Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021-2025

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Executive Summary

This Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021-2025 is the principal regional strategy document for environmental conservation in the Pacific. Its purpose is to guide broad strategic guidance for nature conservation planning, prioritisation, and implementation in our region. It reflects the urgent need for transformative action in response to the multiple accelerating threats, both established and emerging, that are faced by nature and people in the Pacific.

The Framework identifies the key regional priorities for action that are needed to make progress towards the 30-year Vision, Mission and Goals for conservation that were adopted by Pacific leaders in 2002. These regional priorities are presented in the form of six Strategic Objectives for the period 2020-2024. These are:

- 1. Empower our people to take action for nature conservation, based on understanding of its importance for our cultures, economies, and communities.
- 2. Integrate environmental and cultural considerations into the goals, processes, and trajectories of economic development in the Pacific.
- 3. Identify, conserve, sustainably manage and restore ecosystems, habitats, and priority natural and cultural sites.
- 4. Protect and recover threatened species and preserve genetic diversity, focusing on those of particular ecological, cultural and economic significance.
- 5. Manage and reduce threats to Pacific environments and drivers of biodiversity loss.
- 6. Grow Pacific capacity and partnerships to effectively monitor, govern and finance nature conservation action.

Each Strategic Objective is accompanied by selected Action Tracks that representing priority areas for implementation, and which reflect the key themes of discussion at the 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas . The Strategic Objectives and Action Tracks were endorsed by the [High Level Session] of the Conference, and commitments to action have been made in the [X Declaration]. The Framework provides Overviews of Best Practice as guidance for work undertaken within each Action Track by Pacific Island countries and territories alongside their key regional partners.

The Framework also presents a set of eight Principles for Conservation Implementation in the Pacific. These constitute a code of conduct for all nature conservation initiatives within the Pacific region, and apply to all stakeholders across all the Strategic Objectives. The Principles are:

- Community rights
- Conservation from Pacific perspectives
- Ownership of conservation programmes
- Resourcing for longevity
- Good governance and accountability
- Coordination and collaboration
- Growing Pacific capacity
- Reinforcing resilience

Implementation of the Framework is primarily the responsibility of Pacific Island countries and territories, supported by the member organisations of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) and other regional and domestic conservation partners and funders.

About this Framework

This Framework is the most recent in a series of regional Pacific strategies for nature conservation that have been produced approximately every five years since 1985. It replaces the *Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2014-2020*.

This 2021-2025 Framework has been reviewed, discussed and endorsed by the participants of the 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas (Pacific Nature Conference), convened virtually in November 2020. It reflects the urgent need for coordinated action across the Pacific region to address both contemporary environmental crises, and emerging threats to Pacific environments, communities, and economies. Commitments to action were articulated by Pacific leaders at the 2020 Pacific Nature Conference through the [X Declaration], which also forms part of this Framework.

The Framework includes notes on the various responsibilities of stakeholders in its implementation, on its governance arrangements, and on monitoring and reporting of regional progress. Recognising the importance of alignment with other multilateral instruments and agreements, the Strategic Objectives of the Framework are linked to key global environment and development frameworks.

Purpose and scope of this Framework

The purpose of the *Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas2021-2025* is to provide broad strategic guidance for conservation initiatives undertaken by all stakeholders in the region. It does this by:

- Articulating a shared vision for nature conservation in the Pacific, with an emphasis on the interdependence of environmental, social-cultural and economic domains.
- Identifying regional Strategic Objectives to guide conservation action in the Pacific, and focusing this work towards priority issues for the region.
- Providing an intermediary or bridging function between global and national environmental frameworks.
- Providing relevant guidance on best practice to stakeholders and conservation practitioners.
- Ensuring coordination and collaboration between entities involved in conservation in the Pacific.
- Encouraging mobilisation of partnerships and resources to address priority conservation issues for the Pacific.

The Framework is not a prescriptive document, and does not replace the fundamental rights and responsibilities of Pacific Island countries and territories for planning, prioritising, and implementing their own nature conservation and environmental management regimes.

Who should use this Framework, and how?

Pacific governments and government agencies should use the Framework as a source of broad strategic guidance for the development of national policies, programmes and priorities, including their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs); in fundraising and in reporting to funders and global agencies; and to inform their interactions with, and expectations of, their conservation partners.

Funders should integrate the Framework's Strategic Objectives and Principles for Conservation Implementation into their funding criteria and prioritisation processes for projects in the Pacific.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and other international and regional organisations should use the Framework to help shape their partnerships with Pacific governments and communities; for priority-setting, and project scoping and development; for reference when drafting their own strategic plans; in fundraising and in reporting to funders and global agencies; and to guide their collaboration with other regional organisations.

Communities and civil society can use the Framework to hold governments, funders, NGOs, and other international and regional organisations to account about their partnership responsibilities and commitments to conservation action.

Private sector organisations may draw on the Framework to help guide their adoption of sustainable business practices, to clarify their environmental responsibilities in the Pacific, and to inform any conservation partnerships they may undertake with Pacific governments or communities.

Global and regional environmental governance

The Pacific participates in a complex system of **global environmental agreements and frameworks**, each with varying levels of influence over national and regional policies, and varying extents of implementation within those policies. The primary global mechanism for biodiversity conservation is the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) which [has adopted the 20 Targets of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework]. Pacific Island countries and territories prepare their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to reflect the Goals and Targets of the CBD as well as their national priorities and regional commitments.

Demonstrating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is also a priority for Pacific Island countries and territories, and is closely linked to national programmes of action for nature conservation. Appendix A links the Strategic Objectives of this Framework to both the [Targets of the GBF] and the SDGs.

Regional agreements and frameworks are a primary vehicle for regionalism in Pacific and a key element of regional governance. These generally outline collective approaches to selected regional issues, with the bulk of implementation responsibilities at the national level. Influential regional frameworks include those on climate change and disaster risk management, ocean governance, pollution and hazardous waste, biodiversity and conservation, and political and economic regionalism. It is intended that the implementation of this Framework for Nature Conservation be consistent with the delivery of these other regional frameworks and agreements.

Appendix B lists global and regional agreements and frameworks of direct relevance to this Framework.

30-year Ambition for Pacific Conservation, 2002-2032

VISION

Healthy Oceans - Healthy Islands - Healthy People

Our people proudly honour, value and protect our natural and cultural heritage and cultural identity for the wellbeing of present and future generations; the waters of our streams, lagoons and oceans are bountiful and unpolluted; our mountains are wild, our forests intact and our beaches unspoiled; our towns and gardens are healthy and productive; our societies are vibrant, resilient and diverse; we have equitable relationships with our global partners and our economies thrive; our cultures and traditions are widely appreciated; and the products of our creativity and labour are especially prized.

MISSION

To protect and preserve the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Pacific Islands forever for the benefit of the people of the Pacific and the world.

GOALS

Environment

The biodiversity and natural environment of the Pacific are conserved in perpetuity.

Society

Pacific peoples are leading activities for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and the preservation of cultural heritage for the benefit of present and future generations.

