



Pacific Community  
Communauté du Pacifique

# PCA

## PEOPLE-CENTRED APPROACH Factsheet

➤ **2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent**  
People-centred development is one of the thematic areas of the 2050 Strategy that leaders committed to strengthen through the promotion of youth, culture inclusion, social inclusion, human rights and social protection.

➤ **SPC's Strategic Plan 2022–2031**  
SPC is committed to supporting sustainable development by applying the PCA to science, research, technology and development across all the Sustainable Development Goals; and to serving its members by interweaving and harnessing the nexus of climate, ocean, land, energy, maritime, culture, human rights, gender, social inclusion and good governance through trusted partnerships and investing in Pacific people in all their diversities and understanding of Pacific contexts.

➤ **The Social Environmental Responsibility (SER) policy** commits SPC to adopt the people-centred approach to its people, operations, and programmes. Applying the PCA cuts across all SPC programmes, strengthens a One SPC approach, and aligns to SPC values.

## WHAT IS THE PEOPLE-CENTRED APPROACH (PCA)?

SPC's people-centred approach (PCA) is a development approach that focuses on improving sustainability, social justice, and participatory decision-making. It is based on the values of respecting, protecting, promoting, and fulfilling the rights of Pacific people in all their diversities.

The PCA places Pacific people at the centre of planning, implementation, decisions, discussions, monitoring, and reporting.

It recognises people as unique individuals and as part of a collective with valuable contributions, experiences and skills in particular cultural contexts and with unique sets of values.

The PCA comprises **human rights, gender equality, social inclusion** with a focus on youth, disability inclusion, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) and **positive expressions of Pacific culture**.



### HUMAN RIGHTS:

Human rights are the legal and moral principles that affirm the inherent value, dignity, equality, and inalienable freedoms of all human beings regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion or any other status. They include the right to life and liberty, equality before the law, peaceful assembly, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and the right to education, amongst others. Human rights are protected in international and national laws.



### GENDER EQUALITY:

Gender equality ensures equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities for women and men and girls and boys, regardless of their gender. In all their diversities, equality does not mean that everyone will become the same but that everyone's rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they were born male or female. Gender equality assures that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men, across all their diversities, are taken into consideration.



### SOCIAL INCLUSION:

Social inclusion is the process of improving the terms of participation in society (with a focus on the marginalised and disadvantaged) through enhancing opportunities, facilitating better access to resources, providing people in all their diversities space to voice their opinions and be involved in decision-making processes, and respecting human rights.



### CULTURE INCLUSION:

Culture inclusion is an institutional approach that emphasises the importance of creating safe workplaces and fostering ethical engagement when working with communities. It examines how culture can act as both a barrier and an enabler, in specific contexts and promotes the development of legislation, policies and frameworks to ensure equitable access and participation, and promotes cultural methodologies and blended approaches to problem-solving and innovation.

## WHY THE PCA?

By adopting the PCA across all divisions, programmes, and activities, SPC ensures technical and scientific interventions benefit people equitably, that no person is left behind, and that Pacific people in all their diversities have an equitable share in development outcomes by:

- Responding effectively to their respective needs, aspirations and priorities.
- Reducing inequality, social exclusion and hardship.
- Mitigating vulnerability to environmental and economic stressors.
- Respecting, protecting, promoting and fulfilling their fundamental human rights, especially in crises and transitional or post-conflict contexts and situations.
- Protecting, preserving and promoting culture as an enabler and driver for sustainable development.
- Improving outreach and fostering ownership over the results and outcomes of SPC initiatives.
- 'Doing no harm', by preventing and mitigating negative impacts of SPC's actions on affected populations.

