

# Pacific One-Maritime Framework 2026–2050

## Version control

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## Acknowledgements

The drafting of the Pacific One-Maritime Framework (POMF) was a comprehensive and inclusive process facilitated by the Pacific Community (SPC), which served as the secretariat and technical support for the POMF Steering Committee. The Pacific Regional Heads of Maritime established this steering committee, chaired by Solomon Islands, to guide the development of the framework. A Drafting Committee, comprising representatives of all SPC’s member countries, was responsible for drafting the POMF. The consultation process was broad, involving various stakeholders to ensure the framework reflected the diverse needs and perspectives of the Pacific region. This included consultations with heads of maritime and maritime experts, as well as representatives of women in maritime, persons with disabilities and youth. This collaborative approach aimed to ensure the POMF was inclusive and equitable, reflecting Pacific values of unity, adaptability, equity and guardianship.

The development of the POMF was made possible through the generous support of the European Union, the United Kingdom and the International Maritime Organization. Their contributions were instrumental in facilitating the extensive consultations, technical expertise, and resources required to develop this comprehensive framework.

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## 1. Introduction

**1.1** Pacific leaders envision a Blue Pacific Continent that recognises the deep connection between Pacific peoples and their environment, emphasising the commitment to sustainably manage and protect our shared ocean. Within this vision, maritime transport and mobility are the lifeblood of island communities, connecting people, goods and services across the vast expanse of the Pacific. This critical sector faces a dynamic landscape shaped by evolving demographics, rapid technological advancements, the growing impacts of climate change and the increasing need for sustainable financing.

**1.2** To navigate these challenges and chart a course toward a thriving maritime future, Pacific leaders have articulated the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, a roadmap towards a resilient Pacific region characterised by peace, harmony, security, social inclusion, and prosperity. The POMF – a key initiative under the 2050 Strategy’s ‘Technology and connectivity’ thematic area – provides a comprehensive framework to ensure accessible and affordable maritime transport that contributes to sustainable economic growth while upholding the principles of a just and equitable maritime transition. This framework embodies the Pacific values of “*wan solwara*” (unity), “*teimaitoa*” (adaptability), “*kapahrak*” (equity),

and “*mana tiaki*” (guardianship), guiding the development of a safe, secure, environmentally friendly, and connected maritime sector that serves the needs and aspirations of all Pacific peoples.

**1.3** The POMF recognises the significant contribution of maritime transport to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By addressing these goals, the POMF aims to enhance the resilience of Pacific Island communities to the impacts of climate change, promote inclusive economic development, and ensure the sustainable management of our ocean resources.

**1.4** Looking ahead, the Pacific maritime transport sector must adapt to key trends, including the integration of digital technologies, the transition to green shipping practices, and the increasing importance of securing sustainable financing for maritime development. The POMF, with its focus on knowledge and capacity building, technology and innovation, governance and collaboration, and resourcing, provides a roadmap for navigating these trends, empowering Pacific Island countries and territories to take a leading role in shaping their maritime future while fostering equitable partnerships with international stakeholders.

### *Context*

**1.5** This sector faces a range of interconnected challenges that undermine its sustainability and effectiveness. These challenges include: (i) limited resources and capacity, which compromise maritime safety and security; (ii) vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters, which disrupt transportation and damage vital infrastructure; (iii) a reliance on fossil fuels, hindering the necessary transition to low-carbon alternatives; (iv) low digital maturity, impeding efficient shipping and port operations and effective data sharing; (v) pollution and waste resulting from maritime activities, which pose a threat to the marine environments; and (vi) inequities that limit opportunities for women, youth, and persons with disabilities within the sector. Addressing these interconnected issues is essential to support the economic growth and overall wellbeing of the region, while ensuring the delivery of safe, secure, reliable, and affordable services.

**1.6** The sector is committed to a just and equitable transition to decarbonised shipping and ports and the realisation of a fossil fuel-free Pacific. Commitments also includes the digitalisation of shipping, ports, and navigation through the implementation of digital maritime technologies and contributing to a healthy ocean by preventing pollution, managing waste, and banning plastics. Furthermore, the sector is dedicated to shaping its future by implementing effective maritime governance and policy frameworks. The POMF provides a comprehensive framework designed to address these challenges, emphasising the importance of digital transformation, green technologies, sustainable financing, and inclusive practices, while fostering collaboration and strong governance.

## Definitions

### a. Accessible

**1.7** Accessible refers to maritime transport infrastructure and services designed to be usable by all members of society, regardless of physical ability, location, or socio-economic status. In the Pacific context, accessibility includes physical accessibility, affordability, availability in remote and rural areas, and reliability of services. Access is vital to promoting inclusivity and achieving the region’s Sustainable Development Goals.

### b. Affordable

**1.8** A resilient maritime transport sector ensures all Pacific peoples have access to affordable sea transport services that are priced reasonably for users and service providers. In the Pacific context, affordability helps make low- or zero-carbon vessels economically viable while supporting trade and socio-economic development. Ensuring affordability contributes to equitable access to transport, enabling growth and development in island communities.

### c. Clean

**1.9** A clean maritime sector minimises environmental impact by preventing the release of harmful pollutants from vessels, ports and operations. Protecting marine ecosystems and coastal communities in the Pacific is essential for long-term sustainability. A clean sector promotes environmental health, contributing to both ecological preservation and economic resilience.

### d. Decent employment

**1.10** Decent employment in the maritime sector refers to employment that upholds the International Labour Organization’s fundamental principles, ensuring that work is productive and delivers a fair income, provides security in the workplace and social protection for families, offers prospects for personal development and social integration, guarantees equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men, and allows workers the freedom to express their concerns, organise and participate in decisions that affect their lives. This includes fair recruitment and employment practices, safe and healthy working and living conditions, access to training and skills development, and respect for seafarers' rights.

