Annex 1

Baseline Report for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific

Table of Contents

Key Messages for Leaders

Governance

1. The regional architecture requires **strengthened coordination and more streamlined mechanisms** if we are to successfully deliver on the outcomes of the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan.

2. **Political solidarity and unity must be increased** if we are to effectively deliver on the regional collective actions under the 2050 Strategy.

Inclusion and Equity

3. We must **increase our focus on gender and social inclusion**, and ensure the safety and security of all people; and we must continue to ensure the full participation of all in education, the informal and formal economy, and in civil society.

Education, Research and Technology

4. There is currently a shortage of **Data Availability** for the outcomes of the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan. To address this, and to ensure effective monitoring and reporting, it is critical to establish data governance, infrastructure and data sharing arrangements.

5. **Digital literacy; affordable broadband access; and a supportive environment for digital entrepreneurship** are all vital enablers for all thematic area outcomes.

6. The **interdependencies between communication and energy systems need to be recognised** and they require increased investment and collaboration between government, private sector and international organizations to propel and scale up initiatives in this area.

Resilience and Wellbeing

7. The **impacts of climate change require continued, simplified and harmonized procedures to access climate and disaster risk financing** to reduce costs and to scale up the quantity, and flexibility of climate finance to Pacific Island Countries.

8. There is an ongoing need to **mainstream culture and traditional knowledge across all sectors.**

9. Key region-wide health concerns at present include: **eye health** and related research; the need for scaled up efforts to tackle **Non-Communicable Diseases** (NCDs); **health workforce gaps** which require retention strategies; **digital health initiatives**; and **climate change impacts on health**[1].

Partnership and Cooperation

10. There is a need to **ensure that partners align to the prioritised regional collective actions of the 2050 IP** and utilize the mechanisms in place to monitor and evaluate resourcing commitments towards the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan.

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[1] Health Ministers meeting 2024

11. It remains **critical that partners use country systems and modalities** as the first option for channelling external finance.

12. Development partners and member countries are encouraged to support increased investment in improving the collection and analysis of **gender statistics.**

Baseline Report – Executive Summary

The 2024 Baseline Report for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (2050 Strategy) reports on the current state of regionalism and development in the Pacific through the lens of the seven Thematic Areas of the 2050 Strategy. It presents a high-level report of progress against the outcomes of the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan using a number of headline quantitative indicators and supplementary qualitative evidence. The report also shows where existing regional initiatives are considered to be on-track or where increased attention is required.

Thematic Area: Political Leadership and Regionalism

Goal 1: Leadership and Good Governance

1. In national parliaments, two members have at least half the seats held by women, in the remaining fourteen (14) members, women make up less than 25% of the seats[2].
2. There has been increased efforts to include civil society, the private sector, faith-based organisations, and the youth into regional policy making and decision-making processes.
3. There is continued progress on good governance and accountability under the Forum Principles of Good Leadership, the Forum Principles of Accountability, and the Teieniwa Vision. A working group has been established to progress issues related to anti-corruption and good governance.
4. The Revitalised Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (RPLGED) includes commitments to strengthen the participation of all Pacific peoples, particularly women and girls in all their diversity, at all levels of leadership and decision-making, and strengthen national systems to promote and mainstream gender equality and inclusivity.

Goal 2: Strengthened Regional Systems and Partnerships

1. Work is currently underway to establish a fit-for-purpose Regional Architecture, with appropriate institutional structures, governance mechanisms and ways to engage, build and sustain partnerships for responding to the priorities identified in the 2050 Strategy.
2. Forum Leaders at their 52nd meeting in Cook Islands endorsed the Pacific Partnerships for Prosperity (PPfP) to catalyse the implementation of the 2050 Strategy through adequate partnerships and resourcing for the RCAs.
3. Leaders also endorsed the 'Pacific Partner Action and Commitment Engagement' (PACE) Plans as the high-level commitments made by Dialogue partners and Forum Observers to support the RCAs. Overall, the total amount of identified pledged commitments from partners whether at regional level or bilateral level or through international or regional agencies amounts to approximately FJD163m.

Thematic Area: People Centered Development

Goal 1: Health

1. Many adults are still dying prematurely from non-communicable diseases, affecting at least one in three adults in most Pacific Island Countries and Territories, with minimal

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[2] Pacific Data Hub | SPC

improvement over the last decade[3]. High rates of smoking and alcohol consumption have contributed to this issue.

2. Over the last decade, most countries in the region have reduced child mortality rates for children under 5 years[4].

3. Six countries meet WHO guidelines for doctor availability (at least 10 doctors per 10,000 population), while four countries struggle with adequate doctor availability, and five countries have insufficient information on doctor availability[5].

4. Nurse and midwife coverage has improved, with twelve countries having at least 25 per 10,000 population.

5. Eight countries have reported improvements in access to improved drinking water services. While some 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 safely managed WASH services for many in the Pacific[6].

Goal 2: Education

1. Literacy skills for primary school children remain a concern for most countries. Only 50% of children are achieving the minimum literacy levels at the end of primary schooling in seven of the 14 countries with 2021 PILNA data.

2. Numeracy levels are better across the region. At least two out of three children are achieving the minimum numeracy levels at the end of primary schooling in ten out of fourteen countries with PILNA data. Additionally, there has been an increase in primary school teachers with minimum qualifications across the region – seven out of fifteen countries have minimum qualifications.

3. In eleven out of the fifteen countries, at least 75% of young children are participating in organised early childhood education.

4. In eight out of seventeen countries, at least one in three youth (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. Participation in tertiary education remains low across the region. Of the nine countries which reported data, only three countries have enrolment rates over 50%.

Goal 3: Human Rights, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

1. Rates of violence against women and girls remains high and in three Pacific Island countries has become worse over time, while in the remaining countries there is currently insufficient data to assess progress.

2. The proportion of women in managerial positions has improved in only two countries, with women in ten countries making up less than 40% of the total managerial positions.

3. Women's access to family planning remains a significant concern as it has not improved across the region. In eight countries, less than 50% of women of reproductive age (aged

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[3] Pacific Data Hub | SPC

[4] Pacific Data Hub | SPC

[5] Pacific Data Hub | SPC

[6] In the Pacific, thousands of people will still lack access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene in 2030 unless progress increases – warn WHO, UNICEF

15–49 years) can access modern contraception. In three countries the situation has deteriorated.

4. Across the region, the number of young women who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) is much higher than for young men (39.2% for young women compared to 25.71% for young men).

5. Data on progress in disability inclusion still needs to be collected across the region. Among the seven countries which reported data on social protection benefits for people with severe disabilities, only one country is showing improvements.

Goal 4: Culture

1. CROP agencies continue to work towards various aspects of traditional knowledge, protection/safeguards. 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. Under the Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF), CROP agencies are working towards strengthening the place of Pacific cultures, knowledge systems and Pacific languages in the school curriculum.

Thematic Area: Peace and Security

1. Coherence among regional security institutions is strong. They are guided by the Peace and Security Thematic Area of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the Boe Declaration on Regional Security and its Action Plan, while building on earlier Forum Leader security declarations.

2. At the same time, there are challenges remain with coherence and effectiveness of institutional arrangements, including inconsistencies in governance, membership, status and maturity of organisations and scheduling.

3. In response to these challenges, work continues through the Boe Deceleration Action Plan which includes the mapping of regional security architecture, regional woman peace and security, Pacific Partnership for Prosperity on Cybersecurity and Cybercrime and Pacific Regional Humanitarian Response Coordination Mechanism.

4. 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.

Thematic Area: Resource and Economic Development

1. Reduced economic activity during the pandemic resulted in national budgets being squeezed for most FICs. Budgets remain under pressure from national spending priorities in Health, Education, Connectivity, and other needed public infrastructure.

2. In 2022 the regional average rate of consumer price inflation was estimated at 5.2%, in 2023 prices are estimated to have risen by a further 3.0%.

3. In 2024 and 2025, regional inflation is projected to increase again to about 4.3% and 4.1% respectively.

4. Personal remittances remained quite stable as percentage of GDP during the two years of COVID lockdowns (2020 & 2021) and then increased in several FICs in 2022 and 2023, including in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

5. 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%.

6. Among the nine Pacific countries 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 in FFA member countries for 2021 was estimated at 27,442, up 42% from 2015 and 14% from the previous year.

7. Recent data on remittance costs is currently only available in four countries and ranges between 7.4% and 9.8% in 2021, well above the global target of 3 percent.

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

Thematic Area: Climate change and Disasters

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

1. PICs and territories are on the frontlines of the climate change emergency, accounting for six of the top twenty 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. The eastern Australia floods in 2022 were one of the nation's worst recorded flood disasters with an estimated cost of 7.4 billion. In 2023, Vanuatu experienced back-to-back cyclones with a total of 197,388 people (43623 households) impacted.

2. On loss and damage, Submissions have been made on legal opinion sought by COSIS on assessing State Parties responsibilities under United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as it related to climate change and its impacts on the ocean and related ecosystems.

3. Pacific region will require an estimated US$2 billion a year to address resilience and adaptation to climate change and a renewable energy transition. Currently, the Pacific region is only accessing an estimated US$220 million a year – less than 0.22 per cent of global climate finance[7].

4. The Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific (FESRIP) 2021-2030 launched in 2022 as a commitment by Pacific Island Countries and Territories to transform their energy sector from fossil fuel-based to clean, reliable and affordable renewable energy. SPC is currently leading the development of indicators for FESRIP, and establishment of the role of an Energy Commissioner.

5. To address adaptation and resilience a number of frameworks have been developed including the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific 2017-2030 (FRDP), the Regional Engagement Strategy for water security, and the Pacific Regional Climate Mobility Framework.

6. Leaders endorsed the establishment of the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF) to improve climate and disaster resilience for vulnerable Pacific people, aiming for legal establishment in 2024 and operational readiness in 2025, with a fundraising target of USD $134 million by January 1, 2025.

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[7] Makereta Komai, 5 September 2023, "Pacific region vastly underserved by climate finance – Coral Pasisi", *Pasifika.news*

Goal 2: Climate Action

1. The Political Climate Champions initiative, started in 2021, aims to elevate Pacific priorities at the UNFCCC Conference of Parties and other global platforms by ensuring strategic engagement and influence on key issues.

2. Key initiatives to support this goal includes 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 (ICJ) Submissions and PIF Submission to the International Law Commission.

3. There is enhanced engagement and an amplified Pacific Voice in global climate negotiations for PSIDS and similarly enhanced watchdog role and greater ambition in global climate negotiations advanced through the International Climate Change Engagement Project.

4. PICs continue to demonstrate leadership with the submission of ambitious nationally determined contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Long-term Low Emission development (LT-LEDs), National Communications with most countries implementing priorities identified within these instruments.

Thematic Area: Oceans and Environment

1. The 2022 Tuna Fishery Report Card shows healthy Western Central Pacific Ocean fish stocks with no overfishing and six countries have measures against illegal fishing. Coastal fisheries are vital, with over 50% of Pacific families participate in fishing, including selling fish or working in fisheries. Seven countries have protections for small-scale fisheries according to the 2023 Coastal Fishery Report Card.

2. 22 PICs and Territories manage 20% of the world's Exclusive Economic Zones. As of July 2020, 35 of the 48 boundaries have been formalized with 12 shared EEZ maritime boundaries that remain outstanding.

3. PIF Leaders have reaffirmed the importance of preserving their rights claimed under the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), adopted on 19 June 2023, has a total of ninety signatories and seven parties. Eleven PIF member countries have signed on to the Agreement, and two have ratified the Agreement.

4. 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. Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services have endorsed in principle the draft '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. Over the last 30 years, the Red List Index has indicated an increase in biodiversity loss across the region. Fourteen PICs have adopted relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species.

7. There are also numerous activities that are being undertaken such as the Biosecurity and Management of Invasive Species, the Pacific Region Pesticide Registration Scheme (PRPRS), Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT) and Pacific Seed System Roadmap (PSSR).

8. Waste management and pollution control remains one of the critical environmental issues facing the Pacific region. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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 to 40 years.

Thematic Area: Technology and Connectivity

Goal 1: Land, Air and Sea Transport Services

1. The Pacific region is the poorest performing region in the world in respect of compliance with 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. 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, PICs remain among the countries with the lowest container shipping connectivity in the world. One of the key issues is low trade volumes.

3. 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, PNG, or Solomon Islands.

4. 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. 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. 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.

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

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

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. The Pacific Data Hub initiative serves as a centralized repository for vast datasets, supporting data-driven decision-making and collaboration.

7. Tuvalu's ambitious Future Now presents an opportunity for partners and members to explore technological and scientific advances that establishes a digital state in the metaverse with a member's sovereignty, culture, history, and community maintained.

8. PICs have varying levels of cybersecurity maturity, with many ill-prepared to handle cyber threats due to a lack of effective policies, legal frameworks, and operational capacity. According to the 2020-2022 PaCSON Annual Reports phishing remains the most common cyber threat, followed by ransomware and malware attacks, with a high success rate due to accessible tools and low awareness.

