



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique

# PACIFIC COMMUNITY RESULTS REPORT 2023





# **PACIFIC COMMUNITY RESULTS REPORT 2023**



Noumea, New Caledonia, 2024

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# THE **PACIFIC COMMUNITY** IS AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION THAT WORKS IN CLOSE PARTNERSHIP WITH ITS MEMBER COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

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American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna

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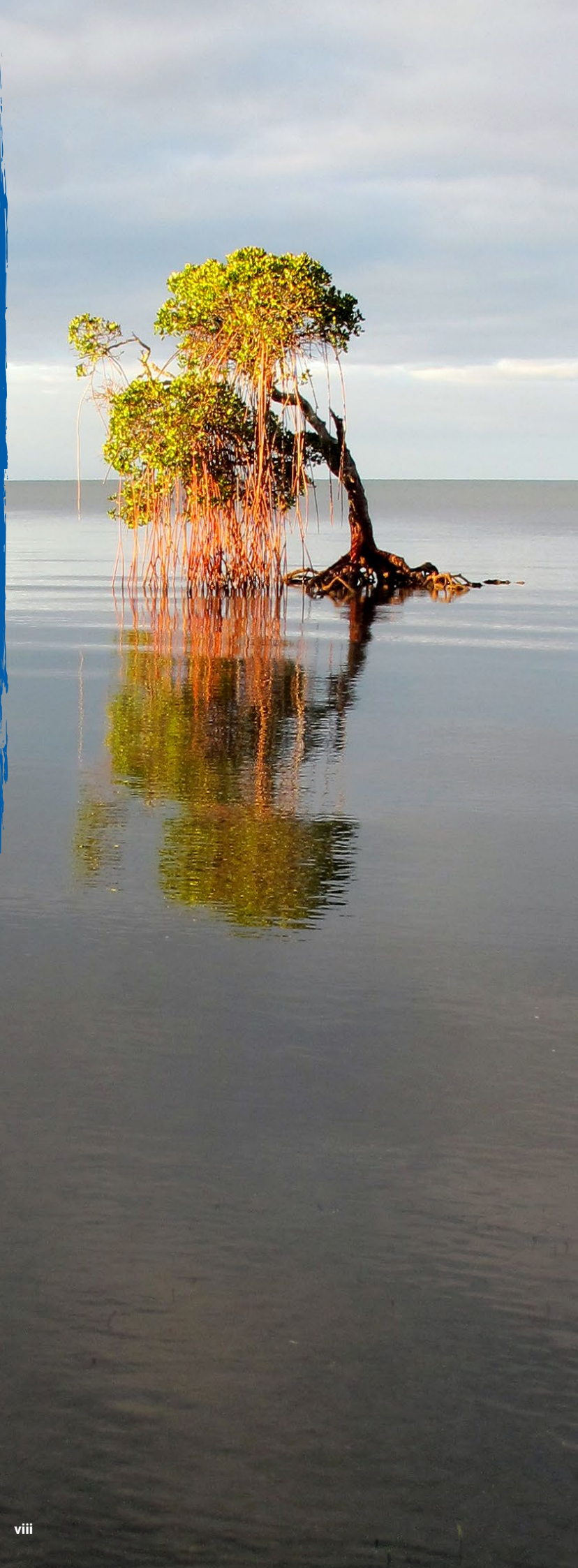
The Pacific Community (SPC) acknowledges the contributions of all 27 member countries and territories to this report and who are, through the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA), the primary audience:

American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States of America (USA), Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna.

The CRGA Subcommittee for the Strategic Plan continues to support the development and quality oversight of this report.

SPC acknowledges the ongoing support of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies, the governments of Australia, France, New Zealand, Sweden and the USA for contributions to programme funding and other development partners. SPC also acknowledges the European Union (EU) as a Permanent Observer.

We thank our members for their thought leadership and foresight and our partners for their support.



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 World Bank  
 World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)

# FOREWORD

*It is my privilege to present the Pacific Community Results Report 2023 and share with you the significant achievements accomplished by SPC in the past year, despite global disruptions and complexities. Our commitment to serving the Pacific region remains steadfast.*

Throughout 2023 we remained dedicated to our mission of advancing all Pacific peoples' rights and well-being through the application of science, innovation and knowledge, guided by our deep understanding of Blue Pacific contexts and cultures. We pursued this mission by working closely with our members and partners to deliver targeted programmes and initiatives that address the unique and pressing needs of the region.

As the region and the globe continue to navigate uncertainties and complex challenges, SPC's *Strategic Plan 2022–2031: Sustainable Pacific development through science, knowledge and innovation* (Strategic Plan 2022–2031) is our navigational star, articulating our values and the ways in which we work to benefit the region. This marks our second report on progress towards implementing the strategic plan and offers an opportunity to review progress against our key focus areas and identify where to improve or adapt our efforts to respond to changing needs and contexts.

Within this comprehensive report you will find detailed information on the key outcomes achieved by SPC in areas such as climate action, resilience, natural resource management, food systems, education, social development, sustainable livelihoods and planetary health. While not every story of change we contributed to in 2023 is told here, this report does tell a story of what is possible to achieve when we work collectively, through our values in service to the region.

Guided by our values, our results are a testament to the unwavering dedication of our staff and the steadfast support of our members and partners. Our values are driving activity across the organisation and extending them, along with our inherent responsibility, more broadly to the region. We are also pleased to see increased engagement and connection among our members, as evidenced by the success of the 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA 53) and the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Pacific Community.

In 2023 significant progress was made in developing our flagships, and we have commenced delivery of the Climate Change Flagship anchor investment. The value of integrated work is becoming clear, and our flagships have emerged



as essential collaboration points for our regional partners. Moreover, SPC support to our CROP family saw significant progression, with the *2050 Strategy Implementation Plan 2023–2030* (2050 Implementation Plan) endorsed at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Pacific Island Leaders Forum. Some of our strategic resource mobilisation efforts included supporting our members to negotiate philanthropic investment for the Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity initiative and launching the Digital Earth Pacific programme.

Despite ongoing challenges testing the region's resilience, including extreme weather events and global geopolitical shifts, our emphasis on innovation has supported the development of new tools for forecasting natural hazards, localising solutions and promoting renewable energy for economic and environmental transformation.

Reflecting on the past year, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our members, partners and SPC staff for their steadfast dedication to our collective aspirations. While we've made significant progress together, there's still ample ground to cover in transforming both our organisation and those areas where we have faced the greatest challenges. Our commitment to enhancing the well-being of Pacific Island communities remains resolute, and we look forward to achieving even greater impact in the future.

**Dr Stuart Minchin**  
Director-General

# ABBREVIATIONS

CCES	Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability (SPC)
CePaCT	Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (SPC)
CRGA	Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
DEP	Digital Earth Pacific
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)
EQAP	Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (SPC)
EU	European Union
FAD	Fish aggregating device
FAME	Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems division (SPC)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEM	Geoscience, Energy and Maritime division (SPC)
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HRSD	Human Rights and Social Development division (SPC)
ICM	integrated crop management
KFA	Key focus area
LRD	Land Resources Division (SPC)
MANA	Pacific Monitoring Alliance for NCD Action
MEL	Monitoring, evaluation and learning

MFAT	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (New Zealand)
NCD	non-communicable disease
NDC	nationally determined contribution
NDC Hub	Regional Pacific Nationally Determined Contribution Hub
NGO	non-governmental organisation
OMD	Operations and Management Directorate (SPC)
PCCOS	Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science
PDH	Pacific Data Hub
PHD	Public Health Division (SPC)
PICs	Pacific Island countries
PICTs	Pacific Island countries and territories
PILNA	Pacific Islands Literacy and Numeracy Assessment
SDD	Statistics for Development Division (SPC)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SER	social and environmental responsibility
SPC	Pacific Community
SPL	Strategy, Performance and Learning unit (SPC)
SRF	Strategic Results Framework
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Pacific Community Results Report 2023 outlines how the organisation supported and strengthened research, innovation and capability across our ocean, land and people, and demonstrates where our work contributed to impact and value for our members.

As we entered the second year of implementing our Strategic Plan 2022–2031, we continued to work alongside our members to advance their priorities and contribute to forging a safer, healthier, more sustainable and more productive Pacific.

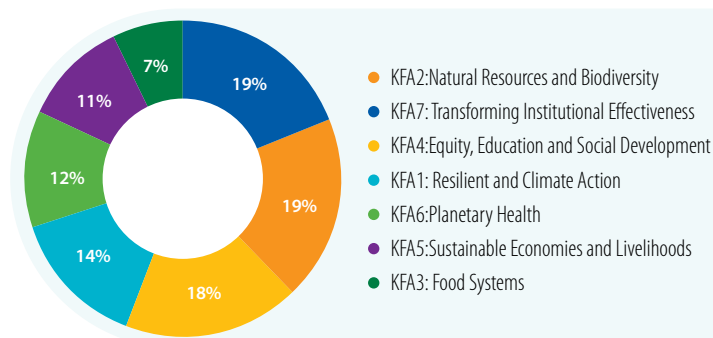
With the support of over 70 donors and partners, our SPC family – comprising 760 dedicated staff stationed at our headquarters in Noumea and our four regional offices in Nukualofa, Pohnpei, Port Vila and Suva – continues to contribute to positive transformations at all levels in the region. Guided by our Strategic Plan 2022–2031 key focus areas (KFAs), we operate across more than 20 development sectors within our 22 Pacific Island member countries and territories, extending our reach to communities while also championing the voices of marginalised groups and communities at risk. We continue to leverage our scientific and technical capability to bring culturally relevant and evidence-based approaches and solutions to support our members.

In 2023 SPC focused on developing and implementing flagship initiatives for climate change, sustainable food systems, ocean conservation and gender equality so that we can better serve the unique and diverse priorities of our members.

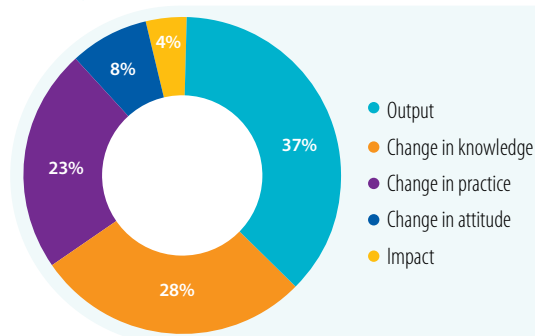
We achieved a total of 539 results in 2023, 12% more than in 2022. This demonstrates our expansion and reach in the region. Our results are shown in graphs 1–4 and include:

- **Results by KFA:** Over half (56%) of our results contributed to three KFAs: KFA 2 natural resources and biodiversity; KFA 4 equity, education and social development; and KFA7 transforming institutional effectiveness. A sizeable proportion of our results (19%) were achieved within KFA7, showing evidence of our continued commitment to enhancing institutional effectiveness and fostering integration across all our work.

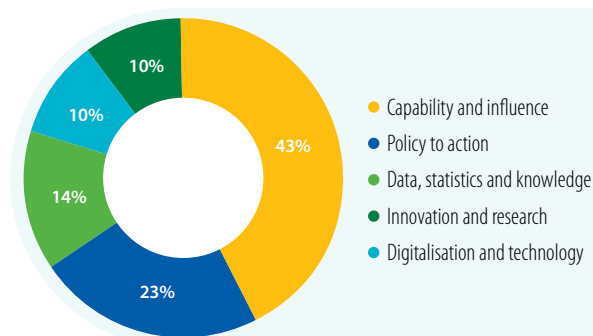
**Graph 1:**  
Results by KFA (n=539)



**Graph 2:**  
Results type (n=539)



**Graph 3:**  
Results by pathway (n=539)



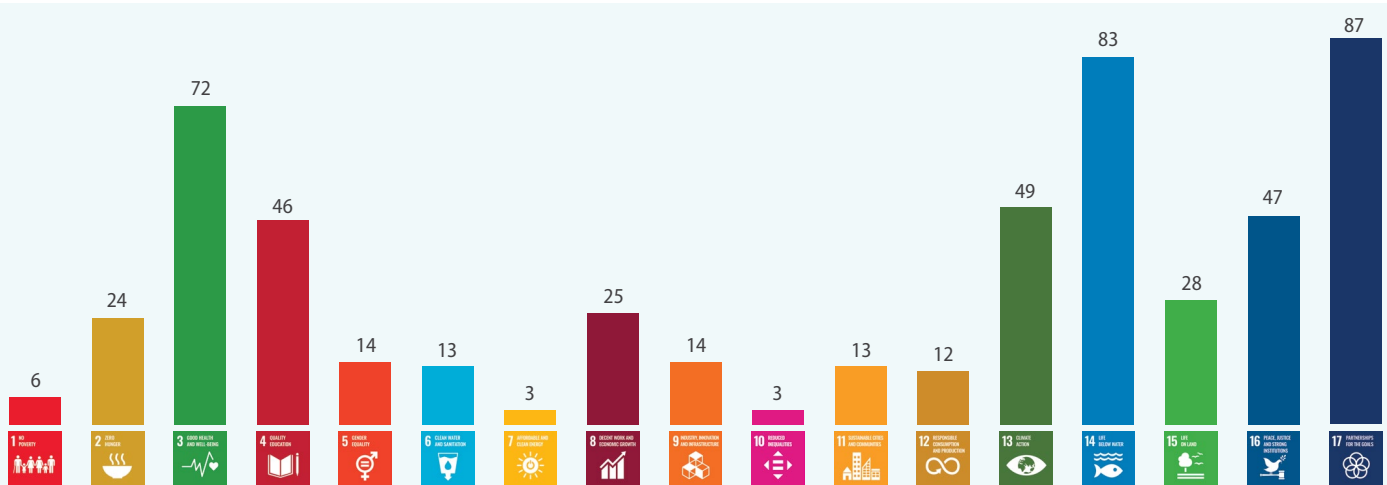
- **Results type:** We continue to achieve a solid proportion of our results at the output level (37%), which is evidence of significant scope of implementation and expansion in capability to implement projects and investments. We achieved more higher-level results (change in knowledge, change in attitude, change in practice, impact), from 53% in 2022 up to 63%, and doubled our proportion of impact-level results, from 2% in 2022 up to 4%.
- **Results by pathway:** 43% of the results and work reflected in this report have contributed towards strengthening capabilities and influencing policies at the regional and

national level. This includes capacity-building related activities and approaches, as well as reach through our advocacy work. Two-thirds (66%) of our results were achieved through two pathways: capability and influence, and policy to action.

- **Results by primary SDG:** SPC's work contributes to all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with 63% of results contributing to SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 14 (life below water) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals).

#### Graph 4:

Results by primary SDG (n=539)



At an organisation level, we monitor the implementation of our Strategic Plan 2022-2031 through selected pathway indicators, which are used to aggregate change at national and regional level. Compared to 2022, SPC demonstrated

through its pathways that it has grown in both reach and capability across the region. The table below contains highlights for a selection of indicators, with more details found in the Our Pathways chapter on page 71.

Pathway	Indicator	2022	2023	Change
Capability and influence	Number of people accessing capacity building activities	11,208	19,138	70% ↑
Policy to action	Number of legislation/regulations/policies endorsed, adopted and implemented	40 (24 national, 16 regional)	50 (14 regional, 36 national)	25% ↑
Data, statistics and knowledge	Total number of statistical datasets published on PDH.stat	11,527	12,721	10% ↑
Innovation and research	Number of research outputs (scientific publications, reports, policy briefs, policy documents, manuals, handbooks)	10,777	11,900	10% ↑
Digitalisation and technology	Number of digital apps and platforms supported by SPC in the reporting year	50	52	4% ↑

## Results highlights by KFA



In 2023 our multifaceted approach to enhancing our members' climate commitments continued to strengthen climate adaptation and resilience capacities and increase access to climate finance.

- We have secured increased funding commitments for regional climate change initiatives, including USD 18.9 million approved for projects in Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu through the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund.
- Investments were anchored for the development and implementation of the Climate Change Flagship, including NZD 30 million in programme funding from New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) in April 2023 and a EUR 2.7 million initiative for the loss and damage dimension of the flagship from the Government of Denmark. Our Climate Change Flagship spearheaded initiatives such as Digital Earth Pacific, which is now being implemented.
- We coordinated over 30 regional meetings with officials and ministers to support evidence-based decision making and prioritisation of commitments across the 20 sectors we work in. We strengthened the scientific evidence for climate action needed across multiple sectors through regional convenings, such as the 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting, where ministers stressed that collaboration and coordinated effort among key stakeholders and strengthening national capacities are crucial to enhance resilience and take advantage of financing opportunities. Commitments to advancing regional efforts in addressing climate change were also made at the 5<sup>th</sup> Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting and the Inaugural Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction Ministers Meeting.



In 2023 we continued to support our members to enhance management of their natural resources and biodiversity. This involved offering a range of strategies and guidance to improve sustainable practices and management of natural resources.

- We continued to support a more enabling policy environment for sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity. Following a comprehensive participatory process of country consultations and engagement, a *Framework for Pacific Regional Agriculture and Forestry Research Collaboration* was developed and presented to the Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (PHOAFS). The framework will enable Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) to identify research priorities and strengthen collaborative research efforts within the region.
- We continued to gain momentum and recognition for our work in land, ocean and fisheries management. Following a review commissioned by Crop Trust, in 2023 the Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT) achieved Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Genebank Level 2 accreditation, recognising the quality measures put in place to ensure integrity of the collection. The Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS) was recognised as the Pacific Islands Ocean Decade Collaborative Centre (DCC) by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (IOC–UNESCO). This reaffirms SPC's role in leading and coordinating efforts to advance ocean science and integrated ocean management in the region.
- We continued to promote community-based approaches to fisheries management in communities as coastal fisheries are deeply embedded in the cultural fabric, food security and livelihood of our communities. FAME is now working in 662 active community-based fisheries management sites in 15 PICTs, serving 1032 communities, and is actively working with NGOs, CSOs and government agencies to enhance capacity and capability of the active sites.



In 2023 we continued to invest in ensuring regional food systems are accessible, regenerative, biodiverse, equitable and resilient through agricultural development, sustainable fishing opportunities and food systems policy and data.

- We enhanced collaboration, information sharing and learning to support system-level decisions through the use of digital tools. The Pacific Monitoring Alliance for NCD Action (MANA) dashboard continued to play a key role in supporting countries to monitor implementation of regional initiatives to address NCDs. As a regional monitoring tool, the dashboard has consolidated the region's progress against NCD roadmap commitments every second year since 2017, using the indicators from the *Pacific NCD Roadmap*. To complement this, the *Pacific Legislative Framework for Non-Communicable Diseases* was used to identify gaps in policies and legislation relating to food systems.
- We generated and disseminated evidence to inform our programming and enhance learning and visibility. SPC's Statistics for Development Division (SDD) continued to update and maintain the Pacific Food Trade Database and Pacific Nutrient Database to manage information related to food systems. The Pacific Food and Beverage Trade dashboard was unveiled at the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference of Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS6) in October. The dashboard provides visualisation of complex data to better inform decisions that strengthen the Pacific Food Systems.



SPC continued to invest in enhancing social development systems for sustained and meaningful gains in education, gender equality and social inclusion, supported by our existing mechanisms and technical capability.

- We influenced change at regional and national levels. Pacific ministers for culture endorsed the five-year implementation plan of the *Pacific Regional Culture*

*Strategy 2022–2032* at the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Culture held in Noumea, New Caledonia. Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tonga have demonstrated ongoing commitments to key human rights treaties.

- We invested in ensuring social data are made available to the region. The *Pacific Roadmap on Gender Statistics* was approved by the Heads of Planning and Statistics at HOPS6, and SDD continues to enhance and update the region's Gender and Human Rights dashboard.
- In addition to our work in the social development sectors, we offer multiple programming approaches, including the Gender Equality Flagship, social and environmental responsibility (SER) policy and the Pacific Women Lead programme.



As we journey towards a 2031 future of an inclusive Blue Pacific with a well-being economy, our areas of focus in 2023 were sustainable livelihoods in fisheries, aquaculture and agriculture, domestic shipping and sea safety, energy and access to maritime zone information.

- We supported regional convenings and help influence decisions relating to sustainable economies and livelihoods. The 5<sup>th</sup> Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers' Meeting was convened on 8–12 May 2023, hosted and chaired by the Vanuatu government. Ministers and representatives from 20 Pacific Island countries endorsed the *Efate Outcomes Statement*, which calls for a phasing out of fossil fuels, noting that the pathway must be implemented in a nationally determined way.
- We created innovative approaches for economic opportunities and knowledge sharing. During the Pacific Week of Agriculture and Forestry, 32 delegates (18 men, 14 women) from 12 PICTs were given the opportunity to visit Bulaccino farm, an organic farm in Nadi, to participate in the *Walk the Talk – This is What Organics Looks Like* farm tour. Delegates were exposed to real-life examples of managing an organic farm. The tour aimed to highlight the significance and potential of organic farming in reshaping the Pacific food system, fostering a circular green economy and mitigating the effects of climate change.



SPC continued to promote planetary health, integrating human, animal and environmental health through an integrated approach to strengthening health capacities in the region, both at institutional and individual level.

- SPC's One Health integrated programme recognises the interconnection of human health, animal health, and the environment, providing a holistic view of health challenges and solutions. Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu were introduced to One Health through regional events like PICnet, PHOVAPS, and PHoH. These countries committed to adopting the One Health approach in their programmes.
- We promoted regional networking and collaboration as an essential pathway to address health issues in the region. The 5<sup>th</sup> Pacific Biomedical Network meeting, held in Nadi on 29–31 May, was attended by representatives from 15 PICTs. Representatives had an opportunity to share biomedical experiences and challenges and discuss how to strengthen partnerships for addressing biomedical priorities in PICTs.
- We provided a crucial platform for nurses in the region to come together and share priorities and learning and provide regional oversight for nursing functions. The Pacific Heads of Nurses and Midwifery (PHoNM) convened in Nadi in November under the theme "Nurses Together: A Force for Global Health".
- Heads of Pacific national statistics offices (NSOs) and other government ministries and agencies benefited from individual country missions, meetings and stakeholder engagement (online and in person) to further strengthen statistics relations and engagement.
- Five key appointments were made to SPC's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in 2023, enhancing our overall capability. The appointments meant SPC achieved a significant milestone; for the first time, women make up the majority of SPC's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) composition, with 12 women (57%) and 9 men (43%). This demonstrates our commitment to advancing gender equality and women in leadership.
- We continued to leverage our One SPC approach, strengthening systems and processes and embedding new digital solutions that have enabled us to be flexible and find new ways of working. We successfully implemented our finances shared services model which supports collaboration between central finance and divisions. We also enhanced our efficiency through travel, human resources (HR) and communications systems.
- As a cornerstone of our efforts to mainstream cross-sectoral policies, we surveyed staff to better understand how to improve integration of the SER policy into our programmes and practices. Complementing this work was the progress we made in advancing women's leadership in 2023. This included the approval of a work programme, starting implementation of the commitments outlined in the 2022 Leadership Audit Management Response, and the development of a range of policies to support gender equality and women in leadership.
- Our MEL Net community of practice expanded to over 90 members, who support our institutional strengthening activities and are key in progressing the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2022-2031 and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (2050 Strategy).



KFA 7 serves as the foundation for all our achievements as we strive to enhance institutional effectiveness as a unified SPC entity. Each division plays a role in this focus area, guided by the organisation's core values.

## OUR VALUES

As we journey together in service of our Blue Pacific, we embrace four core values: generosity (*enginkehlap*), stewardship (*kaitiakitanga*), unity (*gida gaituvwa*) and care (*aroha*). In 2023 we worked across all levels of the organisation to identify the behaviours that help us live our values and guide our work. These are underscored in each section of the report. More details on our values are provided on page 12 of this report.

## FLAGSHIPS

Flagships were introduced in 2022 to bring together SPC's scientific and technical abilities and deliver integrated responses to critical regional priorities. Our four flagships, Climate Change, Oceans, Gender and Food Systems bring a One SPC approach to the challenges and opportunities facing the region. They have ambitious targets and work at scale to achieve collective impact towards SPC's Strategic Plan 2022–2031 and the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent* (2050 Strategy). More details on our flagships are found on page 80 of this report.

## DIGITAL EARTH PACIFIC: DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ENABLING DECISION-MAKING USING EARTH OBSERVATIONS AT SCALE

Digital Earth Pacific (DEP) is a digital earth observation information service developed by SPC to provide PICTs with free access to satellite data for evidence-based decision-making. Collaborating with local communities, SPC conducted needs assessments and established DEP's governance framework. DEP, which was officially launched at CRGA 53 and showcased at COP28, offers streamlined access to decades of satellite data for applications like post-disaster humanitarian aid targeting, coastal erosion mapping and understanding food security. With over 70 users so far, DEP is available to member countries, regional/international agencies, governments and academia. Tailored workshops provided by SPC enhanced engagement and highlighted the value of earth observation in addressing real-world issues. Integrating DEP into regional climate change projects ensures long-term sustainability and quality improvement of the service.



Geoinformatics Officer at SPC demonstrating DEP at the official launch.

# ABOUT THIS REPORT

*The Pacific Community Results Report 2023 illustrates the impact of SPC's science, knowledge and innovation on PICTs, and the benefits they bring for Pacific peoples, their ocean, other natural resources, systems and institutions. This is the second report in response to the Strategic Plan 2022–2031.*

This report covers the period January to December 2023.

Every year we endeavour to improve the results report in response to feedback, including recommendations on the previous report from the CRGA Subcommittee.

All the results included in this report are accessible online via our Results Explorer, an interactive dashboard hosted on the Pacific Data Hub (PDH). With this tool, you can view results spanning from 2018 to 2023, searching by country, SDG, KFA, year, result type or keyword. The Results Explorer is available in English and French.



[See Appendix 1](#) for further information on results reporting methodology, including alignment with the SDGs and the 2050 Strategy, and details of the improvements that have been incorporated.



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## LEARNING FROM OUR EVALUATIONS

*In 2023 we commissioned 11 evaluations and reviews, nine external and two internal. Of the 11 completed evaluations, all reports have been completed, four have been published, and the rest are generally available for SPC and donors. Six evaluations were also planned for 2024.*

Overall, the evaluations showed that the projects delivered by SPC were relevant to regional and national priorities and making progress towards delivering outcomes, and that SPC was well-placed to deliver future work. The evaluations reinforced the importance of engagement and good relationships, in particular for coordination and collaboration purposes and to ensure that projects were achieving outcomes for member countries. We learned that there is still greater room to engage more with stakeholders and users at multiple levels to ensure ongoing relevance and strategic positioning and to support coordination and learning. The role of MEL in supporting effective planning, delivery and monitoring was highlighted. The evaluations also identified opportunities for SPC to strengthen our internal processes to support efficient, timely and responsive programmes of work, and to leverage greater investment to build on achievements and enhance the reach and sustainability of programmes of work. We also learned more about the value and opportunities of mainstreaming rights-based approaches in reaching all members of the community.

Highlighted below are findings and learnings gleaned from four evaluations completed in 2023:

### 1. Innovative programming for young Pacific girls

**Title:** *Pacific Girl Mid-Term Review 2023*

**Target countries:** *Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu*

Pacific Girl is a unique regional programme designed specifically for adolescent girls in the Pacific region. It operates across six Pacific Island countries with the aim of advancing the rights and opportunities of girls to reach their full potential. The review aimed to enhance the programme's effectiveness by identifying its strengths, successes and innovations to build upon, while also recognising challenges and making necessary adjustments based on lessons learned.

The review confirmed that adolescent girls' interests and priorities are increasingly visible in decision-making, and significant impact was made in individual girls' lives and in advocacy for the integration of their priorities into formal rules and policies. There was also evidence indicating girls are taking what they have learnt via Pacific Girl and applying it to other spaces, and that girls' increased agency will continue beyond the Pacific Girl programme. During and after participating in Pacific Girl, many girls assume

leadership roles in their schools and communities, with some also present on national and regional platforms.

The review found that there is an opportunity to strengthen adolescent girls' priorities in national commitments and to consider adolescent girl inclusion as an intentional approach to ensure adolescent girls are considered, visible and prioritised in programmes, strategies and frameworks beyond Pacific Girl.

### 2. Strengthening civil society organisation (CSO) advocacy capacities in human rights and human rights campaigns

**Title:** *Evaluation of the Pacific People Advancing Change (PPAC) programme*

**Target countries:** *Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu*

The PPAC programme is delivered by HRSD in eight countries and builds advocacy capacity for Pacific CSOs engaged in human rights and supports specific human rights campaigns. The evaluation was conducted to determine the programme's impact and effectiveness and to identify opportunities to strengthen it.

The evaluation found that the PPAC programme has contributed greatly to progress in gender equity, youth empowerment, more inclusive societies for LGBTQI+ communities and rights of people with disabilities through empowerment, shifts in attitudes, long-term social changes and legislative changes. Grantees have advanced the rights of women and marginalised groups in various ways. For example, in Solomon Islands, one grantee advocated successfully to become a member of the National Advisory Committee on Children (NACC). Following this, they were able to rally support from NACC members for an amendment to the legal marriage age of Solomon Islanders from 15 to 18 years of age. The combination of funding with mentoring and training to CSOs was a critical factor in the programme's success in strengthening advocacy capacity.

The evaluation found there were opportunities to support CSOs to leverage greater investment to build on impacts and implement larger programmes and strengthen SPC's internal mechanisms to better support CSOs to implement their programmes in their local contexts, including changing economic circumstances.

### 3. Improving access to Pacific statistics and data

**Title:** *Improving Access to Pacific Statistics and Data Initiative (PSD) evaluation*

**Target countries:** *Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu*

The PSD initiative, led by SDD and Information Services (IS), has included the development of the Pacific Data Hub (PDH) platform, support to data collection and monitoring for the SDGs, improvements to data governance, curation and dissemination, and capacity development for evidence-based decision-making. The evaluation built off existing evidence from a 2021 mid-term evaluation, with specific lines of inquiry designed to inform a second phase of the initiative.

The evaluation found the PSD initiative has been responsive to context and has contributed to developing statistical capability and capacity of members and improved access and dissemination of statistics to a range of users. The initiative has helped strengthen SPC's position as a key data steward in the Pacific and will enable SPC to deliver regional solutions to future data challenges such as climate change adaptation and cybersecurity. The MEL framework was effective at adapting and provided robust information on progress, with the evaluation recommending a greater focus on outcome analysis in phase two of PSD. The evaluation recommended that SPC engage more with data producers and users at multiple levels to ensure ongoing relevance and strategic positioning. This includes data and statistics agencies and development partners for greater coordination and enhanced effectiveness for users, and with country users to ensure access and relevance and to support the integration of official statistics into government decision-making.

There are also opportunities to strengthen data governance and stewardship to improve quality and maturity. The evaluation findings will inform the design and implementation of a second phase of PSD (PSDII).

### 4. Enhancing Agricultural Trade through Economic Integration in the region

**Title:** *Safe Agricultural trade Facilitation through Economic integration in the Pacific (SAFE Pacific)*

**Target countries:** *Pacific Region with all Pacific ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) countries, including Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste*

The SAFE Pacific project provides targeted assistance to support small Pacific Island countries to increase export capacity and improve economic growth. The project is delivered by our LRD team and helps members address barriers to trade, supports improved compliance and harmonisation with international standards, and enhances value-added products. The results-oriented monitoring review of the project was conducted at the mid-point of the four-year project with funding from the EU.

The evaluation found that the project was highly relevant to the target groups and had successfully identified opportunities for value-added, climate-sensitive and increasingly carbon-neutral products and delivered capacity-building activities that were adaptive, relevant and innovative. Stakeholders, including government officials and private sector stakeholders – particularly women, NGOs, associations and small-scale farmers – increased their knowledge, professional competence and competitiveness at the international level. Rights-based approaches are mainstreamed, and the project engages with and aims to ensure improvements in all target groups. There was particularly strong interest and participation from women, although rates are still lower than men. The impacts of COVID and inefficient delivery structures and mechanisms contributed to less progress towards outcomes than expected, and these need to be addressed.

The evaluation recommended that the project engage with other complementary activities in the region for learning and coordination purposes and to help achieve outcomes. It also identified opportunities to strengthen monitoring and reporting, including for different population groups.



# ABOUT SPC

*SPC is the principal scientific and technical organisation in the Pacific region, proudly supporting development since 1947. We are an international development organisation owned and governed by our 27 country and territory members.*

## VISION

We are voyaging towards a resilient Pacific. A region of peace, harmony and prosperity, where all our people and communities live safe, free, healthy, sustainable and productive lives. As wayfinders, our paths are intertwined with the culture, environment and resources of our Blue Pacific Continent. We recognise our role as stewards of our Pacific Ocean and are responding with urgent collective action to the threat of climate change.

## MISSION

To progress all Pacific peoples' rights and well-being through science and knowledge, guided by our deep understanding of Blue Pacific contexts and cultures.

## HOW WE WORK

We serve our Blue Pacific region as One SPC with our members and partners, working in unity across sectors, programmes, services and locations. We support sustainable development by integrating science and Pacific knowledge; strengthening individual and institutional capacity; building trusted relationships; working in culturally and contextually

responsive and people-centred ways; and creating a shared understanding and pathways to impact.

Our unique organisation works in more than 20 sectors in 22 PICTs. As a Pacific organisation, we serve our members by interweaving science, technology and innovation with cultural wisdom and indigenous knowledge for our region's collective betterment. We harness our expertise across climate, ocean, land, culture, rights and good governance, investing in Pacific people, working innovatively, and delivering through national, regional and international engagement and commitments, centres of excellence, and country, integrated and sectoral programming.

