



## The Importance of EIA and Oceans Management



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(SPREP)

- The Pacific Ocean
- Importance of the sustainable ocean management
- SPREP work on ocean and environmental management
- Conclusions

There are multiple human impacts resulting from a range of human activities including waste, marine pollution (plastics), logging and mining, illegal and over-fishing.

Our region is the most diverse oceanic island region in the world – 30,000+ islands, over 1,000 languages and with the exception of Papua New Guinea, small land areas BUT enormous areas of ocean within their EEZs. Our Pacific islands are Large Ocean States.

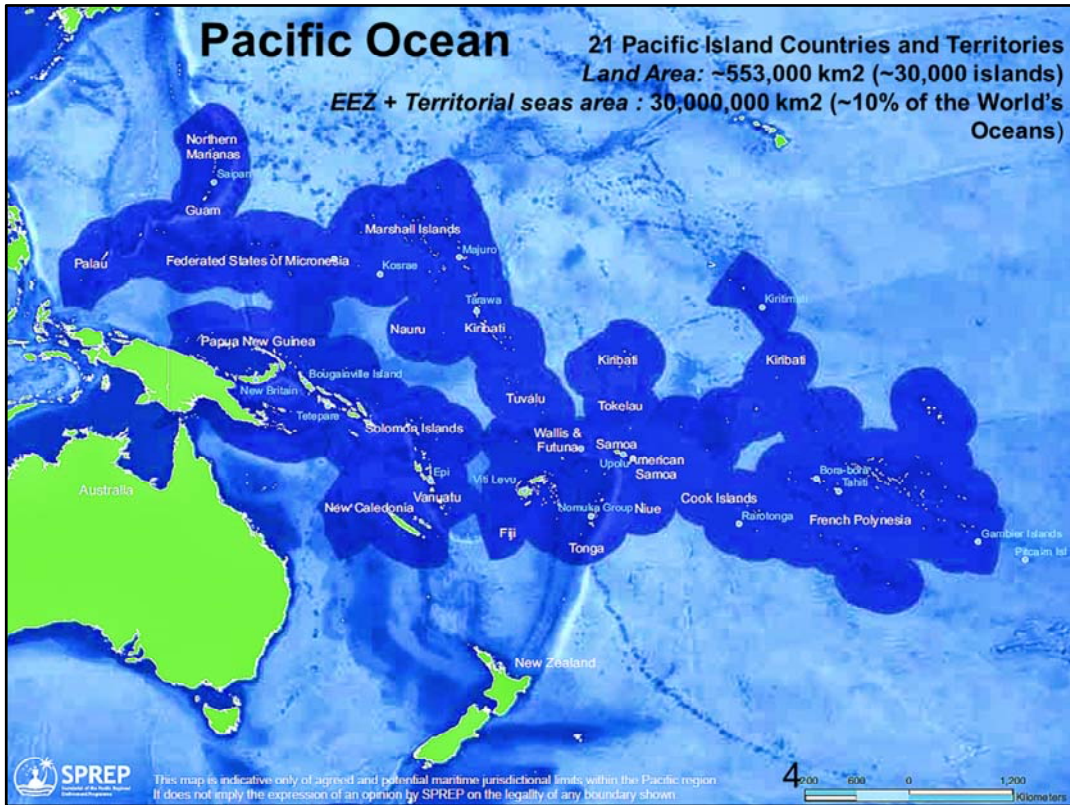
## Ocean

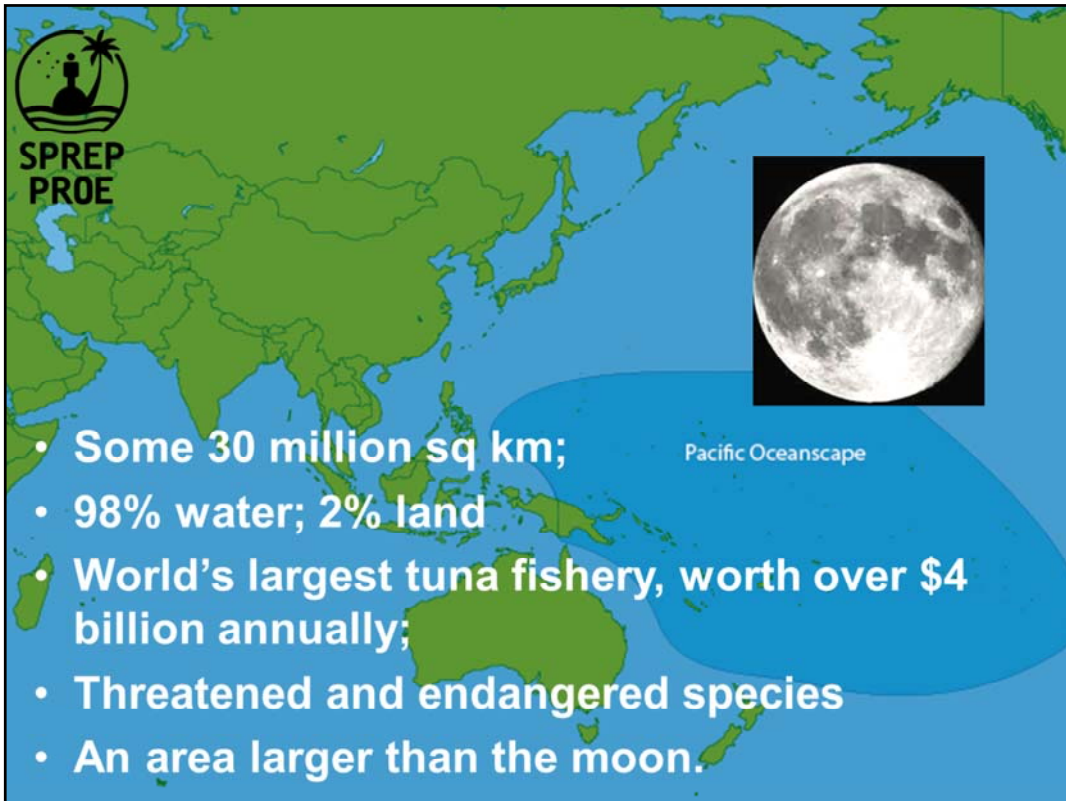
- A healthy ocean is vital to the achievement of sustainable development.
- The ocean currently provides livelihoods for hundreds of millions of people and through the sustainable blue economy will create many new job fields in the future
- The ocean is an integral part of the planet's climate and serves as a massive carbon sink, with a quarter of the carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere being absorbed by the ocean.
- A healthy ocean equals a healthy planet equals healthy people.”

A healthy ocean is vital to the achievement of sustainable development, as demonstrated by the close inter-linkages between SDG 14 – the ocean goal, and the other SDGs.

