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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX II

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan
in favour of the Asia Pacific region for 2022 Part 1

Action Document for Pacific Solutions: Integrated Ocean Management

ANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plan in the sense of Article 23(2) of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act | <p>“Pacific Solutions: Integrated Ocean Management”</p> <p>OPSYS number: ACT-60648</p> <p>Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)</p> |
| 2. Team Europe Initiative | <p>Yes.</p> <p>This action will contribute to the TEI “Green-Blue Alliance for the Pacific”.</p> |
| 3. Zone benefiting from the action | <p>The action will be carried out in all 15 Pacific ACP countries in the Pacific Region: (i) Cook Islands, (ii) Federated States of Micronesia, (iii) Fiji, (iv) Kiribati, (v) Nauru, (vi) Niue, (vii) Palau, (viii) Papua New Guinea, (ix) Samoa, (x) Solomon Islands, (xi) Republic of Marshall Islands, (xii) Timor Leste, (xiii) Tonga, (xiv) Tuvalu and (xv) Vanuatu..</p> |
| 4. Programming document | <p>Regional Multi-annual Indicative Programme for Asia and the Pacific 2021-2027</p> |
| 5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results | <p>The proposed action intends to contribute to Sectors 1 and 2 of the Pacific chapter (2.1.4) of the Regional MIP Asia-Pacific - Priority 1. In particular, this action is expected to contribute to achieving the following results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sector 1 - Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specific objective 1 - Support Pacific partners in their sustainable responses to the impacts of global warming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ER 1.1: Increased capacity for anticipation of, adaptation and resilience to the impacts of global warming. ○ Specific objective 3 - Support Pacific partners in carrying out regionally integrated approaches to strengthen natural resources conservation, management and governance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ER 3.1 - Increased capacity and readiness to ensure the conservation sustainable management use and restoration of marine and terrestrial natural/biodiversity resources ▪ Sector 2 - Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development |

| | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specific Objective 1 - Support a more diversified, equitable, sustainable and resilient economic growth, based on addressing climate change impacts and principles of environmental sustainability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E.R. 1 Higher levels of compliance with and implementation of international regulations, rules and standards, including tax good governance standards; ○ Specific Objective 2 – Improve regional economic governance, including through digitalisation, in support of green and blue growth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E.R. 2 Improved regional alignment on budget transparency and accountability, fiscal policies and PFM reforms. | | | |
| PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION | | | | |
| 6. Priority Area(s), sectors | <p>Priority Area 1 and sectors: Climate Action (DAC 410 - General Environment Protection); Adaptation, Resilience and Recovery (DAC 410); and Environmental Protection and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (DAC 410)</p> <p>Priority Area 2 and sectors: Green & Blue Growth (310 - Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing); and Economic Governance (DAC 151 - Government & Civil Society-general)</p> | | | |
| 7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) | <p>Main SDG: 14 - Life below water</p> <p>Other significant SDGs: 1 - No poverty; 2 - Zero hunger; 5 - Gender equality; and 13 - Climate action</p> | | | |
| 8 a) DAC code(s) | <p>15110 – Public Sector Policy and Administrative Management - 40%</p> <p>41081 – Environmental Education/Training - 30%</p> <p>43082 –Research/scientific institutions - 30%</p> | | | |
| 8 b) Main Delivery Channel | The Pacific Community (SPC) – 47096 | | | |
| 9. Involvement of multilateral partners | No | | | |
| 10. Targets | <input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance | | | |
| 11. Markers (from DAC form) | General policy objective | Not targeted | Significant objective | Principal objective |
| | Participation development/good governance | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Aid to environment | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Trade development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Disaster Risk Reduction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Inclusion of persons with Disabilities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Nutrition | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | RIO Convention markers | Not targeted | Significant objective | Principal objective |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| | Biological diversity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Combat desertification | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Climate change mitigation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Climate change adaptation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Internal markers and Tags: | Policy objectives | Not targeted | Significant objective | Principal objective |
| | Digitalisation digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Connectivity transport people2people energy digital connectivity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Migration (methodology for tagging under development) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Covid-19 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BUDGET INFORMATION | | | | |
| 13. Amounts concerned | Budget line(s) (article, item): BGUE-B2022-14.020132-C1-INTPA Total estimated cost: EUR 1 800 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 1 500 000 Amount and modality for the involvement of multilateral partners: - SPC for an amount of EUR 300 000 (implementing partner); joint co-financing | | | |
| MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION | | | | |
| 14. Type of financing | Indirect management with the entity(ies) selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.1 | | | |

1.2 Summary of the Action

Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) are increasingly recognising the need for a comprehensive perspective on the management of the marine environment and are turning to the development of National Ocean Policies (NOPs) to address these challenges. These ongoing initiatives provide a significant opportunity for the Pacific Region to take a holistic approach to ocean science, use and management and the implementation of international, regional and national measures. This will require effective regional collaboration.

The action will cover fifteen countries in the Pacific region: (i) Cook Islands, (ii) Federated States of Micronesia, (iii) Fiji, (iv) Kiribati, (v) Nauru, (vi) Niue, (vii) Palau, (viii) Papua New Guinea, (ix) Samoa, (x) Solomon Islands, (xi) Republic of Marshall Islands, (xii) Timor Leste, (xiii) Tonga, (xiv) Tuvalu and (xv) Vanuatu.

It is foreseen to be implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC), which, as targeted partner, is a robust regional organisation already implementing similar programmes financed from the 11th European Development Fund. Increased geographical coverage of the project will be considered by SPC and if such opportunities arise.

This three-year intervention aims at establishing a larger ten-year programme “Pacific Solutions for a healthy Blue Pacific Continent: Integrated ocean management to sustain livelihoods today and into the future” which has been endorsed as a UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development Programme. The following three outcomes are expected:

1. Law and policy: beneficiary countries endorsed and implemented robust legal instruments and policy frameworks on integrated ocean management to support shared stewardship both within and beyond national jurisdictions.
2. Decision support systems: beneficiary countries improved decision support systems and are using them to manage the Blue Pacific, facilitated by the best scientific information and technology.
3. Pacific context and culture: national stakeholders have a broader understanding of the benefits of traditional knowledge and culture’s incorporation into modern ocean management practices.

The proposed action intends to contribute mainly to Sector 1 “Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability” and Sector 2 “Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development” of the Pacific chapter of the Regional MIP for Asia and the Pacific 2021-2027¹.