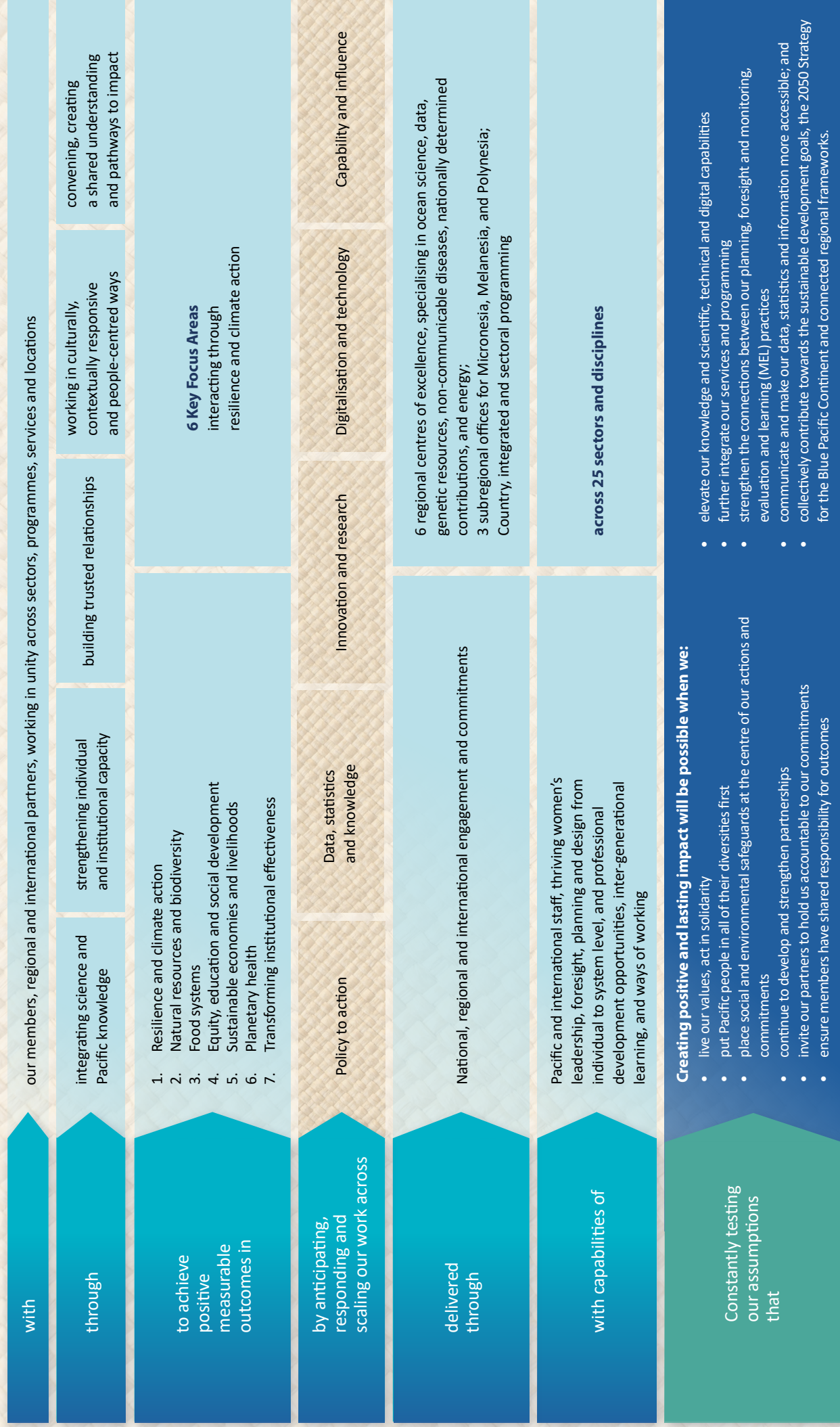
SPC contributes to four development goals for a unified, safe, just, equitable and resilient Blue Pacific.

- **Goal 1** – All Pacific people benefit from sustainable development.
- **Goal 2** – All Pacific communities and cultures are empowered and resilient.
- **Goal 3** – All Pacific people reach their full potential and live long and healthy lives.
- **Goal 4** – One SPC delivers integrated programmes through streamlined services.



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique

# OUR THEORY OF CHANGE



## LIVING OUR VALUES

Our Pacific values – respect, solidarity and mutuality – guide us in navigating towards our collective well-being and prosperity. Voyaging together as we serve our Blue Pacific, we embrace four key values.



### Enginkehlap/Generosity

**We provide for each other. We work together towards our shared mission valuing all contributions.**

We work alongside our members to meaningfully contribute to their priorities and enhance the uptake and application of outcomes. We foster a culture of giving back to our communities via support to collaborative efforts like the Pacific Regional Federation of Resilience Professionals, promoting resilience education in both the resilience and education sectors.

We listen and work collaboratively with our members to better respond to their priorities, for example through co-development of the Pacific Schools Information Management System (PacSIMS), allowing PICTs to store and access information related to students, teachers, school heads, assessments and staff development with ease.



### Kaitiakitanga/Stewardship

**We are stewards of our Blue Pacific. Our history, knowledge and science hold the solutions for contemporary challenges.**

In 2023 SPC was the kaitiaki (steward) of six key regional meetings for Pacific Heads, including Fisheries, Agriculture & Forestry, Health, Transport & Energy, Planning & Statistics, and Culture. Through SPC's established trust with its members and intentionally designed agendas, these convenings foster vital dialogue, learning and decision-making that drive regional solutions, such as collective responsibility for tackling climate issues. Initiatives included the revitalisation of the Pacific Health Information Network, review of the *Regional School Leadership Standards* and oversight of the implementation of the *Pacific Regional Culture Strategy 2022–2032*, continuing to provide opportunities for SPC to work alongside its members to enhance our collaboration and advance our collective priorities.

As a leader in regional statistics, SPC advocates for the collection and dissemination of people-centred data to inform evidence-based policies. We take data governance seriously and work to uphold our stewardship of data collection with integrity.

The Corporate Communications team is reshaping how values are integrated into SPC's work, enhancing communications stewardship through a new community of practice across the organisation and development of a draft values framework to guide their work and interactions.



### Gida Gaituvwa/Unity

**We progress together. Leaving no one behind, we harness the richness of our history and culture across generations.**

In recognition of changing learning environments and practices, SPC's Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP) facilitated the review and revision of the *2010 Pacific Regional Teacher Standards* to ensure that teachers and school leaders across the Pacific are qualified, skilled and can demonstrate their competencies against approved standards.

PCCOS employed systems thinking for the design of the Pacific Islands Conference on Ocean Science and Ocean Management. This design process was a collaborative effort, involving a multi-stakeholder working group that met weekly for four months leading up to the event, ensuring a comprehensive and unified approach to the conference's programming and an enabling platform for voices to be heard across stakeholder groups.



### Aroha/Care

**We care for each other. The well-being of our people and places are at the centre of our efforts.**

Our approaches nurture care, inclusivity and respect for both our members and our staff. When we brought members together for the Tuna Data Workshop, we prioritised a diverse audience's needs, ensuring logistical support for attendance in Noumea and facilitating a welcoming environment that included social events and materials available in participants' native languages.

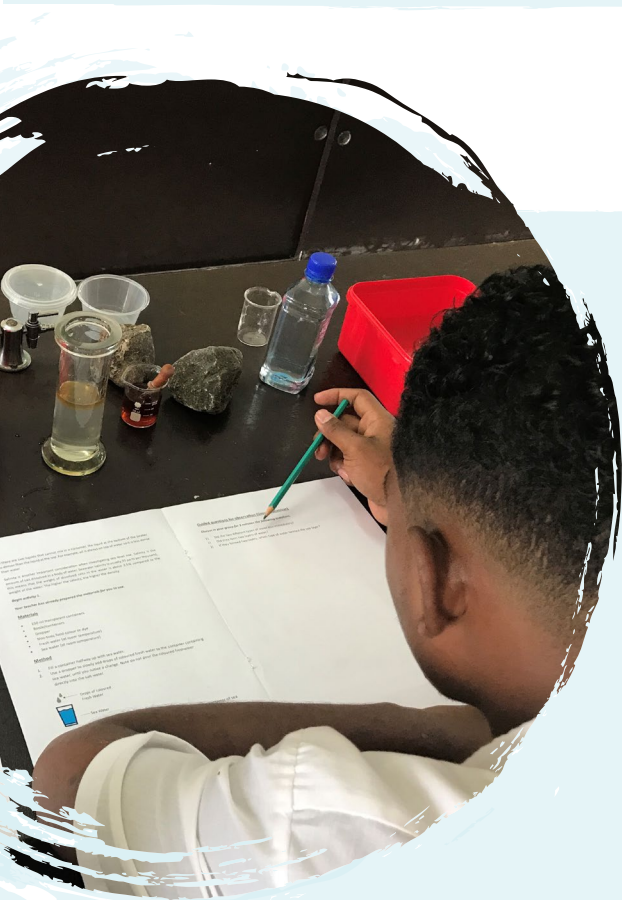
SPC champions work-life balance across its divisions, actively promoting staff wellness and well-being through initiatives such as wellness Wednesdays, yoga and bowling, highlighting our commitment to creating a supportive and balanced work environment. The HR team, in collaboration with the HRSD division and the SER team, demonstrated commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive work environment that prioritises the well-being and development of all staff members. Through initiatives such as comprehensive health and safety training and a dedicated well-being day, HR endeavours to ensure that employees feel valued, supported and empowered to thrive both personally and professionally.

## Driving success through collaborative innovation: The GEM business plan and values framework

SPC values drove the creation of the Geoscience, Energy and Maritime (GEM) division's *Business Plan 2023–2027*, engaging the senior management team, team leaders, project managers, the Strategy, Performance and Learning (SPL) team and HRSD. This new approach to business planning centred on fostering a multidisciplinary, collaborative, inclusive and cross-divisional process, enhancing staff awareness and ownership of the plan. The process included the socialisation of values and establishment of a GEM values framework. GEM's new approach supports One SPC's streamlined processes and resource mobilisation. The cross-divisional learning resulting from the process led to a shift in staff attitudes, fostering increased ownership, effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and transparency. Lessons from this work underscored the importance of collaboration, effective communication and leadership involvement in achieving success.



GEM senior management team business plan consultations.



Students perform the land and sea ice melting experiment.

## Assessing education for the Blue Pacific: Introducing the Pacific Assessment for Lower Secondary (PALS)

Tasked under the *Pacific Regional Education Framework* (PacREF), SPC developed pilot tools for assessing lower secondary students across 15 PICs, aiming to improve regional educational outcomes. The design of the Pacific Assessment for Lower Secondary (PALS), driven by regional collaboration on the Blue Pacific agenda, embeds a scientific theme within each of the assessment domains, with a particular focus on climate change and sustainability. Analysis of PALS data will equip emerging leaders with the knowledge and skills to tackle these challenges into the future. This work is a demonstration of the SPC value of kaitiakitanga (stewardship): we are stewards of our Blue Pacific, and our history, knowledge and science hold the solutions for contemporary challenges.



Students perform the ocean acidification experiment.



# PERFORMANCE REPORT

*Credit: David Becker*

# THE REGIONAL PICTURE

2023 proved to be a rewarding yet demanding year for the region.

We have consistently showcased our resilience and unity in our collective endeavours to rebound from the protracted effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside navigating our complex geostrategic environment. The triumph of the Pacific Games in Solomon Islands serves as a shining example of our unwavering spirit of unity and resilience in the face of shared adversities.

## REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

Pacific leaders committed to implementation of the 2050 Strategy, and SPC – along with sister CROP agencies – committed its contributions to regional collective actions, in complementarity and coherence with its existing actions to deliver the aspirations of the SPC Strategic Plan 2022–2031.

SPC plays a significant role in the regional architecture of the Pacific through its strong scientific and technical capabilities and Pacific ways of working to support mechanisms and frameworks that address regional issues and priorities. To be fit for purpose to deliver One SPC and a transformed, effective

Our commitment to the 2050 Strategy, underpinned by SPC's Strategic Plan 2022–2031, underscores our enduring dedication to fostering sustainable development and enhancing the well-being of our communities. Demand for SPC's technical and operational services has grown, while programme delivery has been affected by higher operation costs and challenges resourcing initiatives to support the increasing and evolving needs of members and partners.

institution, members initiated an independent institutional review to complement the regional architecture review.

The review of regional architecture aims to strengthen the effectiveness, coherence and resilience of the Pacific's regional institutional framework. This will ensure its responsiveness to the changing needs and priorities of the region and streamline and harmonise the complex network of regional organisations, including CROP agencies, to collaborate on diverse issues such as climate change, disaster resilience, sustainable development and security.

A photograph showing a person wading in shallow, brownish water towards a small, low-lying island with dense green vegetation. In the background, a larger island with more trees and a small building is visible under a clear sky. The water is calm, and the overall scene suggests a coastal or estuarine environment.

© Nolwenn Photographie  
Credit: Nolwenn Guilbert

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS

Climate change remains the most significant threat facing our Pacific Blue Continent. The Pacific region is experiencing significant variations in weather patterns due to climate change, including shifts in temperature and precipitation, heightened occurrences of extreme climate events and rising sea levels.

In March 2023, twin cyclones struck Vanuatu, affecting the lives of over 250,000 people and destroying homes, schools and basic services. In October, tropical cyclone Lola also made landfall in Vanuatu, affecting over 110,000 people.<sup>1</sup> The wide-ranging and devastating impacts of

these cyclones affected both human communities and natural ecosystems.

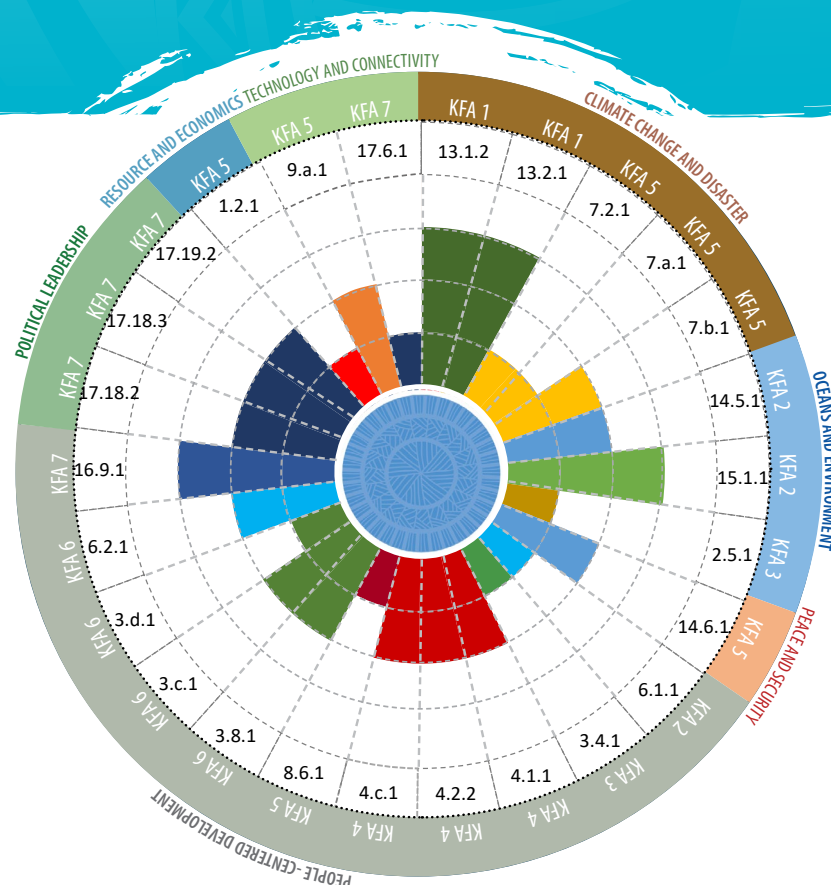
In July, the World Meteorological Organization declared the onset of El Niño conditions in the tropical Pacific for the first time in seven years. This sets the stage for a likely surge in global temperatures and disruptive weather and climate patterns. The impacts of El Niño were felt across the region, with a deficit of rain, abnormally dry conditions in some areas and droughts declared in the Federated States of Micronesia in September and for the islands of Tongatapu and 'Eua in Tonga in October.



<sup>1</sup> Reliefweb 2023. <https://reliefweb.int/report/vanuatu/vanuatu-tropical-cyclone-lola-operation-update-1-mdrvu011> (accessed 8 May 2024).

# OUR IMPACT

*Our impact is measured by our contributions to the SDGs and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*



**Figure 1:** Regional progress on the SDGs for 26 of the 47 SDG indicators that SPC has identified as relevant to its work.

Through our shared values and partnerships, SPC continues to create positive change in the lives of Pacific people and in their communities. We work alongside our members to advance their national development priorities, using our technical and scientific capability to reach and support communities and influence positive change in the economic, environmental, social, cultural and health landscapes within the region.

Our contribution to achieving regional development goals is through implementation of our strategic plan. We measure our impact using SDG indicators that align with the 2050 Strategy, our members' National Strategic Development Plans and our key focus areas.

In collaboration with our MEL network, we identified 47 indicators associated with the 17 SDGs that are relevant to our work. These indicators help us to understand our impact and guide future action. Because these are regional indicators, they also reflect the contribution of country governments as well as numerous national and regional partners and stakeholders.

All SDG indicators are tracked through national data collection efforts. While the region is making progress in some SDG target areas, other areas are experiencing setbacks or lack data to accurately assess progress. Regional progress is an aggregation of progress at national level on each SDG indicator, which includes changes in the conditions of individuals, communities, or systems. Progress on 26 indicators is highlighted under each relevant KFA. The remaining 21 indicators relevant to our work either lack data to assess levels of progress or show regression. Details on each SDG indicator can be accessed here: <https://pacificdata.org/dashboard/17-goals-transform-pacific>.

As the custodian of the region's data via the Pacific Data Hub, SPC remains committed to advocating for ongoing investment in enhancing the availability and quality of Pacific data. With the launch of the 2050 Implementation Plan and the Regional Collective Actions (RCAs), the need for better, higher-quality data has become even more significant.

## OUR CONTRIBUTION TO PROGRESS TOWARDS SDGS

This section describes SPC's contribution towards achieving the SDGs using the 47 indicators that are relevant to our work.

### KFA1: Resilience and climate action

SDG indicator	13.1.2	13.2.1
SDG indicator name	Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030	Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, strategies as reported in adaptation communications and national communications

*There is insufficient data to assess progress towards indicator 13.b.1 (Number of least developed countries and small island developing States with nationally determined contributions long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, strategies as reported in adaptation communications and national communications) and indicator 14.2.1 (Number of countries using ecosystem-based approaches to managing marine areas).*

Progress: ● Average progress ● On-track or achieved

Our contribution to achieving the SDGs related to climate change is focused on embedding climate resilience across all our KFAs. We support members to advocate for action on climate change at global platforms and fora, and we work with members and donor partners to include climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience strategies in national policies and sectoral strategies. Our technical support has contributed to a regional hub for climate finance, disaster-risk-reduction strategies, early warning systems, climate-resilient infrastructure and capacity-building initiatives. We actively engage with and empower youth to champion climate action and work with communities to enhance their capacity to adapt to adverse effects of climate change. Our work spans sectors including agriculture, fisheries, energy, transport, water resources, health, social development and education.

### KFA 2: Natural resources and biodiversity

SDG indicator	6.1.1	14.5.1	15.1.1
SDG indicator name	Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas	Land area covered by forest

*There is insufficient data to assess progress towards indicator 14.3.1 (Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations).*

Progress: ● Average progress ● On-track or achieved

Our contribution to achieving the SDGs relevant to the sustainable and resilient management of natural resources and the protection of biodiversity recognises that these are fundamental to community livelihoods and security. We work alongside our members to conserve, restore and sustainably manage natural resources, aligning with country priorities and regional commitments. Our technical support has contributed to more sustainable management of fisheries resources, water sources, energy and georesources. We have worked with members to protect and restore ecosystems, including wetlands, oceans and landscapes, and enhanced the biodiversity of soil and plant genetic resources. Our scientific evidence has informed policies and decisions and has promoted regional capacities and practices. We also advocate for conservation measures and amplify Pacific voices in critical discussions across the region.

### KFA 3: Food systems

SDG indicator	2.5.1	3.4.1
SDG indicator name	Number of (a) plant and (b) animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities	Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease

*There is insufficient data to assess progress towards indicator 2.1.1 (Prevalence of undernourishment).*

Progress: ● Average progress ● On-track or achieved

We support the achievement of the SDGs relevant to healthy and sustainable food systems in the Pacific through our focus on assisting members to develop productive and resilient agricultural and maritime food systems. Our technical support has contributed to the development of agricultural value chains to improve market access and increase incomes for smallholder farmers. We support the development of sustainable food systems and water resources through the provision of policy support, technical advice and capacity building activities. We continue to assist members combat the NCD crisis through the development and delivery of innovative public health strategies designed to improve overall health outcomes in the Pacific<sup>2</sup>.

#### KFA 4: Equity, education and social development

SDG indicator	4.1.1	4.2.2	4.C.1
SDG indicator name	Proportion of children and young people (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex	Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex	Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications, by education level

Progress: ● Average progress ● On-track or achieved

SPC contributes to achieving the SDGs related to education by investing in building the capacity of the education sector across the region and supporting members achieve universal access to primary and secondary education. We collaborate with educational institutions to deliver meaningful student learning outcomes, develop teacher skills and measure student achievement across the region. Our technical support has enhanced the quality and relevance of classroom learning and contributed to equipping students with the skills and knowledge necessary for their success and to make meaningful contributions to society. We also support members to address wider barriers to education, such as poverty, gender inequality and inadequate infrastructure.

SPC incorporates gender equity, social development and culture into all parts of our work. We champion key regional and national commitments and are implementing our new Gender Flagship to support social development and achievement of the SDGs. Our technical support focuses on collaborating with others to create opportunities and platforms for women, girls and young people to fully exercise their rights and participate equally in all aspects of society.

#### KFA 5: Sustainable economies and livelihoods

SDG indicator	7.2.1	7.a.1	7.b.1	8.6.1	9.a.1	14.6.1
SDG indicator name	Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption	International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems	Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing and developed countries (in watts per capita)	Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training	Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure	Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

*There is insufficient data to assess progress towards indicator 1.2.1 (Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age) and indicator 1.2.2 (Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions)*

Progress: ● Average progress ● On-track or achieved

Our contribution to the SDGs related to sustainable and improved livelihoods centres on our support to members around promoting sustainable economic opportunities for communities across the region. We work to strengthen partnerships for accessing markets, adopting clean and renewable energies, safeguarding the region from transboundary pests and diseases, and protecting our maritime borders. Our technical support continues to assist the development of sustainable coastal fisheries and aquaculture as pathways to improved livelihoods.

<sup>2</sup> For KFA 4 there are insufficient data for SDG indicator 4.7.1, 5.1.1, 5.2.2, 5.2.1, 16.1.3, 16.7.2. Details can be found here: <https://pacificdata.org/dashboard/17-goals-transform-pacific>

## KFA 6: Planetary health

SDG indicator	3.8.1	3.c.1	3.d.1	6.2.1
SDG indicator name	Coverage of essential health services	Health worker density and distribution	International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness	Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water

Progress: ● Average progress ● On-track or achieved

To contribute to achieving the SDGs related to planetary health, SPC's work recognises the interconnectedness of human health and security with the broader ecosystem. Collaborating with members and partners, our technical support contributes to strengthening health systems through the development of policies, strategies and plans, and capacity-building for health professionals. We support human and plant disease surveillance and control, engage in health promotion and education activities, and contribute to improving access to essential health services, particularly in remote and underserved areas. Our support for emergency response and disaster preparedness efforts also contributes towards the SDGs and includes accessing medical supplies, training health workers in disaster response and coordinating international assistance during emergencies.

## KFA 7: Transforming institutional effectiveness

SDG indicator	13.a.1	17.6.2	17.18.2	17.18.3	17.19.2
SDG indicator name	Amounts provided and mobilized in United States dollars per year in relation to the continued existing collective mobilization goal of the \$100 billion commitment through to 2025	Fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed	Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding	Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration

*There is insufficient data to assess progress towards indicator 17.17.1 (Amount of United States dollars committed to public-private partnerships for infrastructure).*

Progress: ● Average progress ● On-track or achieved

KFA 7 serves as the foundation for all our achievements as we work towards improved institutional effectiveness under the unified banner of One SPC. Our contribution to the relevant SDGs is through our commitment to promoting integrated approaches to development, promoting collaboration among institutions and working across sectors to achieve common goals and amplify our impact. We have strengthened our internal systems to enhance our accountability mechanisms and ensure the efficient use of resources, and we are committed to improving our monitoring and reporting processes around development outcomes and the use of data to inform our decisions. As custodians of regional data, we continue to strengthen data governance and management, develop data collections and enhance access to data by our members.



## CENTRE FOR PACIFIC CROPS AND TREES (CEPACT)

In response to a 1996 recommendation by the Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (PHOAFS), the Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT) was established to protect, conserve, and optimise the use of the region's plant genetic resources. Managed by SPC, CePaCT focuses on developing systems for the conservation, duplication, development, distribution and utilisation of plant genetic resources in the Pacific. It engages with multiple stakeholders to maintain a thriving seed system in the Pacific region that contributes to food and nutrition security and sustainable livelihoods.

### Impacts and key milestones:

- **Recognition as a regional public good:** CePaCT has become a critical entity within SPC and is recognised by the Crop Trust, the FAO ITPGRFA and CGIAR for its role in building resilience against the effects and challenges of climate change, dietary health and agricultural productivity in the Pacific.
- **Bolstered conservation and outcome achievements for the region:** CePaCT conserves over 2,000 accessions of essential crops and trees and has distributed 97,000 tissue culture plants of more than 16 crops since 2004 and more than 1500 kilograms of seeds since 2012 to 50+ countries (including the 22 PICTs). From 2019 - 2023, CePaCT distributed an average of 261 accessions per year to 17 countries, with 46% of them being climate resilient. CePaCT conserves in vitro accessions for close to 70% of the taro genetic resources held ex situ globally and is therefore considered the largest holder of taro genetic resources in the world.
- **Investments in operational excellence and impact:** As a Centre of Excellence, CePaCT has expanded its scientific capabilities and infrastructure through the construction of new labs and a quarantine greenhouse. Comprehensive external reviews and the implementation of its 2023 Investment Plan highlighted CePaCT's commitment to excellence and continuous improvement in conserving plant genetic resources in the Pacific.

## TARGET COUNTRIES:

All PICTs / Global

## PARTNERSHIP

SPC, Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust), DFAT, MFAT, FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), FAO, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), French Pacific Fund, FAO, Pharma Plus, PAPGREN (Pacific Agricultural Plant Genetic Resources Network), International Coconut Community (ICC), University of Queensland, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, Consultative group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

Link: <https://lrd.spc.int/work-areas/genetic-resources/cepact>



*"Climate change... wipes away all these unique genetic resources that we depend on for our food needs. If no-one is going to come in and find a way to protect them, they will disappear forever."*

— Logotonu Meleisea Waqainabete, Programme Leader for Genetic Resources at SPC (Source: ABC)



1998-2009	2010-2020	2021-2023
Establishment	Expansion and Innovation	Recognition
<p><b>1998:</b> Regional Germplasm Centre (RGC) established</p> <p><b>2001:</b> Pacific Agricultural Plant Genetic Resources Network (PAPGREN) established as the coordination body for CePaCT</p> <p><b>2007:</b> RGC is renamed as the Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT)</p> <p><b>2009:</b> Signed an agreement with the ITPGRFA. The Global Crop Trust and CGIAR recognised CePaCT as a focal point for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) in the Pacific region</p>	<p><b>2010:</b> CePaCT relocates from SPC's Nabua Campus to its Narere Campus, which allowed for larger scientific facilities, including a new Virus Indexing Laboratory for pathogen testing</p> <p><b>2017:</b> External review of CePaCT by the Global Crop Diversity Trust</p> <p><b>2018:</b> CePaCT adopted the international genebank Quality Management System (QMS) standards (informed by the 2017 Crop Trust Audit)</p> <p><b>2017-2018:</b> CePaCT's Investment Plan was developed (its first business case)</p> <p><b>2019:</b> CePaCT's Investment Plan 2019-2023 was rolled out</p> <p><b>2020:</b> Pacific Island Tree Seed Centre (PITSC) was established and integrated into CePaCT</p>	<p><b>2022:</b> Received the Island Innovation Award for innovative island research; Opened a new Molecular Lab and Quarantine Greenhouse</p> <p><b>2023:</b> The second external review of CePaCT was undertaken as well as the External Independent Review of the implementation of CePaCT Investment Plan (2019-2023), which focused on all areas including operations and strategic relevance based on OECD-DAC criteria</p>



## THE REGIONAL PACIFIC NDC HUB: SUPPORTING PACIFIC LEADERSHIP FOR CLIMATE ACTION

The Regional Pacific NDC Hub, established in 2017, supports Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) in implementing, enhancing, and financing their climate commitments under the Paris Agreement. The Hub develops NDC roadmaps, investment plans, and builds local project implementation capacities, providing access to necessary data, resources, and expertise. SPC offers expert guidance to align climate actions with national policies; assists in securing financial resources; and strengthens local capabilities in climate planning and policy implementation.

### Impacts and key milestones:

- The Regional NDC Hub are the leads for advancing PICT NDCs - with 64 projects implemented by NDC Hub partners. SPC supported 16 projects across 9 PICTs (Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Nauru, Niue, Kiribati, FSM, Tonga, Vanuatu), contributing to four Strategic Outcome Areas, two of which are highlighted below.

#### 1. Strategic Priority Outcome: Improve NDC Planning, Policy, Strategy, and Legislation

- Nauru: Launched two initiatives to enhance agricultural resilience and water and sanitation infrastructure, resulting in Nauru's first Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) plan. This positioned Nauru as models of sustainability and resilience. The initiatives are expected to enhance food and water security; improve public health outcomes; and build a stronger, more climate-resilient economy.
- Vanuatu: Vanuatu's Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Policy was reviewed to create a strategic blueprint for managing climate risks; fostering resilient infrastructure; enhancing ecological protection; and promoting sustainable development. The updated Climate Change and DRR Policy is expected to provide a strategic blueprint that guides the country in effectively managing

### TARGET COUNTRIES:

Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

### PARTNERSHIP:

The Regional Pacific NDC Hub is administered by GLZ, and implemented in partnership with the GGGI, SPC and SPREP. Mobilizing this wide range of support to the Pacific would not have been possible without the kind and generous support of the donors of the NDC Hub which include the EU, BMZ of Germany, the DFAT and MFAT.

Link: <https://pacificndc.org/pacific-ndcs>



*Climate action and the sustainable development agenda are inseparable; as we rebuild our economies from the effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic, climate investments present a unique opportunity for Pacific economies to build back better and ensure a green, blue, and inclusive recovery - this will require policy ingenuity, as well as genuine partnerships that translates these policies into action.*

— Former Fijian Prime Minister Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama



climate risks. This policy aims to safeguard the livelihoods and well-being of the population against the backdrop of increasing climate variability and disaster risks.

## 2. Strategic Priority Outcome: Strengthened Enabling Environment for NDC Implementation

- Niue was supported by SPC to develop its Niue's Climate Change Communication Strategy which was endorsed by the Department of Environment on behalf of the Government of Niue. The strategy is aligned with the Niue National Strategic Plan (2016-2026) and Climate Change Policy (2010) and SPC has provided in-country training on the strategy. The Communication Strategy aims to raise public awareness of climate change, including the impacts of national policies, programs, and projects among Niue citizens and various stakeholders. It ensures consistent messaging, promotes best practices in result-driven communication, and enhances public understanding and engagement.
- Federated States of Micronesia (FSM): Facilitated energy-efficient buildings in FSM through the installation of solar-powered air conditioning units in six public buildings. Their installation highlights the benefits of technological innovation in supporting national environmental goals. Investing in energy-efficient and low-carbon buildings is a cost-effective way to reduce emissions as well as the use of fossil fuels and improve air quality. The installation of 19 solar-powered air conditioners in Pohnpei will reduce buildings' carbon dioxide emissions, equivalent to approximately 29,000 kg CO<sub>2</sub> annually.
- In 2022, the Steering Committee for the Regional NDC Hub endorsed handing over the Regional NDC Hub to the Pacific Community (SPC). This strategic move aimed to consolidate regional climate efforts under an experienced framework, enhancing coordination, impact, and sustainability for climate resilience and carbon reduction goals across the Pacific.

2017- 2018	2019- 2020	2021- 2023
Establishment	Engagement	Recognition/lead
<p><b>2017:</b> The Regional NDC Hub officially launched at COP23 in Bonn, Germany</p> <p><b>2017:</b> The governance arrangements for the Regional Pacific NDC Hub were established, including the establishment of a Steering Committee</p> <p><b>2018:</b> Received the first official requests for support from our 14 member countries and supported the preparation for COP 24</p>	<p><b>2019:</b> SPC signed an agreement with GlZ as one of the hub's primary Partners along with SPREP and GGGI</p> <p><b>2019:</b> SPC hosted the third regional workshop on the integration of the ocean into NDCs, the special ocean-climate negotiators symposium, planning workshop in Samoa</p> <p><b>2020:</b> Planning workshop held in Fiji and launch of the Phase 2</p>	<p><b>2021:</b> Launched a comprehensive web platform for the NDC Hub, hosted by the Pacific Data Hub</p> <p><b>2021:</b> The NDC Hub Strategy 2030 is endorsed and launched at COP 26</p> <p><b>2022:</b> The Regional NDC Hub project Management Tool (PMT) system re-designed, hosted and managed by SPC</p> <p><b>2023:</b> Steering Committee endorsed the handing over of the Regional NDC Hub to SPC</p> <p><b>2023:</b> SPC and partners mobilise funding for Phase 4</p>



## The Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN)

The Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) is a voluntary network comprised of 22 PICTs and organisations and is dedicated to advancing public health surveillance and effective responses to health challenges. Focused on surveillance, prevention, preparedness and response to communicable disease outbreaks in the region, PPHSN has achieved significant progress and empowered member countries to better plan, prepare for, and respond to disease outbreaks, a critical asset notably during the COVID-19 response.

SPC is the focal point for the PPHSN-Coordinating Body, and provides coordination and technical oversight and implementation of network activities, led by its Public Health Division.

