

SUMMARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE SPREP SCOPING WORKSHOP

UNOC theme: “Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal14: Stocktaking, partnerships and solutions”

4 May 2022

1. Mr Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General of SPREP provided an overview of the scoping workshop, including lessons from the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) 2017 preparations, need to exchange information, status of preparations, agree way forward and establish lines of communications with Members including Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS), Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) and partners in preparation of the UNOC in Lisbon, Portugal from 27 June to 1 July 2022. The scoping workshop was viewed as an opportunity to scope and agree the areas of assistance to Members, particularly in the coverage of the UNOC Pacific Briefs with respect to the Interactive Dialogues; and to ensure there was effective communication, planning and coordination for successful engagement by the Pacific with the support of CROP. *Refer to Annexes 1 and 2 for the agenda and list of registered participants.*
2. HE. Mr. Peter Thomson, UN Special Envoy for Oceans provided a pre-recorded message which shared the importance of the Pacific in UNOC, particularly as small island developing states are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and biodiversity loss, which all impact on ocean health. The issue of intergenerational justice was highlighted with respect to the impacts of anthropogenic mistreatment of nature. The remarks concluded with the call to action that the time has come to make peace with nature.
3. Ms. Mathilda Bartley, Deputy Permanent Representative to the Permanent Mission of Samoa to the United Nations spoke as a representative for Samoa the Chair of PSIDS. She conveyed the sincere apologies of HE. Fatumanava III Dr. Pa'olelei Luteru, Permanent Representative and Ambassador.

Ms. Bartley noted the importance of coordination and advice from workshop participants on the delegations and level of representation that will likely attend the UNOC in Lisbon. Effective coordination was highlighted for the delivering of statements on behalf of PSIDS as well as regional statements at UNOC to ensure the Pacific voice is amplified.

Ms. Bartley looked forward to discussing the key positions for UNOC and welcomed engagement on the 8 cluster themes, noting the support of regional CROP experts as with the Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) negotiations process, which included names and contact details available for Members. This was an example to be replicated for Members in preparation of UNOC.

It was noted that the interconnectedness of environmental forums, highlighted that UNOC is intricately linked with climate change and biodiversity, which is a major concern for the Pacific. Another critical area to address is utilising partnerships for effective implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and 2030 Agenda.

4. CROP remarks regarding support to Members in preparation of UNOC were shared by: Dr. Jens Kruger, Deputy Director GEM Division, Pacific Community (SPC); Mr. Peni Baselala Suveinakama, Ocean Analyst and Manager for the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC) and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS); Ms. Patricia Sachs-Cornish, Executive Officer of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA); and Ms. Christina Leala Gale, Manager, Sustainable Tourism and Research, Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO).
5. Ms. Madhushree Chatterjee, Chief of the Natural Resources and Interlinkages Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals provided a comprehensive update to Members on the background and current preparations of UNOC to be hosted by the Government of Portugal. Host country arrangements are to be finalised by the end of May, which will determine the final details in Lisbon. *Refer to Annex 3 for key UNOC events and dates.*
6. Mr. Anthony Talouli, Director of Waste Management and Pollution Control shared the background of the past Pacific preparations for UNOC, which were led by the Fiji Government, the Co-Host of UNOC in 2017 and with the support of PIFS, which led the CROP coordination for the region.

It was noted that there were three regional thematic working groups established in early 2017 that included: Working Group 1 - Pollution, biodiversity and conservation of ecosystem services; Working Group 2 - Climate change and ocean acidification; and Working Group 3 - Fisheries, fishing subsidies and blue economy; and Ocean governance and technical capacity building which was cross-cutting and considered by all of the working groups.

By request of PSIDS, UNOC Pacific Briefs were developed by SPREP in 2017, with the support of UNEP and USP with inputs from other CROP, to assist in the negotiations and interventions at the interactive dialogues. The structure of the briefs developed focused on key issues, key outcomes and objectives, present dynamics and sensitivities. A total of 29 briefs and factsheets were developed.

The key purpose of the scoping workshop in 2022 is to identify gaps from Members in the updating of the UNOC Pacific briefs to ensure relevance.