In particular, this action is expected to contribute to achieving the following results under Sector 1:

- Increased capacity (including research capacity and use of digital tools) for anticipation of, adaptation and resilience to the impacts of global warming; including severe climate-related risks and events;
- Increased capacity to deliver on international climate commitments and to implement multilateral environmental agreements legislation while ensuring just transition;
- Increased capacity and readiness to ensure the conservation sustainable management use and restoration of marine and terrestrial natural/biodiversity resources, e.g. through digital tools and spatial planning;
- Expanded use of nature-based solutions providing environmental and resilience benefits as well as creation of new income opportunities for men and women;
- Enhanced capacities in partner countries to address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) and threats to maritime security;

And the following results under Sector 2:

- Higher levels of compliance with and implementation of international regulations, rules and standards, including tax good governance standards;
- Improved regional alignment on budget transparency and accountability, fiscal policies and public finance management (PFM) reforms, conducive to, amongst others, achieve regional climate objectives and enhanced digitalisation.

It will mainly contribute to SDG 14 “Life below water” of the 2030 Agenda and the following secondary SDGs: 1 - No poverty; 2 - Zero hunger; 5 - Gender equality; and 13 - Climate action. Main DAC marker is 15110 – Public Sector Policy and Administrative Management, and secondary markers are Education, Environmental Protection, and Research/scientific institutions. The proposed action is in line with the Team Europe Initiative (TEI) ‘Green-Blue alliance for the Pacific and Timor-Leste’, in particular under the ‘Ridge to Reef, Ocean to People’ pillar. The action will contribute to prioritising sustainable management of oceanic and coastal fisheries under the TEI.

¹ Commission Implementing Decision of 15.12.2021 – C(2021) 9251 final

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

1. Political and Financial Outlook

On the **political side**, the Pacific Region's importance for the European Union (EU) is growing despite the distance, particularly against the background of on-going geopolitical shifts in a globalised world. There is an increased recognition that the Indo-Pacific now represents the world's economic and strategic centre of gravity, a trend further accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, eleven of the thirteen small Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are UN members and, together with Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste, they represent nearly 7% of overall UN votes, so that a strong partnership with the PICs contributes to the promotion of multilateralism and a rules-based global order. As the new post-Cotonou 'Pacific Regional Protocol' will enter into force and following the adoption of the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific², it is important to demonstrate timely and adequate efforts towards their implementation. Moreover, the EU and the PICs, PNG and TLS share a common high level of ambition on the climate action agenda, rendering the PICs a natural ally in tackling climate and environment-related challenges, which are at the core of the European Green Deal.

As regards the **economic situation**, the COVID-19 pandemic has triggered a severe economic contraction in the region, coming on top of the high vulnerability to external shocks caused by climate change-related natural hazards. Government revenues have decreased due to the drop in tourism and the initial decline in economic activity worldwide, health care costs related to the pandemic have increased and will remain high, and closed borders have not only economically but also socially affected these already vulnerable societies. In addition, severe infrastructure deficits exacerbate the constraints imposed by distance and dispersion. Most of the PICs have rolled out economic stimulus packages to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. This has widened their fiscal deficits and augmented the need for policies to ensure that fiscal buffers are increased to safeguard debt sustainability. Being mainly dependent on primary production on land and at sea, to facilitate a sustainable economic recovery and diversification and allow for the creation of employment opportunities and for increasing domestic revenue mobilisation, PICs, PNG and TLS will need to enhance administrative capacities in steering public policies. This will also require a consistent approach and better integration at regional level. The sovereign island States of the Pacific Region are indeed diverse, separated by vast expanses of ocean, and each has its own political, economic, and geo-political realities. However, all of them are prone to frequent natural disasters and the impact of climate change. Their economies, as well as their populations' well-being are highly dependent on renewable natural resources – some of them being shared, in particular the marine biological ones – and on terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems – that are sometimes common as the oceanic ones or that present strong interlinkages.

The conservation and exploitation of these resources and ecosystems require strong capacities and capabilities to steer public policies and actions toward climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as when looking for solutions to the challenges posed by climate change and its social and economic impacts.

In this context, the intervention translates priorities of the Regional MIP for Asia and the Pacific 2021-2027, addressing in particular its priority area 1 on regional integration and cooperation, more particularly on Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability.

Regarding **domestic politics** in Pacific Countries, over the past few years, a spate of **National Ocean Policies** (NOP) has been launched across the region and these have been mapped and analysed to inform the co-design of this action. The NOPs all demonstrate some influence of the **2010 Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape** with the objective to apply integrated ocean management at all scales that ensure the sustainable development, management and conservation of coastal and ocean resources. These policies include:

- Cook Islands' Marae Moana Policy, 2016
- Vanuatu's National Ocean Policy, 2016
- Solomon Islands National Ocean Policy, 2018
- Samoa Ocean Strategy, 2020
- National Oceans Policy of Papua New Guinea, 2020

² [Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council: the EU Strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, 16 September 2021](#)

- Niue's Moana Mahu regulation, 2020
- Fiji's National Ocean Policy, 2020

These policy commitments indicate that the region is moving towards a more integrated ocean management framework inspired by regional policies. This action will interact with the mentioned policy commitments through consultations at country and international level.

Therefore, regarding **political impact, the action** appears clearly aligned with the vision of the **Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape**³ (FPO): A secure future for Pacific Island Countries and Territories based on sustainable development, management and conservation of our Ocean.

Operationalising the implementation plan of the **UN Ocean Decade**⁴ will also support the development of a **2050 Blue Pacific Strategy**⁵ under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism⁶ and the SPC Strategic Plan 2022-2031⁷.

In addition, the EU, the PICs, PNG and TLS play a prominent role in the international climate change debate and ocean management. This action will consequently contribute to enhancing ongoing political collaboration to advance international ocean policy and showcasing the EU's and the Pacific's leadership in this area.

2. Rationale and assessment

This action builds on the EU-Pacific shared high level of ambition for a transition to a resilient, modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy and shared vision of climate emergency. The EU, the PICs, PNG and TLS recognise the importance of sustainably managing natural resources and preserving and protecting biodiversity, but also the role of oceans in climate change mitigation and the need to enhance ocean governance. All of them are committed to scaling up investments in building resilience and enhancing adaptation.

