

OCEAN FLAGSHIP



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



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WHAT IS THE SPC OCEAN FLAGSHIP?

The Pacific Community (SPC)'s Ocean Flagship is an **integrated programme developed to operationalise a One SPC approach to the ocean**, clarify SPC's value add and strengthen regional collaboration. It will support SPC members to advance their actions for a healthier and resilient Pacific Ocean that remains productive, inspiring, and predictable and safe for Pacific people. The Ocean Flagship is a vehicle to better direct SPC resources to tackle complex ocean issues across sectors, while mobilising additional ocean finance and help the region achieve its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the goals of the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*.

The purpose of the Ocean Flagship is to amplify SPC's contributions in reaching national and regional ocean ambitions to effectively manage the Pacific Ocean, balancing the use of ocean resources with ocean protection. To achieve this, the Ocean Flagship will:

- **MEET NEEDS:**
Matching SPC's capability with ambition and demand from members.
- **COLLABORATE:**
Enhancing collaboration internally, with Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) agencies and partners to better support members' needs.
- **PROVIDE RESOURCES AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE:**
Tailoring modalities of access to, and use of, resources in a way that is more fit-for-purpose in the unique circumstances of Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs).
- **SCALE FINANCE:**
Scaling access to ocean finance for the region and to support enhanced ocean action.

The Ocean Flagship also provides a framework to better measure and communicate the results of SPC's work on the ocean.

WHY AN OCEAN FLAGSHIP?

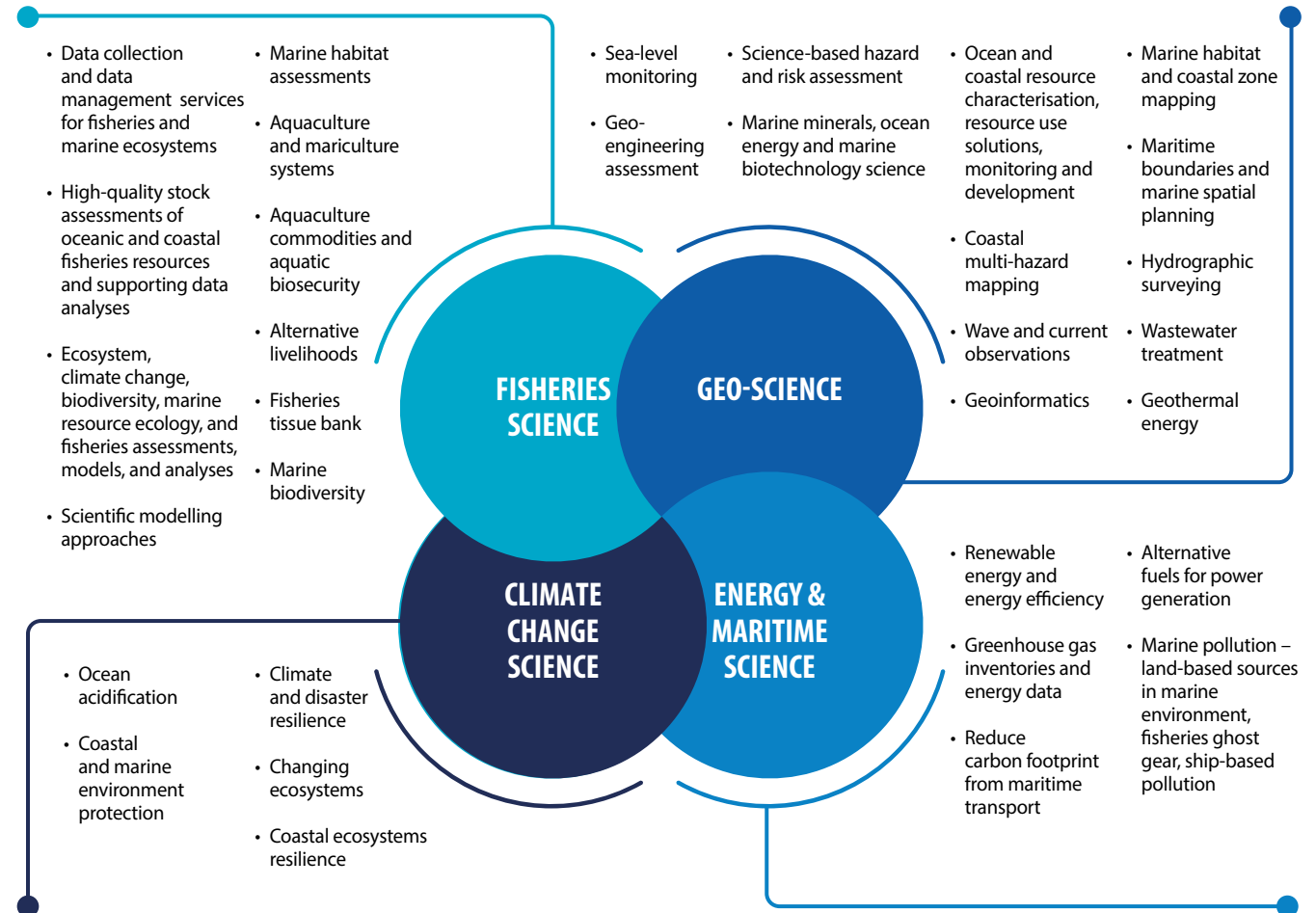
The Pacific Ocean is central to all PICTs: cultures, livelihoods, food systems, economies, resilience, transport and tourism are all highly dependent on the ocean. While the ocean is a major source of resources and revenue generation, it is subject to rapid changes due to both regional dynamics and global trends. Fisheries, aquaculture or inter-regional trade are all subject to new emerging threats and need to adapt. The Pacific region is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, resulting in our Pacific Island Leaders declaring a climate emergency in 2022. Shoreline changes, coastal erosion and sea level rise are posing constant threats to island nations, especially to low-lying atolls.

