

2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent: SPC Drivers of Change contributions

Vision: *In 2050, the Blue Pacific Continent is a region of peace; harmony; security, social inclusion; and increased prosperity so that all Pacific people are leading free, healthy and productive lives.*

Our Blue Pacific identity reinforces the potential of our shared stewardship of the Pacific Ocean and reaffirms the connections of Pacific peoples with their natural resources, environment, cultures and livelihoods.¹ We understand that this vision can only be achieved through regional collective action.

Task: Identify the key drivers of change across six categories that will impact on our ability to achieve the vision for 2050. The identified driver of change requires accompanying narrative highlighting **‘why’ it is a driver and ‘how’** it is linked to/influences the Vision for 2050.

Out of the identified key drivers of change, prioritise and rank the top 10 drivers of change. Rank them in order of impact, with 10 having the most impact and 1 having the least impact.



In 2050, the Pacific is estimated to have 60% more people than in 2020. This is an increase from 12.3 million people to 19.6 million (using current rates of change from SPC’s Statistics for Development Division²). Approximately 85% of this total will be in two Melanesian countries (Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands). The region will experience over 50% of its population in urban centres³. Micronesia and Polynesia will record an aging population structure and a mix of population growth and decline⁴. [Photo by Cristina Mittermeier/SeaLegacy <https://cristinamittermeier.com/>]

Primary drivers for response and recovery focus on ensuring the restoration and future sustainability of livelihoods for Pacific people. In the short-term this means providing social protection for those who most need it; to ensure that people can survive these difficult times.

There are several climate scenarios (against UNFCCC emission targets for 2050). By 2050 without new policies/action:

- Global greenhouse gas emissions projected to increase by 50%, primarily due to a 70% growth in energy-related CO₂ emissions.
- Loss and degradation of land and ocean resources as a result of exceeding 1.5 degree warming (currently on track for 3-4.8 degrees by 2100)
- All reefs threatened by 2050 (more frequent bleaching, lower levels of carbonate and increase cyclonic activity)
- A 30% increase in ocean acidity impacting many ocean (and coastal) species
- Sea level rise is projected to erode coast lines and increase salt water intrusion.

The identification of the drivers of change include cognisance of Pacific Island States and Territories commitments to the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway, Agenda 2030 (Roadmap for Sustainable Development); the UN Decade for Ocean Science and National Sustainable Development Plans. [See SPC’s mapping of 20 regional policies and frameworks for action sarahm@spc.int].

¹ 2017 Forum Leaders Communique

² SPC’s [Statistic for Development Division](#) provides data and overview narratives of various macroeconomic trends for recent years highlighting country-vulnerabilities to the likely impacts from the pandemic. Economic data and impacts for 1Q 2020 are available and data for 2Q 2020 will be uploaded to the SPC website in September when it becomes available.

³ At last census, PNG recorded only 13% urban, so while it may be true that the average across other countries urbanisation will be >50%, with PNG in the mix the regional share will be lower than 50%.

⁴ There will be overall total growth in Micronesia and Polynesia, but some countries will decline

