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ANNEX I

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Pacific region for 2024, under the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Asia-Pacific region

Action Document for Regional Ocean Programme: Pacific European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme 2

ANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the annual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

<p>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</p>	<p>Regional Ocean Programme: Pacific European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme 2 OPSYS number: ACT-62290 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)</p>
<p>2. Team Europe Initiative</p>	<p>Yes This action will contribute to the TEI “Green-Blue Alliance for the Pacific and Timor-Leste.”</p>
<p>3. Zone benefiting from the action</p>	<p>The action shall be carried out in the “Pacific Region” which consists of 14 Pacific Island Countries (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu), as well as Timor-Leste.</p>
<p>4. Programming document</p>	<p>Regional Multi-Annual Indicative Programme Asia and the Pacific 2021-2027</p>
<p>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</p>	<p>The proposed action intends to contribute to Sectors 1, 2 and 3 of the Pacific chapter (2.1.4) of the Regional MIP Asia-Pacific - Priority 1.</p> <p><u>Sector 1: Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability</u></p> <p>SO 1 – Support Pacific partners in their sustainable responses to the impacts of global warming.</p> <p>ER 1.1: 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.</p> <p>ER 1.2: Increased capacity to deliver on international climate commitments and to implement multilateral environmental agreements legislation while ensuring just transition.</p> <p>SO 2 – Support Pacific partners in carrying out regionally integrated approaches to strengthen natural resources conservation, management and governance and the</p>

	<p>application of circular economy both on land and in the oceans, including through capacity building for maintaining a secure marine environment.</p> <p>ER 2.1: Increased capacity and readiness to ensure the conservation and sustainable management of marine living resources, and the protection and restoration of marine and terrestrial natural/biodiversity resources, e.g. through digital tools and spatial planning.</p> <p>ER 2.2: Expanded use of nature-based solutions providing environmental and resilience benefits as well as creation of new income opportunities for men and women.</p> <p>ER 2.4: Enhanced capacities in partner countries to address IUU and threats to maritime security.</p> <p>Sector 2: Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development</p> <p>SO 1 – Support a more diversified, equitable, sustainable and resilient economic growth, in particular by strengthening economic regional integration, based on addressing climate change impacts and principles of environmental sustainability.</p> <p>ER 1: Higher levels of compliance to and implementation of international regulations, rules and standards, including tax good governance standards.</p> <p>Sector 3 Human Development Sector</p> <p>SO 1 – Support regional institutions to ensure that protection of human rights is embedded at the highest level of the regional political dialogue, with a specific focus on gender equality and ending all forms of discrimination and violence against women and children taking into account the priorities defined in the revised Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration, but also aspects of freedom of association and the elimination of child labour.</p> <p>SO 2 – Support regional institutions and national and local authorities in the implementation of the climate change and security objectives under the Boe Declaration, including support for regional stability.</p> <p>ER 1: Strengthened regional institutions that can promote the universal values of human rights, democracy and rule of law for all, including the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and children.</p> <p>ER 2: Enhanced capacities in partner countries and regional institutions to address the climate change and security nexus, including conflict prevention and regional stability and security.</p>
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	<p>Priority Area 1: Regional Integration and Cooperation</p> <p>DAC Sector;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 410 General Environment Protection - 313 Fishing
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<p>Main SDG: 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</p> <p>Other significant SDGs: 5 – Gender Equality, 13 – Climate Action, 17 – Partnerships.</p>
8 a) DAC code(s)	<p>313 – Fishing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31310 Fishing policy and administrative management 20% • 31320 Fishery development 30% • 31381 Fishery education/training 20% <p>410 – General Environment Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41010 Environmental policy and administrative management 10%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41030 Biodiversity 10% • 41082 Environmental research 10% 			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	47 0000 – multilateral organizations			
9. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
	11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective
Digitalisation		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
digital connectivity		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/
digital governance		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
digital entrepreneurship		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
digital skills/literacy		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital connectivity	YES	NO	/

	energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/
	transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	education and research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): BGUE –B2024- 14.020132 C1 INTPA Total estimated cost: EUR 20 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 20 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through grants and indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.1 and 4.3.2			

1.2 Summary of the Action

The regional ocean programme will support actions that contribute to (1) sound ocean governance and related public policies, in the context of climate change and other global environmental challenges, such as biodiversity loss and pollution (2) to the enhanced scientific and technical capacities in oceanic fisheries, (3) to the sustainable, inclusive and community based development of the coastal blue economy, (4) to the resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems and (5) to improved skills and expertise in ocean related fields.

The action will aim to contribute to the sustainable, climate resilient, integrated and inclusive management of the Western and Central Pacific ocean, its marine resources and ecosystem services providing economic, social and environmental benefits to communities of Pacific Island Countries and Timor Leste.

The action will adopt an integrated and demand-driven approach to address the main challenges of the region, recognising the diversity of needs and opportunities across the PICs and Timor Leste, building on the lessons learned from previous regional ocean programme and coordinating with other technical and financial partners and complementing other EU programmes in the region.

The action will also aim to address the common priorities of the EU and those identified by Pacific Leaders and stakeholders of the region by aligning with the ‘EU-Pacific Green-Blue alliance’ which articulates the crosscutting priorities between the European Green Deal and the Pacific Leader’s ‘2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent’.

1.3 Zone benefitting from the Action

The action shall be carried out in in the Pacific region, which consists of 13 Pacific Island Countries (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu), as well as Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste out of which the Cook Islands, Palau, Niue and Nauru are not included in the list of ODA recipients.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The Western and Central Pacific Ocean covers 11% of the worlds’ ocean. The surface area covered by the economic exclusive zones (EEZ) of Pacific Island Countries (PICs) extends to over 30 million km² which is equivalent to the continent of South America while the land area constitutes only two percent of this “blue

continent”. The ocean is of critical importance to the region providing invaluable economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits for both the local and global community.

The unique geography of the Pacific Ocean creates common opportunities and challenges for PICs who are heavily reliant on the ocean, its resources and ecosystems, and who are particularly vulnerable to external environmental, climate and economic shocks. Pacific Island Countries are among the most severely impacted and vulnerable to climate change and biodiversity loss. Rising ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, sea-level rise, changing climate patterns that affect the strength, path and duration of cyclones threatens infrastructure, food security, ecosystems and the overall livelihood viability of communities in the region.

