, endorse and commit to implementing 21 priority Action Tracks by 2025 to ensure the recovery and flourishing of both nature and people in the Blue Pacific.

1. 'Vemööre' is a term in the Kwéyî language from the Isle of Pines, New Caledonia, that refers to making something viable. It is used to highlight our collective commitment and responsibility to implement the principles of life, to preserve balance, to build alliances, and to respect the word between people and between the spirits of our environment. Vemööre is also close to the notion of resilience.

2. In attendance at the virtual High-level segment of the 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas for the Pacific island Country and Territories was the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna. Partner countries attending were Australia, France, and New Zealand. Remaining countries and territories not able to attend will be invited to endorse.

3. Pacific island Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) members present were BirdLife International, cChange Pacific, Conservation International, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Oceania Regional Office, The Nature Conservancy, Pacific Community, Protected Area Learning Research Collaborative (PALRC), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) - New Caledonia, and World Wide Fund for Nature-Pacific.



Photo: © Ocean Ventures Fiji

Our Ocean

Our Pacific Ocean is the foundation of our cultures, livelihoods and identities: our source of life. As island peoples we understand that we have obligations towards our ancestral ocean which supports and sustains us, both within and beyond our national jurisdictions. The ocean is inseparable from Pacific peoples, cultures, economies and societies all of which are endangered by global and local threats including climate change, acidification, overfishing, plastics and other pollution, and unsustainable use and management of deep sea resources.

We reaffirm the regional ocean policy instruments already adopted by the Blue Pacific, and recommit to strengthened implementation of these. We likewise reaffirm the central role of our traditional, indigenous, and local knowledge in making wise decisions about our shared ocean.

We recognise, endorse and commit to implementing the following Action Tracks:

1. Expanding our networks of **marine protected areas** (MPAs), including locally managed marine areas, and other area-based effective conservation measures. We will ensure that our MPA networks are ecologically representative, sustainably and effectively managed and resourced, community-led, and socially equitable.
2. Maintaining and restoring **marine ecosystem integrity**, recognising the importance of threatened or significant ecosystems and habitats, such as coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds, to our environmental, economic, and cultural wellbeing. Underpinned by community led management approaches we commit to managing, reducing, and eventually eliminating locally derived threats to marine ecological health, connectivity, and functioning.
3. Safeguarding our **threatened and migratory species**, recognising that the decline or loss of key species will fundamentally and irrevocably alter our oceanic ecosystems, livelihoods and cultural heritage.
4. **Ending unsustainable fishing** in nearshore and pelagic waters, including the high seas. We commit to continued and urgent action on illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, which threatens marine ecosystems, livelihoods, human rights, and development opportunities in the Pacific.
5. **Preventing marine pollution** by eliminating sources of discharge within our region, transitioning to circular island economies, and advocating internationally for Pacific Rim polluters to improve consumption and waste practices. We reaffirm the Kainaki II Declaration for our Pacific commitment to work to protect our ocean from harmful plastics through our Pacific Regional Marine Litter Action Plan 2018-2025.
6. Entrenching a precautionary approach to any proposed **deep-sea and seabed mining** activities. We acknowledge the imperative for responsible stewardship of deep-sea and seabed environments in our national jurisdictions and on the high seas.



Rock Islands, Palau. Photo: © Stuart Chape

Our Islands

As Pacific peoples, our islands are our homes. Our forests, soils, and wetlands have supported our societies for millennia, and our cultures, stories, and identities are inseparable from our lands. Multiple global and local pressures now pose existential risks to our islands, our people, and our ecologies: these include climate change, invasive species, overexploitation of natural resources, pollution, wildfires, degradation and fragmentation of our ecosystems and pandemics.

The health of our islands is intimately intertwined with that of our ocean and our people. We must work with our communities and partners to address multiple threats, and achieve multiple benefits, by working towards whole-domain environmental management across land and sea.

