



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM
1971 - 2021

One CROP for One Blue Pacific



2021

CROP Annual Report
to Pacific Islands Forum Leaders

ABOUT CROP

Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders established the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) in 1988 to improve cooperation, coordination and collaboration between Pacific intergovernmental organisations.

Today, as set out in the 2018 CROP Charter and guided by the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR), CROP is a partnership of regional, intergovernmental agencies that support PIF Leaders' increased commitment to regionalism and the principle objectives of sustainable development; inclusive and equitable economic growth; strengthened governance, legal, financial and administrative systems; and peace and security for all.

CROP works to strengthen Pacific regionalism through consolidating regional knowledge, expertise and resources to deliver goods and services that are more effectively and efficiently provided at the regional level.

CROP provides high-level policy advice and support to Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) in the formulation of policy at national, regional, and international levels. This includes support at international conferences and negotiations; in reporting on international commitments; in crisis situations in the region; and in implementing regional frameworks and programmes.

CROP also provides a forum to collectively respond to regional priorities identified by Forum Leaders through the public policy process of the FPR, and to ensure effective follow-up, implementation, and reporting on progress. This occurs through regular meetings of CROP Heads, CROP Deputies and thematic taskforces and working groups.

The work of CROP is based on mutual respect for the mandates and comparative advantages that each CROP agency has, in line with its work programme and priorities across the region.

Currently, CROP membership comprises the following Pacific regional intergovernmental organisations: Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO); Pacific Community (SPC); Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP); Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA); Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS); Pacific Power Association (PPA); Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO); Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); and The University of the South Pacific (USP) The Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum is the Permanent Chair of the CROP.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report summarises the work of CROP from February 2021 to April 2022 to deliver on Forum Leaders' decisions specifically those arising from the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Special Leaders' Retreat, held in February 2021, and 51st PIF, held virtually in August 2021.

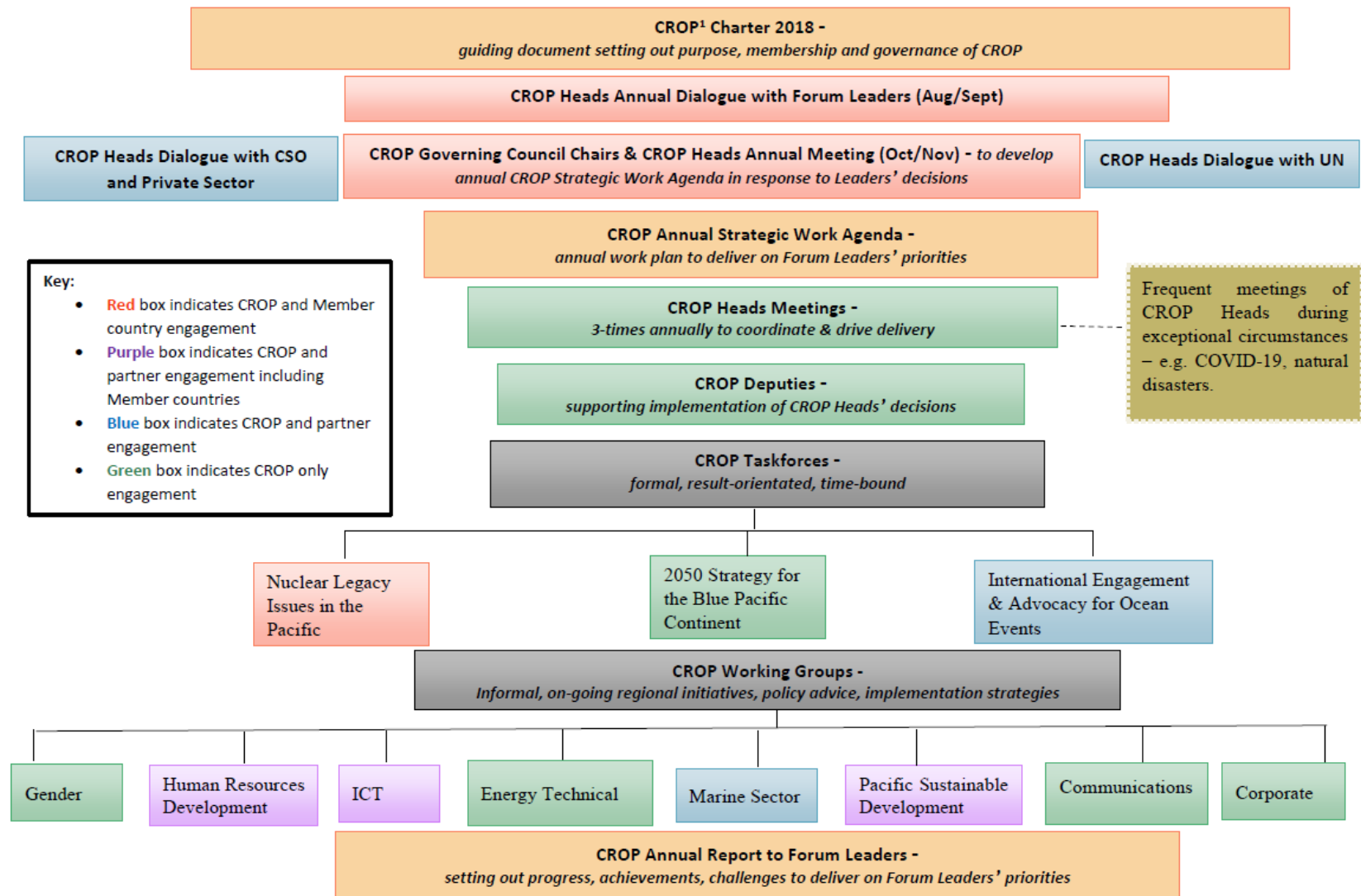
Based on Forum Leaders' decisions, CROP has been collaborating across ten thematic areas as guided by the *2021 CROP Strategic Work Agenda*¹.