This action is aligned with Sector 1 "Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability" of the Pacific Chapter (2.1.4) of the **Regional MIP Asia-Pacific** – Priority 1, in particular by addressing the Pacific region's specific challenges and supporting shared ambitions for a low carbon and resilient global economy by 2050; priority area "Ocean governance" of the **EU strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific**⁸ (2021); and the **Joint Communication on International Ocean Governance: an agenda for the future our oceans**⁹ (2016, under revision). It will also contribute to SDG 14 "Life below water" of the **2030 Agenda**. The action is furthermore in line with the **post-Cotonou Pacific Protocol**¹⁰ and will bring the transformative power of the **European Green Deal** to the Pacific.

This action will contribute to maintain high visibility to the EU, as it has been under similar programmes financed from the 11th EDF, considering that the EU remains a key partner in the broad field of natural resources management, specifically on integrated ocean management. It will also partner and coordinate with other key programmes and efforts at the regional level, complementing in particular, the work done under the ongoing Pacific-EU Marine Partnership Programme (PEUMP). PEUMP involves active stakeholders in the region in the sector targeted, such as the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), SPC and the University of the South Pacific (USP).

A possible extension of the scope of the action to the three Pacific (OCTs) would enlarge the list of stakeholders. This future extension considers that PICs, PNG, TLS and OCTs should follow a consistent approach when

³ Pratt, C. and H. Govan. 2010. Our Sea of Islands, Our Livelihoods, Our Oceania. Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape: a catalyst for implementation of ocean policy. SPREP, Apia, Samoa.

⁴ 337567-Ocean Decade Implementation Plan - Full Document

⁵ <https://www.forumsec.org/2050strategy/>

⁶ Framework for Pacific Regionalism, Pacific Islands Forum Leaders, July 2014.

⁷ SPC Strategic Plan 2022-2031

⁸ [jointcommunication_indo_pacific_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁹ JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans. JOIN/2016/049 final

¹⁰ PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN [THE EUROPEAN UNION / THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES], OF THE ONE PART, AND MEMBERS OF THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES, OF THE OTHER PART; April 2021

developing a vision for Integrated Ocean Management. They might have to manage in common some marine biological resources and some human activities in marine ecosystem, more particularly over the oceanic province. If needs for support to be provided to Pacific OCTs appear in the course of the implementation of the action, SPC, thanks to its Member States composition and to its mandate, will constitute a good vehicle to look for complementary contributions.

2.2 Problem Analysis

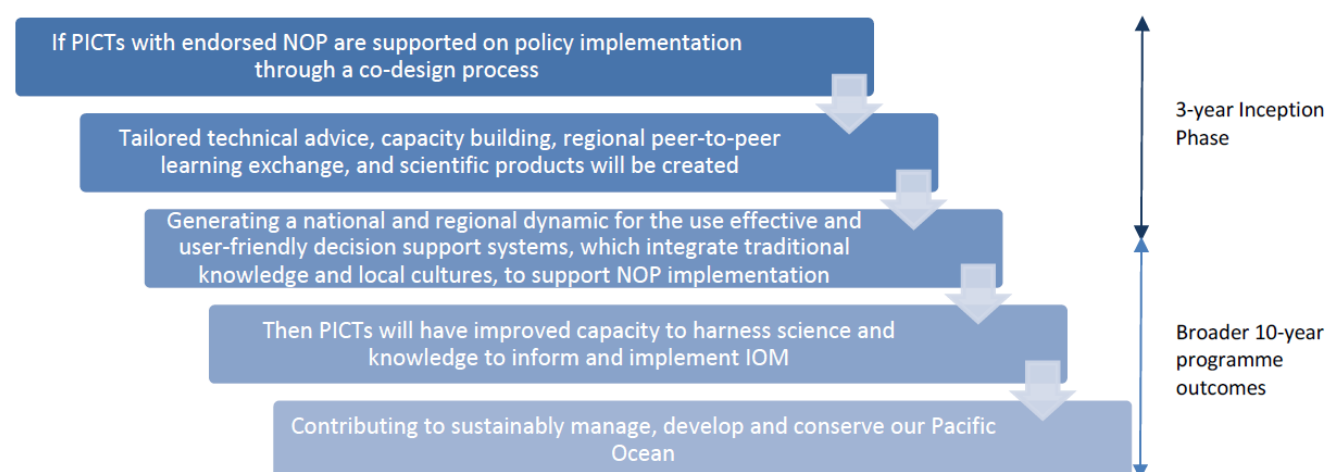
PICs are increasingly recognising the need for a comprehensive perspective on the management of the marine environment and are turning to the development of National Ocean Policies (NOPs) to address these challenges. Integrated ocean management (IOM) is a “holistic, ecosystem-based and knowledge-based approach to planning and managing the use of ocean space, with the goal of balancing various uses and needs to achieve a sustainable ocean economy along with healthy ecosystem”¹¹. It aims to support a sustainable ocean economy that uses ocean resources in ways that preserve the health and resilience of marine ecosystems and improve livelihoods and jobs, balancing protection and production to achieve prosperity. IOM is the preferred approach chosen by Pacific stakeholders to address the critical ocean governance issues identified and help progress on shared ocean priorities.

The action intends to increase scientific capacity and create opportunities for ocean science to feed into decision making and bridge the gap between science and policy. This will be achieved by focusing on three major aspects including law and policy, inclusive decision support systems, and increased considerations for Pacific culture and context and gender and human rights responsive approaches. As men and women paly important but often different productive, economic, and social roles with unequal tenure and sometimes legal rights and using resources differently.

The former will require effective regional collaboration as challenges and aspirations are best met collectively. Similar economic activities often occur in several jurisdictions and can be widespread and transboundary.

The impacts of climate change, which is the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security, and wellbeing of the people of the Pacific and the future of the ocean, also depend on the ability to address this issue properly and collectively.

This action, which will be considered as a three-year inception phase, will establish the ways of working and approaches for the broader ten-year programme by working in countries with a NOP in place and start supporting the countries without NOP in developing one, and include new activities designed after additional consultations and a regional dialogue. The action will contribute to build further the decision support systems and will focus on improving the capacities of PICs, PNG and TLS to harness science to inform and implement IOM while continuing the strong regional dynamic and peer-to-peer exchanges on IOM generated by the inception phase as follows:



¹¹ Winther et al (2020), <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-020-1259-6>

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

One of the lessons learnt from PEUMP has been recognising traditional rights and identifying the role of multiple stakeholders in the focal area to ensure that the initiative is widely understood and supported. This action will involve a wide range of stakeholders, from government, business and civil society including women's organisations and across sectors of ocean industry, many of whom are already partners in EU funded programmes in the Pacific.