7. With respect to *'Theme 14.1: Addressing Marine Pollution'*, Mr. Clement Yow Mulalap of the Federated States of Micronesia requested that the language in the briefs align with the current draft of the political declaration. Hence there is a need to adjust the language to land and sea-based 'sources' rather than 'activities'. On pollution and shipwrecks the current draft text, notes the separation of pollution from shipwrecks and emissions from the maritime sector.
8. In reference to *'Theme: 14.7: Circular Blue Economy - Promoting and strengthening sustainable ocean-based economies, in particular for Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries'*, Ms. Bartley of Samoa noted that the definition of the blue economy has not been agreed to in the UN process, hence suggest the use of the Pacific definition of Blue Economy where sustainability is balanced against economic activities and in reference to encouraging investments to include some of the relevant regional frameworks. It was also suggested the integration for societal well-being, would be useful for inclusion in the briefing.
9. With respect to *'Theme: 14.2 and 14.5: Managing, protecting, conserving, and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems'* Ms. Bartley of Samoa requested language be inserted that recognises the

special circumstances of SIDS and programmes on biodiversity. It was noted the lack of progress and discussions on biodiversity at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and requested that the specific needs and special circumstances of SIDS also be included in the CBD negotiations and discussions.

- 10.** In reference to *'Theme: 14.4, 14.6, 14.b Fisheries - Making fisheries sustainable and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets'*, Mr. Engel Raygadas of French Polynesia requested a link between fisheries and blue economy and expressed the specific interest of French Polynesia in this theme given their current activities and policies. Mr. Raygadas also sought clarification as to whether this theme covers both inshore and oceanic fisheries. Ms. Bartley of Samoa noted the importance of addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in helping to maintain sustainable fisheries. Dr. Jerome Aucan of SPC noted their offer to contribute to the relevant UNOC Pacific Brief.

Dr. Josie Tamate of Niue shared that their model of an innovative sustainable financing mechanism has been developed through a country driven approach of a public private partnership and introduces the concept of "Ocean Conservation Credit" to mobilise required capital for ongoing effective management, and investment in resilient and sustainable development into the future.

It was further noted that Niue has established by law 100 percent of their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) under a comprehensive marine spatial sustainable management plan called the Niue Nukutuluea Multiple-use Marine Park. This comes on top of the Moana Mahu which is a no take zone and amounts to 40 percent of the total Niue EEZ. The commitments have global environmental benefits which Niue believes need to be considered in monetising cost sharing approaches for future ocean protection effort, resilience and sustainable development. Dr. Tamate concluded that Niue seeks support, partnerships and also guidance and advice to promote this approach at UNOC.

- 11.** With respect to *'Theme 14.a: Increasing scientific knowledge and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology'* Mr. Clement Yow Mulalap of the Federated States of Micronesia noted the importance of having a fuller description of the matter to be aligned to the current text of the draft political declaration which the Pacific has contributed to and that recognises *'the important role of indigenous, traditional and local knowledge, innovation and practices held by indigenous peoples and local communities'*.
- 12.** With respect to *'Theme 14.c Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea'* Mr. Clement Yow Mulalap of the Federated States of Micronesia noted that the region should highlight the extensive work already done on finalising maritime baselines and outer limits of maritime zones, as well as concluding maritime boundary agreements, while also acknowledging that there remains a number of maritime zones not finalised and maritime boundaries not yet delimited in the region. The importance of reflecting accuracy in the briefs aligned to the current text of the draft political declaration, was also emphasised.
- 13.** With respect to *'Leveraging interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda'* Ms. Bartley of Samoa noted the importance of using language with respect to the special circumstances of SIDS wherever possible.

Ms. Bartley further sought assistance in helping PSIDS to implement the obligations in connection with the SAMOA Pathway and 2030 Agenda. As noted previously Ms. Bartley reiterated the importance of the coordination of CROP expertise to PSIDS through the designation of experts and contact details, similar in process to the BBNJ negotiations technical support provided.

Ms. Audrey Brown-Pereira of SPREP provided a brief overview of the UNOC side event process. It was shared that the side event process will be highly competitive with limited spots available. Side events are an opportunity for Members and CROP to share Pacific experience, knowledge and solutions to accelerate implementation of SDG 14, identify new and emerging issues, and exchange national experiences and practices.

It was noted that while there is only one submission per entity for in-person side events, partnerships are essential and encouraged. Member States will be given priority where possible and composition of panels should ensure geographic and gender balance. CROP agencies will support Members side event applications and likewise seek Members support, ideally collaborating together to help amplify the Pacific voice at UNOC. SPREP will submit one in-person side event application *'Our Blue Pacific Continent, a region of Large Ocean Island States – Join our work towards achieving SDG14'* and seek the support of Members as organising partners. The deadline for applications is 8 May and will be reviewed by 16 May.