Economic disruptions such as those brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic have also had a significant impact and continue to affect many of the PICs. This is compounded by the fact that PICs face economic challenges due to their size, distance to major markets and dependence on limited natural resources, relying heavily on fishing activities for their livelihoods and national economies. Rising global commodity prices have put pressure on all countries in the region, especially with regard to the PICs’ heavy reliance on food and fuel imports, which explains the need to provide support to PICs on issues linked to food security particularly in relation to fisheries resources.

Despite the distance between Europe and the Pacific, the region’s geo-political importance for the EU has been growing, particularly against the backdrop of on-going geopolitical shifts in a globalised world. There is an increased recognition that the world’s economic and strategic centre of gravity is moving towards the Indo-Pacific.

On a political level, Europe and PICs share common interests and objectives. The EU and the Pacific have a shared commitment towards a zero carbon and resilient economy by 2050. Both regions have been very active in driving climate and environmental action, strengthening regional integration and sustainable economic development and adhering to multilateral commitments. This action is aligned with the objectives laid out by the EU’s Indo-Pacific Strategy as well as the Pacific Island Leaders in the “2050 Strategy Blue Pacific Continent” and its implementation plan. The 2050 Strategy calls for a precautionary and forward looking approach to protect the region’s biodiversity, its environment and resources. It furthermore calls for strengthening regional coordination and governance, undertaking scientific research, innovation and use of data to inform policies, supporting community level efforts to protect, conserve and sustainably manage the ocean.

The action is also fully aligned with the five strategic priorities defined in the Pacific Protocol of the Post-Cotonou “Samoa” Agreement, namely (i) environmental sustainability and climate change, (ii) inclusive and sustainable economic development, (iii) oceans, seas and fisheries, (iv) security, human rights, democracy and governance and (v) human and social development. The action aims to ensure the timely and adequate implementation of the Samoa Agreement, by stepping up its relations with PICs and Timor Leste on ocean matters and by overall, promoting a more political and strategic engagement with the region.

Under the priorities defined in the Regional MIP, the action will contribute to the pillars of priority area 1 – Regional Integration and Cooperation have components that of: (i) Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability, (ii) Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development and (iii) Fundamental Values, Human Development, Peace and Security.

At a global level, the action aims to progress towards the targets defined under SDG 14 “Life Below Water”. The action is furthermore in line with the EU’s agenda for International Ocean Governance set out in the Commission and EU’s High Representative 2022 joint communication. The EU’s agenda on ocean governance is an integral part of the EU’s implementation of the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and has an important role in delivering on the blue part of the European Green Deal and demonstrates the EU strong engagement for the ocean. This action will also support targets defined under SDG 13 on climate change along with SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 17 providing effective and targeted capacity-building in Pacific countries, in particular in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

To ensure the overall coordination and complementarity with other actions, this action will put in place various cross-sector and institutional coordination mechanisms including through targeted policy/political dialogues, a programme implementation unit and a steering committee. Furthermore, activities proposed under this action will aim to create synergies with other regional ocean programmes being implemented by technical and financial partners as well as with other EU programmes such as those being implemented at a global level and in OCTs (e.g. the BIOSCAPES programme, Horizon Europe, Erasmus +, future global ocean programmes and relevant Centers of Excellences). Under the Team Europe “Green-Blue Alliance for the Pacific and Timor-Leste” approach, the action will be implemented in close cooperation with the EU Member States development agencies present in the

region. Coordination efforts are underway with the ocean-related programmes being prepared by France through the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), by Germany through the German Development Agency (GIZ) and by Spain through the office of the Embassy of Spain in Fiji in the region.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

Climate change represents the single greatest threat to the long-term economic, social, cultural and political development of PICs and Timor Leste. In addition, the region also faces challenges related to marine pollution, biodiversity loss, the unsustainable use of marine resources along with natural and human induced hazards. Environmental and climate issues coupled with economic challenges make the Pacific region increasingly vulnerable and susceptible to external shocks. On a social level, the ocean has an important cultural significance and plays a crucial role in the livelihoods of communities with more than 60% of households located in coastal areas. The health of the Pacific Ocean is therefore crucial for the long-term development of the region.

On an institutional and political level, PICs have been instrumental in pushing for climate and ocean related action at the global, regional and national level. However, limited human and technical resources in national administrations and issues related to both retaining and developing expertise/capacities within key institutions are major obstacles for ensuring the effective implementation of international, regional and national policies.

Priority Area 1: Ocean Governance

At an **international level**, PICs have been taking leading role in advancing global ocean governance, as evidenced in the elaboration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular through advocating for, and securing SDG14; adopting and ratifying the Treaty on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction “BBNJ”; the Ocean-Climate Dialogue at UNFCCC and committing to the 30x30 target under the CBD. PICs play a significant role on the global stage with eleven of the 13 PICs are UN members and, together with Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste represent nearly 7% of overall UN votes. However, attending key meetings, negotiating, ratifying and aligning their legal and political frameworks as well as implementing these international commitments remain a challenge for many national administrations due to limited resources, capacities and appropriate regional models.

At a **regional level**, there is potential for strengthening existing governance structures and mechanisms. The Pacific Island Forum (PIF) provides the platform for inter-governmental coordination while at a technical level a partnership between regional organisations is structured through the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP). However, coherence in implementation, accountability and effective coordination between different actors operating in the Pacific are among the major gaps identified at a regional level. In fact, Pacific Leaders have committed to reviewing the regional architecture to deliver on the “2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent”. On ocean governance, there is a need to review and update the regional ocean policy “Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape” endorsed by PIF Leaders in 2010 and to revive the Marine Sector Working Group to enhance coordination at technical level between CROPs and other technical and financial partners. Furthermore, the newly established Office for the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC) and the corresponding mandate given to the Pacific Ocean Commissioner to coordinate on ocean matters by PIF Leaders, provides an opportunity to improve coherence and discuss concerns in ocean-related policies, promote coordination between stakeholders and ensure that the voice of the Pacific is represented on a global stage. However, OPOC is currently lacking the human resources to implement its mandate beyond coordinating on the implementation of the BBNJ Treaty. In relation to climate change, the region has been also strengthening its capacity on climate change through the development of a framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific.