SPC, the coordination partner of PEUMP and other similar programmes under 11th EDF, will be the envisaged implementing partner of this intervention.

SPC is a robust regional organisation capable of increasing the coverage of the project to Pacific Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) if such opportunity arises. SPC will implement the intervention through the Pacific Community Center for Ocean Science (PCCOS), which will lead the action on a daily basis. PCCOS aims to help Pacific Island governments and communities easily access the ocean science and expertise they need to make informed decisions and to protect and sustainably manage ocean resources. Whilst accurate ocean science, data, and information are critical tools, SPC recognises that actors on the ground in its member countries need advice and services tailored to their needs. PCCOS delivers integrated scientific services supporting Ocean Management, Ocean Governance, and Ocean Observations facilitating, coordinating and transforming ocean science into services for SPC members.

The action will endeavour to create synergies with UN agencies, FAO, UNDP, UNEP and IOC-UNESCO in particular, and other international organisations such as SPREP, FFA, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (already collaborating under PEUMP) or the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) also to ensure cohesion with regional policies promoting ocean governance.

As each country has a different NOP network, the list of relevant ministries and national stakeholders will be defined according to each national context. Depending on the activities to be carried out in each country, experienced sector-specific Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) including women's organisations and local authorities will be included in the design, implementation and associated monitoring process of the action when relevant.

In addition, CSOs have existing networks and coalitions to build communities of practice, and to test and refine home-grown Pacific approaches to prevention and convene regional forums for dialogue and learning.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to strengthen ocean governance in 13 Pacific Island Countries (PICs), Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Timor Leste (TLS). Beneficiary countries will have improved capacity to harness science and knowledge to inform and implement integrated ocean management across the Blue Pacific.

The Specific Objectives (Outcomes) of this action are:

1. On law and policy: Beneficiary countries will have implemented robust legal instruments and policy frameworks on integrated ocean management to support shared stewardship both within and beyond national jurisdictions.
2. On decision support systems: Beneficiary countries will have improved inclusive decision support systems and are using them to manage the Blue Pacific facilitated by the best scientific information and technology.
3. On Pacific context and culture: National stakeholders have a broader understanding of the benefits of traditional knowledge and culture's incorporation into modern ocean management practices.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are

- 1.1. contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1):

2. National co-design and coordination workshops held on science, policy, and regulatory environments for IOM;
 3. More NOPs are implemented across the Pacific;
 4. Shared learning space for countries on NOP implementation and marine Biodiversity in areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) regulation created
- 2.1 contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2):
1. More people and stakeholders are aware of the role of ocean science and ocean monitoring for sustainable development;
 2. Improved ocean information is generated;
 3. Ocean information is available to a wide range of users and integrated management tools are available;
 4. Increased knowledge (including disaggregated data), and skills to develop and use decision support systems to respond to PICs', PNG's and TLS' evolving needs.
- 3.1 contributing to Outcome 3 (or Specific Objective 3):
1. Traditional knowledge and culture from targeted PICs, PNG and TLS integrated into sustainable ocean management approaches and practices (gender and human rights sensitive).

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1:

1.1.1 Conduct a baseline analysis of policy and regulatory environments that establishes mechanisms for IOM and lays out how government ministries should coordinate with other stakeholders to achieve effective integration of ocean related activities. Besides, hold co-design and coordination workshops to assist countries with the coordination of multiple complementary initiatives on IOM which requires the involvement of country stakeholders and projects representative to identify gaps and possible synergies.

1.1.2 Provide direct support to relevant authorities in implementing their NOP. This will take various forms, from funding support to specific activities, to technical advice, to scientific and communication products development such as a Communications and Visibility Strategy (focused on raising visibility of the project and ocean science overall through leaflets, infographics, video stories, blogs, events, etc.) or Awareness raising and information sessions. Communications products will be co-designed by National Authorities and SPC/PCCOS based on each country's needs.

1.1.3 Facilitate one regional workshop to develop a regional mechanism and share experiences and learning for IOM implementation. With the Pacific Region's push in creating NOPs there is an opportunity to link national efforts to a broader regional and international agenda like the instrument on BBNJ. (Participation of women will be ensured).

Activities related to Output 2.1

2.1.1. Promote the role of ocean science for sustainable development across diverse stakeholder groups including through formal and information education and an expansion of ocean literacy approaches. This will be led by the project team in collaboration with the PCCOS communication team, and consultants. Besides, identify and collaborate with "science for science" projects which did not initially include ocean management as an output. Identification will be done through regional academic networks. Indicative channels are: 1) Online or in-person talanoa sessions; 2) Q&A sessions with scientists; 3) Online social media campaigns; 4) Online or in-person ocean literacy or introductory course tailored to audience and offered via SPC's Ocean Teacher Global Academy (OTGA) Regional Training Centre (RTC). Audiences are: 1) Community and/or customary leaders; 2) Meteorological or maritime governmental services; 3) Users of ocean science and services including private sector tourism, commercial fisheries, non-profit or community conservation organisations etc.; 4) Government decision-makers (relevant contacts in Cabinet, Ministries etc.); 5) Tertiary school students and junior professionals. Products are: Online events, brochure and documents in local languages, online portals and dashboards, campaigns promoting regional ocean leaders and early career ocean professionals, introductory training materials including online Pacific ocean literacy and ocean governance courses.

2.1.2 Implement ocean ecosystems models at higher resolution than are currently available from programmes such as Copernicus Marine Services (CMEMS).

2.1.3 Develop an interoperable, open access platform to share data either generated from models from output 2.1.2. or from other providers. Besides, strengthen regional coordination for wave data access and distribution through the creation of a regional data interface for wave buoy data.

2.1.4 Organise and provide training on decision support systems and data management to respond to the evolving needs of stakeholders. Develop and build on capacity building efforts for ocean professionals in the region beginning with a network of a Pacific Early Career Ocean Professionals (PECOP) with a special attention to women.

