



**FORTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS**  
(18–20 June 2019, Noumea, New Caledonia)

---

**AGENDA ITEM No. 3: Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS)**

(Paper presented by the Secretariat)

**Summary**

1. This paper provides information on the status of the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science.
2. The first phase of establishing PCCOS has been successfully completed – the governance structure was put in place, ocean-related expertise and services were mapped and the Business Plan was adopted. PCCOS is now moving towards becoming a flagship for scientific excellence and the dedicated regional information and knowledge hub for ocean science.

**Recommendations**

3. CRGA is invited to:
  - i. note the progress made in operationalising the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science;
  - ii. acknowledge the successful completion of the first phase of the Centre's establishment;
  - iii. request the Secretariat to further develop the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science as the regional hub for multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral, integrated programming in ocean science;
  - iv. strengthen partnerships with national, regional and international scientific bodies.

## Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS)

### Purpose

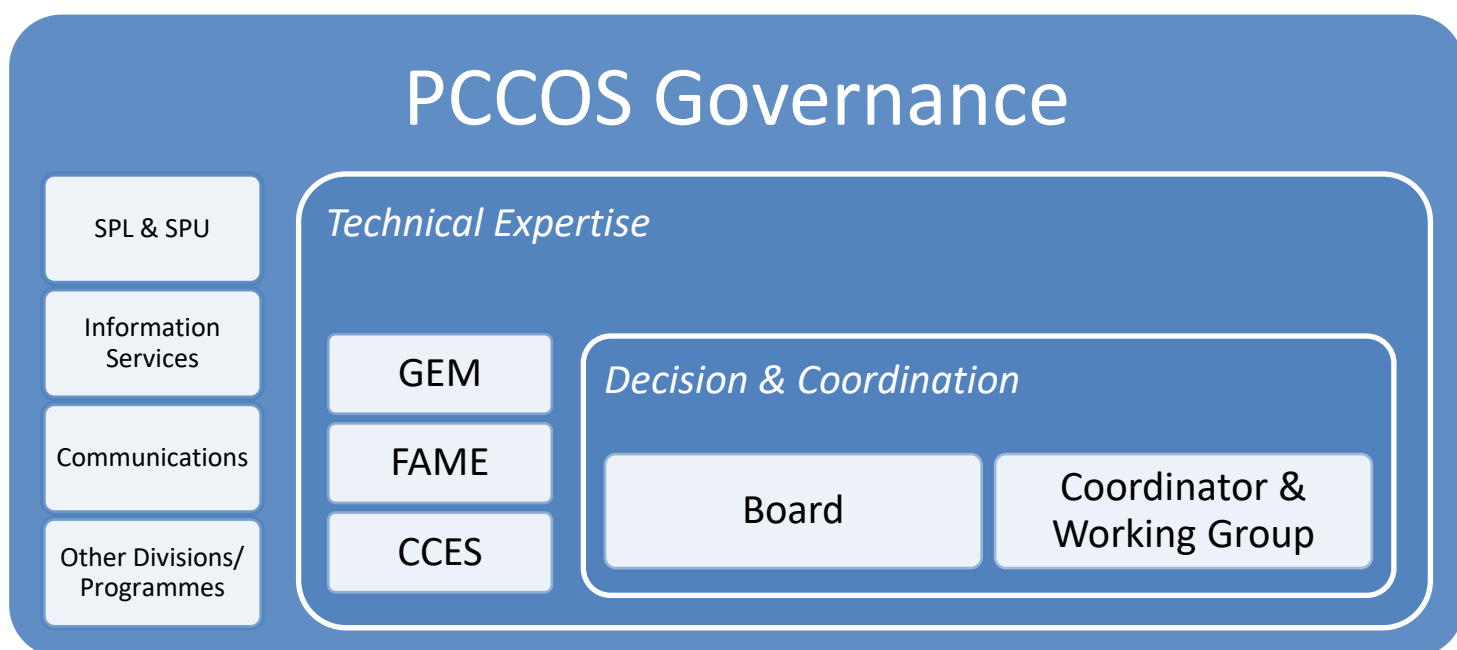
1. This paper provides information on the status of the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science established with the Pacific Community (SPC).

### Background

2. In celebrating SPC's 70th anniversary, the 10th Conference of the Pacific Community (2017) agreed to task SPC with establishing a Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS), to be hosted at SPC. The first phase is a virtual Centre that brings together all of SPC's internal ocean-related scientific and technical expertise. The second phase will pursue the objective of becoming a flagship for scientific excellence and a dedicated regional information and knowledge hub that brings together expertise in ocean and fisheries science through partnerships with national and international scientific bodies.
3. At CRGA 48 in 2018, the Secretariat presented an update on the initial steps taken to establish PCCOS and the next steps in terms of activities and engagement.