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.

Introduction

This 2024 Baseline Report presents an overview of current situation in the region across the seven Thematic Areas of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific (2050 Strategy). It is the basis on which progress will be assessed against the goals and outcomes of the Strategy at every three-year point. It is anticipated that the next report will follow in 2027 and then 2030.

The report revisits the regional strategic context highlighted in the 2050 Strategy and identifies the challenges that are now to be addressed in the first-phase Implementation Plan (2023-2030). It presents a high-level picture across the region based on a number of headline quantitative indicators and qualitative evidence; a summary of the current situation across the region in terms of achieving the goals set under each of Thematic Areas. Where the focus is on those that are on track, working well, and those of concern (based on trends from available evidence). It also provides a brief overview of existing regional initiatives and plans underway to achieve these outcomes.

This Baseline Report is part of a wider package of reporting that also includes the following (described in the 2050 Strategy MEL Plan):

- A 2050 Strategy Dashboard being developed on the Pacific Data Hub with detailed data for a longer list of indicators, and Country specific snapshots.
- A separate report on progress in implementing Regional Collective Actions (RCAs)
- Deep dives into selected goal areas agreed to by Leaders

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Three-yearly Outcomes report across 7 thematic areas	✓			✓			✓
Annual Progress report on existing regional initiatives and RCAs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Deep dives into selected goal areas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Fire 1:

Strategic Context

The 2050 Strategy was shaped by the region's historical, current and evolving context and identifies where and how the countries and territories of the Pacific will work together as one 'Continent' and in partnership with all regional stakeholders. It builds on a number of regional agreements and declarations such as the Pacific Plan (2003), Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape (2010), Framework for Pacific Regionalism (2014), Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development (2017), Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Fisheries (2015), Blue Pacific Narrative (2017), Boe Declaration (2018), Pacific Regional Culture Strategy (2022) and the 2012 Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (revitalized in 2023). The COVID19 pandemic and global have placed tremendous social and economic stress on the people of the Pacific, who already contend with the impacts of climate change, frequency of disasters and the increasing number of people suffering from non-communicable diseases. While the region

continues to face challenges related to the sustainability and security of its ocean and land-based resources, these other issues are creating widening fiscal deficits. In this context, there is an increased urgency for the region to act collectively to progress issues of significance, including health epidemics, climate change and disaster risk, gender equality, regional security, ocean governance, and economic and trade development.

The Strategy is about Pacific peoples, their faiths, cultural values, and traditional knowledge. People who know their needs and potential; plan and own their development agenda; and act collectively for the good of all. It is a living document which has been developed through comprehensive consultations at both the national and regional level with Members, CROP agencies, Non-State Actors and specialists from within and beyond the region. It is supported by an implementation planning process that recognises unforeseen events. It is supported by an implementation plan (2050 IP)_which outlines long term goals, related outcomes and regional collective actions.

Annual Reporting to Leaders

Progress towards the goals and outcomes will be reported to Leaders on an annual basis supported by analysis on the implementation of regional collective actions across the seven thematic areas. The MEL plan for the 2050 will utilise existing indicators available and reported on for each of the people and systems outcomes to inform this first year report.

Headline Indicators – role of Traffic Lights

The headline indicators presented in this report are a small subset of the outcome indicators for the 2050 Strategy. These headline indicators are regionally agreed indicators that most member countries use to report on progress under their National Development Plans/Strategies. Many are also used in regional sectoral frameworks and are drawn from the Pacific SDG set endorsed by Leaders. These quantitative indicators are supplemented by qualitative evidence particularly in areas where data is currently limited.

Traffic lights indicate how Forum Island countries are progressing under each goal against the target (either the SDG or regional benchmark) for the selected headline indicators:

🟩	Has achieved SDG target or on track
🟨	Progressing but rate of change not sufficient to meet target by 2030
🟥	Needs support as not progressing towards the target or has become worse
⬜	Insuficent data to measure progress
⬜	New indicator required (to be developed in context of regional sector strategies)

Where stated regional benchmarks or targets were found, these have been used. In other cases, the 2030 Agenda targets have been incorporated recognising that these were developed by countries from around the world with guidance from UN experts. These traffic lights currently do not cover Pacific countries outside the FICs, although many CROP agencies have wider membership. This methodology was first presented in the 2022 Quadrennial Sustainable Development Report for the Pacific and is consistent with other global SDG assessments. Annex A and B provide the following details for each indicator: link to specific outcome in the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan, link to SDG indicator and/or regional sector framework, year and source of data.

The report identifies areas where further work is needed to develop relevant and appropriate indicators for reporting from 2025 onwards. As highlighted in the 2022 Quadrennial Sustainable Development Report and in the Heads of Planning and Statistics meetings, sustained investment is required to improve capacity of countries to collect and analyse data needed for monitoring progress against outcomes.

Thematic Area: Political Leadership and Regionalism

The history of Pacific regionalism demonstrates the importance of strong and enduring leadership and political will to address the increasingly complex geopolitical environment and to respond to emerging issues. Success depends on the region working together, including with Non-State Actors, through a regional system that complements national efforts, and drives our joint aspirations and priorities as the Blue Pacific Continent. While respecting national sovereignty and in order to protect our collective interests, the region will act in unity and solidarity in its engagement and advocacy with partners.

Regional Policy Context

- There are at least 20 regional policy frameworks in place to support the political commitments of Forum Leaders to the region's safety and development.
- Governance is key to maintaining the security of our region. There already exists policy frameworks to guide the implementation of appropriate governance instruments.
- To better address the priorities of the Pacific region, effective partnerships with regional and international partners are essential and can be further strengthened under existing policy frameworks.

Stakeholders & Institutions: Includes Leaders, Members, relevant regional agencies, Non-State Actors, Accountability Institutions (Ombudsman), Human Rights Bodies, Law Enforcement Agencies, Academia and international partners

Figure 1: Existing Regional Frameworks

Political Leadership and Governance and Regionalism	Partnerships, Engagement and Integration
- Framework for Pacific Regionalism (2014) - Blue Pacific Narrative (2017) 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (2022) 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan (2023) - Forum Principles of Good Leadership - Forum Principles of Accountability - Teieniwa Vision for Anti-Corruption - Biketawa Deceleration - Agreement Establishing the Pacific Islands Forum - SPC Establishment Agreement - USP Establishment Agreement - South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency Convention - SPREP Establishment Agreement - Smaller Islands States (SIS) Strategy (under review) - Agreement establishing the Melanesian Spearhead Group - Micronesian President's Summit - Polynesia Leaders' Group	- Blue Pacific Principles for Dialogue and Engagement - Forum Dialogue Partners - Guidelines and Criteria for Forum Dialogue Partners - Forum Associate Member and Observer Arrangements - Guidelines and Criteria for Forum Members and Observers 2018 CROP Charter - OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement

Current Context By Goal

Goal 1: Pacific Regionalism will be supported by a unified, cohesive, and inclusive political leadership grounded in the Pacific Way and the Leaders Commitment and values of the 2050 Strategy.

As outlined in the 2050 Strategy there are five strategic pathways along which progress will be made to achieve the Goal. The three System Outcomes supporting the achievement of this Goal where the focus is on:

- Pacific Leadership grounded in the Pacific Way and the Leaders' commitment and values of the 2050 Strategy.
- The Pacific demonstrates strong and accountable leadership, that is consistent with existing regional commitments on good governance, accountable leadership, democratic principles and values.
- Improved enabling environment for increased representation and participation of all Pacific peoples, including women and girls in all their diversity in leadership to ensure inclusive and equitable sharing of resources and opportunities.

Current Situation

Indicators for the goal and outcomes 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. This notwithstanding, there is significant information that has been drawn from, from existing reviews and reports that inform this summary.

Political dialogue and agreement on the region's long-term strategic trajectory are necessary for members to work together effectively to achieve the shared vision and deliver on the collective actions. It requires political consensus and compromise; effective regional governance and coordination; and agreement by all Members in terms of collective positions in international diplomacy and advocacy. In 2017, Forum Leaders confirmed the Pacific Islands Forum as the apex of the regional architecture. Consequently, the annual Forum Leaders Meeting remains central to the functioning of the regional architecture and is the ultimate decision-making process from which the actions of regional partners flow.

The effective functioning of the Pacific Islands Forum requires political unity and political will to drive Pacific regionalism, and in this regard, it should be noted that there have been a range of broad and specific issues that have impacted unity and will over the years, including climate change, the discharge of ALPS, recognition of Taiwan-ROC, issues of self-determination, regional solidarity and responding to civil unrest.

The regional landscape has become complex with an increase in the number of actors, implementing agencies and regional meetings across all sectors and thematic areas of the 2050 Strategy. The resulting effect has been a proliferation of regional decision-making platforms in the region, without a clear linkage back to the Forum Leaders and by virtue, the 2050 Strategy. The Review of Regional Architecture is currently working to address these critical issues related to leadership, representation and regionalism.

In terms of accountability and good governance, it is understood that country capacity to collect and report official statistics is an important contributor to governance effectiveness, accountability and transparency. Ten countries are reported to have national statistical

legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics; fifteen countries have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and eight countries have achieved 100 percent birth registration and 80 percent death registration. Of the available data on transparency, four countries have reported that they have adopted and implemented constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information but there is lack of information from the other 12 countries on this indicator.

At the regional level, there is continued progress on good governance and accountability under the Forum Principles of Good Leadership, the Forum Principles of Accountability, and the Teieniwa Vision. Most recently, a working group on the Vision has been established to progress issues related to anti-corruption and good governance.

In terms of increased representation and participation, while two countries have at least half the seats in national parliament held by women, in the remaining 14 countries, women make up less than 25% of the seats. The revitalised Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration endorsed includes commitments to strengthen the participation of all Pacific peoples, particularly women and girls in all their diversity, at all levels of leadership and decision-making, and strengthen national systems to promote and mainstream gender equality and inclusivity.

In terms of broader inclusivity in regional policy development, there have been increased efforts to include civil society, the private sector, faith-based organisations, and the youth into regional policy making and decision-making processes over the past 10 years – including through the values and processes under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

Goal 2- The Pacific Region will be supported by a responsive, efficient, and inclusive regional system that promotes deeper integration and drives Partnerships that recognise, respects and support our collective values and priorities.

System Outcomes supporting the achievement of this Goal focus on

- An effective, inclusive and efficient regional architecture that is supported by a coherent and accountable governance mechanism that responds to the Leaders' vison and ambitions.
- All partners recognise and utilise existing national and regional decisions and mechanisms to consult, shape and drive the alignment with the 2050 strategy and its Implementation Plan to support the regional architecture in the Pacific.
- The Pacific Region is recognised as a leading contributor to global discourse and global actors align with regional initiatives that responds to the vulnerabilities and characteristics of the Pacific.

Achievement of this goal brings together a range of interconnected issues related to the effective functioning of the region's architecture; partnership engagement; and effective global engagement and advocacy.

Current Situation

Indicators for the goal and outcomes 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. This notwithstanding, there is significant information that has been drawn from, from existing reviews and reports that inform this summary.

There have been a multitude of regional reviews of the regional architecture, including various perspectives on its governance, financing, efficiencies and advocacy over the last three decades.

In 2013, a review of the Pacific Plan noted that "many questions remain about the efficiency of the wider regional institutional architecture and the effective governance of such a network of regional organizations"[8]. The review team suggested that a comprehensive reform of the regional institutional architecture, and its governance arrangements represented "unfinished business".

This historical work has in many ways culminated in the current Review of Regional Architecture, which is intended to develop a regional system that has in place appropriate institutional structures, governance mechanisms and ways to engage, build and sustain partnerships for responding to the priorities identified in the 2050 Strategy.

Through the RRA, a proposed tiering mechanism is being considered as a way to ensure more effective partner engagement moving forward.[9]

There have been some critical areas – particularly climate change, where this advocacy – driven at CROP level, has worked effectively. For instance, the region has come together during the UNFCCC COP platform to pursue a well-coordinated advocacy and negotiation and litigation platform at the global and regional levels to address the underlying causes of climate change, and to ensure that climate change and disaster resilience finance, action and support is made available in the region.

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[8] Pacific Plan Review (2013) Report to Pacific Leaders, Volume 1and 2, Page 27
[9] Reports on the review of the regional archiceture

Thematic Area: People Centered Development

This thematic area recognises that Pacific peoples draw their identity and inspiration from their cultural diversity and deep cultural and spiritual attachments to their land and the ocean. Despite a range of initiatives in the Pacific to promote improved health and education outcomes, much more needs to be done. There is a need to address issues of exclusion and inequality, including gender inequality, marginalised groups, and the importance of protecting human rights and environmental rights.