At a **national level**, a major gap identified is the disconnect between policy and practical implementation. Several countries (7) in the Pacific have taken steps to establish National Ocean Policies (NOP) which are strategic, forward looking and system-wide policies on ocean management, bringing together all relevant ministries and sectors. However, obstacles remain in adopting fully integrated policies which reconcile various and often competing interests. In addition, some of these NOPs need updating and require practical and appropriate implementation and monitoring schemes. In Timor-Leste, an integrated and participatory system for ocean governance and guarantying national jurisdiction over their oceans are among the key priorities of the recently adopted National Ocean Policy.

Another specific gap identified is in the delimitation of maritime boundaries between countries of the Pacific. Despite good progress in recent years, 12 shared boundaries out of 48 still need to be negotiated and five PICs have yet to declare high seas boundaries. Establishing baselines, maritime boundaries and extended continental shelves is particularly pertinent in relation to the extension of sovereignty, preserving maritime zones and for establishing marine spatial plans in the face of climate change related sea level rise.

To strengthen ocean governance at international, regional and national level as mentioned above, scientific and technical capacities need to be reinforced. One of the gaps identified includes the need to consider more ecosystem-based and integrated governance systems that incorporate both scientific and customary approaches. In addition, information and data management systems are often fragmented between programmes and sectors. Relevant data and evidence-based tools for decision making need to be structured and made more accessible. Data management frameworks that provide opportunities for evidence-based decision-making needs to be promoted in view of bridging the gap between science, policy and implementation.

Priority area 2: Oceanic Fisheries

Dominated by large-scale industrial tuna fishing, oceanic fish stocks are a shared resource requiring a regional approach. The critical socio-economic importance of tuna fisheries to PICs is demonstrated by the fact that access fees can contribute over 70% of total government revenue. Consistent with the Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries, PICs have had some successes in developing tuna fishing and processing capacity, with over 50% of the catch value from within their EEZs now caught by PIC-flagged vessels and increasing levels of catch being processed or handled onshore. Despite this, addressing the limited capacity to implement, comply and enforce national, regional and international legislation, while further maximizing social and economic benefits with increased efforts to boost decent employment in and from the fisheries sector, remain key challenges. Human elements such as the highly gender segregated tuna processing workforce, working conditions on- and offshore and the neglected importance of spill-off business opportunities from small-scale tuna need to be considered to progress gender equality and human rights commitments. Other challenges for PICs include meeting market access requirements and facilitating investment to domesticate fisheries value chains.

While the four commonly exploited tuna stocks are regarded as healthy according to the latest assessments made under the Western and Central Pacific Ocean Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), the impacts of climate change projected to affect stock abundance and lead to stocks moving eastward out of EEZs and into the high seas are of significant concern for PICs. The human-related impacts on ecosystems and marine biological resources including pollution, by-catch of endangered species and fishing aggregating devices (FADs) are also considered to be among the main issues to be addressed in this sector. Improved timely monitoring and evaluation of stocks, ecosystems and fisheries is critical to understanding and mitigating these issues.

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing poses a major threat to the Pacific tuna stocks. Using data from 2017- 2019, it estimates that around USD 330 million worth of tuna was taken through IUU fishing activities in the Pacific. Effective enforcement systems to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing need to be strengthened. While regional systems are rather comprehensive, and provide for an important support to participating countries, the role and responsibility of the countries are crucial to addressing IUU activities. PICs need to reinforce Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) and traceability systems. Another specific challenge identified is the control of transshipments in ports.

Priority area 3: Coastal Fisheries

Coastal fisheries are equally fundamental in providing much of the region's nutrition and contributing to welfare and wellbeing, culture, employment, and recreation across diverse coastal habitats. Coastal fisheries also supply most non-imported fish, offering a diverse harvest range of finfish, invertebrates, and algae. Inshore fisheries provide the primary or secondary source of income for up to 50% of households in the Pacific region. Rights to these fisheries are often held, at least informally, by coastal communities. Improving community-based management is the key to long-term sustainability of ecosystems and marine resources but anthropogenic pressures on coastal fisheries, are increasing. Inadequate planning and over-harvesting of keystone species have resulted in disturbances of trophic relationships and a decline in the health of habitats such as coral reef ecosystems. Ocean acidification, warming and sea level increase, induced by climate change, are further degrading habitats and measures are needed to build resilience. The scaling-up of community-based fisheries management (CBFM) has been recognised by the region as a high priority insofar as it fosters inclusive and equitable decision-making to (1)

reduce negative impacts on food security; (2) reduce poverty risks; (3) mitigate gender inequality; and (4) strengthen community ownership for management.,

Science-based tools and data are needed to support the sustainable development of the blue economy in coastal areas. Products harvested for cash income and export, notably sea cucumbers, have been severely depleted in much of the region, and effective monitoring and compliance programmes are needed to support community and government oversight and to promote their recovery. Over-exploitation of coastal resources coupled with climate change threatens coastal communities' livelihoods, food security and overall resilience. Key challenges include inadequate information about the status and resilience of several hundred fished invertebrate and teleost species, and limited capacity (human, financial, administrative, infrastructure, etc.) of PICs to ensure the sustainable management of their coastal fisheries. Effective engagement of communities and civil society, women and youth in particular, in the development of their blue economy and decision-making are important cross-cutting issues.

Priority area 4: Marine Ecosystems

Home to more than 75% of all known coral species, 50 percent of the world's coral reefs, 3,000 fish species and the greatest extent of mangrove forests among all regions in the world, the Western and Central Pacific Ocean plays an important role in providing ecosystem services namely climate regulation, livelihoods, cultural practices and food security. Competing interests and insufficient planning at the community and national level are threatening both the resilience and the conservation of marine ecosystems. Marine spatial planning (MSP) while not yet widely applied in the region, has proved to be a useful tool for promoting sustainable management of resources, preventing conflicts and informing public policies. MSP has also been identified as an important tool for communities and governments to collaborate and to reconcile various economic, ecological and social interests.

The potential impact of coastal fisheries and climate change on marine ecosystems and biodiversity including endangered species is significant but requires further quantification and planning through ecosystem-based approaches. Promoting holistic, integrated and science-based approaches requires targeted interventions, coordination between stakeholders and improved management (including data management) of coastal fisheries and the coastal environment.