These ten areas are:

1. 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent & review of regional architecture;
2. COVID-19 response and recovery;
3. Climate change and disaster resilience;
4. Sustainable ocean - advocacy and implementation;
5. Sea level rise and maritime boundaries;
6. Nuclear legacy issues;
7. Regional security;
8. Regional fisheries;
9. Regional health; and
10. Regional aviation.

¹ The 2021 CROP Strategic Work Agenda can be accessed here: <https://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2021-CROP-Strategic-Work-Agenda.pdf>

CROP ARCHITECTURE AND COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS



¹Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) membership comprises the following Pacific regional intergovernmental organisations: Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO); Pacific Community (SPC); Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA); Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS); Pacific Power Association (PPA); Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO); Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); The University of the South Pacific (USP); Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP)



Leaders' decisions	Role of CROP	Progress update	Outstanding work
2050 Strategy for Blue Pacific Continent & Review of Regional Architecture			
<p>Leaders (2019):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsed the development of a 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent • Endorsed a review of the regional CROP architecture to re-examine and ensure the requisite governance and resourcing arrangements to deliver the 2050 Strategy 	<p>CROP role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and technical advice through a CROP Taskforce and CROP thematic working groups. • Support to the FOC Sub-Committee on 2050 Strategy and Informal Working Group. • Technical advice to inform Review of Regional Architecture including input into a draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Review. 	<p>Progress:</p> <p>CROP policy and technical advice to inform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • methodology for strategy development (SPC); • mapping of regional policies (all CROP); • drivers of change consultation process and report (all CROP); • identification of regional goods (all CROP); • development of scenarios and levels of ambition (all CROP); • contribution to development of strategic pathways for 2050 Strategy (All CROP); • contribution to development of the draft final 2050 Strategy (all CROP); and • scope of review of regional architecture (all CROP). <p>For further information: Report of FOC Sub-Committee for 2050 Strategy; draft final 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, draft TOR for review of regional architecture</p>	<p>Next steps:</p> <p>CROP policy and technical advice to inform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of 2050 Strategy once endorsed by Forum Leaders; and • Review of regional architecture.

