



Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific

Strategic Work Agenda 2019

November 2018

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The CROP Strategic Work Agenda sets out the collective work priorities for CROP for 2019, to deliver on the decisions of Forum Leaders including new decisions as captured in the *49th Pacific Islands Forum Communique*. It also sets out how CROP will work together, and with stakeholders, over the course of the year to deliver on Forum Leaders' decisions.
- 1.2 While the Strategic Work Agenda focuses on key priorities requiring a collective, whole of CROP approach, behind this Agenda sits a detailed CROP Action Plan that captures the breadth of CROP agencies work to deliver on Forum Leaders', SIS Leaders and Forum Ministers' decisions in 2019.

2. Work Priorities

- 2.1 In response to Leaders' decisions at the 2018 Pacific Islands Forum, and building on existing Leaders' priorities which require continued, collective work, CROP's Strategic Priorities for 2019 are:
 - a) Combatting climate change and building disaster resilience;
 - b) Ensuring the long term sustainability and viability of the region's fisheries resources;
 - c) Strengthening regional security cooperation;
 - d) Ensuring sustainable oceans management and conservation;
 - e) Promoting sustainable development through the delivery of the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development;
 - f) Tackling childhood obesity, non-communicable diseases and promoting early childhood development; and
 - g) Strengthening arrangements for regionalism.

3. Objectives and Deliverables

- 3.1 In response to the seven work priorities, the table below summaries the objectives, deliverables and CROP delivery mechanisms for 2019.

Priority 1 – Combating climate change and building disaster resilience		
Objectives	Deliverables for 2019	Mechanisms¹
Supporting Forum advocacy and engagement on stronger international climate change action, particularly through the UNFCCC process and UN Secretary General’s 2019 Climate Summit.	Implementation of the Forum International Advocacy Action Plan as well as a specific engagement plan for COP 25, to ensure Members are supported in advocating for the full implementation of the Paris Agreement.	CROP Plus Group (SPREP lead)
Driving implementation of the Framework for the Resilient Development of the Pacific through the Pacific Resilience Partnership and the Pacific Resilience Partnership Taskforce.	Delivery of the PRP Taskforce’s initial work programme (Pacific Resilience Meeting, resilience criteria, communications and engagement plan).	Pacific Resilience Partnership
Supporting the development of the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF).	Full design of the PRF for endorsement by FEEM and Forum Leaders.	PIFS
Supporting the development of the Pacific Islands Climate Change Facility (PICCF).	Clear work programme and timeframe for the PICCF.	SPREP, PIFS
Priority 2 - Ensuring the long-term sustainability and viability of the region’s fisheries resources		
Objectives	Deliverables for 2019	Mechanisms
Addressing the underperformance of the regional longline fishery.	Development and implementation of a Regional Longline Strategy	Fisheries Taskforce (FFA lead)
Supporting Forum advocacy and engagement with Distant Water Fishing Nations (DWFN) and through the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Implementation of the Forum International Advocacy Action Plan including targeted Member preparations ahead of the WCPFC and Dialogue Partner engagement.	FFA, PIFS, SPC
Supporting the establishment of an annual Regional Fisheries Ministers meeting on the margins of the Forum Fisheries Committee Ministerial Meeting.	First annual Regional Fisheries meeting held on the margins of the FFCMIN meeting in 2019.	FFA, PIFS

¹ As per the new CROP Charter, taskforces are to be time-bound and task orientated and include wider stakeholders in addition to CROP agencies including Member countries, civil society, private sector and international organisations, as appropriate.

Priority 3 – Strengthening regional security cooperation

Objective	Deliverable for 2019	Mechanism
Supporting the development and implementation of an action plan for the Boe Declaration including supporting Forum advocacy and engagement on the priorities and principles of the Boe Declaration.	Finalisation and implementation of the Boe Declaration action plan including hosting the inaugural Pacific Security Dialogue.	PIFS with FFA, SPC, USP, SPREP