### e. Digital

**1.11** Digital refers to using technologies that provide secure, reliable and accessible digital services for Pacific peoples. Digital technologies streamline operations in maritime transport, enhance safety, and improve connectivity between ports, vessels, and regulators. By adopting digital solutions, the sector increases efficiency and promotes regional integration, fostering economic opportunities.

### f. Gender-just

**1.12** A gender-just maritime sector ensures equity and safety for all genders, particularly women and girls, promoting their full participation. In

the Pacific, it addresses safety concerns and boosts employment and decision-making roles for women in a traditionally male-dominated sector. This approach ensures that transport infrastructure supports gender equality, leading to more inclusive economic and social development.

*g. Governance*

**1.13** Governance in the maritime sector involves policies, laws and institutions working together to address challenges and ensure stakeholder participation. Effective governance ensures maritime safety, environmental protection and collaboration across regional stakeholders in the Pacific. Strong governance builds a resilient, well-coordinated maritime sector that supports long-term development goals.

*h. Green*

**1.14** Green focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to energy-efficient, carbon-neutral maritime operations. This involves adopting renewable energy and low-emission technologies in the Pacific in infrastructure and vessels. A green maritime sector mitigates climate change impacts and supports sustainable development.

*i. Green bonds*

**1.15** Green bonds are thematic debt instruments where proceeds are exclusively used to finance or refinance new or existing eligible green projects. In the Pacific, they support low-emission maritime transport, green port infrastructure, and climate-resilient shipping initiatives, reducing fossil fuel dependency and enhancing sustainability in the maritime sector.

*j. Harmful substances*

**1.16** Harmful substances include oil, hazardous chemicals, and waste that can damage marine environments and human health. Controlling these substances is critical in the Pacific due to the region's vulnerability to pollution from shipping and maritime activities. Preventing pollution protects marine ecosystems and sustains livelihoods that depend on a healthy ocean.

*k. Inclusive*

**1.17** Inclusive means ensuring that all individuals and groups, especially marginalised ones, have their perspectives and needs considered in decision-making. In the Pacific, inclusivity is grounded in the people-centred approach, which prioritises human rights, gender inclusion, and cultural sensitivity. This leads to development that reflects Pacific communities' diverse social and cultural contexts.

*l. Maritime infrastructure*

**1.18** Maritime infrastructure encompasses the physical structures, facilities and digital systems that support maritime activities in the Pacific and the interconnection between them. These include ports, wharves, jetties, aids to navigation, communication networks, monitoring and alert systems, and other components. Well-managed maritime infrastructure integrates sustainable and resilient design principles, ensuring safe,

efficient and environmentally responsible operations while adapting to evolving challenges and technological advancements.

*m. Maritime transport*

**1.19** Maritime transport refers to moving goods and people by sea, which is vital for Pacific Island countries and territories. It supports trade, socio-economic needs, and regional connectivity. Reliable maritime transport underpins sustainable development and helps overcome the region’s geographic challenges.

*n. Mobility*

**1.20** Mobility is the ability to move freely and easily, encompassing physical and virtual transport. In the Pacific, maritime mobility connects people to essential services, employment, and trade opportunities. Improving mobility enhances economic productivity and social development across island communities.

*o. Pacific region*

**1.21** The Pacific region refers to the vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean, including Pacific Island countries and territories as regions of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. It is characterised by unique geographical and cultural features and is known as the Blue Pacific Continent. Our region reflects a shared identity and commitment to ocean stewardship, which drives regional collaboration and sustainable development.

*p. Pollution*

**1.22** Pollution refers to introducing harmful substances into the marine environment, which can affect ecosystems, human health and economic activities. This includes emissions, oil spills, and wastewater discharge in maritime transport. Preventing pollution safeguards marine biodiversity and ensures the long-term sustainability of ocean resources.

*q. Reliable*

**1.23** Reliable maritime transport provides dependable services, consistent schedules, safe vessels, and minimal disruptions. In the Pacific, reliable transport is essential for connecting remote islands, ensuring trade, and supporting social and economic development. A reliable system strengthens regional connectivity and resilience.

*r. Resilience*

**1.24** Resilience refers to the maritime sector’s ability to adapt, withstand, and recover from disruptions like climate hazards or economic shocks. In the Pacific, vessels and infrastructure can continue functioning despite rising sea levels and extreme weather. Building resilience strengthens community wellbeing, supports economic stability, and ensures long-term maritime sustainability.

*s. Safe*

**1.25** Safe maritime transport safeguard lives, livelihoods and marine environments by maintaining high safety standards and adapting to risks. In the Pacific, this means reducing accidents and protecting people through well-maintained vessels and infrastructure. A strong focus on safety

contributes to secure, reliable, and effective maritime operations, which are essential for development and regional stability.

t. *Secure*

**1.26** A secure maritime transport system protects people, vessels, and infrastructure from physical, environmental and cyber threats. This includes addressing challenges like transnational crime, climate change, and cybersecurity vulnerabilities in the Pacific. A secure system promotes stability and resilience, ensuring safe passage and the protection of regional maritime interests.

u. *South–South cooperation*

**1.27** South–South cooperation refers to exchanging knowledge, resources, and expertise among developing countries, particularly in the Pacific region. It enables Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) to collaborate on maritime safety, sustainability and climate resilience challenges. This cooperation strengthens regional ties, enhances capacity and promotes locally relevant solutions.

v. *System integration*

**1.28** System integration refers to connecting components and processes to work efficiently as a cohesive unit. This means aligning maritime infrastructure, vessel operations and governance systems to improve functionality and transparency in the Pacific maritime transport sector. Integrated systems enable better collaboration and decision-making, supporting sustainable maritime development.

w. *Vessel*

**1.29** A vessel is any watercraft used for transportation, work, exploration, fishing, or leisure activities in the marine environment. In the Pacific, vessels range from those engaged in international voyages to domestic vessels and small boats, essential for connecting island communities. Safe, efficient, and environmentally friendly vessels are key to the region’s maritime transport system and sustainable development.

x. *Waste management*

**1.30** Waste management includes collecting, treating and disposing of solid waste, hazardous materials, and marine debris. Effective waste management is critical in PICTs due to limited land space and the region’s vulnerability to environmental impacts. It helps protect ecosystems and human health and supports sustainability efforts across maritime operations.