Category 1: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

RANK (ranking of drivers responds to question 3)	1. Identify the key drivers of change in social development that will impact on our ability to achieve the Vision for 2050.	2(i). Why is this a driver of change? <i>Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words</i>	2(ii). How will this driver impact the achievement of the Vision for 2050, including how it may be interlinked with other drivers? <i>Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words</i>
10 (most impact)	Social structures and norms influenced by demographics, globalisation, political economy and urbanisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive social change and cohesion can result in the improvement of human and social conditions for the betterment of society. Equity, equality, social justice, protection against gender-based violence, etc. are fundamental prerequisites for social development. Education, health and prosperity goals etc. can only work with this premise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspired by Pacific Leaders commitments to inclusivity, equity and equality for all people of the Pacific; dedicated political, financial and legal investments in social protection and the elimination of gender-based violence brings social change and stability for equality and reduces vulnerabilities.
9	Rising inequities and inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing importance of social equity for fair and equal distribution of goods and services (particularly health) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacific Leaders have put Pacific people at the front of their COVID19 decision making. The Pacific looks to lessen the economic impact on its people while maintaining wellbeing. This reflects the strong communal and collective values of the Pacific - this is an asset and one that has the potential to leverage regional response to recovery and demonstrate for global response and recovery.
8	Widening inequalities fueling greater discontent and stress has multi-generational impact (young people, gender, elderly and health systems)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing stressors on social development, including health and climate change impacts, to contend with. Influenced by technology, lifestyles and health trends. COVID-19 times are shaping identity and world/regional views (the future of resilience). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What will be a decisive factor for overall social development is how these differentially impact people and widen inequalities across gender, age, disability, geographical location. These inequalities will fuel greater stress and discontent, which can play out in several ways, including increasing violence against women and children, increasing crime, mental and physical health issues, etc. Hence, a focus by PICs on investments to address inequalities, and one of the key social issues with the largest impact across our region - i.e. GBV - will have a cascading effect on other areas.
7	Increase in health stressors – rising prevalence of chronic disease; NCDs; and water-borne diseases (hygiene and sanitation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline child and maternal health, lifestyle and vector borne diseases (e.g. child nutrition, NCD rates dengue outbreaks etc) are already high; environment and ecosystem changes as well as demographic changes will put extra pressure (e.g. aged care needs; mental health; potential new vectors or longer exposure periods, climate change grief over loss of natural resources and associated culture and identity). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human and environmental health and inter linked and changes in the way that humans live (i.e. consumption vs conservation) positively or negatively affect the health or the environment. Concurrently, changes in the environment (e.g. increase ambient temperatures see new vectors, reduced water availability then affect rates of vector borne diseases and hygiene and sanitation systems and practices. Hence, plans for the natural and built environment and human health need to consider the interlinkages and anticipate new risks from exposure to new changes.