## HOW TO APPLY THE PCA?

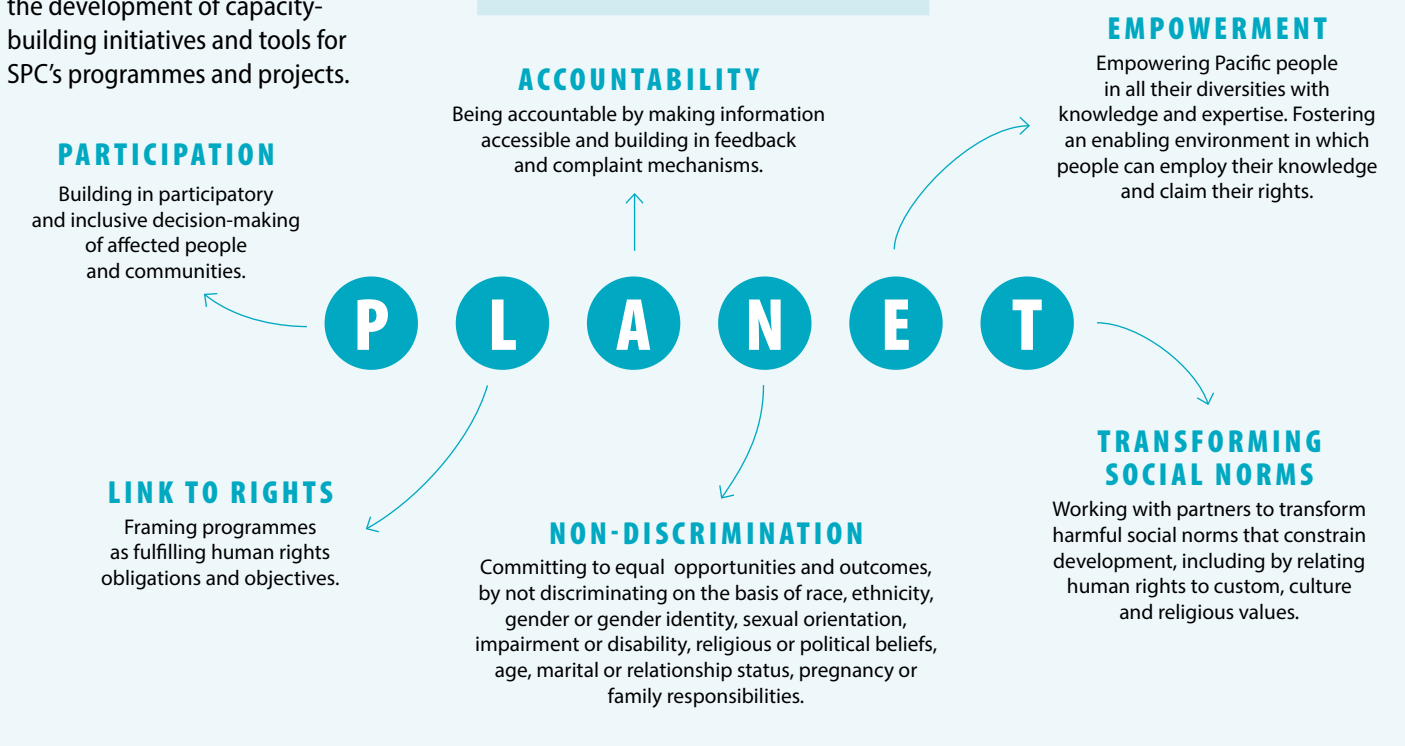
SPC will mainstream this approach across three pillars: people, operations and programmes. The aim is to incorporate human rights, gender equality and social inclusion, culture inclusion and the relationship of people to their environment into all aspects of SPC's work.



To support this work, SPC will be guided by national, regional and international human rights standards and commitments to incorporate the 'PLANET principles' across all three pillars.

The PLANET principles will guide the development of capacity-building initiatives and tools for SPC's programmes and projects.

## THE PLANET PRINCIPLES



### CONTACT

For further information, please contact the Team Leader, Mainstreaming and Capacity Building, SPC Human Rights and Social Development division:  
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### REFERENCES

- [Social and Environmental Responsibility policy](#)
- [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)