## 2. Our ambition, vision and values

### *Vision*

**2.1** A safe, secure, environmentally friendly and connected maritime sector that is sustainable, resilient and fully accessible, ensuring inclusiveness and equitable access, fair treatment and opportunities for all, across the Blue Pacific.

Note tag line: “A maritime sector serving the needs and aspirations of all Pacific peoples”

### Ambition

**2.2** Our ambition is to cultivate a thriving and sustainable maritime sector in the Blue Pacific that empowers all Pacific peoples, ensuring no one is left behind. We are committed to establishing safe, secure, resilient, accessible and environmentally friendly maritime transport systems that foster equitable access, gender equality and inclusiveness, promote reliable connectivity and sustainable practices, and integrate technological innovation in harmony with cultural heritage and traditional knowledge and environmental stewardship. This ambition is grounded in our values and aims to create a maritime future where the needs and aspirations of all Pacific peoples are realised.

### Values

**2.3** In charting our future, we draw on the wisdom of our past and present to learn and inspire the future generations.

<p><b>Wan solwara – Our unity:</b> Fostering strong partnerships and collaboration among our Blue Pacific nations to enhance maritime transport safety, security, environmental protection and sustainability.</p>	<p><b>Teimaitoa – Our adaptability:</b> Building the capacity and capability to prepare and respond effectively to environmental, political, social and logistical, financial challenges, ensuring the resilience of maritime transport infrastructure and services in the Pacific.</p>	<p><b>Kapahrak – Our equity:</b> Promoting equal opportunities and inclusive practices in the maritime transport sector, ensuring that all individuals and communities benefit from and have opportunities to participate in the sector.</p>	<p><b>Mana tiaki – Our guardianship:</b> Committing to the sustainable use, and the safety and security of our Blue Pacific, safeguarding our way of life and protecting our environment for future generations.</p>
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## 3. Purpose and use

**3.1** The POMF is intended to guide responsible ministries and maritime administrations on an agreed way forward and to also assist development partners understand the maritime priorities of the Pacific region.

**3.2** To that end, the POMF is set to address and respond to the needs, priorities, critical challenges and emerging issues in the region’s maritime sector and serves to guide, by focusing on the agreed thematic areas (safe and secure, resilient, green, digital, clean, gender-just and inclusive) with the cross-cutting pathways of knowledge and capacity, technology and innovation, governance and collaboration and resourcing, including the identified goals and strategies to address these respective areas.



**3.3** The POMF is an outcome of the Fifth Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers’ Meeting (PRETMM) held in 2023, where ministers committed under the Efate Outcome Statement to developing a one-maritime framework with appropriate plans and solutions aligned to the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent Implementation Plan (2050 IP)* which highlights this framework as a Regional Collective Action (RCA) under the technology and connectivity thematic area and ensuring that it is adaptable to varying circumstances across the region, and incorporating monitoring, evaluation and learning.

## 4. Contribution of maritime transport

**4.1** The POMF is an integral component of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, supporting the realisation of its vision for a resilient, secure, and prosperous Pacific region. The POMF contributes to the achievement of the 2050 Strategy’s goals and outcomes as a Regional Collective Action under the thematic area of technology and connectivity. It aligns with the leaders' commitments by ensuring safety, security and resilience to shocks and disasters, accelerating economic growth and ensuring the sustainable management of the ocean, limiting global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving net-zero carbon emissions, and ensuring a well-connected region.

**4.2** Recognising the interconnectedness of the Blue Pacific Continent, the POMF promotes collective action and regional solidarity in addressing maritime challenges and pursuing sustainable development, acknowledging the role of regional organisations and their contribution to coordinating regional efforts. As an RCA, the POMF implementation contributes to:

- **4.3 Political leadership and regionalism:** the POMF recognises the critical role of strong political leadership and regional cooperation in driving effective maritime governance and advocating for Pacific priorities on the global stage.
- **4.4 People-centred development:** the POMF prioritises the wellbeing of Pacific peoples by promoting safe and accessible maritime transport, supporting sustainable livelihoods in the blue economy, and fostering inclusive access to maritime education and training opportunities.
- **4.5 Peace and security:** the POMF contributes to a secure and stable maritime domain by strengthening maritime security frameworks, addressing transnational crime, and promoting peaceful resolution of maritime disputes.
- **4.6 Resource and economic development:** the POMF supports sustainable economic development in the Pacific by promoting the responsible management of marine resources, fostering the growth

of the blue economy, and enhancing maritime trade and connectivity.

- **4.7 Climate change and disasters:** the POMF integrates climate change and disaster considerations into all aspects of maritime development, promoting adaptation and resilience in maritime infrastructure, and supporting the transition to green and low-carbon shipping practices.
- **4.8 Ocean and environment:** the POMF prioritises the protection and sustainable management of the Pacific Ocean, promoting measures to prevent marine pollution, conserve biodiversity, and address the impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems.
- **4.9 Technology and connectivity:** the POMF leverages the power of technology and innovation to enhance the efficiency, safety, and sustainability of the Pacific’s maritime transport sector, promoting digitalisation, and investing in cutting-edge solutions tailored to the region’s needs.