Economy

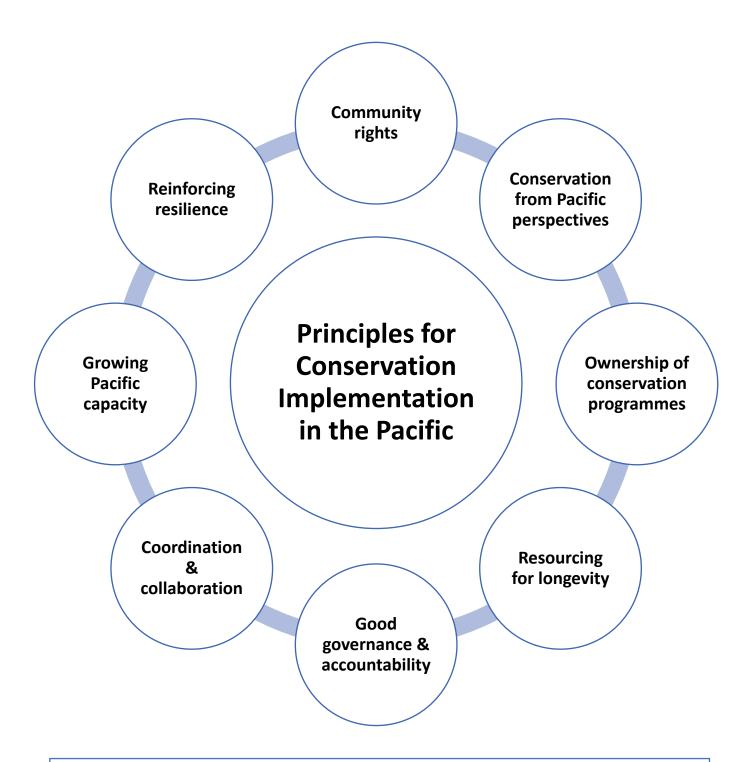
Nature conservation and sustainable resource use are the foundation of all island economies.

About this 30-year ambition for Pacific conservation

The Vision, Mission and Goals were created and endorsed by the delegates of the 7th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in Rarotonga in 2002. They are 30-year statements of conservation ambition in the Pacific, and provide the overarching structure of this Framework and its predecessors.

[X Declaration]: Commitments to nature conservation action in the Pacific Islands region, 2021-2025

[Text to come; subject to separate review process]



About the Principles: A code of conduct for implementation of conservation programmes

These Principles articulate the critical components for implementing conservation projects in Pacific contexts. They are designed as a guide for designing, establishing, delivering and sustaining conservation programmes in the Pacific. They apply to all conservation initiatives undertaken in the Pacific region, not only those specifically linked to the Framework.

The nine Principles are mutually supporting, indivisible amongst themselves and are applicable across all six Strategic Objectives of the Framework. Their application will lead to enriched, more respectful relationships between conservation agencies and Pacific communities, and to a significant improvement in the conservation capacity of the region with corresponding progress towards the Vision and Goals of the Framework.

Principles for Conservation Implementation in the Pacific

Principle 1: Community rights

Pacific indigenous and local communities have the right to own, use, manage, and conserve their natural resources and wider environment.

National and international partners will actively recognise, respect and support:

- Community property rights, including traditional rights over natural resources, and indigenous intellectual property relating to natural resources and cultural knowledge.
- Community decision-making practices.
- Community rights to design, prioritise, conduct, and publish research.
- Community rights to access information available on their resources, natural cultural heritage, and society in appropriate forms of language.
- Community rights to develop opportunities that support and sustain local livelihoods and wellbeing.

Principle 2: Conservation from Pacific perspectives

Natural environments are central to the cultures, identities, livelihoods, and development opportunities of Pacific communities. Nature conservation affects all aspects of social, cultural, and economic life and must therefore align with the values, priorities, and aspirations of these communities.

National and international partners will actively recognise, respect and support:

- Community aspirations for development and wellbeing.
- Pacific approaches to conservation based on sustainable resource use, cultural heritage and expressions, and traditional, indigenous, and local knowledge.
- The need of some communities to use their own languages and protocols when engaging with or undertaking conservation initiatives.
- The importance of establishing and maintaining lasting individual and organisational relationships with Pacific communities.

Principle 3: Ownership of conservation programmes

Lasting conservation in the Pacific can only be achieved if national partners and local communities lead the design, implementation, and evaluation of conservation initiatives.

National and community partners will commit to:

- Exercising and building their capacity for leadership of conservation programmes.
- Greater engagement and ownership of conservation within the private sector and local organisations, including cultural, spiritual, business, sporting, youth, and women's organisations.

International partners will commit to:

- Respecting, encouraging, and helping to build capacity for national and community partner leadership of all conservation programmes.
- Aligning all conservation programmes, including regional and international initiatives, with national programmes, priorities, and aspirations.
- Strengthening and resourcing national and local partners as an alternative to establishing independent institutions or infrastructure.
- Ensuring all key programme decision-making takes place in-country alongside national and community partners, and is led by local conservation priorities.

Principle 4: Resourcing for longevity

Conservation initiatives must be adequately and appropriately resourced over time, by planning for the financial, social, organisational and cultural components of project longevity.

National and international partners will commit to:

- Ensuring their conservation programmes are of scale and budget appropriate to the local context.
- Long-term strategic planning and resource mobilisation that sustains conservation over time.
- Adhering to best practices for supporting livelihoods and community wellbeing, including poverty reduction and enhancing community financial sustainability based on local biocultural resources.
- Developing appropriate new and improving existing methods and partnerships to sustain financial investment and resources for conservation.
- Ensuring that locally specific social, cultural, and equity factors are considered when decisions are made about conservation financing.

Principle 5: Good governance and accountability

Conservation is inclusive, participatory, accountable, transparent, equitable, and open to stakeholder scrutiny.

National and international partners will commit to:

- Reinforcing inclusive and participatory approaches by involving all stakeholders, particularly
 community representatives, when designing, implementing, communicating, assessing, and reporting
 on conservation programmes.
- Ensuring systems are in place to enable full transparency and accountability to the people affected by conservation programme implementation and environmental regulatory services.
- Recognising and applying inter-generational equity and gender equality principles in all activities.
- Promoting and supporting cost-effective scaling up and adoption of best-practice conservation models.
- Developing and implementing durable, effective policies which are integrated across government agencies and governance levels.

National partners will commit to:

- Setting clear and standard processes for the establishment, operation, and accountability of
 international partners through formal agreements. These agreements should include a Code of
 Conduct with defined consequences for breaches and mechanisms to ensure transparency of
 operations.
- Establishing systems to register the conservation activities of all partners against national and local priorities, such as NBSAPs.
- Setting easily measured benchmarks to ensure progress against defined conservation objectives, with each partner held accountable for its commitments and progress.

International partners will commit to:

- Adopting systems that ensure transparency and accountability of their programmes at a national level.
- Providing timely, transparent, and comprehensive reporting on conservation programmes to national
 partners, including reporting on implementation of NBSAP priorities. Appropriate reporting must also
 be provided to community partners.

Principle 6: Coordination and collaboration

Conservation is more effective when partners coordinate, collaborate and work within a strategic framework.