Activities related to Output 3.1:

3.1.1 Document traditional practices and equivalent modern science practices, linking youth with traditional practitioners and ocean users. Besides, integrate Pacific traditional knowledge and science into sustainable ocean management approaches and practices (gender and human rights sensitive). Finally, develop communications products on IOM that are culturally sensitive and efficient. Mapping, documentation, integration and dissemination will be done in alignment with the Pacific Regional Framework for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture¹² (its part 4 on prior and informed consent from traditional owners); SPC/PCCOS will closely work with Cultural Authorities (e.g., Culture Ministry or Department) in doing so. SPC/PCCOS will support local, provincial and/or national level consultations and cultural mapping with traditional governance structures and traditional knowledge owners. As traditional governance structures are often male-dominated, consultations with different groups, including women groups, church groups, and groups of people living with disabilities will be supported ensuring that their voices are included. Support will be provided from SPC's team in charge of overseeing the implementation of the Social and Environmental Responsibility Policy, including a Culture Advisor. Mappings of traditional knowledge and practices related to ocean governance or similar deliverables will be presented to the national authorities in charge of implementing NOPs.

The commitment of the EU's contribution to the Team Europe Initiative foreseen under this action plan will be complemented by other contributions from Team Europe partners. It is subject to the formal confirmation of each respective partner's meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the event that the TEIs and/or these contributions do not materialise, the EU action may continue outside a TEI framework.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

The action's activities mainly focus on capacity building, institutional building and decision support systems, addressing the Pacific region's specific challenges and supporting shared ambitions for a low carbon and resilient global economy by 2050. Some of the expected results include capacity increase to implement multilateral environmental agreements legislation and to ensure the sustainable management and restoration of marine ecosystems and sustainable use of marine resources and ecosystem services. Efforts will focus on increasing resilience to climate change impacts and include opportunities to maximise environmental benefits, for instance through the implementation of Marine Spatial Planning. In short, the action will contribute positively to biodiversity and climate adaptation targets

Outcomes of the SEA screening

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required.

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment).

¹² https://www.sprep.org/att/IRC/eCOPIES/Pacific_Region/102.pdf

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment).

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G0. This implies that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will be mainstreaming in the activities with the fifteen countries, by the implementing partners in cooperation with the respective governments officials, CSOs and other stakeholders.

In order to ensure greater empowerment of women in IOM in the target countries, the participation of the gender machinery and female officials in the above key government ministries, line agencies, as well as key bodies and other oversight institutions to benefit from the activities delivered by the proposed project will be ensured. The action will also ensure the participation of women as researchers, knowledge holders, producers and entrepreneurs in ocean science and blue economy.

Human Rights

In October 2021, the UN Human Rights Council recognized for the first time that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right – a landmark moves in the fight against the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss and pollution and waste. The Human Rights Based Approach and its five working principles (a) applying all human rights for all; b) meaningful and inclusive participation and access to decision making; c) non-discrimination and equality; d) accountability and rule of law for all; and e) transparency and access to information supported where possible by disaggregated data) will be promoted throughout the project's activities.

The action will ensure participation and non-discrimination by including direct support to countries in organising consultations on marine spatial planning with a variety of stakeholders. SPC/PCCOS will support local, provincial and/or national level consultations on ocean management with traditional governance structures. As traditional governance structures are often male-dominated, consultations with different groups, including women groups, church groups, and groups of people living with disabilities will be supported ensuring that their voices are included in the marine spatial planning work. To make sure the Pacific Solutions IOM Programme implements best practices in mainstreaming of crosscutting issues, the PCCOS team will receive technical advice and direct support in specific activities, such as gender and culture inclusion training for programme team and country counterparts, from SPC's team in charge of overseeing the implementation of the Social and Environmental Responsibility Policy. It includes dedicated staff with specialised profiles such as Gender Advisers, Culture Advisers and Human Rights Advisers. As the majority of Pacific Islanders in ACP countries are indigenous, this programme will be implemented by, with, and for indigenous people.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This does not imply that disabled people or organisation will be excluded, on the contrary, the work with different stakeholders will include people with disabilities, as will other activities (such as the organised workshops). The endeavour is to be inclusive.

Democracy

Democratic values will be promoted and protected throughout the project's activities.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

FSM, Kiribati, PNG, RMI, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Tuvalu are fragile countries. Also in other Pacific countries conflicts may arise and resilience may need to be (re-)built.

In different Pacific Islands, social conflicts and violence dynamics are more present (PNG, Solomon Islands, Fiji, etc.) as well as in post-conflict countries like Timor Leste. In these contexts, conflict sensitivity should be considered in all actions related to management of natural resources and ecosystems, with due regard to the rights of indigenous peoples such as FPIC (free, prior and informed consent) and the inclusion of more vulnerable sections of society such as women, people with disabilities, etc.

The issue of climate induced displacement and displaced communities, should be taken into account, in order for development initiatives to be opportunities to ease tensions among communities (e.g. displaced-host communities), pressure on natural resources, housing, creation of livelihoods, etc.

The issue of traditional knowledge might be conflict-sensitive if not approached in consultation with coastal communities, women, indigenous peoples, etc. This would also ensure greater social resilience and social cohesion.

The programme is all about resilience building, not only environmental but also economical, scientific, in terms of impacts on livelihoods.

Disaster Risk Reduction

The fifteen countries covered by this action are each prone, to different degrees, to natural disasters. There is a natural focus on building-back-better and other initiatives related to reducing the possibility of future disasters and the implementing partner is fully aware and have experience on this.

Other considerations if relevant

The fight against corruption and fraud will also be considered as a cross-cutting issue.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

| Category | Risks | Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low) | Impact (High/ Medium/ Low) | Mitigating measures |
|-----------------|---|---|---|--|
| 2.1 | 1. SPC/PCCOS' support is not aligned to country needs and cannot achieve its objectives | Low | High | The intervention was built from consultations and ongoing discussions with member countries. Many co-design workshops, dialogues and feedback sessions will be organised with country stakeholders. |
| 3.1 | 2. SPC staff and management systems are inadequate to support PCCOS activities | Low | High | Sufficient HR are budgeted in this intervention; coordination with other SPC divisions and services is included in this action's governance; ongoing discussion will be maintained with key SPC division Directors (FAME & GEM); support services will be included in programme reviews to address any issues. |
| 2.3 | 3. The intervention overspends or underspends significantly or has ineligible expenses | Medium | Medium | The intervention will maintain close monitoring of expenses with monthly internal reports and quarterly reviews involving finance where adjustments will be decided; independent audits will take place regularly; relationship and |

| | | | | |
|---|---|------|--------|---|
| | | | | communications with donors will be prioritised including divulgation of any financial issues. |
| 1 | 4. Restrictions due to COVID-19 remain in place and prevent travels and/or gathering, impacting in-country activities | High | Medium | Reliance on online work collaboration; in-person and online capacity building are included; support mechanism included to support in-country activities without travels; budget will be reallocated if needed from workshops and training to remote assistance or knowledge products. |
| | Local Communities are not adequately consulted, engaged and involved in decision making | Low | High | Ensure free, prior and informed consent on activities related to traditional knowledge Ensure women's participation Ensure consultative and decision making for a bottom up approach and to avoid creating further social conflict |