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The image features a map of the Pacific Islands region, with the landmasses colored in green and the surrounding ocean in blue. In the top left corner, there is a logo for 'SPREP PROE' which includes a stylized figure of a person sitting on a beach with a palm tree. In the top right corner, there is a circular inset image of the moon. The text 'Pacific Oceanscape' is written in a small font near the moon image. A list of five bullet points is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the map area.

**SPREP  
PROE**

Pacific Oceanscape

- **Some 30 million sq km;**
- **98% water; 2% land**
- **World's largest tuna fishery, worth over \$4 billion annually;**
- **Threatened and endangered species**
- **An area larger than the moon.**

The Pacific Islands region hosts the world's largest remaining stocks of tuna, providing approximately a third of the world's catches of tuna and related species, and there is within the region a diverse range of cultures and languages, and some of the world's most threatened species.

## UN Approaches to Healthy Oceans

The nine Communities of Ocean Action are:

- Coral reefs
- Implementation of international law as reflected in United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
- Mangroves
- Marine and coastal ecosystems management
- Marine pollution
- Ocean acidification
- Scientific knowledge, research capacity development and transfer of marine technology
- Sustainable blue economy
- Sustainable fisheries



The Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy is supported by 22 Pacific Island countries and territories and underscores the continuing importance of ocean and coastal resources and environments to the region's nations, communities and individuals.