**4.10** The POMF recognises that maritime transport is a significant contributor to achieving the SDGs and acknowledges the interconnectedness of these goals in pursuing a just and equitable transition towards a sustainable maritime transport in the Pacific.

**4.11** The POMF aims to reduce poverty (SDG 1) and achieve zero hunger (SDG 2) by facilitating trade and providing job opportunities, ensuring food security through a reliable and efficient maritime transport system. The POMF promotes decent employment and economic growth (SDG 8) by supporting a sustainable and inclusive maritime sector that provides employment, quality education and life-long learning opportunities for seafarers and shore-based personnel (SDG 4), with a focus on gender equality (SDG 5) and contributes to reducing inequalities (SDG 10) with the aim to empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, gender, disability or other status.

**4.12** In the Pacific Islands region, achieving SDG 9 and 11 is critical. These goals focus on developing quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, and on providing access to safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems.

**4.13** Recognising the environmental impact of maritime activities, the POMF prioritises actions to conserve and sustainably use the oceans (SDG 14) and mitigate climate change (SDG 13). This includes the transition to green maritime operations and shift towards cleaner fuels and technologies (SDG 7) which will improve air quality and mitigate health risks in Pacific communities, contributing to food security, good health and wellbeing (SDG 3). It also contributes to clean water and sanitation (SDG 6) by preventing marine pollution, and through sustainable waste management practices, including wastewater management. Though the

POMF primarily focuses on the maritime environment, it recognises that these efforts also indirectly support healthy coastal ecosystems and therefore contributes to SDG 15. Furthermore, the POMF acknowledges the crucial role of maritime transport in addressing the region’s waste challenges, particularly concerning hazardous waste, aligning with SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production.

**4.14** Finally, the POMF promotes good maritime governance and the rule of law by strengthening institutions in the Pacific region (SDG 16) and advocating for genuine partnerships between countries and development partners (SDG 17) to achieve these ambitious goals.

## 5. Trends

**5.1** A trend is a long-term shift that significantly impacts the maritime sector. While trends may take time to emerge, they can disrupt or reshape existing activities, processes, and perceptions once established. A trend often interacts with other trends, amplifying its effects and influencing multiple areas simultaneously.

### *Demographic change and mobility needs*

**5.2** While some Pacific nations are experiencing population growth, others may see a decline, creating varied pressures on maritime transport systems. Urbanisation trends will continue to increase the need for resilient inter-island transport, linking rural and urban areas. This diversity in demographic change highlights the need for adaptable, inclusive and sustainable maritime services that support economic and social development across the Blue Pacific, ensuring that even small, remote communities remain connected and supported by essential transport infrastructure.

### *Technology and connectivity*

**5.3** The Pacific maritime transport sector is on the brink of digital transformation, where automation, connectivity and real-time data systems will reshape everything from port operations to vessel navigation. The region must invest in and adopt cutting-edge technologies or risk being left behind as the global maritime industry advances. By integrating digital tools, Pacific Island countries and territories can improve maritime safety, efficiency, and competitiveness, but equitable access to these technologies will be key to success.

### *Financing, partnerships and cooperation*

**5.4** Securing a sustainable maritime future for the Pacific requires coordinated, large-scale investment and strategic partnerships. As global financing models shift towards sustainability and resilience, Pacific Island countries and territories must capitalise on new funding streams and cooperative frameworks. The success of these initiatives will depend on fostering innovative partnerships that align with local priorities, supporting

both traditional maritime operations and the transition to greener, more resilient infrastructure.

### *100% ocean management*

**5.5** As pressures from various forms of pollution, including from harmful substances, marine litter, biofouling, and invasive species, as well as competing demands for ocean resources grow, the Pacific will adopt 100% ocean management to ensure all sectors—maritime transport, fisheries, tourism, renewable energy and deep-sea minerals—operate sustainably. Maritime transport, as a critical connector, will enable sustainable practices across sectors. The unique dependence of Pacific Island nations on the ocean for their livelihoods and cultures, makes sustainable ocean management essential. By aligning regulations, fostering innovation, and enhancing cooperation, this trend will balance economic growth with marine ecosystem preservation, positioning the Pacific as a global leader in environmental stewardship.

### *Impact of climate change*

**5.6** Climate change is already transforming the maritime landscape in the Pacific, presenting immediate and long-term risks. Rising sea levels, increased storm frequency, and other climate-related impacts will challenge the region’s maritime infrastructure and operations. The Pacific must strengthen the resilience of its maritime systems to adapt to these changes, ensuring continuous service and playing a central role in post-disaster recovery efforts while also advancing decarbonisation goals and phasing out fossil fuels.

## **6. Our collective pathways and strategies toward the maritime future we want**

### *A. Goals*

#### *Safe and secure maritime transport and mobility*

**6.1** By **2050**, the safety and security of people, vessels, cargo and port facilities of the Pacific are safeguarded by comprehensive maritime safety and security regimes from departure to arrival. Pacific nations implement harmonised and fit-for-purpose maritime safety and security standards, with robust laws that are effectively enforced. Maritime domain awareness and community-based security solutions are integrated, ensuring that all systems are connected for early warning and real-time standardised safety and security information. Information is communicated to the appropriate authorities for enhanced maritime surveillance and domain awareness, thereby protecting sovereignty, trade links and food security.

**6.2** Search and rescue centres, sub-centres and systems are suitably equipped and fully integrated.

**6.3** Maritime research, education and training are tailored to the specific needs of the Pacific Island countries and territories, incorporating both modern and traditional knowledge systems and ensuring that competent and recognised maritime professionals, technical experts and seafarers deliver high levels of safety and security standards.

**6.4** Pacific nations benefit from South–South cooperation through the availability of technical experts on maritime safety.