### Impacts and key milestones:

- Robust alert network for health professionals in the region:** (PacNet): The PPHSN's PacNet and the Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System (PSSS) provide a robust alert network for infectious diseases like dengue, measles, monkeypox, and COVID-19, enabling regional health professionals to access timely warnings and resources. PacNet, with over 980 subscribers, has disseminated over 16,900 alerts across 22 PICTs since it began in 1997, a crucial mechanism supporting regional awareness and preparedness.
- Enhanced collaborative solutions for infection prevention and control in the region (PICNet):** PICNet fosters collaboration to improve safety in healthcare settings across the region. SPC has supported the development of Regional Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines which have been distributed in English and French to all PICTs. Furthermore, 11 standard operating procedures and audit tools have been developed.
- Strengthened public health laboratory services:** LabNet provides diagnostics and specialist referral services and strengthens testing capacity across the region. Over 220 Pacific health professionals have

## TARGET COUNTRIES:

All 22 SPC member countries

## PARTNERSHIP

World Health Organization (WHO), Pacific Islands Health Officers Association (PIHOA), Fiji National University (FNU), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency) (AFD), European Union (EU), US Department of State, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT)

Link: <https://www.pphsn.net/>



*"During this COVID-19 outbreak, we needed the most support in the key areas of clinical, public health, laboratory, IPC and biomedical. We know that we are not alone in our combat against COVID-19. The work of the SPC team on the ground contributes to our health systems strengthening and has boosted the local health team and frontliners' capacity".*

— Dr Tekeua Uriam, Director Health Services at the Kiribati Ministry of Health and Medical Services



*"The training received from the PGCFE courses really helped me during my deployment at the Border Health Unit during the COVID-19 response. I was confident in what I learned and able to share this during the response efforts and outbreak settings."*

— Peni Dovisawaieke Lebaivalu, Divisional Surveillance and Response Officer and PGCFE Graduate, 2019, Ministry of Health, Fiji



been trained in Laboratory Quality Management Systems; 234 shipping professionals and 32 trainers have been certified via the Shipping Infectious Substances (IATA) training; and 197 health workers were trained in microbiology to strengthen Anti-Microbial Resistance surveillance and control throughout the region. All PICTs now have automated polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technology, while 11 countries have manual reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) laboratories that will enable earlier detection of novel pathogens.

- **Bolstered regional capability in public health and data utilization for decision-making:** EpiNet has multidisciplinary outbreak response teams in every PICT for coordinated surveillance and response. Capacity building has been done in core epidemiological skills and data is utilised for public health decision-making, exemplified by the three-tiered 'Strengthening Health Interventions in the Pacific – Data for Decision Making (SHIP-DDM)' programme, which has equipped health professionals to detect and respond to outbreaks in their countries. Over

190 regional public health professionals have graduated from FNU with a first-tier Postgraduate Certificate in Field Epidemiology (PGCFE), with more than 170 other participants currently enrolled in this capacity-building program.

- **PPHSN's capability as a regional support mechanism was evidenced during response efforts to COVID-19:** Laboratory testing capabilities were enhanced with high precision molecular testing (PCR), EpiNet teams and SHIP-DDM participants involved in frontline response to national outbreaks. PSSS expanded to capture COVID-19 cases and technical support provided for PICTs to update their national infection prevention and control guidelines.
- **Adapting to the needs of the PICTs in the face of climate change:** The Pacific Vector Network was launched as a new initiative of PPHSN in June 2023. The network aims to provide a sustainable regional mechanism to coordinate and upscale the vector surveillance and control activities of PICTs, and to ensure that initiatives are appropriately tailored to the needs and priorities of PICTs.

1996-2001	2002-2016	2017-2023
Established	Expansion and innovation	Embedded
<p><b>1996:</b> PPHSN created</p> <p><b>1997:</b> PacNet starts</p> <p><b>2000:</b> LabNet launched</p> <p><b>2001:</b> EpiNet established</p>	<p><b>2002:</b> PPHSN website live (<a href="http://www.pphsn.net">http://www.pphsn.net</a>)</p> <p><b>2005:</b> Data for Decision Making (DDM) training began</p> <p><b>2006:</b> PICNet inaugurated</p> <p><b>2010:</b> Pacific syndromic surveillance system started</p> <p><b>2013:</b> DDM training programme redeveloped, shaping the foundations of the Strengthening Health Intervention in the Pacific (SHIP)-DDM</p> <p><b>2014:</b> Regional Epidemic Intelligence System (REIS) was developed by SPC, designed to generate alerts for epidemic and emerging diseases in the region, enhancing the capacity for early detection and response to health threats. <a href="https://www.spc.int/phd/epidemics/">https://www.spc.int/phd/epidemics/</a></p>	<p><b>2019:</b> SHIP-DDM became a fully accredited program through FNU</p> <p><b>2020-2023:</b> Supporting the COVID-19 response</p> <p><b>2023:</b> Pacific Vector Network launched</p>



## KFA 1

# Resilience and climate action

Future state 2031: Pacific people are thriving, with enhanced resilience from better informed decision-making and necessary resources that also enable the achievement of low carbon, climate resilient sustainable development.



CCES

Climate  
Change and  
Environmental  
Sustainability



EQAP

Educational  
Quality and  
Assessment  
Programme



FAME

Fisheries,  
Aquaculture  
and Marine  
Ecosystems



GEM

Geoscience,  
Energy and  
Maritime



HRSD

Human Rights  
and Social  
Development



LRD

Land  
Resources  
Division



PHD

Public  
Health  
Division



SDD

Statistics for  
Development  
Division

## OVERVIEW

The urgent challenge confronting our Blue Pacific Continent is climate change. Building resilience and taking climate action involves fostering adaptability to shifting conditions and extreme events alongside addressing the sustainable development priorities of members, with a focus on low-carbon, climate-resilient approaches. This includes recognising the limitations of adaptation and tackling issues of loss and damage.

SPC's dedication to strengthening resilience is evident through our multifaceted approach to supporting informed decision-making about investing in adaptation and mitigation activities. We collaborate across sectors, harnessing the power of technology, Pacific data and evidence, and promoting the use of indigenous knowledge to drive our work.

SPC's Climate Change Flagship brings together scientific evidence, capabilities and resources from across SPC to strengthen member countries' sustainable climate action efforts. Under KFA1, SPC supports the delivery of regional public goods, including the Regional Pacific Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Hub, Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre, Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP), CePaCT, PCCOS, the FAME Oceanic Fisheries programme, PDH, and Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund (AF) accreditation.

This KFA contributed 72 results and 13% of our total results for 2023. Most of our results contributed to SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and the 2050 Strategy thematic area 'Climate Change and Disasters'. We influenced change mostly through our capability and influence, data and statistics, and policy to action pathways. 64% of results for KFA 1 contribute to higher level results (change in knowledge, change in attitude, change in practice, impact).

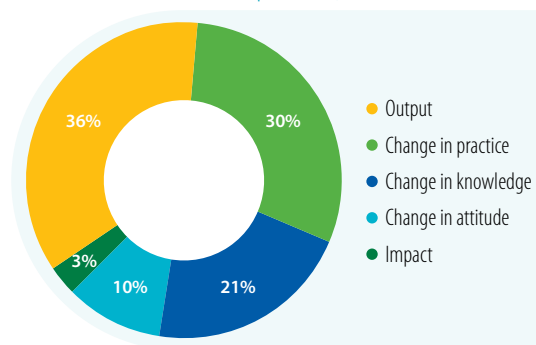
## RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

*Our Climate Change Flagship has started delivering results for members*

The implementation of our Climate Change Flagship programme began in 2023 to help PICTs achieve their low-carbon and climate-resilient sustainable development objectives. Through this flagship we have anchored investments, of NZD 30 million from MFAT and EUR 2.7 million from the Government of Denmark for the loss and damage dimension of the flagship.

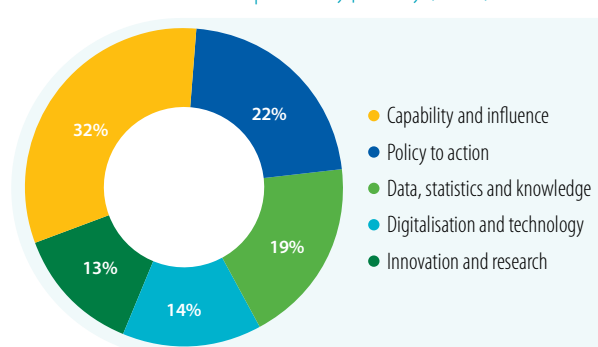
**Graph 5:**

Resilience and climate action | Results type (n=72)



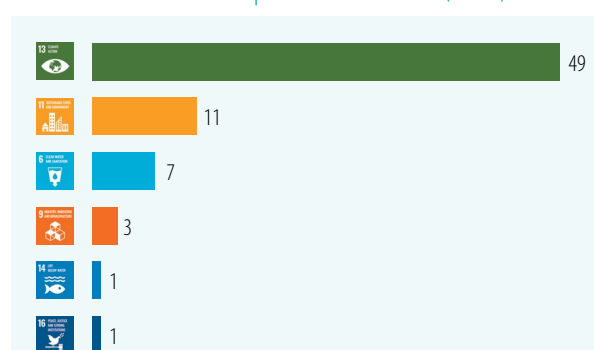
**Graph 6:**

Resilience and climate action | Results by pathway (n=72)



**Graph 7:**

Resilience and climate action | Contribution to SDGs (n=72)



## POLICY TO ACTION

*SPC facilitated greater access to climate finance, enabling countries to launch significant adaptation and resilience projects.*

Our support to members in accessing climate finance for adaptation and mitigation projects resulted in five projects being approved for funding in 2023, totalling USD 18.9 million. Financing under the GCF and AF was provided for projects supporting climate-resilient coastal fisheries and aquaculture, adaptation of small-scale agriculture and strengthening National Designated Authorities. In addition, two regional projects were launched through

concerted efforts under the Kiwa Initiative. Our accreditation to GCF and AF has facilitated our success in harnessing climate finance. We also access climate finance for members through other channels such as flexible programmatic funding, project-based funding, grants and partnerships.

In September 2023, the focal points of the Regional Pacific NDC Hub approved the transition of management responsibility for the NDC Hub to SPC, effective from August 2024. SPC will be responsible for providing institutional support and guidance on NDC Hub work. SPC will also be responsible for securing funding to sustain and enhance capacity and resources for bolstering and executing the NDCs of Pacific Island nations.



## INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

*SPC supported innovative solutions to better manage freshwater resources under various climate scenarios.*

A new three-dimensional groundwater model has been calibrated for Laura Island in Marshall Islands to help better manage freshwater resources. Using improved software and extensive datasets collected over time, the model is an advanced tool for aquifer management in response to water abstraction and droughts. SPC contributed technical inputs and guidance to this project, which is expected to directly benefit freshwater lens management and protection and the sustainability of this under various climate and management scenarios.

*We supported the adoption of new technologies to assess soil health and manage land use.*

SPC's Land Resources Division (LRD) helped Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu to acquire and adopt near-infrared spectroscopy (NIR) crop production technology to assess soil health through soil organic content analysis. Understanding soil health is critical to helping growers manage crop nutrient levels, but there is limited soil organic carbon data in the region. The provision of data derived from NIR technology will enable informed decision-making in soil management, agriculture and land-use planning for mitigation and adaptation activities.



## DIGITALISATION AND TECHNOLOGY

*SPC supported online solutions to planning for and managing risks associated with sea-level rise and natural hazards driven by climate change.*

The Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project (TCAP), in collaboration with SPC, handed over a state-of-the-art online platform to the Government of Tuvalu which allows the atoll nation to clearly identify, plan for and reduce risks associated with sea-level rise and more frequent intense storms driven by climate change. The free, publicly available platform enables the government, communities and other users to make sound, risk-informed development decisions, including where to build, and is a crucial tool to plan adaptation into the future.

*New technologies have enhanced the collection and use of data in forecasting the impacts of hazards and risk analysis modelling for planning and responding to natural disasters.*

GEM provided technical, collaborative, capacity-building and coordination support to the development of inundation

hazard forecasting products for Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. Hazards included those associated with tropical cyclones, including storm surges, tsunamis, rainfall, undersea landslides and wind. Risk mapping initiatives related to ocean currents in these countries were also completed, and seismic equipment was procured for members of the Oceania Regional Seismic Network (ORSNET) for use upon request, with installations carried out in Fiji and Vanuatu.

The Pacific Resilience Nexus (PRN) and RiskScape interface were enhanced to enable dashboards, layers, maps and stories to be presented, with the intention of expanding products and providing a regional asset. Other risk products for informed decision-making were created with SPC's support. These include online risk dashboards for Majuro in Marshall Islands, and risk dashboards for Tuvalu that are accessible to local stakeholders and available online. Three servers were also purchased for local deployment in Tuvalu. A prototype interface was developed for six member countries, allowing them to access and view modelled events and scenarios based on hazard and risk analysis. In addition, SPC's ocean forecast systems in four PICTs (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Tuvalu) were maintained.



## CAPABILITY AND INFLUENCE

*Our contribution to the development of formal qualifications in disaster risk reduction and response will enhance climate change capacity in the region.*

Our advice and support contributed to the launch of education and training initiatives that will enhance climate change adaptation capacities in the region. These include two certificate-level qualifications and five new micro-qualifications on disaster risk reduction and response that are currently under review. SPC, under the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience (PACRES) project, conducted a Benchmarking Study Tour for Resilience and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) Professionals. Participants in Fiji (10 women, 7 men), Papua New Guinea (6 women, 6 men) and Vanuatu (14 men, 6 women) benefited from support to improve education and workforce pathways and enhanced skill development.



## DATA, STATISTICS AND KNOWLEDGE

*Our technical expertise helped develop methods for flood risk assessments in catchment areas and flood early warning systems to support planning and decision-making.*

In collaboration with member countries' hydro-meteorological services, SPC helped develop a methodology to assess flood risks for catchment areas in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, and then supported hydrological analysis and flood exposure assessments to be undertaken. Assessment data were used to create summaries and infographics. Countries focused on assessing priority flood-affected catchments to help with decision-making that would safeguard communities in those areas. We also provided technical support to develop drafts of flood early warning systems, including improving early warning messaging to better suit the community needs.

# HOW THE REGIONAL PACIFIC NDC HUB IS FACILITATING ACCESS TO CLIMATE FINANCE IN PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES



Stakeholder consultation on sustainable coffee development, Papua New Guinea, supported by the Regional NDC Hub



## 1. CONTEXT

The need for a dedicated regional facility to support the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) was first raised by leaders of Pacific Island countries (PICs) at the inaugural Climate Action Pacific Partnership Conference held in Fiji in July 2017. Formally launched at COP23, the objective of the Regional Pacific NDC Hub is to realise the vision of a sustainable, low-carbon and climate-resilient Pacific. Created and owned by PICs, the Hub provides vital demand-driven support to PICs in implementing their NDC targets and boosting their capacity to access climate finance from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund (AF).

## 2. CHANGE PROCESS

The NDC Hub focuses on strengthening institutional capacities and strategic planning in PICs so that they can meet the funding criteria of GCF and AF. The Hub's member-driven governance structure streamlines the request process for NDC-related support. Through the Hub, the Pacific Community (SPC) provides strategic support to help PICs achieve climate ambitions by offering technical assistance for NDC planning, policy and legislation; enhancing knowledge management; showcasing Pacific climate leadership in regional and global forums; and hosting the NDC Hub Secretariat and website.

## 3. RESULTS AND IMPACT

The NDC Hub has notably enhanced access to climate finance in the region by centralising and simplifying funding procedures in PICs. In 2023 it supported the strengthening and expanding of the Standards and Labelling Programme for Appliances in Kiribati, which involved creating an operational manual for Minimum Energy Performance Standards and Labelling (MEPSL), increasing awareness of the Kiribati Energy Act 2022. Government officials, particularly in the Energy and Customs Division, improved their skills in administering and enforcing MEPSL regulations.



*"Through the assistance of NDC Hub, the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy Efficiency has supported Kiribati through the Ministry to ensure MEPSL has the necessary institutional, monitoring and evaluation structure in place as well as the technical expertise to administer and enforce the Energy Act 2022 effectively."*

— Agnes Nikoraa Naare, Acting Deputy Secretary for the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy of Kiribati

## 4. LESSONS LEARNED

The NDC Hub's success stems from its customisable approach, which enables more agile project execution. A robust governance framework also engages national focal points and steering committees to ensure alignment with individual country needs. Nonetheless, ongoing funding and reporting challenges underscore the necessity for a unified donor reporting mechanism and increased financial support to sustain regional climate action momentum.

**Division:** Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability (CCES)

**Donors:** European Union (EU); Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), New Zealand

## MAINSTREAMING CROSS-SECTORAL PRIORITIES

In 2023, our holistic approach to integrating climate action and resilience across all areas highlighted the effectiveness of inclusive, sustainable practices and participatory decision-making in creating outcomes.



*Field training in the TAPE method with a farmer on the east coast of New Caledonia.*

### ***Strengthening skills of New Caledonian farmers for resilient agriculture***

An aim of the PROTEGE project is to enhance climate resilience in overseas countries and territories (OCTs) by assessing agroecology's impact, an area previously lacking in data. PROTEGE funded the translation of FAO's Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE) into French, making it accessible to French-speaking OCT stakeholders. TAPE is a tool for measuring the multi-dimensional performance of agroecological systems across different dimensions of sustainability. SPC also funded master's students to adapt and customise TAPE to the Pacific context, including evaluating changes on demonstration farms. Training sessions familiarised stakeholders with TAPE, aiding its adoption.

Results showed a significant impact on assessing agroecology practices, informing a tailored action plan identifying types of approaches to be trialled on farms. TAPE's adoption extended beyond PROTEGE, an example of this being French Polynesia integrating TAPE into its agriculture census. Lessons learned emphasise localising tools, testing before scaling, stakeholder engagement and education on agroecology.

## INNOVATION

In 2023 SPC's development and institutionalisation of innovative tools like multi-hazard early warning systems and impact-based forecasting, alongside contributions to evacuation planning and policy support through statistical and modelling innovations, enhanced resilience and adaptation to climate change and natural shocks.

### ***Empowering resilience: Impact-based forecasting in Samoa and Tonga***

The Pacific faces substantial loss and damage due to frequent cyclones. Collaborating with SPC, Canterbury University and New Zealand's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), the Samoan and Tongan meteorological services developed an impact-based forecasting early warning system for cyclones. The early warning system is triggered during developing weather systems and generates impact maps which are used in resource allocation and urban planning. Its integration into national systems strengthens preparedness and facilitates risk-informed decision-making and resilient investments. Lessons learned emphasise the importance of integrating hazard data into development planning and collaboration across projects. Capacity building for SPC staff ensures sustained support for countries. The next steps involve expanding this innovation to other countries and ensuring standardisation of equipment for national and regional linkage.

*SPC team installing a buoy for wave data collection.*





# KFA 2

# Natural resources and biodiversity

Future state 2031: Thriving, productive and resilient ecosystems and communities, responsibly harnessing our natural resources and biodiversity for security and prosperity.



**CCES**  
Climate  
Change and  
Environmental  
Sustainability



**FAME**  
Fisheries,  
Aquaculture  
and Marine  
Ecosystems



**GEM**  
Geoscience,  
Energy and  
Maritime



**LRD**  
Land  
Resources  
Division



The Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science

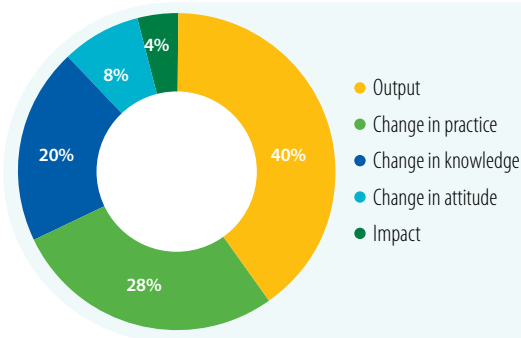
# OVERVIEW

Natural systems, biodiversity and ecosystems underpin community livelihoods and security. Collective efforts are required to ensure natural resources are sustainably managed, biodiverse, thriving and productive. To achieve the KFA 2 intended state, SPC supports the protection, management and restoration of our ecosystems, including wetlands, water sources, oceans, fisheries resources, landscapes, energy and georesources, as well as soil and plant genetic resources.

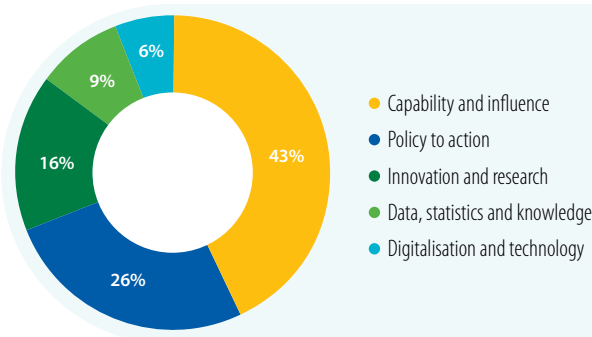
SPC leads the application of Pacific science and research to enable the delivery of regional public goods and amplify Pacific voice and agency. Regional public goods include PCCOS, CePaCT, the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council, Pacific Marine Specimen Bank and Pacific Partnership for Atoll Water Security.

This KFA contributed 102 results and 19% of our total results for 2023. Most of our results contributed to SDG 14 (life below water) and SDG 15 (life on land), demonstrating the critical importance of SPC’s work in these areas, and the 2050 Strategy thematic area ‘Ocean and Environment’. We influenced change mostly through our capability and influence, innovation and research, and policy to action pathways. 60% of results for KFA 2 contribute to higher-level results (change in knowledge, change in attitude, change in practice, impact).

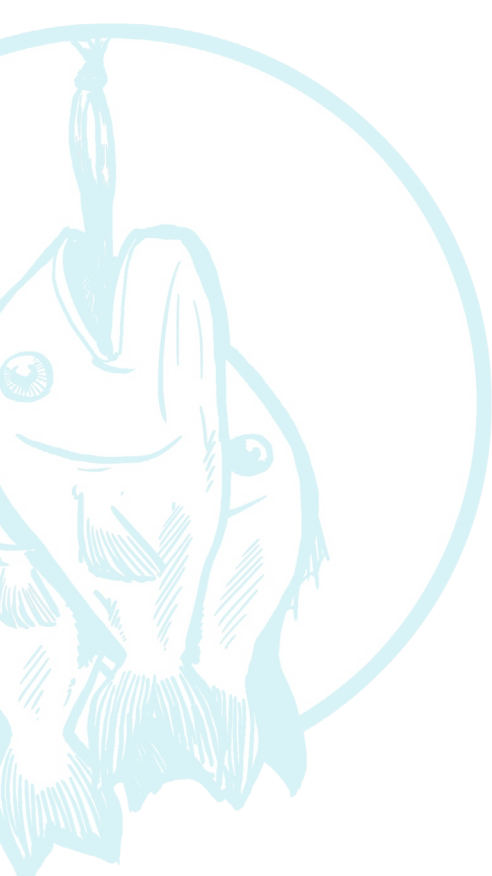
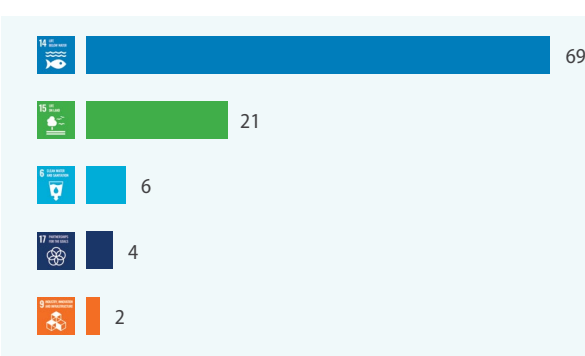
**Graph 8:**  
Natural resources and biodiversity | Results type (n=102)



**Graph 9:**  
Natural resources and biodiversity | Results by pathway (n=102)



**Graph 10:**  
Natural resources and biodiversity | Contribution to SDGs (n=102)



## RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS



### POLICY TO ACTION

*Cross-divisional action supported national strategies, policies and plans for sustainable management of ocean resources in the Blue Pacific continent.*

SPC supported a legal and policy review of ocean issues in Papua New Guinea and a policy review and consultation in Vanuatu. We provided expertise and resources to the development of national ocean policies and plans in Kiribati and provided resources to support marine spatial planning and guidelines in consultation with key stakeholders in Palau. Coastal fisheries management plans were drafted for Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu, and nine PICTs strengthened national fisheries policies with support from SPC.

SPC's scientific advice informed the development of five regional policy frameworks and management plans: the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)'s Climate Resolution, the *Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape*, the *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific*, the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)'s Climate Change Strategy and the WCPFC's Harvest Strategy. The Framework for Pacific Regional Agriculture and Forestry Research Collaboration (RRA Framework) was developed and presented to the Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services in 2023 following a comprehensive participatory process of country consultations and engagement. Work continues to implement the Regional Aquatic Biosecurity Framework.



### INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

*Our scientific research and innovative data collection tools and expertise supported evidence-based fisheries management for member countries.*

FAME achieved a notable milestone by publishing 19 papers in peer-reviewed journals, showcasing its research and findings in the fields of fisheries and aquaculture. This accomplishment reflects the division's commitment to contributing valuable scientific knowledge to the global community, enhancing the understanding of sustainable fisheries management practices, and supporting the conservation of marine ecosystems within the Pacific region.

FAME also developed advanced modelling approaches to support scientific analysis and advice, including the Spatial Ecosystem and Population Dynamics Model (SEAPODYM), which assesses how tuna, tuna-like populations and by-catch species respond to changes in marine ecosystems, and new modelling approaches for the skipjack tuna management procedure adopted by WCPFC in late 2022.

*The conservation and restoration of plant diversity progressed, contributing to our long-term investment in the sustainable management of resources across the Pacific.*

LRD continued to extend CePaCT collections, with 158 crop and tree accessions added in 2023. Work also continued storing accessions outside of Fiji, including 31 tree species sent to Kew Gardens in 2023. Thirty-six percent (878) of CePaCT collections were available for distribution to member countries upon request in 2023. Tissue-cultured plants and embryos across nine crops were distributed to Cook Islands, Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu, and six standard material transfer agreements (SMTAs) were signed with Cook Islands, Hawaii, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu to facilitate country access to CePaCT varieties. SPC also strengthened CePaCT operating standards and procedures. In 2023 CePaCT achieved FAO Genbank Level 2 accreditation following a review commissioned by Crop Trust, recognising the quality measures put in place to ensure integrity of the collection.



### DIGITALISATION AND TECHNOLOGY

*App technology developed by SPC is helping countries collect and manage fisheries data efficiently and use data to inform fisheries management.*

Data collection and management apps developed by SPC are increasingly being used and have enhanced the efficiency of data collection, storage and utilisation by member country users. Over 100,087 fishing trips have been recorded and uploaded using the Tails data entry app, with over 13,186 trips recorded in 2023. The app has been used by 62 active data collectors in eight PICTs to log 596 unique species and 2.46 million kg of fish since its launch seven years ago. These data are now being used to support important management decisions, track the effectiveness of nearshore fish aggregating devices (FADs) and report small-scale tuna catch to the WCPFC Tuna Commission, indicating the success of tablet-based data collection.

Our Tuna Fisheries Data Management System (TUFMAN) 2 app reduces data entry time for users and provides an effective and comprehensive tool to manage and use data and inform the development of tuna fisheries management and monitoring plans by bringing together catch measurements and vessel data and incorporating data quality features. Our Ikasavea app has significantly changed the ability of members to monitor coastal fisheries species by providing an offline app for surveyors to measure and identify fish species in markets, shops and other locations. In Fiji, this has informed changes to fish maturity limits.



## CAPABILITY AND INFLUENCE

*Member action to enhance sustainable management of ocean resources in the Blue Pacific continent was supported by SPC's technical expertise and coordination.*

Our support enabled training for adults and young people to enhance their knowledge and skills in ocean acidification monitoring, ocean science and issues, traditional oceanic knowledge, and management and information systems. We also participated in events that contributed to our expertise in ocean governance and science and to our ability to engage in global conversations on ocean-related issues.

PCCOS was granted two new regional mandates at the Pacific Islands Conference on Ocean Science and Ocean Management: hosting the Pacific Islands Ocean Decade Collaborative Centre and coordination of the Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System. This reaffirms recognition of SPC's position to lead and coordinate efforts for advancing ocean science and integrated ocean management in the region.

We also oversaw expansion of the Pacific Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) Network from 117 to 189 members (+62), supporting the development of the wider profession and the expertise available to our members.

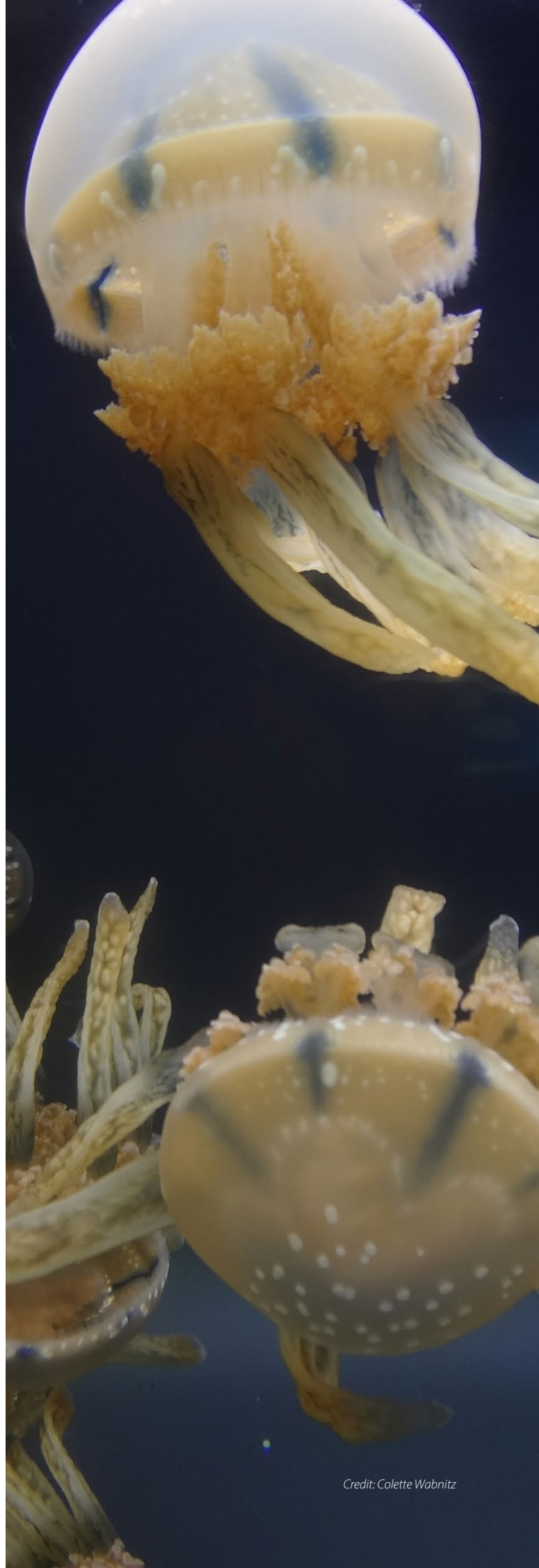


## DATA, STATISTICS AND KNOWLEDGE

*New data and knowledge generated by SPC are available to inform the management of marine ecosystems across the region and for individual countries.*

We conducted geodetic surveys and collected tidal data for officials in Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Vanuatu. We collaborated with the Institute of Research and Development to create a reef temperature data management system for the processing and storage of ocean data across the region, and we worked with officials from Palau to advise on mapping the archipelagic and territorial sea baseline and support negotiations on maritime boundaries. We also supported water resource assessment surveys in Marshall Islands, Palau and Tuvalu to evaluate water aquifer vulnerability and understand the land-use factors in these countries that would impact aquifers.

FAME's digital library expanded, providing 581 more information products in 2023, and was widely used, with over 50,000 items downloaded by 20 PICTs. The library includes products specifically tailored for individual PICTs and those relevant to regional interests. The information tools, manuals, bulletins and scientific reports all contribute to the knowledge base required to effectively manage oceans and fisheries resources.



Credit: Colette Wabnitz

# DIGITAL EARTH PACIFIC: DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ENABLING DECISION-MAKING USING EARTH OBSERVATIONS AT SCALE



Earth and Ocean Observation team leader, demonstrating DEP during its launch at CRGA 53 in October 2023. .



## 1. CONTEXT

Earth observation (EO) has emerged as a crucial tool for Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) to obtain essential environmental information in real-time that can facilitate evidence-based decision-making around the complex challenges the region faces, from climate change and coastal erosion to food security and disaster management.

## 2. CHANGE PROCESS

The Pacific Community (SPC) is collaborating with local communities to develop Digital Earth Pacific (DEP), a digital infrastructure solution that provides free access to satellite data and tools for decision-making.

In 2021, with funding from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), SPC conducted needs assessments with four countries (Fiji, Marshall Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu), which highlighted the need for improved climate change and disaster risk monitoring and laid the technical foundation of the solution. This work led to the establishment of DEP's governance framework and steering committee, made up of experts from PICTs, to ensure that DEP is responsive and relevant to Pacific needs. In 2023 SPC hosted the first DEP Land Cover Assessment Skills Transfer workshop in Tonga. It involved 22 participants (70% women) and led to updated land-use maps and strengthened community engagement.

DEP is accessible at: <https://digitalearthpacific.org/>



## 3. RESULTS AND IMPACT

The new decision-ready earth observation service, DEP, was launched at CRGA 53 in October 2023 and showcased at COP28.

This regional public good provides streamlined and timely access to decades of satellite data that depict local environmental changes over time. This information has a vast range of applications, including better targeting of post-disaster humanitarian aid, mapping of coastal erosion and understanding food security.

With 70+ users already, DEP provides free access for member countries as well as regional and international agencies, governments and academia to a variety of satellite datasets and tools.