National partners will commit to:

- Ensuring NBSAPs and locally devised conservation programmes are strategic, focused, and set clear local priorities for action.
- Taking a leadership role in coordinating all partners, including by providing national and local focal points for coordinating NBSAP and other programme implementation.

International partners will commit to:

- Working within the legislation, policies, strategies, programmes, and priorities established by national partners.
- Working with each other to ensure collaborative analysis, strategies, agreed priorities, and coordination of political engagement to avoid duplication or inconsistencies.
- Avoiding programming that competes with national partners for projects and funding.
- Strengthening existing and cultivating new partnerships that are culturally oriented, innovative, and results driven.
- Working to integrate environmental datasets and other forms of relevant information, and making this available in accessible formats to national and community partners.

Principle 7: Growing Pacific capacity

Increasing national, sub-national and community capacity to design, prioritise, direct, manage, implement, monitor and evaluate conservation programmes.

National partners and communities will commit to:

- Building effective and sustainable conservation capability and organisations through ongoing capacity development.
- Ensuring conservation is continuously improved by recording, disseminating, and incorporating lessons learned and best practices.
- Building capacity with and within local organisations, such as cultural, faith-based, sporting, youth, and women's organisations, as well as the private sector.
- Enhancing the capacity of conservation practitioners to use appropriate concepts and tools, including those of the private sector.

International partners will commit to:

- Supporting national partners in their efforts to build effective and sustainable institutions.
- Supporting national partners and communities in their efforts to develop core competencies such as leadership, project management, scientific monitoring, and financing.
- Ensuring their presence in-country does not undermine national and local institution-building or capacity development.
- Contributing to national and community partners' best practice by recording, disseminating, and implementing lessons learned.

Principle 8: Reinforcing resilience

Implementing nature conservation that supports the resilience and wellbeing of Pacific communities in the face of sudden or long-term disruption.

National and international partners will commit to:

- Programmes and projects which focus on building resilience and adaptive capacity in Pacific communities, cultures and environments.
- Promoting innovative, community-based, and culturally grounded natural solutions, drawing on appropriate learning networks and the best available knowledge.
- Supporting communities to implement conservation activities by applying approaches and principles of ecosystem-based management and adaptation to their local context.
- Safeguarding traditional, indigenous and local knowledge, and supporting communities to utilise this knowledge for resilience and adaptation.

Strategic Objectives 2021-2025

- 1) Empower our people to take action for nature conservation, based on understanding of its importance for our cultures, economies, and communities.
- 2) Integrate environmental and cultural considerations into the goals, processes, and trajectories of economic development in the Pacific.
- 3) Identify, conserve, sustainably manage and restore ecosystems, habitats, and priority natural and cultural sites.
- 4) Protect and recover threatened species and preserve genetic diversity, focusing on those of particular ecological, cultural and economic significance.
- 5) Manage and reduce threats to Pacific environments and drivers of biodiversity loss.
- 6) Grow Pacific capacity and partnerships to effectively monitor, govern and finance nature conservation action.

Scope and purpose of the Strategic Objectives

The Strategic Objectives are broad priorities for nature conservation action in the Pacific. Work done within the areas of the Strategic Objectives, in a manner reflecting the Principles for Conservation Implementation, will contribute to progress towards the 30-year Vision and Goals of the Framework.

The purpose of the Strategic Objectives is to provide a coordinated strategic approach to conservation across jurisdictions in the Pacific region. Decisions around national goals, targets and indicators for their implementation are the responsibility of Pacific governments, supported by their partners.

Each Strategic Objective is accompanied by Action Tracks, representing the priority areas for implementation; summaries of Key Conservation Challenges for each Action Track; and Overviews of Best Practice for work undertaken within each Action Track. This best practice guidance applies the Principles for Conservation Implementation to the achievement of the Strategic Objectives.

Empower our people to take action for nature conservation, based on understanding of its importance for our cultures, economies, and communities.

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Key partners and programmes
Our people at the centre of conservation action	 Lack of recognized and enforced community rights over territories and resources. Insufficient capacity to engage and negotiate positive outcomes in decision making about environmental management, even when community rights do exist. Community exclusion from, or under-representation in, decision making processes. 	 Actively uphold the rights of Pacific communities to make and implement informed decisions about the sustainable use of their environments, as full participants of conservation initiatives from design to implementation. This includes the right to utilise traditional, indigenous, and local knowledge, and the right to access other forms of knowledge, data, or information. Invest in long-lasting engagement with communities on an equal and mutually beneficial basis, rather than short term relationships based around project cycles. Ensure that all place-based conservation programmes build the knowledge and capacity of Pacific communities, especially women, youth, and people living with disabilities, to design and undertake such programmes themselves. Ensure that conservation initiatives build the capacity of organisations and governments to learn from and engage with Pacific communities. Ensure that monetary, livelihood, or other benefits flow directly to communities through the comprehensive implementation of access and benefit-sharing policies. 	
Behaviour change for nature conservation	 Challenge in improving collective Pacific capacity to share successful initiatives in appropriate formats and with all relevant stakeholders. Lack of monitoring and evaluation on the effectiveness of awareness 	 Ensure that Pacific peoples are allowed and supported to determine how they value biodiversity and natural ecosystems, based on wellbeing, identity, connection to place, and traditional, indigenous, and local knowledge. Ensure that organisations and governments share environmental information with communities, in ways that respect local values and are relevant to livelihood decisions. Organisations must 	

campaigns and other behaviour change interventions. People and interests that benefit from environmentally degrading activities are often more powerful than those that are harmed, and lack incentive for voluntary behaviour change.	respect locally owned or community-derived information, and utilise this appropriately through mutual agreement and dialogue. Awareness-raising initiatives should share relevant tools that have been successful in other communities. Members of Pacific communities are often the best people to share their information and experiences with other communities. Education-for-conservation and art-for-conservation initiatives must value and celebrate Pacific cultural expressions by cultivating partnerships with our elders, educators, artists, athletes and community role models, as well as with our youth, women's, faith-based and cultural organisations.	
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Integrate environmental and cultural considerations into the goals, processes, and trajectories of economic development in the Pacific.

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Key partners and programmes
Sustainable and resilient ocean economies	•	 Strengthen environmental and cultural impact assessments, including assessment quality, compliance monitoring, enforcement capacity, and integration into planning processes. Strengthen monitoring and enforcement of all marine and maritime industrial and commercial activities. Develop, strengthen, implement and enforce national ocean policies that reflect regional and international agreements on ocean governance and conservation, and uphold the interests of communities. Strengthen existing legal frameworks and mainstream environmental considerations across national legislation. Ensure that all ocean-based economic development and conservation initiatives have robust processes for seeking free, prior and informed consent from communities and uphold their interests and values. Provide guidance to redirect finance to secure the protection, restoration and resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems, as well as the communities dependent on them. 	
Sustainable and resilient island economies	•	 Strengthen environmental and cultural impact assessments, including assessment quality, compliance monitoring, enforcement capacity, and integration into planning processes. Ensure that all island-based economic development and conservation initiatives have robust processes for seeking free, prior and informed consent from communities and uphold their interests and values. 	