**6.5** Political will and sustainable financing ensure well-funded and effective efforts.

#### *Resilient maritime transport and infrastructure*

**6.6** By **2050**, maritime and port infrastructure and operations, along with shipping, are fully resilient to shocks and crises, sustained by continuous investment in preventative maintenance and adaptation/development of shipping and operations in the future.

**6.7** The operations of maritime infrastructure and shipping are tailored to meet the needs of island communities, incorporating traditional building techniques and knowledge into design and construction, and are equipped to respond effectively to both natural and human-induced disasters through end-to-end early warning systems and effective mitigation and adaptation measures.

**6.8** Proven response and recovery plans, along with built-in redundancies in infrastructure and port systems ensure that maritime trade remains uninterrupted during crises.

#### *Gender-just, inclusive and accessible maritime transport*

**6.9** By **2050**, maritime transport and mobility in the Pacific are fully inclusive and accessible, offering sustainable and decent employment opportunities for all, and ensuring equitable access to maritime education, training, and career pathways at all levels for all Pacific peoples, focusing on empowering women and youth, and consideration of persons with disabilities.

**6.10** Social inclusion is prioritised, with maritime workplaces, including vessels and infrastructure, designed and built to be universally accessible, ensuring safety, active participation, and dignified experiences for all, including women, youth and persons with disabilities. Systemic changes embed inclusivity and gender equality and equity across the sector, supported by robust policies, targeted training, and cultural shifts.

**6.11** Women in maritime is strengthened, with a focus on monitoring gender representation as gender balance becomes the norm in all maritime roles.

*Green maritime transport, infrastructure and ports*

**6.12** By **2050**, the Pacific maritime transport sector operates with low-carbon footprint and low emissions, maximising energy-efficient and carbon-free technologies across maritime infrastructure, ports, and vessels.

**6.13** Pacific-focused research and education drive the extensive adoption of green technology and alternative fuels, ensuring that the region leads in sustainable maritime practices while integrating traditional knowledge with science.

**6.14** A just and equitable transition to decarbonisation is achieved so that no one in the Pacific is left behind.

*Digital navigation and traffic facilitation*

**6.15** By **2050**, the Pacific maritime transport sector is digitalised, with vessels and ports, connected with infrastructure, regulatory agencies and consumers through real-time data and automated systems.

**6.16** The Pacific region applies digital services to enhance safety, security, efficiency, and environmental responsibility for a sustainable maritime future.

**6.17** The region benefits from the seamless integration of financially sustainable services for maritime infrastructure, traffic facilitation, surveillance, e-navigation systems and cybersecurity.

**6.18** Digital solutions are driven by Pacific-focused research and operated by a skilled workforce needed for a technologically advanced and productive maritime sector.

*Clean maritime transport and ports*

**6.19** By **2050**, the Pacific maritime transport sector is free from pollution.

**6.20** The ocean is clean and coastal communities are protected from pollutants, harmful substances, waste, and invasive species. Pollution-free practices, waste management and reception facilities are in place across ports and vessels.

**6.21** The region enforces laws, holds polluters accountable and has the capacity, systems, and cooperative arrangements to prepare for, prevent, respond to and recover from incidents.

**6.22** Collective stewardship of the maritime transport sector contributes to a healthy ocean and healthy society for future generations.

## *B. Pathways*

**6.23** This section introduces four key approaches to achieving the thematic goals of the POMF: (i) knowledge and capacity, (ii) technology and innovation, (iii) governance and collaboration, and (iv) resourcing. These pathways represent the fundamental tools or methods for implementing the 10 core strategies in Section 6.C. Each pathway is defined in terms of its high-level approach to the maritime sector’s needs. By implementing the POMF through these four pathways, the framework aims to create a comprehensive and integrated approach to achieving a safe, secure, environmentally friendly, and connected maritime sector in the Pacific.

### *Knowledge and capacity*

**6.24** Enhancing national and regional capacity of the Pacific maritime workforce and competencies by embedding maritime education and career development opportunities at all levels, from early childhood, primary to tertiary, and advanced vocational training, consistent with international standards and catering to technological advancements. **6.25** Pacific-focused research addresses the region’s unique maritime challenges.

### *Technology and innovation*

**6.26** Investing in innovative technologies and digital solutions tailored to the unique needs of the Pacific. Promoting, developing and adopting cutting-edge maritime technologies that enhance national and regional connectivity, safety, security and sustainability.

### *Governance and collaboration*

**6.27** Prioritising and advocating for maritime issues within the political agenda. Strengthening collaboration and cooperation to align inclusive maritime policies and legislation across the Blue Pacific.

### *Resourcing*

**6.28** Mobilising sustainable and adaptable financing and resources to ensure a high-functioning maritime sector and resilience against future shocks. Leveraging diverse funding sources tailored to the unique challenges of the Pacific maritime transport sector.

## *C. Strategies*

**6.29** This section outlines the core strategies that will be used to achieve the long-term goals of the POMF. These strategies are essentially the roadmap for achieving the future envisioned for the Pacific maritime transport sector. The ten core strategies are designed to address the six thematic areas identified in the POMF. Each strategy will be implemented through the four pathways discussed in B above: knowledge and capacity, technology and innovation, governance and collaboration, and resourcing.

*1. Develop and expand maritime education and knowledge:*

**6.30** Build and retain national and regional capacity through high-quality maritime education, training and placement opportunities, supported by Pacific-focused research at all levels.

**6.31** By **2030**:

- i. develop and implement engaging educational programmes and resources that promote diverse and inclusive maritime career pathways for all in primary and secondary Pacific schools, ensuring equal access to these programmes for all, including youth and persons with disabilities, highlighting opportunities for women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields related to the maritime sector.
- ii. establish a maritime education network of regional organisations, academia and maritime industry that prioritises inclusive and equal access to capacity-building programmes and placement on board vessels.