Current Policy Context

- There are at least 21 existing regional policy frameworks to support various aspects of people-centered development. Majority of those policy frameworks address health issues, including non-communicable diseases, food security and early childhood education.

Stakeholders & Institutions: Includes Leaders, Members, NSAs, Community Groups, Human Rights Bodies, academia, Regional agencies with key mandates in this Thematic Area and international partners.

- Several frameworks have been developed to address gender issues, youth, culture and persons with disability in the region.
- Apart from tertiary education, regional support for education has been largely limited to curriculum development for primary and secondary levels.

Figure 2: Mapping the existing regional frameworks

Health	Education	Gender, Disability and Human Rights	Culture
• Pacific Islands: Non–Communicable Disease Roadmap • The Regional Framework for Accelerating Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Pacific SIDS (the Pacific Framework) • 2017 Pacific Early Childhood development • Pacific Monitoring Alliance for NCD Action (MANA) Dashboard • Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable water Management (Pacific RAP) • Pacific Framework for Action on Drinking Water and Health • Framework for Action on Food Security in the Pacific • The Framework convention on Tobacco Control • Physical Activity and Health and Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful use of Alcohol • 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	• Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF) • Pasifika call to Action on ECD • Pacific Regional Inclusive Education Framework (PRIEF) • Pacific Youth Development Framework (currently being revised) • 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	• Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED) • Regional Strategy for Pacific Women in Maritime 2020–2024 • Revised Pacific Platform on Action on Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights (2018-2030) • Pacific Energy gender Network Strategic Action Pan (PEGSAP) 2020-2030 • The convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) • Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities • Incheon Strategy • 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	• Regional Culture Strategy 2021 – 2030 • 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The wellbeing of Pacific peoples continues to be impacted by emerging threats to health, education, human rights, and culture. A number of key threats as highlighted in the Pacific Security Outlook Report include the ongoing impacts of NCDs, illicit drug crimes and drug trafficking, illegal movement and exploitation of people and child sexual exploitation. These threats are exacerbated through the loss of practitioners to labour mobility particularly in the health and education sectors. Greater access to technologies has also impacted young Pacific populations, issues related to cyber bullying has had significant impacts on emotional and mental health require new regional policy, advocacy, negotiation and litigation approaches.

There are a range of existing national and regional initiatives to promote, social inclusion, improved health and education outcomes in the region and to address some aspects of exclusion and inequality. However, much more will need to be done over the next twenty five years if the vision for 2050 is to be attained. In line with this, the region's people including its youth, will be the most important contributors to the achievement of the 2050 Vision. This will be achieved through robustness of cultures, traditions, skills, ingenuity, innovation, and resilience.

Goal 1: Improved health and well-being of all Pacific peoples.

The System Outcomes supporting the achievement of this Goal focus on:

- Strengthened institutional capacity and capability to address national and regional health priorities
- Strengthened coverage, quality, accessibility, affordable and resilience of health and wellbeing services
- Improved healthy lifestyles across all communities including increased participation in sports and physical activity

Current situation

The Pacific region faces significant health challenges, including a high prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and vulnerability to systemic shocks like COVID-19 and climate change. WHO data shows that six of the top ten countries for premature deaths due to NCDs are in the Pacific. Joint programs between national governments, external countries, and NGOs have improved sexual and reproductive health outcomes for women, adolescents, and youths in some Pacific countries. However, access to safe and potable water remains an issue, with many people unable to access clean water, hygiene, and waste disposal services, exposing them to preventable diseases according to a 2021 UNICEF report.

Figure 3: The following traffic light shows the extent of progress across the region against the key outcome indicators for which data is available.

Indicator	Pacific Island progress
Reduce deaths to children under 5 years' of age to under 25 per 1,000 live births	81% / 6% / 13%
Reduce premature deaths from NCDs by at least one-third	56% / 6%
Universal coverage of essential health services	44% / 44%
10 or more medical doctors per 10,000 population	38% / 6% / 25%
25 or more nurses and midwives per 10,000 population	81% / 6% / 6%
Reduced prevalence of current tobacco use, aged 15+, to less than 15%	13% / 56% / 6%
Eliminate Illicit drug use	Indicator to be developed
Improved service coverage for people with severe mental health disorders	13%
Universal access to 'improved' drinking water services	50% / 25% / 25%

Across the region over the last decade, most countries have shown improvements in preventing deaths of children under 5 years of age as seen in figure 3 above. However, many adults across the region are still dying prematurely from non-communicable diseases (i.e. heart disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease). In most countries, this is affecting at least 1 in 3 adults, and the situation has shown only minimal improvement over the last decade. This also reflects the high rate of smoking and alcohol consumption.

While six countries meet the WHO guidelines for the availability of doctors (i.e. at least 10 doctors per 10,000 population), there is insufficient information on five countries, and four countries are struggling to have adequate doctors to serve their communities. The coverage of nurses and midwives is better- with twelve countries having at least 25 per 10,000 population.

Improvements in access to improved drinking water services have also been reported in eight countries.

Goal 2: Improved educational achievement of Pacific learners through quality, accessible, affordable, and inclusive education at all levels.
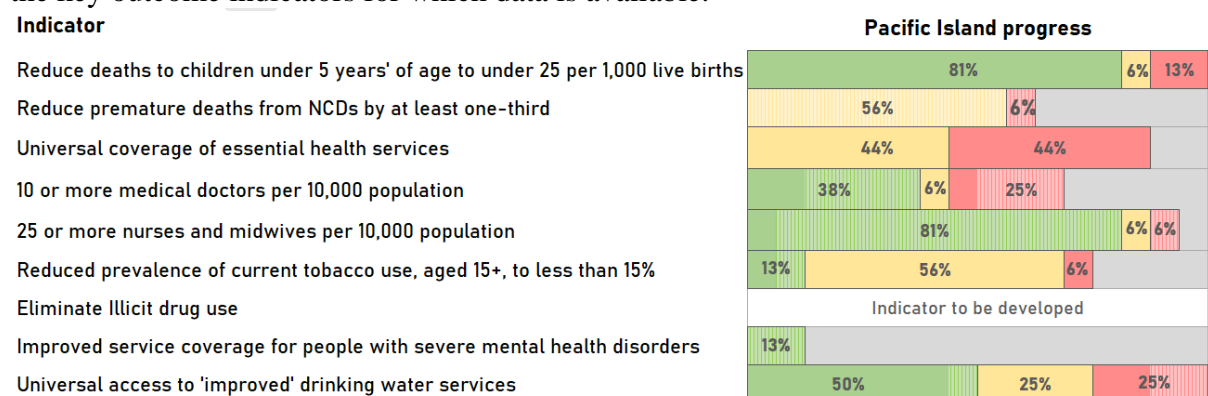
The System Outcomes supporting the achievement of this Goal focus on:

- Strengthened institutional capacity and capability to deliver Pacific education outcomes
- Strengthened Pacific education curriculum and assessment systems to meet employment and national development needs
- Improved access to quality, relevant, equitable, accessible, affordable and inclusive formal and non-formal education for all Pacific learners including learner with disabilities

Current situation

Figure 4: The following traffic light shows the extent of progress across the region against the key outcome indicators for which data is available.
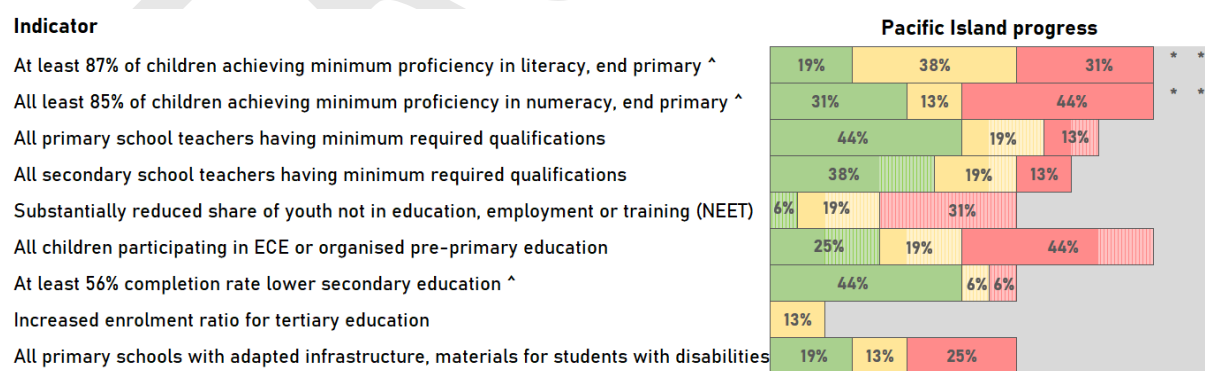
^ these percentage targets are the Pacfiic regional benchmarks for 2030 (Status of Pacific Education 2022)
* 2 FICs not covered by the regional PILNA Assessment

Literacy skills for primary school children remains a concern for most countries. In seven out of 14 countries with 2021 PILNA data, only 50% of children are achieving the minimum literacy levels at the end of primary schooling. Numeracy levels are better across the region. In 10 out of 14 countries with PILNA data, at least 2 out of 3 children are achieving the minimum numeracy levels at the end of primary schooling.

The strongest improvement across the region appears to be in the increased number of primary school teachers with the minimum required qualifications. In seven out of 15 countries all primary school teachers have at least the minimum qualifications. Among secondary school teachers, six countries reported having all teachers with the required qualifications.

A useful indication of whether the education system is meeting employment, and national needs is to look at what the youth are doing. In eight out of 17 countries, at least 1 in 3 youth (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. Key reasons for high youth unemployment rates include low economic growth, high population growth and skills mismatches. Furthermore, there remains a lack of targeted investment required to meet the needs of all young people in the Pacific. The resulting impact has been minimal change in the overall status of youth. Many of the issues facing youth, such as unemployment, teenage pregnancy, substance abuse and NCDs, are complex. Many Pacific young people are also leaving their island countries for better education opportunities and employment to live and work in Australia, New Zealand, and beyond.

In 11 out of the 15 countries, at least 75% of young children are participating in organised early childhood education. However, earlier progress in getting more young children into early childhood education before they enter primary school has been reversed in the period 2020-2022 in seven countries. Participation in tertiary education remains low across the region. Of the 9 countries which reported data, only 3 countries have enrolment rates over 50%. Higher enrolment rates among females are observed in 6 countries.

The Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF) is the Ministerial policy document that guides the development of regional education in the Pacific continues to implement programmes that support national education systems. Endorsed in 2018 by Forum Education Ministers, countries in partnership with implementing agencies have implemented Phase 1 and will design Phase 2 that will address issues on emerging technologies, resilient education systems and retention of teachers.

The PacREF plays a critical role in contributing towards education goals and related outcomes of the 2050 IP. Higher Education programs by the University of the South Pacific, Pacific Islands Development Program and other institutions continue to deliver initiatives to improve quality education, accessibility and with inclusive approaches.

Goal 3: The Pacific region realises human rights, including gender equality, equity, and social inclusion.

The System Outcomes supporting the achievement of this Goal focus on:

- Strengthened institutional capacity and capability in Pacific Island countries to promote and protect human rights, gender equality, equity and social inclusion
- Pacific women and girls in all their diversity, are safe and have equitable share of resources, opportunities, leadership and decision making
- The six pre-conditions to disability inclusion are recognised and applied in the Pacific

Current situation

Figure 5: The following traffic light shows the extent of progress across the region against the key outcome indicators for which data is available.

There is currently not sufficient reliable and consistent reporting on protection of human rights across the region. However, there is good data for most countries on registration of births which relates to providing a legal identity for all Pacific peoples. Five of the 15 countries have achieved the target of universal birth registrations.

The rates of violence against women and girls remains high, being reported by more than 1 in 4 women and girls in 6 countries. In 3 countries the situation has become worse over time, while in the remaining countries there is currently not insufficient data to assess progress. The proportion of women in managerial positions has improved in only two countries. In 10 countries, women make up less than 40% of the total managerial positions.

Women's access to family planning remains a significant concern as it has not improved across the region. In 8 countries, less than 50% of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) are able to access modern contraception. In three countries the situation has deteriorated.

Across the region, the number of young women who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) is much higher than for young men (39.2% for young women compared to 25.71% for young men).

Data on progress in disability inclusion still needs to be collected across the region. Among the seven countries which reported data on social protection benefits for people with severe disabilities, only one country is showing improvements.

Existing regional initiatives and plans

Leaders endorsed the Revitalised Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration at the 52nd PIF Leaders Meeting in Cook Islands. Monitoring and evaluation will ensure that regional efforts, on gender statistics, financing programmes and initiatives are addressed. Gender equality and social inclusion will be mainstreamed through the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan and ensure that support to member countries is coordinated and coherent. In 2023 countries will report on progress of Beijing +30 and the implementation of the Pacific Platform for Action for Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights. Countries have been supported at the Commission on the Status of Women, Conference of Parties and regional convenings including the Micronesian Ministers for Women Conference and the Triennial Conference of Women and the Pacific Ministers Meeting.