These changes require SPC to use strategic foresight to position itself in meeting members' needs and navigate these challenges in a way that is consistent with national priorities, regional frameworks and the SPC *Strategic Plan 2022–2031*. The Ocean Flagship articulates SPC's value proposition on ocean solutions to its members and partners. It embraces the opportunity provided by the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), will support and accelerate the implementation of the *Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape* and seeks to boost investment in Pacific capabilities to reach national and regional ambitions.

SPC'S EXPERTISE ON OCEAN ISSUES

SPC provides support to its members on a wide range of ocean services across sectors. SPC undertook a comprehensive mapping of its ocean capabilities in 2024, identifying core capabilities and key work areas of over 170 staff working on oceans, listing material assets, projects and services. The mapping highlights the breadth and depth of SPC ocean capacity but also helps identify gaps and potential areas of growth to meet the Ocean Flagship ambitions.

The Ocean Flagship articulates SPC's full range of marine capabilities and services aimed at accelerating effective ocean management across 100% of the Blue Pacific, for and with its members.



4 VISION AND DIMENSIONS

Pacific peoples voyaging together to steward a healthy, resilient, sustainable, and prosperous Blue Pacific for future generations.

This will be achieved by contributing to the effective management of ocean activities by Pacific peoples, balancing the use of ocean resources with ocean protection.

A predictable and safe ocean

This encompasses SPC's work on coastal hazards modelling, early warning systems, maritime transport and ocean acidification.

An inspiring and engaging ocean

This includes SPC's work on ocean literacy, ocean leadership (leadership courses, Early Career Ocean Professionals and support to ocean career pathways for Pacific Islanders), community engagement, co-development of tailored ocean products and services, sustainable tourism and the people-centred approach, including gender equality, diversity and social inclusion (GEDSI).

A productive ocean

This includes SPC's work on coastal and oceanic fisheries, mariculture and aquaculture, as well as geo-resources and marine energy.

A clean, healthy and resilient ocean

This includes SPC's work on ecosystem restoration and protection, water quality, marine pollution (especially fisheries ghost gear and ship-based pollution) and climate risks.