		 Facilitate opportunities for local communities to participate actively in island based sustainable economic activities ensuring fair and just economic returns. Support businesses, especially small and medium enterprises, to establish resilient practices, including building transparent and sustainable supply chains that foster community wellbeing. Strengthen existing legal frameworks and mainstream environmental considerations across national legislation. 	
Nature-based solutions to sustain our social- ecological systems	•	 Ensure that all nature-based solutions are designed and implemented with demonstrable benefits for human and ecological wellbeing, where possible at multiple scales. Utilise scenario-planning tools that offer alternative and sustainable economic pathways adapted to local, national and regional contexts. Promote and strengthen tools that provide environmental and social-cultural safeguards for economic projects, such as impact assessments and spatial planning. Design nature-based solutions to address community-level challenges as identified by resource users, with environmental and social-cultural co-benefits documented and communicated. 	
Environmentally and culturally sensitive tourism	Travel restrictions due to COVID-19	 Encourage tourism operators to proactively improve their efficiency of resource use and disposal, including best practices related to electricity, water, and waste. Strengthen regulation, monitoring and enforcement related to these practices. Mainstream environmental and cultural considerations as part of national and regional tourism development planning, and prioritise forms of tourism that enhance environmental and social-cultural wellbeing. Engage the tourism industry and relevant partners to participate in national or regional initiatives reduce environmental threats, particularly those directly related to tourism practices. Engage the tourism sector as an economic contributor to efforts to preserve the natural heritage that the industry relies upon. Explore and encourage opportunities for local communities to establish small-scale sustainable tourism activities. 	

Identify, conserve, sustainably manage and restore ecosystems, habitats, and priority natural and cultural sites.

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Key partners and programmes
Effective marine protected areas	 High seas / Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). Assessment, monitoring, and enforcement of MPAs at all scales. Integrating seabed habitats into networks of MPAs. Ensuring that MPAs are adequately designed and sited to achieve social, cultural, economic and ecological objectives. Increasing impacts of climate change, loss and degradation of habitats, and other local and global environmental pressures. 	 Uphold the customary rights of communities to their locally managed marine areas and fisheries. When effectively managed and monitored, these should be included in registers of natural and cultural protected areas. Customary rights must not be eroded through protected areas or spatial planning processes. Ensure that all Pacific communities have support to establish locally managed or conserved marine areas if they wish to do so, including support to undertake or participate in appropriate marine spatial planning processes. This might include investing in capacity building networks and learning hubs to advance effective and lasting implementation. Measure the spatial extent, habitat type, species presence/abundance, and health of protected areas over time, including through traditional, indigenous and local knowledge. Community members should be supported to take part in or lead monitoring of protected areas, as appropriate. Ensure that sufficient long-term resourcing is available for assessment, monitoring, enforcement, and other management actions in MPAs. This includes resourcing for government agencies, sustainable financing mechanisms to support the long-term role of local communities. Ensure that identification and management planning of priority sites takes account of their changing role in seascape-level ecological functioning and connectivity, including across political jurisdictions and on the high seas. 	

Marine ecological integrity	 Increasing impacts of climate change, loss and degradation of habitats, and other local and global environmental pressures. Increasing Pacific Island populations and resource use putting pressure on coastal marine ecosystems. Limited scientific knowledge of Pacific marine habitats and ecosystems. Few long-term monitoring programs or easily accessible databases. 	 Assess, map, and monitor threatened or significant ecosystems and habitats, such as coral reefs, seagrass beds and other Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) or Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). Establish and implement comprehensive, inclusive and equitable strategic environmental assessment and marine spatial planning processes at national, sub-national and community levels. These should plan to actively and adaptively manage marine ecosystems for multiple types of benefits, including biodiversity, food security, shoreline protection, and social and cultural values and functions. Establish targeted and enforced protections, regulations, or other conservation measures in collaboration with local communities. These should address multiple anthropogenic pressures in order to recover ecological resilience, integrity and functioning. Partner for the restoration of coastal ecosystems, ensuring all partners understand and share the prioritisation of indigenous species. Promote sustainable traditional ocean management, and defend the right of communities to exercise these practices. Ensure fair and equitable economic returns to communities for their marine products. Strengthen regional capacity to deliver effective and integrated ocean governance, including appropriate conservation measures for the high seas.
Effective terrestrial protected areas	 Challenges in the enforcement and monitoring of protected areas, and utilisation of evaluation protocols such as Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME). Impacts of climate change, habitat degradation or loss, and invasive species. Protected areas do not necessarily align to areas important for biological or habitat diversity. 	 Uphold the customary rights of communities to their locally managed terrestrial areas, including agrobiodiversity systems. When effectively managed and monitored, these should be included in registers of natural and cultural protected areas. Customary rights must not be eroded through protected areas or spatial planning processes. Ensure that all Pacific communities have support to establish locally managed or conserved terrestrial areas if they wish to do so, including support to undertake or participate in appropriate spatial planning processes. This might include investing in capacity building networks and learning hubs to advance effective and lasting implementation. Measure the spatial extent, habitat type, species presence/abundance, and health of protected areas over time, including through traditional, indigenous and local knowledge.

		Community members should be supported to take part in or lead monitoring of protected areas, as appropriate. • Ensure that sufficient long-term resourcing is available for assessment, monitoring, enforcement, and other management actions in protected areas. This includes resourcing for government agencies, and sustainable financing mechanisms to support the role of local communities. • Ensure that identification and management planning of priority sites takes account of their changing role in landscape-level ecological functioning and connectivity, and the values and interests of communities.
Terrestrial ecological integrity	 Direct threats to forests and their environmental and cultural values from logging, invasive species, agriculture, fires, and mining. Conversion of diverse agroecological systems into monocultural cropping spaces. 	 Assess, map, and monitor threatened or significant ecosystems and habitats, such as native forests, in partnership with communities. Establish and implement comprehensive, inclusive and equitable spatial planning processes at national, sub-national (island or catchment), and community levels, including through drawing on traditional knowledge as appropriate. These should plan to actively and adaptively manage terrestrial ecosystems for multiple types of benefits, including biodiversity, food security, soil and water health, carbon capture, and social-cultural values and functions. Establish targeted and enforced protections, regulations, or other conservation measures in collaboration with local communities. These should address multiple anthropogenic pressures to recover ecological resilience, integrity and functioning. Partner for the restoration of native forests, ensuring all partners understand and share the prioritisation of indigenous species. Promote sustainable traditional land management, forest use and farming practices, and defend the right of communities to exercise these practices. Ensure fair and equitable economic returns to communities for their forest and agricultural products. Ensure that sustainable financing mechanisms are established to support place-based conservation and management, especially to support the role of landowners and local communities.

Protect and recover threatened species and preserve genetic diversity, focusing on those of particular ecological, cultural and economic significance.