COVID-19 Response & Recovery

Leaders (2021):	CROP role:	Progress:	Next steps:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reiterated their call to global leaders to support distribution of safe and effective COVID-19 treatments and vaccines to all. • Endorsed streamlining the collective responses to COVID-19, utilising existing mechanisms such as the PHP-C. • Welcomed Australia's intentions to work with members to establish robust and practical processes for vaccine certification, including digital vaccination certificates. • Noted importance of leveraging emerging opportunities to support regional recovery efforts, in particular digitalisation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and technical advice to Pacific Leaders, Health Ministers, Foreign Ministers, Economic Ministers and Trade Ministers on COVID-19. • Support to Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on COVID-19 (PHP-C). • Undertaking socio-economic impact assessment through dedicated CROP Taskforce. • Engagement in Joint Incident Management Team and global advocacy to UN and WHO. • Collaboration and advice on the protection of CROP staff and ensuring ongoing operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting operation of the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway for COVID-19 (PHP-C), including the Ministerial Action Group (MAG) and Regional Taskforce (RTF) (PIFS). • Establishment of Technical Working Group (TWG) under the PHP-C RTF to oversee the establishment of a Regional COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate for Cross-Border Travel. The TWG undertook a thorough Landscape Assessment in late 2021 to guide the proposal for the regional solution. A Technical Requirements and Protocol Agreements document was developed as a result of this assessment, proposing the region uptake of the EUDCC system. A 6th Common Protocol was drafted and was presented to the RTF on 29 April and the FOC Subcommittee on Regional Security (FSRS) on 4 May for Member consideration. This will be presented to FOC for further Member consideration before it is presented to the FFMM for endorsement. • Completed a socio-economic impact assessment (SEIA) of COVID-19 for the Pacific region with recommendations for recovery over the short, medium and longer-term (PIFS, SPC, SPTO, USP, FFA, PASO). • Supported development of a Forum Foreign Ministers Joint Statement on Blue Pacific Leadership in Disaster Preparedness Planning, which outlines Forum Foreign Ministers' commitment to learning lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic that are culturally, regionally and internationally applicable and calls for improved disaster preparedness planning across all sectors and at the national, regional and international level through multi-stakeholder partnerships and guided by the upcoming <i>2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent</i> (PIFS, SPC), PASO, SPREP). • Actively participated in the WHO-led Joint Incident Management Team (JIMT) and its pillar working groups including on social inclusion, logistics and partnerships (SPC, PIFS). • Regular meetings of CROP Heads to coordinate action and advice including on operational implications for CROP agencies (All CROP). • A COVID-19 Economic Recovery Taskforce (CERT) was established by the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM) in 2020. A paper on regional initiatives to support economic recovery in FICs was presented to and endorsed by FEMM in July 2021, in consultation with CROP agencies. The initiatives included a framework for monitoring and evaluating national and regional responses to COVID-19 impacts, options for FICs debt relief and a proposal for freight assistance for Pacific businesses (PIFS, SPC, FFA, SPTO, PASO) • In collaboration with ESCAP, co-hosting a regional debt conference in April 2022 to bring together FICs, their creditors and development partners to discuss options for debt relief and restructuring (PIFS). • SPTO, in partnership with New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (NZMFAT), developed a Pacific Tourism: COVID-19 Impact and Recovery Report and Recovery Scenario Development and Pathways Report. • SPTO has implemented a Capacity Building and COVID-19 Tourism Recovery Programme, funded by NZMFAT. Phase 1 of the project is October 2020 - July 2021. SPTO is also implementing a Pacific Sector Development Initiative. • PASO participated in two COVID-19 recovery assessments. The first study was funded by NZMFAT. The second study focused solely on maintaining the aviation industry and ensuring it can recover; funded by Australia DFAT. From the DFAT study, it was clear that the aviation industry had lost the majority of revenue sources, and this would directly impact aviation safety standards. As a result, in December 2020, DFAT provided AUD 2 million grant to PASO to maintain aviation safety and technical assistance whilst borders remain closed. <p>For further information: Outcomes Statement of 2019 Health Ministers Meeting; 2021 FOC paper on COVID-19; 2021 FEMM report on regional initiatives to support economic recovery, SPTO paper to FEMM 2021 on regional tourism update, 2022 FOC paper on Regional Vaccine Certificate, Forum Leaders Statement on COVID-19 – Protecting the Health and Wellbeing of the Blue Pacific; Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers – Joint Statement on the Blue Pacific Response to COVID-19; Socio-economic impact assessment (SEIA) of COVID-19 for the Pacific region 2020-2021; Forum Foreign Ministers Joint Statement on Blue Pacific Leadership in Disaster Preparedness Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disbanding the CROP Taskforce for the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment, noting this work has been delivered. • Implementation of the Regional COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate for Cross-Border Travel, subject to FOC/FFMM decision. • Convene PHP-C RTF and MAG as and when necessary. • RTF to continue to support PHP-C flights in the region. • Review PHP-C once Vaccination Certificate is in place. • Monitoring socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. • SPTO to implement phase 2 of NZMFAT Project – Pacific Digital Tourism Transformation Project.

