



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

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FORUM ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEETING

1-2 August 2024
Suva, Fiji

AGENDA ITEM 5a: UPDATE ON THE 2050 BASELINE REPORT (2024)

Purpose and Recommendations

Purpose

This paper provides an update on the 2050 Baseline Report (2024). The Baseline report presents a high-level overview of the region's current status in relation to the outcomes and goals outlined in the Implementation Plan for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (2050 IP). It also aligns with the Outcome Statement from the 2023 Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM) and underscores from an economic viewpoint the importance of ensuring consistency between the Pacific Roadmap for Economic Development (PRED) and the 2050 Implementation Plan.

Summary

The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (2050 Strategy) was endorsed by Forum Leaders in July 2022. The 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan (2050IP) was endorsed by Forum Leaders in November 2023.

To ensure that the implementation of the 2050 Strategy starts off on the right footing, the region must have a clear understanding of the state of progress and development across the 7 thematic areas of the 2050 Strategy. Key deliverables to support the operationalisation of the 2050 Strategy and 2050IP in 2024 include the Review of the Regional Architecture, the development of the 2050 Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, and the 2050 Baseline Report.

The 2050 Baseline report will document the region's current status in relation to the goals of the 2050 IP. It will show where the region stands in terms of the initial delivery of the 2050 IP, and it will serve as a reference point for tracking future progress. The baseline will also offer evidence that Leaders can consider when prioritizing collective action to achieve the 2050 IP outcomes by 2030.

The 2050 Baseline report utilises data from the Pacific Data Hub and Global Databases which is aggregated and rated in a traffic light methodology that was first presented in the 2022 Quadrennial Sustainable Development Report. The ratings are based on available official national and global monitoring data over the past 10 years.

The draft 2050 Baseline Report (2024) is being refined by subject experts and agencies working to validate and finalise the draft before it is presented to Leaders for endorsement.

A. Overview/Summary

1. The 2050 Implementation Plan was endorsed by Leaders at their meeting in Cook Islands in 2023. At their meeting, Leaders emphasised the importance of the implementation mechanism and reporting arrangements for the 2050 Strategy.
2. The 2050 Baseline Report (2024) to Forum Leaders provides Forum Economic Ministers with a high-level overview of the region's status in relation to the goals and outcomes outlined in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.
3. The 2050 Baseline Report (2024) provides data and analysis on outcomes in all seven thematic areas of the Strategy, offering a shared understanding of progress and identifying common challenges that the Pacific faces.
4. The baseline information is crucial for making evidence-based decisions and helps Leaders prioritize actions required to collectively pursue our shared ambitions, explore opportunities for the region and strategically address our unique challenges.
5. Forum Economic Ministers will recall that the 2023 outcome statement re-emphasised the need for alignment between the Pacific Roadmap for Economic Development (PRED) and the 2050 Implementation Plan.
6. Ministers will note that the 2050 Strategy's thematic area of Resources and Economic Development (RED) aspires to stimulate sustainable, inclusive, and equitable economic growth in the Pacific region and as such requires the oversight of Economic Ministers to ensure this reflects and responds to the aspirations of our Pacific Leaders.

B. Discussion

7. The **2050 Baseline Report (Annex 1)** will document the region's status against the outcomes of the 2050 IP. It will enable the region to see where it is currently positioned at the starting point of delivery of the 2050 IP, and from which, future progress can be tracked. This report will also provide the evidence base on which Leaders can determine future priorities to achieve the outcomes of the 2050 IP. The 2050 Baseline Report utilises data from the Pacific Data Hub and Global Databases which has been aggregated and rated in a traffic light methodology – an approach adopted in the 2022 Quadrennial Sustainable Development Report. The ratings are based on available official national and global monitoring data over the past 10 years. The information presented in the 2050 Baseline Report (2024) is currently undergoing validation by subject matter experts and relevant agencies prior to final endorsement by Leaders.

8. The work on the **2050 MEL Plan (Annex 2)** will connect the 2050 Strategy and 2050 IP to national-level priorities and outcomes. It will also monitor the implementation of priorities to ensure they align with the outcomes outlined in the 2050 IP. The MEL Plan will guide the 2050 Annual Reports to Leaders. The work on the MEL Plan was initiated in 2023 and is being led by the 2050 MEL Working Group, which consists of CROP and Member MEL experts working in national planning agencies. The work has also received guidance from technical experts from the Pacific

Community and is based on the SDG indicators available across the 7 thematic areas of the 2050 Strategy. A draft of the plan is currently available.

9. Work on the **Prioritized List of Regional Collective Actions (RCA) (Annex 3)** is ongoing as a separate high-level summary. The RCA work provides additional information on resource implications, timeframes, and key deliverables for the 2050 Baseline report. It also includes an update on available funding commitments under the Pacific Partner Action and Commitment Engagement (PACE) Plans.

C. Next Steps

10. The 2050 Strategy Baseline Report is expected to be tabled for Leaders' consideration in August 2024. In the subsequent years, 2050 Strategy Annual Reports will be provided to Leaders for consideration and information on the region's progress towards the 2050 Strategy Goals and Outcomes. The 2050 MEL Plan is expected to inform the formulation and preparation of the 2050 Annual Reports to Leaders.

11. Detailed evidence supporting these regional and national snapshots will be available on the planned Pacific Data Hub 2050 Strategy Dashboard. It is also noted that some outcome areas currently have limited indicator data for monitoring progress and further work is needed to develop relevant and appropriate reporting from 2025.

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
19 July 2024