*"I believe that DEP is a powerful product, a powerful platform, that will help leaders actually make better, evidenced-based decisions."*

— Hon. Hu'akavameiliku, Prime Minister of Tonga

## 4. LESSONS LEARNED

Tailored workshops foster lasting engagement, offering insights into country-specific applications. They amplify the value that EO can bring to decision-making in the Pacific and how it can be applied to real-world problems. Opportunities to use and integrate DEP into regional climate change projects and efforts are wide ranging and will enhance the overall quality of solutions as well as ensure long-term sustainable adoption.

**Division:** Geoscience, Energy and Maritime (GEM)

**Donors:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), New Zealand; NOAA

Watch the launch video: <https://youtu.be/S7TxnzEH-vM>

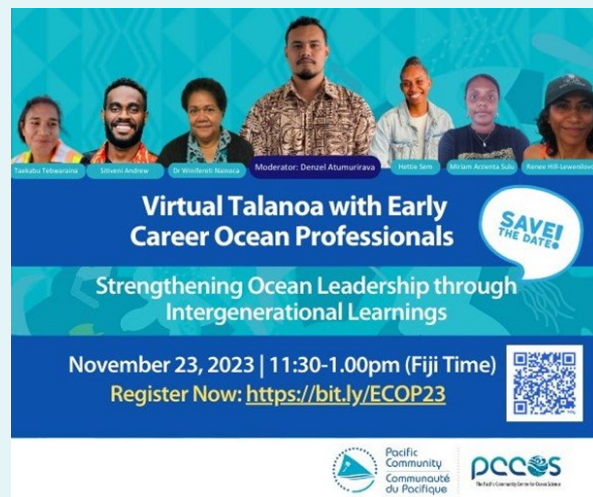


## MAINSTREAMING CROSS-SECTORAL PRIORITIES

In 2023, our focus on mainstreaming, which considers the link between social and environmental factors, led to people-centred natural resource management and biodiversity conservation efforts, such as community-based fisheries and demonstration farms, ensuring fair and transparent decision-making that benefits current and future generations.

### *Nurturing Pacific talent: The impact of the Pacific ECOP programme on ocean careers*

The Pacific faces a challenge in retaining marine science graduates due to limited job opportunities. To address this, the UN Ocean Decade initiated the ECOP programme in 2021. In response to this and to ensure engagement with people of the Pacific, PCCOS created the Pacific ECOP Network and Placement Programme, offering hands-on experience and employment to young professionals in their home countries. As of December 2023, 23 ECOPs have been hired across seven PICTs. The programme enhances skills in various ocean-related fields and benefits government agencies in progressing ocean priorities. Lessons learned include the need for flexibility in programme structure and increased administrative support to manage growing demand. Testimonies highlight the programme's impact in providing practical experience and facilitating career development for Pacific youth.



## INNOVATION

Innovation is key to taking care of natural resources and biodiversity because it helps us find new and better ways to protect and use our critical natural resources sustainably.

### *Enhancing the effectiveness of harvest strategy workshops for sustainable tuna fisheries management*

The Pacific tuna fisheries industry faces sustainability challenges. WCPFC promotes harvest strategies to enhance sustainable management systems. Since 2018 SPC has provided harvest strategy workshops to enhance the capability of more than 400 participants across 12 PICTs. An innovative 2023 tracer (follow-up) survey of recent participants revealed one third of respondents applied the workshop learnings in their work, and that barriers to implementation of new knowledge included policy gaps and trade-offs made by decision-makers. The survey also found that 69% of respondents found the technical terminology in the training challenging, and less than half (38%) used the supplementary materials provided in their work. Lessons from this work suggest reviewing training materials and tailoring content to participants' profiles to enhance comprehension and application. This approach aims to bridge the gap between knowledge acquisition and real-world implementation to further strengthen sustainable fisheries management in the Pacific.



*Participants at a Samoa harvest strategy workshop engaging in practical activities to understand harvest strategy development.*



# KFA 3

## Food systems

Future state 2031: Pacific food systems are accessible, regenerative, biodiverse, equitable and resilient to shocks. They provide access to safe and nutritious food and contribute to healthy people, ecosystems, vibrant cultures and prosperity for all.



CCES

Climate  
Change and  
Environmental  
Sustainability



FAME

Fisheries,  
Aquaculture  
and Marine  
Ecosystems



LRD

Land  
Resources  
Division



PHD

Public  
Health  
Division



SDD

Statistics for  
Development  
Division

# OVERVIEW

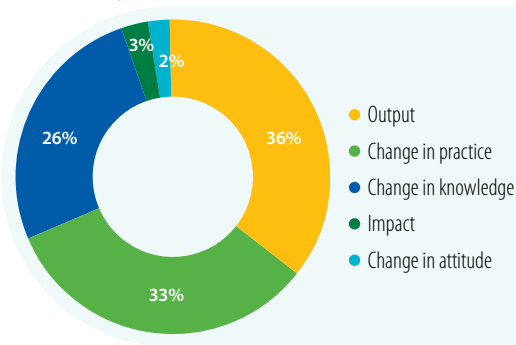
The future of food and food systems in the Pacific will play a key role in the long-term health, resilience and prosperity of the Pacific people. A food system is the interaction of food-related activities – including production, distribution, consumption and waste management – that are carried out across different socioeconomic and environmental contexts. An under-recognised contributor to the global food system, our Pacific food systems face challenges from an eroding resource base, climate change, a reliance on food imports and a crisis of NCDs.

Our work on food systems is centred on the Blue Pacific and its interlinkages across land and oceans, fisheries and agriculture, and production and trade. SPC leads in transdisciplinary approaches to integrated programming through regional public goods, including the MANA dashboard, Pacific Nutrient Database, Organic Pasifika and A New Song for Coastal Fisheries. SPC assists Pacific countries and territories to conserve and use the region’s diverse genetic resources for health and nutrition.

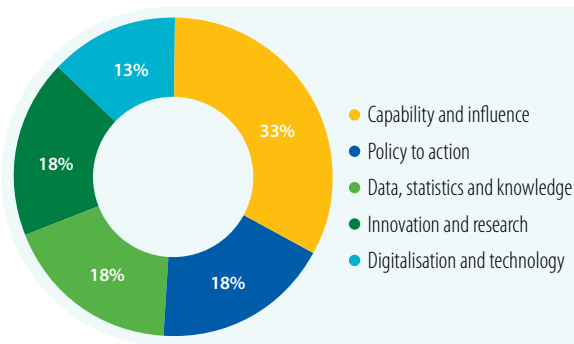
This KFA contributed 39 results and 7% of our total results for 2023. The results most strongly aligned with SDG 2 (zero hunger) and SDG 3 (good health and well-being), and the 2050 Strategy thematic area ‘Ocean and Environment’. We influenced change mostly through our capability and influence, data and statistics, and innovation and research pathways. 64% of results for KFA 3 contribute to higher-level results (change in knowledge, change in attitude, change in practice, impact).



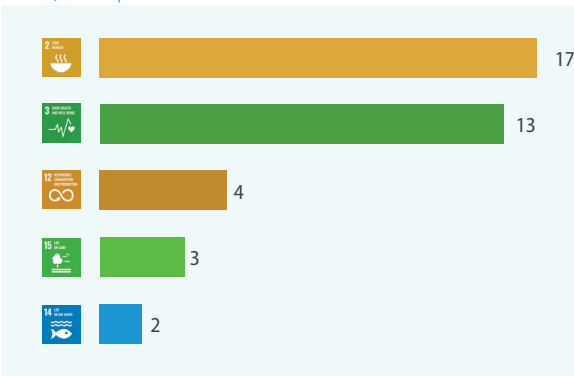
**Graph 11:**  
Food systems | Results type (n=39)



**Graph 12:**  
Food systems | Results by pathway (n=39)



**Graph 13:**  
Food systems | Contribution to SDGs (n=39)



## RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS



### POLICY TO ACTION

*Our technical support contributed to the development and implementation of healthy public policy for the prevention of non-communicable diseases in countries and across the region.*

We supported countries in their efforts to address the challenges of NCDs and the associated human, social and economic impacts in the region. Solomon Islands is now implementing their food fiscal policy, and Marshall Islands and Tonga have started implementing the *Pacific Guidelines for Healthy Living* and *Pacific Healthy Dietary Guidelines for People with Diabetes*.

At the request of Regional Fisheries Ministers, FAME started consultations for the development of a regional aquaculture strategy. The importance of aquaculture in the Pacific's economy and food security is growing, and this work reflects our multi-sectoral approach to preventing NCDs through improved food security and nutrition. The regional strategy will address challenges identified in a 2022 FAME study that revealed critical skill shortages across Pacific aquaculture, impacting both commercial operators and government agencies.

*New operating procedures and memorandums of understanding (MOUs) supported countries to meet food safety and biosecurity standards and ensure requirements are met for safe trade.*

SPC's financial support and technical expertise contributed to the development of a regional standard operating procedure to improve laboratory standards for biocontrol research and distribution. MOUs for three Pacific Regional Pesticide Registration Schemes (PRPRS) were developed. These MOUs, signed with Cook Islands, Kiribati and Solomon Islands, will enable better monitoring of pesticide use and access to expertise and advice and will contribute to long-term reduction in risks of pesticide use on human health and the environment.



### INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

*Research supported members to strengthen food systems for greater resilience.*

SPC's technical support enabled French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna to finalise and validate a food system diagnostic exercise. The results are now being used by the territories to develop action plans for their strategic frameworks for food systems.

In New Caledonia, two additional agroforestry plot plans were developed, bringing the total number of plans to 15. Agroforestry plot plans are developed using an integrated forest management lens and are tailored to local needs, indigenous flora and pedoclimatic conditions. The plots are monitored by the New Caledonian non-governmental organisation AGIR, which collects data on species behaviour and survival rates. New Caledonian representatives also collaborated with counterparts in French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna to develop participatory agroforestry plot plans, including one at French Polynesia's Moorea Agricultural High School for training and farmer engagement. SPC provided technical and advisory support for development and implementation of the plans.

SPC continued supporting countries to develop and adopt integrated crop management (ICM) technologies. Ten PICTs (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu) attended a demonstration plant health clinic conducted as a side event at the Pacific Week of Agriculture and Forestry (PWAF).



### CAPABILITY AND INFLUENCE

*Support for regional partnerships to strengthen resilience in crop varieties and food systems was provided.*

Regional partnerships and meeting resolutions progressed action towards ensuring PICTs have access to diverse and nutritious food systems. The Pacific Agricultural Plant Genetic Resources Network (PAPGREN) Charter and Roadmap set the direction for future conservation of plant genetic resources. The 8<sup>th</sup> Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (PHOAFS) Regional Meeting endorsed the progress towards implementing the *Regional Agriculture and Forestry Strategy*, a Regional Research Agenda and the food systems transformation agenda in the Pacific. The Pacific Network of Forestry Professionals and national associations for Fiji, Samoa and Tonga were formed, and a Regional Platform for Coconut coordination was established with support from SPC.

*Capacity-building activities supported the development of small-scale coastal fisheries and aquacultural activities, enhancing food security, nutrition and livelihoods.*

SPC's technical expertise supported communities to develop sustainable and productive mariculture and aquaculture enterprises. In partnership with ministry fisheries officials, aquaculture farming groups and fishers, SPC shared sustainable fishing methods, cultivation, equipment, safety and quality, diversification of aquaculture, and other skills across freshwater and coastal fisheries.



## DATA, STATISTICS AND KNOWLEDGE

*Members were supported to develop and adopt ICM technologies to control the coconut rhinoceros beetle.*

LRD supported several actions to help control and manage the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). We supported the development of a CRB information system/database that was used in trial protocols in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The database allows continuous data entry in the field and will allow countries to carry out evaluation experiments. Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu were supported with the application of the commercial strain of the fungal biocontrol agent *Metarhizium* in targeted sites to suppress CRB populations and contain further spread, and lab equipment and reagents were procured for Papua New Guinea to facilitate *Metarhizium* bulking and field application for the control of the CRB pest. In Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, laboratory-held strains of the biocontrol agent *Oryctes Nudi Virus* (OrNV) were released.

restrictions in Vanuatu. SPC also led an unhealthy food import assessment with Vanuatu's National Security Council to inform the development of policies and regulations around unhealthy food at the national level. SPC provided technical support to data gathering, advocated for these data to be used and supported development of subsequent policy.

*SPC developed a food trade dashboard to provide food systems data for member countries.*

SPC released the Pacific Food and Beverage Trade dashboard at the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference of Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS6). The dashboard, a major food systems dataset based on both import and export data, can be used to produce a reliable estimate of food trade for analyses of food and nutrition security and to inform policy. The dashboard includes data on 555 food and beverage commodities across 18 PICTs, covering the period from 1995 to 2018. It was successfully demonstrated at the HOPS6 conference in October, ensuring countries are aware this resource is available for them to use.

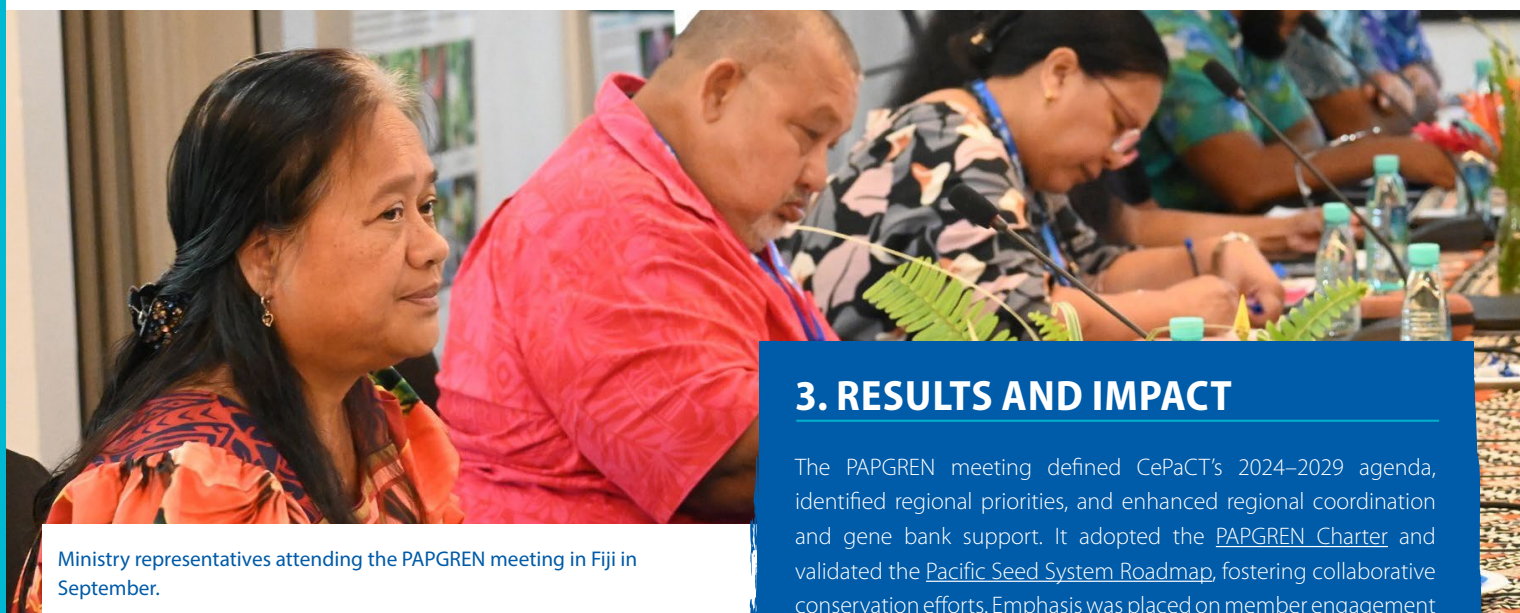


## DIGITALISATION AND TECHNOLOGY

*SPC led action aimed at preventing non-communicable diseases through digitalisation and technology.*

Pacific Monitoring Alliance for NCD Action (MANA) data were used to strengthen marketing regulations for sugar-sweetened beverages in Marshall Islands and marketing

# A CRUCIAL ROADMAP FOR FOOD SECURITY IN THE REGION



Ministry representatives attending the PAPGREN meeting in Fiji in September.



## 1. CONTEXT

The two biggest threats facing the Pacific food system are climate change and premature death caused by non-communicable diseases. It is imperative that there are investments in equitable, affordable, safe and nutritious food systems to counter these threats and build regional resilience.

The Pacific Community (SPC)'s Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT), the Pacific's largest gene bank and a regional public good, conserves genetic diversity and promotes underutilised crops for long-term food security. Since its establishment in 1998, over 2300 varieties of plant material have been distributed. Priority is given to staples that underpin the Pacific food system and that are crucial to protect traditional crops and agricultural knowledge.

## 2. CHANGE PROCESS

In September 2023, 34 participants from 15 member countries attended the Pacific Agricultural Plant Genetic Resources Network (PAPGREN) meeting in Fiji, convened by CePaCT in partnership with the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and Crop Trust. PAPGREN is a professional network committed to supporting national programmes in the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the Pacific's plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Representatives from several regional and global agencies, including the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Global Crop Diversity Trust and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), also attended and contributed to the meeting.

## 3. RESULTS AND IMPACT

The PAPGREN meeting defined CePaCT's 2024–2029 agenda, identified regional priorities, and enhanced regional coordination and gene bank support. It adopted the [PAPGREN Charter](#) and validated the [Pacific Seed System Roadmap](#), fostering collaborative conservation efforts. Emphasis was placed on member engagement with the International Plant Treaty as well as policy development for plant genetic resources, advocating global standards. Highlighted regional priorities included breeding and conservation for essential crops, such as bananas, coconuts and yams, and capacity building in biotechnologies. These efforts will shape the future of agriculture in the Pacific and have far-reaching implications for global food security and biodiversity conservation.



*"We must invest in research for development to enhance our understanding of plant genetic resources and their potential applications. This includes ... resilient and high-yielding varieties and exploring innovative techniques."*

— Fiji's Minister for Agriculture and Waterways, Hon. Vatimi Rayalu

## 4. LESSONS LEARNED

The PAPGREN meeting showcased the region's ability to adapt through regional collaboration and innovative conservation techniques. It also reinforced the critical role of integrating traditional knowledge with science to safeguard Pacific agriculture. Long-term donor commitments have also been vital to CePaCT's achievements.

**Division:** Land Resources Division (LRD)

**Donors:** DFAT, MFAT

## MAINSTREAMING CROSS-SECTORAL PRIORITIES

Mainstreaming social and environmental responsibility in food systems is crucial for sustainability, supporting small-scale farmers, ensuring access to healthy food, discovering sustainable fishing methods, and distributing resilient crops to benefit both people and the environment into the future.

### *Building sustainable veterinary capacity across the Pacific: Para-vet graduates transform from students to mentors*

An agricultural region, the Pacific Islands face challenges in maintaining animal health and production due to a shortage of qualified veterinarians and limited access to veterinary services. To address these challenges, SPC launched a para-veterinarian (para-vet) training programme in 1999 and have since trained over 436 graduates across 15 PICTs. Students, nominated by their Ministry of Agriculture, undergo 16 weeks of distance learning followed by a practical summer school. Graduates provide para-vet services, with some becoming tutors and mentors to new students. Certified para-vets play a crucial role in resource conservation, often returning to work in their communities. The success of the programme can be seen in the practical application of veterinary skills and in alumni tutoring and gaining leadership positions in their ministries, in turn supporting early career professionals and ensuring the programme's sustainability. The programme serves as a model for capacity building, meeting regional needs with practical training.



*Para-vets in Fiji learning about pig health and husbandry*

## INNOVATION

Innovation remains essential for creating sustainable, efficient and responsive food systems, particularly considering climate change and resource depletion.

### *Digital innovations combating childhood obesity in Wallis and Futuna*

High rates of childhood obesity in Wallis and Futuna prompted the Catholic Education Office to develop a digital-based intervention to promote healthy lifestyles in primary schools. Since 2001 SPC has provided financial and technical support to develop child-friendly health resources and digital tools with local stories to engage students and training kits for teachers to effectively implement the programme. A 2023 evaluation of the initiative showed a 15% increase in physical activity and 23% improvement in food choices amongst students. Teachers recognised the value of digital tools in enhancing education and integrating them into the curriculum for long-term impact. Collaboration between health and education sectors proved crucial, highlighting the importance of sustainable initiatives. Wallis and Futuna's success inspires others to use digital innovations in combating childhood obesity.





## KFA 4

# Equity, education and social development

Future state 2031: Social development systems result in real gains for education, gender equality and social inclusion through a contextualised approach to human rights and good governance that incorporates Pacific cultures and ways of knowing.



**EQAP**

Educational  
Quality and  
Assessment  
Programme



**FAME**

Fisheries,  
Aquaculture  
and Marine  
Ecosystems



**GEM**

Geoscience,  
Energy and  
Maritime



**HRSD**

Human Rights  
and Social  
Development



**LRD**

Land  
Resources  
Division



**SDD**

Statistics for  
Development  
Division

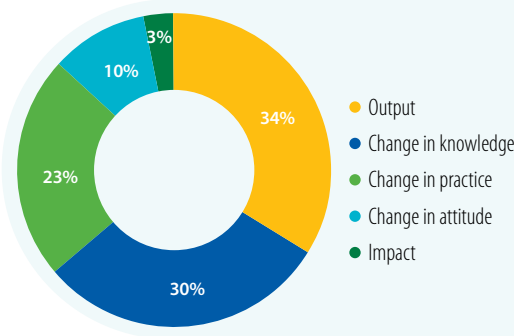
OVERVIEW

Equity focuses on promoting and protecting human rights in the region. Greater investment in education, promoting culture and cultural industries, human rights, gender equality and social inclusion, and strengthening governance institutions will enable progress towards a more equitable and prosperous Pacific. To achieve KFA 4, SPC emphasises the use of Pacific cultures and ways of knowing to deliver meaningful student learning outcomes, equitable societies and enhanced well-being for communities.

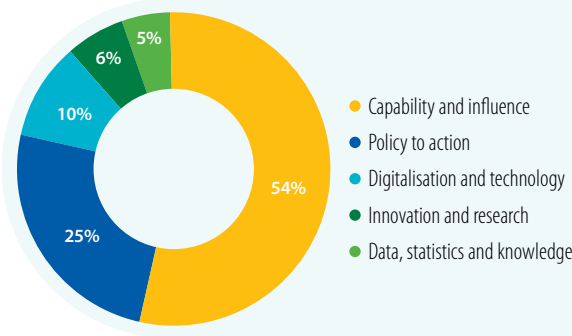
SPC leads efforts to improve the quality of learning pathways and regional and national education systems through the *Pacific Regional Education Framework* (PacREF) and Pacific Islands Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (PILNA). We also advance human rights, good governance, equality and social inclusion for all Pacific people through the *Pacific Youth Development Framework 2014–2023*, which is grounded in cultural values and principles articulated in the *Pacific Regional Culture Strategy 2022–2032*. SPC is the statistical systems lead for the Pacific and is a key partner to the Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality.

This KFA contributed 98 results and 18% of our total results for 2023. The results most strongly aligned with SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 5 (gender equality), and the 2050 Strategy thematic area ‘People-Centered Development’. We influenced change mostly through our capability and influence, policy to action, and digitalisation and technology pathways. 66% of results for KFA 4 contribute to higher-level results (change in knowledge, change in attitude, change in practice, impact).

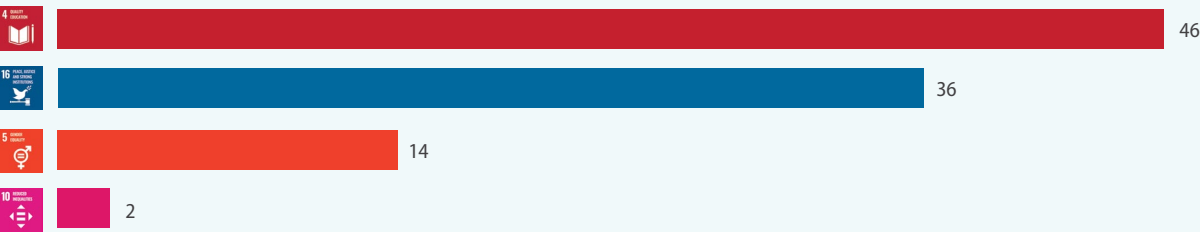
Graph 14: Education, equity and social development | Results by pathway (n=98)



Graph 15: Education, equity and social development | Results type (n=98)



Graph 16: Equity, Education and Social Development | Contribution to SDGs (n=98)



## RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS



### POLICY TO ACTION

*SPC contributed to the development of an enabling policy environment to promote inclusivity and accessibility and advance the participation of people with disability.*

The Fiji Election Office launched its 2024–2027 Strategic Plan and the Electoral Disability Advisory Working Group (EDAWG) four-year work plan in November. This event marked a substantial stride in promoting inclusivity, accessibility and advancing the participation of individuals with disabilities in Fiji's 2026 national general elections. SPC supported the Fiji's National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) in the development of this workplan by leading a review of Fiji's National Disability Policy. The desk review included looking at strengths, weaknesses and critical gaps in the existing policy.

*Regional standards for teachers and school leaders were revised, supporting members to strengthen school leadership and teaching capabilities for inclusive and resilient schools and improved learning outcomes.*

SPC's technical support and coordination contributed to the development of updated regional standards. Regional standards for teachers were revised based on a review of audit reports from seven PICTs. Fifteen participants contributed to the review, which considered guidelines, instruments, tools, dissemination of information and necessary support for teachers. The standards were endorsed at the Pacific Heads of Education Systems (PHES) meeting.

Participants from 15 PICTs and four development partners reviewed and revised the *Regional School Leadership Standards* at a summit convened by EQAP. The regional document provides professional standards for school principals and forms the basis for members' ministries of education to develop their own national leadership standards. The standards include core values and capabilities for school leadership, school management, teaching and learning, and community partnership.

*Guidance was developed to support countries to implement the Pacific Regional Culture Strategy 2022–2032, protecting and safeguarding traditional knowledge and the role of culture in regional and national development.*

In consultation with PICTs, HRSD led the design and development of the *Pacific Regional Culture Strategy Five-Year Implementation Plan 2022–2027*, which will assist countries to develop their own action and resource mobilisation plans aligned with national development priorities. SPC also provided ongoing support to strengthening the development or implementation of culture-related policies in the region, such as *Fiji's National Cultural Policy 2023–2033*, and frameworks and strategies for guiding cultural statistics, creative industries and indigenous tourism.



### INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

*SPC's technical assistance supported the production of human rights and social development research and knowledge sharing activities to inform country policy and development practice.*

HRSD undertook and published research related to gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) and culture, including a Pacific gender mainstreaming toolkit, a review of the *Pacific Youth Development Framework 2014–2023*, thematic briefs, and a culture and education strategy. We also supported a pilot assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on the cultural and creative industries in Fiji and French Polynesia to inform future planning and action for these industries.

*SPC contributed to education research and demonstrated leadership in supporting and advancing the quality of education systems in the region.*

Two research reports were completed: one for an early childhood education (ECE) study and a cohort survival study, with knowledge products developed in the form of video animation summarising key findings and recommendations. The ECE research explored the links between pre-primary education experiences in selected countries to later academic success as measured by PILNA. The cohort survival rate research was also completed, with the aim to identify underlying factors contributing to cohort survival rates, drop-out rates and re-entry rates in 15 participating PICTs.

SPC collaborated with education officials on various research programmes aimed at strengthening aspects of education systems. In Samoa, we supported the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture to implement a pilot phonics programme addressing literacy achievements in 10 schools, including teacher training, producing and translating resources, and developing online and monitoring tools. We supported phase 1 of the Pacific Secondary Schools Project regional research programme aiming to address disparities in skills and competencies and provide education and training opportunities for young people (14–18 years old) in the Pacific region.



### DIGITALISATION AND TECHNOLOGY

*SPC contributed support to a digital collaboration portal for gender research and cyber safety awareness for the region.*

SPC continued to provide secretariat support to the Toksave Pacific Gender Resource Reference Group and presented engagement data to support better access to the online research portal. The portal is user-friendly and can be used by people with sight impairment.

The first regional Safe and Equal Online Spaces—Pacific Cyber Safety Symposium convened a wide range of stakeholders to learn about different projects (underway and planned) related to cyber safety in the Pacific, lessons learned, innovative approaches, locally led and culturally focused approaches, gaps in knowledge, available research and data, opportunities for networking and collaborating, and more. A total of 130 people participated in the symposium in person, 150 people attended virtually, and 60 people travelled in from overseas. SPC provided technical and coordination support to the symposium.

*Online platforms enabled better reporting, teacher training and the provision of resources for teachers, supporting work to strengthen the quality of student online learning and assessment.*

For the first time, interactive country and small island state PILNA reporting was available online, enhancing the accessibility and useability of the results. These regional assessment results provide valid and reliable data to inform action to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes in the Pacific over time. SPC also partnered with the PacREF facilitating unit and implementing agencies to create the pilot online Integrated Reporting Information System (IRIS) to facilitate monitoring and reporting on education data in 15 PICTs. This will support the upcoming transition of reporting to web-based platforms.

We provided training and support to officials in Vanuatu on using the web-based Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) assessment tool to evaluate and strengthen teacher induction policies. We also supported the development of curriculum documents for 19 subjects for use on the Pacific Schools Information Management System (PacSIMS) and on Moodle online learning platforms available in Kiribati, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.



## CAPABILITY AND INFLUENCE

*SPC assured new qualifications and accreditations, enabling these to be used by learners and employers, and provided training in developing systems to assure more.*

SPC quality assured new qualifications and micro-qualifications, enabling these to be used by learners and employers, and provided training to support the development and accreditation of more qualifications and micro-qualifications. Ongoing management of the Pacific Regional Accreditation System resulted in 22 accreditation applications being created and approved electronically. SPC also accredited 10 schools in Kiribati and Tuvalu to offer the South Pacific Form Seven Certificate (SPFSC), with 1357 students subsequently enrolled in the programme. SPC continued the assessment of foreign high school qualifications to determine equivalence for admission into

tertiary institutions. This brought the number of foreign qualifications assessed in the last 6 years to a total of 68. SPC provided training to national quality assurance agencies to help improve their systems and protocols, resulting in increased capacity and knowledge of the features, development and accreditation processes for micro-qualifications and qualifications. Four participants went on a study tour to the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) for more in-depth discussions and knowledge. Industry experts were also trained in becoming evaluators for qualification accreditation.

*Technical support enabled members to report to the UN and NGOs on human rights and strengthened institutions' ability to uphold commitments to gender equality, human rights and good social development principles.*

SPC provided support and technical assistance and facilitated write-shops for members to meet their reporting commitments on key treaties and to human rights organisations. We collaborated with officials from Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu to help them report on major human rights declarations and conventions, including the *Convention of the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW), *UN's Convention Against Torture* (UNCAT), the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD) and the Universal Periodic Review for the Human Rights Council.

Fifteen PICTs participated in the Pacific Regional Forum on National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), and significant progress was made in the establishment of NHRIs in the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Our technical assistance is supporting countries to strengthen their responses to address gender equity, gender-based violence, children's rights and disability rights in several other ways.



## DATA, STATISTICS AND KNOWLEDGE

*SPC ensured robust regional and national education data are available for countries to use in the planning and management of their education systems and that fulfil UN reporting requirements.*

SPC provided technical assistance, training and quality assurance to national education officers to collect and report education data that meet country needs and UNESCO reporting requirements. We also worked with UNESCO to publish *The status of Pacific education 2020: A regional monitoring report based on internationally comparable statistics*. SPC supported Fiji and Palau to join five other PICTs to develop and use the Education Data Quality Assessment Framework that aligns national education data activities with SDG reporting.

## REGIONAL SUMMIT EMPHASISES VALUES-LED LEADERSHIP TO ENSURE STUDENT SUCCESS IN PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES



School leaders, representatives of partner agencies and EQAP staff at the closing of the Pacific Education Summit.



### 1. CONTEXT

In 2007 regional Education Ministers expressed concerns over declining student achievements, particularly in literacy and numeracy. To address this issue and align with ministers' goals, in 2012, SPC developed the *Regional School Leadership Standards*. These standards assist schools and education authorities in defining principals' roles in nurturing students. Over a decade after their development, and in light of events including the COVID-19 pandemic, a review of the standards was needed to ensure principals could adapt swiftly to fast-changing circumstances in the future.

### 2. CHANGE PROCESS

In August 2023 SPC convened a regional summit under the Pacific Regional Education Framework on Advancing Resilience and Inclusion through Sustainable School Leadership, sponsored by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) through the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Fifteen Pacific Island countries (PICs) were represented by school leaders, ministry officials and education sector stakeholders to reconceptualise the *Regional School Leadership Standards*. In her opening address, Fiji's Ministry of Education Permanent Secretary, Selina Kuruleca, stressed principals' pivotal role in educational efficacy.

The recommendations of the regional summit, as well as a survey of 780 principals across 15 PICs, were synthesised to produce draft revised standards for member countries' consideration, with a focus on the modern challenges facing principals, including technology in education and professional development.

### 3. RESULTS AND IMPACT

The summit resulted in three main outcomes: 1) member countries actively reviewed the *Regional School Leadership Standards*; 2) a robust network of school leadership advocates was forged; and 3) leadership was redefined to align with the diverse values and cultures of the Pacific.

The revised standards focus on four pillars – school leadership, management, teaching and learning, and community partnership – providing a progressive lens to enhance educational leadership and experiences. Clear expectations were set for leaders to develop the requisite skills to effectively tackle contemporary challenges.



*"This summit provided a great opportunity...to review and reshape the school leadership standards to better reflect the core values that we have, and the challenges related to education across the Pacific, with the ultimate goal of bringing about ongoing school improvement and ultimately students success."*

— Raynold Mechol, Palau's Senior Education Officer

### 4. LESSONS LEARNED

Defining the multifaceted roles of school leaders and effectively implementing national education policies remain a challenge. The lessons from this work include: the importance of leaders taking an evidence-based, data-driven approach to influencing change that can improve education results for the region; SPC's convening role in facilitating dialogue that ensures the aspirations of Pacific leaders and the education sector are met; and the value of creating regional collective goods that countries can adapt and contextualise to their own national standards.