6	Young peoples' increasing agency and influence positively leverage social capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased active citizenship and civic engagement to rebalance power with social action providing solidarity across shared regional issues (e.g. ocean health, climate change); revisiting the importance of traditional sustainable practice in resource management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipatory democracy must take the next generation leaders framing of current and future issues and opportunities and their prioritisation into consideration. The implementation of the sustainable development agenda of 2050 will be in the hands of our 2020 youth. Their ownership of action is critical and will be enabled by their engagement in shaping the strategies to take now to lead to the future of their leadership.
5	Increased economic and environmentally driven displacement and migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has adverse impacts on local cultures and traditions and access to resources and livelihoods. This can increase social tensions and conflict (e.g. competition for local land and coastal resources). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connection to land and sea is intrinsic to the Blue Pacific narrative. In other parts of the world, where connection and identity have not been taken into consideration in planning and decision making for displacement and migration, the costs of associated social dysfunction and disadvantage (unemployment, drug and alcohol, recidivism, poor school attendance, social exclusion) are a great burden on the public purse. With known risk in the Pacific, migration plan and decisions must take not only environmental considerations into account but also the socio-cultural determinants of health, wellbeing and prosperity.
4	Statistics and data are reshaping how challenges are defined and how solutions are developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This drives governmental progress and performance measurement against regional and global commitments and strengthens knowledge-based societies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rapid technological advancements are shaping access to data and information for decision making at all levels of society – from civic purchasing and investment behaviour, through private sector and public sector decision making. There is increasing demand for transparency and accountability for decision making. This in turn, increases demands for reliable, quality and accessible statistic and data. The strategies to take the Pacific in 2050 need to mine the trends and projections and be anticipatory of the emerging opportunities and threats.
3	Accumulation of disadvantages and inequities increase hardship and poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is exacerbating inequalities and hampering social and economic development. PICT economies remain challenged to grow and find employment for their populations Transmission of vulnerabilities to future generations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reduction of hardship and poverty is crucial for sustainable and economic development. Living in hardship has long-term adverse effects and can often result in increased marginalization. For all Pacific people to live free, healthy and productive lives, investment in social protection is critical.
2	Cultural revitalisation and awareness of the richness of Pacific cultures and traditional knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upholding social protection systems is critical to cope with the challenges of climate change induced disasters, pandemics and other crises. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural well-being and integrity provides the foundation of a shared and strengthened Pacific identity that underpins resilience, influences the well-being of Pacific people and helps to reinforce regionalism.
1	Growing access to education with standards and accredited qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education is the gateway to social mobility and a core tool in breaking the poverty cycle. Expanding literacy and an upskilled employment base. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education empowers learners in defining a Pacific identity that acculturates innovation and productivity, increasing regional cohesion and social equality and maintaining social and cultural harmony