We recognise, endorse and commit to implementing the following Action Tracks:

7. Strengthening our networks of **terrestrial protected areas**, including community-based areas utilising sustainable customary management practices. We note the importance of protected areas for our indigenous biodiversity, livelihoods, culture and resilience against climate threats.
8. Restoring **terrestrial ecosystem integrity** by reducing and managing threats to our native forests, watersheds and agroecological systems. Traditional, indigenous, and local knowledge plays a key role in actively managing our islands towards restoration of their abundance and ecological functioning.
9. Safeguarding our endemic, **threatened and migratory species**. We stress the need for well-resourced species recovery plans, especially for species of particular ecological, cultural or economic significance.
10. Implementing **nature-based solutions to sustain social-ecological systems** as a fundamental response to climate impacts, disaster risk management, water and food insecurity, and threats to human health.
11. **Battling invasive species** through biosecurity partnerships, sharing knowledge and information, and resourcing to increase management and eradication effectiveness.
12. **Preventing land and freshwater pollution** from industrial, agricultural, household and other sources on our islands, in partnership with communities and businesses.



Our Connection with Nature

Upper Mataniko River, Solomon Islands. Photo: © Stuart Chape

Our Connection with Nature

Our connection to our Pacific environments is expressed in our identities, livelihoods, cultural practices, and traditional, indigenous and local knowledge. It is also reflected in our natural resource-based economies, and we recognise the imperative that these resources are utilised sustainably in all our processes of economic development.

We reaffirm that our communities have the right to free, prior, and informed consent about all place-based nature conservation and economic development initiatives. Our communities also have rights to fair and equitable sharing of the monetary and other benefits of the utilisation of genetic resources.

We stress the central role of traditional knowledge holders, as well as elders, women, and youth, in decisions around environmental management.

We recognise, endorse and commit to implementing the following Action Tracks:

- 13. Putting our people at the heart of conservation** action by engaging community and civil society organisations, artists, traditional knowledge holders, elders (men and women) and young people, rural and urban, in the design, monitoring, and implementation of conservation initiatives.
- 14. Promoting behaviour change for nature conservation**, based on Pacific values, connection to place, and our traditional, indigenous, and local knowledge. We commit to integrating heritage values

and cultural expressions into conservation initiatives as effective means of transmission of knowledge and raising public awareness of contextual and restorative environmental practices

- 15. Prioritising ecosystem-based approaches to climate change, pandemic and disaster response.** ‘One Health’ solutions which enhance human, animal, and ecological health are crucial for mitigating outbreaks of disease, and provide essential resilience against natural disasters and climate change risks.
- 16. Leading the world in our transition to sustainable and resilient ocean economies** that honour our voyaging heritage and reflect the direct dependence of coastal communities on the sea. We commit to developing and implementing strong and effective national ocean policies, and to ensuring environmental and social best practice in our waters.
- 17. Fostering sustainable and resilient island economies** that reflect our indigenous heritage and values, and further integrating these values and environmental considerations into our national economic planning processes and legal frameworks.
- 18. Ensuring that environmentally and culturally sensitive tourism** is implemented throughout the Pacific.



Mangrove replanting. Photo: © SPREP

Implementation

Effective nature conservation for our Pacific Ocean, islands and people depends on effective implementation, and we seek effective and genuine partnerships to support leadership in our communities, governments, civil society and private sector. Committed and culturally grounded leadership is vital for tackling the ultimate and proximate drivers of the environmental crisis in the Pacific and globally.

We recognise, endorse and commit to implementing the following Action Tracks:

19. Increasing **science-based target-setting and monitoring**, ensuring informed decision-making in our

Call to Action

We state our strong commitment to action and accountability in implementing the urgent economic and societal transformations needed to address the biodiversity crisis that threatens both nature and people in our Pacific islands. Averting this crisis depends not only on action within the Pacific region, but on worldwide cooperation to address the global drivers of environmental change which affect the Pacific so profoundly.

We strongly reaffirm the unique opportunity presented by the negotiation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. This must exceed previous frameworks in its scope, ambition, urgency, and ability to catalyse action including linkages to climate change commitments in the Paris Agreement in order to address the interdependent challenges of biodiversity loss, ocean degradation and climate change.

We will ensure that our response to the current health and economic crisis contributes directly to building back better to achieve sustainable societies and we commit to putting biodiversity, climate and environment at the centre of our COVID-19 recovery strategies.

policy, regulation and strategic planning processes.

