



Annex 1

2050 STRATEGY FOR THE BLUE PACIFIC CONTINENT

Executive Summary for the
Implementation Plan Baseline



Leaders' Commitments to 2050

To secure our Blue Pacific Continent by 2050, and building on existing priorities, we commit ourselves as Leaders of the Blue Pacific:

<p>To nurture collective political will and deepen regionalism and solidarity.</p> 	<p>To collectively deliver for our people.</p> 
<p>To embed our Blue Pacific identity.</p> 	<p>To secure the wellbeing of our people.</p> 
<p>To protect our people and our place.</p> 	<p>To accelerate our economic growth aspirations.</p> 
<p>To guarantee the future of our children.</p> 	<p>To secure a future for our people.</p> 
<p>To protect our ocean and environment.</p> 	<p>To ensure a well-connected region.</p> 

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Acronyms

2050 Strategy - 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent

2050 IP - The Implementation Plan for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent

AI - Artificial Intelligence

ALPS - Advanced Liquid Processing System

BBNJ Agreement - United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction

COSIS - Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law

COVID - Coronavirus Disease

CROP - Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific

GDP - Gross Domestic Product

ICAO - International Civil Aviation Organization

ICT - Information and Communications Technology

MEL - Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

NCD - Non-Communicable Diseases

NEET - Youth not in employment, education or training

PACE - Pacific Action Commitment Engagement

PaCSON - Pacific Cyber Security Operational Network

PacREF - Pacific Regional Education Framework

PICT - Pacific Island Countries and Territories

PIF - Pacific Island Forum

PLGED - Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration

PRED - Pacific Roadmap for Economic Development

PPfP - Pacific Partnership for Prosperity

RCA - Regional Collective Action

SDG - Sustainable Development Goals

TK - Traditional Knowledge

UNCLOS - United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

WASH - Water Sanitation and Hygiene

WIPO - World Intellectual Property Organization

WHO - World Health Organisation



Introduction

“Our vision is for a resilient Pacific Region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, that ensures all Pacific peoples can lead free, health and productive lives”

The 2050 Strategy sets out our long-term approach to working together as a region, and as countries and territories, communities, and people of the Pacific. The strategy recognises that the Blue Pacific Continent is our home, ocean, lands and common heritable. It is central to our culture, economy, and our way of life. As custodians of nearly 20% of the earth’s surface, the region holds immense global significance, positioned at the crossroads of strategic influence and rich in oceanic resources.

Climate change, particularly sea-level rise, poses the greatest threat, making the 1.5°C global warming limit crucial for the survival of vulnerable Pacific countries. The region also faces multiple challenges from natural disasters, global conflicts, economic shocks, and rising transnational crimes. In 2024, geopolitical dynamics and global economic uncertainty place social and economic stress on the people of the Pacific, who already contend with the impacts of climate change, an increased frequency of disasters and broader social and economic development issues. It is within this strategic context, that regional collective efforts to achieve our 2050 vision are situated.

The first phase Implementation Plan for the 2050 Strategy 2023-2030 (2050 IP) is the first step on our journey towards achieving the Leaders vision. It sets out concrete goals, 2030 outcomes and regional collective actions to be progressed.

The 2050 Baseline Report describes the current state of regionalism and development through the lens of the seven Thematic Areas of the 2050 Strategy. It provides a benchmark from which to monitor of progress towards the outcomes of the 2050 IP. Data has been sourced from the Pacific Data Hub and aggregated to a regional level.

This Executive Summary provides an overview of the baseline data against outcomes in the 2050 IP and provides a cross cutting analysis of common challenges across the seven thematic areas.



Political Leadership and Regionalism

Goal 1: Leadership and Good Governance

1. Participation in Regional Policymaking

There have been increased efforts to include civil society, private sector, faith-based organisations, and youth in regional policy making and decision-making processes.

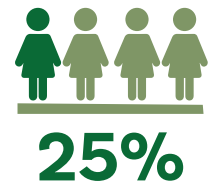
2. Good Governance

Several regional agencies and development partners facilitate or deliver programmes to improve governance. However, there is a lack of regional coordination and coherence in investment and delivery, including improving monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) and data availability. There is a need to consider how the region, with the support of development partners, can ensure a coordinated delivery that responds to the Leaders' commitments to good governance and leadership in the 2050 Strategy.



