



“Accelerating actions for a resilient Blue Pacific”

7th, 8th, 9th September 2021, Virtual Platforms
12:00pm – 5:00pm Samoa Standard Time

Agenda Item 8.2.3: Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan

Purpose of paper

1. To seek endorsement of the new Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan.
2. To seek Members’ commitment to implement the Coral Reef Action Plan in a cross sectoral and collaborative way as a matter of urgency for the Pacific Region.

Background

Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan 2021-2030

3. The Pacific region is home to some 25% of the world’s corals. Coral reefs are arguably the most important ecosystem for the livelihoods and sustainable existence of Pacific island communities. Coral reef ecosystems are under increasing pressure from climate change, water quality, ocean acidification and harvesting pressure.
4. Ocean heatwaves have doubled in frequency, become longer and more intense, The IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5° forecasts that we will lose 70% of the world’s corals at 1.5° warming and 99% at 2°. Urgent action is needed to increase health and resilience of coral reefs against these pressures.
5. Many communities manage their reef ecosystems through local measures, including using traditional and cultural practices. Pacific island countries also implement national measures to conserve coral reefs and associated ecosystems.
6. The regional Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan seeks to assist Pacific Island Countries and communities in these efforts through identification of strategic actions for which regional cooperation can deliver practical outcomes and mobilise resources for the conservation of coral reefs and associated ecosystems.
7. The Plan has been developed in consultation with Members through email surveys sent to focal points and incorporates review comments on the Draft Plan from Members, CROP agencies, civil society, and the scientific community.
8. The Plan promotes a cross sectoral, and collaborative approach to managing coral reefs which taps into global expertise and financial resources and builds upon existing efforts.

A cross sectoral approach to coral reef management was supported by regional Fisheries Ministers at the Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting 2020.

Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan

9. The plan summarises the feedback from Members, CROP agencies and non-state actors. Specifically, the plan:

- identifies the major threats to coral reefs and associated ecosystems across the Pacific;
- identifies impediments to successful coral reef action; and
- identifies 8 strategic action areas for which regional actions can provide economies of scale or other benefits to Member countries which are outlined in the diagram below. The plan then sets out specific activities and associated indicators which can meet the overarching action areas.



Regional overarching action areas in the Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan

Recommendation

10. The Meeting is invited to:

- 1) **endorse** the Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan;
- 2) **encourage** Members and Partners to commit and support the cross-sectoral implementation of the Plan; and
- 3) **direct** the Secretariat to support implementation of the Plan by Members.

18 June 2021