



**2021
2030** United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
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pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

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Pacific
Community

Communauté
du Pacifique

PACIFIC COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Noumea, New Caledonia – 23-25 July 2019

SUMMARY REPORT – ‘A PACIFIC SOLUTION TO A GLOBAL ISSUE’

Please send comments to Jens Kruger
jensk@spc.int, Pacific Community (SPC)

1 Introduction and background

The Pacific region is the largest ocean space in the world, home to many varied ecosystems, covering almost one third of the earth. Spread over 23 million square kilometers, the Pacific Islands are made of 22 island countries and territories, with a combined Exclusive Economic Zone the size of the African continent. However, it is also a vulnerable region, facing many challenges and threats from climate change to biodiversity loss, and where the livelihoods of people fundamentally depend on the ocean.

The first United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development regional consultation was held at the Pacific Community (SPC) headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia, from 23-25 July 2019, gathering more than 70 participants from across the Blue Pacific Continent.

With 26 members, SPC is the main scientific and technical organisation for the region. It works using a shared vision under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism with common challenges and solutions. Its focus is on interdisciplinary and cross-cutting issues such as climate change, disaster risk management, food security, or sustainable economic development, and ultimately the well-being of Pacific people.

The aim of the meeting was to communicate the purpose and expected results of the Decade to regional stakeholders as well as to engage and consult with them, by further developing and prioritising the scientific questions identified at the First Global Planning Meeting, and by identifying the regional needs in data and capacity-development and training.

It was also intended to provide a forum to co-design mission-oriented research strategies in line with the 2030 Agenda and Samoa Pathway, focusing on Small Island Developing States specific needs and priorities in terms of transforming knowledge systems, accelerating transfer of technology, and enabling training and education.

Plenary sessions and themed workshops focusing on the Decade's six main expected societal outcomes (a clean ocean, a healthy and resilient ocean, a predicted ocean, a safe ocean, a sustainably harvested and productive ocean, and a transparent and accessible ocean) facilitated regional and interdisciplinary discussions across sectors.

The Pacific Community workshop was dominated by climate change, sea level rise, and the recognition and inclusiveness of indigenous and traditional knowledge imperatives with a tribute to youth leadership.

The Noumea workshop resulted in suggestions for integrating mechanisms working with regional organisations (e.g. The Pacific Community (SPC), The University of the South Pacific (USP), and The South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP)) and establishing national focal points for the Decade (ideally a national committee) and a recommendation to establish a Pacific Decade working group to continue the regional planning for the Decade.

A letter of intent to strengthen cooperation was signed on the last day of the workshop, between IOC and SPC. It relates to future activities under the UN Decade, particularly in terms of facilitating the engagement of Pacific Island Nations in the development and implementation of joint projects and initiatives, strengthened collaboration on data and information exchange, marine spatial planning, ocean literacy, early warning systems, capacity development, logistical cooperation and arrangements such as hosting of staff and/or experts.

A one day media masterclass session, held prior to the workshop was aimed at building trust between scientists and journalists to create long lasting relationships to communicate the Decade. Journalists from the region were then able to exchange with scientists on key concepts and messages throughout the meeting.

2 Opening remarks and plenary session on the vision for the Decade

Cameron Diver, Deputy Director-General of the Pacific Community and Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO opened the workshop by highlighting the urgency of the situation, citing climate change as one of the biggest threats to the Pacific Islands' people.

Cameron Diver highlighted that the Pacific region is best placed to understand the greatest challenges caused by the existential threat of climate change whilst driving resilient, effective and robust solutions to overcome the risks posed to our ocean.

Vladimir Ryabinin outlined the most important characteristics of the status of marine science and directions of its desired development. He introduced the need for oceanography to adopt a new social contract and suggested a way of constructing the discussions with a focus on the six societal outcomes of the Decade and its seven expected research and development breakthroughs (mapping of the ocean, observations, ecosystem knowledge, data and information work, modelling and prediction, disaster risk reduction, ocean literacy and education). The Decade will enable massive societal applications of ocean science. New initiatives should be identified capitalising on existing systems.