Climate change & Disaster Resilience

Leaders (2021):	CROP role:	Progress:	Next steps:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reaffirm that climate change is the single greatest threat facing the Blue Pacific and recommit to the goals of the Paris Agreement; Reiterate that COVID-19 must not delay global climate action but should promote recovery investments that are climate-smart and in line with a low emissions development pathway; Support regional approaches to strengthen Forum Island Countries' strategic participation at COP 26, including through the COP 26 Political Climate Champions. Leaders noted the progress of work on the FRDP M&E Framework, and endorsed the extension of the PRP governance arrangements up until 2030. Leaders endorsed the Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme of Investment. Endorsed the Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific 2021-2030. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination and advice for the Forum's international advocacy on climate change and resilience including through the FOC Sub-Com for International Engagement and Advocacy. Coordination and technical advice to support Pacific negotiating teams in lead up to and at COP 26 through the On CROP Plus Team. Technical and financial support to COP26 Political Climate Champions. Convening and progressing the work of the PRP and its Taskforce and Technical Working Groups (TWGs) including through the CROP-convened PRP Support Unit. Technical advice and input to support establishment of the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF). Support and seek funding for the Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme of Investment. Support implementation of the Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific 2021-2030. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member coordination and support in lead up to and at COP 26 including Pacific profiling series of workshops on priorities, preparatory meeting, high level events in Glasgow and supporting Political Champions for COP26 (SPREP, PIFS, SPC). Extensive COP 26 communications campaign (digital, creative, Pacific space) to amplify the Pacific voice calling for a 1.5 degrees-Celsius world (SPREP). Established PIF SG Pacific Young Climate Leaders Alliance with two meetings held to date to inform regional priorities for urgent climate change action. Convened post-COP26 analysis workshop in February 2022 to reflect on outcomes of COP 26 and implications for the Pacific and initial planning for COP 27 (SPREP). Supported development of the Pacific ACP Leaders Statement on COP26 for a 1.5-degree World issued in September 2021, and shared with the G20 Summit Chair (Italy) prior to their meeting in late October 2021. Facilitated Pacific Island Countries' high-level event with the UK (COP26 Presidency) in July 2021, a Pacific Leaders dialogue with COP26 President during COP 26 and a follow up Road to COP 27 event with COP 26 President in February 2022. Technical advice to FICs with their revised NDCs and NDC implementation plans through the Regional Pacific NDC Hub. Facilitated enhanced access to, and effective use of, climate finance including through support to Pacific Direct Access Entities and strengthened capacity for implementation, as well as through the TWG on Climate Finance and Public Finance Management which was formally recognised as an advisory body to the FEMM on climate finance and public finance management issues. Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) – implementation findings of review of the PRP governance arrangement; convening second Pacific Resilience Meeting (PRM) on 6-8 July 2021 with a PRP youth meeting preceding the PRM on 5 July; completed the FRDP M&E Framework for Member consideration; and initiated the PRP webinar series for online sharing and learning on resilience building issues. In addition, PRP TWGs progressing issues such as elevating Pacific perspectives on internal displacement through the UNSG High Level Panel on Internal Displacement; mapping of legislative and policy linkages between climate, disaster and health responses in the Pacific at both the domestic and regional levels; preparing a report on what local actors are doing in the humanitarian space and the opportunities and gaps to strengthen this; supporting building the capacity of the private sector to engage more effectively in climate finance issues through sub-regional dialogues, and outlining possible opportunities. Technical advice to support establishment of the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF) including launch of PRP Prospectus in May 2021 and PIF SG writing to all Forum Dialogue Partners in August 2021. The Rt Hon. Helen Clark has been appointed as special envoy for the PRF (PIFS). Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Plan (WRP) was socialised at the COP 26. Resource mobilisation efforts by SPREP and partners, on behalf of the Pacific Met Council, with a focus on traditional donor partners. Should traditional donors not support the WRP, then components of the plan will be incorporated into a concept for a GCF proposal and/or socialised with new donors (SPREP). Implementation of Framework for Energy Security and Resilience including establishment of Office of the Pacific Energy Regulators Alliance (OPERA), in collaboration between SPC and ADB. OPERA will provide a one stop shop for energy regulators in the region and their role of promoting independent energy regulation and increased private sector investments through fairness, open competition, consistency, etc. SPC will host OPERA in its Suva office over the next 3 years. SPC and OPERA are expected to sign a MoU soon (SPC). In recognition of the major role of the private sector in the energy sector and energy transition of PICTs, the Framework for Energy Security and Resilience has Priority Initiatives #9 on cooperation with the private sector in energy. Key partners are progressing this initiative, and SPC will track progress of activities. (SPC) SPC / Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) has been working with a number of companies / partners to prepare and submit project proposals in response to call for expression of interest. This includes joint proposals with the following partners: One Energy Island, Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands (SEIAPI), and Mana Pacific (SPC). Under the project Pacific Adoption of Waste-to-Energy Solutions (PAWES), SPC is supporting research / technical studies / feasibility studies to facilitate private sector investment in Waste-to-Energy (WtE) Projects in 4 PICs. (SPC). <p>For further information: 2021 FOC paper on COP26 preparations; 2022 FOC paper on COP27 preparations, 2022 Report of the FOC Sub-Committee for Forum International Engagement & Advocacy; Pacific Voyage Plan for COP 26; Pacific Voyage Plan for COP 27; One CROP Team – Post COP 26 Report; Pacific ACP Leaders Statement on COP26 for a 1.5-degree World; Pacific Resilience Meeting Report 2021; PRF Prospectus; Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific; Weather Ready Pacific – Decadal Program of Investment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise and implement the Pacific Voyage Plan in the lead up to COP 27 and beyond. A series of profiling and in-depth workshops are being planned for preparation for COP27 in November 2022. Continue support to the Political Climate Champions and proactive climate change advocacy. Finalise the FRDP M&E Framework and progress to measure impacts in 2022. Continue with the implementation of the findings of the review of the FRDP and PRP governance arrangements including planning for mid-term review of FRDP in 2023. Continue to work through the PRP TWGs to progress issues relevant to resilience building. Ongoing support to the private sector for their effective engagement in climate change financing. Global pledging event planned for 2022 to capitalise the PRF. The Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Plan – TA to address how the plan can be transitioned into components and activities which can be shared with partners and donors. Develop donor engagement strategy. Continue to assist PICs to implement their NDC commitments via NDC Implementation Roadmaps/Plans.