Sustainable ocean finance

Ocean leadership and community engagement

Ocean science and traditional knowledge

Ocean governance and management

OUTCOME DIMENSIONS

ENABLING DIMENSIONS

THEORY OF CHANGE

We strive towards impact:	Pacific peoples voyaging together to steward a healthy, resilient, sustainable and prosperous Blue Pacific for future generations. This will be achieved by contributing to the effective management of ocean activities by Pacific peoples, balancing the use of ocean resources with ocean protection.				
Working for key ocean outcomes (Outcomes dimensions):	A productive ocean	A clean, healthy and resilient ocean	A predictable and safe ocean	An inspiring and engaging ocean	Sustainable ocean finance (both an enabler and an outcome)
Long-term outcomes (by 2031):	Marine resources are sustainably used for lasting Pacific economies and cultures. Healthy stocks of key species for Pacific fisheries are maintained and aquaculture and mariculture are developed for sustainable livelihoods and economies.	Marine environments have increased protection and resilience to threats. Marine pollution is better controlled and marine debris reduced.	Viable early warning systems, including ocean observation and forecasting, support immediate and long-term risk-informed decisions across sectors. Maritime transport is effectively managed and safe.	Long-term and sustained community engagement results in sustainable ocean management and improved livelihoods.	Sustainable ocean finance is supporting people, the economy and environment in line with PICTs ocean priorities.
Medium-term outcomes:	Comprehensive ocean data and knowledge tools are adopted by PICTs and applied to decision-making across marine monitoring sectors. Effective regulation, compliance, and enforcement measures are in place regionally and for all PICTs and ocean sectors.			Informed, engaged and empowered communities, including women and youth, leads to higher ocean literacy, and improved ocean management and governance.	Enhanced national and regional capacity to access ocean finance leads to more effective marine sector management and governance for sustained livelihoods and industries.
Short-term outcomes:	Pacific stakeholders' capabilities to understand, produce, access and use ocean science and traditional knowledge are strengthened. Comprehensive ocean data and knowledge tools are available to PICTs to improve marine forecasts and ecosystem changes. PICTs have capacities to develop and strengthen legislation and regulations that are culturally relevant for natural resources, energy, transport and biodiversity management. Traditional knowledge is incorporated into ocean management, ocean prediction services, ocean governance and decision-making.			More Pacific Islanders become ocean leaders in their country, region and internationally, and gender balance is improved. A people-centred approach is widely adopted across all marine sectors.	Sustainable finance opportunities are better understood and enhanced.
Delivered through four workstreams (Enabling dimensions):	Ocean data, science and traditional knowledge	Ocean governance and management	Ocean leadership and community engagement		Sustainable ocean finance
Aligned with SPC's strategic pathways:	Policy to action	Data, statistics and knowledge	Innovation and research	Digitalisation and technology	Capability and influence
By living SPC's values:	Aroha Care	Gida Gaituvwa Unity	Kaitakitanga Stewardship	Enginkehlap Generosity	

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The Ocean Flagship is aligned with SPC's Strategic Plan 2022–2031, providing our organisational strategic trajectory as well as our commitment to the national development plans of our members, the 2050 Strategy and the SDGs.



- Ocean and environment
- People-centred development
- Resource and economic development
- Climate change and disasters
- Technology and connectivity



SCOPE OF WORK AND APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTATION

The Ocean Flagship design builds on consultations with SPC members on their priorities from the SPC strategic plan, particularly KFA 2 Natural resources and biodiversity, KFA 5 Sustainable economies and livelihoods, and the need to transform SPC's approaches to integrated and programmatic efforts under KFA 7 Transforming institutional effectiveness. It also responds to priorities raised in the regional convenings and ministerial meetings of relevant sectors.

The flagship was co-designed internally with the diverse capabilities of SPC on the ocean and was further refined into six key work areas (KWAs) aligned to the flagship enabling dimensions.

Ocean data, science and traditional knowledge

KWA 1 Ocean knowledge and research collaboration

KWA 2 Traditional ocean knowledge

Ocean governance and management

KWA 3 PICT marine sector management capacity

KWA 4 Governance, compliance monitoring and enforcement

Ocean leadership and community engagement

KWA 5 Ocean literacy, ocean leadership and community engagement

Sustainable ocean finance

KWA 6 Ocean finance

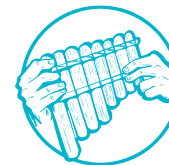
Collective actions are defined for each KWA in alignment to the regional collective actions as defined in *The Implementation Plan for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*.

The flagship plays the role of intermediary to access SPC's expertise across business units, harnessing the collective knowledge and resources of the organisation to deliver greater impact through more coordinated approaches. Any additional collective actions and capacity required to achieve the long-term outcomes will be reviewed through multi-year iterations.

The Ocean Flagship embraces SPC's values to guide navigation toward our vision through our key work areas and collective actions.



**Aroha
Care**



**Gida Gaituvwa
Unity**



**Kaitakitanga
Stewardship**



**Enginkehlap
Generosity**

OPERATIONALISATION

Divisional engagement

SPC divisions remain the home of our scientific and technical capabilities, and the deep expertise and member relationships for which SPC is known. All relevant divisions at SPC will co-implement the flagship with strong engagement of the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Environment (FAME) division, the Geoscience, Energy and Maritime (GEM) division, and integrated programmes like the Pacific Data Hub and Digital Earth Pacific.

Ocean Flagship coordination

The Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS) played a key role in designing the Ocean Flagship, which is fully aligned with its mandate. It is meant to be the Ocean Flagship Project Management Unit (PMU), enhancing coordinated assistance to SPC members on ocean science, governance and management.

Building on PCCOS' experience, centralised functions, such as project management; monitoring, evaluation and learning; communications and knowledge management, will support a strong coordination of Ocean Flagship activities.