**Division:** Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP)

**Donors:** ADB; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia; GPE; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), New Zealand

## PACIFIC VOICE FOR GLOBAL RECOGNITION AND ACCOUNTABILITY ON CLIMATE JUSTICE



The Tuvalu delegation speaks with a legal and human rights expert from HRSD at the ICJ write-shop.



### 1. CONTEXT

The climate emergency is the greatest challenge facing Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs). The Vanuatu government, with the support of youth climate activists, successfully campaigned for a UN resolution seeking an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to clarify the legal obligations of states in addressing climate change and its consequences. The landmark resolution was adopted by consensus in March 2023.

### 2. CHANGE PROCESS

The Government of Vanuatu requested assistance from the Pacific Community (SPC) to support PICTs with preparing written and oral submissions to the ICJ. With relevant expertise in science, research and law, SPC conducted write-shops for government representatives from 14 PICTs. SPC was also one of eight organisations invited by the ICJ to provide its own submission. An important step towards presenting a case at the ICJ was [SPC's co-presentation of compelling science](#) at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in September.

### 3. RESULTS AND IMPACT

Fourteen PICTs are now involved in co-drafting a cohesive narrative informed by Pacific contexts, culture, science and human rights, emphasising the Pacific people's role as protectors of the Blue Pacific. SPC facilitated the connection of scientific evidence with stories to highlight the urgency of the climate crisis, as well as emphasising regional priorities and significant harms faced by atoll nations. Key environmental and human rights elements were articulated for the Court through SPC's coordination of input from technical experts, officials and affected communities.

### 4. LESSONS LEARNED

This work highlights SPC's role in uniting diverse stakeholders for a regional approach to climate change. An emphasis on creating a conducive environment and amplifying young voices at the UN ICJ enhanced the impact of the work. SPC's expertise in science and human rights supports a unified call for climate justice. These lessons underscore the importance of unity, organisational collaboration and capacity building for effective climate crisis mitigation.

**Divisions:** Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability (CCES), Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME), Geoscience, Energy and Maritime (GEM), Human Rights and Social Development (HRSD)

**Donors:** Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), New Zealand; Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA); United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

## MAINSTREAMING CROSS-SECTORAL PRIORITIES

Mainstreaming environmental and social responsibility throughout our endeavours is pivotal for promoting equity, education and social development. A people-centred approach empowers individuals and communities in decision-making and ensures our initiatives are equitable, sustainable and responsive to local circumstances and needs.



UNCAT Kiribati validation workshop participants.

### *Kiribati's human rights triumph: Leading the Pacific with SPC and partners*

In July 2019 Kiribati became the sixth State party from the Pacific to accede to UNCAT. In February 2023 the Kiribati government requested support to validate its initial UNCAT report. SPC and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) collaborated to facilitate a report validation workshop, enabling Kiribati to become the first Pacific nation to submit an UNCAT report. SPC and OHCHR provided further support to prepare Kiribati's delegation for a constructive dialogue meeting, as requested by the UNCAT committee. Kiribati's success demonstrates collective determination and the power to turn challenges into positive change. The Kiribati Human Rights Taskforce's coordination, supported by SPC, played a crucial role. Mr Aretaake Ientaake, Director for the Human Rights Division in Kiribati's Ministry of Justice, acknowledged external support and political will as key factors in Kiribati's achievement.

## INNOVATION

Innovation is crucial in addressing complex development challenges like equity and education, allowing for the exploration and implementation of new ideas and approaches for more effective, participatory and sustainable solutions.

### *The innovative approach used in the mid-term review of Pacific Girl programme*

Designed for and by girls, Pacific Girl is the only regional programme in the Pacific dedicated to advancing the rights and opportunities of adolescent girls. In 2023 a mid-term review (MTR) commissioned by SPC demonstrated innovation by prioritising meaningful participation of girls. Collaborating with young women artists, known as 'Pacific Girl creatives,' the MTR collected, synthesised and validated data about girls' experiences and the conditions of their lives through the arts. This inclusive approach centred girls' voices, ensured robust findings that are owned by Pacific girls and contributed to programming decisions. The Pacific Girl MTR process exemplifies the impact of people-centred, stakeholder-led programming and provides a model for SPC for broader adoption of its inclusive approach in other development initiatives.



MTR data collection workshop with the Talitha Project's programming participants in March 2023. Credit: Pacific Way.

An illustration of a sustainable fishing community in the Pacific Ocean. In the foreground, a woman in a red shirt and blue patterned skirt stands on a wooden pier, holding a basket of dark fish. A man in a light blue shirt and green shorts sits on a green folding chair, holding up a large, colorful fish. A white cooler filled with fish sits on the pier. In the background, another person is visible on a small boat, and a large cargo ship is on the horizon. The scene is set against a backdrop of blue water and a clear sky.

## KFA 5

# Sustainable economies and livelihoods

Future state 2031: The Blue Pacific is a well-being economy through a balance of sustainable economic growth, protection and inclusive distribution of resources, energy secure, healthy and resilient communities with livelihoods sustained through trade, maritime connectivity and harmonious relationships with the land and the sea.



## OVERVIEW

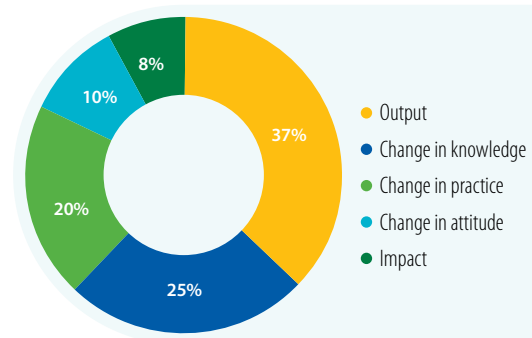
Pacific people are central to strong, sustainable economies and livelihoods. Sustainable economies and livelihoods require economic development while protecting people's well-being. To achieve the KFA 5 intended future state, SPC focuses on developing partnerships that strengthen existing capabilities and support healthy and resilient communities with livelihoods sustained through improved access to markets, industries and trade opportunities, protection from transboundary pests and diseases, maritime connectivity and harmonious relationships with the land and sea. SPC engages with formal and informal systems encompassing economies, resources and social protection.

SPC leads in providing data and resources that inform opportunities and decision-making for economies and livelihoods. SPC provides regional public goods under KFA 5, including the Regional Maritime Boundaries Consortium of Partners, the Pacific Biosecurity Information Facility, the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) and the *Framework for Energy Security and Resilience*.

This KFA contributed 60 results and 11% of our total results for 2023. The results most strongly aligned with SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production) and the 2050 Strategy thematic areas 'People-Centered Development' and 'Resource and Economic Development'. We influenced change mostly through our capability and influence, policy to action, and data, statistics and knowledge pathways. 63% of results for KFA 5 contribute to higher level-results (change in knowledge, change in attitude, change in practice, impact).

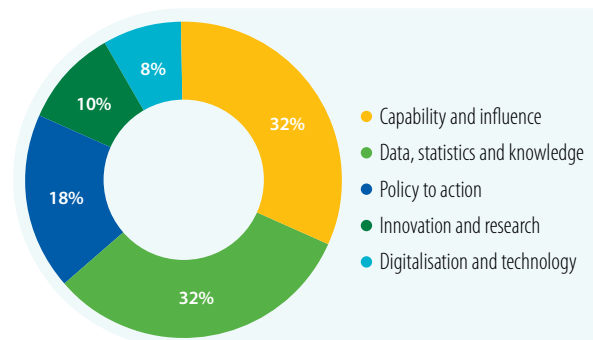
**Graph 17:**

Sustainable Economies and Livelihoods | Results type (n=60)



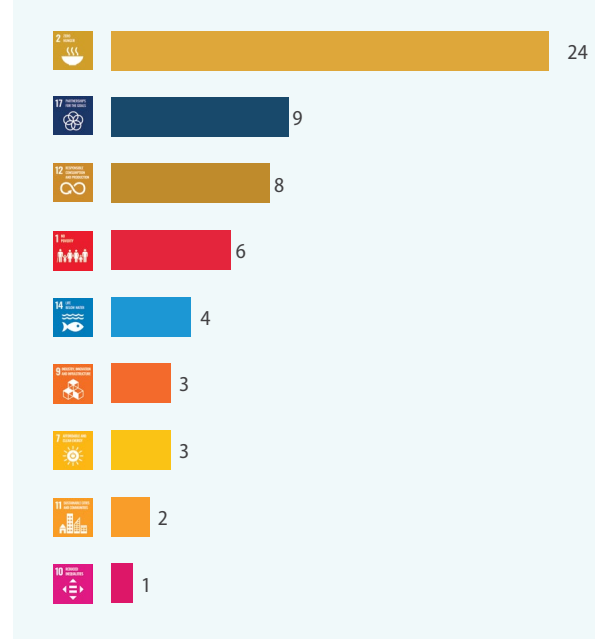
**Graph 18:**

Sustainable Economies and Livelihoods | Results by pathway (n=60)



**Graph 19:**

Sustainable Economies and Livelihoods | Contribution to SDGs (n=60)



## RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS



### POLICY TO ACTION

*SPC contributed to strategies and standards that enhance opportunities to access organic and kava markets and support farmers and the private sector to add value and invest in sustainable production.*

The *Regional Kava Strategy* was endorsed in principle by the Pacific Islands Trade Ministers and then validated at the Regional Kava Strategy meeting in Vanuatu on 28 November–1 December. Kava is a significant commodity, culturally, socially and economically. The strategy will ensure consistent quality, efficacy, food safety, value adding, market access, environmental sustainability and improved livelihoods for kava growers in the region.

SPC also supported future access to organic markets through the provision of technical advice on standards and certifications. We supported the development of a new range of fertilisers that meet the Pacific Organic Standard of the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom) and was launched in Fiji and Palau. We also helped deliver training to farmers from 14 PICTs on the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) and supported the signing of PGS licenses for organisations in Palau and Fiji.

*Partnerships for action on energy and energy security were strengthened.*

GEM is collaborating with other partners to support the implementation of the *Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in The Pacific* (FESRIP). This framework is jointly owned by SPC alongside four other CROP agencies: the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), University of the South Pacific (USP), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Pacific Power Association (PPA). FESRIP provides a roadmap for PICTs and development partners to tackle energy challenges and transform to clean, renewable resources, and it promotes and supports energy security and resilience in the region. New collaborations include with the US government on the Pacific Energy and Gender Network (PEGSAP) and the UK on Clean Energy Access for Remote Pacific Island Countries (CLEARPICs). Ongoing dialogues are in progress with entities such as the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the World Bank and others.

SPC continued to provide technical and secretariat support for the Office of the Pacific Energy Regulators Alliance (OPERA). This forum for energy regulators and policy makers supports members' regulatory decision-making skills and technical capacities through training, knowledge sharing and technical regulatory support. At the 2023 annual meeting

in Bangkok, four new Pacific countries and territories joined the alliance: Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Niue and Tuvalu.



### INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

*SPC divisions supported research projects informing sustainable aquaculture and aquaculture trade.*

CCES supported ongoing work in French Polynesia to promote sustainable aquaculture. We provided technical advice for monitoring pearl lagoons through the Polynesian lagoon observation network (RESOLAG). In 2023, we supported experiments with biomaterials (coconut fibre ropes and hemp manila ropes) as alternatives to the plastic materials used in pearl farming and tested new low-cost sensors as an alternative to expensive multiparameter probes. FAME published research on the Pacific Island Sea cucumber trade and price-setting mechanisms, enabling informed decision-making about action in this market.



### DIGITALISATION AND TECHNOLOGY

*The implementation of electronic phytosanitary certificates was supported, facilitating safe and cost-effective trade for members.*

SPC continued supporting the implementation of the regional Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS) project. The electronic phytosanitary certificate, known as ePhyto, is a digital tool that processes phytosanitary certificate information into a digital certificate. The project increases the resilience and capability of national plant protection organisations (NPPOs) in safeguarding their countries against biosecurity risks, ensuring safe and cost-effective regional and international trade. It also reduces the potential for fraud that could emerge while producing paper-based certificates. We facilitated the development of a regional work plan and onboarding of eight PICTs for the first phase of the GeNS project.



### CAPABILITY AND INFLUENCE

*Training was delivered to farmers to facilitate access to organic markets.*

Organic farming has a significant role to play in reshaping the Pacific food system, fostering a circular green economy, and mitigating the effects of climate change. SPC provided

technical advice, equipment and financial support to farmers across the region that helped them to produce, market and sell organic produce. We provided an organic farm tour during the Pacific Week of Agriculture and Forestry and training in multiple PICTs on PGS assessment and certification, in combination with other aspects of organic agriculture. We also provided equipment to facilitate production of organic products. Our work in this area focused on gender equity, training and supporting groups, including the Building Prosperity for Women Producers, Processors and Women Owned Businesses through Organic Value Chains (BPWP) project, the Pacific Organic Learning Farms Network (POLFN) and the POETCom Women's Chapter.



## DATA, STATISTICS AND KNOWLEDGE

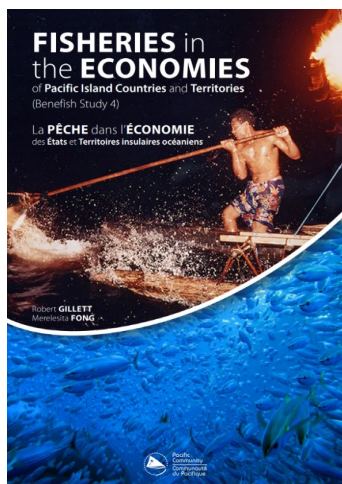
*SPC supported countries to enhance their statistical capabilities, including in data collection and management.*

SDD continued to provide leadership and technical support to members in developing and maintaining significant national data collections. We supported Nauru to launch analytical products from its 2021 census; Tuvalu to analyse census and household income and expenditure survey (HIES) data; and Tonga to produce official population estimates. Our team helped countries plan, budget, design, deliver and analyse population surveys in housing, agriculture, labour force, energy and environment. We coordinated and supported the regional conferences on HIES methodology and poverty analysis methods. Technical missions to the Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tokelau and Vanuatu supported country officials in their use of data related to trade in goods. We also participated in regional workshops and meetings, including on producing Voluntary National Review reports and developing guidelines to establish national indicators.

Work to strengthen the technical capacity of staff included participation in the Monetary Poverty Measurement Workshop. This supported staff capacity in implementing the recommendations of the Pacific Statistics Methods Board (PSMB) on monetary poverty measurement and national statistics offices in computing monetary poverty indicators.



# FISHERIES IN THE ECONOMIES OF PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: RESULTS FROM BENEFISH STUDY 4



## 1. CONTEXT

Fisheries and aquaculture are vital to the economies of Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs), and high-quality information is critical for enabling sustainable management of these and informing investment and decision-making at all levels. Two decades ago, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), in partnership with the World Bank, the Australian government, the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), initiated the Benefish study series to improve the information available regarding fisheries in the Pacific.

## 2. CHANGE PROCESS

Since 2001 SPC has supported the Benefish study series by providing technical and coordination support as well as ensuring that the study's results are accessible. After the collaborative effort involved in publishing the first and second Benefish studies in 2001 and 2007, SPC commissioned and published the third and fourth studies in 2016 and 2023, respectively. The latest study, *Benefish Study 4*, examines the economic and social contributions of fisheries and aquaculture to PICTs for food security and economic stability, and for the first time, addresses the impacts of COVID-19 and climate change. The study estimated production values and volumes for six fisheries categories – coastal commercial fisheries, coastal subsistence fisheries, offshore locally based fisheries, offshore foreign-based fisheries, freshwater fisheries and aquaculture – across 22 PICTs, highlighting their significant role in sustaining communities and fostering economic growth. A series of policy briefs were also produced to disseminate the findings as widely as possible.

## 3. RESULTS AND IMPACT

*Benefish Study 4* highlights three major findings: 1) the necessity of enhanced dialogue between national fisheries agencies and national statistics offices; 2) a significant rise in access fees for foreign fishing from 2007 to 2021; and 3) a notable decrease in per capita fish supply from coastal fisheries during the same period. The study highlights unique challenges faced by each PICT, which can be used by countries to drive evidence-based decision-making and implement targeted interventions that promote sustainable development of fisheries. It also provides recommendations on improving measurement of the types of fisheries benefits covered as well as what information PICTs should collect and how.

Co-authored by a University of the South Pacific (USP) marine science graduate, the study also highlights SPC's efforts to build Pacific capacity to prepare the next study in five years' time.

## 4. LESSONS LEARNED

A comprehensive cost assessment and using the same consultant to produce the study were critical for undertaking *Benefish Study 4* efficiently and consistently. It was also imperative to build trust with PICTs to support the collection and sharing of data.

**Division:** Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME)

**Donors:** SPC core funding

## MAINSTREAMING CROSS-SECTORAL PRIORITIES

Ensuring equitable access to economic benefits through inclusive policies and programmes, including supporting women-owned businesses and marginalised groups across agriculture and aquaculture value chains, is essential for sustainable livelihoods and economic growth.

### **Advancing sustainability: Biodegradable dFAD trials in the Pacific tuna fisheries**

With non-entangling drifting fish aggregating devices (dFADs) becoming mandatory in January 2024, the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO)'s first large-scale trial of non-entangling dFADs aims to inform regional dFAD management. SPC, in collaboration with the International Sustainable Seafood Foundation and fishing companies, is leading research on the use of dFADs in the WCPO. The innovative "jelly-FADs", so called because they drift neutrally in the water column like jellyfish, are made with bamboo, cotton and biodegradable ballasts and promise reduced entanglements and environmental footprint. SPC delivered training to three companies in American Samoa, Ecuador and the Federated States of Micronesia that equipped them to build dFADs. Despite challenges like humid conditions, the initiative underscores the importance of industry collaboration and local FAD production. Initial deployments showed similar levels of performance and longevity to synthetic FADs, prompting plans for further trials. Lessons highlight industry engagement, local production benefits and the need for extensive trials for informed management.

*Deploying the jelly-FAD at sea (right)*  
Credit: FCF CO., Ltd 2023



## INNOVATION

Innovation drives economic growth and sustains livelihoods by fostering the creation of new products, processes and technologies to boost efficiency, productivity and competitiveness, while also promoting sustainability by reducing environmental impacts.

### **Public-private partnerships strengthening ocean services in Tuvalu**

A pioneering public-private partnership between the Tuvalu Meteorological Service (TMS) and Hall Construction aims to enhance the sustainability of ocean services in the Pacific. SPC supported this partnership by facilitating climate change financing and providing technical support to the development of tailored forecast products that will be used by TMS to generate income. SPC provided technical assistance to both the development and training of the wave and inundation forecast system. This partnership strengthened collaboration at the national level and resulted in TMS having an operational ocean forecast system benefiting the whole country, as well as significantly enhancing the safety and operational efficiency of Hall Construction operations. The success of this model, supported by SPC's expertise, highlighted the potential for similar transformative initiatives across the region to foster resilience and sustainability in ocean services. Lessons learned highlighted challenges and underscored the importance of stakeholder buy-in and support to drive successful partnerships.



*Coastal adaptation work in Funifuti by Hall Construction. Credit: Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project.*



# KFA 6

## Planetary health

Future state 2031: Collaboration and stewardship of our Blue Pacific for healthy islands, where children and vulnerable groups are nurtured in body and mind; environments invite healthy lifestyles learning and leisure; people work and age with dignity; ecological balance is a source of pride; people maintain their cultures and traditions with the land; water and oceans are protected.



LRD

Land  
Resources  
Division



PHD

Public  
Health  
Division



SDD

Statistics for  
Development  
Division

## OVERVIEW

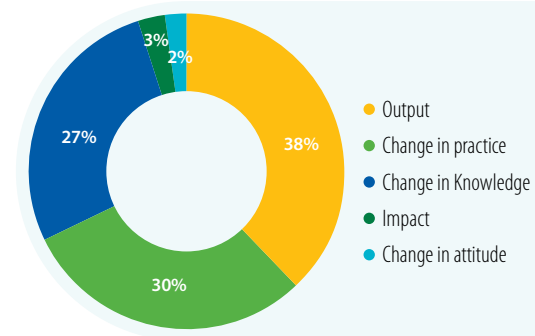
The interconnectedness of human health with the health of our planet underscores the vital importance of preserving both. In our Blue Pacific region, the well-being of our communities relies on nurturing natural ecosystems and responsibly managing our natural resources. Health encompasses not only human welfare but also the environment, ecology, animals and the broader systems that sustain the health and prosperity of Pacific peoples.

SPC's work includes addressing NCDs, infectious diseases and zoonotic outbreaks, which are exacerbated by limited access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, as well as the health impacts of climate change. Initiatives such as plant health clinics are gaining momentum in the region, signalling progress in promoting holistic health approaches and sustainable practices.

This KFA contributed 66 results and 12% of our total results for 2023. The results most strongly aligned with SDG 3 (good health and well-being) and SDG 2 (zero hunger) and the 2050 Strategy thematic area 'People-Centered Development'. We influenced change mostly through our capability and influence, and policy to action pathways. 62% of results for KFA 6 contribute to higher-level results (change in knowledge, change in attitude, change in practice, impact).

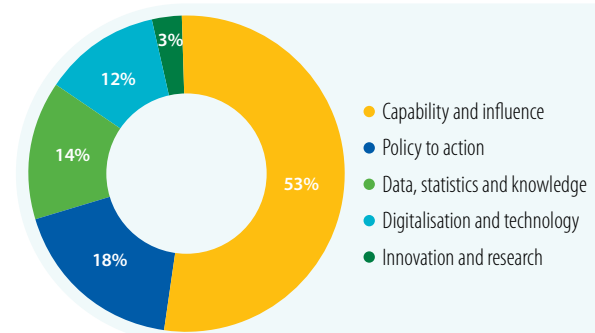
**Graph 20:**

Planetary Health | Results type (n=66)



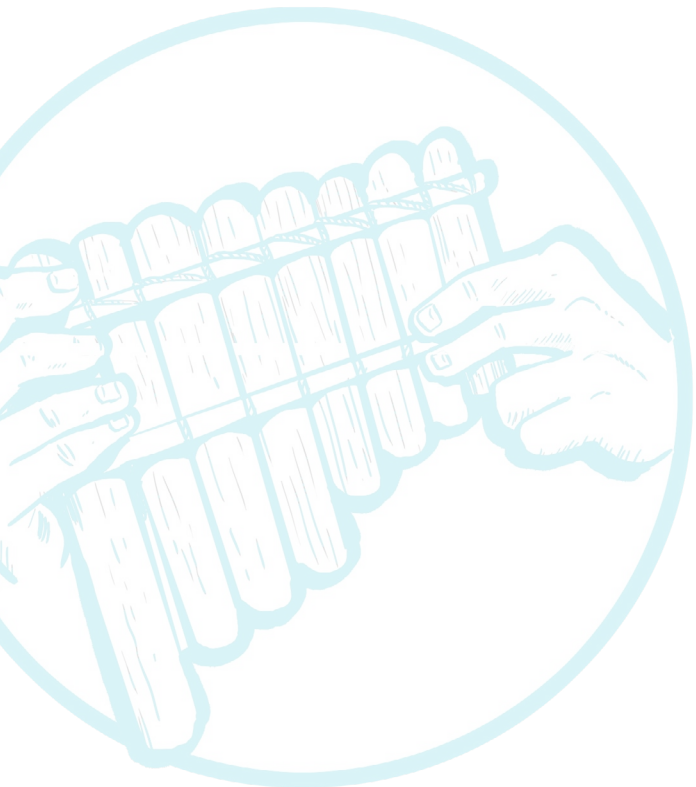
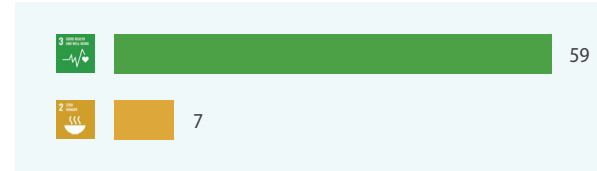
**Graph 21:**

Planetary Health | Results by pathway (n=66)



**Graph 22:**

Planetary Health | Contribution to SDGs (n=66)



## RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS



### POLICY TO ACTION

*Our technical expertise supported members to strengthen legislation and policies that aim to prevent and reduce NCDs.*

SPC's Public Health Division (PHD) used strong existing relationships with health sector officials to provide technical expertise to the review, development and amendment of legislation and policies aiming to reduce the prevalence of NCDs. SPC contributed to the endorsement of strengthened tobacco legislation to enhance control measures in Nauru and Solomon Islands. SPC also contributed to the development or implementation of marketing restriction regulations and tobacco legislation supporting the Marshall Islands' physical education policy in schools; alcohol and tobacco legislation in Tuvalu; tobacco legislation in Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu; and alcohol legislation in French Polynesia and Kiribati. In relation to food policy, SPC contributed to the Federated States of Micronesia's trans-fat and salt reduction regulations and Vanuatu's health promotion policy paper and marketing of unhealthy food and drinks regulations.

*SPC supported the promotion of ecologically based alternatives to highly hazardous pesticides to enhance food safety and security in the Pacific region.*

Senior officials from the Ministry of Agriculture in six PICTs attended a side event on Promoting Ecologically Based Alternatives to Highly Hazardous Pesticides to Enhance Food Safety and Security in the Pacific Region during the Pacific Week of Agriculture and Forestry (PWAFF). The event highlighted to policy makers the importance of becoming members of the Pacific Regional Pesticide Registration Scheme (PRPRS) as a joint effort for controlling pest incursions in the region.

*Technical expertise and advice supported regional partnerships and the development of guidelines for improving animal health within the Pacific One Health approach.*

SPC supported the formation and strengthening of regional partnerships, including the Pacific Heads of Veterinary and Animal Production Services (PHOVAPS) who finalised regional animal health and production priorities and governance structure, and endorsed the establishment of a One Health scientific and technical working group. Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu committed to adopting the One Health approach to programme implementation in regional meetings for the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network. Technical support was also provided to the Pacific One Health symposium in Fiji for development of the FAO regional antimicrobial resistance (AMR) guidelines and national animal health antimicrobial guidelines. Action to improve animal health was also progressed through strengthening national capacities in generating

high-quality reports on the performance of veterinary services and utilising them more effectively to secure funding and drive improvements in delivering veterinary and aquatic animal health services.



### INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

*Logistic and technical support enabled testing of infectious diseases and strengthened country capacity in communicable disease testing and public health surveillance.*

SPC continued to facilitate the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network and contributed to building the capacity of public health surveillance systems in Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Molecular laboratory staff were supplied with testing reagent and provided training in testing for Leptospira, dengue, chikungunya and Zika. They now have sufficient capacity to identify diseases, allowing timely treatment for people with infections and minimising potential spread of these diseases to others. SPC also developed, coordinated and funded public health surveillance training.



### DIGITALISATION AND TECHNOLOGY

*Enhancing digital capability to support the health sector at regional and national level.*

With technical support from SPC, the Fiji National University (FNU) initiated an internal launch on 19 April 2023, followed by a public launch on 20 November 2023, of the Pacific Health Observatory. Functioning as a data repository, it is now publicly accessible. The repository will significantly enhance the region's capacity for evidence-based decision-making, collaborative research, and effective public health planning and interventions. In addition, Fiji launched its new Digital Health Strategy in August 2023, with ongoing implementation plan development, signifying continuous commitment to leveraging digital technologies to enhance healthcare delivery and improve data management for evidence-based decision-making.



### CAPABILITY AND INFLUENCE

*Ongoing support to control pests and diseases in the region was delivered, enhancing members' ability to meet trade requirements for agriculture and forest products.*

SPC delivered ongoing support to members through training, knowledge sharing and other capability building activities to enhance the management of pests and biosecurity

issues. Participants from eight PICTs received training on the enhanced Pacific Pest List Database and reporting, supporting market access requests for plant products. Other activities included training on guidelines for crop pest and disease management in Kiribati, Tonga and Vanuatu; a plant health clinic on the diagnosis of pests in Fiji; and refresher training on software that supports real-time surveillance and containment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Biosecurity officials and other public and private stakeholders received training to build national capacity in various areas related to biosecurity. These included risk assessment of imported plant products, mitigating pre-border and border plant risks, sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS) compliance and international trade promotion. Training was also delivered on the control of transboundary animal diseases and import risk analysis training was delivered to members of the Pacific Heads of Veterinary and Animal Production Services.

*Clinical, nursing and infection prevention and control services were strengthened through SPC's technical and financial support.*

SPC supported and facilitated the Pacific Heads of Nursing and Midwifery meeting, providing a forum for progressing work on biomedical priorities, infection prevention and control, public health and clinical services knowledge sharing and education, and enabling oversight for regional nursing functions. SPC also supported various healthcare capacity-building initiatives and collaborative work programmes in seven PICTs, addressing diverse healthcare needs in maternal care, infectious diseases, radiology, nursing and critical care. We also supported professional development initiatives for 44 nurses across the region.



## **DATA, STATISTICS AND KNOWLEDGE**

*Civil registration and vital statistics systems were strengthened in member countries with technical advice and coordination from SPC.*

In collaboration with partners, SDD contributed to the development of the new *Action Plan for Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics 2023–2026*. The Brisbane Accord Group collaboration is coordinated by SPC and drives implementation of technical statistics activities of multiple partners at national and regional levels. SPC assisted Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Tuvalu to improve their systems processes and planning and worked with partners to do the same with Fiji, Nauru and Niue. SPC also led regional training workshops on medical certification of cause of death and mortality coding, analysing and publishing administrative data, system interoperability and data sharing, and it facilitated the Pacific Civil Registrars Network (PCRN) meeting. Vital statistics for all PICTs were updated in PDH.stat, with significant updates for Fiji, Niue and Tonga.



# STRENGTHENING TOBACCO CONTROL TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE IN NAURU



Credit: OC Gonzalez (via Adobe Unsplash)



## 1. CONTEXT

In 2018, World Health Organization (WHO) data showed Nauru had the highest smoking rate (52.1%) in the world. Tobacco use is a key modifiable risk factor for many non-communicable diseases (NCDs). According to WHO estimates, 79% of all deaths in Nauru are caused by NCDs such as ischemic heart disease and complications of hypertension. Endorsed by Pacific Health Ministers in 2017, the Pacific Monitoring Alliance for NCD Action (MANA) dashboard was established to monitor implementation of the *Pacific NCD Roadmap*.

## 2. CHANGE PROCESS

The Pacific Community (SPC) supported the Government of Nauru to strengthen tobacco control through policy and legislation actions. This work is guided by the *Pacific Legislative Framework (PLF) for NCDs*, endorsed by Pacific Health Ministers in 2022, and aligned with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). An SPC-led coordination team compiles the MANA dashboard, which uses a 'traffic light' rating to track progress on policies and legislation aimed at preventing NCDs in Pacific Island countries and territories. Gaps in Nauru's policy and legislation related to tobacco control were highlighted by the MANA dashboard and the PLF. In response, Nauru initiated a comprehensive review of its *Tobacco Control Act 2009*. SPC conducted a gap analysis, proposing crucial reforms, including preventing tobacco industry interaction, revising health warning requirements, considering plain packaging and establishing an administrative body.

## 3. RESULTS AND IMPACT

Efficient collaboration between Nauru's Ministry of Health and the Department of Justice facilitated the swift passage of the *Tobacco Control (Amendment) Act 2023*. The most recent available data show a downward trend in the prevalence of tobacco use among men and women in Nauru. This work is expected to contribute to a continued reduction in smoking rates and NCDs in Nauru in coming years.



*"The gap analysis report done by SPC played a crucial role during the review of the Act and provided further justification... to amend [it]. The report was also used for key stakeholder and Ministerial briefings"*

— Don Kadir, Director Public Health, Nauru Ministry of Health and Medical Services

## 4. LESSONS LEARNED

The Ministry of Health and the Department of Justice's collaborative efforts swiftly transformed recommendations into legislative actions, highlighting the success of the interdepartmental collaboration. While celebrating progress, there are opportunities to further strengthen legislation, especially in tobacco health warnings and tobacco industry interference, to better align with the WHO FCTC.

**Division:** Public Health Division (PHD)

**Donors:** Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## MAINSTREAMING CROSS-SECTORAL PRIORITIES

The promotion of equity, inclusion and environmental responsibility is at the heart of planetary health. The consideration of access to health services and representation in decision-making processes aims to reduce health disparities and improve overall well-being for all individuals.



*Interviewing persons with disability in Vanuatu for inclusion in the Vanuatu People with Disability database*

### *Leaving no one behind: Vanuatu's path to establishing a disability database*

Vanuatu took groundbreaking steps to ensure comprehensive data about people with disabilities are available to the government and NGOs so that they can provide essential health care. Led by the Ministry of Justice and Community Services' Disability Desk and supported by SPC, stakeholders collaborated to develop a new comprehensive database for use across sectors to inform decisions, develop relevant interventions, and plan and respond to people's needs in emergencies. SPC contracted Lattice Innovations to develop the database, which was completed in December 2023. Country ownership and coordination among ministries and NGOs was integral to the database development. The initiative showcases the importance of stakeholder engagement and SPC's role in driving impactful change. Lessons learned emphasise the necessity of time, collaboration and SPC's reputation in garnering support. The project's success paves the way for replication in other PICTs, promoting inclusivity and data-driven decision-making.

## INNOVATION

Innovation plays a key role in improving health outcomes by developing technologies and approaches that integrate human, animal and environmental health considerations.

### *Innovating healthcare: Zens Medical Centre's path to excellence in Fiji*

Private health laboratories, such as Zens Medical Centre (ZMC) in Fiji, are increasingly sharing the burden of delivering diagnostic services with public health laboratories, as witnessed during COVID-19. Upon ZMC's request, in July 2021 SPC supported them to demonstrate compliance with laboratory quality management system (LQMS) requirements. SPC conducted a successful Stepwise Laboratory Improvement Process Towards Accreditation (SLIPTA) assessment, resulting in ZMC being issued a certificate of compliance. This led to increased demand for their services, with the pathology department becoming part of a public-private partnership. SPC's support helped ZMC to integrate LQMS into their daily operations, leading to improved service delivery. Challenges included some initial staff resistance, but stakeholder collaboration and networking efforts played a crucial role in the initiative's success. ZMC received the Fiji Business Excellence Award in 2023, showcasing the transformative impact of innovation in laboratory quality management.

