Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP)
Strategic Work Agenda 2023
1. **Purpose**

1.1 This CROP Strategic Work Agenda sets out how CROP will work together over 2023 to deliver on Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders’ decisions, including work priorities, objectives and deliverables, strengthening ways of working, and a calendar of engagements.

1.2 CROP Heads will monitor progress against this Strategic Work Agenda through their quarterly meetings and provide a progress report to Forum Leaders at the 52nd Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) to be held in Cook Islands in 2023.

2. **CROP Work Priorities**

2.1 In response to Leaders’ decisions from the 51st PIF, held virtually in August 2021, face-to-face in Fiji in July 2022, and Special Leaders Retreat held in February 2023 and arising issues, CROP’s seven priorities for 2023 aligned to the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent are:

   a) *Political Leadership and Regionalism*;

   b) *Climate Change and Disasters*;

   c) *Resources and Economic Development*;

   d) *Ocean and Natural Environment*;

   e) *People Centred Development*;

   f) *Peace and Security*; and

   g) *Technology and Connectivity*.

2.2 CROP will also continue to deliver on earlier Forum Leaders’ commitments and regional strategies that require ongoing focus and action through CROP Working Groups.

3. **Delivering on CROP Work Priorities**

3.1 In response to the seven work priorities, the section below summarises the objectives, deliverables, delivery mechanisms, resource requirements, partnerships and measures of success to ensure effective achievement of Leaders’ decisions over 2023.
Political Leadership and Regionalism
Objective

a) Development of an implementation and monitoring plan for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent endorsed by Members.

b) Initiation of a Review of the Regional Architecture, to ensure a relevant, efficient and effective future regional system that takes into account political settlement, governance structures, institutional arrangements and effective partnerships and related mechanisms.

c) Strengthened engagement with Non-State Actors and the United Nations (UN) in support of coordinated service delivery to Member states.

CROP deliverables

- Meetings and outputs of the CROP Taskforce on the 2050 Strategy and Multi-Stakeholder Expert Groups (MSEGs).
- Participation in and support for the FOC Sub-Committee on the 2050 Strategy.
- Technical input and advice to inform the development of the 2050 Strategy Implementation and Monitoring Plan (2050IP) particularly through the four MSEGs and in particular through the Political Leadership & Regionalism and Peace & Security MSEG.
- Technical advice/assistance to Members to inform the Review of the Regional Architecture, as requested.
- Convening annual CROP Heads’ dialogues with Non-State Actors and the UN, with outputs implemented.
- Convening the CROP Heads and Chairs of the respective governing boards of CROP agencies in order to advance joint ownership and implementation of actions that will be required to deliver on the Review of the Regional Architecture.

Key CROP agencies/delivery mechanisms

- CROP Taskforce on the 2050 Strategy
- CROP Heads Meetings
- CROP thematic working groups – gender, human resources, ICT, and sustainable development
- CROP agencies’ alignment of their strategic planning processes to the 2050 Strategy

Partnerships/stakeholder coordination mechanisms

- FOC Sub-Committee on the 2050 Strategy and Informal Working Group
- MSEGs for the 2050IP especially Political Leadership & Regionalism and Peace & Security MSEG
- Register of Regional Experts
- Governing Councils of respective CROP Agencies
- CROP – UN Taskforce

1 Also referred to as 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan
Financing/resource requirements

- While PIFS is expected to bear the financial burden of coordinating the delivery of the 2050 Strategy and the Review of the Regional Architecture, CROP agencies are requested to provide resourcing support in the following ways, which may contribute to direct and indirect costs for deliverables under this priority:
  - Contribution of technical/expert advisory;
  - Support to convene consultation meetings at respective CROP agencies, as required; and
  - Support to convene technical workshops at CROP agencies as required.

Measures of success

- CROP agencies commit to the strategic objectives of the 2050 Strategy and align their strategic planning processes accordingly.
- CROP agencies provide required technical and coordination support for the development of the 2050 Strategy Implementation and Monitoring Plan (2050IP) at CROP executive, management and technical levels.
- Draft 2050IP developed for consideration of Forum Leaders in 2023.
- CROP agencies provide required technical and coordination support to the Review of Regional Architecture, as requested by Forum Members.
- Strengthened CROP engagement with Non-State Actors and UN in support of delivery of Forum Leaders’ priorities.
- Chairs of the respective governing boards of CROP agencies provide joint ownership and support implementation of actions that will be required to deliver on the Review of the Regional Architecture.
Financing/resource requirements

- While PIFS is expected to bear the financial burden of coordinating the delivery of the 2050 Strategy and the Review of the Regional Architecture, CROP agencies are requested to provide resourcing support in the following ways, which may contribute to direct and indirect costs for deliverables under this priority:
  - Contribution of technical/expert advisory;
  - Support to convene consultation meetings at respective CROP agencies, as required; and
  - Support to convene technical workshops at CROP agencies as required.

Measures of success

- CROP agencies commit to the strategic objectives of the 2050 Strategy and align their strategic planning processes accordingly.
- CROP agencies provide required technical and coordination support for the development of the 2050 Strategy Implementation and Monitoring Plan (2050IP) at CROP executive, management and technical levels.
- Draft 2050IP developed for consideration of Forum Leaders in 2023.
- CROP agencies provide required technical and coordination support to the Review of Regional Architecture, as requested by Forum Members.
- Strengthened CROP engagement with Non-State Actors and UN in support of delivery of Forum Leaders' priorities.
- Chairs of the respective governing boards of CROP agencies provide joint ownership and support implementation of actions that will be required to deliver on the Review of the Regional Architecture.
Objective

a. Promoting Pacific priorities for climate change action in the lead up to, and at COP 28 as guided by the Pacific Voyage to COP and beyond Plan and priorities outlined in the Leaders’ Communique.

b. Strengthened implementation and reporting of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP), particularly through the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) acknowledging the PRP Taskforce 2023 Workplan, that includes the 2023 Pacific Resilience Meeting and the Mid-Term Review of the FRDP.

c. Strengthening the region’s access to, and effective use of, climate finance.

d. Review and initial establishment of the Pacific Resilience Facility.


g. Support Boe Declaration Action Plan priorities relating to humanitarian assistance, climate and human security.