Lessons Learnt:

Lessons learnt from ongoing or previous programmes led by SPC (e.g. PEUMP, PROTEGE, GCCA+ SUPA and PACRES or RARAI, BSRP, SPC-EU DSM, etc.) are, among others: recognising traditional rights and identifying the role of multiple stakeholders in the focal area to ensure that the initiative is widely understood and supported; activities should be country-led and nationally owned, and demand-driven; inclusion of sub-regional representatives in the decision-making process is an added value to ensure the ownership of the projects and alignment with national and regional priorities.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that PICs, PNG and TLS will have improved capacity to harness science and knowledge to inform and implement integrated ocean management across the Blue Pacific. Scientific capacity increase and creation of opportunities for ocean science to feed into decision making and bridge the gap between science and policy will be achieved by focusing on three major aspects including law and policy, decision support systems, and increased considerations for Pacific culture and context as well as the participation of women.

Over the course of the intervention, five mechanisms will be set up to engage with all relevant stakeholders. First, coordination and co-design workshops will be organised in targeted countries, gathering end users, key national stakeholders, IOM partners, and academia to set the work programme. Second, a feedback mechanism for Ocean Affairs Offices (or similar relevant structure) will be created for direct interaction, build trust, and make sure all programme products are relevant, fit-for-purpose, and tailored to their needs. Third, the intervention's governance structure will include an IOM Technical Working Group involving all SPC divisions implementing IOM work in the region. Fourth, SPC/PCCOS will mobilise Pacific Early Career Ocean Professional (Pacific ECOPs) working in various sectors across the region to contribute to programme activities. Fifth, Quarterly Reviews will play a key role in the adaptive management of the programme and enactment of learning.

If the activities as mentioned above are undertaken and the assumption holds true, then the Outputs will be produced. Given that PICs, PNG and TLS remain committed and there are no political crises or other shocks that interrupt the activities with a focus on climate and gender, the implementation of the intervention will lead to build the foundations for sustainable and inclusive integrated ocean management in the Pacific.

If Outputs are delivered AND the assumptions at the level of Outputs hold true, THEN the Outcomes will be realised, BECAUSE being an intergovernmental member-based organisation and already addressing challenges relating to marine scientific knowledge and expertise, as well as to the management of marine ecosystems-based human activities, SPC is best placed to support the implementation of IOM across the region due to its privileged relationships, outstanding track record, reputation of excellence in science, and relevant experiences in policy, science, and culture in relation to ocean management.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

| Results | Results chain: | Indicators: | Baselines (values and years) | Targets (values and years) | Sources of data | Assumptions |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| Impact | To strengthen ocean governance in countries included in the scope of the action | Number of countries included in the scope of the action that have improved their ocean governance framework (adoption, ratification and implementation of key instruments)* | Ocean policies endorsed in PG, SI, WS, MH, FJ, CK, VU (2021) | 9 Countries progressing on IOM Implementation (2026) | 1 Desktop study, key informant interviews | <i>Not applicable</i> |
| Outcome 1 | 1. Countries included in the scope of the action have implemented robust legal instruments and policy frameworks to support shared stewardship both within and beyond national jurisdictions | 1.1 Evidence of countries included in the scope of the action progressing on the implementation of their NOP, including beyond national jurisdiction | 1.1 Ocean policies endorsed in PG, SI, WS, MH, FJ, CK, VU (2021) | 1.1 At least 5 countries progressing on NOP implementation. (2026) | 1.1 Desktop study, survey, and evidence co-design workshops | Political support is maintained |
| Outcome 2 | 2. Countries included in the scope of the action have improved decision support systems and are using them to manage the Blue Pacific facilitated by the best scientific information and technology | 2.1 Evidence of Ocean Offices using scientific information and technology developed /enhanced by PCCOS (ocean ecosystems models, open access platform, and regional data interface for wave buoy data) for decision making 2.2 Evidence of improved resilience against impacts of climate change 2.3 Evidence of better conservation and management of ocean biodiversity and resources. | 2.1 0 (2021) 2.2 0 (2021) 2.3 0 (2021) | 2.1 At least 5 countries (2026) 2.2 tbd (2026) 2.3 tbd (2026) | 2.1 Key informant interviews; case study on science to decision | Positive impacts not undermined by natural disasters |
| Outcome 3 | 3. National stakeholders have a broader understanding of the benefits of traditional knowledge (TK) and culture's incorporation into modern ocean management practices | 3.1 Evidence of Ocean Offices using TK and local cultures and gender sensitive approaches into modern ocean management practices 3.2 Evidence this TK contributes to higher resilience and/or sustainability of ocean management. | 3.1 TBD 3.2 TBD | 3.1 TBD (2026) 3.2 TBD (2026) | 3.1 Key informant interviews; case study on science to decision | Ocean offices recognise the links between TK and modern ocean management practices. |
| Output 1 related to Outcome 1 | 1.1 National co-design and coordination workshops held on science, policy, and regulatory environments for IOM; | 1.1.1 Number of co-design workshop held (% of women participating) | 1.1.1 0 (2021) 1.1.2 0 (2021) | 1.1.1 4 and % tbd (2026) | 1.1.1 Workshop report | Training is effectively |