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Key partners and programmes
Reducing threats to threatened and migratory marine species	 Declining numbers of keystone species, and wider ecological impacts in the Pacific. Migratory marine species are threatened by unsustainable fishing practices, illegal wildlife trade, unsustainable harvest, pollution and climate change. Lack of data on the status, connectivity, and threats to IUCN Red List marine species in the Pacific. 	 Ensure that species-specific conservation and recovery plans are developed, resourced, and implemented in partnership with Pacific communities, and that these promote links between threatened marine species and cultural heritage. Strengthen systems and build capacity for monitoring threatened marine and migratory species, including through close partnerships with communities where possible, and for sharing data between national and regional agencies and organisations. Support Pacific Island scientists and knowledge keepers, including through training in taxonomy and biodiversity assessments, and ensure transmission of knowledge by developing and maintaining positions in these areas of expertise. Likewise, support non-Pacific Island scientists to understand the role of indigenous taxonomies in conservation monitoring. Establish relevant social, cultural, and economic incentives for reducing direct overexploitation and trade of threatened marine species, in partnership with community leaders and stakeholders. Ensure long-term financing to monitor and recover threatened and migratory marine species. Increase regional cooperation to reduce threats and increase protection and enforcement across sub-national and national boundaries, reflecting the natural ranges of threatened migratory species. 	
Reducing threats to threatened and	Continued declines in most currently threatened Pacific species.	Ensure that species-specific conservation and recovery plans are developed, resourced, and implemented in partnership with	

migratory	terrestrial
species	

- Invasive species and climate change are the most commonly identified threats.
- Measures of the status of and threats to IUCN Red List Species in the Pacific islands are limited by a lack of research and available data, often due to high expense and technical expertise required for collecting data.
- Pacific communities, and that these promote links between threatened terrestrial species and cultural heritage.
- Strengthen systems and build capacity for monitoring threatened terrestrial and migratory species, and for sharing data between national and regional agencies and organisations.
- Support Pacific Island scientists and knowledge keepers, including through training in taxonomy and biodiversity assessments, and ensure transmission of knowledge by developing and maintaining positions in these areas of expertise. Likewise, support non-Pacific Island scientists to understand the role of indigenous taxonomies in conservation monitoring.
- Establish relevant social, cultural, and economic incentives for reducing direct overexploitation and trade of threatened terrestrial species, in partnership with community leaders and stakeholders.
- Ensure long-term financing to monitor and recover threatened and migratory terrestrial species.
- Partner for management of priority species, including essential partnerships between environmental managers and biosecurity.

Manage and reduce threats to Pacific environments and drivers of biodiversity loss.

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Key partners and programmes
Ending unsustainable fishing	 Large size of Pacific EEZs and limited capacity for enforcement. Unintentional harm to non-target species (bycatch). Impacts of habitat loss, invasive species, and pollution on coastal fish stocks. Direct and indirect effects of climate change and ocean acidification on coastal and pelagic fisheries. Finding sustainable alternatives to depleted stocks, especially reef fishes, to allow for recovery. 	 Supporting local and community-based fisheries management, especially practices based on traditional, indigenous and local knowledge. Actively manage and reduce land-based impacts on coastal fisheries, such as those from logging and mining activities. These are often not within the scope of communities to address and require coordinated action across multiple government agencies and other partners. Continue to strengthen national and regional monitoring, control and surveillance systems and capacity, including in collaboration with local communities where applicable. Strengthen catch monitoring, including through increased observer coverage, electronic and remote monitoring, and dockside compliance inspections. Strengthen monitoring and regulation of transhipment activity, including utilising analytical identification and traceability techniques and enforcing stronger sanctions. Address inshore IUU fishing in partnership with coastal communities, ensuring that programmes emphasise links to human rights, health, cultural and heritage values, and livelihoods. 	
Ecosystem-based approaches to climate change, pandemic and disaster response	 Lack of human and financial resources to support ecosystem- based approaches. National legislation and planning, including that related to ecosystem- based approaches, sometimes does not sufficiently align with local livelihoods and customary law. 	 Create and utilise learning exchanges and platforms for action to build regional capacity within, and linkages between, communities and programmes working on nature conservation, human health, and disaster and climate resilience. Implement relevant agreements for climate change and disaster risk management, such as the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific, with priority given to ecosystem-based approaches and solutions. 	

	 Poor-quality information about baseline conditions. Economies heavily dependent on physical imports. 	 Design synergistic linkages between programmes and projects to maximise the multiple benefits of ecosystem-based approaches for nature conservation, climate and disaster resilience, and human health. Base pandemic and disaster preparedness and recovery planning on systems thinking that incorporates interactions between ecological, human, and animal health, within natural boundaries such as watersheds. 	
Deep-sea mining	 Information available on potential or known impacts of deep-sea mining or prospecting is limited. Vast areas of the deep sea and seabed have not been explored and the biodiversity of these ecosystems is yet to be understood. There is a lack of awareness of the potential impacts of deep-sea mining among decision makers and other stakeholders including communities. 	 Establish and enforce requirements for rigorous and independent environmental and cultural impact assessments, and Strategic Environmental Assessments, of all elements of proposed industrial activities impacting deep-sea or seabed environments. Uphold the rights of Pacific communities and civil society organisations to meaningfully participate in decisions about prospecting or mining in deep-sea environments, and ensure that these activities include robust processes for seeking free, prior and informed consent from communities. Take a precautionary approach to deep-sea mining and prospecting activity, including ensuring that the environmental, social and economic risks are comprehensively understood, and not proceeding until it can be clearly demonstrated that impacts can be managed to ensure the effective protection of ocean ecosystems. 	
Battling invasive species	 Pacific Islands are amenable to a wide range of potentially invasive species, requiring constant vigilance, partnerships with host and destination countries, and resourcing of biosecurity measures. Invasion risks are increasing with increased travel and movement of goods. Environmental pressures reduce the capacity of native species to compete with invasive species. 	 Measure and monitor the presence and impacts of invasive species, with attention to filling knowledge gaps on social, cultural and economic impacts and the results of management actions. Plan to prevent movement of invasive species into and among islands, domestically and regionally. Enforce protection of priority sites and species through partnerships with biosecurity, land-use planning, and communities, drawing on traditional, indigenous, and local knowledge relating to priority sites and species. Restore native species and habitats, with long-term monitoring of cascading impacts and benefits. Partner for biosecurity, knowledge sharing of best practices, and regional resourcing of invasive species management and native habitat restoration. 	

Preventing	plastics
pollution	

- High proportions of plastic in waste streams, as marine litter, and as microplastics present throughout Pacific marine ecosystems.
- The transboundary nature of marine plastic pollution. Pacific ecosystems will continue to receive plastic waste independent of production rates, due to marine plastics circulating into the Pacific region, and plastics being regularly lost from landfills into the ocean.
- A waste burden from fishing exists with the illegal dumping of nonbiodegradable wastes at sea, in addition to abandoned, lost, or derelict fishing gear.
- High costs hinder Pacific recycling either in-country or for transporting off-shore.