20. Reinforcing **governance that works for nature conservation and people** that is transparent, equitable, and inclusive at community, national, and regional scales. We are committed to a Blue Pacific, regional response to our transboundary threats, and emphasise the global importance of strong environmental leadership that advocates for and from the Pacific.
21. Strengthening **financing of nature conservation** and nature-based solutions in the Pacific that are resilient in the face of global economic or political disruption.

We call on all our regional partners, stakeholders, communities, and governments, as well as countries and non-state actors from around the world, to join the Blue Pacific in adopting and implementing a bold and truly transformational vision for nature and people.

We call on Pacific island countries and territories to endorse the leaders' pledge for nature "United to Reverse Biodiversity Loss by 2030 for Sustainable Development".

We will unite in the lead up to the key international events and processes and will present this Declaration to, and including, the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the 7th Our Ocean Conference, the 2nd United Nations Ocean Conference, the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Pacific islands Forum Leaders' Meeting, as part of the Blue Pacific's contribution to urgent global action for nature conservation.



Appendix

Appendix A: Linkages to selected global and regional targets and goals

Table 1: Alignment between the Strategic Objectives of the Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021-2025 and other important global and regional frameworks. The Appendix does not imply that the goals or targets of these other frameworks are directly transferable as goals or targets for the Strategic Objectives.

Strategic Objectives 2021-2025	Linkages to post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework ⁴	Linkages to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals)
<p>Strategic Objective 1:</p> <p>Empower people to take action for nature conservation, based on their understanding of its importance for Pacific cultures, economies, and communities.</p>	<p>2050 Goals</p> <p>Goal B: Nature’s contributions to people have been valued, maintained or enhanced through conservation and sustainable use supporting global development agenda for the benefit of all people.</p> <p>Goal C: The benefits, from the utilization of genetic resources are shared fairly and equitably.</p> <p>Goal D: Means of implementation are available to achieve all goals and targets in the framework.</p> <p>2030 Targets</p> <p>Target 12: By 2030, increase by [X] benefits shared for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through ensuring access to and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.</p> <p>Target 15: By 2030, eliminate unsustainable consumption patterns, ensuring people everywhere understand and appreciate the value of biodiversity, and thus make responsible choices commensurate with 2050 biodiversity vision, taking into account individual and national cultural and socioeconomic conditions.</p>	<p>SDG 4.7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.</p> <p>SDG 5.5: Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life.</p> <p>SDG 5.A: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.</p> <p>SDG 6.B: Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.</p> <p>SDG 12.8: By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.</p> <p>SDG 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.</p>

⁴ Goals and targets taken from the February 2020 draft of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: <https://www.cbd.int/sbstta/sbstta-24/post2020-monitoring-en.pdf>. To be updated when final text is adopted by the CBD.

Strategic Objectives 2021-2025	Linkages to post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	Linkages to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals)
	<p>Target 19: By 2030, ensure that quality information, including traditional knowledge, is available to decision makers and public for the effective management of biodiversity through promoting awareness, education and research.</p> <p>Target 20: By 2030, ensure equitable participation in decision-making related to biodiversity and ensure rights over relevant resources of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls as well as youth, in accordance with national circumstances.</p>	<p>SDG 15.6: Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed.</p> <p>SDG 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.</p> <p>SDG 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.</p>
<p>Strategic Objective 2:</p> <p>Integrate environmental and cultural considerations into the goals, processes, and trajectories of economic development in the Pacific.</p>	<p>2050 Goals</p> <p>Goal B: Nature's contributions to people have been valued, maintained or enhanced through conservation and sustainable use supporting global development agenda for the benefit of all people.</p> <p>Goal C: The benefits, from the utilization of genetic resources are shared fairly and equitably.</p> <p>Goal D: Means of implementation are available to achieve all goals and targets in the framework.</p> <p>2030 Targets</p> <p>Target 8: By 2030, ensure benefits, including nutrition, food security, livelihoods, health and well-being, for people, especially for the most vulnerable through sustainable management of wild species of fauna and flora.</p> <p>Target 9: By 2030, support the productivity, sustainability and resilience of biodiversity in agricultural and other managed ecosystems through conservation and sustainable use of such ecosystems, reducing productivity gaps by at least [50%].</p>	<p>SDG 1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance</p> <p>SDG 1.5: By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.</p> <p>SDG 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.</p> <p>SDG 5.A: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.</p>