## The Pacific Approaches

- **Pacific Islands Regional Policy – 2002**
- **Framework for a Pacific Ocean-scape – 2009**
- **Palau Declaration on The Ocean: Life and Future**
- **Leaders established a Pacific Ocean Commissioner (POC), supported by the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC).**
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- **September 2017, Pacific Leaders adopted the Blue Pacific identity as ‘the core driver**



The importance of the Ocean to Pacific Islands has always been important.

In recent years the Pacific Islands Regional Oceans Policy (PIROP) was endorsed by Pacific Island Forum

Leaders in 2002, and while it remains the most comprehensive ocean policy guidance in the region,

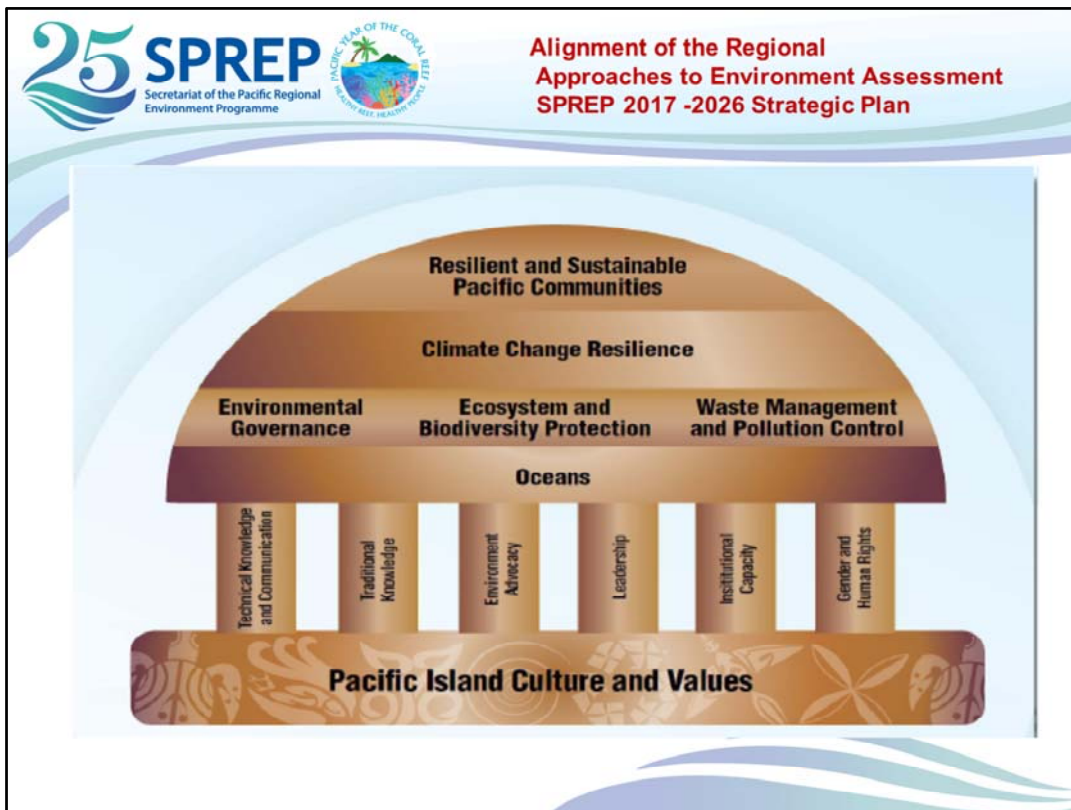
PIROP does not define an adequate coordination or resourcing approach. This gave rise to a further

decision by Leaders in 2009 to develop the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape (FPO) to promote

implementation. In 2015 and 2016, Leaders again raised the Ocean as a priority by issuing the Palau

Declaration on The Ocean: Life and Future and the Pohnpei Ocean Statement – A Course to Sustainability. Leaders underscored the need for meaningful implementation of SDG14 commitments.

