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Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme**SECOND REGIONAL FISHERIES MINISTERIAL MEETING****Virtual
30 July 2021**

Agenda Item:	7
Paper No:	RFMM2-WP04
Title:	2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent

Summary:

Progress to develop the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent in 2021 includes the completion of *phase one* and the commencement of *phase two*.

Steps taken to deliver on phase one include:

- The finalisation of a provisional list of regional goods (*step iv*)
- The development of a revised draft vision (*step v*)
- The development of provisional themes for the 2050 Strategy (*step vi*)

A phase one progress report was considered by the FOC Sub-Committee at its 11th meeting, held on 11 April 2021. In addition, work on phase two is progressing, with the scenarios step (*step vii*), which consisted of the conduct of virtual workshops, to develop levels of ambition for the 5 thematic clusters of the 2050 Strategy now complete. Work under phase two is expected to be continue until the fourth quarter of 2021, when a draft 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent will be presented to the FOC for its consideration.

Once finalised, the 2050 Strategy will frame the region's long-term strategic vision and direction. It will specify the region's collective areas of focus (themes) and levels of ambition that define how far it wishes to work together. Based on the agreed areas of focus, the 2050 Strategy will also frame the region's shared advocacy and engagement priorities with strategic and development partners.

Recommendations

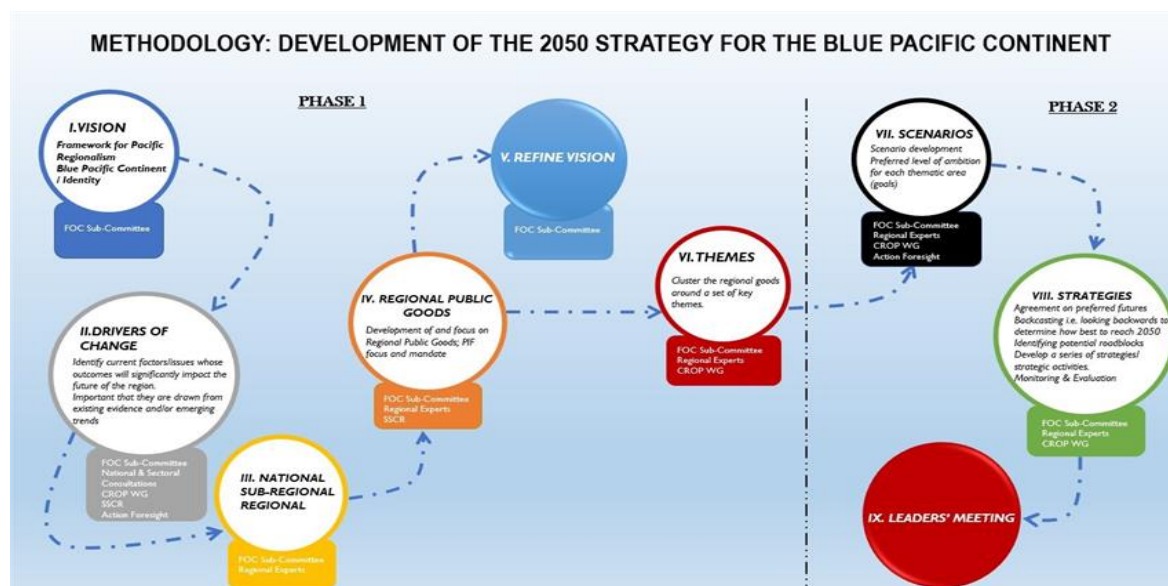
Ministers are invited to **note** the progress made to develop the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

Introduction/Background:

At the 2019 Forum Leaders meeting in Tuvalu, Leaders noted that escalating climate change related impacts and the intensification of geostrategic competition is exacerbating the region's vulnerabilities. In reflecting on this, Leaders noted that securing the future of the Blue Pacific requires a long-term vision and carefully considered strategy for regionalism, and a collective commitment to achieve it. Based on these considerations, Leaders endorsed the development of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (the 2050 Strategy).¹ In calling for the development of the 2050 Strategy, Leaders tasked the Secretariat to work closely with Members. Accordingly, the *FOC Sub-Committee on the 2050 Strategy* was established to provide oversight of the process. The FOC Sub-Committee is co-chaired by Fiji and Vanuatu.

2. At its 6th meeting on July 16, 2020, the FOC Sub-Committee endorsed the approach to develop the 2050 Strategy which has guided the Sub-Committee's work since that time. The approach is outlined in figure 1 below.