Priority area 5: Education, Training and Capacity Building

The shortage of sufficiently skilled and experienced staff in national administrations threatens the effective implementation of robust and integrated ocean policies. Current ad hoc training courses provided in the region (although of high quality) are often not accredited or incorporated into internationally recognised qualifications and career pathways. In addition, improving capacities and expertise in the ocean-related fields includes developing targeted Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) courses for fisheries professionals and expanding existing courses to a wider number of issues including for instance labour standards on fishing vessels and processing plants, on the development of sustainable fisheries value chains, on gaining market access and the role of competent authorities as well as on accounting and finance. At the tertiary level, courses and research in ocean-related fields can be enhanced particularly on the ocean-climate science nexus, in geospatial sensing and data analytics for instance. A holistic approach to education and capacity building in the region needs to cater to communities, small businesses, and national needs providing tangible benefits, particularly for vulnerable groups including women and communities in remote areas.

The main stakeholders covered by this action include local coastal communities involved in community based management of coastal resources. At a national level, the stakeholders include the policy makers in national administrations and the private sector involved in the blue economy including oceanic and coastal fisheries. At a regional level, the main stakeholders include the CROP organisations with their specified expertise and mandates and other regional platforms supporting regional integration.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective** of this action is to advance the environmental, climate-resilient, economic and social development of Pacific communities while ensuring the sustainability of the marine resources and ecosystems.

The **Specific(s) Objective(s) (SO)** of this action are to:

1. SO1: Strengthen ocean governance at a national and regional level
2. SO2: Enhance the sustainable development of oceanic fisheries
3. SO3: Strengthen the community-based, gender inclusive, sustainable and climate-resilient management of the coastal blue economy
4. SO4: Enhance marine and coastal ecosystem resilience in the context of climate change
5. SO5: Increase the regional and national availability of skilled professionals in ocean, climate adaptation and biodiversity related fields

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

1.1. National legal and policy ocean frameworks are aligned with regional strategies and international ocean-related commitments

1.2 National legal and policy frameworks are updated and capacity of policy makers improved

1.3 Science-based tools and scientific advisory frameworks for decision-making are improved at national and regional level

2.1. Technical and scientific advice to the WCPFC and its PIC members on sustainable tuna management is enhanced

2.2. Sustainable development of the fisheries value chain is improved and the role and technical expertise of competent authorities on market access requirements strengthened

2.3. Monitoring, compliance and surveillance measures for reducing IUU (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated) fishing activities improved

3.1 Capacities and tools for the climate resilient, inclusive and sustainable community management of coastal blue economy are improved

4.1 Strategies for monitoring and protecting endangered species, bycatch and coastal habitats are developed

4.2 Strategies to integrate climate change adaptation and resilience in public ocean policies are developed and supported by ocean science and research

5.1 The offer of targeted and inclusive technical and vocational education and training (TVET) courses in ocean, environment and climate-related fields is improved,

5.2 The offer and delivery of accredited courses in ocean, climate and biodiversity-related fields at tertiary level is enhanced.

Under the TEI approach, activities undertaken by AFD through their “Initiative Océan” programme on coastal fisheries are expected to contribute to reaching the specific objective (SO3): on *supporting the inclusive, sustainable and community-based management of the coastal blue economy*.

Activities undertaken by the German Development GIZ through their expected IKI¹ funded programmes on (1) Plastic Marine Litter and the activities linked to supporting Fiji, Tonga, RMI and Samoa in the implementation of the Global Plastic Treaty would contribute to specific objective (SO1) on strengthening ocean governance. The expected BMZ² funded programme on (2) Blue Economy in Fiji, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu would contribute to reaching the objective (SO3): Supporting the inclusive, sustainable and community-based management of the coastal blue economy.

Support granted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain via regular annual voluntary contributions to the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner of the Pacific Islands Forum in support of the consolidation of ocean governance at regional level.

¹ Die Internationale Klimaschutzinitiative (IKI) (international-climate-initiative) which is being implemented and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action in close cooperation with the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection and the German Foreign Office.

² German Ministry of Cooperation and Development

3.2 Indicative Activities

Output 1 – **Ocean Governance**

Activities relating to Output 1.1 on ocean governance include:

- Providing technical and legal support to national administrations through trainings and targeted workshops on the negotiation, ratification and implementation procedure of international ocean-related agreements (e.g. the Treaty on Plastic currently being negotiated) and areas such as marine plastic pollution, deep-sea mining, marine biodiversity loss and establishing maritime boundaries.
- Organising EU- Pacific Policy Dialogues at a bilateral, sub-regional or regional level to identify emerging needs as well as dialogues between national administrations to support exchanges and learning between national administrations.
- Supporting the review of the regional ocean framework

Activities relating to Output 1.2

- Providing on demand legal and technical support to develop and revise National Ocean Policies (e.g. Fisheries management plans, Marine Spatial Plans, Coastal Plans) including by facilitating professional trainings and secondments
- Facilitating the development of science-based tools and data management structures for ocean monitoring, integrated ocean management and decision-making (e.g. on sea-level rise, ocean acidification, climate change impacts on resources, projection models)

Output 2 – **Oceanic Fisheries**

Activities relating to Output 2.1 on technical and scientific advice include:

- Conducting research related to sustainable tuna fisheries management including stock assessments, understanding climate change implications, developing ecosystem models and indicators in the context of the WCPFC
- Providing high quality scientific advice to the WCPFC and its PICs members
- Providing technical advice to PICs on complying with WCPFC conservation and management measures (CMM).

Activities relating to Output 2.2 on Fisheries value chain and market access include:

- Providing targeted advice on the sustainable development and upgrading of fisheries value chains
- Organising trainings and providing technical/legal guidance to competent authorities in reaching or maintaining sanitary and market access requirements for both tuna and non-tuna species.

Activities relating to Output 2.3 fighting IUU and MCS include:

- Building capacity for effective implementation and compliance with national and WCPFC rules;
- Supporting the development of technical, political and legal frameworks for MCS of IUU activities (e.g. on catch documentation procedures, electronic monitoring (EM) and electronic reporting (ER))

Activities under this output will also include facilitating capacity development through attachments in regional organisations and peer-to-peer secondments between national administrations.