3. Women in Leadership

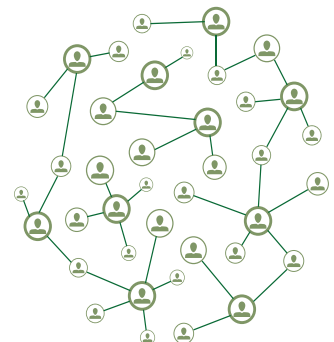
Two members have at least half of their parliamentary seats held by women. In 14 island members, women hold less than 25% of the seats. Women in ten countries hold less than one third of the total managerial positions.



Goal 2: Regional Systems and Partnerships

1. Review of the Regional Architecture

Review of the Regional Architecture is underway to ensure effective structures, governance, and partnerships for addressing priorities in the 2050 Strategy.



2. Partnership Alignment

At their 52nd meeting in the Cook Islands, Forum Leaders endorsed the Pacific Partnerships for Prosperity (PPfP) to catalyse the implementation of the 2050 Strategy through adequate partnerships and resources for the Regional Collective Actions (RCAs). Work is underway to strengthen Partner Engagements and Development Coordination Mechanisms. Pledged commitments to the PPfP through the 'Pacific Partner Action and Commitment Engagement' (PACE) Plans total around FJD163m.



People Centered Development

Goal 1: Health

1. Non-Communicable Diseases

Many adults are still dying prematurely from non-communicable diseases (NCD) with minimal improvement over the last decade.

1 in 3 adults 

in most countries are affected by premature NCD deaths. High rates of smoking and alcohol consumption have contributed to this issue.

2. Institutional Capacity and Capability

Among the four countries with data since 2021, only two meet World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines for doctor availability (at least 10 doctors per 10,000 population).

3. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

While progress has been made towards achieving universal access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), challenges remain including urgent need for investments to achieve access to safe drinking water services for many in the Pacific.

Less than 1 in 3 

people have access to safe drinking water, in four countries in the region

4. Sexual and Reproductive Health

Women in the region face persistent challenges in accessing family planning. In eight countries, less than 50% of women of reproductive age (15–49 years) are able to access modern contraception.



Goal 2: Education

2021 Pacific Islands Literacy and Numeracy Assessment data shows that:

1. Literacy and Numeracy

Findings from a regional assessment of literacy and numeracy indicate that literacy skills for primary school children are a concern regionally.



Less than **50%**

of children in five countries are achieving minimum literacy levels

2 out of 3



in 10 countries, are achieving minimum numeracy levels.

2. Teacher Qualifications

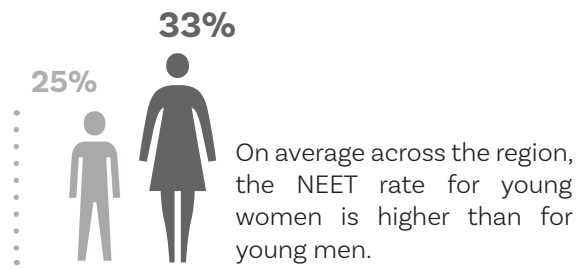
In seven Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) across the region, all primary school teachers have at least the minimum qualifications.

3. Early childhood Education

In 10 PICTs, at least 75% of young children are participating in organised early childhood education

4. Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)

In seven countries, at least 1 in 3 youths (aged 15 to 24 years) are not working, studying or training after they leave school. For most countries, there has been limited improvement in recent years.



5. Tertiary Participation

Participation in tertiary education remains low across the region. Of the nine countries which reported recent data, four countries have enrolment rates below 20%

Goal 3: Human Rights, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion



1. Violence against Women and Girls

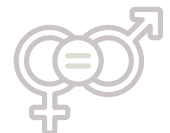
Rates of violence against women and girls remain high with more than one in four women reporting in six countries. In the remaining countries there is currently insufficient data to assess progress.

2. Disability Inclusion

Data on progress in disability inclusion still needs to be collected across the region. Among the eight countries with progress data on social protection benefits for people with severe disabilities, five show some improvements.