Strategic Objectives 2021-2025	Linkages to post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	Linkages to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals)
	<p>Target 10: By 2030, ensure that, nature based solutions and ecosystem approach contribute to regulation of air quality, hazards and extreme events and quality and quantity of water for at least [XXX million] people.</p> <p>Target 11: By 2030, increase benefits from biodiversity and green/blue spaces for human health and wellbeing, including the proportion of people with access to such spaces by at least [100%], especially for urban dwellers.</p> <p>Target 13: By 2030, integrate biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts at all levels, ensuring that biodiversity values are mainstreamed across all sectors and integrated into assessments of environmental impacts.</p> <p>Target 14: By 2030, achieve reduction of at least [50%] in negative impacts on biodiversity by ensuring production practices and supply chains are sustainable.</p> <p>Target 17: By 2030, redirect, repurpose, reform or eliminate incentives harmful for biodiversity, including [X] reduction in the most harmful subsidies, ensuring that incentives, including public and private economic and regulatory incentives, are either positive or neutral for biodiversity.</p>	<p>SDG 6.4: By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.</p> <p>SDG 7.2: By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.</p> <p>SDG 7.3: By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.</p> <p>SDG 7.B: By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, and land-locked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support.</p> <p>SDG 8.4: Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead.</p> <p>SDG 8.9: By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.</p> <p>SDG 9.4: By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities.</p> <p>SDG 10.5: Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations.</p> <p>SDG 10.6: Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions.</p>

Linkages to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals)

SDG 11.7:

By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

SDG 11.C:

Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials.

SDG 12.2:

By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

SDG 12.4:

By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

SDG 12.5:

By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

SDG 12.6:

Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.

SDG 12.7:

Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities.

SDG 12.B:

Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

SDG 12.C:

Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities.

SDG 13.2:

Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.

SDG 14.6:

By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation

SDG 14.7:

By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.

SDG 14.B:

Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.

SDG 15.9:

By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.

Strategic Objectives 2021-2025	Linkages to post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework ⁴	Linkages to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals)
<p>Strategic Objective 3:</p> <p>Identify, conserve, sustainably manage, and restore ecosystems, habitats, and priority natural and cultural sites.</p>	<p>2050 Goals</p> <p>Goal A: The area, connectivity and integrity of natural ecosystems increased by at least [X%] supporting healthy and resilient populations of all species while reducing the number of species that are threatened by [X%] and maintaining genetic diversity.</p> <p>Goal D: Means of implementation are available to achieve all goals and targets in the framework.</p> <p>2030 Targets</p> <p>Target 1: By 2030, [50%] of land and sea areas globally are under spatial planning addressing land/sea use change, retaining most of the existing intact and wilderness areas, and allow to restore [X%] of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial natural ecosystems and connectivity among them.</p> <p>Target 2: By 2030, protect and conserve through well connected and effective system of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures at least 30 per cent of the planet with the focus on areas particularly important for biodiversity.</p> <p>Target 9: By 2030, support the productivity, sustainability and resilience of biodiversity in agricultural and other managed ecosystems through conservation and sustainable use of such ecosystems, reducing productivity gaps by at least [50%].</p>	<p>SDG 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.</p> <p>SDG 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.</p> <p>SDG 11.4: Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.</p> <p>SDG 12.2: By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.</p> <p>SDG 14.2: By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.</p> <p>SDG 14.5: By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.</p> <p>SDG 15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.</p> <p>SDG 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.</p> <p>SDG 15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.</p> <p>SDG 15.4: By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.</p> <p>SDG 15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species</p>