| Results | Results chain: | Indicators: | Baselines (values and years) | Targets (values and years) | Sources of data | Assumptions |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| | | 1.1.2 Attendance (disaggregated by sex, by age, urban/rural location, disability status and stakeholder category) involved in co-design workshops | | 1.1.2 5 per workshop (2026) | 1.1.2 Attendance sheet | applied in the field |
| Output 3 related to Outcome 1 | 1.3 Shared learning space for countries on NOP implementation and BBNJ regulation created | 1.3.1 Number of regional convenings held on NOP implementation and/or BBNJ regulation 1.3.2 Perspectives of key stakeholders such as Ocean Office leads on the learning space | 1.3.1 0 (2021) 1.3.2 Peer-to-peer exchange on NOP implementation seen as a need for VU and PNG Ocean Office Leads (2021) | 1.3.1 1 (2026) 1.3.2 TBD (2026) | 1.3.1 Outcomes document 1.3.2 Meeting minutes; Key informant interviews | Ownership of regulations improves compliance |
| Output 1 related to Outcome 2 | 2.1 More people and stakeholders are aware of the role of ocean science and ocean monitoring for sustainable development | 2.1.1 Number of people reached through social media campaign and other communications activities, by type of activity and engagement (if possible, disaggregated by sex, by age, urban/rural location, disability status) | 2.1.1 0 (2021) | 2.1.1 10,000 people (2026) | 2.1.1 Attendance sheets; Social media statistics | Stakeholders are interested in the capacity building opportunities offered by the intervention |
| Outputs 2 and 3 related to Outcome 2 | 2.2 Improved ocean information is generated; 2.3 Ocean information is available to a wide range of users and integrated management tools are available | 2.2.1 Number of ocean science products developed (ecosystems models ocean ecosystems models, open access platform, and regional data interface for wave buoy data at higher resolution) 2.3.1 Perceived utility of the science products by key stakeholders from Ocean Offices | 2.2.1 Ocean Portal and the Pacific Data Hub are displaying information separately (2021) 2.3.1 TBD (2024) | 2.2.1 At least 4 (2026) 2.3.1 TBD (2026) | 2.2.1 New ocean models, platforms and interface available 2.3.1 Key informant interviews | The science process is not politicised. |
| Output 4 related to Outcome 2 | 2.4. Increased knowledge, and skills to develop and use decision support systems to respond to PICs', PNG's and TLS' evolving needs | 2.4.1 Proportion of people with increased knowledge and skills following a capacity building (CB) activity (by sex, age, country, and type of CB activity) | 2.4.1 0 (2021) | 2.4.1 70% | Pre and post tests | Collaborating organisations are committed and express |

| Results | Results chain: | Indicators: | Baselines (values and years) | Targets (values and years) | Sources of data | Assumptions |
|--|--|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | ownership of the whole programme |
| Output 1 related to Outcome 3 | 3.1. Traditional knowledge and culture from targeted PICs, PNG and TLS integrated into sustainable ocean management approaches and practices | <p>3.1.1 Number of TK practices identified and promoted for sustainable ocean management, in consultation with local communities</p> <p>3.1.2 Number of free, prior and informed consent processes carried out in the context of projects that may affect indigenous peoples' lands, territories or resources, with the participation of indigenous peoples' representative institutions</p> | <p>3.1.1 TBD</p> <p>3.1.2 TBD</p> | TBD based on studies | List of approaches and practice identified and promoted | Traditional stakeholders still willing to participate |

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 36 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures¹³.

4.3.1 Indirect Management with an international organisation

This action may be implemented in indirect management with the Pacific Community (SPC). This implementation entails all the objectives/results in section 3. The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria:

- its scientific and technical knowledge acquired in the Pacific,
- its guided technical assistance to Pacific Island governments, and
- its deep understanding of Pacific Island contexts and cultures.

For the last 75 years, SPC has been the principal regional scientific and technical organisation in the Pacific. Its vision is for a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy and productive lives. SPC provides technical assistance to Pacific Island governments which is guided by both technical expertise and a deep understanding of Pacific Island contexts and cultures. SPC's technical mandate covers more than 20 sectors, providing knowledge and innovation informed by its own statistics division in areas such as fisheries science, public health surveillance, geoscience and conservation of plant genetic resources for food security; climate change and disaster risk reduction; education; human rights and gender mainstreaming.

SPC is the principal scientific and technical organisation in the Pacific region and houses the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS) which was established through an endorsement of representatives from member states at the Pacific Community's 70th anniversary celebrations held in Noumea in July 2017.

Furthermore, in 2019, at the 11th Pacific Community Conference, members requested that SPC further develop the PCCOS as the regional hub for multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral, integrated, and innovative programming in ocean science, to support members in their custodianship of ocean resources. In their ministerial statement, Pacific Leaders encouraged the expansion of the PCCOS as a convenor of partnerships, knowledge exchange and action, and as a key initiative to strengthen the collaborative contribution of ocean science to sustainable development in the Pacific region. The statement also invites national, regional, and international

¹³ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

organisations from across the Pacific to coordinate with, and contribute to, the Pacific Data Hub, to create a publicly accessible, comprehensive resource map for Pacific knowledge products, statistics, and information.

PCCOS aims to help Pacific Island governments and communities easily access ocean science, data and information and the expertise they need to make informed decisions and to protect and sustainably manage ocean and marine resources. It provides a platform for coordination and integration of ocean science, knowledge, and information in the Pacific and for partnerships with international and regional stakeholders.

The Decade of Ocean Science offers a crucial opportunity for the Pacific Ocean science community, the policymakers, the private sector, and the civil society to aspire for real change. It will support and accelerate the implementation of the FPO. Operationalising the implementation plan of the Ocean Decade will also support the development of a 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

With regards to the Decade of Ocean Science, PCCOS leads the Pacific Regional Ocean Science Planning Group with representation from CROP partner organisation for the Decade of Ocean Science which reports to the CROP Marine Sector Working Group. PCCOS has also applied to UNESCO-IOC for endorsement to be the Collaborative Centre for the Ocean Decade in the Pacific.

SPC/PCCOS is therefore best placed to promote Integrated Ocean Management across the region and to implement this IOM programme. Its privileged access to SPC scientific capabilities across three SPC divisions (Geoscience, Energy and Maritime; and Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems; Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability divisions) as well as its existing relationship on IOM issues with SPC member countries and growing Pacific ECOP network illustrate PCCOS' capacity to lead and coordinate this work. PCCOS is working closely with the Pacific Data Hub (PDH) to build up the amount of data available to SPC members as well as developing knowledge platforms and decision-making products from this data. The PDH, led by SPC, is a central repository of data about the Pacific and from the Pacific. The platform serves as a gateway to the most comprehensive collection of data and information about the Pacific across key areas, including ocean data.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entity fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.3.2.

4.3.2 Changes from indirect to direct management mode due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

In exceptional circumstances, where the proposed implementing agency is not in a situation to implement the programme as foreseen, the implementation modality may change to direct management (grant). In direct management, specialised organisations can be employed to work with established organisations with oversight institutions and/or CSOs.