Figure 1. Approach to develop the 2050 Strategy



Progress to Date

3. Stakeholder engagement has been central to process thus far. To date, engagement has been coordinated at various levels to deliver on the above approach, particularly with the following stakeholders:

- **Members:** Members are engaged in ongoing discussions on the progress of the development of the Strategy through the FOC Sub-Committee and the Informal Working Group of Members (IWG). In addition, and through the co-Chairs, there are Member briefings convened at regular occasions as the work progresses.

¹ 2019 Forum Leaders Communique pp. 2-3

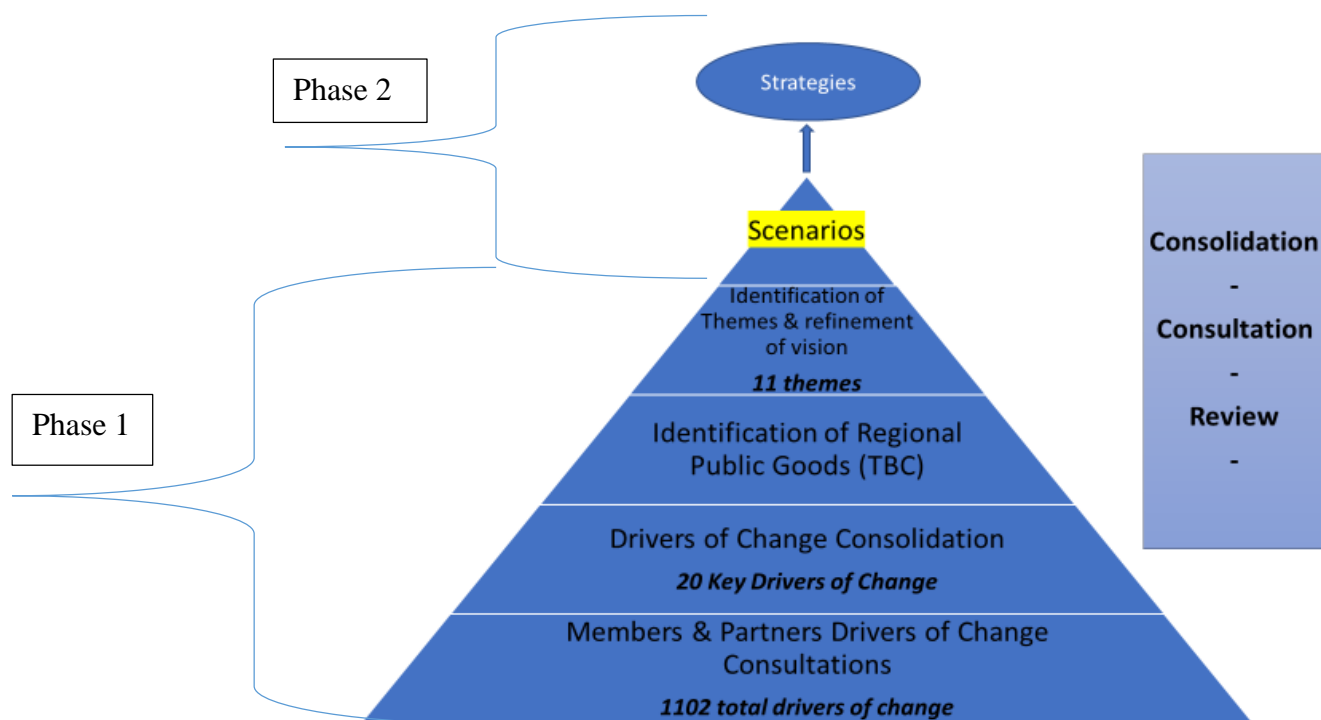
FORUM FISHERIES COMMITTEE EYES ONLY

- There have been 3 sub-committee meetings, 3 meetings of the informal working group and numerous member briefings convened in 2021.
- **CROP:** CROP agencies continue to provide critical technical input to inform the Strategy through the CROP Taskforce and Informal Working Group. CROP agencies have had substantive input at each step of the process, which has provided highly valuable technical input. Regular briefings on progress have also been presented to CROP Heads by the co-Chairs of the FOC Sub-Committee.
- **Non-State Actors:** Non-state Actors (NSA) engagement remains an important element in the development of the 2050 Strategy, to ensure that community and business perspectives are reflected meaningfully. NSAs have been engaged on a regular and ongoing basis through the IWG.