3. Gender Equality

The Revitalised Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED) aims to enhance the involvement of all Pacific individuals, in processing gender equality and social inclusion



Goal 4: Culture

1. Traditional Knowledge Protections and Safeguards

Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) agencies continue to work towards safeguards for various aspects of traditional knowledge. This includes work with legal advisors and relevant culture/traditional knowledge expertise to support WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) Members states in the negotiations of draft legal instruments.

2. Embedding Culture in Education

The region is working towards strengthening the place of Pacific cultures, knowledge systems and Pacific languages in the school curriculum through Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacRef).





Peace and Security

Goal 1: Peaceful, Inclusive, Gender Equal, Safe and Secure Region

1. The Regional Security Architecture

Challenges remain with the coherence and effectiveness of institutional arrangements that respond to our region’s security challenges, including inconsistencies in governance, membership, status and maturity of organisations, and scheduling.



2. Strengthened Security Policy Arrangements in the Region

Work continues through the Boe Declaration Action Plan which includes the mapping of the regional security architecture, regional Women, Peace and Security Guidelines, Pacific Partnership for Prosperity on Cybersecurity and Cybercrime, and Pacific Regional Humanitarian Response Coordination Mechanism.



3. Data

Outcome indicators for this thematic area are still being developed and there is currently limited up-to-date data for the goal and outcomes. It is anticipated that key indicators will be developed by 2025.



Resource and Economic Development

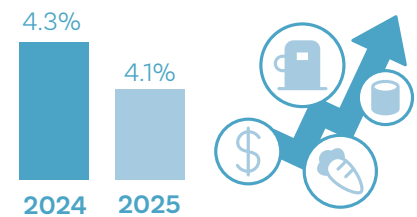
Goal 1: Socioeconomic Wellbeing & Prosperity for all Pacific Peoples

1. National Budgets

Reduced economic activity during the pandemic squeezed national budgets in the region. Budgets remain under pressure from national spending priorities in Health, Education, Connectivity, and other needed public infrastructure.

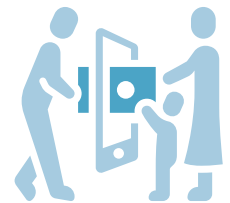
2. Inflation

In 2022 the regional average rate of consumer price inflation was estimated at 5.2% and in 2023 prices are estimated to have risen by a further 3.0%. In 2024 and 2025, regional inflation is projected to increase again to about 4.3% and 4.1%, respectively.



3. Remittances

Personal remittances remained quite stable as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) during the two years of COVID lockdowns (2020 & 2021) and then increased in 2022 and 2023, including in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Recent data on remittance costs is currently only available in four countries and ranges between 6.7% and 11.6% for 2023, well above the global target of 3%.



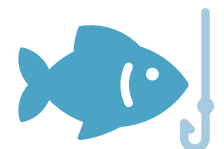
4. Tourism

Tourism-based economies are rebounding from the pandemic, with Australia and New Zealand as key markets, but only Fiji has fully recovered to pre-pandemic levels, with tourism contributing 9.9% to its GDP in 2022, nearing the pre-pandemic average of 12-13%.



5. Fisheries

Among the nine PICTs which reported data on sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP, the contribution ranges between 0.3% up to 10% in the Marshall Islands. Total employment related to tuna fisheries for several PICTs for 2022 was estimated at 27,803, up 44% from 2015 and 4% from the previous year.



6. Economic Policy

Work is underway to develop the Pacific Roadmap for Economic Development (PRED) which will provide an overarching policy framework supporting regional cooperation and integration in economic growth, private sector development, and employment.



Climate Change And Disaster

Goal 1: Improved resilience to the impacts of climate change and disasters

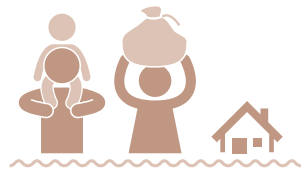
1. Climate Change and Disasters

The Pacific region is at the forefront of the climate change emergency, accounting for six of the top 20 disaster-prone countries in the world. While the number of reported disaster events decreased for the years 2022 and 2023 compared with 2021, economic losses almost tripled in 2022 largely due to flooding events in Australia and Fiji.