CROP deliverables

a) 2050 Strategy Implementation and Monitoring Plan

- Technical input and advice to inform the development of the 2050IP particularly through the Climate Change & Disasters and Ocean & Environment MSEG.

b) Climate change advocacy

- As guided by the Pacific Voyage Plan to COP and Beyond Plan, support the Forum Chair, Leaders and Political Climate Champions to advance the Blue Pacific’s advocacy for strong climate change action in the lead up to, and at COP28.

- Coordination and technical advice to support Pacific negotiating teams in the lead up to and at COP28 including the Pacific Preparatory meeting, Bonn Climate Change Conference and as led by the SPREP and the One CROP Plus Team.

- Facilitate enhanced climate change action from Forum Dialogue Partners through international advocacy and engagement.

- Support Members in expanding the region’s climate advocacy efforts, based on agreed Forum positions, to influence multiple international forums including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the UN Human Rights Council, the UN General Assembly (UNGA), the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982 UNCLOS), and the UN Environment Assembly Roadmap for a new global plastics treaty.
Facilitate enhanced access to, and effective use of, climate finance including support to Pacific Direct Access Entities and strengthened capacity for implementation.

Work with Members to analyse and consolidate the climate finance needs of the Pacific to inform the UNFCCC deliberations on a new collective quantified climate finance goal post-2025.

c) Pacific resilience and climate change action

- Technical input and support with the FRDP Mid Term Review in 2023, the Pacific Resilience Meeting and the draft FRDP Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.
- Support communications and advocacy to build regional understanding of, and engagement in, the FRDP and PRP.
- Technical advice and input to support the establishment of the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF).
- Support and seek funding for the Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme of Investment.
- Support the implementation of the Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific 2021-2030 including through the CROP Energy Technical Working Group and the PRP to support information sharing, coordination, and collaboration vis-à-vis implementation of the framework. This also includes finding a clear pathway for energy security and resilience and the urgent requirement to decarbonise the energy sector towards renewable energy as well as strengthening public-private-partnerships to leverage opportunities.
- Technical support and advice, as requested, to support Vanuatu’s initiative on a pathway to secure a request from the UNGA for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to clarify legal consequences of climate change.
- Working in collaboration with the Technical Working Group on PFM and Climate Finance to expedite efforts to strengthen national capacities and PFM systems to improve access to, and the effective management of, scaled up finance and innovative mechanisms.
- Technical support and input to develop a Regional Climate Finance Strategy for consideration by the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting in 2023.
- Technical support and input into Regional Disaster Risk Finance (DRF) Roadmap, including Guidelines for formulating National DRF Strategies, drawing on lessons learnt from Samoa and Tonga.
- Work with education implementing agencies to strengthen resilience and educate climate change action in school systems.

d) Sea-level rise

- Implementing, promoting and driving international partner support for the Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the face of Climate Change-related Sea-level rise.
- Technical assistance to support implementation of the Work Programme of the FOC Specialist Sub-Committee on Sea-Level Rise in relation to International Law and the Advocacy and Communications Strategy of the Leaders 2021 Declaration.
• Strengthen coordination on deposit of charts and list of geographical coordinates with the UN Secretary-General.

• Integrate impacts of sea level rise into the various sector policies and related laws (health including water, sanitation and hygiene, agriculture, food systems, disaster law and disaster risk management, human rights, gender etc.).

• Strengthen coordination to effectively respond and contribute to the work of the International Law Commission (ILC) on Sea-level Rise, Preserving Statehood and Protection Persons and future work of the ILC.

**CROP agencies/delivery mechanisms**

- One CROP Plus Team: SPREP, PIFS, SPC, USP, FFA, PIDP
- Climate Change Resilience Mechanism
- Energy Technical Working Group – SPC, PIFS, SPREP, USP and PPA
- PRP Support Unit – SPREP, PIFS, SPC
- PIFS, OPOC, SPC, FFA and SPREP to provide technical support and advice to the FOC Specialist Sub-Committee on Sea-Level Rise in relation to International Law, including Members’ efforts at the UN and in other relevant international law processes.
- PIFS and OPOC undertake legal, political and policy support; high level diplomacy and advocacy; and coordination of regional approaches.
- Marine Sector Working Group – SPC, FFA, PIFS, SPREP, OPOC (with revised TORs to be finalised within context of 2050 Strategy)

**Partnerships/stakeholder coordination mechanisms**

- Climate Change & Disasters and Ocean & Environment MSEG for the 2050IP
- FOC Sub-Committee on Forum International Engagement and Advocacy
- PRP Taskforce, with SPC as CROP’s nominated representative and SPTO as alternate representative
- Technical Working Groups of FRDP including Energy Security Working Group
- FOC Special Sub-Committee on Sea-Level Rise in relation to International Law – includes Members representatives from UN missions
- SPC, PIFS, OPOC, FFA- Pacific Maritime Boundaries Consortium

**Financing/resource requirements**

- CROP agencies’ primary budget to support engagement in international climate negotiations with resources to be mobilised to support Pacific delegations.
- Funding for relevant policy and legal support to the FOC Specialist Sub-Committee has been allocated in the PIFS and OPOC budget lines, but may require additional funding resources.
- Funding to support establishment of maritime zones and limits, as well as travel to support deposits with the UN is available through SPC, FFA and the Pacific Maritime Boundaries Consortium of partners.
Measures of success

