<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rationale for a Pacific Blue Economy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Growth/Green Economy &amp; Blue Economy</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevant Regional Policies &amp; Frameworks</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary of regionally identified priorities towards a Blue Economy</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This Conference</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further Reading</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our marine environment and ocean resources are central to sustainable development and poverty eradication in the Pacific islands, providing food security, economic development, spiritual and cultural inspiration, and an array of ecosystem services that include coastal protection and carbon sequestration. However, the long-term health and vitality of the ocean is under threat from rapidly increasing populations, overharvested fisheries, land-based activities, coastal development and from climate change impacts.

Reversing this destruction and restoring the integrity of the Pacific ocean is an imperative that has been recognised across the region and is reflected in declarations, commitments and a number of regional frameworks and strategies.

Despite intent, there has been limited success in implementation at the national level, with disconnected policies and decision making based on limited understanding of the real value of the resources being extracted or of the ecosystems being disrupted. If we are to ensure that future generations of Pacific islanders are to continue to benefit from our ocean environment, then we must be able to value our natural resources as capital for future gains and to make investment decisions accordingly.

For many Pacific islands, our natural resources are mostly ocean/marine-based. The concept of a blue economy offers an opportunity to look holistically at the natural capital in this “blue” environment in terms of how its wealth can be best harnessed to give maximum and on-going returns in a sustainable way.

While there is no universally agreed definition, the concept of a blue economy is generally understood to be a coherent, integrated, science-based approach to managing the economic development of the ocean and its resources, while improving human well-being and social equity, and preserving the environment and the integrity of marine and coastal ecosystems.

A blue economy is based on clean technologies, renewable energy and circular material flows to secure economic and social stability over time, while keeping within the limits of one planet. Implementing a blue economy will require a move away from business-as-usual practices to embracing more inclusive, equitable and integrated approaches to the way in which marine resources and ocean ecosystems are valued, used and managed.

It has been suggested that a blue economy offers a mind-set for managing business risks, improving decision making, generating new opportunities and collaborating across sectors towards something that is potentially ‘truly transformational and sustainable’.

---

1 WWF Principles for a Sustainable Blue Economy, WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme.
Green Growth/ Green Economy & Blue Economy

The blue economy builds on and incorporates the principles of green growth or green economy. The Rio+20 outcome statement – The Future We Want - uses the term “green economy” to describe an approach or paradigm that emphasises the four core elements of sustainable development agreed at the first Rio Summit in 1992, notably:

- the precautionary principle;
- the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity;
- the principles of intra-generational and inter-generational equity; and
- the internalisation of environmental costs, including the polluter pays principle\(^3\).

The Rio+20 outcome refers to a “green economy” as an important tool for achieving sustainable development. A green economy should contribute to poverty reduction, sustained growth, social cohesion, and employment without compromising the ability of ecosystems to function.

It is worth noting that the Rio+20 discussion of a green economy does not differentiate between sectors; rather, the use of the term "green" is in the context of these principles of sustainable development. The initial use of the phrase “blue economy” by Pacific island developing states was in the lead up to the Rio+20 summit in 2012, to highlight the importance of conservation and sustainable management of marine and ocean resources within the context of a green economy. A blue economy is thus guided by the same paradigm as that of a green economy, and "blue" is used to focus emphasis on the ocean (and coastal resources).

With the inclusion of Sustainable Development Goal 14, “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” in the sustainable development agenda, the imperative now is to 'operationalise' these concepts.


Relevant Regional Policies & Frameworks

The Pacific has developed a number of policies and frameworks, which along with other regional (and international) ocean related strategies, declarations and initiatives, seek to meet the following general key objectives for ocean issues in the region and thus provide a good foundation for a blue economy focus:

1. increasing the share of benefits that Pacific island countries receive from the use of their marine living resources;
2. reducing over-fishing beyond maximum sustainable yields, destructive fishing practices, and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; and
3. building the resilience of marine ecosystems, and coral reefs in particular, to the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification, among other impacts.

Regional commitments include:

(i) Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape 2010 designed to catalyse action in support of the Pacific Islands Regional Oceans Policy (PIROP), to ‘protect, manage and sustain the cultural and natural integrity of the ocean for present and future generations and for the broader global community’. The overall intent of the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape is to foster stewardship at all levels ‘to ensure in perpetuity the health and wellbeing of our oceans and ourselves’.