Julie Rigaud, coordinator of the Decade preparatory activities at IOC, followed by presenting the timeline of future workshops that will take place in the second half of 2019, and the next phases of the preparatory process, that will include a second Global Planning Meeting in March 2020 and a kick-off event in Germany in April 2021.

Jens Kruger, Ocean Affairs Manager at SPC and member of the Executive Planning Group (EPG) of the Decade, introduced the workshop's objectives highlighting the need for applied science for sustainable development. Fundamentally, the Pacific community and its future depend on the ocean's health so we must ensure ocean science is at the service of sustainable development.

A panel discussion on the vision for the Decade, co-chaired by Sylvie Goyet and Neville Smith (SPC) highlighted the importance of traditional knowledge and discussed how indigenous science and “western science” ought to be combined to promote authentic custodianship of the Pacific Oceanscape. The speakers (please refer to the attached agenda) engaged with participants through the use of the digital tool Slido, and five key themes were identified:

1. New innovative approaches to partnerships (e.g. use of gaming technology, private sector data collection for public good science);
2. Purposeful inclusion of future generations before and during the decade (e.g. mentoring and monitoring);
3. Application of integrated approaches to our collective transformative learning (e.g. not just multi-disciplinary science, but multiple actors from science through to communities, and multiple vulnerability assessments);
4. Delivery of the Decade as a shared responsibility (e.g. from scientists communicate results better, to governments ensuring broader engagement in its use);
5. The ocean rights of the Pacific extending into how we design and deliver the decade (e.g. provide indigenous people opportunities to lead, and be authors on, their own research).

3 Working group sessions

These working group (WG) sessions were organised around the six societal outcomes of the Decade, which are considered highly transformative. These WGs addressed solution-oriented research to generate new knowledge needed to achieve a given societal outcome. They represented the core mechanism of this regional consultation and contributed to:

- further develop the science questions identified at the First Global Planning Meeting (global consultation),
- identify the key research priorities and specific capacity-building/training needs for the region;
- identify the partnerships to be developed as well as concrete deliverables;
- put in place the organizational system that will be in charge of developing a regional plan and encouraging regional initiatives/partnerships and programs and that will report and contribute to the global planning/design of the Decade.

The overall objective was to generate information that is comparable from one working group to another and from one regional workshop to the next, so that they inform the overall Implementation Plan and design process of the Decade.

The following table summarises the research priorities identified by the different WG for the region to meet the six societal outcomes:

WG/ Societal outcome	Research priorities for the region to meet the societal outcome	Comments
WG 1: Clean Ocean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory and prioritisation of pollution sources and impacts (including cumulative impacts) and mapping of key scientific initiatives – at both nation-specific and region-wide scales and including sources that enter and impact the Pacific from external to the region. • Associated inventory of the state of knowledge (science related) on the ‘cause-effect’ (or ‘pressure-response’, as it is also known) pathways that link (in terms of processes) the threatening substances with the environmental, social or cultural/indigenous value under threat or impact. • Human inventory of ‘scientific expertise’ (a ‘who’s who’) from within and external to the region - relevant to this theme. • Inventory of potential sponsorship/funding opportunities • An objective assessment of capacity of the existing set of Pacific alliances, organisations, institutions, capacities, scientific initiatives to address this theme’s priorities in a coherent collaborative manner and with relevancy and maximum applicability to the region and whole and to the specific needs of individual countries. 	<p>As a note to contribute to the complementary consideration of the full set of six ‘Decade’ themes, this need for ‘inventory’ of existing information and regionally coherence action was seen to be generically applicable to all six themes.</p>
WG 2: A healthy and resilient Ocean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration science / study of what we know already, the scale to reach the agreed outcomes (e.g. lagoon health) and data and information stock take <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Benchmarking, mapping, valuation of wealth of assets ○ monitoring and evaluation, ○ predictive modelling (especially for extreme events) • Best practice of data/info collection, management, and integration • Defining restoration and ecosystem resilience initiatives, from a Pacific cultural context using transdisciplinary approach; • Defining implications of climate change on shallow and deep water ecology and functions, on ecosystem scale versus species scale (through interdisciplinary research); • Resilience/rebounding of ecosystems after extreme events • Document and include traditional practices that preserve ecosystems 	