Goal 4: The Pacific's diverse cultures, traditions, spirituality, and languages are visible, valued, safeguarded, and inform all national and regional development actions.

As outlined in the 2050 Strategy there are five strategic pathways along which progress will be made to achieve the Goal. Based on these strategic pathways the System Outcomes supporting the achievement of this Goal focus on:

- Strengthened institutional capacity and capability to promote and safeguard Pacific culture, traditions, languages, practices and arts outcomes
- Strengthened recognition of Pacific cultural producers, artists and craft persons as valued and resourceful contributors to socio- economic development
- Diverse Pacific cultures and cultural heritage including traditional skills, knowledge, spiritually, practices and languages are revived, safeguarded, transmitted and utilised.

Current situation

There is currently limited data to assess the outcomes under this goal. The Pacific Regional Culture Strategy 2022-2032 endorsed by Leaders aims for culture to play a central and critical role in achieving socio-economic wellbeing for our people. The MEL Plan for this Culture Strategy has recently been developed. The measurement of the indicators will be developed by 2025 focusing on key areas such as: Country investment in cultural and natural heritage, Cultural wellbeing, Sustainable cultural tourism, and School hours per week teaching culture, languages and the arts.

Existing regional initiatives and plans

Work has progressed towards finalizing international legal instruments on Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs); and Genetic Resources (GRs) and associated TK. Following the Pacific recommendation for one consolidated Treaty rather than two separate Treaties. Support for Tuvalu and Kiribati towards development of TK Bills and Culture policy.

CROP agencies will continue to work towards various aspects of traditional knowledge, protection/safeguards. 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.

Thematic Area: Peace and Security

This thematic area highlights the central role that peace and security play in ensuring that our countries and territories are able to realise a safe, secure and prosperous region. While recognising the importance to Member countries of collective threats to their peace and security, the Blue Pacific Continent remains committed to principles of democracy, good governance, and non-interference national affairs.

Current Regional Policy Context

The regional security environment is becoming increasingly crowded and complex with a growing range of challenges both traditional and non-traditional, and a dynamic geopolitical environment. Since the end of COVID-19, there has been a marked increase in a range of transnational and organised crime related incidents across the Pacific.

There are a number of regional security frameworks to support efforts to directly promote peace and security across the region, while also advancing global peace and security.

Recent developments in the traditional security space have prompted Pacific Leaders to enhance dialogues and regional efforts on issues addressing self-determination, pro-independence, conflict resolution including political and civil instability.

Despite the existing regional policy frameworks, some Members continue to advocate on the need to refine and define measures for the region to effectively respond to and address the emerging and evolving peace and security developments.

Existing Regional Frameworks

Figure 6: An infographic of existing regional security treaties and declarations is below.

- The FOC Subcommittee on Regional Security remains the Forum's coordination mechanism whereby these treaties and declarations are operationalised.

Key security Issues

- South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Rarotonga Treaty) (1985)
- Biketawa Declaration (2000)
- Boe Declaration on Regional Security (2018)
- Niue Treaty on Cooperation in Fisheries Surveillance and Law Enforcement in the South Pacific Region (1992)
- Nasonini Declaration 2002
- Vava'u Declaration on Pacific Fisheries Resources "Our Fish, Our Future"
- (2007)
- Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement (2012)
- Teieniwa Vision (2020)
- Declaration by the South Pacific Forum on Law Enforcement Cooperation Honiara (1992)
- Aitutaki Declaration on Regional Security Cooperation (1997)
- The Convention to Ban the importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention) (2001)

Goal 1: By 2050, the Pacific Regional will remain a peaceful, inclusive, gender equal, safe and secure region.

The three System Outcomes supporting the achievement of this Goal where the focus is on:

- Strengthened security policy arrangements in the region.
- A strengthened, inclusive and harmonised regional security architecture, guided by the Forum processes, with improved ability to address existing, evolving and/or emerging security issues; and to guide decision making on regional and global security issues.
- Improved global recognition of the Forum's contribution to global peace and security, and for promoting the region's collective security interests and experiences in global security discussions.

Current situation

Since the endorsement of the Boe Declaration in 2018, the regional security landscape has become even more complex. The COVID-19 pandemic, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, tensions in West Papua and Bougainville, social unrest and political instability with increasing geopolitical competition have all added to the security challenges faced by Pacific peoples. These new challenges exacerbate existing vulnerabilities that are inherent in the small, isolated and climate exposed lands and economies of the Blue Pacific continent.

The security risks outlined as key focus areas of the Boe Declaration Action Plan remain (climate, human security and humanitarian, cybersecurity, environmental and resource security, transnational crime, regional enabling environment and coordination). Efforts to mitigate those risks require ongoing prioritisation and resourcing. While geopolitical competition could draw much-needed attention and resources to the Pacific, it could also distract the region and its partners from efforts to address its existing security priorities – addressing climate security, supporting human security and disrupting criminal activity.

With regards to security policy arrangements, the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders have long recognised that security and stability underpin sustainable development and economic growth in the Pacific. Under the 1992 Honiara Declaration, Forum Leaders noted that balanced economic and social development, a central goal of all the countries of the region, could not be achieved without the assurance of safety and security.

The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent further outlines the region's vision of a peaceful, safe and secure Blue Pacific region which respects national sovereignty, and where people can realise their full potential as individuals, communities and nations, and where the region delivers Pacific coordinated responses to security challenges and contributes to building global peace and security.

In terms of the regional security architecture, the implementation of the broad set of security focus areas requires a broad range of institutions, processes, and partners. Unlike the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) or other formal security architectures around the world, no formal, region-wide collective security agreement exists in the Pacific Island region. Rather there is a combination of bilateral arrangements both between Pacific Island states and their security partners, as well as multilateral forums. This means the security architecture of the Pacific Islands is a patchwork of interactions that fluctuates depending on geopolitical dynamics and the priorities of the individual Pacific states.

From a policy perspective, coherence among regional security institutions is strong – all are guided by shared objectives articulated in the Peace and Security Thematic Area of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, as well as the Boe Declaration on Regional Security and its Action Plan, while building on earlier Forum Leader security declarations.

From a structural perspective, several key challenges exist:

i. Governance inconsistencies: Regional security institutions / secretariats / fora are governed in a wide variety of ways, from ministerial or officials-level governing boards, to donor-led steering committees, to being wholly run by Forum Members.

ii. Membership inconsistencies: Most regional security institutions / secretariats / fora have differing Membership, making streamlining and coordination efforts difficult.

iii. Status and maturity of organisations: Some institutions / secretariats / fora are well-entrenched within the regional architecture with ongoing Member-based funding, while others are relatively new and rely on short-term donor funding cycles for longevity; and

iv. Scheduling: As the peak governance of most regional institutions / secretariats / fora is 'self-contained' (i.e. responsible only to their direct governing body) annual reporting and meeting cycles vary greatly and are hard to align.

The current priority areas under the Boe Action Plan include:

- Mapping of Regional Security Architecture,
- Regional Women Peace and Security
- Pacific Partnership for Prosperity on Cybersecurity and Cybercrime
- Pacific Regional Humanitarian Response Coordination Mechanism

Thematic Area: Resource and Economic Development

This thematic area highlights the importance of improving socio-economic wellbeing of all Pacific peoples through improving macroeconomic resilience and stability, strengthening financial system resilience, diversifying economies, supporting private sector growth in creating employment and entrepreneurial activity in the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and improving trade and sustainable labour mobility.

Current Regional Policy Context

- There are at least 20 existing regional policy frameworks to support the sustainable development priorities of the region.

Stakeholders & Institutions: Includes Leaders, Members, Private Sector, resource owners, Civil Society, Academia, Regional agencies with key mandates in this Thematic Area and international partners.

- Trade is a key element to economic development and a large focus at regional and sub-regional levels has been geared towards enhancing trade and investment.
- There exist regional frameworks for ensuring effective partnerships with key players to promote sustainable development in the region.
- Despite the significant role of finance, the region lacks regional policy instruments to support the financing needs for sustainable development.
- Economic activity in the countries in the North Pacific will benefit from the renewal of the US Compact agreements in 2023.

Figure 8: Mapping the existing regional frameworks

Sustainable Economic Development

- Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) (2024)
- The Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus (PACER Plus) (2001)
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda in Financing for Development (2015)
- Pacific Economic Monitor
- PIPSO Strategic Plan (under development)
- Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Fisheries (2015)
- A New Song for Coastal Fisheries – pathways to change: The Noumea Strategy (2015)
- Pacific ACP States Regional Financial Framework for Deep Sea Minerals Exploration and Exploitation (2016)
- Regional Longline Fisheries Electronic Monitoring Policy (2020)
- Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework (2021)
- Pacific Regional E-Commerce Strategy and Roadmap (2021)
- Framework for Action on Energy Security in the Pacific (2010)
- The Waiheke Declaration on Sustainable Economic Development (2011)
- Pacific Islands Private Sector Strategy (under development)
- Blue Pacific Economy Strategy (under development)
- The Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) (1982)
- Multilateral Treaty on fisheries (US Treaty) (1987)
- OACPS-EU Economic Partnership Agreement
- The South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement (SPARTECA) (1980)
- Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA) (2001)
- Pacific Trade Invest Network (1979)
- Pacific Aid for Trade Strategy (PAfT) (2020)
- World Trade Organisation Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO TFA) (2017)
- Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Free Trade Agreement (MSG FTA) (1993)

The Pacific Roadmap for Economic Development (PRED) provides an overarching policy framework that supports regional cooperation and integration in the fields of private sector development and employment, ensuring sustainable labour mobility, increased inter- and intra-regional trade, raising the quality of inward investment. It also supports policies on economic resilience and sustainability and efforts to diversify economies while strengthening cooperation and integration. Despite these perceived benefits of PRED, much work needs to be done to realise the benefits and synergies to be generated by cooperation and integration as envisaged in the Blue Pacific strategy 2050. These actions are all outlined in the Regional Collective Actions.

The ADB is being engaged to revise the Asian Pacific Regional Cooperation and Integration Index (ARCII) to enable more FICs to be included in the index calculations. This will provide an opportunity for regional cooperation and integration to be measured and monitored at the regional level, and progress across the various components in the Pacific ARCII index to be reported.

Current Situation

Overall, economic growth for the region remains challenging. This is reflected in the indicators on basic-needs poverty rates, GDP growth rates, and debt service ratios. Pacific Islands were hit hard by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that disrupted both demand for goods and services as well as supply chains. Lockdowns were eased, borders opened, and trade and tourism were recovering when global geopolitical events resulted in new disruptions to supply chains, increased shipping costs and increases in the cost of living. For the Pacific the ever-present threats of natural disasters and climate-change create additional policy uncertainties and areas of further risk to economic recovery and sustained and sustainable economic growth. For the region as a whole the average growth rate of GDP was 7.9% in 2022, boosted by the opening of borders and tourism recovery, falling to 3.5% in 2023 and with forecasts of 3.3% and 4.0% for 2024 and 2025 respectively.

To maximise economic returns, the region must make the most of intra-regional and external trade and focus on key areas such as e-commerce, quality infrastructure, trade facilitation, trade finance, as well as transport and connectivity. Measures such as intra-regional and external labour mobility are important but does not lessen the necessity for continued development and enablement of a vibrant and active private sector in Member countries. Additionally, Leaders in 2023, recognises that women's economic empowerment is fundamental to development and includes commitments to creating a conducive environment for women and girls' economic empowerment inclusive of those working in the informal and unpaid care economy, women and girls with disabilities, and women and girls in rural, remote, and maritime areas.

There has been limited progress from pre-COVID baseline; only countries with special situations (Nauru and some other PNA members) have recovered to pre-COVID GDP levels. Hardship and levels of basic-needs poverty have not been reduced in most countries. For sustained reduction in the level of basic-needs poverty attention must be given to enhancing opportunities for employment and economic recovery and growth and recommended in the Regional Collective Actions.

Figure 9: The following traffic light, using the limited data which is available, shows the extent of progress across the region towards the achievement of the Goal under this Thematic Area. For most countries there has not been updated data on poverty rates post 2020.

Indicator	Forum Island Country progress
Reduce by one-half the % of population living below the national poverty line	
GDP per capita growth rate, at least 7 percent	
Reduced debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services	
High proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes	
Tourism contribution to GDP	
Tuna fisheries contribution to economy	Indicator tbd in 2025
Cost of doing business	
Proportion of youth participating in labour mobility schemes	

Goal 1: Improved socioeconomic wellbeing and prosperity of all Pacific peoples through inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economic development.

The seven System Outcomes supporting the achievement of this Goal where the focus is on:

- strengthening policies to support macroeconomic resilience and stability; to support sustainable private sector growth with increased opportunities for diversification; to strengthened financial system resilience and adaption to emerging new systems; to improve collaboration for the development and management of sustainable tourism; to attract quality investment;
- strengthening the resilience of financial systems and adaption to emerging systems, including diversified financing options; and
- improved intra-regional and international trade, including sustainable labour mobility.