- CROP agencies provide the required technical and coordination support for the Climate Change & Disasters and Ocean & Environment MSEG for development of the 2050IP at CROP executive, management and technical levels.
- Implementation of Pacific Voyage to COP and beyond Plan.
- Strong Pacific political engagement and advocacy in the lead up to and at COP28 with international coverage and awareness of Pacific negotiating priorities.
- Post-COP27 stock-take showing Pacific priorities being taken onboard in the COP28 outcome.
- Wider support, recognition and utilisation of the FRDP and its Monitoring and Evaluation Framework by Members and other actors.
- Effectiveness of the PRP governance arrangement based on feedback from Members and other actors.
- Pipeline of Pacific climate related projects and associated financing arrangements.
- Support for and funding provided for Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme of Investment.
- Supporting the convening of the 5th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting (PRETMM) to progress actions relating to decarbonising energy and transport services.
- Increasing global awareness and support of the Declaration on Preserving Maritime Boundaries in the face of Climate-Change Related Sea-Level Rise.
- Finalising delimitation and negotiation of share maritime boundary treaties as well as entry into force and deposit of outstanding Pacific Island maritime zones with the UN Treaty office and UN DOALOS.
- Timely implementation of the work programme of the FOC Specialist Sub-Committee.
Resource and Economic Development
Objective

a. Supporting an effective and timely regional response and recovery to COVID-19.
b. Promoting uptake of Pacific priorities through the global/multilateral response to COVID-19.
c. Supporting the development of the Pacific Roadmap for Economic Development (PRED) that is aligned to the 2050 Strategy.
d. Collaborating in the ongoing implementation of the Pacific Aid for Trade Strategy 2020-2025, specifically in the areas of Quality Infrastructure (Standard and Quality); Ecommerce as well as other areas such a labour mobility and kava.
e. Contributing towards the development of the Pacific Regional Private Sector Strategy.
f. Identify regional economic and political advocacy and engagement strategies to accelerate, simplify and increase the Pacific’s access to global finance and the integration of the Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index into the design of concessional financing arrangements that are suitable and contextualised to Pacific Countries.

CROP deliverables

• Technical input and advice to inform the development of the 2050IP particularly through the Resources & Economic Development and Technology & Connectivity MSEG.
• Collaboration and advice to support Member engagement and advocacy on COVID-19 including through the UN and other international platforms.
• Technical advice to support Member countries with the need for urgent and immediate assistance with vulnerability to debt, and the need to address supply chain disruptions that are driving rising costs of food and fuel.
• Advice and support with the value of strengthening public-private partnerships to leverage greater opportunities – most notably in infrastructure, connectivity, high value agriculture and fisheries, water, minerals, and energy security.
• Technical input and support in developing the PRED that is aligned to the 2050IP taking into account the forthcoming Review of the Regional Architecture and in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.
• PIFS and SPC to continue the development of the Regional Kava Strategy; house the Ecommerce Statistician, provide statistics on the number of Seasonal workers to Australia and New Zealand; and support in the area of value chain analysis for Pacific Quality Infrastructure.
• Technical input and support in developing a concept note for a sustainable regional mechanism for Members to engage and advocate with development partners on key issues raised at the Public Financial Management (PFM) Symposium and Pacific Regional Debt Conference, and to align with the PRED and Review of the Regional Architecture.
• Ensure support and strengthening of gender responsive and inclusive policies in place to support COVID-19 recovery.
• Ensure support towards the development of the Pacific Regional Private Sector Strategy through the review and input into the Concept Note and Consultant Terms of Reference, conducting mapping exercise of private sector initiatives that are underway in the region, to inform the implementation plan for the Pacific Regional Private Sector Strategy and active engagement in national and regional consultations.

Key CROP agencies/delivery mechanisms
• CROP Heads Meetings
• CROP Corporate Directors Group
• CROP Taskforce for PRED (to be established)
• Gender Working Group
• CROP HRD Working Group
• CROP Taskforce on the 2050 Strategy

Partnerships/stakeholder coordination mechanisms
• Resources & Economic Development and Technology & Connectivity MSEG for the 2050IP
• PHP-C Regional Taskforce and Ministerial Action Group
• Pacific Economic Committee
• Joint Incident Management Team
• NCDs and ECHO working groups
• National and Regional Consultations for the Private Sector Strategy

Financing/resource requirements
• Re-prioritisation of regional cooperation funding towards COVID-19 response and recovery efforts, as required.

Measures of success
• CROP agencies provide required technical and coordination support for the Resources & Economic Development and Technology & Connectivity MSEG for development of the 2050IP at CROP executive, management and technical levels.
• Timely, targeted information and advice on regional vaccination provided to all Members and development of regional vaccine certification.
• Endorsement of the PRED by Forum Economic Ministers at their next meeting in 2023 and implementation in 2024.
• Endorsement and implementation of a sustainable regional mechanism for Members to engage and advocate with development partners on key issues facing the region.
• Endorsement of the Regional Kava Strategy by the Forum Trade Ministers at their meeting in 2023.
• Implementation of the NCD and ECHO Roadmap
• Implementation and evaluation of PacREF Phase 1 to be better prepared for such shocks.
• Endorsement of the Pacific Regional Private Sector Strategy and Roadmap by the Forum Trade Ministers at their meeting in 2023.
Ocean and Natural Environment
Objective

a. Promoting uptake of Pacific priorities for sustainable ocean management, use and conservation in global negotiations and events including COP 15 on Biodiversity and Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) negotiations, based on 2050 Strategy and the Pacific Island Forum Leaders Ocean Statement 2021.

b. Developing a clear articulation of regional ocean science priorities.

c. Strengthening regional fisheries including through the Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting and progressing Forum Leaders’ decision to increase sustainable economic returns from the region’s fisheries.

d. Increasing the engagement of Non-State Actors in community-based fisheries.

e. Develop and national and regional integrated ocean management strategies.

f. Technical advice to conclude negotiations on outstanding maritime boundaries claims and zones in the PIF region.

g. Support national and regional strategies for the conservation and protection of the natural environment, biodiversity and ecosystems.

h. Support national and regional strategies for waste management and pollution control.

CROP deliverables

a) 2050 Strategy Implementation and Monitoring Plan

• Technical input and advice to inform the development of the 2050IP particularly through the Climate Change & Disaster and Ocean & Environment MSEG.

b) International advocacy and engagement

• Promoting and driving implementation of the Pacific Island Forum Leaders Ocean Statement 2021, as the basis for strong and proactive international engagement and advocacy.