Strategic Objectives 2021-2025	Linkages to post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework ⁴	Linkages to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals)
<p>Strategic Objective 4:</p> <p>Protect and recover threatened species and preserve genetic diversity, focusing on those of particular ecological, cultural and economic significance.</p>	<p>2050 Goals</p> <p>Goal A: The area, connectivity and integrity of natural ecosystems increased by at least [X%] supporting healthy and resilient populations of all species while reducing the number of species that are threatened by [X%] and maintaining genetic diversity.</p> <p>Goal C: The benefits, from the utilization of genetic resources are shared fairly and equitably.</p> <p>Goal D: Means of implementation are available to achieve all goals and targets in the framework.</p> <p>2030 Targets</p> <p>Target 3: By 2030, ensure active management actions to enable wild species of fauna and flora recovery and conservation, and reduce human-wildlife conflict by [X%].</p> <p>Target 4: By 2030, ensure that the harvesting, trade and use of wild species of fauna and flora is legal, at sustainable levels and safe.</p> <p>Target 8: By 2030, ensure benefits, including nutrition, food security, livelihoods, health and well-being, for people, especially for the most vulnerable through sustainable management of wild species of fauna and flora.</p> <p>Target 12: By 2030, increase by [X] benefits shared for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through ensuring access to and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.</p>	<p>SDG 2.5: By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.</p> <p>SDG 15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.</p> <p>SDG 15.6: Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed.</p> <p>SDG 15.7: Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.</p>

Strategic Objectives 2021-2025	Linkages to post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework ⁴	Linkages to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals)
<p>Strategic Objective 5:</p> <p>Manage and reduce threats to Pacific environments and drivers of biodiversity loss.</p>	<p>2050 Goals</p> <p>Goal A: The area, connectivity and integrity of natural ecosystems increased by at least [X%] supporting healthy and resilient populations of all species while reducing the number of species that are threatened by [X%] and maintaining genetic diversity.</p> <p>Goal B: Nature's contributions to people have been valued, maintained or enhanced through conservation and sustainable use supporting global development agenda for the benefit of all people.</p> <p>Goal D: Means of implementation are available to achieve all goals and targets in the framework.</p> <p>2030 Targets</p> <p>Target 5: By 2030, manage, and where possible control, pathways for the introduction of invasive alien species, achieving [50%] reduction in the rate of new introductions, and control or eradicate invasive alien species to eliminate or reduce their impacts, including in at least [50%] of priority sites.</p> <p>Target 6: By 2030, reduce pollution from all sources, including reducing excess nutrients [by x%], biocides [by x%], plastic waste [by x%] to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and human health.</p>	<p>SDG 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.</p> <p>SDG 3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.</p> <p>SDG 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.</p> <p>SDG 11.6: By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.</p> <p>SDG 11.B: By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.</p> <p>SDG 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.</p> <p>SDG 12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.</p> <p>SDG 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.</p>

Strategic Objectives 2021-2025	Linkages to post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework ⁴	Linkages to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals)
	<p>Target 7: By 2030, increase contributions to climate change mitigation adaption and disaster risk reduction from nature-based solutions and ecosystems based approaches, ensuring resilience and minimizing any negative impacts on biodiversity.</p> <p>Target 10: By 2030, ensure that, nature based solutions and ecosystem approach contribute to regulation of air quality, hazards and extreme events and quality and quantity of water for at least [XXX million] people.</p> <p>Target 14: By 2030, achieve reduction of at least [50%] in negative impacts on biodiversity by ensuring production practices and supply chains are sustainable.</p> <p>Target 15: By 2030, eliminate unsustainable consumption patterns, ensuring people everywhere understand and appreciate the value of biodiversity, and thus make responsible choices commensurate with 2050 biodiversity vision, taking into account individual and national cultural and socioeconomic conditions.</p> <p>Target 16: By 2030, establish and implement measures to prevent, manage or control potential adverse impacts of biotechnology on biodiversity and human health reducing these impacts by [X].</p> <p>Target 17: By 2030, redirect, repurpose, reform or eliminate incentives harmful for biodiversity, including [X] reduction in the most harmful subsidies, ensuring that incentives, including public and private economic and regulatory incentives, are either positive or neutral for biodiversity.</p>	<p>SDG 14.1: By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.</p> <p>SDG 14.3: Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels.</p> <p>SDG 14.4: By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.</p> <p>SDG 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.</p> <p>SDG 15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.</p> <p>SDG 15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.</p> <p>SDG 15.7: Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.</p> <p>SDG 15.8: By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species.</p>