Achievement of this goal brings together a range of interconnected issues that are central to our short, medium and longer-term economic wellbeing as individual Member countries and as a region. As an oceanic people and region, natural and human resources are of significant strategic value. The sheer size of the Blue Pacific Continent presents significant economic growth potential: 40 million square kilometres, harbour to the majority of global shipping lanes, 55 per cent of the global tuna catches, significant tourism, and perhaps the world's largest carbon sink. All are yet to be optimised for individual and collective benefit.

Reduced economic activity during the pandemic resulted in national budgets being squeezed for most FICs as tax and other revenues declined in parallel with declines in economic growth rates. Although many FICs were provided with budgetary support from both multilateral and bilateral partners, others increased their levels of indebtedness. Budgetary pressure was exacerbated by the need to provide for additional expenditure on social protection measures to alleviate increased financial hardship resulting from job losses and higher retail prices. FIC budgets remain under pressure from national spending priorities in Health, Education, Connectivity, and other needed public infrastructure. In 2022 the regional average rate of consumer price inflation was estimated at 5.2%, 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, approximately back to the average pre-Covid rate for the period 2014-2019.

Labour Mobility

Personal remittances remained quite stable as % of GDP during the two years of COVID lockdowns (2020 & 2021) and then increased in several FICs in 2022 and 2023, including in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. These increases reflect the immediate post-COVID growth in the number of active workers under the labour mobility schemes, as well as employment recovery in Australia and New Zealand generally. However, recent figures suggest that the number of new labour mobility workers appears to have begun to fall in late 2023 and early 2024 as new regulations have been introduced by Australia under the PALM scheme.[10]

Private Sector

The broad contribution of the private sector to GDP can be measured from national accounts by aggregating those sector contributions generated by those activities that are predominantly in the private sector i.e., construction & real estate, personal & other professional services, retail/wholesale trade, financial services and accommodation & restaurants. For private sector recovery, growth and employment creation the relevant Regional Collective Actions need to be implemented as a high priority. SMSEs face many challenges; rising input costs (including shipping, energy and distribution), small domestic markets with constrained consumer and government spending, high interest rates on borrowing and working capital needs, and in some FICS, difficulties in recruiting skilled workers when other opportunities are available through the labour mobility schemes.

Tourism

Tourism-based economies are showing positive rebounds from the lows of the pandemic with Australia and New Zealand the two main tourism source markets. Gross tourism revenues as a proportion of total GDP have recovered in most tourism dependent economies, although only Fiji appears to have fully recovered to pre-pandemic levels. Few FICs have tourism satellite accounts enabling measurement of the contribution of tourism to GDP; an exception is Fiji where data shows the contribution of tourism to GDP increasing to 9.9% in 2022, almost back to the average levels of 12-13% pre-pandemic.

Fisheries

The economic contribution of fisheries varies significantly across countries. For some it is mainly through revenue from licenses issued to foreign fishing fleets. For others it also generates significant employment through employment onshore processing and crewing requirements. Among the nine Pacific countries 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 in FFA member countries for 2021 was estimated at 27,442, up 42% from 2015 and 14% from the previous year. Since 2010, employment has increased steadily with the onshore processing sector contribution most to this increase and accounting for around 60–70% of all employment in the tuna fisheries sector. For

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[10] The falling demand for seasonal workers; Richard Curtain, ANU DevPolicy Blog, 24 April 2024

some countries, notably members of the PNA, the stability of fisheries revenues helped to mitigate the impacts of the border closures and the reduction in tourism and other economic activity.

Trade

Intra and inter regional trade is also hindered by a lack of harmonisation of business regulations, start-up documentation requirements, processing times, fees and national complex biosecurity regulations between countries.

Energy security and affordability is an important contributor to economic development and is primarily addressed under Thematic Area 7.

Recent data on remittance costs is currently only available in four countries and ranges between 7.4% and 9.8% in 2021, well above the global target of 3 percent.

Challenges

The impacts of Covid are still being felt in many FICs. To restore progress towards the People Outcome, positive action needs to be taken by national administrations to implement the recommendations for sustained and sustainable recovery made in the RCAs supported by assistance from IMF, World Bank, ADB and other development partners.

These recommendations cover not just fiscal, monetary and economic measures to create employment opportunities, but also to emphasise the importance of good governance, as well as education and health outcomes as a foundation for a healthy and well-educated labour force qualified to take advantage of the opportunities being created.

Thematic Area: Climate change and Disasters

This Thematic Area focuses on measures that proactively, collectively and in a culturally appropriate manner, address planetary crisis of climate change, current and future disaster impacts including extreme weather events, cyclones, drought, flooding and sea level rise and ocean acidification. It also addresses climate finance, disaster risk reduction mechanisms, loss and damage, the nexus between climate change and the ocean, maritime boundaries, human rights, the rights of women and girls, the rights of persons affected by climate change, food and wate security, disasters as well as climate change and disaster related mobility including relocation, migration and displacement.

Current Policy Context

- There are at least 16 existing international and regional policy frameworks and mechanisms supporting regional efforts to address climate change and its devastating impacts.
- A large focus is on accessing finance to support building community resilience. This includes the region's efforts to secure international global funding for climate change related activities.
- Preparedness and building resilience are also key areas for the region.
- Leaders commitments to meaningful participation of all Pacific peoples, particularly women and girls in all their diversity, in climate change action includes access to climate finance, disaster risk management, the protection of persons affected by climate change-related sea-level rise, climate security. Appropriate outcome indicators and data sources will be developed by 2025 to monitor progress against these commitments

There is a need for the region to proactively implement climate solutions, demonstrate innovation for and address impacts, through on-ground action, policy, advocacy, negotiation and litigation, despite its miniscule contribution towards the causes of climate change.

Figure 10: Mapping the existing regional frameworks

Climate and Disaster Resilience	Climate Action
- Boe Declaration & Action Plan (2018) - Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Declaration on Climate Change Action (2015) - Pacific Resilience Partnership (2016) - Niue Declaration on Climate Change (2008) - Majuro Declaration on Climate Leadership (2013) - Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) (2024) - Regional Strategic Roadmap for Emergency Management (2021) - Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015) - M&E Strategy for the FRDP and Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) (2020) - Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy (PIMS) (2017) - Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company (PCRIC) (2019) - The Pacific Climate Change Finance Assessment Framework (PCCFAF) (2016) - Green Climate Fund (2010) - Pacific Resilience Facility (under development)	- Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Action Now (2019) - Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (2016) - Paris Agreement (2016) - United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention (1994)

Goal 1: All Pacific peoples are living safe, secure, and prosperous lives, resilient to the impacts of climate change and disasters.

The four System Outcomes supporting the achievement of this Goal where the focus is on:

- Improved climate change mitigation by effective management of a just transitioning to low carbon, low emissions and climate resilient infrastructure, development and technology.
- Pacific governments and communities have developed and strengthened capacity for adapting, building resilience and responding to climate change and disaster risks, particularly for the most vulnerable.
- Increased capacity and opportunity of Pacific governments and communities to effectively address economic and non-economic loss and damage brought on by rapid, extreme and slow onset events.
- Improved access of Pacific governments to available climate and disaster finance in line with their needs supported by strengthened absorptive and institutional capacity.

Current situation

Figure 11: The following traffic light shows the extent of progress across the region against the key outcome indicators for which data is available. Consistent regional indicators will be developed by 2025 to address areas of data gaps.
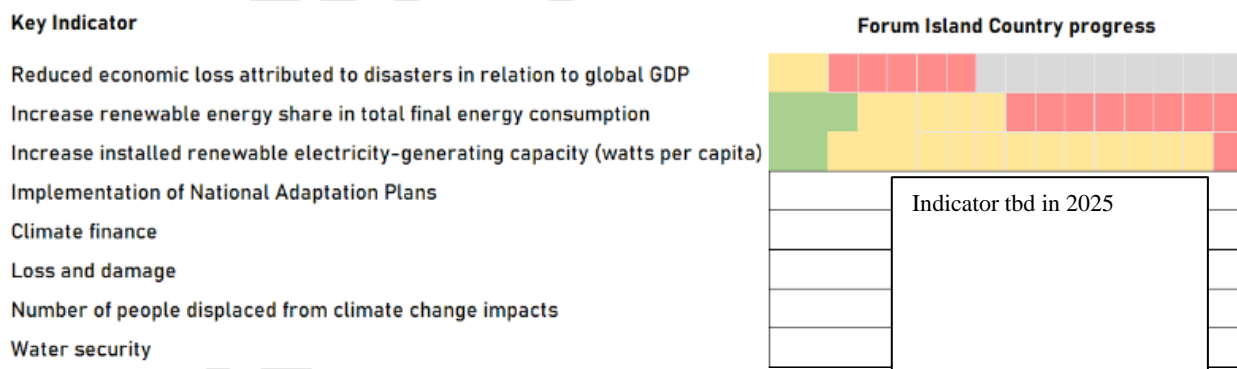
Pacific Island Countries and Territories are on the frontlines of the climate change emergency, accounting for six of the top 20 disaster-prone countries in the world. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 6th Synthesis Report[11]: 'Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred. Human-caused climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. This has led to widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people (high confidence).

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[11] https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/

Vulnerable communities who have historically contributed the least to current climate change are disproportionately affected (high confidence)'. According to the WMO report: State of the Climate in the South-West Pacific 2022[12], global annual mean surface temperature was 1.15 degrees Celsius above 1850 – 1900 pre-industrial average and the ocean heat content in 2022 was the highest on record.

For the Pacific compared to 2021, the number of reported disaster events decreased for the years 2022 and 2023, however economic losses almost tripled in 2022 largely due to flooding events in Australia and Fiji. The eastern Australia floods in 2022 were one of the nation's worst recorded flood disasters with an estimated cost of 7.4 billion[13]. In 2023, Vanuatu experienced back to back cyclones: Judy and Kevin with a total of 197,388 people (43623 households) impacted[14].

Most of the equatorial Pacific islands experienced drier-than-normal conditions with Kiribati and Tuvalu reporting significant water shortages. TC Cody in 2022 brought torrential heavy rain which led to severe flooding in Fiji with 4,000 people evacuated. In February, 2023 Fiji recorded heavy rain resulting in floods in the Northern and Western division. The Hunga Tonga–Hunga Haʻapai volcanic eruption in Tonga caused economic damage of T$208.0 (US$90.4) million with rebuilding and reconstruction costs expected to be significantly higher[15].

1.1 Climate Change mitigation and just transition

In five countries, a significant proportion (a third to half) of their energy use comes from renewable energy sources. Fifteen PICs have recorded an increase in installed renewable electricity-generating capacity since 2015/16, with seven PICs more than doubling their renewable capacity. However the entire Pacific region contributes less than 1% of global emissions. A more important measure for this region is around energy reliability in the face of climate change and extreme weather events. Another important measure is the impact of more renewable energy capacity on energy reliability and affordability.

Beyond energy and transport in general, efforts to identify what a just transition looks like in key development sectors, such as tourism, agriculture, fisheries, of the region and individual PICTs is in its infancy. This will ultimately help to inform the kinds of investment, capacity building and appropriate technology transfer required to support an orderly transition.

It should also be noted, that the current climate finance indicators – tonnes of carbon saved per dollar – is not conducive of supporting PIC's needs. The cost of switching to renewables and away from carbon is much more expensive in SIDS than larger countries for many reasons. In this regard, the development of fit-for-purpose financing to underpin this transition is critical. There are a range of these unique mechanisms and opportunities developing in the region and which lessons learned need to be considered alongside the just transition. To name a few examples - Vanuatu's National Green Energy Fund (NGEF); Fiji's Blue Bonds; Tonga's

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[12] https://library.wmo.int/records/item/66342-state-of-the-climate-in-south-west-pacific-2022

[13] https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/49c18b/contentassets/af5f665989af4facaa09a886d56ce0b0/reply-1.-qon-moira-shire-council-attach-1-deloitte_report_final_draft_august2023.pdf

[14] tc-judy-and-tc-kevin-pdna.pdf (gov.vu)

[15] Report Tonga Volcanic Eruption Jan 2022_11 Feb MASTER FILE_for publishing.docx (preventionweb.net)

Climate Change Trust Fund; Niue's NOW Trust Fund and OCCs; PNG's Carbon Credits Scheme; Palau's National Development Bank Energy Funding scheme; Accreditation of National Development Banks to the Green Climate Fund; the developing Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity partnership; the developing GCF Programmatic Approach and so forth.

1.2 Capacity for adapting, building resilience

Fourteen countries have nationally determined contributions as reported to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. All countries have adopted and implemented national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Digital Earth Pacific has been launched as a key regional infrastructure to support decision ready products drawing decades of satellite imagery now available. Three decision ready products (Coastline change over last two decades; changes in mangrove coverage and water bodies) for every Pacific Island Country and Territory were developed and provided in November 2024. The expansion of this infrastructure in 2025 and beyond is a key development for the region.