• Convene CROP Ocean Taskforce and its technical focal point sessions to coordinate and produce positions, technical briefs and key messages to ocean conferences for Members.

• Member coordination, technical advice and briefings ahead of prioritised international ocean events including intergovernmental conference to finalise the agreement governing BBNJ.

c) Fisheries

• Technical advice and support to Members to continue efforts to stay at the forefront of regional tuna fisheries management, address IUU fishing, strengthen maritime security and to secure sustainable benefits from tuna resources.
• Supporting the convening of the 2023 Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting to progress regional action on coastal fisheries issues and broader ocean governance and sustainable management issues as they pertain to fisheries.

• Supporting the impact assessment for the ratification and implementation of the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement.

• Support Members to expedite work to improve labour standards for fishing crew as well as continue to address the safety and wellbeing of observers by strengthening existing labour mobility arrangements and agreements.

• Science, technical input and support for priorities related to coastal fisheries and aquaculture: including expanding climate change impact adaptation and mitigation support including developing evidence-based planning, policy and management strategies, and climate smart initiatives for more resilient and sustainable coastal fisheries and aquaculture development.

• Science, technical input and support for priorities related to oceanic fisheries: including expanding climate change impact adaptation and mitigation support including securing and defining offshore fisheries rights, enhancing evidence-based planning, policy and management strategies – including harvest strategies- and climate smart initiatives for more economically resilient tuna fisheries.

• As per the recommendation of the Independent Review of Increased Economic Returns from Fisheries, revise the Tuna Report Card. The Coastal Fisheries Report Card is also to be reviewed as per the decision of the Heads of Fisheries meeting.

• Support members in a review of the Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries, to ensure the frameworks that underpin our work are sound and appropriate targets and indicators are set for the offshore fishery.

• Technical support to all WTO Forum Members to conclude the remaining pillar of the fisheries subsidies negotiations on Overcapacity and Overfishing to protect the sustainability of fish stocks and provide appropriate Special and Differential Treatment for developing and least developing countries.

• Support the Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (incorporated in the Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries) to continue to increase the engagement of Non-State Actors in community-based fisheries.

• Noting the linkages between fish stocks, food security and the effects of climate change on the regional fisheries sector, support with providing regular updates to be Members on these issues.

• Provide progress update to Forum Leaders in 2023 on key fisheries issues, both offshore and coastal fisheries. Coordination of support to Members on transnational crime disruption efforts, including on maritime domain awareness, fisheries, human and drug trafficking and other organised crime.

\[ \text{d) Ocean management and conservation} \]

• Technical input and support in developing a clear articulation of regional ocean science and ocean management priorities.

• Work with development partners to support further development of the Niue’s initiative on the concept of Ocean Conservation Credits as a regional sustainable financing option.
e) **Maritime boundaries**

- Technical and legal assistance through the Pacific Maritime Boundaries Consortium of Partners for the deposit of charts and list of geographical coordinates with UNSG.
- Supporting marine spatial planning across the region in line with implementation of national ocean policies.

f) **Natural Environment**

- Facilitating and technical support for implementation of the “Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region”.
- Facilitating and technical support for implementation of “The Cleaner Pacific 2025: Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy”.

**CROP agencies/delivery mechanism**

- MSEG for Resource & Economic Development and Technology & Connectivity
- CROP Taskforce on International Engagement and Advocacy for Ocean Events – PIFS, FFA, SPC, SPREP, SPTO, USP, OPOC
- Marine Sector Working Group – SPC, FFA, PIFS, SPREP, OPOC
- FFA – management and development of tuna fisheries; work on labour standards for fishing crew and addressing safety and wellbeing of fisheries observers.
- SPC – management and development of coastal fisheries and aquaculture, fisheries science and technical support for coastal fisheries, aquaculture and oceanic fisheries, Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS).
- PIFS – coordination of Forum Leaders’ positions.
- Inter-agency Working Group – oversight of the independent review.
- SPC, PIFS, FFA and the Consortium of Partners lead on the technical and legal aspects of supporting Members work on maritime boundaries and delineation of maritime zones.

**Partnerships/stakeholder coordination mechanisms**

- Office of Pacific Ocean Commissioner
- Pacific Ocean Alliance
- Collaborative Centre for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2021-2030 – SPC/PCCOS
- Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (RFMM)
- Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) meeting
- SPC Heads of Fisheries meeting (HoFs), and Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA) which includes the Community-based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD)
• PNAO
• WCPFC
• Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre (PTCCC)
• Pacific Maritime Boundaries Consortium of Partners
• Clean Pacific Roundtable
• Climate Change & Disasters and Ocean & Environment MSEG for the 2050IP
• Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation
• Cleaner Pacific Roundtable

Financing/resource requirements

• CROP participation during intersessional period and regional negotiators meetings.
• CROP participation during the BBNJ negotiation meetings in New York.
• PIFS has funding for ocean advocacy supported through development partner funding.
• The FFA annual budget is dedicated to the implementation of RFMM and FFC Ministers decisions in relation to oceanic fisheries.
• The SPC FAME budget is dedicated to implementation across this work programme, with a strong emphasis on oceanic fisheries science and the full spectrum of coastal fisheries and aquaculture work.
• SPC PCCOS objectives are aligned with objectives above with dedicated budget.
• SPC Ocean Management and Literacy budget is dedicated to implementing the Pacific Maritime Boundaries Programme and the programme of work under FOC SSC SLR-IL, as well as supporting increasing efforts around marine spatial planning.