Priority 4 – Ensuring sustainable oceans management, use and conservation

Objectives	Deliverables for 2019	Mechanism
Supporting Forum Members to secure their maritime boundaries.	Action plan to be developed to outline process and support to Member countries, with a progress report provided to Leaders in 2019.	SPC, FFA, PIFS, OPOC
Eliminating marine litter through the implementation of the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan through a focus on: reduction in single-use and non-recycling plastics; coordinated multi-sectoral engagement; active support for plastics reduction and recycling; and reliable data for monitoring and learning.	Implementation of the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan including: supporting PICs to implement policies and legislation; resolution to adopt region wide ban on single-use plastics; stakeholder engagement; pilot projects; community awareness campaigns and events.	SPREP
Supporting Forum advocacy and engagement for a new Implementing Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and to address the outstanding security threats from nuclear legacy issues in the Pacific Ocean.	Development of Pacific negotiating priorities paper; development of technical briefs on key issues; capacity building support to Member countries on the negotiations; caucusing in the lead up to and at negotiations, as per the Forum International Advocacy Action Plan.	Marine Sector Working Group (PIFS/OPOC lead)

Priority 5 - Promoting sustainable development through the delivery of the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development		
Objectives	Deliverables for 2019	Mechanisms
Supporting Forum advocacy and engagement to promote the First Quadrennial Pacific Sustainable Development Report and call for strengthened partnerships and financing to support Pacific-led approaches to sustainable development challenges including as part of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway Mid-Term Review.	Implementation of the Forum International Advocacy Action Plan including targeted Member preparations for the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.	Sustainable Development Working Group/Steering Committee (PIFS lead)
Supporting Forum Member countries to undertake their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), with six scheduled for 2019.	Establishment of CROP technical support teams to support countries as required in their VNR preparations.	Sustainable Development Working Group/Steering Committee (PIFS lead)
Priority 6 - Tackling childhood obesity, non-communicable diseases and promoting early childhood development		
Objective	Deliverable for 2019	Mechanism
Driving implementation of the 2014 NCDs Roadmap and 2016 NCDs Summit and supporting Forum Members to enact whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to address NCDs, childhood obesity and early childhood development.	Establishment of a new Pacific Ending Childhood Obesity (ECHO) Taskforce to drive this work. Increasing the presence of multi-sectoral NCD Taskforces in member countries to at least 50% (currently only three PIF countries have one in place). Increasing the number of PIF countries that have in place a national strategy for addressing NCDs.	Pacific Ending Childhood Obesity (ECHO) Taskforce (SPC lead)
Priority 7 – Strengthening arrangements for regionalism		
Objectives	Deliverables for 2019	Mechanism
Implementation of the new CROP Charter.	Full implementation of the new CROP Charter, noting that a number of proposed initiatives have already been enacted.	CROP Heads Group/CROP Heads and

	Work plan to explore strengthened CROP harmonisation.	Governing Council Chairs Meeting
Ongoing work program to strengthen regional governance and financing.	Paper to FOC/Forum Leaders to provide an update on progress on the regional governance and financing initiative and proposed next steps.	CROP Deputies Group/CROP Heads

4. How CROP will work together

4.1 In line with the 2018 CROP Charter, CROP will work together over 2019 through the mechanisms and approaches summarised below, and according to the CROP Calendar at [Section 5](#).

- **Supporting whole of government engagement and delivery on the Forum agenda:** including through proactive communications to Members; Member participation in Taskforces and Working Groups; reviewing opportunities to strengthen whole of government engagement as part of a second phase of the Analysis of Governance and Financing work; and proactive engagement in the CROP – SIS Attachment Programme.
- **Meetings of CROP Heads and CROP Deputies:** quarterly meetings of CROP Heads and meetings of CROP Deputies, as required to deliver on CROP Heads’ decisions, and as supported by the CROP Operational Support Team at an officer level.
- **Driving implementation through CROP Taskforces and Working Groups:** establishment/re-focusing/continuation of task-orientated and time-bound working groups to deliver on priority work areas.²
- **Providing regional policy and technical advice:** particularly as part of the public policy process, to inform the work of the Specialist Sub-Committee on Regionalism, with a CROP Heads meeting held in May 2019 to engage with this process.
- **Supporting the Forum’s international advocacy and strengthening CROP collective communications:** through supporting the delivery of the 2019 Action Plan for the Forum Strategy for International Advocacy and Engagement, the work of the FOC Sub-Committee for Forum Engagement and Advocacy, and the delivery of the Joint CROP Communications Plan.
- **Stakeholder engagement:** collectively engaging with stakeholder groups including through the Regional Development Partner Roundtable, Forum Leaders Session with Dialogue Partners, civil society, and an annual dialogue with the Resident Coordinator for the United Nations.