Output 3 – **Coastal Blue Economy**

Activities relating to Output 3 on CBM of coastal fisheries include:

- Provide the science base for the conservation and sustainable management of coastal fisheries resources
- Supporting the development of data collection, digital and policy tools for climate resilient community-based management of the blue economy namely coastal fisheries
- Facilitating capacity development through professional attachments in regional organisations technical units and peer-to-peer secondments between national administrations

Output 4 – **Marine and Coastal Ecosystems**

Activities relating to Output 4.1 on Monitoring and protection of endangered marine species

- Conduct by-catch assessments in coastal and oceanic fisheries
- Support the development of national and community plans for monitoring and protection of endangered marine species

Activities relating to Output 4.2 on climate change adaptation include

- Support the development of marine spatial plans taking into account climate induced changes to marine ecosystems
- Provide targeted trainings on data analysis and mapping of climate change impacts on marine environments to develop national adaptation plans

Output 5 - **Education and Training**

Activities relating to Output 5.1 on TVET courses include

- Developing and delivering targeted professional trainings, courses and/or qualifications including on the ocean-climate change nexus, biodiversity, environment and gender issues, labour standards, inspections, business, competent authorities, food safety, food processing

Activities relating to Output 5.1 to higher –education courses include

- Developing and delivering accredited courses in ocean –related fields including in fisheries management, production, processing and marketing, and in hard and socio/ economic sciences, .

The commitment of the EU’s contribution to the Team Europe Initiative to which this action refers, will be complemented by other contributions from Team Europe members. It is subject to the formal confirmation of each respective member’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

Outcomes of the SEA screening (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions)

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

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

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

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

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 the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that gender equality and social inclusion is an important and deliberate objective but not the principal reason for undertaking the programme. Gender equality and women empowerment in relation to resource management and ocean governance will be assessed and integrated into activities. Gender balance will be promoted as part of the selection criteria for trainings. In addition, gender equality will be considered as a cross-cutting theme when engaging in policy dialogues and providing technical assistance. Collection of sex-disaggregated data will be part of the project’s monitoring system.

Human Rights

The Programme will apply the principles of a Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) in its implementation of activities. The aim is to mainstream the HRBA by enhancing accountability, participation, transparency and non-discrimination in management and governance mechanisms at a regional, national and community levels. Strengthening engagement and empowering indigenous/local communities, through community –based

management of marine resources is identified as one of the prerequisites for improving the sustainable and long-term impact of this action. This action furthermore intends to give due consideration for traditional knowledge and equitable benefit sharing in the implementation of its activities.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that no specific activity will be undertaken in this regard.

Reduction of inequalities

This action is labelled as I0. The Action will not undertake any direct activity in this regard.

Democracy

The Action will not undertake any direct activity in this regard.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

This action addresses issues that are prone to conflict including the access, use and management of marine resources by considering existing customary and community-based management mechanisms and strengthening governance through integrated and comprehensive public policies and marine spatial planning for instance. Conflict resolution which considers multi-sectorial activities and varying interests will be integrated and promoted through engagement with all stakeholders including particularly vulnerable groups. The action will aim to enhance resilience of communities by focusing on improving socioeconomic conditions and access to data in the fisheries sector, reducing vulnerabilities related to climate change and encouraging an inclusive, science-based and integrated approach in decision making processes.

Disaster Risk Reduction

While the action will not address disaster risk reduction directly, the Action will contribute improving preparedness through knowledge dissemination, developing tools and capacity building on the climate- ocean nexus (e.g. on the sea level rise, ocean acidification, climate impacts on marine ecosystems and resources).

Other considerations if relevant

N.A.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
external environment	COVID- type travel disruptions and natural disasters	Medium	High	In-person meetings could be replaced by online ones. Online meetings, when necessary, should not include too many participants. Anticipate for delays through realistic planning which provides some buffer.
people and organisation	Human Resources	Medium	High	Dependency on temporary staff/contractors and high staff turnover needs to be mitigated through clear measures ahead of time. Risk of poor implementation, lack of commitment and interest in the programme needs to be mitigated

				through regular political dialogues both at a bilateral level with countries and at a regional level with regional organisations and implementing partners
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Lessons Learnt:

The regional ocean programme will build, with its implementing partners in the region, on the lessons learned from past programmes. The action will also consider the recommendations made during the evaluation of the current programme and the feedback received from stakeholder during the consultations.

- A regional (covering 15 countries) and comprehensive ocean programme which covers many themes and sectors with several implementing partners’ gains in efficiency, provides structure and facilitates implementation by putting in place a Programme Management Unit.
- Activities should not be too narrowly defined in order to leave flexibility and to adapt to emerging needs.
- Activities need to have more of an emphasis on climate change impacts, on the development of the blue economy, on the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, and on developing tools and data collection mechanisms that informs sound decision making.
- To avoid duplication, the regional programme should ensure a level of coordination with other Technical and Financial Partners
- Addressing emerging needs and ensuring ownership of the programme can be reinforced through appropriate policy dialogue at regional and bilateral level. This includes greater involvement of national administrations in planning and running the programme’s steering committee.
- To ensure a balance between a demand-driven approach and ensuring equitable benefits for all PICs countries, a thorough needs analysis at inception may be necessary and a country specific budget made available.
- Communicating effectively and regularly on the programmes’ objectives and activities with all relevant actors and in particular with national administrations can further help provide enough flexibility and coordination to ensure adequate responses to emerging needs.
- Given the same geographical and thematic scope covered by the current Pacific EU Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme it is suggested to keep the same name for the future ocean programme to ensure continuation and coherence between two EU regional ocean programmes in the Pacific. The added-value is that PEUMP is already well known and reputed in the region.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that greater **regional and national coordination**, more **inclusive and integrated resource management and decision making** along with **targeted capacity development** will strengthen ocean governance (SO1), enhance relevant capacities in oceanic fisheries (SO2), strengthen the community-based, inclusive, sustainable and climate-resilient management of the coastal blue economy (SO3), enhance marine and coastal ecosystem resilience in the context of climate change (SO4), and improve the knowledge base and expertise in the ocean-fisheries-climate nexus (SO5) in the Pacific.

In the long-term, the action aims (OO) to advance the environmental, climate-resilient, economic and social development of Pacific communities while ensuring the sustainability of the marine resources and ecosystems.

The first assumption is that **coordination at a regional and national level** allows PICs to collectively address challenges thereby contributing to shared environmental, social and economic benefits. The action aims to provide the tools for reaching the common objectives defined by Pacific Leaders in the “2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent”. The mandate given to the Pacific Ocean Commissioner by Pacific Leaders highlights the importance placed on coordinating on ocean-related matters in the region.