WG/ Societal outcome	Research priorities for the region to meet the societal outcome	Comments
WG 3: Predicted Ocean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and implement and appropriate bio-physical-ocean/climate Pacific Ocean Observing System (e.g. a Pacific-OOS), guided by the international Global Ocean Observing System frameworks and guiding protocols, informed and linking to PIGOOS, PacIOOS, IMOS etc. at regional and relevant national scales to support the characterisation of key ecological processes relevant to assessing the threat/pressure of substances on important ecological, socio-economic values • Enhance the region's (at all appropriate scales) modelling capacity, as will be needed to be underpinned by an appropriate Pacific-OOS, for local, national and regional needs – across fundamental and applied (practical) objectives. • Couple predictive modelling on biology, chemistry, physics and socio-cultural factors to understand future impacts on SDG targets • Climate change predictive impact on natural, economical and societal values (related to the above, including maritime safety) • Partnerships between end users, the observation and modelling community need to be built • Capability needs to be built in use of products and services with cyclical M&E built into products and services as capability builds/new needs arise 	<p>Recently, SPC established the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS). The centre is mandated to ensure the Pacific countries are able to access ocean science data and information. Using interdisciplinary mindsets, this brings together Fisheries, Geoscience, Meteorology, Agriculture, Planning, NGOs and Private sector maritime players with an overall aim to work managing ocean spaces together, collaboratively.</p>
WG 4: Safe Ocean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert ocean global forecast into localized impact; Early warning systems that can provide localized forecast and impact information; • Quantifying risk to strengthen community preparedness and resilience; • Integrating traditional knowledge into early warning system; • Further investigate island-based solutions, ecosystems, and traditional knowledge that can provide natural resilience and reduce risk; • Investigate what individuals, governments, and industry must do to reduce their anthropogenic impacts which have exacerbated the frequency and effect of extreme events. 	<p>We also note that two key stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met Service, responsible for ocean warning and • Disaster Management Office, responsible for disaster response and resilience could not attend. <p>It is therefore important for the UN Decade to confirm the above recommendations.</p> <p>We also would like to highlight an inspirational slogan that came out in our group discussion; “A pacific solution to a global issue”.</p>

WG/ Societal outcome	Research priorities for the region to meet the societal outcome	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ocean is entwined within Pacific island way of life - capitalizing on and maximum the use of traditional knowledge (TK) into increased resilience. • Recognising that Pacific ocean is nearly half of the earth ocean and makes up one third of the surface, and therefore many of the ocean and coastal scientific challenges for the UN Decade are Pacific challenges - The region has an opportunity to lead by example the UN Decade transformative process. <p>The next step is to develop an implementation strategy, including building meaningful partnership with communities and industry to provide sustainable service and innovative technology critical to saving lives and reversing the decline in ocean health.</p>
WG 5: Sustainably harvested and productive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value Chain Analysis, fisheries based adaptation options and social/governance research; • Climate change, oceanic/atmospheric systems impacts on fisheries and resources; • Trophic cascades from fishing (technological impacts) and fish stock assessments; • Ecotoxicology and fish diseases; • Tuna fisheries, offshore industrial tuna fisheries impacts on inshore tuna fisheries; linkages and exchanges 	
WG 6: Transparent and accessible Ocean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a culture to facilitate data sharing. Standardise data collection, management & dissemination, support and strengthen agreements • Capture traditional knowledge. Map potential applications of TK, recognise the sensitivities around sharing of traditional knowledge, build that recognition into the collection process • Identify & prioritise Pacific community values (cultural, scientific, and economic) and needs for ocean data. Inventory of existing and potential technologies for collecting, sharing and analysing • Improve data accessibility & understand user requirements. Not just development of data portals and visualisation tools, but outreach to communities, industry, current and potential ocean data users 	