Dr. Jerome Aucan, Head of the Pacific Community Center for Ocean Sciences updated the workshop on the *'Regional side-event on ocean management and the UN Ocean Decade in the Pacific'* which SPC will submit. Their side event proposal builds upon their efforts where the Pacific was the first region to organise a planning workshop on the Ocean Decade in 2019, which agreed on clear priorities. SPC seek to leverage the Ocean Decade to bring solutions and actions toward a sustainable Blue Pacific. Their side event will also include Integrated Ocean Management as a key approach that is included in Pacific island countries National Ocean Policies, with robust legal frameworks, use of science in decision support systems and the inclusion of traditional knowledge and culture. Like SPREP, SPC also seeks the support of Members as organising partners in the application process.

Ms. Bartley of Samoa shared that they seek the support and assistance of SPREP for a PSIDS side event application which has already received the support of the UNOC Host Portugal. SPREP confirmed they will assist.

Dr. Josie Tamate of Niue shared that the Hon Dalton Tagelagi, Premier of Niue would like the support of CROP Agencies to assist Niue in amplifying and launching its innovative sustainable financing mechanism associated with its recent Ocean commitments at the UN Ocean Conference including opportunities to speak in relevant plenary statements or sessions for leaders, and side events. Dr. Tamate expressed confidence in this approach, as a proof of concept, presents opportunities for other PSIDS who are also considering how to maximise their returns from large ocean conservation commitments enabling the realisation of sustainable blue economies that reinforce ocean protection.

- 14.** Ms. Nanette Woonton, Acting Communications Adviser shared the experience of past campaigns to help amplify the Pacific Ocean Voice including examples of the 2017 UNOC campaign. It was noted that Ms. Woonton would be the UNOC focal point for SPREP communications and support to Pacific Members as well as for side events, the latter with the support of Ms. Brown-Pereira.

15. Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General of SPREP shared the importance of working closely together as we enter the last weeks before UNOC 2022. It was noted:

- Points of contact - Request that Ms. Matilda Bartley of Samoa serve as the point of contact for PSIDS. SPREP will continue to coordinate through Mr. Nawadra and Ms. Brown-Pereira.
- Political declaration – Will be led by PSIDS to determine what is needed in terms of technical support and advice.
- UNOC Pacific Briefs – SPREP to work with CROP and partners to coordinate efforts, scope topics, determine leads and draft briefs.
- Side events – Pursue own side event applications and strategise after the outcome of applications are known, regarding the number of Pacific side events.
- Members to inform particular needs, to enable the support to be provided.
- Finalise delegations and inform each other once known, who will be in Lisbon.

Annex 1: Agenda

United Nations Ocean Conference, 2022:

Scaling up Ocean Action Based on Science and Innovation for the Implementation of Goal 14:
Stocktaking, Partnerships and Solutions

Virtual Scoping Workshop Date 4 May 2022, 1 - 3pm, Apia.

Meeting Purpose: Member Information and Consultation in preparation for the UN Ocean
Conference, 27th June to 1st July 2022

- 1. Opening Prayer**
- 2. Welcome Remarks – Mr Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General**
- 3. Introduction to the Conference – HE. Peter Thomson, UN Special Envoy for Oceans**
- 4. Representative from Samoa, Chair of Pacific SIDS**
- 5. Brief CROP Agency Remarks**
- 6. Background to the UN Ocean Conference – Ms. Madhushree Chatterjee, Chief of the Natural Resources and Interlinkages Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals**
- 7. Discussion by Interactive Dialogue Themes**
 - 7.1 Addressing Marine Pollution**
 - 7.2 Circular Blue Economy - Promoting and strengthening sustainable ocean-based economies, in particular for Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries.**
 - 7.3 Managing, protecting, conserving, and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems.**
 - 7.4 Oceans Acidification - Minimising and addressing ocean acidification, deoxygenation and ocean warming.**
 - 7.5 Fisheries - Making fisheries sustainable and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.**
 - 7.6 Increasing scientific knowledge and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology.**
 - 7.7 Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.**