Sustainable oceans international advocacy

<p>Leaders (2021):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsed the 2021 Forum Leaders Ocean Statement to set out Leaders commitment and calls for greater global commitment and action on the Ocean. 	<p>CROP role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting and driving implementation of the Leaders Ocean Statement including through CROP Taskforce on Ocean Engagement and Advocacy. Member coordination, technical advice and briefings ahead of international ocean events including through the CROP Taskforce, Marine Sector Working Group and 	<p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of Leaders Statement including letter to Forum Dialogue Partners and producing video version of Leaders Ocean Statement (OPOC, PIFS, SPC, FFA, SPREP). Coordination through CROP Taskforce to ensure clarity on CROP-leads to support Members at international ocean events including 2nd UN Ocean Conference, COP15 on Biodiversity and UN Decade of Ocean Science (OPOC, PIFS, SPC, FFA, SPREP, USP). Finalisation and launch of 2021 Blue Pacific Ocean Report (OPOC, PIFS). CROP Taskforce for International Oceans Events produced messaging guide and hosted side events for the Our Ocean Conference in Palau on 13-14 April 2022. Collective CROP approach to mark World Ocean Day on 8 June 2021 with a focus on promoting Leaders Ocean Statement. <p>For further information: 2021 Forum Leaders Ocean Statement; 2021 Blue Pacific Ocean Report; 2022 Report of the FOC Sub-Committee for Forum International Engagement & Advocacy; work plan of CROP Ocean Taskforce; Blue Pacific Messages Guide for Our Ocean Conference.</p>	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CROP Taskforce to develop messaging and technical advice for global ocean events. Messaging to be based on PIF Leaders Ocean Statement 2021, PIF Messages Guide and other relevant policies. Support BBNJ regional preparations (3 webinars) & PIF Negotiators meeting ahead of 5th Intergovernmental Conference (IGC5). Host Pacific Oceans Alliance in June 2022.
---	--	---	--