4 Working group reporting and plenary sessions on capacity-building and transfer of marine technology, partnerships and financing, and traditional knowledge

On the last day, WG facilitators reported back to the workshop in plenary. Initial conclusions demonstrated the need to continue the brainstorming, desirably with the support of a dedicated regional working group. It was also proposed to prepare a regional chapter in Decade's Implementation Plan, or, alternatively, have a stand-alone Pacific Implementation Plan. These suggestions emerged through the discussions on indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) and traditional knowledge (TK) which were deemed to be of high importance and emerged as being highly relevant to the region in the context of the Decade.

4.1 Capacity-building and transfer of marine technology

During the panel on capacity-building and transfer of marine technology, speakers highlighted several regional initiatives such as the Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac), having a strong capacity development dimension that goes beyond training and tools; the Regional Strategy for Pacific Women in Maritime 2020-24 with the support of IMO and SPC; initiatives of the University of South Pacific and the importance of providing networking opportunities and facilitating scholarships. The panel also found that because of limited resources and capacity, activities are often restricted to preliminary research or pilot projects, and that further value-added work is often not conducted within the region but rather offshore. The panel recommended long term commitments as well as the coordination of smaller efforts to achieve sustainability of research programs and longer term programs. The panel concluded that a coherent and ambitious plan for the region should be drawn up by the regional stakeholders (rather than by those outside the region) to develop the partnerships that are needed (including between regional organisations).

The speakers (please refer to the attached agenda) engaged with participants through the digital tool Slido, and identified five key themes:

1. Capacity-building is about people, people are the Decade. Capacity-building should be part of each phase, projects, programs and plans of the Decade;
2. Capacity-building should generate real change and empower all components of society;
3. Need for partnerships that are sustained and that provide opportunities for individuals to build their own research agendas;
4. Look for adaptive solutions that allow for whole lifetime research within the Pacific (rather than preliminary or first tier research);
5. Pacific role models are key. Capacity-building should focus on all generations with a particular attention on youth.

4.2 Partnerships and financing:

The speakers (please refer to the attached agenda) engaged with participants through the digital tool Slido, and identified five key themes:

1. Build on existing partnerships and financing mechanisms and to take on lessons learned;
2. Think about internal partnerships (not just external ones);
3. Sustainable management requires collaboration across all sectors (built on respect);
4. Realise opportunities to access data that are being collected but are held by private companies (need for the right legal framework to keep and use data and knowledge within the region);
5. Develop business cases, speak to the requirements of the investors and allow us to achieve what we need.

4.3 Traditional knowledge

During the panel on traditional knowledge the speakers (please refer to the attached agenda) engaged with participants through Slido and identified five key themes on how we will bring together the very different components needed to achieve the Decade:

1. Indigenous and local communities have their own, unique ocean literacies. Indigenous people see, hear, feel and smell the world differently;
2. Relationships with the ocean are changing. Need to build in language and building relationships with the ocean for young people into ocean literacy programs;
3. Build an agenda and implementation plan that is grounded in the Pacific context and is inclusive;
4. Embed traditional knowledge in all Decade priorities and weave across all activities;
5. Recognise the balance between indigenous people and their environment. Respect prior and informed consent to ensure traditional knowledge is integrated appropriately in the activities of the Decade.

Since indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) and traditional knowledge (TK) was often a focus of the discussions throughout the meeting, Cresantia Koya-Vakauta from USP presented draft guidelines for the integration and mainstreaming of IKS and TK into the Decade as a crosscutting issue (i.e. further details to point 4 above).