Category 2: ECONOMIC

RANK (ranking of drivers responds to question 3)	1. Identify the key drivers of change in <i>economic</i> that will impact on our ability to achieve the Vision for 2050.	2(i). Why is this a driver of change? <i>Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words</i>	2(ii). How will this driver impact the achievement of the Vision for 2050, including how it may be interlinked with other drivers? <i>Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words</i>
10 (most impact)	A steady transition to low-carbon economies is encouraging diversification, sustainable resource management and production and consumption patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the higher level of risk, combined with opportunities arising from harnessing the positive impact of climate related actions including renewable energy, for longer term growth and development of the region, this is considered to be the most impactful. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacific skills and competencies harness opportunities to manage growing demand for land and ocean resources in a responsible manner. Increasing the uptake of renewable energy and energy efficient infrastructure provides economic stimulus and contributes to NDCs for climate change.
9	The volatility of (global) markets and trade have long-lasting impacts on Pacific economies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliance on volatile export markets makes us extremely vulnerable to shocks - if the market collapses nothing else matters. Compels interest in alternative economic models and regional solutions for resource management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grow cooperation and enabling environments for private sector are essential to provide trade, jobs, and delivery of a broad range of goods and services. Government as regulatory agency to ensure enabling environment for private sector and to ensure climate change smart policies and legislation.
8	Fishery resources (oceanic, coastal, inshore) are an increasingly important revenue and livelihood source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oceanic fish stock health and sustainable management are integral to licensing and national revenue fishery resources are susceptible to climate impacts and harvesting practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National and regional action is required for effective and responsible marine stewardship and ensure sustainable fisheries management.
7	Increasing national budget expenditure for affordable and secure infrastructure (including transportation and green ports)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investments in the built environment are driving the pursuit for economic growth. Whilst this may create markets and strengthen trade, it may contradict decarbonisation efforts and social and environmental protection commitments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next 30 years will be a period of increasing instability in our region and globally, as the effects of climate change and environmental degradation in particular accelerate, with a knock-on effect on trade and global markets. Weathering these changes will require our region to seize the opportunity to think bold in terms of alternative economic models, and regional (and national) solutions that showcase alternative pathways to prosperity and wellbeing for our people.
6	Youthful population numbers are greater than employment and Livelihood opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maturing of the youth bulge sees increase demand for jobs against the changing nature of work and limited labour markets Building capacity and competencies with education as a pipeline to current and future opportunities. The challenge of scalability and upskilling labour market remains. Rethinking paths to prosperity (wellbeing, social protection and wealth factors); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labour mobility remains significant in terms of remittances and connectivity with Pacific diaspora. The facilitation of freer movement of Pacific people between multi-polar markets (visa arrangement and labour laws) provides for greater income security. A national and regional focus on livelihoods and well-being shaped by the context, data and needs at the national and regional level builds on the Pacific national and regional COVID19 response.
5	Accessibility to development financing (including climate, risk and resilience funds e.g. insurance financing) and trade tariffs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enables members to build capacity for development delivery and prepare for LDC graduation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> it is important to address national economic recovery as well as building self-reliance for the ripple effects of a stronger economy.
4	Greater harmonised partnerships drive development effectiveness through recovery and transformation in a COVID-19 world	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equal and productive partnerships enhance the region's economic, political and strategic capability Improved Pacific literacy helps to build strong, respectful and sustainable relationships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This includes meaningful inclusion of the private sector as co investors and co implementors, enabling environments; and strengthened integration of civil society into decision making and initiatives for sustainable development.
3	Local solutions for national economic recovery strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened capacities are building self-reliance for economic recovery including for production, export, tourism, remittances, public service reform, external and domestic financing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local innovation and solutions bridge the humanitarian-development nexus/continuum. This provides for long-term strategies that support systemic transformation across long-term cycles, particularly in unpredictable environments
2	Growing recognition for care work and the informal sector for fuller economic participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic empowerment particularly for women, youth and people living with disability increases productivity and social protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The inclusion of the informal sector (up to 60% of workforce); and the care economy is important for providing employment and establishing standards for the well-being and prosperity of Pacific peoples
1	Evolving service delivery models for strengthened public institutions architecture and governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public-sector led economies are dependent on government spending, revenue and asset management Risks of protectionism policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private sector enhancement to support the 2050 vision