3D inundation modelling for Tuvalu and RMI have been developed and together with respective countries, presented locally and internationally as a means to improve adaptation measures and to showcase the reality of loss and damage at different project scenarios of sea-level rise.

1.3. Capacity to address economic and non-economic loss and damage
The region's first Loss and Damage convening was convened in July 2023, bringing together a range of experiences and expertise to the fore to draw from and match make with a number of important related international events.

Support to addressing elements of loss and damage in 10 PICs is being rolled out in 2024. This work supports the further documentation of loss and damage examples in priority sectors across the region as well as provision for technical assistance to countries to access additional funding.

The region's unique challenges related to loss and damage were highlighted at key international forums in collaboration with Members and key partners. Presentations were made the UN Security Council, ITLOS, Climate Week at UNGA, and COP 28. These efforts involved at least six divisions working together, combining data on groundwater, bathymetry, land elevation, remote sensing, science, modelling, climate change projections, and effective communication.

1.4 Access to available climate and disaster finance

Estimates of climate finance highlights that the Pacific region will need US$2 billion a year to address resilience and adaptation to climate change and a renewable energy transition. Further, they estimate that currently, the Pacific region is accessing only US$220 million a year – less than 0.22 per cent of global climate finance.[16] Given the size of the climate change challenge at hand, there is an urgent need to scale up the quantity, accessibility and flexibility of climate finance to PICTs.

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[16] Data provided by SPC

Existing regional initiatives and plans

Mitigation

The Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific (FESRIP) 2021-2030 was launched in 2022 as a commitment by Pacific Island Countries and Territories to transform their energy sector from fossil fuel-based to clean, reliable and affordable renewable energy. SPC is currently leading the development of indicators for FESRIP, preparations for a mid-term review in 2025, and establishment of the role of an Energy Commissioner.

Adaptation and Resilience

The Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific 2017-2030 (FRDP) endorsed by Leaders is the regional strategy that promotes the coordination of the resilience agenda. The Pacific Resilience Partnership implements the FRDP, bringing together Pacific Island Countries and territories, national and sub-national governments, communities, citizens, non-government and civil society organizations, private sector entities, sub-regional, regional, and global partners to advance climate change and resilience priorities.

The Regional Engagement Strategy for Water Security. The purpose of the Water Security Engagement Strategy and Action Plan is to articulate how engagement can, and will, be strengthened, to support better water security outcomes.

The Pacific Regional Climate Mobility Framework was endorsed by Leaders in 2023. It is a regional first, with a forward-looking intent aimed at driving change in regards the issue of climate change and disaster related mobility, while recognising the right of our Pacific people to stay in their homes as a fundamental priority.

The profile of the private sector in climate change and resilience in the region has been elevated due to the specific support provided to the countries through the national private sector organisations (NPSOs). The Secretariat through the PACRES Project facilitated various targeted initiatives to strengthen strategic engagement and dialogue with the private sector to deepen regional and public sector understanding of the private sector role and its contribution to building climate change and disaster resilience at the regional and national levels.

Loss and Damage

Submissions have been made on legal opinion sought by COSIS on assessing State Parties responsibilities under UNCLOS as it related to climate change and its impacts on the ocean and related ecosystems. The ruling of which was extremely successful from a SIDS perspective.[17]

Similar support and gathering of evidence and information is progressing for the ICJ submissions as facilitated by Vanuatu lead UNGA Resolution. These submissions are informed by evidence of the unique loss and damage examples in the region which range of the displaced migration of tuna stocks and associated loss of important economic and food security sources for the region; to the inundation modelling of low-lying atolls and areas which result in the displacement of communities, arable lands and critical water resources, to the associated loss and damage of unique traditional knowledge and cultural heritage.

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[17] SPC submitted both written and oral presentations (delivered together with RMI) to the ITLOS

Further, at COP27 in 2022 countries agreed to set up a Loss and Damage Fund[18], which would provide financial assistance to climate-vulnerable countries. The fund was officially operationalized at COP28 in November 2023. Loss and damage in the context of Pacific experiences including culture and traditional knowledge needs to be integrated and embedded as part of the ongoing efforts.

Climate Finance

Improved access to climate change and disaster risk financing is a critical need of Pacific Island countries (PICs) to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and disasters. Although most of our countries have been able to access funding from multilateral and bilateral sources, absorptive ability is still a challenge for most of our small island states. This is related to the lack of available capacity within the countries to meet the required conditionalities of the range of sources and modalities in addition to weak public financial management (PFM) systems.

Traditional partners working in the areas of climate change and disaster risk are collaborating in regional meetings, joint missions and assessment to reduce costs and alleviate burdens on the countries – includes working with national governments to determine priorities and avoid duplication.

To address issues of access to climate and disaster finance Leaders have endorsed the establishment of the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF) a Pacific owned and led financing facility targeted at building resilience, preparedness and adaptive capacity of vulnerable Pacific People exposed to climate change and disaster risk. Leaders committed to legally establishing the facility in 2024, with full operational readiness in 2025. Work is ongoing to raise funds with an aim for USD$134m by 1 January 2025.

The Pacific Energy and Gender Initiative established to implement the Pacific Energy and Gender Strategic Action Plan (PEGSAP). The goal of the PEGSAP (2021-2030) is to contribute to mainstreaming gender equality in the Pacific clean energy sector and to empower women through improved gender-responsive policy and institutional frameworks, and increased career and income-generating opportunities and enhanced access to clean energy.

Goal 2: The region remains a global leader on climate action

The two System Outcomes supporting the achievement of this Goal where the focus is on:

- The region is influencing global policies to ensure that the planet limits the warming trajectory to 1.5-degree warming.
- The special circumstances and priorities of Pacific SIDS are well entrenched in global climate finance modalities and providers, allowing access through simplified and tailored modalities to address their unique climate change and disaster-related challenges

Current situation

To help elevate Pacific priorities at the political level during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties, the Political Climate Champions was started in 2021. The Political Climate Champions ensures that the Pacific could

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[18] https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/cop27-ends-announcement-historic-loss-and-damage-fund

strategically engage and influence strong outcomes on Pacific priorities through the UNFCCC COP and where relevant through other global platforms.

Key initiatives to support this goal includes the work on the "Advocacy and Communications Strategy" for the 2021 Maritime Zones Declaration and 2023 PIF Statehood Declaration, regional support for ICJ Submissions and PIF Submission to the International Law Commission. There is enhanced engagement and an amplified Pacific Voice in global climate negotiations for PSIDS and similarly enhanced watchdog role and greater ambition in global climate negotiations advanced through the International Climate Change Engagement Project.

PICs continue to demonstrate leadership with the submission of ambitious NDCs[19], NAPS, LT-LEDS[20], National Communications[21] with most countries implementing priorities identified within these instruments. Some countries (Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Samoa and Tuvalu) have fully costed these instruments making it easier to determine quantum around financing needs. Others have not done so making it difficult to decide financing needs. It is expected that the Regional Pacific NDC Hub will receive more requests for development of NDC Investment Planning and Project Pipelines in Phase 4, starting in September 2024.

Whilst various assessments on climate finance flows exist, the PICS are often aggregated with Asia, other Small Island Developing States or overall developing countries. This poses difficulties in quantifying financial flows to the region and requires efforts at the regional and country level to better track climate finance flows.

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[19] https://unfccc.int/es/NDCREG

[20] https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/long-term-strategies

[21] https://unfccc.int/non-annex-I-NCs

Thematic Area: Oceans and Environment

This thematic area focuses on the region's stewardship of the Blue Pacific Continent through collective responsibility, commitment and investment in its ocean and lands. This includes to invest in the region's sovereignty and sovereign rights over its maritime zones and lands, such as to support its continental shelf claims. Recognising the significant environmental and ecosystem-based services that the Blue Pacific provides to the planet, the region's ability to benefit from its ocean and environment depends on its capacity to make the right policy choices, partnerships and investments, including by adopting a precautionary and forward-looking approach to protect the region's biodiversity, its environment and resources from exploitation, degradation, nuclear contamination, waste, pollution, and health threats.

Current Policy Context

- There are at least 32 existing regional policy instruments to support the sustainable management of the ocean and natural resources in the region. Alongside regional policy instruments, several regional declarations, statements and Leaders' communiques provide further policy direction.

Stakeholders & Institutions: Includes Leaders, Members, Private Sector, other Non-State Actors, Academia, Regional agencies with key mandates in this Thematic Area and international partners

- A large number of regional policies are focused on offshore fisheries management which reflects the importance of this shared resource to the region.
- While there are no existing regional policy instruments to address the management of land-based resources. This may be because they are largely seen as a national responsibility.
- Despite the potential for increasing economic returns from the ocean, there remained limited regional policy in this area.
- Ensuring a clean and healthy environment is key to the sustainable development of the ocean and natural environment and in response, the region has developed several regional policies to address waste management issues and reduce pollution.
- The 2010 Framework for Pacific Oceanscape (FPO), provides the overarching framework to advocate for Pacific ocean priorities nationally, regionally and internationally. additionally, the FPO establishes the Pacific Ocean Alliance (POA) which strengthens partnerships for the development and implementation of ocean-related priorities.

Figure 12: Existing Regional Frameworks

Conservation	Waste & Pollution Management	Governance	Resource Management
• Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific (2009) • Palau Declaration on 'The Ocean: Life and Future' (2014) • Pacific Regional Coral Reef Action Plan (2021) • Pacific Islands Marine Species Programme (2008) • Regional Framework for Aquaculture and Biosecurity (2020) • The Convention on Biological diversity Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (2020) • Pacific Islands Regional Policy Framework for REDD+ (2013) • The Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council Strategy (2017) • Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for Coastal Tourism in Pacific island countries and territories (2018) • Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Guidelines for Pacific island countries and territories (2021)	• Waigani Convention (1995) • The Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy (Cleaner Pacific 2025) (2016) • Pacific Regional Action Plan – Marin Litter (2018) • Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (2013) • Pacific Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy (2010)	• Framework For Nature Conservation And Protected Areas In The Pacific Islands Region (2021) • Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape (2010) • Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy (2002) • South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency Convention (1979) • Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021) • SPREP Convention • WCPFC Convention (2004) • Pacific Ocean Alliance (2010) • Office of Pacific Ocean Commissioner (2010)	• Regional Environmental Management Framework for Deep Sea Minerals (DSM) Exploration and Exploitation (2016) • A New Song for Coastal Fisheries – pathways to change: The Noumea Strategy (2015) • Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Fisheries (2015) • Pacific-ACP States Regional Scientific Research Guidelines for Deep Sea Minerals (2016) • Pacific ACP States Regional Financial Framework for Deep Sea Minerals Exploration and Exploitation (2016) • Regional Longline Fisheries Electronic Monitoring Policy (2020)

Goal 1: The Pacific Regions Ocean and environment are sustainably managed and are resilient to threats.

The six System Outcomes supporting the achievement of this Goal where the focus is on:

- Improved sustainable management of fisheries.
- Fully secured established maritime zones under the UNCLOS, and maximised and protected enjoyment of jurisdictional rights and entitlements that flows from these zones, and on the high seas and airspace.
- Improved sustainable management of agriculture and food systems.
- Improved sustainable management of forestry.
- Reduced and Halted Biodiversity loss and risk of extinction of known threatened species, caused by multiple threats on both terrestrial and marine environment.
- Strengthened waste management and reduction in all forms of pollution and effective mitigation of various threats to the ocean and land - based environment inclusive of nuclear contamination.

Figure 13: The following traffic light shows the extent of progress across the region against the key outcome indicators for which data is available. Consistent regional indicators will be developed by 2025 to address areas of data gaps.

Current Situation

Fisheries and UNCLOS

The latest Tuna Fishery Report Card (2022) indicates that all four Western Central Pacific Ocean fish stocks are currently biologically health, with no overfishing occurring. Six countries have effectively implemented international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. Additionally, Coastal fisheries remain crucial for many families across the Pacific. According to the 2023 Coastal fishery report card, more than half of Pacific families participate in fishing, including selling fish or working in fisheries. Seven countries have legal, regulatory, policy or institutional instruments that recognises and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries.

PIF Leaders have expressed concern about sea-level rise and its threat to their EEZs and have reaffirmed the importance of preserving their rights claimed under the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The 22 Pacific Island Countries and Territories manage 20% of the world's Exclusive Economic Zones[22][23]. As of July 2020, 35 of the 48 boundaries have been formalized with 12 shared EEZ maritime boundaries that remain outstanding.

The Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), adopted on 19 June 2023, has a total of ninety signatories and seven parties. Eleven PIF member countries have signed on to the Agreement, and two (2) of those countries being Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia have ratified the Agreement. OPOC coordinates regional support to members in the ratification and implementation of the Agreement. Additionally, OPOC has supported Members with the global treaty on plastics pollution.