1. Recognise TK as a cross cutting priority: Embed IKS/TK in all Ocean Decade priorities
2. Official documents and action plans: Recognise and articulate IKS/TK as an important and complementary knowledge economy of global benefit
3. Guiding resources: Establish guidelines for integrating and mainstreaming IKS or TK; develop a guiding document for “TK in the Ocean Science Decade”; utilise existing resources for the integration of culture into SDGs
4. Due ethical and moral process: Initiate a consultative consensus building process to develop guiding ethical and moral obligations that need to be observed and accorded to the ocean as a living entity and to cultural communities.
5. Methodologies: Co-create innovative tools and instruments, processes and training approaches for Ocean Decade initiatives
6. Broad and inclusive research agenda: Adopt a Pacific Ocean Science Action Plan

5 Follow-up and participation in the global process, summary and next steps

The Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) as well as the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC-SC) Scientific Committee will meet two weeks after the regional workshop. The workshop’s participants will ensure that the outcomes of this regional workshop are presented to generate a discussion in these fora.

The participant communities identified the following priorities and made the following recommendations:

They questioned what might be the process for gathering the inputs of those important stakeholders that did not participate to the meeting as well as how do we ensure that the momentum of this regional workshop is maintained and passed on to others in the Pacific. A Pacific solution to a global issue was considered as crucial.

The workshop also recommended to establish a Pacific Decade working group and develop terms of reference for this group. This working group will be tasked with the development of a regional plan. This regional plan could contribute to the global plan (Implementation plan) that will be developed by IOC and submitted to the UN General Assembly. The identification of national focal points would facilitate cooperation to develop this regional plan. The report of the workshop should provide the regional stakeholders with a mandate that can be taken back to their agencies/countries to generate momentum. The workshop captured a number of issues that will be reported in the plan but an inventory that can be built on should be made and attached to this plan.

A particular focus on youth engagement should be considered in this plan and initiatives such as a dedicated regional workshop or a youth ocean summit should be envisaged with the collaboration of international stakeholders. National governments should work together with the regional stakeholders to contribute to this plan. The Pacific Ocean Commissioner is drafting a Pacific Ocean report and the Decade should be included in this report.

The workshop participants also suggested to be included in the drafting process of the report of the workshop.

Regarding the coordination with other regional workshops, the workshop's participants highlighted how it will be crucial to take lessons learned from this workshop to share this feedback with the workshops that will follow and take place all around the world. The workshop's participants reflected on how IOC and SPC could ensure that the Pacific voices contribute to the other workshops. IOC suggested using the discussion forum (online community platform) on the Decade's website. The working groups of the various workshops will identify overlapping priorities that will represent opportunities for collaboration.

Entry points where the Pacific can contribute to the global plan/Implementation Plan will also have to be identified. It is crucial to have a Pacific voice in the global arena. The regional organisations should cooperate to ensure this voice exists and is coherent.

At a global level, governments should be engaged in the Preparatory Phase. A high level political commitment (finance ministers/ocean ministers) should be sought. A high-level meeting could be organised to contribute to the Implementation Plan. Dialogue between the Decade and the High Level Panel for the Blue Economy should be fostered.

Regarding the financing opportunities, the workshop referred to CAP4 hosted by Cook Islands which will bring leaders in the region together and will offer an opportunity to highlight pathways. Ocean management and conservation are the priorities for the region. The Pacific Leaders Forum that will take place in Tuvalu next month (14 countries will meet) may also be a good opportunity for presenting the ideas from the workshop and get ideas from the leaders particularly in terms of what they would like to see moving forward. The Decade could also be presented as a significant agenda item at the Pacific Leaders Forum next year in Vanuatu that would also provide an appropriate platform to launch the Decade. The Decade should also be promoted at the Pacific Ocean Alliance meeting. The working group will have to work on the upkeep and leverage to move to the next level and maintain the momentum through the whole Decade to 2030.

Since indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) and traditional knowledge (TK) was a focus of the discussions, Cresantia Koya-Vakauta from USP presented draft guidelines for the integration and mainstreaming of IKS and TK as a crosscutting issue.