These are the approaches undertaken by the Pacific Leaders due to the importance of oceans. Through the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape, the Leaders established a Pacific Ocean Commissioner (POC), supported by the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC). In addition, Leaders called for the establishment of the Pacific Ocean Alliance (POA), with a broad stakeholder base made up of private, public and civil sector representatives acting together to advance integrated ocean management. In September 2017, Pacific Leaders adopted the Blue Pacific identity as ‘the core driver of collective action’ to strengthen solidarity, reinforce the potential of the shared stewardship of the Pacific Ocean, and improve ownership and returns from fisheries. The Blue Pacific identity is intended to form the basis of a long-term regional foreign policy commitment to act as one ‘Blue Continent’. I believe it is important to raise these because these are closely associated with the focus of the conference how the Pacific Region is committed to protect our oceans.



The SPREP SP Prioritises four regional goals with supporting objectives. Together these define the core priorities and focus of SPREP for the next ten years:

1. Climate Change Resilience
2. Ecosystem and Biodiversity Protection
3. Waste Management and Pollution Control
4. Environmental Governance

The strategic priorities of SPREP are all interlinked by Oceans. Oceans, which define us as Pacific people and underpins our way of life and livelihoods, is a key crosscutting theme in the strategy. , as Pacific Islanders we recognise that waste management is linked to oceans health and resilient ecosystems supporting biodiversity result in and from healthy oceans and all are linked to sustainable island livelihoods. In order to protect them strong environmental governance is needed back by effective management.



- Regional goal 1: Pacific people benefit from strengthened resilience to climate change.
- Regional goal 2: Pacific people benefit from healthy and resilient island and ocean ecosystems
- Regional Goal 3: Pacific people benefit from improved waste management and pollution control
- Regional Goal 4: Pacific people and their environment benefit from commitment to and best practice of environmental governance

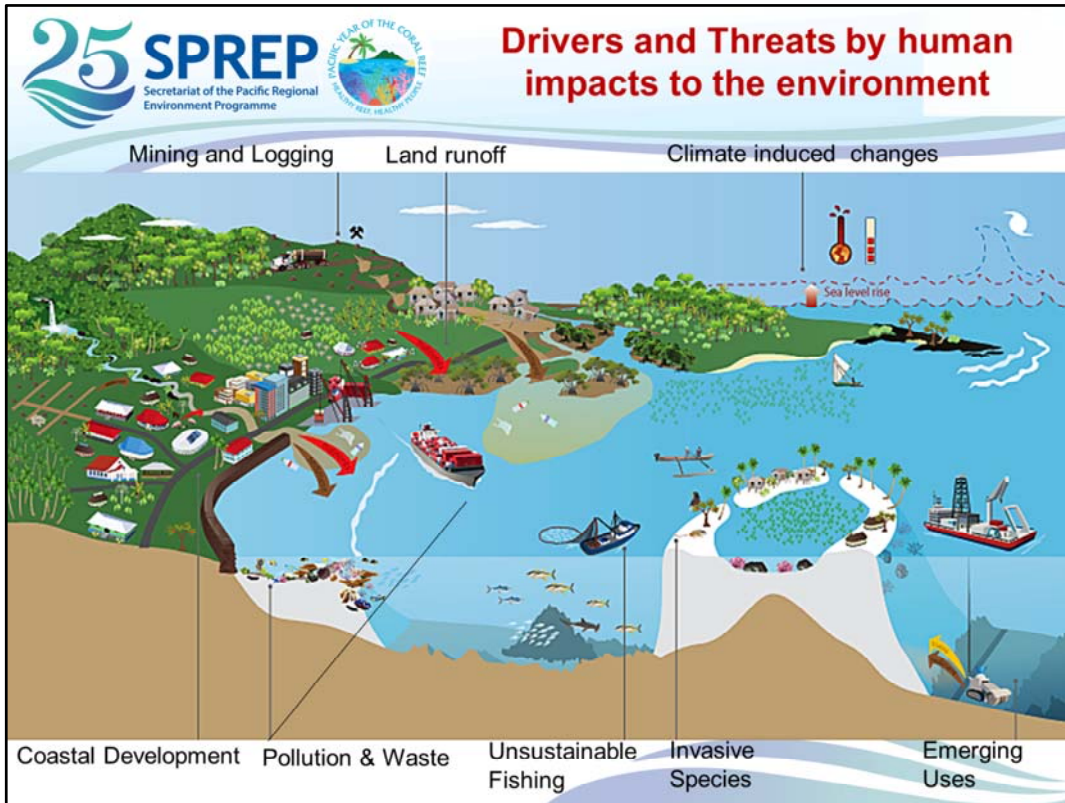
The Regional Goals of the SPREP Strategic Plan are aligned to Ocean management and healthy Oceans. Under SPREP Strategic Plan prioritises the protection of our ocean and the services it provides to the Pacific way of life. This is a commitment by SPREP in aligning itself on oceans management under the various Multilateral Environment Agreements and the Pacific regional frameworks such as the SAMOA pathway, Framework for Pacific Regionalism and the Pacific leaders blue pacific initiatives.