Phase One

4. Figure 2 below sets out the steps carried out in *phase one* in diagrammatic form. It demonstrates that all steps in the process build upon and are interconnected with each other, and that progress has been made through a continual cycle of: consultation with Members and other key stakeholders; a consolidation of information; and refinement and review involving Members and stakeholders. Further to this, the FOC Sub-Committee has met at each substantive step of the process to endorse the outcomes, before the process has moved forward.

Figure 2. Implementation of approach



Working Vision

5. As the first substantive activity for phase one, the FOC Sub-Committee endorsed a working 'vision for 2050' that would serve as a guide for the development of the Strategy was completed at the 6th meeting of the FOC Sub-Committee. In endorsing the working vision, the FOC Sub-Committee recognised that there would be further opportunity throughout the process for the working vision to be further elaborated and refined, as work on the Strategy progresses. The current, refined vision can be found in paragraph 10, below.

Drivers of Change

6. Consistent with the drivers of change step in phase one, the outcomes of the extensive national and stakeholder consultations were comprehensively analysed. A total of 1,062 Drivers of Change, across 6 categories was identified (663 from 15 members and 399 from 14 partners). A further exercise led to the identification of 20 key drivers of change, which were endorsed by the IWG at its third meeting on 5 November 2020.

Regional Goods

7. Following this step and based on the information provided through the national consultations, a provisional list of regional goods or collective actions was developed under each of the twenty drivers of change. The identification of these potential collective actions is provisional and will be further refined during phase two, and in particular during and as a consequence of the scenarios step (*step vii*). The refined list of collective actions will be the basis for developing regional policy, capacity and infrastructure as part of the 2050 Strategy.

Refined Vision

8. Informed by the 20 drivers of change and the related regional goods / collective actions, the working vision has been refined, as follows:

In recognizing the undeniable connection Pacific peoples have with their natural resources, environment, culture and livelihoods, their deep concern for urgent and immediate action to combat the threat of climate change and their shared stewardship of the of the Pacific Ocean, our Vision is for a resilient Pacific Region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, that ensures all Pacific people can lead free, healthy and productive lives.

9. Additional feedback on the vision was provided during the first step under phase two, and while these changes have not yet been incorporated, all feedback has been recorded and will be used to further refine the vision prior to the completion of phase two.

Themes & Principles

10. The identification of the indicative themes for the 2050 Strategy was based on a consideration of the 20 drivers of change, the regional goods/collective actions, as well as the refined vision. This led to the emergence of eleven themes– see figure 3 below. The indicative themes will be further refined as part of phase two and in particular, during the scenario step (*step vii.*). This is because, as the ultimate goals for the 2050 Strategy become clearer during the scenarios step, the themes may also need to be refined.

Figure 3. Provisional themes

Gender, Social Inclusion and Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enshrining and reaffirming social inclusion and gender equality, leaving no one behind, and ending inequality and discrimination of marginalized communities by upholding human rights obligations and recognizing the positive values of Pacific cultures and faith-based commitments. • Strengthening inclusive education and training systems that support social cohesion and incorporate Pacific cultures and values, relationality, and the interconnectedness of life values with human and non-human wellbeing. • Prioritizing access to affordable and improved health care and surveillance through better infrastructure, governance systems, and services in the region.
Natural Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing the resilience of Pacific countries, their people and communities to climate change, natural disasters and environmental threats. • Protecting the Pacific ocean’s health and integrity to sustain its life-giving function to the planet and people of the region and the world, and to ensure intergenerational social, cultural, economic and political equity.
Resources and Economic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving socio-economic wellbeing through better access to, and freedom of movement for, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. • Sustainably managing the region’s resources, balancing investment, international trade, private sector development and supporting alternative models of development beyond GDP, for the benefit of Pacific people.
Technology and Connectivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building capacity to effectively capitalize on innovation, new and emerging technologies, scientific knowledge and advances, as well as maximizing the use of data and information to ensure evidence-based decisions to help drive the achievement of the 2050 vision. • Ensuring connectivity through access to more affordable and reliable air and sea transport infrastructure, systems and operations and adoption of up-to-date ICT infrastructure and technology.
Political <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Political Commitment to Regionalism with inclusive leadership and effective governance institutions. • Strengthening responses to geostrategic relationships between Pacific countries and between the region and its international partners.