- Implement the Cleaner Pacific 2025 strategy and Pacific Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter.
- Identify sources and trends of plastic waste using waste audits, citizen science, and landfill management tools such as weigh bridges.
- Measure spending on plastic waste, including landfill management, cost of clean-ups, and habitat rehabilitation, and cost-savings due to plastic diversion from landfills.
- Plan spending and actions for managing marine litter and its impacts, including preparedness such as disaster risk reduction and biosecurity.
- Partner for reduced plastic pollution and more effective enforcement, across community organisations, development partners, commercial entities and government agencies.
- Adopt policy and law frameworks prioritising prevention over waste management, with specific references to plastic pollution elimination within relevant policy frameworks.
- Adopt importation and trade restrictions on problematic plastics and polymers, including single-use bioplastics.
- Promote prevention, return, recycling, and traditional and innovative alternatives to plastic, with the engagement of local communities and businesses. Ensure that traditional knowledge holders and craftspeople are fairly compensated and acknowledged through FPIC processes.
- Commit to engaging in a circular plastics economy and engage with proponents driving upstream changes at international, regional, national and local levels.
- Advocate internationally for the elimination of plastic pollution, especially by Pacific Rim countries, and for a global treaty on plastic pollution.

Preventing terrestrial, freshwater and marine pollution (non-plastic)	Challenges ensuring effective enforcement of existing regulations.	 Development or expansion of routine monitoring and reporting, for example for waste, chemicals and pollution (WCP) management activities and the receiving environment. Development or finalisation of national WCP strategies and action plans aligned with the <i>Cleaner Pacific 2025</i> strategy. Development and implementation of practical and enforceable WCP legislation. implement integrated, cost-effective, technically appropriate and culturally acceptable practices and technologies that minimise and manage WCP from various sources. Management of hazardous waste, including development of inventories. 	
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Grow Pacific capacity and partnerships to effectively monitor, govern and finance nature conservation action.

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Key partners and programmes
Science and traditional knowledge for target-setting and monitoring	 Capacity to collect, analyse, interpret and share data for diverse audiences and decision making. Focusing on relevant regional indicators that can be used to inform real time decision making for adaptive management. 	 Support the development of domestic and community-level monitoring capacity, including monitoring based on cultural indicators and traditional, indigenous and local knowledge. Where appropriate this data should feed into national and regional knowledge management systems. Safeguard the rights of Pacific communities to make informed decisions about when and how target-setting and monitoring will occur. Uphold indigenous sovereignty over locally derived environmental and cultural information. Utilise centralised data services to assist with monitoring and evaluation of conservation and management activities and to provide accessible data for environmental management. Collaborate through regional learning for information collection and analysis, reporting, and open and timely sharing of environmental information. Plan for sustained environmental reporting in changing conditions, including preparedness and disaster risk management. 	
Governance that works for nature conservation	 Lack of accountability and transparency Jurisdiction issues for transboundary hazards or species that rely on both land and sea habitats. 	 Strengthen existing national and regional legal frameworks, and give due weight to the enforcement of environmental considerations across ministries and regional agencies. Where appropriate, strengthen the influence of environmental ministries in government decision making. Facilitate transparency and accountability by establishing systems for free access to information on decision making, and by resourcing independent regulatory bodies where appropriate. 	

		 Ensure that conservation partnerships enhance the implementation of local, regional, and international laws and agreements as well as new and existing programme linkages. Build accountable, transparent and courageous political leadership for addressing ultimate and proximate threats to biodiversity: both domestically, within our region, and as a strong Blue Pacific voice in global negotiations. 	
Sustainable financing for nature conservation	 Competing interests within national budget allocations. Sometimes limited opportunities to directly generate sustainable income for conservation initiatives. 	 Embrace a regional, collective, Blue Pacific approach to conservation partnerships and financing. Establish and enforce licence fees for environmentally impactful activities and fines for breaches, to be invested in resource management, regulation and enforcement. Emphasise the co-benefits of nature conservation initiatives to access novel areas of financing; for instance, co-benefits for areas such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, economic and community development, human health, and human rights. Encourage local conservation initiatives to be self-sustaining where possible. Encourage the redirection of public and private sector finance to support the delivery of equitable and sustainable conservation. 	

Implementation and communication of the Framework

Addressing the multiple environmental crises facing the Pacific region depends on rigorous implementation of regional and global frameworks, agreements, and policy documents, including this one. Implementation of this *Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas2021-2025* is the collective responsibility of its broad range of conservation stakeholders, although these responsibilities differ between groups of stakeholders (see section 'Who should use this Framework, and how?'). The Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) also has a particular role in promoting, facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the Framework.

Communication to ensure visibility and understanding of the Framework among stakeholders is a critical factor for its successful implementation. PIRT will prepare and execute a communication plan to promote implementation of the Framework among its own member organisations on working groups, Pacific government agencies, and other stakeholders. This will require commitment to an ongoing programme of strategic and focused engagement across the region, and appropriate resourcing to facilitate this. PIRT will also engage proactively with donor agencies to encourage the Strategic Objectives and Principles of the Framework to be integrated into funding criteria, project prioritisation, and reporting processes.

A key principle of multilateral agreements is that the delivery of any one agreement or framework should be consistent with that of others. Implementation of this Framework should therefore occur in a manner that aligns with other relevant global and regional frameworks; a selection of the most directly relevant are presented in Appendix B.

Governance arrangements

As above, this Framework is intended to be 'owned' by all Pacific conservation stakeholders collectively, with PIRT having overall responsibilities for its governance. SPREP is the permanent secretariat for PIRT, and in this function will administer the Framework, arrange for high-level endorsement, lead the resolution of any issues arising, and undertake regular liaison with CBD focal points within Pacific government agencies.

The Framework will be presented to Pacific leaders for formal endorsement at the 30th SPREP Meeting, September 2021. Other stakeholders are likewise invited to formally endorse the Framework and make commitments to its implementation.

The Framework will be reviewed and updated at the 11th Pacific Nature Conference, planned for 2025.

Measuring progress

The broad strategic nature of the Framework makes measuring progress significantly more difficult than for many other environmental agreements. This 2021-2025 Framework deliberately avoids establishing quantifiable targets, considering that this is the right and responsibility of Pacific Island countries and territories as part of their engagement with the CBD and their own national planning processes. It is also considered that capacity constraints would inhibit the establishment of a set of regional conservation targets and indicators accompanied by their own monitoring and reporting regime, since in many cases producing National Reports to the CBD already constitutes a major burden of work for officials. Establishing systems for measuring progress has been an enduring challenge for all previous Pacific conservation frameworks and action strategies.

The environmental monitoring and reporting systems of the Pacific have evolved significantly in the last five years. The SPREP-led data management project 'Inform' has produced a set of core national environmental indicators to help Pacific Island countries and territories meet their existing domestic and international reporting obligations. They have been designed to be repeatable to demonstrate trajectories in key aspects of environmental health, and are the foundation of the *State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 2020 Regional Report* (SOEC). As the SOEC is produced at the same five-yearly intervals as the Framework, it makes sense to consider it as the monitoring mechanism for the Framework.

It is recommended that the next Framework review, planned for 2025, should include a qualitative assessment of progress on the six Strategic Objectives based on the time-series trends revealed by the Inform indicators in the updated SOEC, as well other relevant regional datasets. If considered appropriate, this assessment can be included in the SOEC. This is intended as a flexible and adaptive approach that considers emerging as well as existing environmental datasets and metrics. Strengthening the explicit linkages between the SOEC and the Framework will be a key priority in the early stages of the next review process for both documents.