**6.32** By **2040**:

- i. deliver quality maritime leadership and capacity development programme that provides equal access to inclusive, high-quality and industry-required education and placement opportunities across the Pacific region, preparing youth for the future of the maritime industry and ensuring persons with disabilities have the chance to participate and benefit.
- ii. establish and share a pool of Pacific maritime legal and technical experts, with expertise in maritime safety, security, pollution response, infrastructure development, green technologies, and digital navigation.

**6.33** By **2050**:

- i. secure maritime expertise retention and succession to ensure the sustainability of the maritime workforce and adaptation to the demand of the Pacific maritime industry.
- ii. provide research, development and deployment of traditional and new knowledge and best practices that promote green maritime technologies, enhance digital capabilities, strengthen pollution prevention and waste management, and contribute to a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable Pacific maritime transport sector ensuring that the benefits of these advancements are accessible to all Pacific peoples.



*2. Accelerate the adoption of innovative maritime technologies:*

**6.34** Promote the development and deployment of digital technologies tailored to Pacific needs, ensuring the extensive use of cutting-edge solutions in maritime infrastructure, ports and vessel services and operations, navigation, surveillance and cybersecurity.

**6.35** By **2030**:

- i. assess and pilot digital maritime technologies in the Pacific, incorporating traditional knowledge and engaging with communities, in e-navigation, early warning and search-and-rescue systems, advanced vessel tracking and communication systems, and technologies for pollution prevention and waste management in maritime infrastructure and onboard vessels.
- ii. commence implementation of S-100 standards across the region, while also building capacity for and accelerating the collection of essential maritime information and data in Pacific Island countries and territories.

**6.36** By **2040**:

- i. develop accessible and user-friendly digital platforms to enhance maritime safety, security, and efficiency across the Pacific region, streamlining port and vessel operations, improving navigation and surveillance, facilitating traffic management and response to maritime emergencies, integrating data and systems related to shipboard waste management, port reception facilities and pollution prevention.
- ii. achieve significant progress in the implementation of the S-100 standard in maritime infrastructure and onboard vessels with substantial capacity building and testing underway.

**6.37** By **2050**:

- i. establish a fully integrated, secure digital maritime ecosystem across the Pacific, leveraging advanced technologies for safe and efficient operations incorporating traditional knowledge in design and implementation and providing reliable information for maritime domain awareness.
- ii. achieve region-wide adoption of the S-100 standard, ensuring seamless interoperability and enhanced maritime safety information exchange across the Pacific.

*3. Harmonise maritime governance and policy:*

**6.38** Align with international instruments and harmonise national maritime laws and policies across the region, ensuring consistency in

safety, security, energy, and environmental standards while strengthening institutional governance and regulatory frameworks.

**6.39** By **2030**:

- i. accede to and incorporate into national laws, taking into account the special circumstances of each Pacific Island countries and territories, relevant international instruments related to maritime safety, security, air and marine pollution prevention, liability and compensation, incident response, waste management and maritime labour and seafarer well-being.
- ii. establish regional and national maritime forums that bring together stakeholders to discuss progress on the POMF, share best practices, and identify emerging challenges, and integrate representation of women, youth and persons with disabilities.
- iii. review Pacific Island countries and territories legal frameworks to identify gaps in enforcing maritime technologies, standards, and innovations, paying particular attention to provisions that support digitalisation, cybersecurity and data privacy in the maritime sector.

**6.40** By **2040**:

- i. harmonise laws aligned to international instruments related to maritime safety, security, air and marine pollution prevention, liability and compensation, incident response, waste management, and maritime labour and seafarer wellbeing, fostering regional consistency in adopting maritime laws.
- ii. adopt national maritime laws and policies to explicitly include provisions that supports the rights of persons with disabilities to accessible and inclusive maritime transport.

**6.41** By **2050**:

- i. implement cooperative and governance arrangements to enforce maritime safety, security, air and marine pollution prevention, liability and compensation, incident response, waste management and maritime labour laws, throughout the Pacific region.

*4. Foster regional cooperation and partnerships:*

**6.42** Strengthen existing, and develop new, collaboration among Pacific nations and global partners through participation in regional and international forums to share and consolidate resources, knowledge and expertise, driving collective maritime priorities forward.

**6.43** By **2030**:

- i. advocate for, and raise awareness on, maritime issues and development within the political agenda and within communities of Pacific Island countries and territories and at the regional level.
- ii. increase participation in existing regional and international forums, actively engaging in discussions and knowledge-sharing initiatives and advocating collective Pacific maritime priorities.
- iii. establish a regional mechanism for sharing information and best practices on regulatory enforcement, including technical cooperation between maritime administrations for addressing shared responsibilities and promoting consistent application of maritime laws.

**6.44** By **2040**:

- i. secure commitments from international partners to provide long-term financial and technical support for country-led and regional maritime initiatives, focusing on addressing shared maritime priorities and challenges, building local capacity and creating solutions tailored to the specific needs of the region.

**6.45** By **2050**:

- i. establish partnerships between Pacific Island Countries and Territories and development partners that offer shared ownership, capacity and decision-making in maritime development and investment.

**5. Mobilise sustainable maritime finance:**

**6.46** Mobilise diverse and sustainable financing for a resilient Pacific maritime transport sector by leveraging various sources including blended finance, public–private partnerships, and green bonds, as well as revenue-generating services. The objective is to prioritise building capacity within Pacific Island Countries and Territories to access these mechanisms and develop financially viable projects, while also focusing on risk mitigation and incentive schemes to attract investment and ensure projects are financially viable.