*Mr Siromi Turaga, Fiji's Attorney-General, presenting the award to Dr Zen and his staff in Nadi on 11 November 2023.*





## KFA 7

# Transforming institutional effectiveness

Future state 2031: One SPC is values-based and working with members and partners to provide coherent, social and environmental responsible learning for enhanced representation of Pacific people and gender equality across the organisation and at all levels of decision-making.



CCES  
Climate  
Change and  
Environmental  
Sustainability



EQAP  
Educational  
Quality and  
Assessment  
Programme



FAME  
Fisheries,  
Aquaculture  
and Marine  
Ecosystems



GEM  
Geoscience,  
Energy and  
Maritime



HRSD  
Human Rights  
and Social  
Development



LRD  
Land  
Resources  
Division



PHD  
Public  
Health  
Division



SDD  
Statistics for  
Development  
Division



The Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science

## OVERVIEW

We delivered on our results for 2023 with the dedication of our 760 staff, supported by a budget of EUR 120 million from over 70 donors and partners. KFA 7 underpins all our results as we continue working towards strengthening institutional effectiveness as One SPC. All divisions contribute to this KFA, guided by the organisation's values and supported by the Operations and Management Directorate (OMD) and leadership across all levels.

In the second year of implementing of our Strategic Plan 2022–2031, we harnessed our collective capability to deliver services that advanced the realisation of national, regional and global priorities.

SPC leads information sharing through PDH, the central repository of open data and knowledge products on the Pacific region. Digital Earth Pacific, PDH.stat and other data, information and decision-ready products helped strengthen planning, policy formulation, decision-making and reporting.

This KFA contributed 102 results and 19% of our total results for 2023. The results most strongly aligned with SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals) and the 2050 Strategy thematic area 'Political Leadership and Regionalism'. We influenced change mostly through our capability and influence, policy to action, and data, statistics and knowledge pathways. 63% of results for KFA 7 contribute to higher level results (change in knowledge, change in attitude, change in practice, impact).

## RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

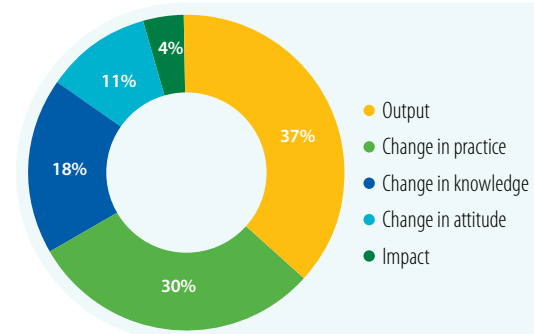
### Leveraging our One SPC approach to attain operational excellence

SPC demonstrated its ability to adapt to challenges resulting from COVID-19, social and environmental events, and the changing needs of member PICTs and donors. Our actions to strengthen our One SPC systems and processes and embed new digital solutions have enabled us to be flexible and find new ways of working.

OMD's Finance team underwent strategic restructuring towards a function-based approach, transitioning from location-based roles to positions aligned with functional areas, alongside a review of finance regulation to enhance compliance and support growth of the organisation. This shift has led to the successful implementation of a finance shared services model. A fully automated travel system was developed in 2023, aiming to boost efficiency and integrate advanced mechanisms across procurement, HR and communications. HR operations were enhanced, focusing on the standardisation of procedures and the development of six standard operating procedures and the One SPC Staff Orientation programme. This initiative is part of laying the foundation for a comprehensive staff policies manual and

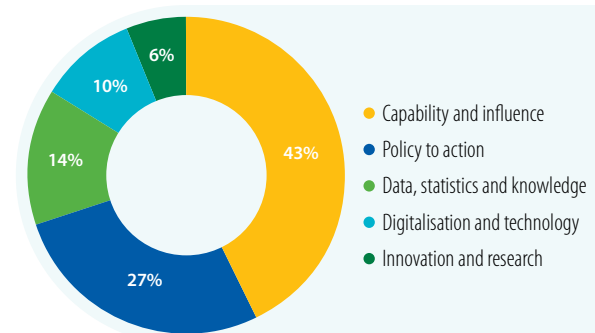
**Graph 23:**

Transforming Institutional Effectiveness | Results type (n=102)



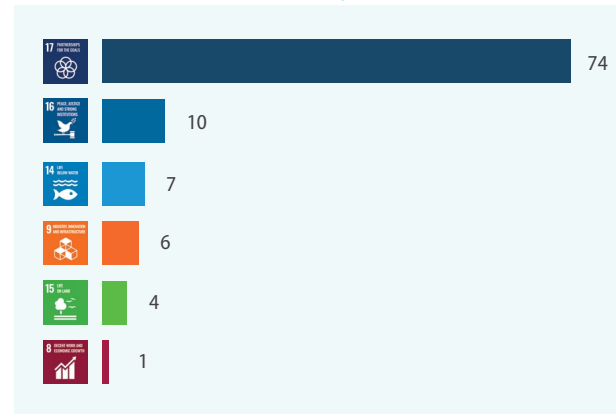
**Graph 24:**

Transforming Institutional Effectiveness | Results by pathway (n=102)



**Graph 25:**

Transforming Institutional Effectiveness | Contribution to SDGs (n=102)



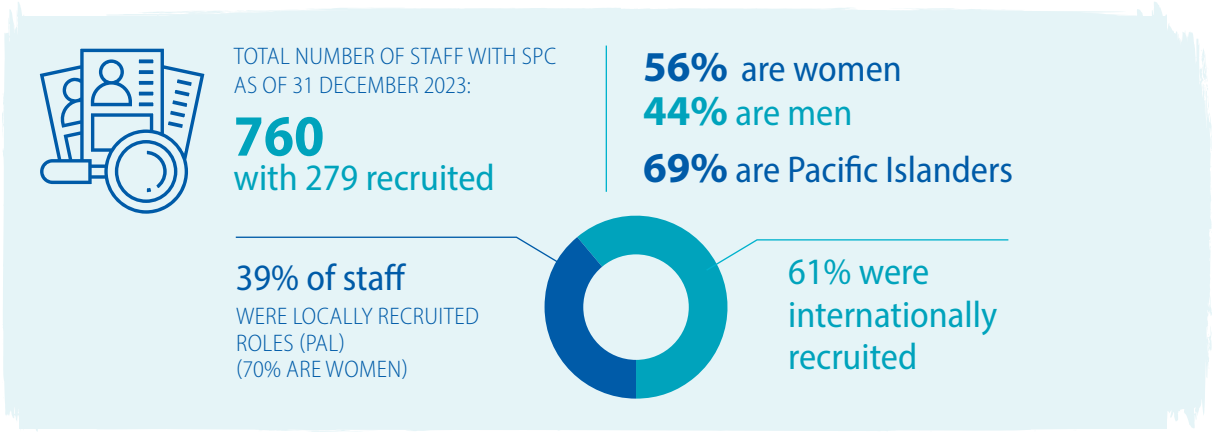
the realignment of HR into three key capability areas, aiming to improve overall operational effectiveness.

Due to our systems improvements and proactive planning processes, in 2023 we made fewer adjustments to our work plans and budgets (40% compared to 60% in 2022) to account for changes in priorities of our members and

partners and cope with delays due to procurement processes or recruitment challenges.

Our people

SPC's workforce has grown by 6% since 2022 to 760 staff members.



Five (3 women, 2 men) key appointments were made to SPC's Senior Leadership Team (SLT), providing a significant milestone for the organisation in relation to women in leadership. For the first time, women make up the majority of SLT's composition, with 12 women (57%) and 9 men (43%).

**Five key leadership appointments in 2023:**

**Maria Fuata,**  
Deputy Director General,  
Operations and Integration

**Coral Pasisi,**  
Director of Climate Change and  
Environmental Sustainability

**William Kostka,**  
Director of the Micronesia  
Regional Office

**Adam McWilliams,**  
Director of Information  
Services

**Lisa Kingsberry,**  
Director of Corporate  
Communications

SPC supports staff well-being through initiatives like well-being day, where health, safety and well-being workshops are conducted for all staff, and continues efforts to strengthen its processes, policies and procedures in recognising its diverse workforce, particularly the effective participation of women in the organisation.

SPC Staff participating in the PHD Wellness Warrior challenge



## Our 2023 budget

SPC's 2023 revised budget was EUR 120.20 million, while preliminary actual expenditure as of December 2023 was EUR 109.38 million. Programme and project expenditure, totalling EUR 94.26 million against the budget of EUR 103.19 million, represented a 91% execution rate. The rate of project and programme implementation was impacted by delays due to a high volume of recruitment, capacity issues and availability of our implementing partners, as well as the increasing level of compliance standards required by some donors. Logistical challenges affecting recruitment, training and mobilising activities in the region are amongst some of the continuing impacts of COVID-19 on implementation. Net core expenditure was EUR 15.04 million compared to a budget of EUR 16.95 million, EUR 1.91 million lower than budgeted. This core underspend, mainly on salaries, contributed to the surplus as of December 2023. SPC continued providing services to members with a commitment to maintain a balanced budget in changing and challenging regional and national financial conditions.

SPC's 2024 approved budget provides for expenditure of EUR 126.45 million, an increase of EUR 6.25 million from the 2023 revised budget. The increase reflects business growth from higher programme and project implementation. SPC's financial situation and outlook remain generally positive,

and SPC will continue its efforts to achieve the highest possible levels of implementation. Our focus on managing financial risk in 2024 is on ensuring our adaptability to changing contexts and managing donor compliance complexity and risk.

## Resource mobilisation

Progress was made in establishing the Partnerships, Integration and Resource Mobilisation Office (PIRMO) and with SPC's resource mobilisation initiatives, particularly the *Resource Mobilisation Strategy 2023–2025*, to support SPC's Strategic Plan 2022–2031. The resource mobilisation strategy is a strategic action in support of this KFA, to be realised through a member-driven approach to resource mobilisation and to support delivery of member priorities within SPC's strategic plan and the 2050 Implementation Plan.

## Corporate communications

Our Corporate Communications team is bringing key strategic shifts to better tell our story and improve our reach and visibility. This includes efforts to enhance French-based content and reinforce the One SPC approach across the organisation. In 2023 we saw overall growth in user numbers both on SPC's website and social media, and SPC will continue to build on this momentum in the coming years with strategic adjustments and a focus on user experience.

SPC WEBSITE

**484,995**  
**visitors** (+1.2%)

550 updates (+12%)

representing 2.4  
new posts published  
per working day

TOTAL FOLLOWERS:

**206,537**  
engagement rate: 7.6% (+15.4%)

FACEBOOK:  
97k followers  
(+4.8%)



INSTAGRAM:  
2.7k followers  
(+22.5%)



LINKEDIN:  
49k followers  
(+32%)

X:  
39k followers  
(+9.2%)



YOUTUBE:  
7.7k followers  
(+18%)

## Data and statistics: SPC is the regional lead and custodian of national data

In 2023 the Pacific Data Hub (PDH) continued to play a crucial role as a regional repository, supporting the collection, analysis, storage and dissemination of data and knowledge products for members and partners. Key initiatives included technical assistance to five PICTs for household income and expenditure surveys and to eight PICTs for population and housing censuses, covering various aspects from planning to analytical reporting. Additionally, seven PICTs received targeted support for civil registration and vital statistics. We updated our *Five-Year Regional Data Collection Plan for 2022–2026*, which was presented at the Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting, and we supported 15 PICTs in developing their national data collection plans. The Pacific Statistics and Data (PSD) Initiative, funded by MFAT since 2019, gained NZD 23.9 million in a renewal of support in July 2023. PSD aims to enhance evidence-informed decision-making in the Pacific through PDH, ensuring access to quality, timely data and integrating traditional Pacific knowledge to foster a resilient region.

## Strengthening our presence at national level: Our 3 regional offices

Our regional offices (the Melanesian Regional Office in Vanuatu, Polynesian Office in Tonga and Micronesian Office in the Federated States of Micronesia) continue to support SPC to resource, coordinate and deliver services that reach even the most remote Pacific communities. The regional offices provide a mechanism to bring services closer to people, acknowledging that culture and context requires specific solutions for our members in these subregions.

### *Appointment of new Regional Director for SPC's Regional Office, Micronesia (Pohnpei)*

William Kostka has been appointed as the Regional Director, Micronesia, at SPC effective on 13 November 2023, and is stationed at SPC's Regional Office in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

### *In 2023 SPC opened its Polynesia Regional Office in Nuku'alofa.*

The new office, opened in April and located in the heart of Nuku'alofa, will serve as a hub for SPC's operations in Polynesia, providing support and assistance to member countries in the region. It will be dedicated to strengthening partnerships with members, civil society organisations and communities across Polynesia.



**"The opening of the Polynesia Regional office in Tonga truly is a milestone. This is an achievement for our government and for our Polynesian members in the Pacific"**

*Noted the Hon. Hu'akavameiliku, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga, at the official opening of SPC's Polynesia Regional Office.*

SPC and the American Samoan Government (ASG) have entered a milestone agreement by signing a Statement of Intent and Strategic Country Engagement Framework (SOI & SCEF). This agreement signifies the strong commitment from both parties towards collaborative efforts and strengthening engagement at country level.

### *The Melanesian Regional Office (MERO) in Vanuatu demonstrated the value of kaitiakitanga/stewardship through support for youth participation in ocean management.*

In collaboration with PCCOS, MERO demonstrated kaitiakitanga/stewardship of our members by ensuring that their voices and needs are heard and addressed, and their milestones are communicated and celebrated. In 2023 a key initiative included training Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) and documenting and sharing traditional ocean conservation practices in Pentecost and Malo. MERO trained ECOPs to increase their efficiency and assisted with editing inputs ready for publication from community research on how traditional governance of the ocean space is critical. Training and mentoring of an ECOP by the Regional Director led to his permanent appointment as Senior Desk Officer for the Government of Vanuatu Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Maritime and Ocean Affairs Division.



## INNOVATION

Innovation and agility are vital to SPC's work and are facilitated by strong relationships with member countries and development partners. The region's capacity to innovate enables SPC to adapt our programmes to meet evolving member needs.

### *Launch of SPC's Pacific Pathfinder*

2023 saw the launch of *The Pacific Pathfinder*, a guide and toolkit for Pacific policy analysts and planners involved in strategic planning, building on Pacific strengths, traditions and knowledge of how to navigate strategically towards a desired future. Inspired by the strategic foresight and futures thinking used to design SPC's Strategic Plan 2022–2031, *The Pacific Pathfinder* was developed to share what we have learnt about developing a strategy, and the tools we used to do it.

### *Innovative projects reaching out to local communities*

The PacLang project, led by SPC's Translation team with FAME and HRSD and supported by FiT, aims to empower Pacific communities by adapting sustainable development concepts into vernacular languages. Lack of materials in local languages hinders effective stakeholder decision-making, and several Pacific languages are either at risk or endangered. SPC began to build a network of Pacific language service practitioners under the PacLang initiative to facilitate the creation of culturally grounded information and awareness products.

### *Innovating for impact: Funding with intent*

Since its inception in 2020, SPC's Funding with Intent (FiT) project has initiated numerous collaborations across 10 sectors, driving trans-disciplinary collaboration, providing access to new resources and fostering systems approaches in the implementation of the strategic plan. Teams pitch ideas internally and selected projects are supported by SPL, from design through to implementation. Results span various sectors and include the identification of sites of international geological significance, development of health tools and peer-to-peer learning initiatives. Key lessons include the importance of continuous innovation, relationship-building, and adaptability for long-term sustainability and success. As the flagship approaches develop, FiT presents an opportunity to ensure funds are available to catalyse innovation and cross-divisional integration.

*FiT has supported 52 projects,*



**32 were small-scale**  
proof-of-concept innovations



**4 were amplified**  
to an existing initiative for scale up



**16 were**  
**peer-to-peer**  
**innovations**

which enhanced capacity in member countries

## MAINSTREAMING OUR CROSS-SECTORAL PRIORITIES

As One SPC, our Pacific Women Lead (PWL) programme, Gender Equality Flagship and social and environmental responsibility (SER) policy weave together the different streams of gender work to create a cohesive approach to advance gender equality across all our work. Three key appointments in 2023 have enriched SPC's leadership.

### *The PWL programme*

PWL is at the centre of SPC's work for gender equality. This includes the PWL programme at SPC and targeted sector programming. Internally, 2023 has seen concerted effort to strengthen the institutional framework and mechanisms to

support and empower its workforce through the Women in Leadership (WIL) programme, which plays a pivotal role in advancing gender equality efforts across sectors, including initiatives such as the *Pacific Energy Gender Strategic Action Plan* and Pacific Women in Maritime programme. A crucial element of this strategy is the enhancement of subregional partnerships, including supporting the development of a Micronesian gender equality framework. Ongoing collaboration with CROP agencies, regional organisations and UN Women have fostered consistency in approaches and enhanced the programme's visibility and relevance.

SPC made significant progress in advancing women's leadership in 2023. Our commitment to strengthening WIL included approval of a work programme and the establishment of internal working groups to implement the commitments of the 2022 Leadership Audit Management Response. Agreement by the two SPC Deputy Director-Generals to lead the implementation of the WIL programme, in collaboration with the Principal Strategic Lead, is evidence of the organisational commitment to this work. Other achievements in 2023 included: development and operationalisation of a clear and responsive domestic violence policy and standard operating procedures, all staff having access to regular information and training on bullying, sexual exploitation and harassment, domestic violence, domestic violence leave and the relevant SPC policies, and increased advocacy and policy dialogue on gender equality and women in leadership across SPC. In relation to influence in the region, women's leadership mechanisms are established and supported within SPC and CROP agencies, and 2023 saw an elevation of the visibility of the CROP Women of the Wave network.

### ***Strengthening our SER policy implementation***

SPC's SER policy is a cornerstone of our efforts to mainstream cross-sectoral policies. Since its adoption in 2020, SPC has invested in systems and people to support integration of the SER policy into its programmatic and organisational practices.

In December 2023 the SER team conducted a survey to collect insights on the implementation of the SER policy and inform future action to strengthen existing SER support and mechanisms for implementation. The majority of respondents (84%) contribute to mainstreaming environmental safeguards, and 92% reported that their programmes or projects contributed to mainstreaming social safeguards. Based on the results of this survey, the SER team will work on the standardisation of SPC's grievance redress mechanism, particularly at the project level, and the development and use of SER indicators for strengthened implementation and reporting.

HRSD, in collaboration with HR and SER is dedicated to enforcing social safety aspects for staff, including the policy against sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH). SPC also exercises stringent financial control to deter fraud, corruption, and other irregularities, detailed further in this report's compliance section.



**62% decrease**  
in SPC's emissions  
from 2017-2022

### ***Advancing inclusion in public health***

Gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) principles play a pivotal role in PHD's efforts to realise Goal 3 of SPC's strategic plan: Ensuring all Pacific people reach their full potential and lead long, healthy lives. PICTs are committed to disability rights, but challenges persist in implementing activities that promote inclusion. During PHD's 2022 end-of-year reflection process, staff recognised the importance of supporting PICTs in delivering equitable health services and identified disability inclusion as a significant gap in their current work. In addition, a 2023 staff survey found staff acknowledged the need for greater knowledge and better frameworks and structures to guide them to effectively apply disability inclusion activities to their work practices. Staff also identified opportunities to integrate inclusion into programmes. PHD's commitment to better mainstream inclusion has been demonstrated by the delivery of a GEDSI workshop preceding the Pacific Heads on Nursing and Midwifery meeting in November 2023. Lessons learned emphasise the need for ongoing training, mainstreaming inclusion in processes, enhancing data collection and advocating for better infrastructure.



*Some of the participants attending the GEDSI workshop.*

# MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (MEL) COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE: BUILDING MEL CAPABILITY IN THE PACIFIC



MELnet meeting in Noumea in October 2023.

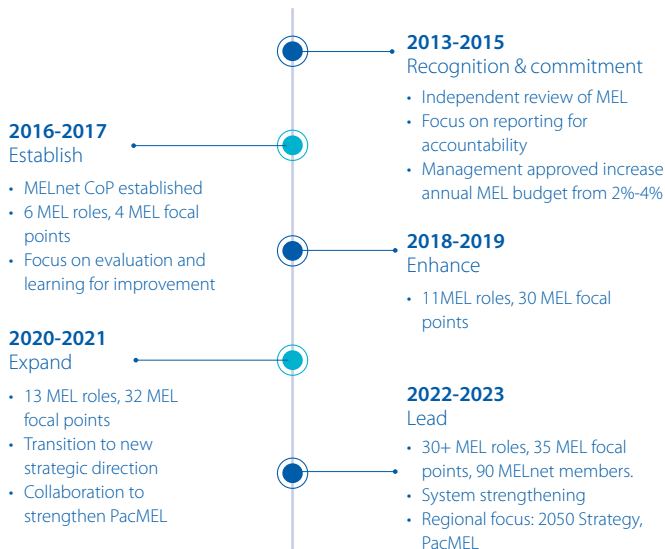


## 1. CONTEXT

An evaluation of monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) practices at the Pacific Community (SPC) in 2013 revealed resource limitations and a reporting culture overly focused on describing activities rather than providing evidence of effectiveness. Feedback from members and partners about the reporting prompted SPC to prioritise improving its MEL culture and accountability to its members. With initial funding from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), in 2016 SPC launched the MELnet community of practice to share knowledge and promote evidence-based decision-making both within SPC and across the region.

## 2. CHANGE PROCESS

**Investment and commitment to strengthen MEL capability within and beyond SPC**



## 3. RESULTS AND IMPACT

SPC's MEL practice has grown in scale and capability, and there is now a dedicated MEL function in all eight technical divisions. Through revision of its Planning, Evaluation, Accountability, Reflection and Learning (PEARL) policy, committed investment and management support, SPC has established a MEL system that supports SPC's commitments and accountability to its members.

With over 90 members in 2023, MELnet's unique capability has been a catalyst in transforming MEL culture. Notably, MELnet is a key player in the implementation of SPC's Strategic Plan 2022–2031, and its strengthened capacity has fostered more MEL collaboration within regional organisations and provided opportunities to share experience and provide MEL leadership. For instance, PacMEL, an outward facing arm of SPC's MELnet, has been acknowledged in the 2050 MEL framework. The PacMEL Va'a is noted as an example of an existing initiative that the 2050 MEL process can leverage to strengthen MEL implementation across various sectors at the national and regional levels.

## 4. LESSONS LEARNED

The commitment to invest in SPC's MEL capability requires an intentional and structured approach that engages multiple partners within and outside of SPC. Ongoing management support, regular engagements, effective communication and targeted capacity-building initiatives drive the transformation of MEL culture within SPC.

**Division:** Strategy, Performance and Learning (SPL)

**Donors:** DFAT; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), New Zealand

# OUR PATHWAYS

*This section discusses our results by the five strategic pathways of our Strategic Plan 2022–2031. The pathways describe how SPC will contribute across the KFAs to progress our mission of ensuring all Pacific peoples' rights and well-being through science and knowledge, guided by our deep understanding of Blue Pacific contexts and cultures.*

Our five pathways are: policy to action; data, statistics and knowledge; innovation and research; digitalisation and technology; and capability and influence. While many of our results are achieved through action in multiple pathways, this section presents an overview of our results by the primary pathway.

## POLICY TO ACTION

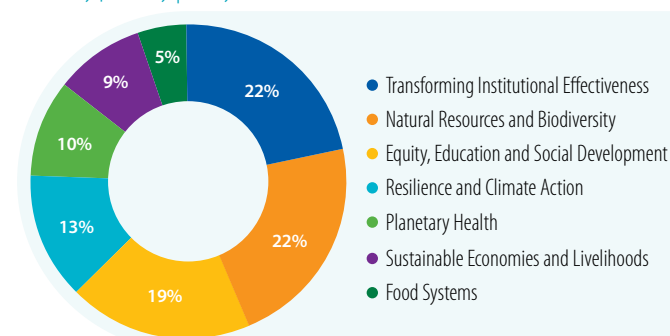
Policy to action is about turning policies and commitments into real, tangible action for Pacific people and communities, and ensuring development is guided by principles of people-centred approaches, sustainability and good governance.

In 2023 SPC strengthened country capacity to access funding for climate change initiatives that enhance resilience, collaboration, and sustainable systems, and support resilient ecosystems. We worked with members to develop and adopt frameworks, guidelines, agreements, policies and SOPs that supported sustainable land, fisheries and ocean management, environmental food safety, water security, aquatic biosecurity, veterinary services, and compliant land and ocean production systems. We assisted members put frameworks in place to implement education programmes, set standards, and develop qualifications. We advised on

maritime boundary issues, supported the development of tobacco, alcohol, and food-related legislation for improved public health, and supported the health sector in managing disease outbreaks. We provided guidance on integrating human rights and gender equity to projects across sectors, and on the collection and management of data. Our engagement and collaboration with partners across sectors supported ongoing dialogue and enhanced our impact, and this was complemented by our efforts to strengthen our MEL system, development of business practices, and improved knowledge products.

**Graph 26:**

Results by pathway | Policy to action (n=125)



## Strategic Results Framework (SRF) indicators for policy to action

Indicator	2022	2023	Change
Number of legislation/regulations/policies developed or reviewed/ developed or with support from SPC	50 (40% national, 60% regional)	50 (42% regional, 58% national)	Same
Number of legislation/regulations/policies were endorsed, adopted and implemented	40 (24% national, 16% regional)	50 (28% regional, 72% national)	25% ↑
Number of tools (guidelines, manuals, action plans, SOPs, frameworks, protocols, toolkits, strategies) were developed to support the implementation of policies/legislations, with support from SPC	45 +	60+	33% ↑

### **Protecting Tuvalu's agriculture: Collaborative strategies against transboundary pests**

Tuvalu, a country at the forefront of climate extremes, faces ecosystem threats, including transboundary plant pests like the fruit fly. The Tuvalu *National Agriculture Sector Plan, 2016–2023* recognises pest incursions as a significant barrier to sustainable development. Responding to the fruit fly presence affecting Niulakita Island, the Department of Agriculture (DOA) enacted restrictions to contain its spread, impacting trade and food security. In collaboration with the Tuvalu government, SPC developed a fruit fly management and population suppression strategy under the Safe Agricultural Trade Facilitation through Economic Integration in the Pacific (SAFE Pacific) project. Despite challenges, SPC and DOA leveraged local resources and community engagement for surveillance and suppression. This initiative underscores the importance of partnerships, community involvement and adaptation in climate resilience. Effective communication and collaboration are vital for sustainable policy solutions.



*Department of Agriculture staff preparing to transport the first round of fruit fly traps on Niulakita, Tuvalu*



*Saimoni Bebenisala, Inspector of Police, Research and Projects, Fiji Police Force, a supporter of standardisation of qualifications to benchmark best practice in DRM across the Pacific.*

### **Building resilience in the Pacific: Formalisation of capacity building in the disaster risk management sector**

To bolster Pacific resilience against disasters and climate change, SPC's Disaster and Community Resilience Programme developed training resources to support standardised policies and systems in the disaster risk management (DRM) sector. Leveraging the Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance project, SPC developed nine free and accessible online courses. SPC trained in-country trainers to customise content for local delivery of the micro-qualifications. These initiatives enhance professionalism, promote diversity and foster partnerships. Results include improved accessibility, interoperability, stakeholder partnerships and increased participation by women. Lessons learned led to the development of micro-qualifications, adaptable learning schedules, and strategies to address time constraints and trainer shortages, ensuring ongoing improvement in DRM capacity building for our member countries.

## DATA, STATISTICS AND KNOWLEDGE

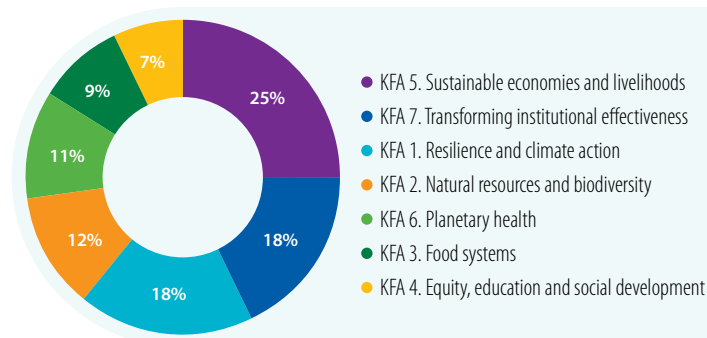
This pathway focuses on ensuring coherent and relevant data is collected, analysed, shared and accessible to empower members and stakeholders to use evidence across a wide range of sectors and purposes.

SPC's efforts through data, statistics and knowledge have been instrumental in empowering PICTs to make informed decisions across various sectors. In 2023 SPC continued to develop and manage a range of data collections, repositories, and knowledge products through the Pacific Data Hub and in collaboration with divisions and regional stakeholders. These are made accessible to members and other stakeholders to use in their planning and programming across a wide range of sectors and purposes. SDD provided support to PICTs in managing data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of census and population surveys, high-quality vital statistics and gender statistics, and in the measurement and development of key development indicators such as poverty and trade. We also supported the development of energy knowledge platforms, national literacy and numeracy

data collection initiatives and regional benchmarking, tools for collection and use of data to inform hazard identification and early warning systems, and preparation of guidelines and other support to assist members access and use data and knowledge products.

**Graph 27:**

Results by pathway | Data, statistics and knowledge (n=76)



### SRF indicators for data, statistics and knowledge

Indicator	2022	2023	Change
Number of datasets in the PDH catalogue (structured and semi-structured data, spatial data, links to online databases and web services)	750	821	9% ↑
Number of statistical datasets published on PDH.stat	11,527	12,721	10% ↑
Number of microdata for census and surveys published in the PDH	194	215	11% ↑
Number of convenings on data and statistics	15 (5 regional, 10 at national level)	18 (8 regional, 10 national level)	20% ↑

### Niue's digital civil registration and vital statistics system (CRVS): A world first

Nearly 1 million children under five in the Pacific are not registered at birth, and many deaths go unrecorded because of paper-based registration systems and government department silos resulting in inefficient registration processes. Niue's digital civil registration system, NiueCRVS, has made registration easier and improved efficiency for staff in justice, health, community services and statistics departments. SPC helped secure donor funding, supported partnerships and collaboration with Niuean public servants and stakeholders, and assisted with business process mapping and system configuration training. The system now enables efficient birth and death registration while facilitating data exchange among health, justice and statistics agencies and enhancing disaster resilience. Niue is the first country in the world to successfully implement the OpenCRVS software, showcasing the benefits of modernising civil registration systems to other PICTs. The project offers valuable lessons in digital adaptation and multi-partner collaboration, emphasising the need for continuous upgrades and trust in digital solutions.



Midwife entering a newborn's data into NiueCRVS.

## Breathing life into Pacific data: Pacific DataViz Challenge 2023

The Pacific DataViz Challenge 2023, a collaboration between SPC and the New Caledonian government, aimed to enhance the visibility of the Pacific Data Hub (PDH), inspire exploration of Pacific issues and promote the region globally. Competition participants focused on the theme of 'food' using data from up to four PDH datasets to explore issues such as purchasing power, food inflation and the influence of cyclones on local production. The 2023 competition, widely promoted on social media and through a launch conference, resulted in 43 submissions from 56 participants in 14 countries worldwide. The awards ceremony was held during the 6<sup>th</sup> Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS6) meeting in Noumea. Winners included visualisations titled [Food in Paradise](#) from Italy and [Carbs on the Coast](#) from the USA. Lessons learned emphasised the need for better engagement with Pacific competitors. Future adaptations aim to enhance cultural sensitivity and broaden representation.

*Vaimu'a Muliava, Government Member responsible for the digital transition and development of technological innovation, opens the 2023 Pacific DataViz Challenge during the 6<sup>th</sup> HOPS meeting.*



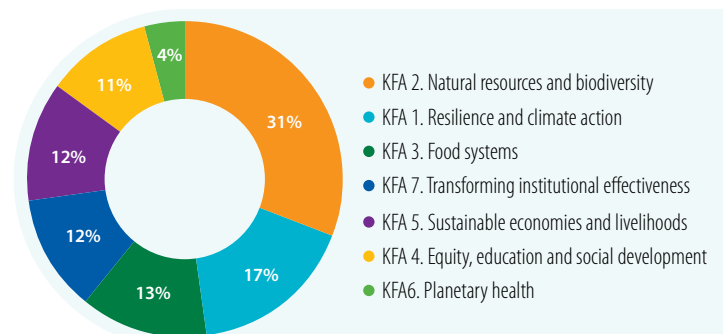
## INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

This pathway monitors how innovation is driving transformation, and how dedicated research initiatives are informing the development of stronger systems across all our KFAs. Investment in innovative approaches, adaptations and strategic research enables the scaling up of technologies and approaches from small to large system-level solutions.

SPC's commitment to innovation and research has significantly advanced evidence-based decision-making. In 2023 SPC continued to develop ways to work innovatively, promote research, and deliver support for member countries. Divisions across SPC supported innovative ways to collect and use satellite data and develop models to identify, plan for, and reduce risks associated with climate change, integrate GEDSI principles into projects, and strengthen internal business systems. We also strengthened the agriculture sector by enhancing its long-term sustainability, promoting conservation, and preventing plant and crop disease outbreaks. Our research

in fisheries, the ocean environment, agriculture, and education has been widely used and disseminated through the development of knowledge products, publications, presentations at conferences, and through our extensive relationships across sectors within PICTs.