Category 3: ENVIRONMENT

RANK (ranking of drivers responds to question 3)	1. Identify the key drivers of change in environment that will impact on our ability to achieve the Vision for 2050.	2(i). Why is this a driver of change? Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words	2(ii). How will this driver impact the achievement of the Vision for 2050, including how it may be interlinked with other drivers? Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words
10 (most impact)	Natural resource management (good practice and sustainable harvesting) is strengthening abilities to monitor state of environment and state of resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biggest driver of change is loss of biodiversity which will lead to extremely difficult times for Pacific with food and water security - climate change and increasing natural disasters (exacerbated by CC) impacts are the biggest threat and require the most attention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural resources management including blue carbon assets and coral reef are vital for economic well-being and longer-term sustainability of the region. PICTs are able to utilise green/blue carbon assets by monitoring and analysing ocean acidification impacts and coral reef degradation on fisheries and tourism-based revenues.
9	Increasing loss and damages diminish climate and disaster resilience efforts (including the loss of traditions and cultural practices intertwined with natural resource base)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ability to build resilience is outweighed by limited capacity, affordability and rate of change. We are at the tipping point on climate change, and our mitigation and adaptation measures may not be able to ameliorate the environmental change wrought by increasing natural disasters in the absence of true global commitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PICTs have identified the need for an internationally agreed approach to manage climate change risks and address unavoidable and residual loss and damage to the impacts of climate change.
8	Improved access to climate and ocean science information, knowledge and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This places the Pacific at the forefront of an equitable and sustainable ocean economy; fostering a revolution in science-based solutions that are co-designed and co-delivered and built on capacity development, youth engagement, access to data and technology, ocean literacy, and inclusive of traditional knowledge(<i>UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2021-2030</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacific knowledge has guided investment in preparedness, adaptation and resilience. This is an asset to leverage to response and recovery to a socio-economic health shock of pandemic. Our climate awareness puts us in good place for response. This is our people asset - along with our natural assets, these are the drivers and levers that can change our narrative and set our path to prosperity (while other nations and regions turn inwards on a path to deeper economic and cultural poverty).
7	More frequent and higher intensity natural disasters impacts biodiversity including loss of species, habitat and food, increased predation, failure to breed, and an overall degradation of ecosystem resilience and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current decline in some natural resources requires improved management to further prevent decline and to subsequently lead to achieving other drivers of change in environment. For instance, protecting biodiversity through improved management of natural resources will lead to improved environmental health, (food, water, human etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural resources need to be considered at a system level including the interrelations between management, human and environmental health, particularly in relation to current and predicted climate changes in the Pacific and the effects from global changes on the Pacific. Without the mapping of the interdependencies, single focused strategies may negatively impact each other.
6	Regional biosecurity challenges - The continuation and increase of invasive pests, (new) diseases to farming, livestock, fisheries from climate related change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detrimental impact on food systems, value chains and livelihoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacific Biosecurity requires co-operative partnerships that work together for the control of invasive and pest insects to protect cultural, agricultural and biodiversity values in the Pacific.
5	Environmental health: Food security. Climate change and global markets challenge food systems, nutrition and health systems with detrimental impacts on Pacific populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental health encompasses several other key drivers - biodiversity loss, invasives, impact of climate on food systems. Recognition of the systems approach is critical Traditional and cultural practice and associated adaptation is unable to predict rapid changes and impacts or effectively respond. Shared resources (e.g. reefs and coastal fisheries) are degraded and dependant families have diminished coping mechanisms, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID response to recovery on top of climate related food security challenges requires system level adaptations. 2050 food security needs integrated solutions within and across food systems and health systems with security at the nexus.
4	Environmental health: Water security – Declining access to safe and resilient water and sanitation and hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access, coupled with climate impacts remains a critical development issue, with profound implications for sustainable economic growth, public health, education, environment and human rights. <i>The Pacific has the lowest levels of access to basic sanitation services in the world (30%) and 55% access to basic water facilities. WASH coverage varies markedly between and within countries</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving water security puts nations and communities on paths of self-reliance. System level investment in nature-based solutions. Infrastructure at the household, community and national level, is necessary health hardware for sanitation and behavioural change strategies need integrated aspects to work towards 2050 security.
3	Waste management is challenged by higher population and reduced shipments for removal (Cleaner Pacific 2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste management goals are based on environmental attributes, most notably reductions in greenhouse gas emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impact on the 2050 vision is reliant on the reduction rate of ocean pollution and community uptake of reduce-recycle-reuse practice.
2	Ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A global uptake of renewables, sustainable technologies and industry and mitigation efforts (including geo-engineering for GHG reductions and its effective and safe management) positively contributes to curbing global warming pathways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Paris Agreement’s 2020 commitments to update Nationally Determined Contributions and to develop Low Emissions Development Strategies remain critical to accelerate the transition to decarbonisation (and build resilience).
1	Growing interest in minerals management provides essential raw material for future economic growth and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The political economy of resource-driven growth strongly influences environmental safeguards and protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sound information on impacts on deep-sea biodiversity and ecosystem services guide informed decision making on economic gains versus potential environmental loss.