2. Loss and Damage

Submissions have been made on a legal opinion sought by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS) on assessing State Parties responsibilities under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as it relates to climate change and its impacts on the ocean and related ecosystems.



3. Climate Finance

The Pacific region will require an estimated US\$2 billion a year to address resilience and adaptation to climate change and a renewable energy transition.

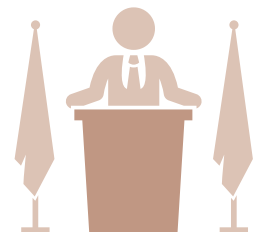
The Pacific region is currently receiving approximately US\$220 million annually, which accounts for less than 0.22% of global climate finance.

Leaders endorsed the establishment of the Pacific Resilience Facility to improve climate and disaster resilience for vulnerable Pacific people.

Goal 2: Climate Action

1. Political Climate Champions

The region has appointed eight Political Climate Champions under the 2021 initiative to elevate Pacific priorities at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties and in other global platforms.



2. Maritime Zone Declaration and Statehood

Key initiatives to support this goal include the work on the “Advocacy and Communications Strategy” for the 2021 Maritime Zones Declaration and 2023 PIF Statehood Declaration, regional support for International Court of Justice Submissions and PIF Submissions to the International Law Commission.

3. National Ambitions

The region continues to demonstrate leadership with the submission of ambitious nationally determined contributions, National Adaptation Plans, Long-Term Low Emission Development, and National Communications with most countries implementing priorities identified within these instruments.



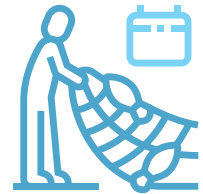


Ocean and Environment

Goal 1: Ocean and Environment are Sustainably Managed and are Resilient to Threats

1. Sustainable Fisheries

The 2024 Tuna Fishery Report Card indicates healthy fish stocks in the Western Central Pacific Ocean with no overfishing. Coastal fisheries are crucial, involving over 50% of Pacific families in fishing, including selling fish or working in fisheries. Seven countries have protection for small-scale fisheries as per the 2023 Coastal Fishery Report Card.



2. Maritime Boundaries



22 PICTs manage 20% of the world's Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ). As of July 2020, 35 of the 48 boundaries have been formalised with 12 shared EEZ maritime boundaries that remain outstanding.

3. Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)

PIF Leaders have reaffirmed the importance of preserving their rights claimed under the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), adopted on 19 June 2023, has a total of 90 signatories and seven parties. 11 PIF member countries have signed on to the Agreement, and two have ratified.



4. Ocean Policy

In 2011, the Framework for the Pacific Oceanscape was endorsed. Despite developments since then there are still siloed approaches to different ocean sectors, policies, and ocean governance in the region.

5. Sustainable Management of Forestry and Agriculture

The Agriculture and Forestry Services sector is developing the 'Growing the Pacific 2050 Strategy for Pacific Agriculture and Forestry: Healthy, Regenerative, Secure', which has a vision of regenerative agriculture, agroecology, and biodiversity by 2050. It also addresses forestry development alongside agriculture.

6. Biodiversity

Over the last 30 years, the Red List Index has indicated an increase in biodiversity loss across the region. 14 PICs have adopted relevant national legislation and are adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species.

7. Waste management and pollution

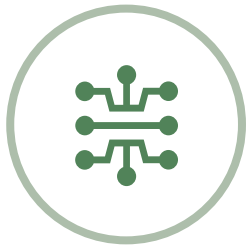
The increasing reliance on imported consumer goods has led to a rapid rise in waste, including plastic packaging and used motor vehicles. Regional coordination needs to be strengthened on regional waste management and pollution control action, including efforts through the Cleaner Pacific 2025 framework.



8. Nuclear Legacy Issues

The Rarotonga Treaty, establishing the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone, marks the region's commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Nuclear legacy issues remain, with ongoing efforts through the CROP Taskforce on Nuclear Legacy Issues to address the impacts of nuclear testing in Kiribati and the Marshall Islands including inter alia human rights, environmental contamination, and health impacts.

Leaders have continued to engage with Japan on the discharge of treated nuclear wastewater, Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS), into the Pacific Ocean. The release of the ALPS treated nuclear wastewater into the Pacific Ocean commenced on 24 August 2023 and will continue over the next 30 years.