Optional additional approaches for assessing progress include compilation and analysis of National Reports produced for the CBD, if desired; and working with PIRT member organisations and donor agencies to track their implementation of the Framework over time. These analyses are likely to constitute significant bodies of work, and will need to be resourced appropriately.

Process for the development of this Framework

This Framework is the result of an extensive consultation process involving representatives of Pacific government agencies, CROP agencies, PIRT member organisations, funding agencies, and other conservation stakeholders from across the region. This was primarily through an online survey circulated widely to stakeholders, and through individual interviews where appropriate. A consultation and feedback session involving staff from Pacific government environment departments was also held in Apia in February 2020, as part of a separate workshop organised by SPREP. Additionally, a desktop review of the 2014-2020 Framework was undertaken, focusing on its key features and how these delivered on its purpose.

A draft Framework was prepared based on key messages from this consultation, and received comments from SPREP, PIRT members, and CBD focal points from Pacific Island countries and territories. The draft was presented to the 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in November 2020, and received further input and feedback in a series of facilitated virtual discussions with some of the most knowledgeable conservation practitioners in the Pacific. This final Framework is a product of the collective experience and perspectives of all those who participated in its development.

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Appendix A: Linkages to selected global and regional targets and goals

Table 1: Alignment between the Strategic Objectives of the Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas2021-2025 and other important global and regional frameworks. The Appendix does not imply that the goals or targets of these other frameworks are directly transferrable as goals or targets for the Strategic Objectives.

Strategic Objectives 2021-2025	Linkages to post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework ¹	Linkages to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals)
Strategic Objective 1: Empower people to take action for nature conservation, based on their understanding of its importance for Pacific cultures, economies, and communities.	2050 Goals Goal B: Nature's contributions to people have been valued, maintained or enhanced through conservation and sustainable use supporting global development agenda for the benefit of all people. Goal C: The benefits, from the utilization of genetic resources are shared fairly and equitably. Goal D: Means of implementation are available to achieve all goals and targets in the framework.	SDG 4.7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development. SDG 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life. SDG 5.A: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.
	2030 Targets Target 12: By 2030, increase by [X] benefits shared for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through ensuring access to and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. Target 15: By 2030, eliminate unsustainable consumption patterns, ensuring people everywhere understand and appreciate the value of biodiversity, and thus make responsible choices commensurate with 2050 biodiversity vision, taking into account individual and national cultural and socioeconomic conditions. Target 19: By 2030, ensure that quality information,	 SDG 6.B: Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management. SDG 12.8: By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature. SDG 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning. SDG 15.6: Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed. SDG 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels. SDG 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.
	Target 19: By 2030, ensure that quality information, including traditional knowledge, is available to decision	

¹ Goals and targets taken from the February 2020 draft of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: https://www.cbd.int/sbstta/sbstta-24/post2020-monitoring-en.pdf. To be updated when final text is adopted by the CBD.

makers and public for the effective management of biodiversity through promoting awareness, education and research.

Target 20: By 2030, ensure equitable participation in decision-making related to biodiversity and ensure rights over relevant resources of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls as well as youth, in accordance with national circumstances.

Strategic Objective 2:

Integrate
environmental and
cultural considerations
into the goals,
processes, and
trajectories of
economic
development in the
Pacific.

2050 Goals

Goal B: Nature's contributions to people have been valued, maintained or enhanced through conservation and sustainable use supporting global development agenda for the benefit of all people.

Goal C: The benefits, from the utilization of genetic resources are shared fairly and equitably.

Goal D: Means of implementation are available to achieve all goals and targets in the framework.

2030 Targets

Target 8: By 2030, ensure benefits, including nutrition, food security, livelihoods, health and well-being, for people, especially for the most vulnerable through sustainable management of wild species of fauna and flora.

Target 9: By 2030, support the productivity, sustainability and resilience of biodiversity in agricultural and other managed ecosystems through conservation and sustainable use of such ecosystems, reducing productivity gaps by at least [50%].

Target 10: By 2030, ensure that, nature based solutions and ecosystem approach contribute to regulation of air quality, hazards and extreme events and quality and quantity of water for at least [XXX million] people.

Target 11: By 2030, increase benefits from biodiversity and green/blue spaces for human health and wellbeing,

SDG 1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

SDG 1.5: By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

SDG 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

SDG 5.A: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

SDG 6.4: By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.

SDG 7.2: By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

SDG 7.3: By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.

SDG 7.B: By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, and land-locked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support.

SDG 8.4: Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead.

including the proportion of people with access to such spaces by at least [100%], especially for urban dwellers.

Target 13: By 2030, integrate biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts at all levels, ensuring that biodiversity values are mainstreamed across all sectors and integrated into assessments of environmental impacts.

Target 14: By 2030, achieve reduction of at least [50%] in negative impacts on biodiversity by ensuring production practices and supply chains are sustainable.

Target 17: By 2030, redirect, repurpose, reform or eliminate incentives harmful for biodiversity, including [X] reduction in the most harmful subsidies, ensuring that incentives, including public and private economic and regulatory incentives, are either positive or neutral for biodiversity.

SDG 8.9: By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

SDG 9.4: By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities.

SDG 10.5: Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations.

SDG 10.6: Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions.

SDG 11.7: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

SDG 11.C: Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials.

SDG 12.2: By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

SDG 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

SDG 12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

SDG 12.6: Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.

SDG 12.7: Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities.

SDG 12.B: Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

SDG 12.C: Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities.

SDG 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.

SDG 14.6: By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation SDG 14.7: By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism. **SDG 14.B:** Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets. **SDG 15.9:** By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts. **Strategic Objective 3: 2050 Goals** SDG 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate. Identify, conserve, Goal A: The area, connectivity and integrity of natural ecosystems increased by at least [X%] supporting healthy SDG 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, sustainably manage, rivers, aguifers and lakes. and resilient populations of all species while reducing and restore the number of species that are threatened by [X%] and ecosystems, habitats, **SDG 11.4:** Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage. maintaining genetic diversity. and priority natural **SDG 12.2:** By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources. Goal D: Means of implementation are available to and cultural sites. achieve all goals and targets in the framework. SDG 14.2: By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans. 2030 Targets SDG 14.5: By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national Target 1: By 2030, [50%] of land and sea areas globally and international law and based on the best available scientific information. are under spatial planning addressing land/sea use change, retaining most of the existing intact and SDG 15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland wilderness areas, and allow to restore [X%] of degraded freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line freshwater, marine and terrestrial natural ecosystems with obligations under international agreements. and connectivity among them. SDG 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt Target 2: By 2030, protect and conserve through well deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation connected and effective system of protected areas and globally. other effective area-based conservation measures at SDG 15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by least 30 per cent of the planet with the focus on areas desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world. particularly important for biodiversity. SDG 15.4: By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in Target 9: By 2030, support the productivity, order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development. sustainability and resilience of biodiversity in agricultural and other managed ecosystems through conservation