Category 4: TECHNOLOGY

RANK (ranking of drivers responds to question 3)	1. Identify the key drivers of change in <i>technology</i> that will impact on our ability to achieve the Vision for 2050.	2(i). Why is this a driver of change? <i>Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words</i>	2(ii). How will this driver impact the achievement of the Vision for 2050, including how it may be interlinked with other drivers? <i>Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words</i>
10 (most impact)	Digital technology and innovations continue to create profound change in the way we do business, communicate and live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural and CC related disasters and climate change effects on PICTs are biggest driver of change - requiring technical solution for provision of region-wide coastal inundation data, weather forecasting (e.g. tsunami warnings), coastal management (e.g. mangroves, seagrass as protective coastal ecosystems) to protect countries from ever increasing loss and damage from disasters and loss of ecosystems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harnessing the science, technology and innovation well, will enable the region to achieve commitments to SDGs, support the well-being of Pacific peoples and raise living standards.
9	Improving capacity and pace of adoption of data and technology (as strategic resources)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is critical for informing decision making and shaping positive outcomes. Investment in digital transformation will bridge the gap for drive further inequity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The independent ability of analytics creates the space for adding value to the efforts for delivering regional public goods in the Pacific for equitable, sustainable development The Pacific is unique in its current technological and digital state - we have less to 'unlearn' and ready to leapfrog over others with a focus on appropriate digital transformation based on contextual needs, and with people and well-being driving response,
8	Lagging investments in ICT (closing the technology gap) fails to keep pace with global changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic and social benefits may be geographically concentrated and result in the use of obsolete technologies and increased marginalisation. The region is at risk of being left behind. See the Pacific Regional ICT Strategic Plan⁵ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making access to technology and knowledge available to everyone, unleashes the potential of people's creativity and ingenuity (Fekitamoeola 'Utoikamanu)
7	Connectivity and affordability and the leveraging of national digital transformation activities allow for research and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital technology and innovations, if harnessed well, has huge implications for how we live and work across such dispersed large ocean states. In particular, access to information can transform how countries are governed, where those governing are better informed in the decisions they take of people's realities across their country, and those governed have access to the information they need to ensure their wellbeing and prosperity, and hold governments accountable for keeping their commitments to the people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is an integral interface of science-technology-research-innovation-communication for knowledge-based action. ICT as a tool for development and digital skills for improved digital connectivity, using data and analytics.
6	Digital reinvention from the increase in demand for ICT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reshapes the way of working, learning and consuming. This may unwittingly, contribute to increasing access inequalities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining a regional, coordinated approach, that supports the individual levels of digital transformation maturity in the member states, promotes the better use of scarce resources. But more importantly allows for intergovernmental collaboration, technical support, skills transfers, sharing of lessons learnt, and reuse of digital products. This, in turn, promotes the participation of civil society and the private sector.
5	Shipping, as the backbone of a connected Pacific must transform into low-carbon and safe maritime transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts energy efficiencies of ports and ships and is shifting to a more gender diverse maritime sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shipping in a connected Pacific could transform into low-carbon and safe maritime transport. physical connectivity through shipping is essential for many aspects of development - for example e commerce - we can have great systems but if the goods can't get from the islands in a cost-effective manner the digital platform doesn't assist.
4	Mounting focus on online cyber security (to maintain and protect connectivity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diverted public resources to manage increased incidents of misinformation and digital fraud that exploit public uncertainty and panic (Boe Declaration on Regional Security). Increased cyber-attacks and network congestion adversely. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to maximise protections and opportunities for Pacific infrastructure and peoples in the digital age
3	Prioritising infrastructure investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To successfully harness the digital revolution requires investment in digital infrastructure, digital skills and digital systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> infrastructure investment can boost economic growth by making labour markets more efficient and increasing productivity.
2	Telehealth systems lead healthcare delivery connected by digital infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires access to basic infrastructure/investment for virtual visits and data interoperability). E.g. connected health hubs in the community, remotely supported ICUs and monitoring of at-risk patients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technology innovation creates opportunities for competitive service delivery positions e.g. exploring the merits of Public Private partnerships in innovation centres
1	Emerging multi-hazard early warning services reduce loss and damages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early warning systems are tools for local, national and regional institutions to manage disaster risks and reduce damage and casualties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-hazard early warning services for all geophysical, ecological, biological, weather, and climate related ocean and coastal hazards; mainstream community preparedness and resilience in tandem with robust coastal monitoring and management reduce risk of loss and damage, injury and enable faster recovery periods

⁵ It highlights actions needed to create an enabling environment to support and harmonise national and regional efforts to achieve safe, secure, affordable and competitive ICT services.