4.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.5 Indicative Budget

| Indicative Budget components | EU contribution (amount in EUR) | SPC contribution (amount in EUR) |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Implementation modalities | | |
| Indirect management with SPC. | 1,500,000 | |

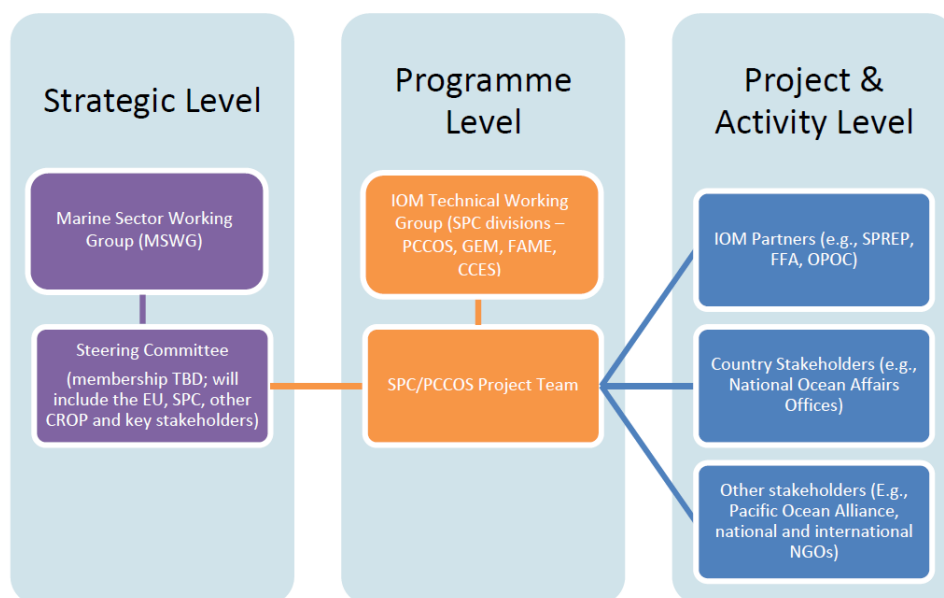
| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| cf. section 4.3.1 | | |
| Third party contribution from SPC | | 300,000 |
| Totals | 1,500,000 | 300,000 |

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

SPC is a member of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP). The Forum Leaders established the CROP in 1988 with the mandate to improve cooperation, coordination, and collaboration among the various intergovernmental regional organisations to work toward achieving the common goal of sustainable development in the Pacific region. CROP has established the Marine Sector Working Group (MSWG) to provide effective and coordinated advice and support to Pacific Island countries maritime and ocean issues that relate to sustainable development. All CROP agencies are members of the MSWG. A Pacific Ocean Science Planning Group has been set up based on the recommendations from the Pacific Community consultation workshop on the Ocean Decade that took place in Noumea in July 2019. This group is currently chaired by PCCOS, is governed by its terms of reference. In order to streamline efforts, the aim is to consolidate the Planning Group into the MSWG and set up an IOM task group under the MSWG.

PCCOS will create a small Project Team comprised of an Ocean Policy Adviser and Project Implementation Officer who will lead on implementing this initiative. The Project Team will also rely on SPC/PCCOS' expertise in ocean science, country engagement, MEL and communications and will mobilise PCCOS' network of collaborators within SPC and beyond, when relevant. A formal consultation mechanism to do so will be the IOM Technical Working Group joining SPC scientists across divisions and key guests to coordinate and leverage efforts for IOM.

As the scope of the proposed program is relevant to many stakeholders, including other CROPs (SPREP, FFA, OPOC) and the MSWG, one of the first proposed activities to be undertaken is to consult all potential implementing partners to establish a Steering Committee. These consultations will be coordinated by SPC/PCCOS with dedicated staff members from the Project Team. The Project Team will also work with the Pacific Ocean Alliance that is convened by the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner.



Young people and people living with disabilities will be mobilised in programme activities, especially through the Pacific Early Career Ocean Professional network.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix. Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex. All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach and gender equality

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

SPC/PCCOS will implement a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan using culturally appropriate participatory methodologies, putting people we work with at the centre of data collection and analysis. The logical framework will serve as the main guidance for M&E activities. One of the first activities under outcome 1 will be to conduct a baseline analysis of policy and regulatory environments that establishes mechanisms for IOM and lays out how government ministries should coordinate with other stakeholders to achieve effective integration of ocean related activities. This will be achieved with the work of a consultant, and it will feed the logical framework indicators baselines and targets. Indicators' values will be measures on a country-by-country basis and disaggregated by gender when possible.

The performance of the activities and their achievements will be monitored using a wide range of tools. The programme implementation will be strictly documented in an activity log, and key informant interviews as well as case studies will be created to document if and how national authorities are benefiting from the outputs from this programme. All in-person capacity building activities will use attendance sheets and workshop evaluations forms to capture the reach and effects of formal training and coaching activities. Follow-ups will be done regularly with National Ocean Affairs Offices (or equivalent structure) to ensure that they have the capacity to use the resources available to them, and to tailor SPC/PCCOS' outputs to match their needs.

Moreover, SPC/PCCOS will conduct Quarterly Reviews within the PCCOS team to review the Pacific Solutions IOM Programme performance.

This programme will be implemented in line with the SPC Planning, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning Policy requirements, will integrate the European Commission standards and reporting requirements, and consider any other internationally recognised guidelines and best practices, such as the ones from OECD-DAC.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a mid-term evaluation may be carried out for this action or its components via the implementing partner.

It will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to the intention to launch a second phase of the action, as part of the larger 10-year programme endorsed as a UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

All evaluation shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment. Expertise on human rights and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

It will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention¹⁴ (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

Primary Interventions are those contracts or groups of contracts bearing reportable results and respecting the following business rule: ‘a given contract can only contribute to one primary intervention and not more than one’. An individual contract that does not produce direct reportable results and cannot be logically grouped with other result reportable contracts is considered a ‘support entities’. The addition of all primary interventions and support entities is equivalent to the full development portfolio of the Institution.

The present action identifies as

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Action level | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Single action | Present action: all contracts in the present action |
| Group of actions level | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Group of actions | Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#): |
| Contract level | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Single Contract 1 | |
| | (...) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Group of contracts 1 | |

¹⁴ [Ares\(2021\)4450449](#) - For the purpose of consistency between terms in OPSYS, DG INTPA, DG NEAR and FPI have harmonised 5 key terms, including ‘action’ and ‘Intervention’ where an ‘action’ is the content (or part of the content) of a Commission Financing Decision and ‘Intervention’ is a coherent set of activities and results which constitutes an effective level for the operational follow-up by the EC of its operations on the ground. See more on the [concept of intervention](#).