### KFA 6. Planetary health



### SRF indicators for innovation and research

Indicator	2022	2023	Change
Number of research outputs published in PDH (scientific publications, reports, policy briefs, policies documents, manuals, handbooks)	10,777	11,900	10% ↑
Number of peer-reviewed publications published with contributions from SPC staff	38	36	5% ↓
Number of initiatives supporting innovation and culture in research and creative industries	49	50	2% ↑

### Forging Pacific pathways in monitoring, evaluation and learning

In late 2019 SPC convened a group of development professionals in Fiji to initiate the innovative Strengthening Pacific Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (PacMEL) project to enhance MEL practices in the Pacific region. Recognising the need to integrate cultural and contextual knowledge into MEL, they drafted the PacMEL Rebbilib, a document outlining the direction for Pacific-led MEL development. Recommendations included the creation of a micro-qualification for Pacific MEL practitioners, aiming to recognise skills and bolster competitiveness in the industry. Led by SPC's Pacific Va'a, in collaboration with the University of the South Pacific and ADB, a Diploma in MEL has been developed through a series of workshops with MEL experts from the Pacific and with input from SPC's qualification development team. The new Level 6 accredited qualification will be available from 2024 and will cultivate a new generation of practitioners adept at preserving indigenous knowledge within MEL activities.



Participants at the MEL diploma qualification endorsement workshop in September in Fiji.

## A systems-thinking approach to bridge the ocean science-to-policy gap

The Pacific Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS) addressed a gap in regional knowledge exchanges between policy-makers, scientists and traditional knowledge experts by organising the inaugural Pacific Islands Conference on Ocean Science and Ocean Management (PICOSOM) in September 2023. By adopting a systems thinking approach and involving multiple partners, including government agencies and international NGOs, PCCOS designed PICOSOM to promote innovation, diversity and Pacific ownership. The response was overwhelming, with 112 abstract submissions, 215 participants and representation from 17 PICTs. The five-day conference programme was co-designed with partners and student groups who planned, moderated and led sessions. Young early career ocean professionals had significant speaking engagement and youth-led sessions, and traditional knowledge was highlighted as a key learning area. The success of PICOSOM highlighted the need for such platforms and emphasised community involvement. Participant feedback commended the event's diversity and its role in advancing ocean management through science and connectivity.



## DIGITALISATION AND TECHNOLOGY

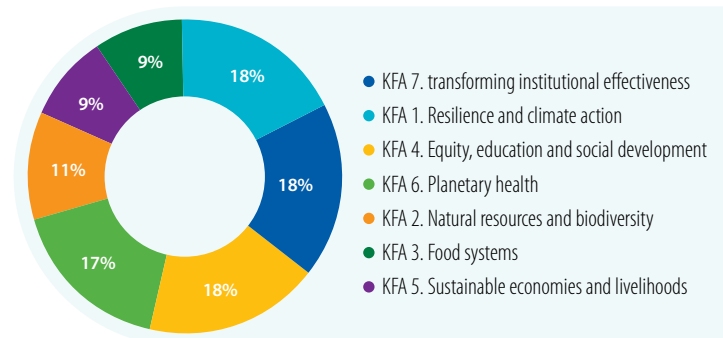
This pathway refers to using digital and other technologies to render systems and processes more efficient, effective and sustainable. This involves developing and promoting the use of digital tools and technological solutions to support decision-making, promote sustainability and equitable benefits.

SPC has harnessed digitisation and technology to revolutionise data collection, management and use. Through the digitalisation and technology pathway, SPC worked with members to use technology to strengthen data collection and sharing in the fisheries sector, undertake new research and the use of new technologies in crop management, develop new databases, and supporting new tools and ways to share risk modelling information. We also supported more efficient operational systems and processes, for example food safety systems and SPC's internal shared services ways

of working, supported professional development in public health, and helped to enhance regional and international leadership in education through better online reporting systems, literacy and numeracy assessments, online learning and skill development platforms.

**Graph 29:**

Results by pathway | Digitalisation and technology (n=55)



## SRF indicators for digitalisation and technology

Indicator	2022	2023	Change
Number of digital tools and technologies developed or implemented with support from SPC in the reporting year	50	52	4% ↑
Number of results in the reporting year supporting digital infrastructure	55	56	2% ↑

### Enhanced disaster preparedness through improved flood warning

Increasing the understanding of catchment processes, coupled with strong hydrological observations, can improve the ability to predict and prepare for flood events. In response to requests from member countries, SPC collaborated with the Australian Water Partnership to develop flash flood early warning products for use by communities. In a pilot study with the Fiji Meteorological Service in Rakiraki, SPC provided technical assistance, including field assessment, data analysis and hydrological modelling, and participated in community engagement meetings to help finalise the flood warning products and resources. This project integrated GEDSI principles by ensuring inclusivity and effective communication in local dialects to enhance community preparedness. The pilot study improved baseline data collection and flood early warning accuracy, emphasising the importance of stakeholder engagement in directing technical support for community resilience to flooding.

Rakiraki Town community flood early warning workshop.



### Echoes of Oceania platform to support community-based fisheries management

SPC facilitated the development of [Echoes of Oceania](#), a platform launched in November 2023 that helps community-based fisheries management (CBFM) practitioners share knowledge and trusted sources of information. The platform consolidates CBFM information and tools, supporting regional and subregional policy agreements to scale up CBFM. A curated collection of over 500 documents relevant to CBFM, Echoes of Oceania enables informed decision-making and capacity enhancement for governments, communities and practitioners. Its name symbolises knowledge and tradition transmission across generations in Pacific communities, aiming to preserve and share CBFM practices. The success of the platform underscores the importance of adopting a user-driven approach, prioritising platform sustainability through integrated workflows and recognising online platforms as valuable complements to real-life, face-to-face dialogues for CBFM practitioners.

The CBFM platform, *Echoes of Oceania*.

#### Explore by topic



## CAPABILITY AND INFLUENCE

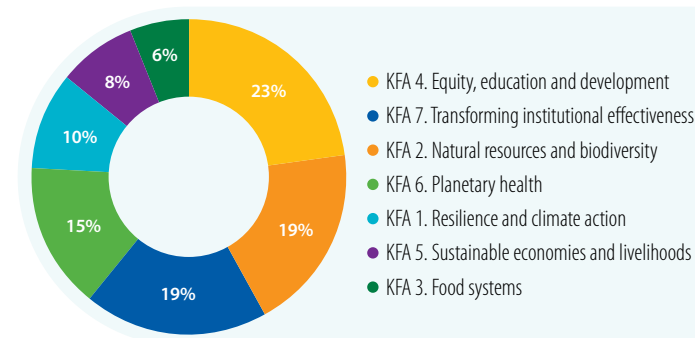
SPC works to strengthen the scientific and technical capabilities and influence of Pacific people and communities. We do this through multiple approaches that incorporate traditional knowledge, equitable and inclusive learning, access to training and formal qualifications, stakeholder engagement and advocacy. As we champion a just, equitable and resilient Blue Pacific, we also invest in creating communities of practice with deep sectoral capabilities and leadership skills.

SPC continued to play a crucial role in fostering capability and influence across the Pacific region. In 2023 SPC worked with members and partners to deliver a range of capacity building initiatives under all KFAs. These initiatives contributed to strengthening of legislation and policy, developing and maintaining economic, health, education and fisheries datasets, supporting resilient food systems through improved and sustainable agricultural and aquacultural practices, understanding and improving educational achievement,

developing capability in advocating for human rights, gender equality and non-violence, enhancing technical skills and expertise across all of our work programmes, and collaborating with regional and national partners to enhance resilience to the effects of climate change.

**Graph 30:**

Results by pathway | Capability and influence (n=231)



### SRF indicators for capability and influence

Indicator	2022	2023	Change
Number of people accessing capacity building activities	11,208	19,138	70% ↑
Reach and influence through targeted awareness activities/reach	280,000	308,500	10% ↑
Reach and influence through SPC's social media	185,068	206,537	12% ↑
Reach and influence through SPC's website	479,294	485,000	1% ↑
Number of regional meetings convened with support from SPC	22	32	45% ↑

### Regaining momentum: Bringing HOPS to life

After a seven-year hiatus, the 6<sup>th</sup> Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS6) Regional Governance meeting in Noumea brought together Pacific Island heads of statistics, planners and central bank policymakers, among others. It provided strategic direction and enhanced engagement and cooperation between national statistical offices (NSOs), planners, donors and development partners to support the approval and implementation of the *Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics 2022–2030* and other statistics initiatives, including the *Pacific Action Plan for Civil Registries and Vital Statistics* and the *Pacific Roadmap for Gender Statistics*. SPC facilitated the meeting and convened two formal side meetings to discuss statistical best practice methods and for donors and partners to coordinate assistance. SDD worked with SPL, members and partners to develop the agenda, manage logistics, create displays and run meetings that included country presentations, were interactive and met country priorities. Lessons highlighted enhanced participation, balancing interaction with governance and a systems thinking approach to engagement.



## ***Safeguarding Solomon Islands agriculture through animal disease surveillance***

In 2022 SPC, the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and the Solomon Islands Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) collaborated to bolster animal disease preparedness and surveillance in Solomon Islands. Support included field visits, capacity building and providing essential veterinary supplies. MAL effectively applied this new knowledge and skills in surveillance and monitoring activities, successfully detecting an avian disease outbreak in July 2023. After receiving reports of mass chicken deaths in Guadalcanal, MAL officers demonstrated strengthened capability by swiftly gathering samples for confirmatory diagnosis and a prompt response. Despite challenges such as maintaining biosecurity on unfenced farms, the response proved effective. The importance of collaboration in disease surveillance was highlighted, prompting plans to strengthen regional coordination networks like the Pacific Heads of Veterinary and Animal Production Services, as well as community-based approaches to emergency response.



*Livestock officer and para-vet Lucy Marion Keni and Dr Sripad Sosale (SPC) collecting a blood sample from a chicken on Solomon Islands.*



# OUR FLAGSHIPS

*SPC continues to develop flagships to harness our collective scientific, technical and resource capabilities to address critical regional and global challenges. Our four flagships, Climate Change, Oceans, Gender Equality and Food Systems, bring a One SPC approach to the challenges and opportunities facing the region.*

SPC's flagships have ambitious targets and work at scale to achieve collective impact towards our Strategic Plan 2022–2031 and the 2050 Strategy. They use expertise from across our technical and operational divisions, harnessing collective knowledge and resources to deliver more effectively, with better coordinated approaches. The flagships have been designed to address the most pressing challenges and opportunities facing the region and make it easier for members to connect with SPC's expertise and resources. Our flagships also enhance our regional and global collaboration with CROP agencies and partners and represent SPC's evolving ways of working and doing business.

Flagships are designed so that they can be adaptive to context. They work in the following ways:

- **Amplify impact:** Flagships represent SPC's commitment to address the urgent challenges in the areas of climate change, gender equality, food systems and oceans.
- **Leverage expertise:** By uniting expertise from across SPC, the flagships harness the collective knowledge and resources of the organisation to deliver greater impact through more coordinated approaches.
- **Promote collaboration:** Flagships help to build a more connected and resilient Pacific and position SPC to take advantage of emerging opportunities and resources.
- **Ensure accessibility for members:** The flagships offer members clear entry points for engagement and access to SPC's expertise and resources across its divisions.
- **Facilitate sustainability:** SPC is committed to the success of the flagships, ensuring they adapt to the changing needs of members to deliver effective, sustainable solutions.

SPC's flagships are responding to different drivers of change, and though they have the flexibility to be co-designed accordingly, they all share common foundational activities.

These include mapping national and regional policies and strategies, stocktaking existing commitments and capabilities across SPC, using intelligence and capabilities from existing projects, engaging with sector expertise and leadership, and drawing upon member representatives to develop the flagship governance structures.

## CLIMATE CHANGE FLAGSHIP

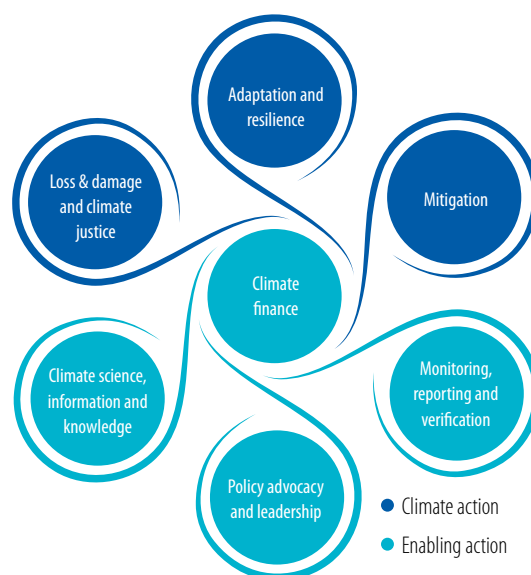
The Climate Change Flagship goal is that *Pacific people, in all their rich diversity, are more resilient and adept at adapting to climate change, and thrive in sustainable, low-carbon societies*. This flagship aligns closely with KFA 1, resilience and climate action.

The flagship aims to enhance climate action by promoting and facilitating the integration of climate change across all sectors and strengthening the capabilities of PICTs to access climate finance and other support.

### Key achievements in 2023 include:

- Completion of the Climate Change Flagship design and recruiting staff to enhance capability across the climate change initiatives. The design of the flagship was informed by a stocktake of SPC's climate change capabilities that helped planning efforts and gauging of capacity levels, identifying opportunities for collaboration with partners including CROP agencies, and planning SPC communications regarding available activities and optimal resource allocation for donors.
- Linking SPC's technical leadership with two multi-stakeholder expert groups – Climate Change and Disasters, and Ocean and Environment – has guaranteed coherence between the flagship initiative and the implementation and monitoring of the 'Climate Change and Disasters' thematic area outlined in the 2050 Strategy.

- Engaging members in climate finance negotiations and using innovative climate finance advocacy tools, which led to the successful acquisition of financial support for this flagship initiative from both New Zealand and Europe.
- Launching three regional climate change data products which provide information on climate-related changes to coastlines and mangrove forests over the past 30 years and ongoing monitoring data. These Digital Earth Pacific products are available for all PICTs to use in making evidence-based decisions.
- Providing substantive support to Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) and OneCROP, amplifying the work and advocacy of member countries in international fora such as the Conference of the Parties (COP).



**In the face of the escalating impacts of climate change on our region, it's vital we team up to accelerate action and build resilience in one of the world's most vulnerable areas. This is why Aotearoa New Zealand is committing NZ\$30 million to SPC's Climate Change Flagship to expand and intensify its climate work for our Blue Pacific Continent.**

*New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Carmel Sepuloni, announcing the new partnership that will underpin SPC's Climate Change Flagship programme*

## FOOD SYSTEMS FLAGSHIP

The Food Systems Flagship goal is that *Pacific food systems are accessible, regenerative, biodiverse, equitable and resilient to shocks. They provide access to safe and nutritious food and contribute to healthy people, ecosystems and prosperity for all.*

SPC is the only regional agency that has combined capabilities in multiple areas related to the connections between food production, processing, distribution and consumption, as well as the economic, health and environmental effects of these. [SPC's Food Systems Flagship programme](#) is the vehicle for guiding SPC actions under KFA 3, food systems. This flagship also contributes to realising the aspirations of other focus areas, including planetary health, natural resources and biodiversity, and resilience and climate action, and it connects to cutting-edge initiatives across the organisation, such as PCCOS, PDH and CePaCT.

The Food Systems Flagship takes a long-term systemic and interconnected approach to understanding, protecting and strengthening the region's food system to ensure a future where everyone in the region is food secure and well nourished. To do this, the flagship programme will enhance and scale up the technical work SPC is doing with its members; attract large-scale and anchor investments; and lead innovative thinking and practice by partnering with civil society, academia and the private sector. This work will continue in 2024 as the flagship undertakes a revalidation and theory of change exercise, built on work from 2023 which largely focused on outreach to partners and members.

**Key highlights in the development of the flagship in 2023 include:**

- Establishing SPC's interdisciplinary Food Systems Working Group (FSWG), which informed the development of interventions and investments related to food systems.

- Engaging with the private sector, including at the COP28 Pacific Coastal Food System: Connecting the Climate-Food Nexus side event and the Building Blocks to a Resilient Pacific Food System event held during the Pacific Resilience Week co-convened with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO) and Pacific Islands Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON). SPC also organised an industry cluster tour of government and private sector representatives from Fiji, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu to agrifoods clusters on Australia's Sunshine Coast.
- Engaging in initial discussions with Australian stakeholders, including representatives from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), CSIRO and DFAT, in Canberra to identify and develop partnership and collaboration opportunities on food systems.
- Holding Food Systems Flagship side events at the SPC CRGA Subcommittee and CRGA meetings in June and November, respectively, building awareness and meaningful engagement among members of the flagship in relation to their own priorities.



**“Food systems strategies need to draw from and link to existing national plans that already have a focus on different parts of the food system. SPC, for example, is doing this through its country support work in health, statistics, fisheries and agriculture, and forestry programmes, as well as through the dedicated Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT), to build a healthy and resilient Pacific,”**

*Alisi Tuqa, Food Systems Programme Lead for SPC*

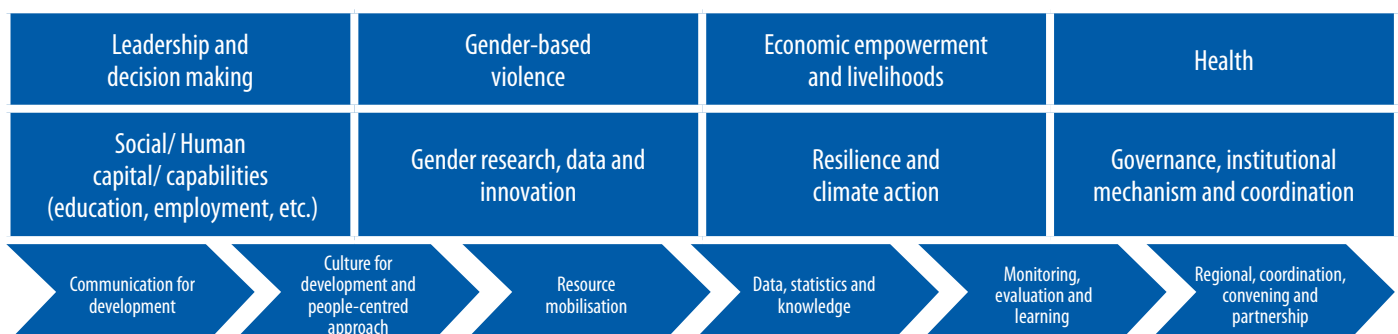
## GENDER EQUALITY FLAGSHIP

The Gender Equality Flagship, coordinated by the Women in Leadership programme, aims to provide an overarching framework for SPC to leverage its capabilities, resources and shared services to amplify its work on gender equality in the region. This flagship aligns closely with KFA 4, equity, education and social development, and all divisional gender-specific mainstreaming work. It responds to the Pacific gender equality commitments of the region under the *Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights 2018–2030*, the revitalised *Pacific Leaders Declaration on Gender Equality* and the 2050 Strategy thematic area ‘People-Centered Development’.

The design of this flagship commenced after its key dimensions were presented at the CRGA Subcommittee meeting in June 2023. Its focus is to connect and advance SPC's extensive gender work across its divisions and sectors to support the cross-cutting regional collective actions related to gender in the 2050 Strategy and SPC's Strategic Plan 2022–2031.

**Key highlights in the development of the flagship in 2023 include:**

- Progressing the flagship design, with the flagship dimensions currently considered in the design process (culture and traditional knowledge have also been identified as a key dimension and will be added as consultations progress):



- SPC's gender community of practice convened by the Women in Leadership programme supporting key convenings to advance gender equality and emerging as the technical group for the flagship, including drafting the key dimensions.
- SPC's Women in Leadership and Pacific Women Lead programmes convening an interactive panel discussion of Pacific Island leaders to hear their valuable insights and perspectives on gender equality programming.
- Working with SDD to finalise the research, data and innovation dimensions of this flagship. The Gender and Human Rights dashboard will be used as a statistical resource for the flagship, which will be finalised in 2024. Through a consultative process with stakeholders.
- Working through the Pacific Women Lead programme to begin strengthening SPC's institutional framework and mechanisms to support and empower our workforce and to support gender equality programming across multiple divisions. In addition, ongoing support to SPC's existing programmes and mechanisms on gender, including Pacific Women Lead, Pacific Women in Maritime, Women in Fisheries (PEUMP), Gender Statistics and Equitable Access to Energy.



**"SPC is committed to improving gender equality, women's empowerment and ending violence against women and girls but it won't happen on its own. As one SPC we need to come together and ensure that every programme we initiate, every community activity we do and every team we put together considers gender as an integral part of its implementation."**

*SPC Director-General, Dr Stuart Minchin, March 2023*

## OCEANS FLAGSHIP

The Oceans Flagship programme goal is *Pacific peoples voyaging together to steward a healthy, resilient, sustainable and prosperous Blue Pacific for future generations*. This flagship aligns closely with KFA 2, planetary health, and KFA 5, sustainable economies and livelihoods. It also contributes directly to the implementation of the 2050 Strategy thematic area 'Ocean and Environment'.

The development of this flagship built on the foundations provided by PCCOS, which has supported a significant cross-divisional focus to deliver integrated ocean work programmes to members and build ocean science excellence at SPC. It has also promoted regional dialogue and cooperation and supported sharing of ocean science technical expertise.

**Key highlights in the development of the flagship in 2023 include:**

- Consultations on the flagship design through a theory of change process, including SPC-wide capability mapping, and confirming the flagship's vision and dimensions.
- Led by PCCOS, progress was made on various initiatives that are significant to the Oceans Flagship at SPC. These include support to the Highly Instrumented Fish Aggregating Devices project and the updated version of the Ocean Portal. It also includes fostering the integration of scientific knowledge with indigenous wisdom through ongoing support to the Pacific Early Career Ocean Professional networks, which provides opportunities for the exchange of information and experiences.
- Two new coordination roles for SPC in the region: The Pacific Islands Ocean Decade Collaborative Center and the Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System (PI-GOOS).

# LEARNING AND ADAPTING

SPC is a learning organisation and 2023 has provided opportunities to grow from our experiences and lessons learned. Following the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and changing economic and social landscape, SPC has learned the importance of flexibility and innovation as we continue to navigate dynamic regional and global land and seascapes. We are committed to working with our members and partners to co-design and deliver innovative solutions to address the region's development needs.

The lessons we have learned and our adaptations in response to these are presented thematically against the key approaches SPC takes in its work. These approaches are articulated in our theory of change.

## Working in culturally, contextually responsive and people-centred ways

We recognise and value the importance of diversity in all its forms and continue to work to ensure our programmes and services are sensitive and inclusive to the contexts and communities within which we work. SPC is leading the implementation of the *Pacific Regional Culture Strategy 2022–2032*, endorsed in 2022, and plays a focal role in ensuring the aspirations of the strategy are mainstreamed across all areas of work in the region.

Guided by the inspiration and values of the Strategic Plan 2022–2031, SPC continues to prioritise the integration of science and Pacific knowledge into our programming, including the flagships. We are learning how to better encourage cross-divisional and cross-sector collaboration and strengthening the supporting mechanisms required to enable collaboration. Through monitoring the success of our SER policy, we are learning how to improve the implementation of the people-centred approach to support our people, operations and programming.

We learned that meaningful collaboration and integration of community knowledge and insights improves the effectiveness of our work. We also learned that our scientific and technical solutions play a vital role in fostering meaningful and respectful relationships across all aspects of our work.

## Strengthening individual and institutional capacity

We recognise that ongoing investment to enhance our internal capacity, both in terms of personnel and institutional readiness, is essential to adapt to evolving contexts and growing demands for our work.

Through investments in our internal systems and mechanisms such as procurement and grants processes, records management policy, finance and human resource management, accountability and administration systems, we have been able to better prioritise and coordinate our planning activities and we are on the way to becoming more efficient. SPC revised its financial regulations, PEARL policy, and other internal mechanisms and processes as part of strengthening its One SPC operational functions. This has required ongoing support and engagement across SPC, effective communication, and the provision of tools and training.

## Building trusted relationships with our members and partners

Relationships and member priorities are central to the implementation of SPC's Strategic Plan 2022–2031. Our increased focus on collaborating with members in 2023 is providing lessons in how to better develop genuine relationships, promote co-ownership, develop co-designed projects and provide leadership opportunities. This is

exemplified in our flagships, innovation and strategic projects such as Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity. We learned that members see value in this way of working. We have also learned that our actions to enhance and support social inclusion such as gender inclusivity has provided a safe space for women to raise their voices, and that this promotes trust. We have also strengthened our approach to partnerships, ensuring priorities and capacity constraints are communicated, and setting clear partnership arrangements so that these are negotiated in an open and transparent way and so that implementation is expedited.

We continued to reaffirm our commitment to strengthening existing ties with our members and exploring opportunities for country-specific support and engagement. This has included signing a new four-year partnership agreement with the Government of New Caledonia, signing a Statement of Intent and Strategic Country Engagement Framework with American Samoa, and continuing to support the leadership of Tuvalu as the chair of CRGA 53 and the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Pacific Community in 2023.

We expanded our presence at the country level by establishing the new Polynesian Regional Office in Tonga, complementing our country presence in Melanesia and

Micronesia. SPC will continue to develop relationships to better engage with members and understand priorities particular to each subregion and work with subregional members and development partners. This will guide implementation of SPC's work programmes, particularly the flagship initiatives, using an integrated programming modality that requires coordinated actions and expertise to address the region's most pressing development challenges.

## Convening, creating a shared understanding and pathways to impact

SPC's convening role at the regional and subregional level supports members to share knowledge and experiences, collaborate, and develop collective and coordinated approaches to tackling significant development challenges. Through mapping over 20 sectoral high-level officials and ministerial meetings convened by SPC and partner organisations at the regional level, we are learning how to better connect to commitments made by Pacific leaders. The outcomes of these meetings capture members' needs and priorities and continue to guide our planning and delivery of sectoral activities and regional public goods. This helps to ensure these are informed and governed by members.



# LOOKING FORWARD

*SPC's Strategic Plan 2022–2031 defines our future in the region. It outlines a 10-year journey guided by Pacific ways of knowing and learning, building on our assets, resources and partnerships as we sail towards our preferred Blue Pacific future.*

Drawing from the lessons we have learned, and the vision and long-term strategic direction set out by our Pacific leaders in the 2050 Strategy, this section presents a summary of the initiatives we will be focusing on in 2024 as we implement the Strategic Plan 2022–2031.

## Strengthening our institutional transformation towards One SPC

In the face of rapid growth, we will continue to navigate our ability to effectively respond through our systems, assets, facilities and processes.

In 2024 we will continue to invest in our internal processes and mechanisms to enhance the effectiveness and quality of our support to our members. We will continue to work with our partners to harness our digital and innovation capabilities and provide solutions that respond to emerging priorities and growing demand of our members. Examples include Digital Earth Pacific and the Pacific Data Hub, which provide real time information to support decision-making. We will continue to value and build the capacity of our people – and by extension the region – through our work.

We will continue to explore innovative funding opportunities by expanding beyond our traditional partnerships and engaging with philanthropic organisations and other non-traditional partners who share our values and interests. The development of our first Resource Mobilisation Strategy will drive sustainable fundraising efforts and support the implementation of our Strategic Plan 2022–2031 and the 2050 Strategy for the region.

SPC values its accountability to members and will support the implementation of a full independent institutional review (IIR). The review is a member-led process taken by the CRGA Subcommittee for the Strategic Plan. We will continue to engage our members in meaningful ways and processes to ensure that findings from the IIR create a more fit-for-purpose SPC to support the region's aspirations now and in the future. We will also support CROP input into the Review of the Regional Architecture.

## Strengthening our partnerships, interventions and country engagements

In 2024, we will invest in strengthening relationships with members and partners, with a view to enhancing long-term, trusted and sustainable relationships.

Our commitment to achieve the vision and level of ambition set out for the Blue Pacific Continent will centre around our role as co-technical leads in thematic areas (e.g. climate change and disaster, ocean and environment, people-centred approaches, resource development and connectivity, technology). We will also continue to work to strengthen coordination of CROP agencies and development partners through our active participation in meetings of CROP heads, technical working groups, partnership platforms and forums.

Our partnerships with member PICTs are key to our ability to deliver on the strategic plan. In 2024 we will continue to engage with members and with the private sector, NGOs, CSOs, academic institutions and think tanks as part of our effort to coordinate and strengthen our service delivery. We will also focus on strengthening our strategic country engagements, particularly supporting members with their review of national plans and voluntary national reviews of the SDGs.

As we look forward to 2024, our divisional business plans and flagships programmes will be central to our delivery of our Strategic Plan 2022–2031 (and the 2050 Implementation Plan). We will work through participatory processes, using foresight and futures approaches to co-design the inaugural regional agriculture and forestry strategy and the One Maritime Strategy. Building on the progress made in 2023, the flagships will create greater opportunities for regional and global collaboration on these key areas of regional priority, while unlocking additional resources for member countries in these thematic areas.



# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 – RESULTS REPORTING METHODOLOGY

Covering the period January to December 2023, this report reflects our progress towards implementing the Pacific Community Strategic Plan 2022-2031. The plan was endorsed by the Committee of Representative of Governments and Administrations (CRGA 52) and guides SPC's work and reporting frameworks, including the Strategic Results Framework (SRF). The SRF is used to track progress towards our 2031 goals.

SPC has selected 47 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators covering all the 17 SDGs as impact-level measures to gauge its contribution to high-level changes at national level, including changes in the conditions or situations of individuals and communities. These indicators were selected on the basis of SPC's strategic result areas as well as the thematic priorities of the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy, and the National Strategic Development Plans of its member countries. Using high-level indicators, the SRF enables us to track progress over time towards the '2031 future states' within each key focus area (KFA).

Common pathway indicators provide a platform to aggregate and report OneSPC contributions on an annual basis. Detailed results frameworks nest under this high-level SRF at KFA, division and programme levels. The results frameworks include indicators and targets that enable SPC to demonstrate the combined outcomes, contributions and impact of our sectoral, country programme and integrated work. Oversight of the implementation of the strategic plan lies with the Director-General and the CRGA Subcommittee for the Strategic Plan.

### SPC's Planning, Evaluation, Accountability, Reflection and Learning (PEARL) policy

The Planning, Evaluation, Accountability, Reflection and Learning (PEARL) policy guides SPC's annual reflection, learning and reporting process. The policy requires the Director-General to host an annual learning and results workshop involving the executive and senior leadership team (SLT), MELnet and relevant managers. Reflection sessions occur at both divisional and team level twice a year and inform contributions to mid-year and annual results reporting. The results provided by SPC's division are used as the basis for this report. This process supports alignment between planning, budgeting, evaluation and reporting at all levels and ensures consistency, accuracy, transparency and accountability in SPC's reporting practices. It also allows for engagement with members and partners around our results.

### Results reporting

This report describes SPC's progress against the strategic plan's KFAs and the organisation's ways of working using both quantitative and qualitative evidence. The report is endorsed by the SLT before it is presented to the CRGA Subcommittee for the Strategic Plan, which forms an opinion regarding the report's endorsement to CRGA. In addition to this report, SPC produces further reports and supporting knowledge products for SPC's Executive and CRGA. These reports are also shared across the organisation to for learning and utilisation. All SPC reports are publicly accessible on the SPC Digital Library and the Pacific Data Hub (PDH).

### SPC results and global and regional frameworks

The SDG Dashboard, which is hosted on the PDH, is the basis for visualising data across individual SDG indicators.

Our reporting is aligned with the 2050 Strategy and, specifically, to the regional collective action areas (RCA) that have been identified as priorities. SPC is the lead agency on four of the prioritised People Centred Development RCAs.

### SPC's results glossary

SPC's internal PMEL results glossary defines SPC's results types. The glossary supports consistency across the organisation when assigning result types. The result types are:

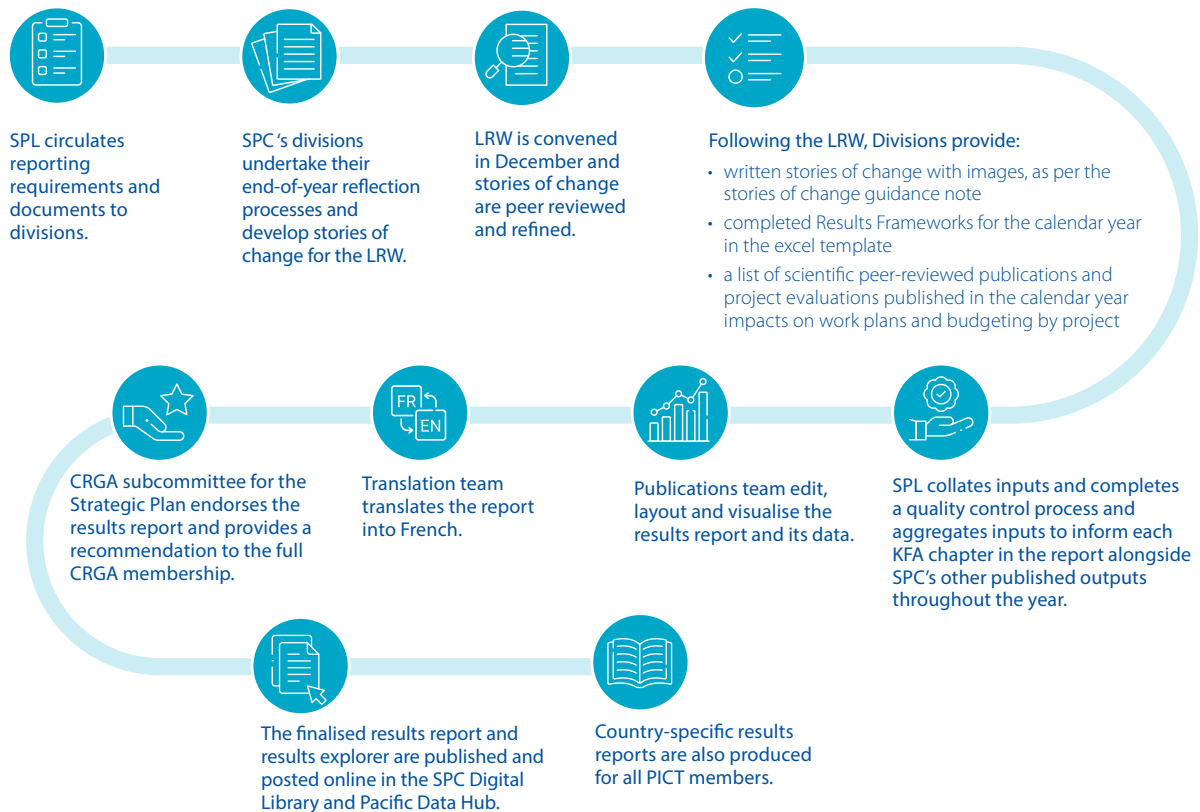
- **Outputs** are the products, goods, or services we deliver to our members or internally through our actions. An example of an output is developing a tool or resource kit.
- **Changes in knowledge** are the individual skills and capacities acquired and raised awareness. An example of change in knowledge is when SPC's training delivery (output) contributes to new information acquired and demonstrated, for example, via a pre- and post- training survey.
- **Changes in attitude** are evolutions in people's beliefs, opinions, motivations, and intentions. An example of change in attitude is Pacific leaders reaffirming a commitment to take urgent action on a particular issue.
- **Changes in practice** are the application of acquired knowledge, skills capacities and changed attitudes. An example of change in practice is the application of an innovative web-based system in a member country.
- **Impacts** are the longer-term outcomes at the individual, institutional or population level. Examples of impact is increased access to justice by women and implementation of laws.