The second assumption is that **science-based, inclusive and integrated approaches** to resource management leads to more robust public policies and ensures the sustainable use and management of marine resources in the long-term. The quality of the scientific advice to inform management and policies begins with high quality data collection along with having the appropriate tools to review, analyse and report data. The action will aim to set up sound data management mechanisms and build on existing governance and community-based management structures.

Finally, the third assumption is that **targeted capacity development** will lead to improved knowledge and expertise in ocean-related fields which can in turn inform sound and practical decision making.

Experience from previous programmes such as the Pacific European Union Marine Partnership also allows for appropriate mitigation measures to be put in place, including through a Programme management unit that carries out certain activities, through regular policy dialogues at a regional but also bilateral level and setting up a steering committee that involves national administrations more closely.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result) 2025	Baselines (values and years) 2030	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	(OO) Advance the environmental, climate-resilient, economic and social development of Pacific communities while ensuring the sustainability of the marine resources and ecosystems.	<p>1 Proportion of GDP deriving from the oceanic fishery (disaggregated by country or for the region)</p> <p>2. Employment rate in the fisheries sector (disaggregated by sex and region)</p> <p>3. Status of tuna fish stocks considered to be healthy and fished at sustainable levels (SDG 14.1.1)</p>	<p>1. TBD Country A, B, C: X</p> <p>2. TBD M: X, F: X Country A, B, C: X</p> <p>3. TBD</p>	<p>1. Progress in 2030 Country A, B, C: X</p> <p>2. Progress in 2030 - TBD M: X, F: X Country A, B, C: X</p> <p>3. In 2030, the tuna fish stocks of the WCPO are considered not to be overfished and at a healthy abundance level</p>	<p>1. National/ regional ocean policies reports, regional organisations (FFA) reports/studies and global UN reports</p> <p>2. National ocean policies and reports; FAO</p> <p>3. WCPFC fish stock assessment</p>	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	(SO1) Ocean governance at a national and regional level is strengthened	<p>1.1 Number of countries that have ratified international ocean-related agreements</p> <p>1.2 Status of Regional Ocean Policy</p>	<p>1.1 TBD</p> <p>1.2 2010 Regional Framework to be updated</p>	<p>1.1 TBD</p> <p>1.2 Progress in reviewing and adopting the Regional Ocean Policy</p>	<p>1.1 Relevant national ministries policies; UNCLOS reports</p> <p>1.2 Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner/ PIFS. Implementation</p>	<p>Political willingness to develop integrated ocean policies .</p> <p>The variation of economic and social development among Western and Central Pacific Ocean Member States and do not undermine</p>

					plan of the 2050 Strategy	regional interest in cooperation among the States.
Outcome 2	(SO2) Scientific and technical quality of advice provided to stakeholders for the sustainable development of oceanic fisheries is enhanced	2.1 Number of scientific research papers and advisory papers supported by the EU action submitted to the WCPFC 2.2 Number of countries meeting EU market access requirements	2.1 0 (2025) 2.2 TBD	2.1 TBD 2.2 TBD	2.1 WCPFC secretariat and SPC reports 2.2 ROP annual reports, FFA reports	The principles of good governance are applied and promoted by all stakeholders in the Action.
Outcome 3	(SO3) Community-based, gender inclusive, sustainable and climate-resilient management of the coastal blue economy is strengthened	3.1 Number of communities where community-based management plans have supported by the EU action	3.1 0	3.1 TBD	3.1 ROP annual report, national reports	Relevant authorities, stakeholders and communities remain interested to protect marine and coastal ecosystems and biodiversity.
Outcome 4	(SO4) Marine and coastal ecosystem resilience in the context of climate change is enhanced	4.1 Number of countries having adopted Marine Spatial Plans	4.1 0	4.1 Progress (2030)	4.1 ROP annual report; MSP Study	
Outcome 5	(SO5) Regional and national availability of skilled professionals in ocean, climate adaption and biodiversity related fields increased	5.1 Number of professionals completing relevant TVET accredited courses (<i>disaggregated by country, age and sex</i>) 5.2 Number of ocean-related courses accredited or incorporated into internationally recognised qualifications and career pathways and supported by the EU Action.	5.1 TBD M: X, F: X Country A, B, C: X 5.2 0	5.1 TBD (2030) M: X, F: X Country A, B, C: X 5.2 TBD	5.1 ROP annual report, USP reports 5.2 ROP annual report, USP reports	
Outputs	OPI1.1. Legal and policy frameworks are aligned with regional strategies and international ocean-related commitments	1.2 Number of national or regional consultations supported by the EU action contributing to the review of the Regional Ocean Policy	1.1.1 The Regional Ocean Policy is not updated and	1.1.1 The regional ocean policy is updated with	1.1.1 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention	The participation of the beneficiary stakeholders in the public and private sectors is secured,

			dates back to 2010	the support of the EU	Text of strategies and policy document	sustained and well-coordinated. Sufficient initial capacity to provide trainings, technical advice and conduct research.
		1.1.2 Number of people trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills on ocean governance (disaggregated by sex and country)	1.1.3 0	1.1.3 TBD M: X, F: X Country A, B, C: X	1.1.3 Pre- and post-training test reports	Sufficient initial capacity to develop university level courses and TVET courses.
	OP 1.2 National legal and policy frameworks are updated and capacity of policy makers improved	1.2.1 Number of countries where the EU has supported the revision or development of national ocean policies (NOPs)	1.2.1 0 Country A, B, C: X	1.2.1 TBD Country A, B, C: X	1.1.1 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention Text of strategies and policy document	Training participants have the authority and opportunity to apply the new skills and knowledge acquired through the EU-funded intervention within their organization. Participants in the training remain at their posts and do not leave their organization.
		1.2.2 Number of people trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills on national ocean policies (disaggregated by number sex)	1.2.2 0 M: X, F: X	1.2.2 TBD M: X, F: X	1.2.2 Pre- and post-training test reports	Communities' willingness to adopt community-based management plans and develop their blue economy
	OP 1.3 Science-based tools and scientific advisory frameworks for decision making are improved at national and regional level	1.3.1 Number of science-based tools for ocean monitoring & management and decision-making developed with the support of the EU (disaggregated by country)	1.3.1 0	1.3.1 TBD	Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention	
	OP2.1. Technical and scientific advice to the WCPFC and its PICs	2.1.1 Number of countries receiving technical and scientific advice on	2.1.1 0	2.1.1 TBD	2.1.1 Progress reports of the	