Discussions have progressed to start the scoping study for the Pacific Centre for Excellence on Deep Oceans Science as endorsed by Leaders.

Review of the regional ocean policy framework. In 2011, the Framework for the Pacific Oceanscape was endorsed. There have been several developments in international, regional, and national ocean policy landscape since then. Despite these developments, there are still siloed approaches to different ocean sectors, policies, and ocean governance in the region. There is a need to consider changes in ocean policy settings and overlapping sectoral and

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[22] There are 48 shared boundaries in the Pacific 36 of these bilateral boundaries have been placed under treaty since 1973. ("Pacific Maritime Boundaries Dashboard - Pacific Data Hub")

[23] https://pacificdata.org/dashboard/maritime-boundaries

national interests to strengthen and integrate regional ocean governance. It is therefore recommended that RCA80 be prioritize (Review of the regional ocean policy framework - Framework for the Pacific Oceanscape) and relevant regional environment policies to ensure effective and timely consideration of overlapping sectoral and national interests and which helps to integrate sectoral ocean policies as well as ocean governance across jurisdictions.).

Agriculture and Forestry

Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services have endorsed in principle the draft *'Growing the Pacific 2050 Strategy for Pacific Agriculture and Forestry: Healthy, Regenerative, Secure'*. The Strategy aims for a vision of regenerative agriculture, agroecology, and biodiversity by 2050. The Grow the Pacific Strategy also addresses forestry development alongside agriculture. A key concern raised during the strategy development was a lack of new graduates in Forestry and few professional development opportunities in the industry. As an immediate action to start to address these concerns and support industry development a regional Forestry Professionals Network is being established with the support of SPC.

Biodiversity

The Red List Index over the past 30 years has indicated an increase in biodiversity loss across the region. In response fourteen FICs have adopted relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species. Across the region, there is high variability in the Proportion of important sites for terrestrial biodiversity that are covered by protected areas. There are numerous activities that are being undertaken such as the Biosecurity and Management of Invasive Species, the Pacific Region Pesticide Registration Scheme (PRPRS), Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT) and Pacific Seed System Roadmap (PSSR).

Waste Management and Pollution

Waste management and pollution control remains one of the critical environmental issues facing the Pacific region. The increasing reliance on imported consumer goods has led to a rapid rise in waste, including plastic packaging and used motor vehicles. Regional coordination to be strengthened on regional waste management and pollution control action including strategic management efforts through the Cleaner Pacific 2025 framework.[24] International and regional partners aligned to achieve greater integration of sustainable funding and support mechanisms for waste, chemicals, and pollution management programmes.

A global treaty to end plastic pollution is in development with the aim of reducing marine plastic litter in oceans. In 2023, at the second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument in Plastic Pollution (INC2), Pacific representatives highlighted the immense impact of plastic pollution on the Pacific Ocean, despite the region contributing less that 1.3% to global plastic use.

Nuclear Pollution

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 a key concern for PIF Leaders, with ongoing efforts through the established 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.

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[24] Work led by SPREP

Leaders have continued to engage with Japan over the past 3 years regarding the discharge over a million tonnes of treated nuclear wastewater, Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS), into the Pacific Ocean. The release of the ALPS treated water nuclear wastewater into the Pacific Ocean commenced on 24 August 2023 and will continue over the next 30 to 40 years. Forum leaders have expressed strong concerns about the potential threat of nuclear contamination to the health and security of the region[25].

Ensuring signing and encouraging implementation of the Implementing Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).

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[25] 2022 and 2023 PIF Communique

Thematic Area: Technology and Connectivity

This thematic area highlights the need for a well-connected region that ensures inclusive, affordable and accessible air, sea and land transport and ICT technology infrastructure and services. Technology and infrastructure is often unaffordable, inaccessible, and difficult to maintain. The adoption of new and emerging sustainable digital technologies requires effective partnerships and appropriate regional regulatory arrangements that respect the region's shared values.

Current Policy Context

- There are at least 11 existing regional policy frameworks to support the development and enhancement of technology and connectivity in the region. They are focused in supporting the collection and management of statistics and information, communication and technology and connectivity.

Stakeholders & Institutions: Includes Leaders, Members, Private Sector, Academia, Regional agencies with key mandates in this Thematic Area and international partners

- These policy frameworks can be used as the basis for the development of relevant policy frameworks that may be required to achieve the 2050 Vision.
- While digital connectivity will be key in supporting progress in other Thematic Areas, there are minimal regional policy frameworks in this important area at present.

Fiure 14: Mapping the existing regional frameworks

ICT Services	Marine, Air and Road Transport
- The Lagatoi Declaration (Pacific ICT Ministerial Declaration 2023) - Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics 2022 - 2030 - Pacific Tourism Statistics Strategy (2021) - The Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) (2010) - Pacific Data Hub - SPTO Digital Strategy Framework (2021) - Pacific Islands ICT Policy and Strategic Plan (2010) - Cyber Saftey Pasifika - PAcific Cyber Security Operational Network (PaCSON)	- Pacific Regional Aviation Strategy - Pacific Islands Air Services Agreement (PIASA) (2003) - Pacific Islands Civil Aviation Safety and Security Treaty (PICASST) (2004) - Port Moresby Declaration on Aviation Safety and Security (2021) - Framework for Action on Transport Services (2011) - Forum Principles on Regional Transport Services (2004) - Regional Strategy for Pacific Women in Maritime 2020-2024 - Pacific Regional One Maritime Framework (POMF)

Goal 1- All Pacific People have access to inclusive, affordable. Accessible, reliable, Regular, safe, clean and sustainable land, air, and sea transport services

The three System Outcomes supporting the achievement of this Goal where the focus is on:

- Increased investment in and maintenance of affordable, reliable, regular, safe and secure and sustainable land, air and sea transport infrastructure, systems and operations.
- Strengthened regulations, policies and procedures for promoting inclusive, affordable, regular, safe, clean and sustainable land, air and sea transport services.
- Strengthened, harmonised, and technologically integrated land, air and sea transport regulations, policies, procedures, institutions and human capital.

While some outcome data has been reported in recent years under the Pacific Infrastructure Performance Indicators (PIPI), consistent regional indicators need to be agreed and data collection resourced to enable continued monitoring of the outcomes under this goal.

Current Situation

Provision of effective aviation safety and security oversight and compliance with international civil aviation standards is not negotiable and a prerequisite for states maintaining international and domestic air services. Without effective regulatory oversight and compliance systems in place, unrestricted air connectivity is at risk. Despite the small size of most Forum Members and the limited scale and nature of aviation activities within them, all signatories to the 1944 Chicago Convention on Civil Aviation must meet the same regulatory aviation safety and security standards in the same way that larger and more resourced countries do.

- Almost all Forum Members are signatories to the Chicago Convention (and its Annexes) yet effective oversight and compliance has, and continues to be, challenging for Members. To achieve compliance, signatories to the Chicago Convention are required to establish an effective regulatory oversight system that comprises eight critical elements determined by ICAO, demonstrate continual effectiveness of their systems to ICAO through robust practices, and the practical carrying out of day-to-day regulatory tasks.

- The majority of Forum Members often lack the resources to fulfil their obligations under the Convention. Consequently, most States are either exposed to significant risk from deficient systems or require significant support from external expertise from Regional Safety Oversight Organisations such as PASO, to fulfil their national and international obligations.

- This reflects the complex nature of aviation and the significant effort required to continuously meet ICAO requirements. The ability to develop and attract the necessary expertise, the lack of resources, and effort required to fully implement compliant oversight systems is onerous.

- The Pacific region is the poorest performing region in the world in respect of compliance with ICAO Standards and Recommended practices and the associated Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme Continual Monitoring Approach protocol questions; with the majority of States falling below the ICAO target of 65%. Scores are measured across 8 Critical Elements of a safety oversight system.

- Leaders in 2023 includes commitments to bridging the gender digital divide by promoting access to ICT and digital services for all Pacific peoples, particularly women and girls in all their diversity while ensuring online safety and minimising harmful impacts. Appropriate outcome indicators and data sources will be developed by 2025 to monitor progress against these commitments.

Existing regional initiatives and plans

- There is low connectivity to major shipping networks, impacting on the ability to trade competitively, as well as adding to the cost of imports. Over the 11 years since 2010, connectivity has improved most in 2 countries. Even so, the PICs remain among the countries with the lowest container shipping connectivity in the world. One of the key issues is low trade volumes. This makes the PICs less attractive to shipping companies, shipping is expensive, and there are consequently fewer port calls and less trade opportunity

- Most Pacific countries have only one or two main ports but need to service multiple islands with widely dispersed population centres, making it crucial to ensure domestic shipping is safe, reliable, and integrated successfully with land transport.
- Domestic maritime safety continues to be a critical concern that requires attention and proactive measures.
  There are many maritime safety incidents each year: from latest available data 973 incidents in the 2.5 years from January 2017 to July 2019. Almost 74% of these occurred in Fiji, PNG, or Solomon Islands. Ferry safety remains a key concern in the maritime sub-sector

There is a need to ensure reliable data is available on the number of road accidents per 10,000 registered vehicles, so the number of reported road traffic fatalities is used instead. The latest official figures reported in PIPI are from 2016. The latest PIPI report found that six of nine PICs kept the level of reported road fatalities the same (or close to it) over the two comparative years 2013 and 2016.

The official figures are compared to WHO estimates. The 2021 PIP report found that in some countries, 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: Empower Pacific communities with access to cost-effective, dependable, resilient, safe, secure, inclusive, and interoperable ICT services, encompassing e-services and the digital economy.

As outlined in the 2050 Strategy there are five strategic pathways along which progress will be made to achieve this Goal. Based on these strategic pathways the four System Outcomes supporting the achievement of this Goal where the focus is on:

- Increased investment in affordable, reliable, resilient, safe, secure, inclusive and interoperable ICT infrastructure, systems and operations.
- Improved digital literacy, skills and capability for all Pacific peoples including vulnerable communities and marginalised groups.
- Strengthened enabling environment for an inclusive digital economy and e-services.
- Strengthened cyber security measures to protect systems from cyber threats.

Current situation

Figure 15: The following traffic light shows the extent of progress across the region against the key outcome indicators for which data is available. Consistent regional indicators will be developed by 2025 to address areas of data gaps.
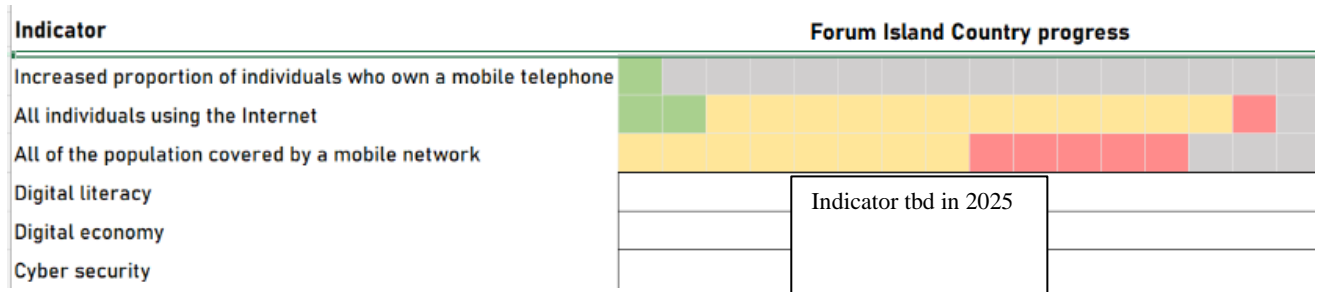
Even though there is insufficient data to assess progress over time, among the 5 countries where recent data is available, over 50% of the population aged between 15-49 owns a mobile phone. Phone ownership is only marginally lower among females.

Access and use of the internet is still highly variable across the region. In 8 of the 16 countries, over half of the population is using the internet.

In most countries, at least 50% of the population is covered by a 4G mobile network.

- Connectivity is disparate in the region. The Pacific SIDS (Small Island Developing States) mobile network coverage is lower than in LDCs (Least Developed Countries), impacting the ability of Pacific people to meaningfully engage in the digital economy. However, we have witnessed the rise of social media platforms as vibrant marketplaces and emerging e-commerce platforms such as the Emstret Space Limited in Papua New Guinea an online platform designed to provide solutions to young entrepreneurs, start-ups assisting with resourcing and connecting freelances, mentors, investors and SMEs; and, Fiji's Sole Fintech app, a social financial e-platform designed to empower local communities financial literacy and develop sustainable capital generation (essentially a mobile phone app that allows users to send, receive, spend and save for specific projects). Tonga's Mobile Applications Community MHEW and Response System (MACRES) is an information system designed to improve early warning and prompt response to hazards and disaster events.
- Electronic Monitoring and Reporting in the fishing industry have revolutionized data collection processes, enhancing efficiency to support sustainable management of our tuna fisheries
- 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. The Pacific Pests and Pathogens app for example is expanding the reach of extension officers, even in locations without internet coverage, highlighting the transformative potential of ICT in the agriculture sector.
- In response to the accelerating adoption of e-commerce in the Pacific, Samoa has launched its 5-year e-commerce strategy and roadmap which aims to facilitate the promotion of goods and services across digital platforms. These examples highlight the growing

ambitious spirit in our region and the multitude of opportunities that can be leveraged through innovative partnerships.