Measures of success

• Technical briefs developed for ocean events and utilised by Members.
• Representation of region’s positions and interests reflected in the treaty text for BBNJ and outcomes of international ocean events.
• SDG 14 reporting through Regional SDG Roadmap.
• Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting held, as supported by CROP technical input and advice to deliver outcomes statement.
• The third community-based fisheries session incorporated within the RTMCF is held, supported by CROP technical input and advice, with outcomes delivered to RFMM.
• A progress update to Forum Leaders is provided at the 52nd PIF noting that fisheries is a standing agenda item for the Leaders meeting.
• Revised Tuna and Coastal Fisheries Report Cards are submitted to Leaders for consideration.
• Progress on implementation of Boe Declaration related to maritime and climate security.
• A greater number of maritime boundaries and maritime zones are finalised and concluded, with charts and schedule of coordinates deposited with the UNSG.
• CROP agencies provide required technical and coordination support for the Climate Change & Disasters and Ocean & Environment MSEG for development of the 2050IP at CROP executive, management and technical levels.
People Centred Development
Gender equality and social inclusion

Objective

a. Advancing regional gender equality commitments, and providing technical assistance to effectively mainstream gender into the work of CROP.

b. Ensure inclusive and people centred approaches to sustainable development within the context of the 2050 and COVID-19 response and recovery.

c. Collaborating in the development of the Regional Labour Mobility Strategy.

CROP deliverables

- Technical input and advice to inform the development of the 2050IP particularly through the People Centred Development MSEG
- Support the revitalisation of the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED).
- Supporting PIFS with the Pacific Islands Forum Women Leaders Meeting (PIFWLM).
- PIFS, SPC and partners support national gender offices to report progress for regional gender equality commitments.
- Support SPC with the convening of the Pacific Women’s Triennial and Ministers for Women’s Meeting.
- Support SPREP and PIFS with support to Pacific Climate Champion for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and Adaptation.
- Support Pacific Member countries with preparations for the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).
- Continued liaison with the Pacific Gender Equality Coordination Group.
- Facilitating and supporting activities and initiatives of the CROP Women of the Wave Network.
- Facilitating and supporting activities and initiatives of Thursdays in Black (TiB) across CROP agencies.
- Supporting and contributing to the development of the Regional Labour Mobility Strategy.

CROP agencies/delivery mechanisms

- CROP Gender Working Group
- CROP Women of the Wave Network
- CROP Taskforce on the 2050 Strategy

Partnerships/stakeholder coordination mechanisms

- Pacific Gender Equality Coordination Group
- PIF Women Leaders Meeting
- Pacific Women’s Triennial and Ministers for Women’s Meeting
- Pacific Disability Conference 2023
• Pacific Conference on Early Childhood Development
• Pacific Regional Learning Event on Social Protection
• People Centred Development MSEG for the 2050IP
• Sub-regional PIC-led processes advancing gender equality, for example the Micronesian Women’s Conference

**Financing/resource requirements**

• Funding for work for gender equality and social inclusion has a limited allocation in PIFS budget, and will require additional funding resources, particularly to progress PLGED revitalisation; PIFWLM and Triennial and Ministers outcomes; as well as support to CSW, COP, COSP and other international engagements.

**Measures of success**

• Successfully convening 2nd PIFWLM in 2023
• Proactive and coordinated Pacific advocacy to 67th CSW
• Development of revised Gender Equality Declaration for PIF Leaders consideration
• Implementation of CROP Women of the Wave Network workplan
• CROP agencies TiB campaigns
• Required technical and coordination support provided for the People Centred Development MSEG for development of the 2050IP at CROP executive, management and technical levels.
• Endorsement of the Regional Labour Mobility Strategy by the Forum Trade Ministers at their meeting in 2023 and then 52nd PIF Leaders.

**Sustainable development**

**Objective**

a) CROP technical support to implement and monitor sustainable development progress directly and indirectly as part of the Pacific Sustainable Development Roadmap, Steering Committee and working group.

**CROP deliverables**

• Technical advice and input to assist the Pacific Sustainable Development Steering Committee and working group deliver on actions required under the Pacific Sustainable Development Roadmap. The input includes addressing the key recommendations of the 2022 Second Quadrennial Pacific Regional Sustainable Development Report.
• Directly support Members with national, regional and overall sustainable development strategies and actions aligned to the 2030 Agenda and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.
• Work with development partners to support in progressing the achievement of the SDGs.
• Technical input and advice to inform the development of the 2050IP particularly through the MSEG.

**CROP agencies/delivery mechanisms**

• CROP specific delivery mechanisms based on CROP SDG subject expertise e.g. Pacific Gender Equality Coordination Group, Pacific Economic Committee, SPREP leads on environmental impacts etc.

**Partnerships/stakeholder coordination mechanisms**

• Pacific Sustainable Development Steering Committee
• MSEGs for the 2050IP

**Financing/resource requirements**

• Funding for work has a limited allocation in PIFS budget allocated for the coordination work related to sustainable development.

**Measures of success**

• Production of the Biennial and Quadrennial Report on Sustainable Development.
• Technical advice and input to assist member countries with National Sustainable Development work and with meeting interventions on SDG related matters.
• Required technical and coordination support provided for the MSEGs for development of the 2050IP at CROP executive, management and technical levels.

**Human resources development**

**Objective**

a) Technical assistance, policy development and coordination to raise the levels of Pacific education through programmes in the formal and non-formal education sectors at all levels, from pre-school to adult, and across all delivery mechanisms, both public and private sector. To ensure efficiency, this wide coverage should be balanced through a prioritisation of issues that recognises the needs of the region.

**CROP deliverables**

• Technical input and advice to inform the development of the 2050IP particularly through the People Centred Development MSEG.
• Ensuring effective collaboration amongst Implementing Agencies and development partners in the implementation of the Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF).
• Support the convening of the Conference of Pacific Education Ministers (CPEM) in March 2023 in collaboration with MFAT as host to the conference through development of resource papers and reports.
• USP undertaking its role as part of the regional Local Education Group (LEG) for the Global Partnership on Education Funding for PacREF.
• Supporting the convening of the meeting of Pacific Heads of Education Systems (PHES) and PHES Steering Committee.
• Developing an update annual report on the implementation of PacREF to support the monitoring and evaluation process.
• Support the research to be conducted by World Bank and USP-IOE as funded by MFAT under the PacREF Research Framework.
• Support work on Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for youth employment, entrepreneurship, labour mobility opportunities and key industries.
• Support sports development and accredited education towards sports career opportunities domestically and abroad including its contribution towards addressing NCDs, and child obesity.
• Support towards labour mobility, as commissioned by Forum Trade Ministers Meeting in 2020.