Category 5: POLITICAL/LEGAL

RANK (ranking of drivers responds to question 3)	1. Identify the key drivers of change in <i>political/legal</i> that will impact on our ability to achieve the Vision for 2050.	2(i). Why is this a driver of change? <i>Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words</i>	2(ii). How will this driver impact the achievement of the Vision for 2050, including how it may be interlinked with other drivers? <i>Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words</i>
10 (most impact)	Growing uncertainty of effective good governance and stability in uncertain environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stability and justice are foundations for peace and equity Inclusive decision-making processes are important to navigate environmental and economic shocks and geopolitical influences Proactive political attention for creating systems that protect people to sustain development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good governance, respect for human rights and ensuring citizen participation allows for inclusive, sound evidence-based decisions both nationally and for cross-jurisdictional management regimes. Access to justice reinforces efforts to resolving disputes (sustainable peace)
9	Regional connectivity and integration across the Pacific showcases a united group of large Ocean States in their delivery of regional commitments, negotiations and network diplomacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connectivity is the cornerstone of regional economic cooperation and integration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacific large ocean states are custodians of 20% of global EEZs and 100% of Pacific culture, traditional knowledge and culture.
8	An “inclusion imperative” demands the need for growing civic engagement and agency to reinforce Pacific unity, strengthen leadership and to build political will for promoting the quality of life, through both political and non-political processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There remains a risk of shrinking civic space and an adverse impact on democracy, planet protection and closing the inequality gaps. There are early activities that are shaping the narrative and response including participatory processes for the 2050 Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacific decision-making is inherently inclusive to protect all its populations, including the vulnerable and is an asset to the region. Pluralistic jurisdictions (customary laws and traditional governance) create platforms to reaffirm the connections of Pacific peoples with their natural resources, environment and cultures.
7	CROP value-chain: Cohesion and regional solidarity between (Pacific) agencies for development improves delivery of services for regional public goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scalability of service delivery for a variety of improvements to accelerate national sustainable goals and Vision 2050. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collective action is critical when it comes to the provision of national, regional and international public goods.
6	Growing debt burden has a deleterious impact on long-term growth and public investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This can lead to a decreased ability to respond to disaster and climate risks; and greater risk to financial crisis and could result in social unrest and instability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debt burden can slow economic growth and investments in health and education in order to develop human capita
5	Increased threat of conflict, tensions, crises and instability resulting from climate change impacts, resource depletion, economic hardships and social tensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energies expended on deflecting tensions rather than on socio-economic development and environmental and cultural protection investments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The increased ability to respond and manage threats to regional security requires cooperation and investment in the well-being of Pacific peoples. Human security and state security (social, health, economic and political)
4	Emerging feminist leadership is progressing gender equality and women’s’ empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geopolitics disturbing national systems is the biggest driver of political and legal change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women’s active political participation ensure scale, pace, and irreversibility of social change required to achieve the 2050 vision.
3	Challenges to democracy (political dynamics and instability, shrinking civic space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses reliant on the implementation of accepted international good governance and human rights legal standards; backed by effective independent state institutions (judicial, human rights, anti-corruption, leadership). See Pacific Principles of Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A decline in democracy will have adverse impacts on peace, harmony, security, inclusion and prosperity. Institutional safeguards may be threatened.
2	The effects of climate change on the ocean (sea-level rise, coastal erosion, fisheries) influence the delineation of maritime space and may give rise to conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International law does not provide absolute certainty over this matter and maritime boundaries are critical for all ocean and fisheries management schemes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The resolving of maritime boundaries as a step to preserve existing rights stemming from maritime zones and to ensure the impact of climate change does not result in a reduced Blue Pacific.
1	Rising competing ideologies that impede positive actions for sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong influences of renewed strategic interests and foreign investments in the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any failures to seriously address climate change will likely undermine closer alignment between the Blue Pacific and other visions for the region.