- 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.
- The Pacific Data Hub initiative serves as a centralized repository for vast datasets, supporting data-driven decision-making and collaboration. This regional platform enhances data management and regional data governance, driving digital transformation and innovation across various thematic areas such as economic development, marine spatial planning, and climate change adaptation efforts.
- Tuvalu's ambitious Future Now presents an opportunity for partners and members to explore technological and scientific advances that establishes a digital state in the metaverse with a member's sovereignty, culture, history, and community maintained.

Cybersecurity

Pacific countries have varying levels of cybersecurity maturity, with many ill-prepared to handle cyber threats due to a lack of effective policies, legal frameworks, and operational capacity. According to the PaCSON Annual Reports for 2020, 2021 and 2022 phishing remains the most common cyber threat, followed by ransomware and malware attacks, with a high success rate due to accessible tools and low awareness. As highlighted in several products by the Pacific Fusion Centre, cyber incidents targeting government systems and critical infrastructure remain significant threats.

The Pacific 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.

Regional cooperation and awareness campaigns, like those by PaCSON and Cyber Safety Pasifika, have supported efforts to improve cybersecurity. The 2023 Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting adopted the Lagatoi Declaration, aiming for a secure digital landscape in the region.

Annex A: Headline indicators link to regional frameworks

ANNEX A: HEADLINE INDICATORS (link to SDGs and other regional monitoring frameworks)

2050 Strategy Thematic	Indicator / Target	SDG	SDG _ Code	Regional Framework containing these indicators
People Centred Development	Reduce deaths of children under 5 years' of age to less than 25 per 1,000 live births	Y	3.2.1	Healthy Islands (core indicator)
People Centred Development	Reduce premature deaths from NCDs by at least one-third	Y	3.4.1	Healthy Islands (core indicator)
People Centred Development	Universal coverage of essential health services	Y	3.8.1	*Composite index of Healthy Islands indicators*
People Centred Development	10 or more medical doctors per 10,000 population	Y	3.c.1	Healthy Islands (core indicator)
People Centred Development	25 or more nurses and midwives per 10,000 population	Y	3.c.1	Healthy Islands (core indicator)
People Centred Development	Reduced prevalence of current tobacco use, aged 15+	Y	3.a.1	Healthy Islands (complementary indicator)
People Centred Development	Improved service coverage for people with severe mental health disorders	N		Healthy Islands (complementary indicator)
People Centred Development	Universal access to improved drinking water services	Y	6.1.1	Healthy Islands (core indicator)
People Centred Development	At least 87% of children achieving minimum proficiency in literacy, end of primary schooling ^	Y	4.1.1	Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF) -priority
People Centred Development	All least 85% of children achieving minimum proficiency in numeracy,end of primary schooling ^	Y	4.1.1	Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF) -priority
People Centred Development	All primary school teachers having minimum required qualifications	Y	4.c.1	Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF) -priority
People Centred Development	All secondary school teachers having minimum required qualifications	Y	4.c.1	Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF) -priority
People Centred Development	Substantially reduced share of youth not in education, employment or training (NEET)	Y	8.6.1	The Pacific Youth Development Framework
People Centred Development	All children participating in ECE or organised pre-primary education	Y	4.2.2	Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF) -priority
People Centred Development	All students completing upper secondary schooling	Y	4.1.2	Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF) -priority
People Centred Development	Increased participation rate in tertiary education	N		
People Centred Development	All schools with adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities	Y	4.a.1	
People Centred Development	Reduce population subjected to physical violence in previous 12 mths	Y	16.1.3	Boe Declaration Action Plan
People Centred Development	Reduced share of women and girls 15+ subjected to partner violence, last 12 mths	Y	5.2.1	Pacific Leader's Gender Equality Declaration
People Centred Development	Existence of implementation Plan for UN Treaty Body and UPR recommendations	Y	16.a.1	Boe Declaration Action Plan
People Centred Development	All children under 5 years having their birth registered	Y	16.9.1	Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific
People Centred Development	Increased proportion of women in managerial positions	Y	5.5.2	Pacific Leader's Gender Equality Declaration
People Centred Development	All women having family planning needs met with modern contraception	Y	3.7.1	Healthy Islands (optional indicator)
People Centred Development	All people with severe disabilities collecting disability social protection benefits	Y	1.3.1	
Oceans + Environment	At least 10% protected area coverage for marine (EEZ)	Y	14.5.1	
Oceans + Environment	Increased share of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	Y	2.4.1	
Oceans + Environment	Implemented measures combating illegal, unreported & unregulated fishing	Y	14.6.1	
Oceans + Environment	Recognition and protection of access rights for small-scale fisheries	Y	14.b.1	

2050 Strategy Thematic	Indicator / Target	SDG	SDG _ Code	Regional Framework containing these indicators
Technology + Connectivity	Increased proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone	Y	5.b.1	
Technology + Connectivity	All individuals using the Internet	Y	17.8.1	Pacific e-commerce Initiative
Technology + Connectivity	All of the population covered by a mobile network	Y	9.c.1	Pacific e-commerce Initiative
Climate Change + Disasters	Reduced economic loss attributed to disasters relative to GDP (%)	Y	11.5.2	Boe Declaration Action Plan
Climate Change + Disasters	Increase renewable energy share in total final energy consumption	Y	7.2.1	(SE4ALL)?
Climate Change + Disasters	Increase installed renewable electricity-generating capacity (watts per capita)	Y	7.b.1	
Resource + Economic Development	Reduce by one-half the % of population living below the national poverty line	Y	1.2.1	
Resource + Economic Development	GDP per capita growth rate, at least 7 percent	Y	8.1.1	
Resource + Economic Development	Reduced debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services	Y	17.4.1	
Resource + Economic Development	More than 60% of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes	Y	17.1.2	
Resource + Economic Development	Tourism contribution to GDP	Y	8.9.1	

Annex B: Headline indicators data sources and latest data points

ANNEX B: HEADLINE INDICATORS (data sources, and latest data points for Pacific Islands)			Most recent data point in FIC (darker shade indicates more recent data, lighter shade indicates older data)															
2050 Strategy	Indicator / Target	Data collection, or	CK	FJ	FM	KI	MH	NC	NR	NU	PF	PG	PW	SB	TO	TV	VU	WS
People Centred	Reduce deaths of children under 5 years' of age to less than 25 per 1,000	National surveys; CRVS	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2020	2022	2022	2018	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022
People Centred	Reduce premature deaths from NCDs by at least one-third	WHO	2017	2019	2019	2019			2017	2016		2019		2019	2019		2019	2019
People Centred	Universal coverage of essential health services	WHO	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021		2021	2021		2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021
People Centred	10 or more medical doctors per 10,000 population	Ministries of Health	2019	2019	2020	2018	2019	2017	2019	2018	2009	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019	2020
People Centred	25 or more nurses and midwives per 10,000 population	Ministries of Health	2019	2019	2020	2018	2019	2017	2019	2018	2009	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019	2020
People Centred	Reduced prevalence of current tobacco use, aged 15+	WHO; National surveys	2022	2022		2022	2022		2022	2015		2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022
People Centred	Improved service coverage for people with severe mental health disorders	Healthy Islands Monitoring						2019		2019								
People Centred	Universal access to improved drinking water services	WHO; National census	2022	2022	2020	2022	2022	2022	2020	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022
People Centred	At least 87% of children achieving minimum proficiency in literacy, end of	PILNA results	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021		2021	2021		2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021
People Centred	All least 85% of children achieving minimum proficiency in numeracy, end of	PILNA results	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021		2021	2021		2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021
People Centred	All primary school teachers having minimum required qualifications	National EMIS; UNESCO UIS	2021	2022	2022	2020	2022		2019	2021			2021	2019	2022	2022	2022	2022
People Centred	All secondary school teachers having minimum required qualifications	National EMIS; UNESCO UIS	2021		2021	2016	2022		2019	2015				2018	2015	2022	2021	
People Centred	Substantially reduced share of youth not in education, employment or training	National census; HIES; Labour	2019	2016	2014	2020	2021	2020	2021	2017		2010	2020	2013	2021	2022	2020	2017
People Centred	All children participating in ECE or organised pre-primary education	National surveys; EMIS; UNESCO	2022	2022	2022	2020	2022		2020	2022		2018	2020	2019	2022	2019	2022	2022
People Centred	All students completing upper secondary schooling	National EMIS; UNESCO UIS		2021		2020						2020			2020	2020	2020	2020
People Centred	Increased participation rate in tertiary education	UNESCO Institute for Statistics				2019						2018			2019	2020	2007	2019
People Centred	All schools with adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities	UNESCO Institute for Statistics	2022		2022		2022		2022	2022			2021		2022	2022		2022
People Centred	Reduce population subjected to physical violence in previous 12 mths	National survey (MICS or FHSS)																

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2050 Strategy	Indicator / Target	Data collection, or	CK	FJ	FM	KI	MH	NC	NR	NU	PF	PG	PW	SB	TO	TV	VU	WS
People Centred	Reduced share of women and girls 15+ subjected to partner violence, last 12	UNSD modelled from household	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018		2018			2018	2018	2018	2019	2019	2018	2019
People Centred	Existence of implementation Plan for UN Treaty Body and UPR recommendations	OHCHR		2020	2021	2021	2021		2021			2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2015
People Centred	All children under 5 years having their birth registered	CRVS; Household	2022	2021	2021	2022	2017	2018	2022	2022		2018	2017	2022	2022	2019	2016	2020
People Centred	Increased proportion of women in managerial positions	National census; HIES; Labour	2019	2016	2014	2020	2021		2021	2017		2010	2020	2013	2021	2022	2020	2019
People Centred	All women having family planning needs met with modern contraception	National surveys (DHS, MICS)	2015	2021	2002	2018	2012	2015	2007			2018	2015	2015	2019	2020	2013	2019
People Centred	All people with severe disabilities collecting disability social protection	ILO		2020					2020		2016				2020			
Oceans + Environment	At least 10% protected area coverage for marine (EEZ)	BirdLife International,	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2020	2021	2021
Oceans + Environment	Increased share of agricultural area under productive, sustainable	No national data as yet																
Oceans + Environment	Implemented measures combating illegal, unreported & unregulated fishing	FAO questionnaire	2018	2018	2018	2020	2022	2018	2022	2018	2018	2018	2022	2022	2018	2018	2018	2022
Oceans + Environment	Recognition and protection of access rights for small-scale fisheries	FAO questionnaire	2022	2018	2018	2019	2022	2018	2022	2018	2018	2018	2022	2022	2019	2018	2018	2022
Technology +	Increased proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone	MICS Survey		2021	2013	2018									2019	2019		2019
Technology +	All individuals using the Internet	National census; HIES	2016	2021	2017	2020	2019	2017	2019	2017	2017	2017	2014	2017	2021	2019	2020	2019
Technology +	All of the population covered by a mobile network	National Telecommunicati	2021	2021	2021	2022	2015	2021	2021	2020	2022	2021		2021	2021	2021	2022	2022
Climate Change +	Reduced economic loss attributed to disasters relative to GDP (%)	Sendai Framework		2020	2019	2020	2016	2016			2016	2020	2016	2013	2018		2018	2016
Climate Change +	Increase renewable energy share in total final energy consumption	Energy Balances, UNSD	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021
Climate Change +	Increase installed renewable electricity-generating capacity (watts per capita)	IRENA's electricity	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021
Resource + Economic	Reduce by one-half the % of population living below the national poverty line	National HIES	2006	2019	2013	2020	2019	2008	2013	2002		2009	2013	2013	2009	2010	2020	2013
Resource + Economic	GDP per capita growth rate, at least 7 percent	Country adjusted data, UNDESA	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2016	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022

ANNEX B: HEADLINE INDICATORS (data sources, and latest data points for Pacific Islands)			Most recent data point in FIC (darker shade indicates more recent data, lighter shade indicates older data)															
2050 Strategy	Indicator / Target	Data collection, or	CK	FJ	FM	KI	MH	NC	NR	NU	PF	PG	PW	SB	TO	TV	VU	WS
Resource + Economic	Reduced debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services	World Bank, International Debt		2022								2022		2022	2022		2022	2022
Resource + Economic	More than 60% of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes	IMF		2021	2020	2022	2020	2013	2020			2020	2020	2022	2020		2021	2021
Resource + Economic	Tourism contribution to GDP	National accounts tables,		2022	2018	2019	2021						2020					