² Noting that current CROP Working Groups include: Gender, Disability, ICT, Fisheries, Marine, Health & Population, Sustainable Development and Human Resources.

- **Governing Councils:** reporting to CROP governing bodies on participation in, and performance of CROP, including through an annual meeting of CROP Heads and Governing Council Chairs in October/November 2019.
- **Review and reporting:** Assessing progress against the CROP Strategic Work Agenda and Action Plan at quarterly meetings of CROP Heads and through a written report to Forum Officials Committee and Forum Leaders Meeting, and through an annual dialogue with Forum Leaders on the sidelines of the 50th PIF.

5. 2019 Calendar of CROP Meetings and Engagements

<p>JANUARY</p> <p><i>Forum meetings:</i> None</p> <p><i>CROP meetings:</i> None</p> <p><i>External engagement:</i> None</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p><i>Forum meetings:</i> None</p> <p><i>CROP meetings:</i> 18th. CROP Heads Meeting</p> <p><i>External engagement:</i> None</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p><i>Forum meetings:</i> None</p> <p><i>CROP meetings:</i> 29th. Deputies Group Meeting.</p> <p><i>External engagement:</i> - 11th – 22nd. UN Commission on Status of Women (New York). - BBNJ negotiations (New York). - 27th – 29th. Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (Bangkok).</p>
<p>APRIL</p> <p><i>Forum meetings:</i> None</p> <p><i>CROP meetings:</i> None</p> <p><i>CROP engagement:</i> - BBNJ negotiations (New York). - 30th April – 2nd May. Resilience Meeting (Suva)</p>	<p>MAY</p> <p><i>Forum meetings:</i> - 7th – 9th. Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM) including Development Partner Roundtable - 6th – 10th. FFC Officials - 15th – 17th. SSCR meeting.</p> <p><i>CROP meetings:</i> None.</p> <p><i>CROP engagement:</i> -13th – 15th. Pacific Ocean Alliance meeting (Suva). -UNFCCC intersessional (Bonn).</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p><i>Forum meetings:</i> - 17th – 20th. FFC Ministerial meeting (FSM) - 17th – 21st. SPC’s CRGA Meeting and Conference of the Pacific Community (Noumea)</p> <p><i>CROP meetings:</i> 7th. CROP Heads Meeting.</p> <p><i>CROP engagement:</i></p>

<p>JULY</p> <p><i>Forum meetings:</i> -26th. Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting -23rd – 24th. Pre-Forum FOC -FFC Ministerial including Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting</p> <p><i>CROP meetings:</i> CROP Heads teleconference to prepare for dinner with Forum Leaders.</p> <p><i>CROP engagement:</i> 9th – 18th. UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New York).</p>	<p>AUGUST</p> <p><i>Forum meetings:</i> 13th – 16th. Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting Week</p> <p><i>CROP meetings:</i> CROP Heads Dinner with Forum Leaders.</p> <p><i>CROP engagement:</i> 19th – 30th. BBNJ negotiations.</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p><i>Forum meetings:</i> 2nd. Pacific Environment Forum. 3rd – 5th. SPREP Officials Meeting 6th. Environment Ministers Session.</p> <p><i>CROP meetings:</i> CROP Deputies meeting.</p> <p><i>CROP engagement:</i> 17th – 27th. UN General Assembly including UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development/UNSG’s Climate Summit.</p>
<p>OCTOBER</p> <p><i>Forum meetings:</i> None</p> <p><i>CROP meetings:</i> 22nd. CROP Heads Meeting including meeting with Governing Council Chairs.</p> <p><i>CROP engagement:</i> None</p>	<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p><i>Forum meetings:</i> None.</p> <p><i>CROP meetings:</i> CROP Deputies meeting</p> <p><i>CROP engagement:</i> -11th – 25th. UNFCCC COP 25</p>	<p>DECEMBER</p> <p><i>Forum meetings:</i> - 5th – 6th. Budget FOC and Policy Briefing</p> <p><i>CROP meetings:</i> None</p> <p><i>CROP engagement:</i> -Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission</p>