- i. Recognise TK as a cross cutting priority: Embed IKS/TK in all Ocean Decade priorities

- ii. Official documents and action plans: Recognise and articulate IKS/TK as an important and complementary knowledge economy of global benefit
- iii. Guiding resources: Establish guidelines for integrating and mainstreaming IKS or TK; develop a guiding document for “TK in the Ocean Science Decade”; utilise existing resources for the integration of culture into SDGs
- iv. Due ethical and moral process: Initiate a consultative consensus building process to develop guiding ethical and moral obligations that need to be observed and accorded to the ocean as a living entity and to cultural communities.
- v. Methodologies: Co-create innovative tools and instruments, processes and training approaches for Ocean Decade initiatives
- vi. Broad and inclusive research agenda: Adopt a Pacific Ocean Science Action Plan

Annex I – Agenda of the meeting

Final version dated 22 July 2019

Day 3: Thursday, 25 July 2019		
Plenary		
09:00-09:45	Working Groups 1 and 2 report back	Chair: Jerome Aucan , Research Scientist, IRD Presentations from working groups. 20 minutes per group for report back and questions
09:45-10:30	Working Groups 3 and 4 report back	Chair: Nick D’Adamo , Head, Perth Programme Office, IOC-UNESCO Presentations from working groups. 20 minutes per group for report back and questions
10:30-11:00 Morning break		
11:00–11:45	Working Groups 5 and 6 report back	Chair: Julie Rigaud , Coordinator, IOC-UNESCO Presentations from working groups. 20 minutes per group for report back and questions
11:45-12:30	Panel 2 on cross-cutting issues: Capacity development and transfer of marine technology	Chair: Karen Evans , EPG Member and Senior Research Scientist, Oceans and Atmosphere, CSIRO Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Molly Powers-Tora, Team Leader, Ocean Literacy & Maritime Capacity, SPC • Ngateina (Teina) Mackenzie, Vice-chair, PacWIMA • Katy Soapi, Manager, Pacific Natural Products Research Centre, USP
12:30-13:30 Lunch		
13:30-14:15	Panel 3 on cross-cutting issues: Partnerships and financing	Chair: Herve Damlamian , Senior Specialist Oceanography, SPC Justin Hunter , Director, J Hunter Pearls, Fiji <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peni Suveinakama, Manager, Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, OPOC • David Rissik, Business Development Manager, BMT
14:15-15:00	Panel 4 on cross-cutting issues: Traditional knowledge	Chair: Katy Soapi , Manager, Pacific Natural Products Research Centre, USP

		Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frances Koya, Director, Oceania Centre for Arts, Culture and Pacific Studies, USP • Patrina Dumar, Lecturer, School of Geography, Earth Science and Environment, USP • Jacqueline Evans, Director, Marae Moana, Cook Islands • Dick Sahiu
15:00-15:30 Afternoon tea break		
15:30-16:00	Follow-up and participation in the global process, summary and next steps	Chair: Molly Powers-Tora , Team Leader, Ocean Literacy & Maritime Capacity, SPC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Evan, EPG Member and Senior Research Scientist, Oceans and Atmosphere, CSIRO • Julie Rigaud, Coordinator, IOC-UNESCO
16:00-16:30	Closing remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Country participant] • Stuart Kinninmonth, A/Head, School of Marine Studies, USP • Peni Suveinakama, Manager, Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, OPOC • Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary, IOC-UNESCO

Annex II – Group photo



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Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



Australian Government



NEW ZEALAND

THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY WORKSHOP ON THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

23-25 July 2019



Annex III - Final list of attendees:

Aquarium des Lagon

Mr. Richard FARMAN

Director

richard.farman@aquarium.nc

Auckland Council

Mr. Fereti Lualua

Policy Analyst

Fereti.lualua@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Australian Institute of Marine Science