CROP agencies/delivery mechanisms
• CROP HRD Working Group
• CROP Gender Working Group
• NCD and ECHO network

Partnerships/stakeholder coordination mechanisms
• People Centred Development MSEG for the 2050IP.
• Global Partnership for Education
• UN system
• ONOC
• Implementing Agencies’ Fono
• Coordination through the PacREF Facilitating Unit (PFU)
• Pacific Heads of Education Systems (PHES)

Financing/resource requirements
• PacREF implementation funded through Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and MFAT funding
• Financial and technical resources from USP as CROP HRD lead
• UN
Measures of success

- Evaluation completed for Phase 1 of PacREF Implementation
- Development of Phase 2 of PacREF implementation plan
- Successful convening of PHES and CPEM 2023
- Progress of sports development and programs
- NCD and ECHO network work closely with CROP HRD on child health and nutrition
- Measured through the MEL Framework
- Developmental level of the 15 Regional Public Goods
- Through 10 High Level Indicators
- Required technical and coordination support provided for the People Centred Development MSEG for development of the 2050IP at CROP executive, management and technical levels.

Regional health issues

Objective

a) Supporting a more consolidated and concerted effort at national, regional and global levels to drive better health outcomes, particularly combatting non-communicable diseases and supporting those agencies working to improve the health of Pacific people.

b) Coordinate regional and consolidated efforts for cervical cancer prevention and treatment modalities that could be adopted across the region.

CROP deliverables

- Technical input and advice to inform the development of the 2050IP particularly through the People Centred Development MSEG.
- Implementing the NCD Roadmap (including its monitoring framework MANA).
- Finalisation of draft Pacific legislative framework for NCDs.
- Calling for support from development partners and governments to continue to scale up implementation of NCD Roadmap recommendations, particularly to address NCD policy and legislation gaps at the national level.
- Coordination and reporting on support addressing cervical cancer treatment and prevention.
- Include in existing working groups efforts addressing mental health.
CROP agencies/delivery mechanisms

- PIFS, SPC
- CROP Working Groups: Sustainable Development and Gender

Partnerships/stakeholder coordination mechanisms

- Regional Pacific mechanisms: Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Development, ECHO Taskforce, Regional Reference Group on Disability, Disability Taskforce
- Heads of Health in the Pacific meetings (annual in April)
- Ministers of Health in the Pacific meetings (biennially)
- Pacific Director of Clinical Services Meeting (biennially)
- Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) Meeting – to become the Pacific Directors of Public Health Meeting from 2020 (biennially)
- Pacific Heads of Nursing Meeting (biennially with inaugural meeting to be held in February 2020)
- WHO World Health Assembly – WHA (annually in May)
- WHO Regional Committee Meeting – RCM (annually in October)
- Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Development (PRC4ECD) and its Steering Committee – recently established Ministerial Council including Ministers of Health (regularity of meetings TBD – likely to be annual)
- UN agencies: WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA
- FEMM and FTMM – where relevant
- People Centred Development MSEG for the 2050IP

Financing/resource requirements

- Currently participation at all meetings (except last WHO meetings) is fully supported by development partners.
- SPC funded by development partners. Support to countries limited to available resources based on country priorities.
- Funding gap in implementation of country work in some PICTs.

Measures of success

- MANA Dashboard, Healthy Islands Monitoring Framework indicators
- Pacific Roadmap on Sustainable Development
- Progress on implementing Leaders priorities in health and relevant sectors
- Cross collaboration with other sectors including sports, trade and education
- Required technical and coordination support provided for the People Centred Development MSEG for development of the 2050IP at CROP executive, management and technical levels
Peace and Security
Boe Declaration and Action Plan

Objective

a) Implementation of the *Boe Declaration Action Plan* to positively and proactively shape the regional security environment as per the commitments and thematic priorities of the *Boe Declaration on Regional Security*.

CROP deliverables

- Activities under the *Boe Declaration Action Plan* that will require CROP technical advice and support include:
  - Conduct mapping of existing regional human security policies and establish a monitoring mechanism for their implementation.
  - Development of a regional *Women, Peace and Security Guidance Note*.
  - Development of a concept note for the *Regional Coordination Mechanism for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR)*.
  - Support for Members to utilise the Pacific Climate Security Assessment Guide in national contexts.
  - Continue to formulate the Regional Climate Mobility Policy Framework, as an action under the Climate Security Assessment Guide, linked to the FRDP and monitored by the FOC Sub-Committee for Regional Security.
  - Raising awareness internally and externally about the climate security implications and priorities in the region.
  - Enhancing information sharing across CROP and regional partners to enhance maritime domain awareness, and transnational organised crime disruption efforts.
  - Enhance dialogue on, and prioritisation of, regional security priorities among Members and partners.
  - Supporting Members’ accession to the Budapest Convention and the development of a regional Cyber Security Strategy.

- Support with the development of a Security Policy Roadmap and bi-annual Pacific Security Outlook Reports to support the alignment of the Boe Declaration Action Plan and the 2050IP.

- Technical input and advice to inform the development of the 2050IP particularly through the Political Leadership & Regionalism and Peace & Security MSEG.

CROP agencies/delivery mechanisms:

- PIFS, SPC, SPREP (*Human Security Policy monitoring*)
- SPC, PIFS, Gender Working Group (*Regional Women, Peace and Security Guidance Note*)
- SPC – PEMA, FFA, FRDP Taskforce and Regional Law Enforcement and Legal Agencies (HADR)
- FFA, USP, PIFS, SPREP (transnational crime information sharing)
- USP, PIFS (Regional Security Dialogue)
- USP, PIFS, SPC (Budapest Convention Accession and development of a regional Cyber Security Strategy)

Partnerships/stakeholder coordination mechanisms
- Political Leadership & Regionalism and Peace & Security MSEG for the 2050IP
- FOC Sub-Committee for Regional Security
- Regional law enforcement and legal secretariat
- Pacific Resilience Partnership

Financing/resource requirements
- Funding and resourcing will need to be sought and secured for those initiatives that remain unfunded.