Figure 4. Key principles for the 2050 Strategy

- National ownership and political commitment across the region to the concept of complementary collective action and regionalism in helping countries address the economic, social and environmental challenges of the region.
- Commitment at both national and regional level in meeting global human rights and other international legal obligations that recognizes the rights of all people, the protection our natural environment and ensures no one is left behind.
- People-centred to ensure inclusion and broad community engagement in defining and implementing specific actions to achieve the 2050 Strategy.
- Participation of Pacific governments, non-government agencies, private sector representatives, faith-based organizations, academia and the media in monitoring, evaluating and reporting on progress under the Strategy.
- Flexible, responsive and complementary to national action.
- “Safeguarding” be enshrined in the 2050 Strategy to ensure that all Pacific peoples are empowered, included and protected through the 2050 Strategy.
- A responsive and collaborative regional architecture (not limited to the CROP agencies) in the implementation of the 2050 Strategy and the specific actions identified by the Forum Leaders.

Next Steps

Phase 2

11. There are three substantive steps in the process to finalise development of the strategy, as follows:

- *Scenarios Step (vii)*: the objective of this step is to develop the region’s ‘levels of ambition’ for each thematic cluster of the 2050 Strategy, and based on this, identify potential collective actions to achieve the ambitions. The first stage of this step to develop the region’s ‘levels of ambition’ has been completed and has featured 2 rounds of virtual workshops, with Members, CROP agencies, NSAs and youth participants. Identification of potential collective actions to achieve the ambitions remains to be completed.
- *Strategies Step (viii)*: With the levels of ambition and collective actions identified in the preceding step, the ‘strategies’ step is designed to develop concrete approaches to achieve the levels of ambition under each thematic cluster. It will be important here to consider potential roadblocks to achieving the levels of ambition, and the timeframes and resources required, as well as monitoring arrangements.
- *Finalisation of the Strategy (ix)*: The final step in phase two, and of the process overall, is to then draft the 2050 Strategy, which will be drawn from the key elements of the process, particularly the vision, themes, levels of ambition, collective actions, and strategies. It is expected that the strategy will be framed as a high-level document, which sets out and elaborates:

- The region's vision for 2050
- The key themes of the 2050 Strategy
- The region's levels of ambition for each theme
- The strategies for achieving the levels of ambition, consisting of agreed collective actions and related activities that are to be undertaken through the 2050 Strategy.

12. It should be noted that these are critical steps in the overall process. The scenarios step (vii.) identifies where we want to be in 2050 and the collective actions required to achieve these ambitions. The strategies step (viii.) is equally important in that it sets out the region's strategies to achieve its levels of ambition and recognizes that interrelated collective actions across more than one thematic cluster may be required.

13. Once finalised, the 2050 Strategy will frame the region's long-term strategic vision and direction. It will specify the region's collective areas of focus (themes) and levels of ambition that define how far it wishes to work together. Based on the agreed areas of focus, the 2050 Strategy will also frame the region's shared advocacy and engagement priorities with strategic and development partners.

Stakeholder Engagement

14. As the process proceeds through these remaining steps, effective stakeholder engagement will be a vital ingredient to ensure visibility, awareness, ownership and belief in the strategy. Given the importance of Member ownership, it is critical that all Members remain fully engaged in the development and finalisation of the strategy.

15. Further, it is also important that other key stakeholders – including Associate Members, CROP agencies, regional technical agencies, and non-state actors are engaged in the process. Beyond this, there is also a wider audience which must be engaged including sub-regional organisations, Forum dialogue partners and observers, development partners, youth and students, the media, and academia. Specific measures to engage with these groups will be developed.

Timeframe & Work plan

16. Noting that the 2050 Strategy is to be delivered for Leaders' consideration at their forthcoming face to face meeting (scheduled for either late 2021 or early 2022), there is additional time to carry out phase 2 and to finalise the strategy. At this stage it is anticipated that the draft strategy will be prepared in time for the 2021 budget session of the FOC, before it is considered by Forum Leaders.

17. Based on the remaining steps of phase 2, the need to maintain effective stakeholder engagement, as well as the revised timeframe for the delivery of the 2050 Strategy, an updated work plan has been developed, which reflects the revised timeframes and the importance of effective stakeholder engagement. In this regard it sets out provisions for national and stakeholder consultations in the scenarios step; regular stakeholder briefings after each FOC Sub-Committee meeting; and regular meetings of the FOC Sub-Committee to ensure continued Member oversight of the process.

18. It is also important to highlight that the review of regional architecture will also need to be considered, beginning with an initial consideration of a terms of reference for this review. In this regard, the Sub-Committee proposes to commence this work and report to the FOC at its 2021 budget meeting.

Recommendations

19. Ministers are invited to **note** the progress made to develop the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.