# Environmental Monitoring and Governance Programme

## Regional Goal 4

Pacific people and their environment benefit from commitment to and best practice of environmental governance





There are multiple human impacts resulting from a range of human activities including waste, marine pollution (plastics), logging and mining, illegal and over-fishing. There are now emerging risks associated with exploration of the seabed for deep sea mining. With all these drivers and associated impacts, there is a need to strengthen environment planning and put in place better environment and social safeguard in order to maintain sustainability.

**25 SPREP**  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

**PACIFIC YEAR OF THE COASTAL ZONE**  
SUSTAINABLE HEALTHY PEOPLE

## Environment and Safeguard Policies

**STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**  
Guidelines for Pacific Island Countries and Territories

Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development in Pacific Island Countries and Territories

*SPREP Environmental and Social Management System*

- **Strengthening EIA Guidelines for Pacific Island Countries and Territories.**
- **EIA Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Development**
- **Environment Management and Social Systems.**
- **Pacific Network for Environment Assessment**

**Regional EIA Guideline:** Promotion of environmental assessment remains an important priority for SPREP. The EIA Guidelines are applicable to the full range of projects and economic development sectors in the Pacific and aim to support the implementation of current EIA legal requirements and to strengthen Pacific-based application of the EIA process.

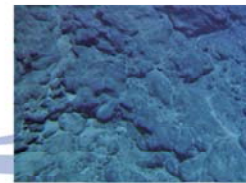
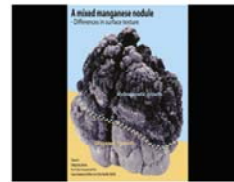
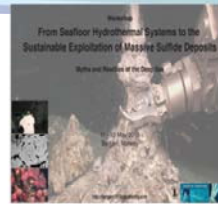
**Coastal Tourism Development EIA Guideline:** These Guidelines aim to assist with the implementation of national EIA legal requirements and to promote best practice in EIA process for Coastal Tourism Development in the Pacific. SPREP partnered with the South Pacific Tourism Organisation.

**Environment Social Management Systems:** The purpose of the ESMS is to ensure that we avoid or minimize any potential negative impacts of our work while also looking to maximise benefits. SPREP's Environmental and Social standards have been developed to meet the intent of the 2012 International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards while being flexible enough to meet donor specific requirements as might be needed.

**The Pacific Network for Environmental Assessment (PNEA):** aims to support government officials in SPREP member countries, working in the area of environmental assessment.

## The Emerging Issues

- The Pacific region has substantial potential for deep sea mineral (DSM) resources
- Significant momentum towards commercialisation of these resources has only recently occurred.
- This has encouraged mining companies and governments to explore into the potential development of seabed resources.
- But it is important to note that there are living things in the ocean ecosystems that contributes to our livelihood. This is why proper environment assessment is vital



The occurrence of minerals in the deep sea has been known for decades since manganese nodules were first discovered in the 1800s.