**6.47** By **2030**:

- i. conduct a comprehensive assessment to identify existing resources, capacity-building needs, and priority maritime projects in Pacific Island countries and territories building on existing national assessment and a clear understanding of the landscape for the maritime sector for *financing* maritime development including gender equality and inclusiveness.
- ii. develop and implement a regional knowledge-sharing platform focusing on best practices for accessing

sustainable finance and developing financially viable project proposals. This platform will include resources and training materials for maritime administrations to leverage international funding opportunities, and to provide technical assistance to countries to package their projects for investment.

- iii. advocate for the inclusion of maritime transport in regional and international climate finance mechanisms, such as carbon pricing or other market-based measures, to generate revenue for reinvestment in the sector’s decarbonisation.

**6.48 By 2040:**

- i. implement projects that demonstrate innovative financing mechanisms, such as blended finance, public–private partnerships and green bonds, as well as revenue-generating services, to attract large-scale investments in sustainable and inclusive maritime infrastructure and vessels, phasing out aging and substandard vessels and upgrading vessel maintenance facilities, with a focus on equitable allocation across all Pacific Island countries and territories to address varying development needs and capacities.
- ii. implement a framework for sustainable maritime investments, focusing on accessible instruments, guarantees, and insurance mechanisms appropriate for the context of the Pacific region, drawing on existing best practices of development partners.

**6.49 By 2050:**

- i. implement a framework for transparent and equitable allocation of resources to support the long-term financial sustainability of maritime services including revenue-generating maritime, navigation and port services.

*6. Advance the transition to green maritime transport:*

**6.50** Promote and implement the adoption of energy-efficient and carbon-free technologies across the sector, enabling countries to transition vessels, ports, and infrastructure towards zero emissions, considering their national priorities and Nationally Determined Contributions while fostering sustainable practices throughout the region.

**6.51 By 2030:**

- i. adopt and begin implementation of national action plans to reduce maritime transport’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increase the uptake of zero or near-zero GHG emission technologies, fuels and/or energy sources and informed by ongoing research to identify key areas for emissions reduction and adopt relevant green technologies and sustainable practices on board vessels and in ports.

**6.52** By 2040:

- i. scale-up the implementation of innovative green technologies and alternative fuels based on research findings and successful pilot projects tailored to the needs of the Pacific maritime transport sector, including renewable energy sources and energy-efficient vessel designs, achieving significant reduction in total annual GHG emissions.
- ii. establish and operate a network of Green Ports across the region, implementing sustainable practices in port operations, infrastructure, and energy use with the aim of facilitating the transition of vessels to zero greenhouse gas emissions.

**6.53** By 2050:

- i. Contribute to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in the Pacific and phase out fossil fuels by transitioning the Pacific maritime fleet and ports to operate on zero-emission or low-carbon fuels and ensuring a just and equitable transition.

*7. Strengthen capacity for maritime resilience and adaptation:*

**6.54** Enhance and support the capacity of Pacific Island countries and territories to adapt and respond to impacts of natural and human-induced shocks, ensuring resilient maritime operations through preparedness, robust infrastructure, and adaptive practices.

**6.55** By 2030:

- i. integrate climate change considerations and disaster preparedness into maritime infrastructure planning and development of both maritime infrastructure and vessels, ensuring new and upgraded quality infrastructure and vessels can withstand the impact of climate change, natural disasters and other potential shocks.

**6.56** By 2040:

- i. establish robust early warning systems and emergency response mechanisms and integration of early warning information into operational systems and procedures specifically tailored to the needs of the Pacific maritime transport sector, enabling timely and effective responses to disruptions of maritime operations.

**6.57** By 2050:

- i. achieve a high level of resilience in Pacific maritime operations, ensuring continuity of essential services, even in the face of significant shocks and disruptions, by maintaining redundant infrastructure and systems.

*8. Ensure gender equity and inclusivity in maritime development:*

**6.58** Promote and advance gender equity and inclusivity across the maritime sector by removing barriers, embedding safe and inclusive practices, and ensuring equal education, training, and career opportunities for all Pacific people.

**6.59** By **2030**:

- i. complete comprehensive reviews of existing policies and practices to identify and address barriers to gender equality and youth and persons with disability participation in the maritime sector.
- ii. develop and initiate implementation of targeted awareness campaigns and strategies to provide scholarships and mentorship opportunities to promote gender equality and the participation of youth and persons with disability in the maritime sector, challenging traditional gender roles and encouraging the participation of women and other underrepresented groups.
- iii. develop guidelines and standards and establish baselines and targets for creating safe and inclusive maritime workplaces, addressing issues such as harassment, discrimination and accessibility for persons with disabilities.

**6.60** By **2040**:

- i. demonstrate significant progress towards gender balance at all levels of the Pacific maritime transport sector, as measured against established baselines and targets.
- ii. conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of implemented policies, guidelines, and programmes in achieving gender equity and inclusivity goals.

**6.61** By **2050**:

- iii. achieve and sustain gender balance at all levels of the Pacific maritime transport sector, with full integration of gender equality and youth and persons with disabilities into all aspects of maritime development.

*9. Enhance maritime traffic facilitation and surveillance:*

**6.62** Establish a robust, secure, and efficient maritime traffic surveillance system across the Pacific region that facilitates safe and secure vessel movements and addresses competing demands of maritime infrastructure and services and enhances maritime domain awareness.

**6.63** By **2030**:

- i. develop and implement standardised policies, processes and systems for maritime traffic facilitation and surveillance in Pacific Island countries and territories, prioritising

interoperability between countries, regional partners systems and cyber security to protect sensitive information and critical infrastructure from cyber-attacks.

- ii. include comprehensive assessments of port operations, including berthing capacity and traffic management considering the foreseeable evolution of maritime traffic and vessels, in maritime infrastructure development planning.