The Framework identifies 6 strategic priorities for immediate implementation, namely:

- establishing ‘jurisdictional rights and responsibilities’,
- fostering ‘good ocean governance’,
- supporting ‘sustainable development, management and conservation’,
- promoting ‘listening, learning, liaising and leading’, sustaining action, and
- facilitating adaptation to a rapidly changing environment.
Summary of regionally identified priorities towards a blue economy

As part of the Pacific preparations for the Rio+20 Conference, countries met in Apia, Samoa to discuss priority tasks or actions towards addressing ocean issues. These are provided here as a guide for discussion only and are not intended to be an exhaustive list.

Financing implementation of regional plans. Long-term technical and funding support for national level implementation is needed to realise enduring tangible benefits from ocean resources for Pacific islands.

Improving Ocean Governance particularly: (i) the capacity to enforce internationally agreed fisheries rules on the high seas; (ii) sustainable development of fisheries; (iii) monitoring, control and surveillance; (iv) compliance with Flag State duties to ensure conservation of living resources on the high seas; (iii) IMO standards for maritime safety, security and marine environment protection to fishing vessels; and (iv) removal of perverse incentives like vessel and fuel subsidies that encourage distant water fishing.

Maintaining the Health of the Ocean including a new international programme to address ocean acidification; reducing the impacts of climate change; the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency, coastal protection and re-vegetation, conservation of wetlands and mangroves; the expansion of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs); improved management of land-based activities and sources of pollution; and combating invasive species as a key threat to the health of the oceans in particular from ballast water and hull fouling.

Sustainable Development and Management of Ocean Resources including Fisheries, which is by far the largest use of ocean resources in the region; more equitable sharing of the benefits of fisheries within the region; tourism as a major industry for Pacific islands, most of which takes place on or related to the coast and ocean; sustainable alternative sources of aggregate (sand and gravel); and exploration of coastal and offshore oil and gas under suitable precautionary principles and in line with best international practice.
This Conference

As stewards of the world’s largest ocean, Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) Leaders gathering in Honiara, Solomon Islands, on 12 July 2016 approved for the PIDF to host the 1st high level Pacific Blue Economy Conference (PBEC) in 2017.

This Conference will be a two-day meeting to be held at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva, Fiji on 23 and 24 August, 2017.

The overall goal is to provide a knowledge platform on the blue economy for the Pacific Islands and to explore lessons learned, innovations and emerging industries based on ocean resources.

The Conference will build on the outcomes of the June 2017 UN Conference on SDG 14 and on existing Pacific commitments and frameworks, to provide a roadmap for refining the concept and implementing a Blue Economy in the Pacific.

More specifically, the objectives of this Conference are:

- to inform Pacific senior officials and stakeholders on emerging ocean resources management issues and opportunities;
- to assist the Pacific in defining the blue economy concept and ways to implement it;
- to support the Pacific by debating the complex issues surrounding the blue economy; and

The Conference is open to all registered participants. Registration closes on 16 August 2017.

Please register at https://goo.gl/forms/pK5j3oIS2RnPsmEN2 (direct link) or visit http://pacificidf.org/1st-high-level-pacific-blue-economy-conference/

Further Reading

Contact

For further queries, please contact:
Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF)
Ms Arpana Pratap
Team Leader – Member Capacity
apratap@pacificidf.org

Event weblink
http://pacificidf.org/1st-high-level-pacific-blue-economy-conference/

Conference Social Media Handle: #PBEC @PIDF01

Pacific Islands Development Forum Secretariat
56 Domain Road, Nasese, Suva, Republic of Fiji
P.O. Box 2050, Government Buildings, Suva.
Tel: (679) 3311518. Fax: (679) 3311527.
secretariat@pacificidf.org.
www.pacificidf.org
ENHANCE COLLABORATION IN ACHIEVING SDG14 TARGETS where all are advocating towards a common mission

RECOGNISE THE THREATS POSED TO OUR OCEANS through the over harvesting and mismanagement of resources, as well as land-derived and sea-based pollution

RECOGNISE THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE on the Ocean’s ecosystems & our people’s livelihood & continued existence on low lying islands

RECOGNISE THE NEED TO CONTROL EMISSIONS that