Measures of success:
- Mapping of regional Human Security policies that are aligned to SDG 16 and other SDGs relevant to security and the priority areas of the Boe Declaration.
- Development of a Member-endorsed Regional Women, Peace and Security Guidance Note.
- Development of a Member-endorsed Regional Coordination Mechanism for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR).
- More Members invited to accede to the Budapest Convention, and development of a Member-endorsed Regional Cyber Security Strategy.
- Development of products that enhance Members’ and global partners’ understanding and appreciation of climate security issues in the region as defined by the region.
- A second annual Pacific Security Outlook Report developed and endorsed by Members.

Nuclear issues

Objective

a) CROP technical support to address the ongoing impacts of the nuclear legacy issues in the Blue Pacific, particularly in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Kiribati and Fiji, and to support a comprehensive scientific assessment of the nuclear contamination issue in the Pacific and collective advocacy and engagement with Japan regarding their decision to discharge ALPS Treated Water from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant into the Pacific Ocean.
CROP deliverables

- Collectively respond to requests for assistance from impacted Pacific Island countries with regards to environmental, health and human rights impacts.
- Continued implementation and monitoring of the CROP Taskforce’s work plan to progress action on nuclear legacy issues, and to provide an update to the 2023 Forum Leaders’ meeting.
- Undertake an independent review of the nuclear contamination issue in the Pacific, including in the nuclear test site at Runit, as per Leaders’ decision.
- Supporting Members in raising national, regional and international awareness including strategic communications and political advocacy to the United States and the United Kingdom, and Forum statements and actions at the UN.
- Technical assistance, advocacy and engagement in supporting international consultation, international law and independent and verifiable scientific assessments and guidance on Japan’s decision to discharge of ALPS Treated Water into the Pacific Ocean.

CROP agencies/delivery mechanisms

- CROP Taskforce on Nuclear Legacy Issues in the Pacific, coordinated by PIFS.
- SPREP leads on environmental impacts, WWII wrecks.
- SPC leads on human rights and health issues and assists on environmental/oceanic fisheries technical issues.
- USP and SPREP lead on educational awareness.

Partnerships/stakeholder coordination mechanisms

- RMI National Nuclear Commission
- UN including UN Secretary General, UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, UN Human Rights Council
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- Regional civil society organisations focused on the environment, health and human rights, such as the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific (NFIP) movement, The Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC), The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN))
- PIFS Independent Expert Panel

Financing/resource requirements

- Funding for this work has been allocated in PIFS budget, but will require additional funding resources, particularly to progress the independent assessment of the contamination issue in the Pacific.
**Measures of success**

- CROP Taskforce work plan developed and implemented, as endorsed by CROP Heads and with a progress update to Forum Leaders in 2023.
- Achievement of Forum Members’ positions on Japan’s plans to discharge of ALPS Treated Water.
- Impacted Forum Members satisfied with the technical input and advice provided by CROP agencies to address nuclear legacy issues.
- Completion of study on contamination issues in the Pacific.
- Regional and international awareness-raising and advocacy initiatives delivered to build understanding and action on Leaders’ priorities.
Technology and Connectivity
Objective

- CROP ICT Working Group to provide development updates and an update on the progress of the Pacific Regional ICT Strategic Action Plan (PRISAP) to be tabled at Forum Officials Committee (FOC), Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting and Forum Leaders.

- Support developments in the following priority areas that will be vital in 2023 to promote regional socio-economic growth:
  - Accessibility and connectivity
  - ICT infrastructure
  - Cybersecurity
  - Digital transformation
  - ICT monitoring and evaluation
  - Improve ICT infrastructure for learning institutions and education systems that will be easily accessible

- Ensure strengthened connectivity through access to more affordable and reliable air and sea transport, infrastructure, systems and operations according to international standards and regional obligations and up to date ICT infrastructure and technology.

CROP deliverables

a) 2050 Strategy Implementation and Monitoring Plan

- Technical input and advice to inform the development of the 2050IP particularly through the Resources & Economic Development and Technology & Connectivity MSEG.

b) Cybersecurity

- Promoting and supporting Forum Members accession to the Budapest Convention
- Sharing information on cybersecurity and cybercrime threats and trends through relevant fora such as the Pacific Cybersecurity Officials Network (PACSON), the Regional ICT Working Group’s Cybersecurity Taskforce and Pacific Transnational Crime Network (PTCN)
- Supporting the development of national cyber policies/strategies and legislation
- Promoting awareness and educating Pacific peoples on responsible cyber behaviour

c) Spectrum Management

- Developing and establishing National Table of Frequency Allocations
- Creating Spectrum Toolkits for the Pacific region e.g. NFAT, Channelling Plans

d) Internet Governance

- Research on Internet operations and infrastructure expansion
- Best Practices for CCTLD management and utilisation
e) **ICT Data**
   - ICT Development Indexing for the Pacific
   - Standardised practices and guidelines for Pacific ICT data

f) **ICTs for SDGs**
   - Maximising universal ICT coverage (SIDS and LDC)
   - ICTs for economic empowerment

g) **Telecommunications Infrastructural Development**
   - Peering hub and IX for the Pacific’s Internet traffic
   - Submarine cable infrastructure

h) **Relevant Ministerial Meetings outcomes**
   - Support implementation of Aviation, Transport and Energy Ministerial meetings outcomes as relevant to CROP.