Category 6:

GEOPOLITICAL/GEOSTRATEGIC

RANK (ranking of drivers responds to question 3)	1. Identify the key drivers of change in <i>geopolitical/geostrategic</i> that will impact on our ability to achieve the Vision for 2050.	2(i). Why is this a driver of change? <i>Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words</i>	2(ii). How will this driver impact the achievement of the Vision for 2050, including how it may be interlinked with other drivers? <i>Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words</i>
10 (most impact)	Increased demonstrations of Pacific solidarity and a belief in common destiny grounded in the ocean, science, technology and knowledge enable advancement of the 2050 vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proponent of actions supported by the numerous multilateral groupings to effectively lobby for issues of Pacific concern (climate change, oceans, biodiversity, sustainable development and growth). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Blue Pacific narrative is an asset that can be leveraged in pandemic times. Regional solidarity, expressed through both shared and unique ways, needs and responses, can be woven together as a powerful geopolitical narrative, practice and action that has the potential to shape history.
9	International volatility, global geopolitics and competition for influence threaten political solidarity and collective action on key regional and global priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geopolitics and compounded disasters, are driving PICTs to more economic hardship and exposure to external influences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Pacific has unique strength. Pacific Leaders' regional commitments need to underpin geographic relations with rim countries (while respecting the space of national sovereignty) for achieving the longer-term vision of 2050. Solidarity and sovereignty are a healthy tension that must be spoken of.
8	A changing geopolitical landscape is re-shaping traditional alliances (including the prominence of large philanthropic foundations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The competition between traditional and non-traditional donors are polarizing the region Regional collaboration and strengthening Pacific diplomacy networks will enable PICs to present a collective front to realise an equitable blue economy and environmental protection, and key gains in driving/ensuring global climate action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The integrity of the Pacific Way of dialogue is instrumental for ensuring the region's security; and leveraging competitive funding and financing sources for delivering regional public goods.
7	Meaningful and bold political will is supporting the implementation of enablers of regionalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are all in the same boat together, as small island states, and our strength is harnessing the power of our collective belief in a common destiny to drive dialogue and gains for our region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Pacific Way is viewed strongly through joint COP collaboration and the leveraging of climate financing for regional solutions with national impact.
6	Compounded crises lead to increased concentration of powers to manage situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This may lead to the derogation of rights and freedoms and can undo social equity gains. Geopolitics and compounded disasters, are driving PICTs to more economic hardship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideals for shared prosperity, peace, harmony and security in 2050 may not be realised.
5	Strengthening Pacific diplomacy networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Networks and alliances assert members' shared values and priorities for a positive action to secure key positions in global conventions that impact Pacific societies interests (urgent climate action, trade and labour mobility and self-determination). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A transformation in diplomatic ideas, institutions and practices that appeals to a Blue Pacific identity. Strengthens global negotiation for Pacific states in key sectors such as ocean management, fisheries, climate change and sustainable development.
4	A strengthened multilateralism and regional collaboration for shared prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This allows to better tackle global challenges for the realisation of equitable blue economy and environmental protection goals (e.g. through Pacific and Global Ocean alliances). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in intra-regional and global alliances support collective action for protecting key carbon habitats.
3	Intensifying diplomatic activity in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic security and defence diplomacy is framed increasingly by Indo-Pacific strategies that may overshadow specific Pacific policies⁶. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacific island countries security interests (determined by members) may require a recalibration of Pacific Security architecture – see the Boe Declaration and the Australia Pacific Security College and the Pacific Regional Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility
2	Improved coordination for the provision of regional public goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members and CROP agencies coherent and effective programme/project delivery to better address a range of security and development issues and reinforce good practice for strengthening social, economic and cultural resilience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There needs to be investment in building relationships to promote a Pacific-cohesive position on vital issues for nations that can be addressed through regional solutions.
1	Generation COVID's declining well-being and trust in international cooperation and solidarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacific young people and future generations will shoulder much of the long-term economic and social consequences of the crisis, their well-being may be superseded by short-term economic and equity considerations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building back better from the crisis must take into account the well-being of current and future generations if the youth of COVID19 era, are to lead the Pacific with requisite capabilities, fulfilling the vision of the 2050 agenda with context specific action and sub regional and regional cooperation and coherence.

⁶ Pacific: Step-up (AUS); Reset (NZ); Pivot (Canada); Elevation (Indonesia), Uplift (UK) Look East (India) etc.