Sea level rise & maritime boundaries

<p>Leaders (2019/2021):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraged Members to conclude all outstanding maritime boundaries claims and zones. Leaders endorsed the Declaration on Preserving Maritime Boundaries in the face of Climate Change-Related Sea Level Rise and its Aide Memoire. Leaders called on Dialogue Partners to support the Declaration. 	<p>CROP role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting the Declaration on Preserving Maritime Boundaries, to shape and transform international thinking on the issue, placing the region at the heart of international discussions. Technical and legal assistance through the Pacific Maritime Boundaries Consortium of Partners (led by SPC) to conclude outstanding maritime boundaries claims and zones. Technical assistance through FOC Specialist Sub-Committee on Sea-level rise in relation to International Law. 	<p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support implementation of the Work Programme of the FOC-Specialist Sub-Committee on Sea-level Rise in relation to International Law (FSS-SLRIL). Leaders endorsement of the <i>Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the face of Climate Change-related Sea-level rise</i> on 6 August 2021 (PIFS). Development and adoption of the Advocacy and Communications Strategy for the <i>Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the face of Climate Change-related Sea-level rise</i> by FSS-SLRIL on 17 September 2021 (PIFS). Technical assistance to Member countries (SPC, FFA, PIFS, Maritime Boundaries Consortium) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop One – Observations to UN DOALOS (26 August 2021) (SPC & PIFS) Workshop Two – Stability Clauses in domestic legislation (1 September 2021) (SPC & PIFS) Workshop Three – Stability clauses in the Pacific Maritime Boundaries Treaties (8 September 2021) (SPC & PIFS) Maritime Boundaries and Cooperative Approaches Workshop (22 October 2021) (SPC). Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) Next Steps Workshop (29 October 2021) (SPC). Maritime Boundaries Virtual Working Session and High-Level Dialogue (29 – 30 September 2021, & 16 – 17 November 2021) (SPC). PIF submission to the International law Commission (ILC) on the sub-topics of Statehood and Protection of Persons affected by Sea-Level Rise (31 December 2021) (PIFS). <p>For further information: FOC paper on the Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the face of Climate Change-related Sea-level rise; Work Programme of FOC Specialist Sub-Committee on Sea level Rise in Relation to International Law; Outcomes summary of the conference on Securing the Limits of the Blue Pacific; PIF submission to the ILC on Statehood and Protection of Persons affected by Sea-Level Rise.</p>	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue implementation of work programme of the FSS-SLRIL. Continue implementation of the Advocacy and Communications Strategy for <i>Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the face of Climate Change-related Sea-level rise</i>. Continue technical assistance to Member countries on finalising maritime boundaries.
---	--	--	--

Nuclear issues

Leaders (2019):	CROP role:	Progress:	Next steps:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Called for the operationalisation of the provisions of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Rarotonga Treaty), as necessary. Reaffirmed for the Secretariat to coordinate assistance by CROP agencies to the Republic of Kiribati and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Endorsed the need for the commissioning of an appropriate body to undertake a comprehensive, independent and objective scientific assessment of the contamination issue in the Pacific, including the nuclear test site at Runit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collectively respond to Leaders requests with regards to the Rarotonga Treaty, assistance to Member states in addressing the ongoing impacts of nuclear testing, and the commissioning of a study of contamination in the Pacific including through the new CROP Taskforce on Nuclear Legacy Issues. Technical assistance, advocacy and engagement in support international consultation, international law and independent and verifiable scientific assessments and guidance on Japan's decision to discharge of ALPS Treated Water into the Pacific Ocean. 	<p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current focus is on Japan's plan to discharge Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS) Treated Water into the Pacific Ocean. Briefing for PIF Members with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Director General, regarding the ALPS Issue (3 June 2021). Four briefing sessions held between PIF Members and Japan regarding the ALPS Issue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing 1 (9 June 2021) Briefing 2 (24 June 2021) Briefing 3 (14 September 2021) Briefing 4 (18 January 2022) ALPS Treated Water issue was a dedicated agenda item at PALM 9 (2 July 2021) and covered in PALM 9 Declaration. "Pacific History, Global Futures – Securing a Nuclear-Free Blue Pacific" webinar commemorating the International Day against Nuclear Tests on (29 August 2021). Commenced process to engage independent experts to provide independent guidance in interpreting scientific evidence as it relates to Japan's plan of discharging ALPS Treated Water (PIFS). Developing a Work Plan for the ALPS Issue (PIFS). Technical assistance to Member countries (PIFS, SPC, SPREP, Nuclear Taskforce). Finalising TOR for a scientific assessment of the contamination issue in the Pacific. Meeting of the CROP Nuclear Taskforce to progress work plan in April 2022 (PIFS, SPC, SPREP). <p>For further information: CROP Taskforce for Nuclear Legacy Issues TOR and Work Plan, 2022 FOC information paper on Meeting of the States Parties to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty and Other Nuclear Issues; Consultative Committee Outcomes Documents; PIFS Press Release; PALM 9 Declaration</p>	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical advice and support for Member countries regarding ALPS Treated Water issue. Commissioning of scientific assessment of nuclear contamination issue across the Pacific. For the CROP Taskforce, CROP agencies continue in their respective programmes and updating of the stocktake of support to countries. Continue the process on operationalising the Rarotonga Treaty.

