



## SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

### Twenty-Second SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa  
13 – 15 September 2011



#### Information Paper 2:

#### Current Status of the Pacific Oceanscape Framework

##### Purpose of Paper

1. This paper is a progress report, presented to this meeting, on the status of implementation of the Pacific Oceanscape Framework and continued efforts by the Marine Sector Working Group (MSWG) and partners to develop a Project Identification Form (concept document) for GEF5 funding.

##### Background

2. The Pacific Oceanscape was conceived by His Excellency Anote Tong, President of Kiribati, in early 2009, and the concept was endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum leaders at their 40th Meeting in August 2009:

*‘Leaders welcomed the Pacific Oceanscape concept and its companion Pacific Ocean Arc initiative tabled by Kiribati aimed at increasing marine protected area investment, learning and networking. Leaders tasked the Secretariat, together with relevant CROP agencies and key partners, to develop a framework for the Pacific Oceanscape, drawing on the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy, as a priority area for attention under the Pacific Plan.’*

3. The Forum’s MSWG (consisting of CROP agency members PIFS, FFA, SPC, USP, SPREP and partners CI, UNEP, IUCN, FSPI) developed the Pacific Oceanscape Framework in 2009/10 which was endorsed by the Leaders at their 41st meeting:

*‘Leaders reiterated the critical importance of ensuring the sustainable development, management and conservation of our ocean. Leaders endorsed the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape and acknowledged with thanks the efforts of the Marine Sector Working Group and partners in developing this framework. Leaders strongly encouraged continued Forum leadership and regional cooperation and tasked CROP agencies to implement the Framework in partnership with other relevant organisations.’*

##### Current status of implementation of the Pacific Oceanscape Framework

##### INTERNATIONAL:

4. The Pacific Oceanscape was welcomed at the United Nations General Assembly at its 65th Session in 2011 and under discussion on Oceans and the Law of the Sea.

**REGIONAL:**

5. The Pacific Oceanscape Framework was endorsed at the SPREP Environment Ministerial in Papua New Guinea in 2010. This endorsement engaged the territories in addition to the Pacific Forum members.
6. Strong agreement among the CEOs of CROP agencies led to a decision to collectively support the important role of Ocean Commissioner, and the Interim Ocean Commissioner was designated to be Mr Tuiloma Neroni Slade, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. This significantly advances the impetus and direction of implementing the Pacific Oceanscape Framework.
7. The MSWG has continued to draft a PIF for GEF5 funding, which has been written and is under review. Gaining funding to support some core elements of the Pacific Oceanscape Framework is seen as a critical element to succeed in full implementation. To ensure success in this regard, input, engagement and support from countries is requested.
8. The Forum's Pacific Plan Action Committee (August 2011) has recognised the utility of the Pacific Oceanscape as a vehicle to help foster integrated ocean management and to unite the region on aspects of the 'blue economy' in preparations for the UN Rio +20.
9. A celebration of the Pacific Oceanscape voyage in its first year (hosted by Conservation International), will be held at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Pacific Island Forum Leaders meeting in September 2011, in Auckland.

**NATIONAL:**

10. At a national level, ongoing activities that support the Pacific Oceanscape Framework are continuing to be implemented. Kiribati is continuing with the development of the large Phoenix Islands Protected Area and is building an "ocean arc" in collaboration with the USA's Phoenix Islands. The Cook Islands are progressing towards the establishment of the Cook Islands Marine Park over a significant area of their EEZ, and Tokelau is developing a new EEZ management initiative.

**SPREP's Ongoing Support**

11. The Secretariat, through the Marine Sector Working Group and partners, has continued to support the concept and development of the Pacific Oceanscape Framework, taking an active role in the development of the GEF5 PIF to support key elements of the implementation of the Framework.

---

30 August 2011