	(Pacific Island Countries) members are enhanced	CMM (conservation and management measures)			EU-funded intervention
	OP2.2. Sustainable development of the fisheries value chain is improved and the role and technical expertise of competent authorities on market access requirements strengthened	2.2.1 Number of fisheries professionals and/or technical authorities trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills on sanitary and market access requirements (disaggregated by sex and country)	2.2.1 0	2.2.1 TBD M: X, F: X Country A, B, C: X	2.2.1 Pre- and post-training test reports
	OP2.3. Monitoring, compliance and surveillance measures for reducing IUU (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated) fishing activities improved.	2.3.1 Number of frameworks for MCS of IUU activities drafted with the support of the EU	2.3.1 0	2.3.1 TBD	2.3.1 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention
		2.3.2 Number of technical authorities staff trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills on MCS and IUU incidents (disaggregated by sex and country)	2.3.2 0	2.3.1 TBD M: X, F: X Country A, B, C: X	2.3.2 Pre- and post-training test reports
		2.3.2 Number of attachments in regional organisations facilitated through the support of the EU (disaggregated by country)	2.3.2 0	2.3.2 TBD Country A, B, C: X	2.3.2 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention; Regional organisations Database of beneficiaries/participants
		2.3.3 Number of peer-to-peer secondments between national administrations organized with the	2.3.30	2.3.3 TBD	2.3.3 Progress reports of the

	support of the EU (disaggregated by country).		Country A, B, C: X	EU-funded intervention Database of beneficiaries/participants
OP3.1 Skills and tools for the inclusive and sustainable community management of the blue economy are enhanced.	3.1.1 Number of communities supported in developing CBM plans (disaggregated by country)	3.1.1 0	3.1.1 TBD Country A, B, C: X	3.1.1 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention
	3.1.2 Number of digital and/or management tools developed or upgraded for the coastal blue economy with the support of the EU (disaggregated by country)	3.1.2 0	3.1.2 TBD Country A, B, C: X	3.1.2 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention
	3.1.3 Number of fisheries professionals completing the Pacific Island Coastal Fisheries Professional secondment programme with the support of the EU (disaggregated by sex and country)	3.1.3 0	3.1.3 TBD M: X, F: X Country A, B, C: X	3.1.3 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention Database of beneficiaries/participants
OP4.1 Strategies for monitoring and protecting endangered species, by-catch and coastal habitats are developed.	4.1.1 Number of national or community plans for monitoring endangered species developed with the support of the EU (disaggregated by country)	4.1.1 0	4.1.1 TBD Country A, B, C: X	4.1.1 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention
	4.1.2 Number of by-catch assessments conducted with the support of the EU (disaggregated by country)	4.1.2 0	4.1.2 TBD Country A, B, C: X	4.1.2 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention

	OP4.2 Ocean science is used to integrate climate change adaptation and resilience strategies in national ocean policies.	4.2.1 Number of countries whose National Ocean Policies have incorporated climate change adaptation with the support of the EU	4.2.1 0	4.2.1 TBD	4.2.1 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention
	OP5.1 The offer of Targeted technical and vocational education and training (TVET) courses in ocean-related fields is improved.	5.1.1 Number of fisheries professionals who have benefited from institution or workplace based VET/skills development interventions supported by the EU (disaggregated by sex and country) (GERF 2.14)	5.1.1 0 M: X, F: X Country A, B, C: X	5.1.1 TBD M: X, F: X Country A, B, C: X	5.1.1 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention Database of beneficiaries/participants
		5.1.2 Number of TVET courses in ocean-related fields developed with the support of the EU	5.1.2 0	5.1.2 TBD	5.1.2 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention Curriculum/training material
	OP5.2 The offer and delivery of accredited courses in ocean-related fields at tertiary level is enhanced.	5.2.1 Status of courses in ocean-related fields at tertiary level	5.2.1 Courses in ocean-related fields at tertiary level do not exist	5.2.1 Courses in ocean-related fields at tertiary level developed and delivered in each country with the support of the EU	5.2.1 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention
		5.2.2 Number of students trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills on ocean-related fields delivered at tertiary level with the support of the EU (disaggregated by country)	5.2.2 0	5.2.2 TBD Country A, B, C: X	5.2.2 Pre- and post-training test reports

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 66 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 rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures.³

4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

(1) The grant will aim to contribute to achieving the following result mention in section 3:

1.1 Legal and policy ocean frameworks are aligned with regional strategies and international ocean-related commitments

(2) The grant will aim to contribute to achieving the following results mention in section 3:

5.1 The offer of targeted and inclusive technical and vocational education and training (TVET) courses in ocean, environment and climate-related fields is improved,

5.2 The offer and delivery of accredited courses in ocean, climate and biodiversity-related fields at tertiary level is enhanced.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

(1) Result 1.1

The type of applicant includes international organisation mandated by the Pacific Island Leaders to coordinate on ocean governance at a regional level. The entity should be established in the Pacific region.

(2) Result 5.1 and 5.2

The type of applicant includes a regional organisation with the capacity to develop and deliver courses and/or trainings in ocean related fields. The entity should be established in the Pacific region.

(c) Justification of a direct grant

(1) Result 1.1

³ 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.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to a regional organisation with a regional mandate to cover aspects related to ocean governance selected using the following criteria:

- nature of the action: experience in coordinating and consulting wide range of stakeholders including with national administrations, regional and international organisations and technical and financial partners
- operational capacity: expertise in ocean governance and experience in implementing tasks and activities of similar size and scope.
- value added: the international organisation has a regional scope with the coordinating capacities at a global, regional and national and community level.
- Transparency and absence of conflict of interest: The organisation and its members must have no conflict of interest in the design and implementation of the action

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified in line with case (f) of Article 195 in Regulation 2018/1046. The action requires the beneficiary to have specific characteristics including the technical competence to deliver on tasks related to regional integration and cooperation with national authorities, regional organisations donor organisations and relevant stakeholders. The entity should also be in a position to liaise with the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Seas (UNDOALOS), provide technical assistance on ocean policy at a national level and engage in policy dialogues on ocean matters with the European Union. Finally, the beneficiary should also have the technical competence to support the review of the 2010 regional ocean policy "the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape" taking into account new priorities and emerging challenges in the region.