### Status of PCCOS's establishment and operation

4. The Secretariat has completed the first phase of establishing PCCOS as a virtual Centre that brings together all of SPC's internal scientific and technical expertise in ocean science. The governance framework (diagram below) is designed to ensure decision-making and provision of services are aligned to PCCOS's objectives. A Coordinator<sup>1</sup> plays the interface role internally and externally for questions related to PCCOS.



5. The Coordinator, who is supported by a Working Group and expertise from the technical divisions, reports to a Board comprising SPC's Deputy Directors-General, Directors of FAME, GEM and CCES,<sup>2</sup> Regional Director Melanesia and Directors of Communications and Information Services.

<sup>1</sup> The current PCCOS Coordinator is Thierry Nervale, Deputy Director, Oceans and Maritime ([thierryn@spc.int](mailto:thierryn@spc.int)). The role is part-time.

<sup>2</sup> FAME: Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems division; GEM: Geoscience, Energy and Maritime division; and CCES: Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability programme.

6. From June to December 2018, a consultancy was conducted to provide the Secretariat with an external view and advice on the establishment and strategy for PCCOS in the next 10 years. The consultant's report included:
  - a. a causal chain analysis to identify development challenges associated with achieving sustainable development for the ocean in the Pacific Islands region;
  - b. a semi-formal ocean-related needs assessment, which was undertaken through consultation with representatives from SPC member countries and territories, regional organisations and other stakeholders active in the ocean sector; and
  - c. a theory of change exercise.

This work was supplemented by a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis by SPC staff.

7. A PCCOS e-portal has been included in the Pacific Data Hub with the objective of gathering ocean-related knowledge and information from existing portals and websites. The PCCOS e-portal is accessible at <https://pacificdata.org/topic/pccos>
8. A Strategic Plan 2019–2020 has been adopted to guide the second phase of PCCOS establishment and operationalisation. Associated annual work plans are being implemented under the current governance arrangements.

#### **PCCOS Business Plan**

9. SPC is required to engage in complex and demanding regional and international processes supporting its members' efforts to secure sustainable development in an evolving governance and policy environment. This environment is founded on the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20 – 'The future we want' – which recognises that the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources contribute to sustainable development and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 14 (Life below water). At the regional level, leaders have continued to promote sustainable development for the Pacific region through numerous initiatives<sup>3</sup> that seek to secure the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources.
10. In this context, SPC's approach to establishing PCCOS and delivering integrated and cross-sectoral scientific and technical services requires multi-partner collaboration with international and regional organisations such as the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC) established at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS); University of the South Pacific (USP); Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA); and other international and regional partners.
11. It is recognised that PCCOS has the potential to facilitate and promote cross-sectoral engagement and cooperation internally at SPC to enable delivery of more integrated services to its members. Externally, PCCOS is the platform for coordinating and integrating SPC's ocean science activities with the work of its regional and international partners.

---

<sup>3</sup> A non-exhaustive list of regional frameworks includes the Framework for Pacific Regionalism; S.A.M.O.A Pathway (Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action); Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape; Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific; Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy; and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention.

*PCCOS vision and mission*

12. **PCCOS vision:** Excellence in ocean science, knowledge and innovation supporting the conservation and sustainable use of the Blue Continent's ocean, seas and marine resources.

**PCCOS mission:** To provide a platform for coordination of ocean science, knowledge and innovation and delivery of multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral, integrated programming to assist the Pacific Community in achieving SDG 14 and contributing to other SDGs in the framework of the Blue Pacific Continent.

13. Three high-level objectives have been adopted (Annex I).

*Objective 1 – PCCOS is the platform for coordination and integration of ocean science at SPC*

14. The objective is to strengthen and enhance cooperation, collaboration and integration of ocean science programme activities carried out by SPC's technical divisions and programmes in relation to ocean governance and management, and to support the implementation of regional frameworks and international instruments.
15. Under PCCOS's governance structure, the Strategic Plan and annual work plan have been adopted and ocean-related expertise and services at SPC have been identified and are accessible through the PCCOS e-portal. They include relevant project and programme activities, staff positions and roles, current duties and responsibilities, capacity-building activities and web presence.
16. Integrated ocean-related services under current SPC programmes include:
- a. advising on and assisting the development of coastal, ocean and maritime policy, and legal and institutional frameworks across sectors such as marine energy, fisheries, marine tourism, deep sea mining, culture, marine environment, maritime transport and marine infrastructure;
  - b. supporting women's empowerment and youth participation in ocean science and the sectors above;
  - c. facilitating marine spatial planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management including marine resources and ecosystems and development activities;
  - d. conducting science-based hazard and risk assessment and developing marine and ocean forecasting systems to support early warning systems;
  - e. supporting the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture and assisting the development of safe and green shipping and ports, and safe seas;
  - f. developing ocean literacy and maritime and fisheries capacity;
  - g. enhancing data collection and providing data management services for fisheries and marine ecosystems, ocean observation and predictions.