Mr. Manuel Rivero

Research Scientist

m.gonzalezrivero@aims.gov.au

BMT

David Rissik

Senior Principal

david.rissik@bmtglobal.com

Brava FM/Freelance

Ms Georgina Kekea

Reporter/Editor

ginakekea@gmail.com

Conservation International

Mr. Thomas Juien AUGER

Marine Officer

tauger@conservation.org

Mr. Johann Bell

Senior Director - Pacific Tuna Fisheries

jbelle@conservation.org

CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere

Ms. Karen Evans

Senior Research Scientist

Karen.Evans@csiro.au

Mr. Bronte Tilbrook

Senior Principal Research Scientist

CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere

bronte.tilbrook@csiro.au

DFAT (Australia)

Ms. Haidee Barrenger Consul, Noumea

haidee.barrenger@dfat.gov.au

Mr. Dominic Ransan-Cooper

Assistant Director, Pacific Fisheries and Oceans

dominic.ransan-cooper@dfat.gov.au

Fiji Broadcasting Corporation

Ms Maggie Boyle

Senior Multimedia Journalist

Maggie.Boyle@fbc.com.fj

Fiji Times

Ms Vishal Kumar

Journalist

vkumar@fijitimes.com.fj

French National Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD)

Mr. Victor David

Research Fellow

victor.david@ird.fr

Mr. Jerome Aucan

Research scientist

jerome.aucan@ird.fr

Ms Mina Vilayleck

Communications Adviser

mina.vilayleck@ird.fr

GNS Science

Lara Bland

l.bland@gns.cri.nz

Mr. Bill Fry

Seismologist

B.Fry@gns.cri.nz

Government of New Caledonia

Mr. Thierry Canteri

Directeur Affaires

Maritimes Gouvernement

Th.Canteri@gmail.com

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO

Mr Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Mr Gregory Reed Consultant
g.reed@unesco.org

Mr Nick D'Adamo Head - Perth Programme
Office
nick.dadamo@bom.gov.au

Ms Julie RIGAUD
UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable
Development
Coordination team
j.rigaud@unesco.org

Islands Business

Ms Samantha Magick
Consulting Editor
editor@islandsbusiness.com

J Hunter Pearls (Fiji) Pte Ltd

Mr. Justin Hunter
Director
jhunter@fijipearls.com

Government of Cook Islands

Ms Jacqueline Evans Director
Marae Moana Coordination Office,
Office of the Prime Minister
Jacqui.evans@cookislands.gov.ck

Government of the Federated State of Micronesia

Mr Naiten BradleyPhilip
Assistant Director
National Ocean Resource Management
Agency (NORMA),
bradley.phillip@norma.fm

Government of Fiji

Ms Saras Wati Sharma
Senior Research Officer
Ministry of Fisheries
sras.sharma0205@gmail.com

Government of French Polynesia

Ms Sylviane Fauvet

Technical Adviser
Ministry of Culture and Environment
sylviane.fauvet@culture.min.gov.pf

Government of Palau

Mr. Ngirataoch Nick Ngwal
Sr. Advisor
Office of the President
nngwal@gmail.com

Government of Solomon Islands

Mr. Trevor Ramoni
Assistant Secretary-Oceans and Climate
Change
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
Trevor.Ramoni@mfaet.gov.sb

Government of Samoa

Ms Matilda Bartley
Principal Foreign Service Officer
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Samoa
matilda@mafta.gov.ws

Government of Tokelau

Ms Jewel Toloa NDMO Officer
Ministry of Climate, Oceans & Resilience
jewel.tuitama@tokelau.org.nz

Government of Tuvalu

Mr. Elifaleti Ene
Climate Officer
Tuvalu Meteorological Service
eneearl@gmail.com

Government of Vanuatu

Mr. Tony Tevi
Head of Maritime and Ocean Affairs Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and External
Trade
ttevi@vanuatu.gov.vu

Mr. Levu Boaz Antfalo
Weather Forecaster Vanuatu Meteorology
and Geo Hazards Department
lantfalo@meteo.gov.vu

NIWA

Mr Kevin Mackay

Principal Technician - Marine Geology,
Programme Leader - Environmental
Information Management
Kevin.Mackay@niwa.co.nz