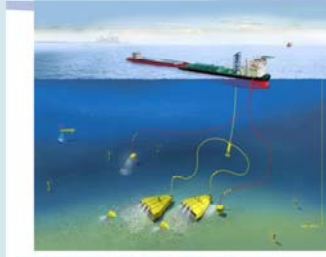
Significant momentum towards commercialisation of these resources has only recently occurred.

The rapid economic development of emerging countries combined with an accelerating spread of new technologies is increasing demand for metals and minerals

This has encouraged mining companies and governments to explore beyond traditional land-based resources and into the potential development of seabed resources.

The occurrence of minerals in the deep sea has been known for decades since manganese nodules were first discovered in the 1800s<sup>2</sup>

- Addressing the potential damaging impacts of Seabed Mining in the Ocean.
- The Regional Environmental Management Framework for Deep Sea Minerals Exploration and Exploitation
- Strategic Environment Assessment and potential future shoreline impacts of oil spill in Chuck



SPREP provided support to SPC on the development of The Regional Environmental Management Framework for Deep Sea Minerals Exploration and Exploitation which contains an overview of deep sea mineral deposit environments and potential environmental impacts of deep sea mining projects, as well as management and mitigation strategies, including an environmental impact assessment report template.

SPREP in 2009 provided support on assessments of oil spill impacts in Chuck by carrying out a Strategic Environment Assessment.

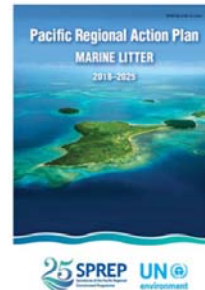
## Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)

- **BBNJ (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction) is Intergovernmental Conference working group with the goal of developing an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (General Assembly resolution 72/249)**
- **SPREP is working with Pacific regional organisations in providing technical advice on the elements of **EIA and Strategic Environment Assessment** fro its member countries. .**

The BBNJ is working towards becoming a convention; but conventions require tools and actions to be implemented. At the country and regional level planning still requires the right type of analysis to make informed decisions. This is where EIA and SEAs come in along with national environmental management strategies. Internationally recognised management tools such as EIA and SEA are being used devise holistic impact assessments and management plans for the BBNJ.

## Other Initiatives by SPREP

- **Pacific Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter**
- **The Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries (MACBIO)**
- **Noumea Convention**
- **Waigani Convention**



**Marine Litter Action Plan:** This Action Plan sets out the policy context and key actions to minimise marine litter across the Pacific Island Countries and Territories. The scope of the Action Plan is intentionally focused on the Pacific island Countries and Territories. UNEP in 2015 estimated that 10 to 20 million tonnes of plastic is finding its way into the world's oceans each year, costing approximately US\$13 billion per year in environmental damage to marine ecosystems. This includes financial losses incurred by fisheries and tourism as well as time spent cleaning up beaches, harbours and ports

**MACBIO:** It is assisting the countries of Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu to strengthen their capacities and processes in marine and coastal planning and management

**Noumea Convention:** Noumea Convention which provides a legal instrument to ensure that environmental management and sustainable development of natural resources is implemented throughout the Pacific. The main achievements of the Noumea Convention over the years have been in the areas of marine and coastal conservation, marine pollution and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Recently, through the Noumea Convention, SPREP in partnership with the South Pacific Tourism organisation endorsed the EIA Guidelines for Coastal Tourism Developments. The guidelines will provide guidance to coastal tourism developers on the protecting the impacts of tourism developments on coastal areas.

**Waigani Convention:** The objective of the Convention is to reduce and eliminate transboundary movements of hazardous and radioactive waste, to minimize the production of hazardous and toxic wastes in the Pacific region and to ensure that disposal of wastes in the Convention area is completed in an environmentally sound manner.



## Conclusion



The Ocean is at the core of our being, as a Pacific people. It underpins our livelihoods and way of life, it has played a strong role in the lives of our ancestors. We will continue to work and support all our Member Countries and Territories as they strive to protect our Oceans.

Mr Kosi Latu  
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#SaveOurOcean #4PacIslands