**Key CROP agencies/delivery mechanisms**
- CROP ICT Working Group
- Taskforces for CROP ICT Working Group
- CROP HRD Working Group
- CROP Gender Working Group
- CROP Taskforce on the 2050 Strategy

**Partnerships/stakeholder coordination mechanisms**
- Resources & Economic Development and Technology & Connectivity MSEG for the 2050IP
- ICT development partner organisations
- Transport, maritime, aviation and infrastructure partner organisations

**Financing/resource requirements**
- Donor agencies and partner organisations – regional and international
- Project implementing partners for specific projects and areas of interest
- Funding from other partners as and when required
- Contributions from USP, financial and/or technical, as CROP ICT lead
• Contributions from PASO and SPC as transport connectivity leads in aviation and maritime

Measures of success

• Required technical and coordination support provided for the Resources & Economic Development and Technology & Connectivity MSEG for development of the 2050IP at CROP executive, management and technical levels.

• Successful achievement of targets and objectives outlined in the CROP ICT Workplan

• Timely updates to members on CROP ICT work programme

• Effective implementation of short-term planned activities

• High priority long-term deliverables and action activities aligned to mandates of member countries implemented over the duration of the work programme

• Periodical ICT Ministerial Meeting convened and resulting outcomes implemented

• Periodical Transport and Energy Ministerial Meeting and resulting outcomes implemented

• Periodical Aviation Ministerial Meeting and resulting outcomes implemented

• Progress of policy objectives reported under PacREF for education in the region

• Progress on strengthening ICT initiatives that related to the NCD and ECHO Roadmap

• ICT reflected in revitalised Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration

4. CROP ways of working

4.1 In line with the 2018 CROP Charter, CROP will work together through the mechanisms and approaches summarised below, and according to the CROP Calendar (Attachment 2):

• **Strategic leadership and executive meetings**: an annual meeting of CROP Heads and Governing Council Chairs to agree on the CROP Strategic Work Agenda in the fourth quarter, and three meetings of CROP Heads to ensure strategic oversight and drive delivery.

• **Implementation through CROP Taskforces and Working Groups**: establishment or continuation of results-orientated and time-bound Taskforces to deliver on Leaders’ decisions in addition to revitalising Working Groups in line with the 2050 Strategy and its implementation and monitoring plan.

• **Provision of policy and technical advice**: to inform advice to Forum Leaders and Ministers; the development of strategies and reports; and FOC and FOC Sub-Committees.

• **Supporting international advocacy and collective communications**: supporting delivery of the annual action plan of the FOC Sub-Committee for Forum Engagement and Advocacy; support Member engagement with Forum Dialogue Partners and development partners; and undertaking joint CROP communications campaigns.

• **Stakeholder engagement**: high-level engagement with key regional partners to address
regional priorities including an annual CROP Heads’ dialogue with the UN and Non-State Actors.

- **Accountability and reporting:** Assessing and reporting on progress against the CROP Strategic Work Agenda through an annual written report to Forum Leaders and an annual dialogue with Forum Leaders on the side-lines of the 52nd PIF. In addition, CROP Heads updating and reporting to their governing councils on their membership and participation in CROP and on the performance of CROP.
## 2023 CROP Calendar

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<tr>
<th>January 2023</th>
<th>February 2023</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- 5th International Marine Protected Areas Congress, (3-9 Feb, Vancouver, Canada)</td>
<td>- Special Forum Officials Committee (22 Feb, Nadi, Fiji)</td>
<td>- 8th Our Ocean Conference (2-3 Mar, Panama)</td>
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<td>- 10th World Ocean Summit and Expo 2023 (28 Feb-2 Mar, Lisbon, Portugal)</td>
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<td>- 2nd Pacific Ministerial Dialogue on Pathways for the Global Just Transition (15-17 Mar, Port Villa, Vanuatu)</td>
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<td>- Conference of Pacific Education Ministers (20-22 Mar, Auckland, New Zealand)</td>
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<td>- SPC 15th Heads of Fisheries Meeting (20-24 Mar, Noumea, New Caledonia)</td>
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<td>- UN 2023 Water Conference (22-24 Mar, New York, US)</td>
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<td>- 7th Korea-Pacific Islands SOM (24 Mar, Nadi, Fiji)</td>
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<td>- Regional Conference on Preserving Statehood and Protecting Persons: Legal Options and Institutional Responses to the Impacts of Sea-Level Rise, in the Context of International Law (27-30 Mar, Nadi, Fiji)</td>
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<th>April 2023</th>
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<tr>
<td>- 14th Pacific Heads of Health Meeting (25-27 Apr)</td>
<td>- Pacific Conference on Ocean Science and Ocean Management (7-12 May, Nadi, Fiji)</td>
<td>- UNFCCC Bonn Climate Change Conference (5-15 Jun, Bonn, Germany)</td>
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<td>- 5th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting (8-12 May, Port Vila, Vanuatu)</td>
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<td>- 6th Culture Ministers’ Meeting (15-19 May, Noumea, New Caledonia)</td>
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<td>- 126th Annual Officials Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC126) Meeting (22-25 May, Majuro, RMI)</td>
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<td>- 1st Korea – Pacific Islands Leaders Summit (29 May, Seoul, Republic of Korea)</td>
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<td>July 2023</td>
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<td>Pre-Ministerial Special FFC127 and RFMM 4 Officials Meetings; FFC Ministerial 20th Meeting (FFCMIN 20); Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (RFMM4); Ministerial Retreat to consider the FFCMIN20 and RFMM4 Outcomes (3-7 Jul, Majuro, RMI) High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2023 (10-19 Jul, New York, USA)</td>
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<td>October 2023</td>
<td>CRGA53 &amp; 13th Conference (24-27 Oct, Tuvalu) TBC</td>
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<td>November 2023</td>
<td>52nd Pacific Islands Forum and Related Meetings (TBC, Cook Islands) Pacific Health Ministers Meeting (13-17 Nov, Tonga) 22nd Pacific Maritime Boundaries Working Session (TBC, Sydney) UNFCCC COP28 (30 Nov – 12 Dec, UAE)</td>
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<td>December 2023</td>
<td>WCPFC20 Annual Session (4-8 Dec, Cook Islands) Budget Session of the FOC (15 Dec, Suva, Fiji) TBC</td>
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