Strategic Objectives 2021-2025	Linkages to post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework ⁴	Linkages to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals)
<p>Strategic Objective 6:</p> <p>Grow capacity and partnerships to effectively monitor, govern and finance nature conservation action.</p>	<p>2050 Goals</p> <p>Goal D: Means of implementation are available to achieve all goals and targets in the framework.</p> <p>2030 Targets</p> <p>Target 18: By 2030, increase by [X%] financial resources from all international and domestic sources, through new, additional and effective financial resources commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the framework and implement the strategy for capacity-building and technology transfer and scientific cooperation to meet the needs for implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.</p> <p>Target 19: By 2030, ensure that quality information, including traditional knowledge, is available to decision makers and public for the effective management of biodiversity through promoting awareness, education and research.</p>	<p>SDG 4.B: By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries.</p> <p>SDG 6.A: By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.</p> <p>SDG 7.A: By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology.</p> <p>SDG 9.A: Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.</p> <p>SDG 10.A: Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements.</p> <p>SDG 10.B: Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes.</p> <p>SDG 12.A: Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.</p>

Linkages to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals)

SDG 13.A:

Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible.

SDG 13.B:

Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.

SDG 14.A:

Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries.

SDG 15.A:

Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.

SDG 15.B:

Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation.

SDG 15.C:

Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.

SDG 16.6:

Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

SDG 16.8:

Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.

SDG 17.1:

Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.

SDG 17.3:

Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources.

SDG 17.5:

Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries.

SDG 17.6:

Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.

Linkages to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals)

SDG 17.7:

Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed.

SDG 17.9:

Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

SDG 17.14:

Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.

SDG 17.15:

Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

SDG 17.16:

Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.

SDG 17.17:

Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.

SDG 17.18:

By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

SDG 17.19:

By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries.

Appendix B: Relevant global and regional frameworks and agreements

Table 2: Major international agreements relevant to nature conservation and protected areas in the Pacific, grouped by primary theme or focus. Note that many agreements are relevant to multiple areas of focus. The agreements included are illustrative and not exhaustive.

Primary theme or focus	Agreement	Major relevant subsidiary agreements
Biodiversity	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework [in development] Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (Aichi Targets)
	International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling	
	International Plant Protection Convention	
	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	
	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	
	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	
	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	
Climate Change	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Paris Agreement
		Kyoto Protocol
Development	2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
		SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway
Natural & Cultural Heritage	World Heritage Convention	
Oceans & Maritime	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	BBNJ Instrument [in development]
		UN Fish Stocks Agreement
Pollution & Hazardous Waste	Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer	Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
	Basel Convention on Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes	
	London Convention on Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping	
	Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)	

Table 3: Selected relevant regional Pacific agreements and frameworks, grouped by primary theme or focus. Note that many agreements and frameworks are relevant to multiple areas of focus. The agreements and frameworks included are illustrative and not exhaustive.

Primary theme or focus	Regional agreement or framework
Development	Framework for Pacific Regionalism
	Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development
	Pacific Framework for Education for Sustainable Development
	MSG Framework for Action on Environment, Climate Change & Sustainable Development
Oceans & Maritime	Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape
	Pacific Regional Ocean Policy & Framework for Integrated Strategic Action
	Regional Tuna Management & Development Strategy
	Regional Monitoring, Control & Surveillance Strategy
	Convention for Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western & Central Pacific
	Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Fisheries
Biodiversity	Noumea Convention
	Pacific Framework for Nature Conservation & Protected Areas
	CMS MoU for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Pacific
	Regional Marine Species Action Plans
	Regional Environment Goals (SPREP Strategic Plan)
Climate Change	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific
Pollution & Hazardous Waste	Waigani Convention
	Pacific Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter
	Cleaner Pacific 2025: Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy
Natural & Cultural Heritage	Regional Framework for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge & Expressions of Culture



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