7.8 Leveraging interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

8. Side Event proposals including regional projects

9. Amplifying our Pacific Ocean Voice, Planning and General Information

10. Other Business

11. Close of Workshop

Annex 2: List of Registered Participants

SPREP Members	First Name	Last Name
Australia	Dominic	Ransan-Cooper
Australia	Millie	Macleod
Australia	Kade	Newell
Cook Islands	Ewan	Cameron
Cook Islands	Hayley	Weeks
Cook Islands	Teuru	Passfield
Federated States of Micronesia	Mr. Jeem S.	Lippwe
Federated States of Micronesia	Clement Yow	Mulalap
Fiji	HE. Dr. Satyendra	Prasad
Fiji	Agnes	Harm
Fiji	Selema	Navoti
French Polynesia	Thierry	Catteau
French Polynesia	Engel	Raygadas
Kiribati	HE. Mr. Teburoro	Tito
Kiribati	Josephine	Moote
Nauru	Josie-Ann	Dongobir
New Zealand	Joshua	Cloke
New Zealand	Anita	Edgecombe
Niue	Dr. Josie	Tamate
Niue	Haden	Talagi
Niue	Adorra	Misikea
Niue	Taveli	Pavihi
Palau	HE. Ilana	Seid
Republic of Marshall Islands	HE. Gerald	Zackios
Republic of Marshall Islands	Andrea	Muller
Republic of Marshall Islands	Deborah	Barker-Manase
Samoa	HE. Fatumanava III Dr. Pa'olelei	Luteru
Samoa	Matilda	Bartley
Samoa	Gemma	Nelson
Samoa	Isaia	Lautasi
Samoa	Seumalo	Failagi
Samoa	Fimareti	Selu
Samoa	Fatutolo	Iene
Samoa	Fiasosoitamalii	Siaosi
Samoa	Justin	Lima
Samoa	Rona	Meleisea-Chewlit
Samoa	Olive	Vaai
Samoa	Dorothy	Anetone
Samoa	Asiata Gerard	Anapu
Samoa	Henry	Tunupopo
Samoa	Setoa	Apo

SPREP Members	First Name	Last Name
Samoa	Juliana	Lafaialii
Solomon Islands	Noel	Matea
Tonga	Jeanett	Vea
Tuvalu	HE. Samuelu	Laloni
Tuvalu	Tupulaga	Poulasi

Organisation	First Name	Last Name
Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)	Filimone	Tuivanualevu
AOSIS	Kabweea	Itintaake
Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC) and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)	Peni	Suveinakama
Pacific Community (SPC)	Dr. Jens	Kruger
SPC	Dr. Jerome	Aucan
SPC	Coral	Pasisi
SPC	Pierre-Yves	Charpentier
SPC	Vuki	Buadromo
SPC	Dr. Katy	Soapi
Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP)	Dr. James	Viernes
PIDP	Dr. Tammy	Taba
Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)	Dr. Manumatavai	Tupou-Roosen
FFA	Matt	Hooper
FFA	Patricia	Cornish
FFA	Dr. Wetjens	Dimmich
PIFS	Beth	Sargent
PIFS	Pritika	Bijay
Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO)	Christina	Leala Gale
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)	Sefanaia	Nawadra
SPREP	Easter	Chu Shing
SPREP	Tagaloa	Cooper
SPREP	Jope	Davetanivalu
SPREP	Anthony	Talouli
SPREP	Dr. Gregory	Barbara
SPREP	Nicolas	Rocle
SPREP	Jamie	Davies
SPREP	Stuart	Chape
SPREP	Nanette	Woonton
SPREP	Amanda	Wheatley
SPREP	Anastacia	Amoa-Stowers
SPREP	Joshua	Sam
SPREP	Paul	Irving
SPREP	Dr. Peter	Davies

Organisation	First Name	Last Name
SPREP	Juney	Ward
SPREP	Vainuupo	Jungblut
SPREP	Everett	Sioa
SPREP	Karen	Baird
SPREP	Raymond	Schuster
SPREP	Audrey	Brown-Pereira
UNDESA	Madhushree	Chatterjee
UNEP	Kolone	Tikeri
JICA	Yuji	Ueno
Massey University	Dr. Trisia	Farrelly
Second Institute of Oceanography	Wendy	Cao
University of Newcastle	Dr. Sascha	Fuller
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)	Andres	Del Castillo
	Chen	Wang
Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)	Tom	Gammage

Annex 3: Key UNOC Events and Dates

Conference

- Opening of the conference: 27 June, 10am to 1pm
- 8 Plenary Sessions: 28 June to 1 July
- Closing of the conference: 1 July, 3 to 6pm

Participation and Registration

- States Members of the UN, Members of the Specialized Agencies and Parties to UNCLOS: open 3 May to 15 June
- IGO: open 3 May to 15 June
- NGO, Civil Society Organizations, Academic Institutions, the Scientific Community, the Private Sector and Philanthropic Organizations: opened and deadline 16 May

Side Events

- Deadline for applications: 8 May
- Applications to be reviewed: 16 May

Special Events

- Youth and Innovation Forum: 24 to 26 June, 10am-5pm
- Localizing Action for the Ocean: Local and Regional Governments: 25 June, 10am-5pm
- High-level Symposium on Water: 27 June, 2pm-6pm
- Sustainable Blue Economy and Investment Forum: 28 June, 3pm-7pm