	and sustainable use of such ecosystems, reducing productivity gaps by at least [50%].	SDG 15.5 : Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
Strategic Objective 4: Protect and recover threatened species and preserve genetic diversity, focusing on those of particular ecological, cultural and economic significance.	Goal A: The area, connectivity and integrity of natural ecosystems increased by at least [X%] supporting healthy and resilient populations of all species while reducing the number of species that are threatened by [X%] and maintaining genetic diversity. Goal C: The benefits, from the utilization of genetic resources are shared fairly and equitably. Goal D: Means of implementation are available to achieve all goals and targets in the framework. 2030 Targets Target 3: By 2030, ensure active management actions to enable wild species of fauna and flora recovery and conservation, and reduce human-wildlife conflict by [X%]. Target 4: By 2030, ensure that the harvesting, trade and use of wild species of fauna and flora is legal, at sustainable levels and safe. Target 8: By 2030, ensure benefits, including nutrition, food security, livelihoods, health and well-being, for people, especially for the most vulnerable through sustainable management of wild species of fauna and flora. Target 12: By 2030, increase by [X] benefits shared for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through ensuring access to and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.	SDG 2.5: By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed. SDG 15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species. SDG 15.6: Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed. SDG 15.7: Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.
Strategic Objective 5: Manage and reduce threats to Pacific	2050 Goals Goal A: The area, connectivity and integrity of natural ecosystems increased by at least [X%] supporting healthy and resilient populations of all species while reducing	SDG 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

environments and drivers of biodiversity loss.

the number of species that are threatened by [X%] and maintaining genetic diversity.

Goal B: Nature's contributions to people have been valued, maintained or enhanced through conservation and sustainable use supporting global development agenda for the benefit of all people.

Goal D: Means of implementation are available to achieve all goals and targets in the framework.

2030 Targets

Target 5: By 2030, manage, and where possible control, pathways for the introduction of invasive alien species, achieving [50%] reduction in the rate of new introductions, and control or eradicate invasive alien species to eliminate or reduce their impacts, including in at least [50%] of priority sites.

Target 6: By 2030, reduce pollution from all sources, including reducing excess nutrients [by x%], biocides [by x%], plastic waste [by x%] to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and human health.

Target 7: By 2030, increase contributions to climate change mitigation adaption and disaster risk reduction from nature-based solutions and ecosystems based approaches, ensuring resilience and minimizing any negative impacts on biodiversity.

Target 10: By 2030, ensure that, nature based solutions and ecosystem approach contribute to regulation of air quality, hazards and extreme events and quality and quantity of water for at least [XXX million] people.

Target 14: By 2030, achieve reduction of at least [50%] in negative impacts on biodiversity by ensuring production practices and supply chains are sustainable.

Target 15: By 2030, eliminate unsustainable consumption patterns, ensuring people everywhere understand and appreciate the value of biodiversity, and thus make responsible choices commensurate with 2050

SDG 3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.

SDG 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

SDG 11.6: By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.

SDG 11.B: By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.

SDG 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

SDG 12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

SDG 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

SDG 14.1: By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.

SDG 14.3: Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels.

SDG 14.4: By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.

SDG 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.

SDG 15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.

SDG 15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

biodiversity vision, taking into account individual and national cultural and socioeconomic conditions.

Target 16: By 2030, establish and implement measures to prevent, manage or control potential adverse impacts of biotechnology on biodiversity and human health reducing these impacts by [X].

Target 17: By 2030, redirect, repurpose, reform or eliminate incentives harmful for biodiversity, including [X] reduction in the most harmful subsidies, ensuring that incentives, including public and private economic and regulatory incentives, are either positive or neutral for biodiversity.

SDG 15.7: Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.

SDG 15.8: By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species.

Strategic Objective 6:

Grow capacity and partnerships to effectively monitor, govern and finance nature conservation action.

2050 Goals

Goal D: Means of implementation are available to achieve all goals and targets in the framework.

2030 Targets

Target 18: By 2030, increase by [X%] financial resources from all international and domestic sources, through new, additional and effective financial resources commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the framework and implement the strategy for capacity-building and technology transfer and scientific cooperation to meet the needs for implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Target 19: By 2030, ensure that quality information, including traditional knowledge, is available to decision makers and public for the effective management of biodiversity through promoting awareness, education and research.

SDG 4.B: By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries.

SDG 6.A: By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.

SDG 7.A: By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology.

SDG 9.A: Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

SDG 10.A: Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements.

SDG 10.B: Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes.

SDG 12.A: Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

SDG 13.A: Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020

from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible.

SDG 13.B: Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.

SDG 14.A: Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries.

SDG 15.A: Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.

SDG 15.B: Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation.

SDG 15.C: Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.

SDG 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

SDG 16.8: Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.

SDG 17.1: Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.

SDG 17.3: Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources.

SDG 17.5: Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries.

SDG 17.6: Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.

SDG 17.7: Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed.

SDG 17.9: Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.
SDG 17.14: Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.
SDG 17.15: Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development.
SDG 17.16: Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multistakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.
SDG 17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.
SDG 17.18: By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.
SDG 17.19: By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries.

Appendix B: Relevant global and regional frameworks and agreements

Table 2: Major international agreements relevant to nature conservation and protected areas in the Pacific, grouped by primary theme or focus. Note that many agreements are relevant to multiple areas of focus. The agreements included are illustrative and not exhaustive.

Primary theme or focus	Agreement	Major relevant subsidiary agreements
Biodiversity	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework [indevelopment]
		Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (Aichi Targets)
	International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling	
	International Plant Protection Convention	
	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	
	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	
	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	
	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	
Climate Change	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Paris Agreement
		Kyoto Protocol
Development	2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
		SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway
Natural & Cultural Heritage	World Heritage Convention	
Oceans & Maritime	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	BBNJ Instrument [in development]
		UN Fish Stocks Agreement
Pollution & Hazardous Waste	Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer	Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
	Basel Convention on Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes	
	London Convention on Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping	
	Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)	

Table 3: Selected relevant regional Pacific agreements and frameworks, grouped by primary theme or focus. Note that many agreements and frameworks are relevant to multiple areas of focus. The agreements and frameworks included are illustrative and not exhaustive.

Primary theme or focus	Regional agreement or framework
Development	Framework for Pacific Regionalism
	Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development
	Pacific Framework for Education for Sustainable Development
	MSG Framework for Action on Environment, Climate Change & Sustainable Development
Oceans & Maritime	Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape
	Pacific Regional Ocean Policy & Framework for Integrated Strategic Action
	Regional Tuna Management & Development Strategy
	Regional Monitoring, Control & Surveillance Strategy
	Convention for Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western & Central Pacific
	Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Fisheries
Biodiversity	Noumea Convention
	Pacific Framework for Nature Conservation & Protected Areas
	CMS MoU for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Pacific
	Regional Marine Species Action Plans
	Regional Environment Goals (SPREP Strategic Plan)
Climate Change	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific
Pollution & Hazardous Waste	Waigani Convention
	Pacific Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter
	Cleaner Pacific 2025: Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy
Natural & Cultural Heritage	Regional Famework for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge & Expressions of Culture