## Roles of SPC teams in the preparation of results report products

Who	Role
Divisional and corporate teams	Reflect on results and progress against their business plans; prepare inputs to the report; participate in the Learning and Results Workshop (LRW); peer review the stories of change; and review report drafts.
MELnet	SPL and MEL focal points develop and test processes and templates; lead development and monitoring of divisional results frameworks; share expertise and best practice across the organisation; and work with directors and divisional staff to prepare report inputs. In 2023, some MEL focal points peer reviewed the results frameworks.
Strategy, Performance and Learning (SPL)	Provides MEL corporate support; develop and support MEL capacity in Divisions; convenes the LRW on behalf of the Director-General; coordinates, validates and moderates all inputs throughout the annual results reporting.
Publications	Edits the report and associated Results Explorer; designs the report template; visualises the data and findings of the report; coordinates with the SPL and translation team through the process.
Translation	Translates the report and associated Results Explorer into French.
PDH, MELnet, SPL	Prepares and uploads Results Explorer data to the PDH (English and French)
Corporate communications	Provides communication around the annual LRW; provides advice on key messaging for results reporting products; communicates and incorporates results information throughout SPC's communication outputs.
D-G and SLT	Responsible for ensuring timely provision of all result report inputs to SPL; approves annual reporting against their own divisional results framework prior to submission to SPL; reviews results reporting products prior to the CRGA Subcommittee for the Strategic Plan.
CRGA Subcommittee on the implementation of the Strategic Plan	Represents members in the direction of the report and puts forward a recommendation for endorsement to CRGA.
CRGA	Endorses the report

## Process of developing the results report

The following is a high-level overview of key elements of the process:



## Development of key products/inputs to the results report:

### Results frameworks:

- Co-development of the Strategic Results Framework (SRF) was undertaken throughout 2022. MELnet and SPL collaborated to ensure the new SRF and divisional results frameworks were aligned.
- A standardised results template was completed by divisions, supported by divisional MEL focal points, who completed data quality checks and verified results.
- Results frameworks were reviewed by the SPL team, who peer-reviewed and standardised results across all divisions. This included several rounds of review between SPL and MEL focal points.
- Final results were collated into a master spreadsheet, compiling all of SPC's results.

### The quality assurance process included:

- Cross-checking information against results reported in the previous year to ensure results were new in 2023;
- Ensuring results reported in results frameworks were consistent with the strategic plan and mapped to the KFAs and pathways; SPC's results hierarchy; the results glossary; the reporting instructions; and any other feedback SPL had provided to the division in the course of 2023.

- Ensuring adequate evidence and information was provided for each reported result;
- Cross-checking information on integrated work involving multiple divisions; and
- Providing feedback and requesting clarification from divisions on reported information.

- An analysis of results was prepared by KFA, results hierarchy, SDG and pathway. The results master spreadsheet is the basis for all summary result graphs and tables included in the report.
- The results master spreadsheet is edited, translated and uploaded to the Results Explorer on PDH.

### Stories of change:

- Approximately 2–5 stories of change were identified within each division.
- Stories were presented at the LRW and peer reviewed in breakout groups. Postcards of change were developed, and participants indicated which stories resonated with them the most, which also informed how the stories would be placed throughout.
- Divisions were responsible for writing stories and incorporating peer reviewed insights. These were then reviewed by SPL and then edited and translated by SPC's Publishing and Translation teams before being integrated into the overall report and analysis.

## Improving our results report

This report has been structured to align with SPC's strategic plan and accompanying SRF. It takes a futures lens and concludes with learnings, possible adaptations and future projections. To align with the strategic plan, it continues to present results centred around the five pathways to impact, which guide our actions across SPC's KFAs.

By moving 'Our values' section to the front of the report, we have emphasised examples of how SPC's values are being enacted in practice and highlight the importance of the four values in all our work.

## This year's report incorporates the following recommendations from the 2023 CRGA Subcommittee:

Sub-Committee Recommendations	Improvements in the report
More consideration required to line up SPC's results with 2050 Strategy implementation plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have made connections to 2050 Strategy thematic areas and demonstrated alignment of our results with the 2050 Strategy implementation plan by tagging relevant stories of change with the 2050 Strategy icon.</li> <li>We have focussed on aligning our reporting to the regional collective action areas (RCA) that have been identified as priorities in the 2050 Strategy. SPC is the lead agency on 4 of the prioritised People Centred Development RCAs.</li> <li>We continue to map key result highlights and stories of change to national sustainable development plans to demonstrate alignment with national priorities.</li> <li>The report elaborates on SPC's approaches to measuring its results at global (SDGs), regional (2050 Strategy) and national level (NSDPs), through the Strategic Results Framework,</li> <li>All KFA Chapters are aligned to the 2050 Strategy.</li> </ul>
Provide more details on the Flagship implementation.	Development and progress towards each flagship's implementation and their alignment with the 2050 Strategy is provided in the 'Our flagships' section of the report.
Note the mechanisms for implementing the SP	SPC's commitment to implementing its Strategic Plan 2022-2031 is highlighted throughout the report.
GEM BP to be used to guide and deliver on the SP implementation and alignment	<p>All KFA chapters reflect the alignment to and contributions made by SPC's technical divisions under their respective business plans and divisional results frameworks.</p> <p>MELnet co-reviewed the divisional results frameworks.</p>
GEM BP be used to guide and deliver on the SP implementation and alignment.	List of evaluations include completed (2023) and planned evaluations (2024).

## APPENDIX 2 – PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Division	Content Type	Authors	Year	Title
LRD	Journal article or paper	Vincent Lebot Birte Komolong, Jean-Pierre Labouisse, Floriane Lawac, Juliane Kaoh, Logotonu Meleisea Waqinabete, Amit Sukal, Grahame Jackson	2023	Conventional breeding of Pacific Island staple crops: A paradox
LRD	Journal article or paper	Sulav Paudel, Trevor A. Jackson, Sylvie Boulekouran, Jeffline Tasale, Bill Garae, Patricia Allanson, Mark Ero, Sean D. G. Marshall	2023	The coconut rhinoceros beetle ( <i>Oryctes rhinoceros</i> ) outbreak is well established on Efate, Vanuatu
LRD	Journal article or paper	Dawit B Kidanemariam, Amit Sukal, Adane D Abraham, James L. Dale, Anthony P. James, Robert M. Harding	2023	Viral Diseases of Field and Horticultural Crops, Book Chapter 66: Aroids ( <i>Colocasia</i> and <i>Xanthosoma</i> )
LRD	Journal article or paper	Sulav Paudel, Trevor A. Jackson, Sarah Mansfield, Mark Ero, Aubrey Moore, Sean D.G. Marshall	2023	Use of pheromones for monitoring and control strategies of coconut rhinoceros beetle ( <i>Oryctes rhinoceros</i> ): A review
PHD	Journal article or paper	Veisina Matoto, Si Thu Win Tin, Elisiva Na'ati, Sione Tomiki, Molimoli Ofahulu, Ane Fangalua, Vaisitai Toli	2023	Measuring diabetes complications, risk factors and capacity for managing diabetes: An initial step to improve diabetes care at the primary health centre in Tonga
PHD	Journal article or paper	Georgina Phillips, Mangu Kendino, Claire E. Brolan, Lisa-Maree Herron, Sarah Körver, Silina Motofaga, Megan Cox	2023	Women on the frontline: exploring the gendered experience for Pacific healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic
PHD	Journal article or paper	R. Thibeaux, P. Genthon, R. Govan, N. Selmeaoui-Folcher, C. Tramier, M. Kainiu, M.-E. Soupé-Gilbert, K. Wijesuriya, C. Goarant	2023	Rainfall-driven resuspension of pathogenic <i>Leptospira</i> in a leptospirosis hotspot
PHD	Journal article or paper	Anne Marie Thow, Sirinya Phulkard, Yandisa Ngqangashe, Amerita Ravuvu, Liza Zaruba, Carmen Huckel Schneider, Jeff Collin, Ashley Schram, Sharon Friel	2023	Protecting children from unhealthy food marketing: a comparative policy analysis in Australia, Fiji and Thailand
PHD	Journal article or paper	Solene Bertrand-Protat, Juliana Chen, Aurélie Jonquoy, Stéphane Frayon, Si Thu Win Tin, Amerita Ravuvu, Corinne Caillaud, Olivier Galy	2023	Prevalence, causes and contexts of childhood overweight and obesity in the Pacific region: A scoping review
PHD	Journal article or paper	Amy E. Peden, Stefania Minniti, Ali Işin, Rumanusina Maua, Soumyadeep Bhaumik	2023	Unintentional injuries in adolescents: a neglected issue in global health
PHD	Journal article or paper	Rachel Baffsky, Candace Koshiba, Esther L. Muna, Ramanusina F. Maua, Rebecca Ivers, Amy E. Peden	2023	Assessing violence and injury prevention plans, strategies and indicators in eighteen Pacific Islands countries: an environmental scan
PHD	Journal article or paper	T. D. Brewer, N. L. Andrew, D. Abbott, R. Detenamo, E. N. Faaola, P. V. Gounder, N. Lal, A. Ravuvu, D. Sapalojiang, M. K. Sharp, R. J. Sulu, S. Suvulo, J. M. M. M. Tamate, A. M. Thow, A. T. Wells	2023	The role of trade in Pacific food security and nutrition

Division	Content Type	Authors	Year	Title
PHD	Journal article or paper	Dori Patay, Amerita Ravuvu, Viliamu Iese, Dorah Wilson, Seno Mauli, Josephine Maelaua, Erica Reeve, Anna Farmery, Penny Farrell, Ellen Johnson, Anne Marie Thow	2023	Catalysing sustainable development through regional food system governance: Strengthening the translation of regional food system policy guidance to national level in the Pacific
PHD	Journal article or paper	Erica Reeve, Amerita Ravuvu, Ellen Johnson, Selai Nasiga, Tom Brewer, Sarah Mounsey, Anne Marie Thow	2023	Scaling up food pricing policies in the Pacific: A guide to action
PHD	Journal article or paper	Jessica Hardin, Dion Enari, Tarryn Phillips, Tausala Aiavao, Ramona Boodoosingh, Saunima'a Ma Fulu Aiolupotea, Pakilau Manase Lua, Tautaitala Lees, Ulla Laifa Lima, Sala Maatasasa Samuelu Matthes, Falelua Maua, Mike Poltorak, Amerita Ravuvu, John Taylor, Seini Taufa, Gade Waqa	2023	Developing trust in collaborative research: Utilizing Indigenous Pacific methodologies to create dialogue within research teams
PHD	Journal article or paper	Si Thu Win Tin, Elisiva Na'ati, Ilisapeci Kubuabola, Solene Bertrand, Sunia Soakai, Paula Vivili, Berlin Kafoa, Selai Nasiga, Amerita Ravuvu	2023	A framework that strengthens legislative measures to halt and reverse the Pacific non-communicable diseases crisis
FAME	Journal article or paper	Giula Anderson, Jed I. Macdonald, Mona Lal, John Hampton, Neville Smith, Ciro Rico	2023	Sample contamination explains evidence of close kin proximity in yellowfin tuna ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> ) in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean
FAME	Journal article or paper	Guila Anderson, Jed I. Macdonald, Joanne Potts, Pierre Feutry, Peter M. Grewe, Marion Boutigny, Campbell R. Davies, Jeff A. Muir, Francois Rouspard, Caroline Sanchez, Simon J. Nicol	2023	Evaluating DNA cross-contamination risk using different tissue sampling procedures on board fishing and research vessels
FAME	Journal article or paper	Lauriane Escalle, Jennyfer Mourot, Paul Hamer, Steven R. Hare, Naiten Bradley Phillip Jr, Graham M. Pilling	2023	Towards non-entangling and biodegradable drifting fish aggregating devices – Baselines and transition in the world's largest tuna purse seine fishery
FAME	Journal article or paper	Malcolm P. Francis, Warrick S. Lyon, Shelley C. Clarke, Brittany Finucci, Melanie R. Hutchinson, Steven E. Campana, Michael K. Musyl, Kurt M. Schaefer, Simon D. Hoyle, Tom Peatman, Diego Bernal, Keith Bigelow, John Carlson, Rui Coelho, Craig Heberer, David Itano, Emma Jones, Bruno Leroy, Kwang-Ming Liu, Hilaro Murua, François Poisson, Paul Rogers, Caroline Sanchez, Yasuko Semba, Tim Sippel, Neville Smith	2023	Post-release survival of shortfin mako ( <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i> ) and silky ( <i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i> ) sharks released from pelagic tuna longlines in the Pacific Ocean
FAME	Journal article or paper	Claire Garrigue, Solène Derville, Claire Bonneville, Maële Brisset, Paco Bustamante, Christophe Cleguer, Eric E. G. Clua, Willy Dabin, Sylvie Fiat, Jean-Lou Justine, Pauline Machful, Tepoerau Mai, Patrice Plichon, Annie Portal, Christine Sidobre, Debbie Steel, Jean-Christophe Vivier, Elodie Vourey	2023	Marine mammal strandings recorded in New Caledonia, south west Pacific Ocean
FAME	Journal article or paper	John Hampton, Patrick Lehodey, Inna Senina, Simon Nicol, Joe Scutt Phillips, Kaon Tiamere	2023	Limited conservation efficacy of large-scale marine protected areas for Pacific skipjack and bigeye tunas
FAME	Journal article or paper	Peter Konstantinidis, Elodie Vourey	2023	A rare <i>Macristium</i> -stage <i>Bathysaurus mollis</i> (Aulopiformes, Bathysauridae) from the South Pacific

Division	Content Type	Authors	Year	Title
FAME	Journal article or paper	Bruno Leroy, Joe Scutt Phillips, Joanne Potts, Richard W. Brill, Karen Evans, Fabien Forget, Kim Holland, David Itano, Jeff Muir, Graham Pilling, Simon Nicol	2023	Recommendations towards the establishment of best practice standards for handling and intracoelomic implantation of data-storage and telemetry tags in tropical tunas
FAME	Journal article or paper	Mark N. Maunder, Owen S. Hamel, Hui-Hua Lee, Kevin R. Piner, Jason M. Cope, André E. Punt, James N. Ianelli, Claudio Castillo-Jordán, Maia S. Kapur, Richard D. Methot	2023	A review of estimation methods for natural mortality and their performance in the context of fishery stock assessment
FAME	Journal article or paper	Nastaran Mazloumi, Simon Nicol	2023	Preparing for climate related impacts: Knowledge assessment of the life history of key exploited fish species managed in a climate hotspot
FAME	Journal article or paper	Peter D. Nooteboom, Joe Scutt Phillips, Christian Kehl, Simon Nicol, Erik van Sebille	2023	Modelling of tuna around fish aggregating devices: The importance of ocean flow and prey
FAME	Journal article or paper	Tom Peatman, Valerie Allain, Lui Bell, Berry Muller, Aurélien Panizza, Naiten B. Phillip, Graham Pilling, Simon Nicol	2023	Estimating trends and magnitudes of bycatch in the tuna fisheries of the western and central Pacific Ocean
FAME	Journal article or paper	Maite Pons, David Kaplan, Gala Moreno, Lauriane Escalle, Francisco Abascal, Martin Hall, Victor Restrepo, Ray Hilborn	2023	Benefits, concerns, and solutions of fishing for tunas with drifting fish aggregation devices
FAME	Journal article or paper	Melody S. Vanukon, Jasha Dehm, Timothy Pickering, Moape Y. Kania, Ciro Rico, Chinthaka Hewavitharane	2023	Growth rate of farmed Mangrove oysters (Magallana bilineata) at Laucala Bay, Suva, Fiji
FAME	Journal article or paper	Matthew T. Vincent, Graham M. Pilling	2023	Assumptions influencing the estimation of natural mortality in a tag-integrated statistical model for western and central Pacific Ocean skipjack
FAME	Journal article or paper	Colette C. C. Wabnitz, Rosamond L. Naylor, Neville Smith, Alisi Tuqa, Jim Leape	2023	Strengthening the role of blue foods in coastal Pacific food systems
FAME	Journal article or paper	Jeanne B. Wexler, Daniel Margulies, Vernon Scholey, Cleridy E. Lennert-Cody, Don Bromhead, Simon Nicol, Simon D. Hoyle, Maria Stein, Jane E. Williamson, Jon Havenhand	2023	The effect of ocean acidification on otolith morphology in larvae of a tropical, epipelagic fish species, yellowfin tuna ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> )
FAME	Journal article or paper	Iker Zudaire, Gala Moreno, Jefferson Murua, Paul Hamer, Hilario Murua, Mariana T. Tolotti, Marlon Roman, Martin Hall, Jon Lopez, Maitane Grande, Gorka Merino, Laurianne Escalle, Oihane C. Basurko, Manuela Capello, Laurent Dagorn, Maria Lourdes Ramos, Francisco J. Abascal, José Carlos Báez, Pedro J. Pascual-Alayón, Josu Santiago	2023	Biodegradable drifting fish aggregating devices: Current status and future prospects
FAME	Journal article or paper	Sarah-Jeanne Royer, Raquel N. Corniuk, Andrew McWhirter, Harry W. Lynch IV, Kydd Pollock, Kevin O'Brien, Lauriane Escalle, Katherine A. Stevens, Gala Moreno, Jennifer M. Lynch	2023	Large floating abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) is frequent marine pollution in the Hawaiian Islands and Palmyra Atoll
FAME	Journal article or paper	Colette C. C. Wabnitz, Rosamond L. Naylor, Neville Smith, Alisi Tuqa, Jim Leape	2023	Strengthening the role of blue foods in coastal Pacific food systems

## APPENDIX 3 – PUBLISHED EVALUATIONS

Division	Type	Evaluation title	Name of programme/project	Internal or external	Status <sup>4</sup>	Target PICTs	Donor	Link	Evaluation period
CCES	Mid-term review	Evaluation à mi-parcours de la convention de financement	PROTÉGÉ	External	Completed	ALL PICTs	EU	May be available, subject to SPC and donor approval	2018-2023
FAME	Summative evaluation	SPC FAME Evaluation DFAT Funding Support	DFAT programme funding	External	Completed	ALL PICTs	DFAT	To be published in 2024	2021-2023
FAME	Mid-term evaluation	Mid-Term Evaluation of the Climate Change and Tuna Fisheries Project	Climate Change and Tuna Fisheries Project	External	Completed	ALL PICTs	MFAT	May be available, subject to SPC and donor approval	2022-2023
LRD	Review	CePACT Business Investment Plan: Review of Phase 1 implementation	CePACT	External	Completed	ALL PICTs	DFAT	May be available, subject to SPC and donor approval	October-December 2023
LRD	Review	CePACT Genebank Review	CePACT	External	Completed	ALL PICTs	Crop Trust	<a href="https://lrd.spc.int/sites/default/files/2024-03/cepact-review-report03012024.pdf">https://lrd.spc.int/sites/default/files/2024-03/cepact-review-report03012024.pdf</a>	March-June 2023
LRD	Review	SAFE Pacific Regional Observation Review	SAFE project	External	Completed	Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu	EU	May be available, subject to SPC and donor approval	May-July 2023
SDD	Summative evaluation	Improving Access to Pacific Statistics and Data Initiative (PSD) Evaluation Report	Pacific Statistics and Data (PSD) initiative	External	Completed	ALL PICTs	MFAT	May be available, subject to SPC and donor approval	January 2020-December 2022
SDD	Mid-term evaluation	Statistical Innovation and Capacity Building in the Pacific Islands (PACSTAT)	PacStat project	Internal	Completed	ALL PICTs	World Bank	May be available, subject to SPC and donor approval	July 2020-May 2023

Division	Type	Evaluation title	Name of programme/ project	Internal or external	Status <sup>4</sup>	Target PICTs	Donor	Link	Evaluation period
PHD	Mid-term review	Mid-term review of the PHD Business Plan	All PHD programmes	Internal	Planned	SPC internal	SPC core funding	NA	June-November 2024
PHD	Mid-term evaluation	Supporting the Pacific Close the Digital Divides in Response to COVID-19 (SPCDDR COVID-19)	Surveillance Preparedness and Response Programme	Internal	Planned	Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Vanuatu	AFD	NA	April- November 2024
PHD	Mid-term evaluation	Pacific Evidence Informed Policies and Programs (Pac-EVIPP)	Surveillance Preparedness and Response Programme	Internal	Planned	Kiribati, Tonga, Fiji, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Tokelau	DFAT	NA	June-November 2024
FAME	Review	Quality of Science Review	FAME division	Internal	Planned	SPC internal	SPC core funding	NA	July-December 2024
FAME	Mid-term review	Mid-term review of the Pacific Coastal Fisheries Management and Compliance	PaFMAC project	External	Planned	ALL PICTs	USAID	NA	July- September 2024
FAME	Mid-term review	Mid-term Review Sustainable Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture for Pacific Livelihoods, Food and Economic Security (SCoFA)	SCoFA project	External	Planned	ALL PICTs	MFAT	NA	July- September 2024
HRSD	Mid-term Review	Pacific Girl Mid-term Review Report	PWL Pacific Girl	External	Completed	Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands	DFAT	<a href="https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/pacific-girl-mid-term-review-report-and-management-response">https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/pacific-girl-mid-term-review-report-and-management-response</a>	2019-2023
HRSD	Mid-term Review	Project Governance Mid-term Review Report	Project governance	Internal	Completed	ALL PICTs	USAID	May be available, subject to SPC and donor approval	2021-2023
HRSD	Evaluation	Evaluation of the Pacific People Advancing Change (PPAC) Advocacy Capacity Strengthening Programme	Pacific People Advancing Change (PPAC) Programme	External	Completed	Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu	UN Women	May be available, subject to SPC and donor approval	2018-2023

4 Completed evaluations and reviews in 2023. Planned evaluations and reviews for 2024.

## APPENDIX 4 – OUTCOMES OF REGIONAL MEETINGS

The work of SPC's divisions is guided by and reported at regional meetings throughout the year. These meetings are led or co-convened by SPC divisions, and often involve experts from line ministries as well as ministers and implementing partners. The regional meetings listed in the table below indicate the breadth of SPC's engagement across various sectors. They are one of the key avenues for reporting on SPC's work and receiving guidance from members and sectoral experts.

Meeting	Date	Links and summary of key outcomes
Pacific Regional Forum on National Human Rights Institutions	21–22 February	Encapsulated the good work of Pacific delegations in the region and elaborated on the link between the establishment and strengthening of National Human Rights Institutions and the protection and promotion of human rights for Pacific peoples in all their diversity. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
7th Pacific Regional Conference on Disability	27 February–3 March	Deepened partnerships for an inclusive and equitable Blue Pacific Continent for persons with disabilities. Endorsed outcomes from preceding forums specific sub-groups, including women, youth, and older persons. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
3rd Pacific Women in Maritime Regional Conference	28 February–3 March	Reaffirmed the Pacific maritime sector's commitment to achieving UN SDG5. Tasked SPC with mobilising resources for the implementation of a new Regional Strategy for Pacific Women in Maritime 2025–2030. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
8th Regional Meeting of Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (PHOAFS)	9 March	Endorsed SPC and FAO's response to the PHOAFS 2021 recommendations. Agreed to (a) endorse the concept for developing the Pacific Strategy for Agriculture and Forestry; and (b) requested SPC and FAO to mobilise resources to support the delivery of the strategy. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
3rd Pacific Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry Meeting (MOAFS)	10 March	Endorsed the concept note for developing a climate adaptation tool to support Pacific food systems planning and requested SPC, SPREP, FAO and the RIFA team continue to co-develop a dashboard or interactive visualisation tool. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
Pacific Civil Registrars Network Meeting	20–23 March	Discussed priority areas that are of common concern across the region. Two priority areas were identified in collaboration with PCRN members prior to the meeting for extensive discussion: digitisation of CRVS systems and climate change and CRVS. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
1st Conference of Pacific Education Ministers	20–22 March	Endorsed the PacREF mid-term review and proposed a way forward. Recognized the need for improved coordination of implementing partners, and the importance of ensuring gender responsive policies for education under the PacREF. <a href="#">Document Link</a>

Meeting	Date	Links and summary of key outcomes
15th Heads of Fisheries Meeting	20-24 March	Tasked SPC to develop a concise brief on key outcomes from the 15th SPC Heads of Fisheries meeting for presentation to officials at the 4th Regional Fisheries Ministers' Meeting. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
8th Pacific Board of Education Quality Meeting	23-24 March	Accepted the country work planning process, the enhanced linking of PacREF plans to national plans and the new EQAP Business Plan structure. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
Regional Members Meeting of the Brisbane Accord Group (BAG)	23-24 March	Agreed on the renewed Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan (2023-2030) and the strategic direction for the BAG.
Pacific Health Information Network Regional Meeting	28-30 March	Six key outcomes included finalisation of the Healthy Islands Monitoring Framework (HIMF) 3rd progress report ahead of the 14th Pacific Heads of Health meeting and identifying solutions to health information systems development and strengthening needs required for the HIMF data collection process in PICTs. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
Pacific Prevention Summit	23-28 April	The Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (Pacific Partnership) welcomed over 100 delegates to share and learn about what works to prevent violence against women and girls in the Pacific. <a href="#">Event Link</a>
14th Pacific Heads of Health Meeting	25-27 April	Accepted draft recommendations on addressing health workforce, health education, clinical governance, leadership and management. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
5th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers' Meeting	8-12 May	Agreed on areas relating to just and equitable transition and its financing, partnerships and implementing key priorities for the energy and maritime transport sectors. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
11th Pacific Statistics Methods Board	10-11 May	Ten key outcomes were noted, including (i) further support to be provided to the proposal for phase 2 of the commissioned work on climate change and a request that SPC provide an overview of the sequence of steps to deliver this work in full; and (ii) provisional approval the Microdata Dissemination Guidance Note, with one month for members to provide any further feedback. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
5th Pacific Biomedical Network Meeting	29-31 May	Key regional recommendations included more proactive and intentional participation in the Biomedical Pacific Health Network to provide capacity development opportunities that would further regional standardisation and collaboration.

Meeting	Date	Links and summary of key outcomes
4th Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting	5 July	Endorsed the updated draft coastal fisheries report card indicators; emphasised the need to strengthen data collection, analysis and reporting processes that are essential for effective monitoring, evaluation and learning. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM)	9-10 August	Ministers stressed the importance of working closely with the private sector to address issues of common concern. They also encouraged the meeting to explore more public-private partnership opportunities to facilitate greater Pacific regional economic integration that would increase innovation. They also reaffirmed the important role that civil society organisations (CSOs) played in supporting and complementing the work of national governments. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
14th Directors of Clinical Services Meeting	16-17 August	The main objective of the meeting was to review, discuss and make recommendations on important issues related to and impacting clinical services in the region, with special emphasis on workforce development, education and leadership. <a href="#">Document link</a>
22nd Melanesian Spearhead Group Leaders' Summit	23-24 August	Endorsed the MSG Secretariat's proposal to consult on the draft MSG Security Strategy with non-governmental organisations and CSOs based in member countries and territories. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
Pacific ICT Ministers' Dialogue	28-29 August	Endorsed the Lagatoui Declaration on Digital Transformation of the Pacific re-affirming ongoing commitment to leaders' vision for a well-connected Pacific region through digital infrastructure and services. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
Pacific Islands Forum Women Leaders Meeting	31 August-1 September	Forum Women Leaders noted and endorsed the outcomes and recommendations of the PIFWLM, which were then conveyed to the Forum Leaders' Meeting by the Secretary-General. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
1st Pacific Islands Conference on Ocean Science and Ocean Management	11-15 September	Noted as way forward the need to engage regional leaders, the Pacific Ocean Commissioner and heads of regional organisations of the Pacific to endorse the Pacific Islands Conference on Ocean Science and Ocean Management. It was also agreed to supplement the conference's final day with an 'Ocean Inter-Ministerial Meeting'. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
15th Pacific Health Ministers Meeting	20-22 September	Health leaders acknowledged that Pacific peoples' health and health systems faced challenges and rededicated themselves to finding effective solutions, based on the best local and traditional knowledge. They also acknowledged that action by the health sector alone would not be sufficient to address the region's biggest challenges. <a href="#">Document Link</a>

Meeting	Date	Links and summary of key outcomes
12th Pacific Statistics Methods Board Meeting	2 October	Agreed for SPC to review, update and re-categorise the available Pacific statistical methods guidance for easy use; approved the sampling guidelines for the Pacific; and approved the release of the Natural Disaster and Climate Change Survey Sourcebook. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
6th Regional Conference of Heads of Planning and Statistics	3-5 October	Approved the Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics 2022-2030; endorsed the Brisbane Accord Group's Action Plan for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics 2023-2026; and endorsed the Pacific Roadmap on Gender Statistics. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
4th Donor and Development Partners Group (DDPG) Meeting	6 October	Agreed that DDPG members will send additional activities to SPC for inclusion in the mapping of the Pacific statistics development programs. They noted emerging issues and key gaps that would need to be monitored going forward. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
Pacific Resilience Meeting	11-13 October	The meeting brought together multiple stakeholders to continue conversations and strengthen collaboration to support the implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP). <a href="#">Document Link</a>
53rd meeting of the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA 53)	26-27 October	CRGA 53 noted the updates to the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent's Implementation Plan and the new timeline for the Review of the Regional Architecture; it acknowledged the contributions that SPC had made to the development of the 2050 Implementation Plan; and recognised SPC's commitment to Pacific Leaders' long-term strategic vision as articulated in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. The meeting also heard updates on SPC's resource mobilisation initiatives, including the draft resource mobilisation strategy as well as the Bezos Earth Fund's commitment to the Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity initiative. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
13th Conference of the Pacific Community	26 October	Members expressed the need for SPC to remain a member-driven organisation, responsive and adaptive to the region's needs. They welcomed opportunities that had arisen around new forms of financing, such as philanthropic partnerships. <a href="#">Document Link</a>
6th SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture	13-17 November	The meeting agreed on key actions to increase the effectiveness of mariculture hatchery systems in the Pacific. The meeting requested SPC to work with members and private sector organisations to address bottlenecks, risks and/or problems that had been identified in the meeting. <a href="#">Document Link</a>

## APPENDIX 5 – CURRENT LIST OF MOUS

Partner	Signed	Expires
CAMCO (CAMCO Management Limited)	9 February 2023	Indefinite
CHT Gaston-Bourret Nouvelle-Calédonie	18 April 2023	Indefinite
College of Micronesia	6 April 2018	Indefinite
Cook Islands Ministry of Agriculture	11 May 2023	Indefinite
DANIDA (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark)	26 April 2023	Indefinite
Direction de l'Enseignement catholique de Wallis et Futuna (DECWF)	8 June 2022	Indefinite
Environmental Law Institute	30 June 2020	Indefinite
ESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)	26 April 2021	31 December 2030
FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)	12 April 2018	Indefinite
FFA (Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency)	19 February 1998	Indefinite
Fiji Elections Office	8 February 2022	Indefinite
Fiji National University	3 June 2022	Indefinite
GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)	19 June 2019	Indefinite
IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)	2 June 2017	Indefinite
IALA (International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities)	5 August 2018	Indefinite
IATTC (Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission)	1 June 2023	31 May 2025
ICC (International Coconut Community)	5 March 2019	Indefinite
ILO (International Labour Organization)	6 October 2017	Indefinite
IFREMER (Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer)	29 September 2022	28 September 2027
IOC (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) of UNESCO	1 July 2022	30 June 2032
IMO (International Maritime Organization)	9 January 2004	Indefinite
IRD (Institut de recherche pour le Développement)	8 June 2021	7 June 2026
IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency)	3 April 2022	3 April 2027
IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)	10 March 2021	Indefinite
Kiribati Ministry of Environment, Land and Agriculture Development	11 May 2023	Indefinite
Melanesian Spearhead Group	20 March 2018	Indefinite
Mercator Ocean International (MOI) and Collecte Localisation Satellites (CLS)	23 May 2022	Indefinite
New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA)	6 August 2021	Indefinite

Partner	Signed	Expires
NIWA (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Limited)	5 April 2022	4 April 2027
ONOC (Oceania National Olympics Committee)	17 April 2023	16 April 2028
PacIOOS (Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System)	15 November 2021	Indefinite
Solomon Islands Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	11 May 2023	Indefinite
Service Hydrographique et Océanique de la Marine - SHOM	21 February 2023	20 February 2028
South Pacific Association of Theological Schools	9 February 2022	9 February 2024
SPREP (Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme)	7 November 2023	7 November 2028
SPTO (Pacific Tourism Organisation)	8 December 2021	Indefinite
UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women)	3 November 2003	Indefinite
University of Otago	13 October 2021	13 October 2031
USP (University of the South Pacific)	23 August 2018	Indefinite
World Vegetable Center	19 September 2022	19 September 2027









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