Measuring impact

The Ocean Flagship monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) system will be aligned to the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan and MEL system. The Ocean Flagship MEL system will be integrated into SPC's execution of its *Strategic Plan 2022–2031*, under the guidance of the Planning, Evaluation, Accountability, Reflection and Learning (PEARL) Policy. It will also use existing practices within divisions to capture Ocean Flagship results and impact stories.

CONTACT

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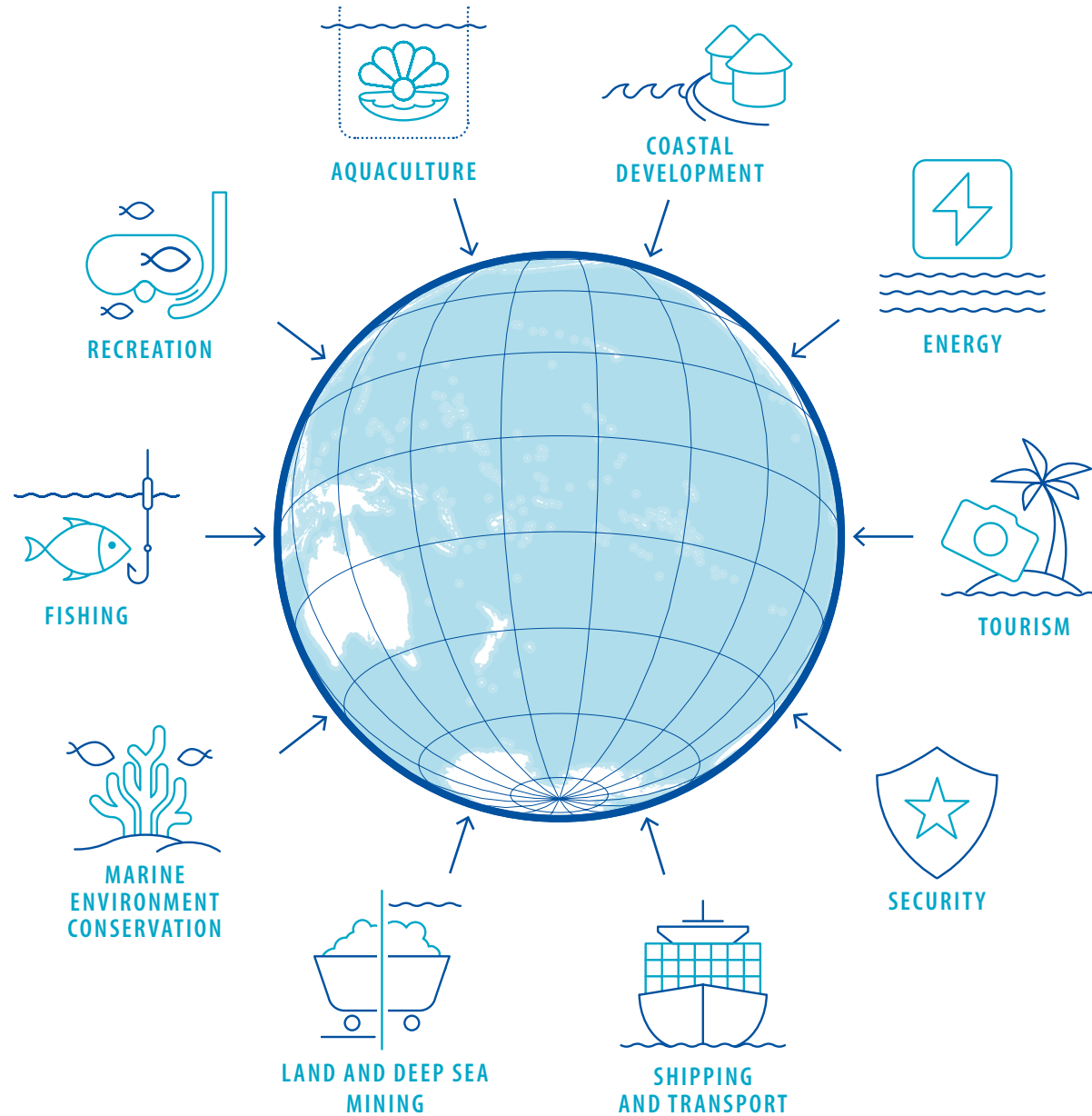
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For more details,
visit the SPC Ocean Flagship
[webpage](#).

Sectors concerned by shared ocean stewardship.

This illustration serves to highlight the importance of a holistic and integrated approach to govern and sustainably use ocean spaces and resources along with other CROP agencies and regional institutions.







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