*Objective 2 – PCCOS provides integrated ocean science and services to SPC members*

17. SPC provides integrated ocean services through programmes and projects that focus on developing innovative solutions to prevent or mitigate detrimental impacts on marine environments, and to build, sustain and drive blue economies in Pacific Island countries and territories.
18. From 6–11 May 2019, a two-day workshop was held in Port Vila, Vanuatu, to discuss progress in implementing Vanuatu's National Ocean Policy with ocean and maritime stakeholders. The event, organised by SPC under PCCOS, provided an opportunity to measure progress on the policy and on SDG 14 across multiple sectors. It was part of week-long training and stakeholder engagement on Ocean and Tides: Science to Service.

19. Similarly, SPC is partnering with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and is using PCCOS's cross sectoral approach to assist Solomon Islands in Integrated Ocean Governance (IOG) in the
20. framework of its newly adopted National Ocean Policy. The objective is to assist the government in building its technical capacity in IOG through a capacity needs assessment, development of a detailed 'roadmap' policy paper on IOG, recommendations on the participation of Ocean 12 members in regional and international events, and facilitation and delivery of a national workshop on IOG.

*Objective 3 – PCCOS forms partnerships with international and regional partners in ocean science*

21. SPC has several partnerships with international and regional partners to make available the best of ocean science and deliver scientific and technical services aligned to national, subregional, regional, and international ocean-related frameworks. These partnerships bring together expertise in topics related to marine science, fisheries, governance, maritime transport, climate change and risk and disaster preparedness.
22. Existing partnerships have been instrumental in delivering the activities in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands (described above):
  - a. SPC's partnership with IMO since 2002 has enabled exploration of initiatives beyond joint maritime transport activities and has reaffirmed the role and responsibilities of maritime industries in the sustainable use of oceans;
  - b. The workshop in Vanuatu was delivered in collaboration with: i) the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner to acknowledge progress in implementing the Vanuatu Ocean Policy against the priorities of the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape; and ii) SPREP, which presented its scientific and technical work in Vanuatu.
23. Working relationships have been established with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) to coordinate, in the Pacific, the preparatory process for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030). An SPC ocean specialist, a member of the PCCOS Working Group, has been made available to the IOC Executive Planning Group (a group of experts) and will host the Pacific regional workshop to communicate on the Decade and identify needs.

**Conclusion**

24. PCCOS has completed the first phase of its establishment and is moving towards becoming a flagship for scientific excellence and the regional information and knowledge hub for ocean science.

**Recommendations**

25. CRGA is invited to:
  - i. note the progress made in operationalising the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science;
  - ii. acknowledge the successful completion of the first phase of the Centre's establishment;
  - iii. request the Secretariat to further develop the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science as the regional hub for multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral, integrated programming in ocean science;
  - iv. strengthen partnerships with national, regional and international scientific bodies.

## PCCOS objectives and expected results

**Objective 1**

Be the platform for coordination and integration of ocean science at SPC

- **Result 1.1:** PCCOS governance framework, management processes and strategic documents are implemented across the organisation.
- **Result 1.2:** SPC's ocean science and services are identified and strengthened to inform and support PICTs integrated ocean governance and contribution to the implementation of international and regional frameworks.
- **Result 1.3:** SPC's ocean data, information and knowledge supporting policy implementation and ocean observation is readily available and easily accessible to PICTs and relevant stakeholders.

**Objective 2**

Provide integrated ocean science and services to SPC members

- **Result 2.1:** SPC's ocean science and services across divisions and programmes contributed to PICTs ocean policy implementation and monitoring, and achievement of SDG 14 targets.
- **Result 2.2:** PICTs contributed to ocean related international and regional developments to ensure Pacific issues and needs are integrated to future ocean development agendas.

**Objective 3**

Develop partnerships with international and regional partners in ocean science

- **Result 3.1:** SPC's ocean science and services is integrated to the work of international and regional partners for improved coordination, cooperation and delivery to SPC's members.
- **Result 3.2:** Partnerships and agreements including SPC's ocean scientific and technical expertise are aligned, adhered, and linked to all relevant national, sub-regional, regional, and international ocean related frameworks through improved coordination between SPC's divisions and programmes.