Technology and Connectivity

Goal 1: Land, Air and Sea Transport Services



1. Aviation

The Pacific region is the poorest performing region in the world in respect of compliance with international Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Standards and Recommended practices and the associated Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme Continual Monitoring Approach protocol questions; with the majority of members falling below the ICAO target of 65%.



2. Maritime

There is low connectivity to major shipping networks, impacting on the ability to trade competitively, as well as adding to the cost of imports. Despite improvements, PICTs remain among the countries with the lowest container shipping connectivity in the world. One of the key issues is low trade volumes.

3. Maritime Safety

Domestic maritime safety continues to be a critical concern that requires attention and proactive measures. There are many maritime safety incidents each year, with almost 74% occurring in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, or Solomon Islands.



4. Road Safety

There is a need to ensure reliable data is available on the number of road accidents per 10,000 registered vehicles. The latest official figures are from 2016. World Health Organization (WHO) estimates of road fatalities are significantly higher than officially reported numbers, highlighting the need for accurate records of crashes, injuries, and fatalities related to road accidents.

Goal 2: ICT Services

1. Access to Mobile Phones and Internet

The Pacific Small Island Developing States mobile network coverage is lower than in Least Developed Countries, impacting the ability of Pacific people to meaningfully engage in the digital economy. Among the five PICTs with recent data, more than half of people aged between 15-49 own a working mobile phone. Access and use of the internet is still highly variable across the region.





2. E-commerce

There has been a rise of social media platforms as vibrant marketplaces and emerging e-commerce platforms.

E-agriculture platforms are boosting knowledge and capacity for the agriculture and forestry sectors through information and learning exchanges to inform actions and policy discussions, between regional experts, national governments, and farming communities.

3. Electronic Monitoring and Reporting

Electronic Monitoring and Reporting in the fishing industry has revolutionized data collection processes, enhancing efficiency to support sustainable management of our tuna fisheries.

The Digital Earth Pacific initiative utilizes satellite data for earth and ocean observations to track ecosystem changes, coastline alterations, and infrastructure developments to inform and accelerate climate, disaster, oceans, food systems, and natural resource management policy actions.



4. Cyber Security

PICTs face cybersecurity challenges due to varying maturity levels, ineffective policies, and low awareness, leading to successful phishing, ransomware, and malware attacks as per Pacific Cyber Security Operational Network (PaCSON) annual reports.



5. Artificial Intelligence

The region will be significantly impacted by the mainstreaming of artificial intelligence (AI). The increasing availability of AI platforms, used as search engines and interactive tools to synthesize and provide information, is expected to expand and find broader applications.

Cross-Cutting Analysis

The 2050 Strategy articulates strategic pathways critical to delivering our 2050 vision that cut across all thematic areas. The development of the baseline report highlighted the following cross-cutting considerations for implementation.

Governance

A fit-for-purpose architecture, founded on political solidarity and unity, will enable us to reach our vision. Effective governance is highlighted as a critical enabler for success across every thematic area.

Inclusion and Equity

To achieve our 2050 vision, we need the capacities, capabilities, and motivations of all Pacific peoples. Ensuring that gender equality and social inclusion are mainstreamed across all thematic areas will lift our implementation capability. Increased access to gender-disaggregated data is needed to enable evidence-based policy to inform mainstreaming approaches.

Education, Research and Technology

Education is a fundamental pillar of our peoples' well-being and the region's sustainable development. Research and technology are significant tools to advance and amplify the implementation of all thematic areas. Opportunities have been noted for digital health and e-commerce.

Resilience and Wellbeing

Climate resilience needs to be hardwired into all aspects of our 2050 Implementation Plan delivery. The resilience of health and education systems has been highlighted for urgent action, noting challenges with both the resilience of infrastructure and the outwards migration of technical staff.

Partnership and Cooperation

The strategic alignment of partners to the priorities of the 2050 Strategy and Implementation Plan will advance efforts to achieve the outcomes articulated. Members have highlighted a preference for the use of country systems for the provision of support. Mechanisms to coordinate, monitor and evaluate support provided require strengthening.



BLUE PACIFIC 2050