



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

Social and Environmental Responsibility

at SPC

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The Pacific Community's (SPC's) Strategic Plan 2022–2031 reflects the organisation's commitment to Social and Environmental Responsibility (SER) as a core principle for achieving sustainable development.

Since 2020, **SPC's SER policy focus on adoption of a people-centred approach** - based on the values of respecting, protecting, promoting, and fulfilling the rights of Pacific people in all their diversities - across three pillars.



As we believe in a world where unlimited connectivity improves the lives and health of local communities, we work with a range of stakeholders to enhance climate action and awareness. This collaborative approach aims to:

- enhance outcomes by systematically integrating environmental and social dimensions in SPC-funded programmes and projects;
- strengthen the alignment of SPC's work with the Agenda 2030;
- minimize programme and project-related greenhouse gas emissions and reduce the carbon footprint of SPC's operations ;
- ensure a healthy and safe work environment for SPC's staff and beneficiaries, minimizing potential risks while enhancing SPC's capabilities.



The main activities to be implemented through the SER strategy relate to:

- reducing our annual emissions;
- incorporating biodiversity in site management;
- improving workplace safety;
- improving waste collection services;
- providing relevant information regarding social responsibility (Human rights, Gender & social inclusion and Culture) to design projects and activities.

Promoting solar energy at SPC

Every day, the solar panel installation in SPC's buildings produces an average of 1,2 megawatts, reducing our CO₂ emissions by 250 tonnes annually.

Set up in February 2021, this 1,200 m² installation of solar panels produces around 60% of the headquarters' total electricity consumption. This project has allowed SPC to reduce its electricity bill and implement investments in other infrastructure improvements and energy saving measures.

Implementing waste reduction strategies in SPC's projects

SPC is promoting use of fish aggregating devices (FADs) in the region. These are drifting structures consisting of a floating raft, often fitted with a satellite buoy. They are used to aggregate fish, particularly tuna, but can be damaged or abandoned leading to an increase in marine waste.

To promote sustainable practices, SPC is training local communities to reuse and repurpose the FADs and satellite buoys, such as using the solar panels to make phone or light chargers, or using bamboo and nets to build new structures.

Enhancing stakeholders' engagement and the voices of communities for better ownership and action

Since 2021, the SPC-led Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture has reformed its practices to increase engagement with non-government representatives and marginalised groups. Such groups have been given observer status and are included in regular special sessions on Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD).

Led by, and focused on, civil society organisations and other non-state actors actively engaged in fisheries management, this annual CBFD session represents a change of paradigm that supports inclusive and sustainable fisheries management.

Including people living with disabilities

The Pacific Territories Regional Project for Sustainable Ecosystem Management (PROTEGE) is mainstreaming social and environmental responsibility throughout project activities.

Committed to ensuring that people living with disabilities benefit from communications, several videos have been developed to reach hearing-impaired people by integrating translation into sign language in the content.

PROTEGE website also accommodates the needs of all users, including people with visual impairments. Digital accessibility contributes to the website services' general quality, ergonomics, and ease of use. The contrast between colours and textures and descriptive labels for links and buttons were considered when designing its interface.



About SPC

The Pacific Community is the principal scientific and technical organisation in the Pacific region, supporting development since 1947. We are an international development organisation owned and governed by our 27 country and territory members, including all 22 Pacific Island countries and territories. In pursuit of sustainable development to benefit Pacific people, our organisation works across more than 20 sectors, and we are known for our knowledge and innovation in such areas as fisheries science, public health surveillance, geoscience, and conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

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