Oceanic Research Institute

Mr. Earl de Blonville
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
CEO@ori.net.a

Mrs. Jennifer Gidley
Director of Research

Oxfam in the Pacific

Mr Ricardo Morris
Media and Communications Officer: Raising
Pacific Voices
rmorris@oxfampacific.org

Ms. Nancy Niubalavu
Programme Officer - Raising Pacific Voices
Project
NNiubalavu@oxafmpacific.org

Pacific Media Network/Freelancer

Ms Lisa Leilani Williams
Senior Journalist
lisa.williams@pmn.co.nz

Pacific Community (SPC)

Mr Zulfikar Begg
Ocean Science Officer
ZulfikarB@spc.int

Mr Raphael Bille
RESCCUE Project Coordinator, CCES
raphaelb@spc.int

Mr. Herve Damlamian
Team Leader- Oceanography
herveda@spc.int

Mr Cameron Diver
Deputy Director General

Ms. Sylvie Goyet
Director, Environmental Sustainability and
Climate Change Programme, CCES

sylviegoyet@spc.int

Ms Lisa Kingsberry
lisak@spc.int

Mr Jens Kruger
Manager, Ocean Affairs
jens@spc.int

Ms Evlyn Mani
Communications Officer
evlynm@spc.int

Ms. Molly Powers-Tora
Team Leader - Ocean Literacy & Maritime
Capacity
mollyp@spc.int

Ms Virginia Rokoua
Programme Administrator
virginiar@spc.int

Mr. Neville Smith
Director, Fisheries Aquaculture and Marine
Ecosystems (FAME) Division
nevilles@spc.int

Mr Andrew Smith
Deputy Director - Coastal Fisheries
andrews@spc.int

Pacific Islands News Association (PINA)

Mr Pita Ligaiula
Senior Journalist
Pacific Islands News Association
pacnews1@pina.com.fj

**Pacific Women in Martine Association
(PacWIMA)**

Ms. Ngateina MACKENZIE
Vice President
mackteina@gmail.com

Pacific Youth Community

Ms. Tyler - Rae Tanya Aiysha Chung
Marine Scientist
tylerrae.chung@gmail.com

Province Nord - Nouvelle-Calédonie

Mr. Nathaniel CORNUET

Head of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine
Environment

n.cornuet@province-nord.nc

Radio New Zealand

Dominic Godfrey

Journalist

Dominic.Godfrey@rnz.co.nz

Mr. Olivier Gilles DURAND

Director Advisory & Development

durand@secal.nc

Seven Ocean Research Pty

Ms. Sabine KNAPP

Director

sknapp@tpg.com.au

SHOM

Mr. Mikael Le Gleau

Head of French Hydrographic Survey Unit in
Pacific

gop-d@shom.fr

**South Pacific Environmental Programme
(SPREP)**

Mr. Robert Duncan McIntosh

Oceanography Officer

robertmc@sprep.org

350.ORG

Patricia Mallam

Senior Communications Specialist

patricia.mallam@350.org

The University of the South Pacific

Dr Frances Koya Vaka'uta

Director Oceania Centre for Arts, Culture and
Pacific Studies

cresantia.koyavakauta@usp.ac.fj

Ms. Patrina Dumar

Lecturer

pdumar@gmail.com

Mr. Stuart Kininmonth

A/Head of School/Senior Lecturer

stuart.kininmonth@usp.ac.fj

Mrs. Katy Soap

Manager, Pacific Natural Products Research
Centre

Institute of Applied Science

soapi_k@usp.ac.fj

Tonga Broadcasting Commission

Ms Seneti Aho

News Reporter

aho2nunia@gmail.com

**NOAA International Tsunami Information
Centre**

Ms. Laura Kong

Director

laura.kong@noaa.gov

University of New South Wales

Mr. Matthew Blacka

Principal Coastal Engineer

m.blacka@wrl.unsw.edu.au