(2) Result 5.1 and 5.2

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to a regional organisation able to deliver on ocean related trainings and courses selected using the following criteria:

The entity will be selected using the following criteria:

- nature of the action: experience and academic expertise in developing and delivering quality courses and targeted professional trainings.
- operational capacity: experience and expertise in implementing tasks of similar size and scope.
- value added: the entity is a regional organisation with the coordinating capacities at a regional level and to ensure a high quality of professional trainings.
- Transparency and absence of conflict of interest: The entity and its members must have no conflict of interest in the design and implementation of the action

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified in line with case (f) of Article 195 in Regulation 2018/1046. The action requires the beneficiary to have specific characteristics including the technical competence to develop and deliver courses and trainings in ocean related fields including hard and soft sciences and for both fisheries professionals and students of higher education.

The part of the action under the budgetary envelope reserved for grants may, partially or totally and including where an entity is designated for receiving a grant without a call for proposals, be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the criteria defined in section **4.3.1 c)** above.

4.3.2 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

Part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with one or several entrusted entities. The entrusted entity(ies) will be selected using the following criteria:

- nature of the action: successful experience in implementing EU ocean-related programmes and coordinating with key stakeholders and beneficiaries
- operational capacity: scientific and technical expertise to implement tasks and experience in implementing activities of similar size and scope.
- value added: the entity is a regional organisation with the coordinating capacities at a global, regional and national and community level.
- Transparency and absence of conflict of interest: The entity and its members must have no conflict of interest in the design and implementation of the action

This implementation entails contributing to reaching the following Specific Objectives.

- **SO1 (Output 1.2) on ocean governance** – Implementation entails contributing to reaching the targets of SDG 14 and in particular to the initiatives foreseen under the UN Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021 -2030). Implementation entails supporting PICs in development national ocean policies, science based tools for decision making and incorporating traditional knowledge in public policies. Implementation of this component would therefore entail providing countries with technical and legal expertise to devise national ocean policies and implementation plans, creating a robust and easily accessible data management framework that can be the basis for data analytics for decision making and making an inventory of traditional knowledge practices in the region.
- **SO2 on oceanic fisheries** – Implementation includes coordinating with the WCPFC secretariat and entails conducting, peer-reviewing and submitting research and scientific findings on tuna fish stocks dynamics and distribution to the WCPFC. Research would include ecosystem and climate change monitoring, analysing catch per unit effort (CPUE) trends and impacts of Fisheries Aggregating Devices (FADs). Implementation would also entail providing scientific and technical advice to PICs on the implementation of the WCPFC's CMM measures and on meeting sanitary market access requirements, supporting PICs in combating IUU activities and adopting effective MCS measures. Implementation would also include providing secondment opportunities for young professionals in the field.
- **SO3 on coastal fisheries** – Implementation entails working closely with coastal communities in the development of community-based management tools including data collection, digital and policy tools. Implementation also entails building a framework for data collection and supporting communities in scaling up blue economy activities. Implementation would also include providing secondment opportunities for young Pacific Island professionals in the field.
- **SO4 on marine ecosystem resilience** – Implementation entails conducting assessments of by-catch coastal and oceanic fisheries. Implementation will also include supporting national administration and communities in developing plans for monitoring and protection of endangered species, marine spatial planning and climate change adaptation. Implementation will also entail organising targeted trainings on data analysis and mapping of climate change impacts on marine environments and biological resources.

Implementation of this part of the action would also entail running the Programme Management Unit ensuring the internal functioning of the programme and collaborating and coordinating with other regional organisations.

4.3.3 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

Should implementation through indirect management of the activities mentioned under point 4.3.2 become not possible due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the Commission will revert to an alternative second option, entailing a change from indirect to direct management (grant) in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.3.1.

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)
Specific Objective 1 (output 1.1) – Ocean Governance composed of:	500 000
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	
Specific Objective 1 (output 1.2) to 4 – Pacific European Union Marine Partnership 2 composed of:	17 500 000
Indirect management with an entrusted entity – cf. section 4.3.2	
Specific Objective 5 – Capacity building, training and education composed of:	2 000 000
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	
Total	20 000 000

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

A Programme Management Unit (PMU) will be put in place to ensure the effective, timely and coordinated implementation of activities. The PMU will collaborate with partners on tasks related to financing and reporting. The responsibilities of the PMU will also include the elaboration of a monitoring and evaluation plan in line with the Logical Framework and will make sure that mitigation measures are put in place when necessary. Tasks of the the PMU will involve conducting regular management meetings, and organizing key annual events such as Programme Steering Committee (PSC) meetings, policy dialogue sessions (between the region and the EU), and Programme Coordination Group (PCG) meetings.

A PSC will be put in place, including representatives from beneficiary institutions, the European Union, implementing partners and other stakeholders relevant to the objectives and activities of the programme. Steering Committees will review approve work plans and reports, review implementation and define actions to address issues identified. A rotating Chair of the PSC may be put in place to increase ownership of the programme.

A PCG made up of the entities implementing this action as well as relevant and potential Team Europe Member State agencies will be put in place to coordinate activities, share information and best practices. The PCG will be used to ensure the smooth internal functioning of the programme as well as with relevant Team Europe Initiative in the region.

Regular political dialogue will be organised between the EU and relevant beneficiaries, technical and financial partners and implementing partners. The dialogue will serve to identify emerging needs and potential shifting priorities. The dialogue will also contribute to ensuring the long -term sustainability of programme results.

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 and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

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 (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

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).

Entrusted entities will be responsible for data collection, analysis and monitoring and ensuring effective gender-sensitive monitoring and data analysis. A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan will be in place by the programme management unit in close collaboration with the EU Delegation. The logical framework will serve as the main guidance for M&E activities and progress and challenges will be discussed at coordination meetings. Data collection activities required to identify baselines values and targets will be undertaken at the inception phase and included in the M&E plan. In addition, progress in implementing activities and relevant mitigation measures are to be presented to project beneficiaries during steering committees. Regular M&E documentation shall be provided by the entrusted entities when necessary (bi-annually or quarterly) to ensure a comprehensive follow-up and assessment.

5.2 Evaluation

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

A mid-term evaluation would be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular to evaluate what has been achieved.

Final or ex-post evaluations would be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the implementation of other EU actions and their interlinkages with the technical assistance and policy dialogue.

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 may 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.

In line with the 2022 “[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)”, 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.