**6.64** By **2040**:

- i. establish a regional maritime information-sharing platform for real-time data exchange enabling collaborative maritime traffic facilitation and surveillance contributing to address competing demands of port infrastructure and services and strengthen maritime domain awareness.

**6.65** By **2050**:

- i. develop advanced maritime traffic facilitation and surveillance systems contributing to efficient, safe and secure movement of vessels within Pacific ports and regional maritime domain awareness and integrated into a comprehensive digital maritime ecosystem across the Pacific.

*10. Implement comprehensive pollution prevention and waste management practices*

**6.66** Develop and enforce robust regulations to prevent all forms of pollution and manage waste from maritime activities. This includes implementing integrated systems that address the full life cycle of waste management, chemical and pollution control, as well as biofouling management and control of invasive species transfer, tailored to the unique circumstances of Pacific Island countries and territories, taking into consideration the existing policies and collaboration.

**6.67** By **2030**:

- i. conduct reviews and assessments of waste management and pollution control practices including the management of biofouling and control of invasive species transfer, identifying areas for improvement and alignment with international standards.
- ii. develop and implement comprehensive oil spill contingency plans and response mechanisms, ensuring preparedness and effective action and compensation based on the “potential polluter pays” and “polluter pays” principles to prevent and minimise environmental damage.

**6.68** By **2040**:

- i. establish adequate reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues at all major ports in the Pacific, ensuring environmentally sound handling and disposal of hazardous materials.
- ii. implement measures for the environmentally sound management of biofouling and ballast water and the prevention of marine litter from vessels operating in the Pacific region, including the controls to verify effective implementation of these measures.

**6.69** By **2050**:

- i. achieve a significant reduction in marine pollution from maritime activities, including marine litter, biofouling, and invasive species, demonstrating the effectiveness of pollution prevention and waste management measures and action against polluters.
- ii. implement a system for the environmentally sound removal and disposal of derelict vessels and wrecks in the Pacific, minimising hazards to navigation and preventing further pollution.

## 7. Implementation, monitoring and evaluation

**7.1** At the 5th PRETMM in 2023, Ministers committed to developing a one-maritime framework with appropriate plans and solutions aligned to the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. The development of the POMF has been adopted as a RCA under the technology and connectivity thematic area of the 2050 IP.

**7.2** The POMF is designed to support the unique priorities of each country, complementing and building upon existing national maritime initiatives and country-led programmes, and serving as a guide that reflects our shared regional vision and ambition. Each country retains leadership over its own maritime priorities and programmes and is free to engage with international and regional partners bilaterally or multilaterally. Development partners, both regional and international, are expected to align their engagement with the POMF, focusing on each country's specific needs and priorities and recognising existing programmes at all levels.

**7.3** The POMF has been developed and is implemented to adapt to varying circumstances across the region, and incorporate monitoring, evaluation and learning. To that end, the POMF is seen as contributing to many areas of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. However, implementation of the POMF will be reported under the 2050 Strategy thematic area of technology and connectivity.

**7.4** The POMF has a defined timeframe from its adoption through to 2050. To ensure the POMF remains relevant and effective, it will be subject



to regular revisions, incorporating progress made and achievements reached, and noting the specific milestones set for 2030 and 2040.

**7.5** The approach to implement the POMF and monitor and evaluate progress will follow these guiding principles:

- **7.6** Conduct country needs assessments and gaps analysis based on existing initiatives and programmes.
- **7.7** Facilitate the mobilisation of resources and coordinate technical cooperation to deliver projects and programmes aligned to Pacific Island countries and territories initiatives and priorities and guided by the POMF goals and strategies.
- **7.8** Draw upon a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) process that cuts across the POMF thematic areas, maximising the analysis and use of evidence for producing quality insights and advice to Leaders to inform their decision-making from national reporting through the Heads of Maritime and Maritime Transport Ministers.

**7.9** To effectively implement the POMF and achieve its objectives, robust data collection, analysis, and sharing mechanisms are critical. The Pacific maritime transport sector faces challenges due to a lack of findable, accessible, interoperable, and re-usable data. This hinders research, informed decision-making, and progress monitoring. Therefore, countries should prioritise a coordinated and collaborative approach to data collection, ensuring data quality and safe storage, and promoting effective analysis and sharing among all stakeholders. This includes establishing clear procedures for data collection, utilization of technology, and capacity building to improve data management and analysis. This approach will also ensure that reporting of the POMF’s implementation is evidence-based, adaptive, and responsive to the evolving needs of the region.

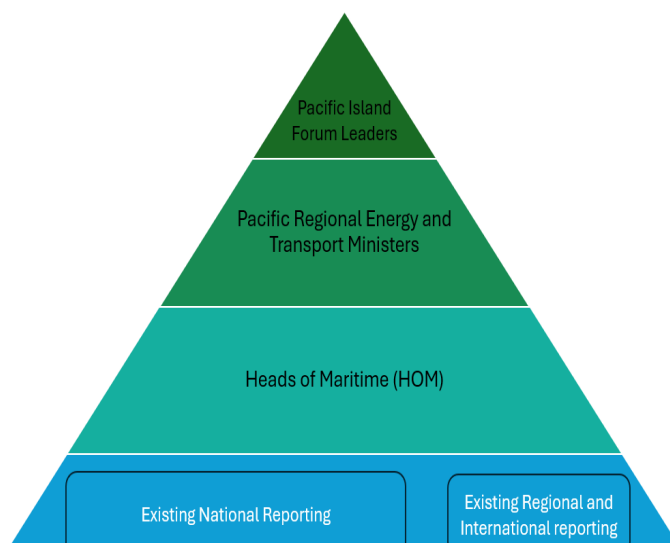


Figure 1 POMF implementation reporting process

## 8. Thematic areas and pathways