Regional security

<p>Leaders (2019):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Commended progress made on implementing the Boe Declaration and endorsed the Boe Declaration Action Plan and requested that traditional and cultural norms be acknowledged and considered as an underpinning imperative of all security initiatives under the Boe Action Plan.	<p>CROP role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Supporting implementation of activities under the Boe Declaration Action Plan through technical advice and support for the FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security.	<p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">FOC Subcommittee on Regional Security (FSRS) met twice in November 2021 and May 2022 with key focus on COVID-19.Regional Human Security Working Group (WG) – this work is on hold until finalisation of Regional Transnational Organised Crime (TNOC) Disruption Framework as Members are having to cope with a busy regional agenda.The Regional Strategic Roadmap for Emergency Management (SREM) – Implementation is ongoing. Currently exploring PHP-C and regional response to volcanic eruption and tsunami in Tonga to help inform the development of a regional Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR) mechanism in consultation with the South Pacific Defence Ministers’ Meeting (SPDMM).Regional Climate Security Assessment Framework – Regional consultation conducted on 5-6 May 2022. Currently in the process of undertaking bilateral discussion with Members. Framework to be finalised in October 2022.Regional TNOC Disruption Framework – Regional consultation is ongoing. Next meeting of TWG to be in June/July post-Leaders meeting to finalise arrangements for workshop methodology and drafting timelines. TNOC Disruption Framework to be finalised in November 2022.Teieniwa Vision – Teieniwa Vision Implementation Plan currently in development and will be finalised by May 2022. Implementation to commence post-FOC.Development of a Regional Security Outlook Report – Working with regional Law Enforcement and Legal Secretariats (LESs) and relevant CROP to develop this piece of work. Report to be launched in November 2022 at the second FSRS meeting.Coordinated CROP support offered to Tonga in February 2022 in response to the volcanic eruption and tsunami. <p>For further information: 2021 and 2022 Report of the FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security; Boe Declaration on Regional Security; Boe Declaration Action Plan</p>	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Convene FSRS in November 2022.Review PHP-C operations in September 2022.Convene meetings of TWG and finalise TNOC Disruption Framework by November 2022.Present a way forward on Regional HADR in November to FSRS.Finalise and launch Regional Climate Security Assessment Framework by October 2022.Finalise Teieniwa Implementation Plan by May and commence implementation after endorsement by FOC.Finalise Security Outlook Report and present to FSRS in November.Develop Regional Security Roadmap for 2050 Strategy once Strategy is finalised.
---	---	---	---

Regional fisheries			
<p>Leaders (2019):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsed the Terms of Reference for a Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting and agreed with the advent of the Special Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting to disband the officials level Fisheries Taskforce. Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to work collectively to harness, secure, protect and sustainably manage, use and conserve, the living resources of the Blue Pacific such as coastal and oceanic fisheries – as part of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. 	<p>CROP role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination and technical advice to convene the Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting and progress Forum Leaders’ ongoing commitment to maximise the sustainable economic returns of the region’s fisheries. 	<p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertook independent review to assess progress on Leaders’ 2015 decision to maximise the sustainable economic returns from the region’ fisheries by 2021, supported by an inter-agency working group (IAWG) comprising PIFS (as lead), FFA, SPC and PNAO. FFC and PNA Ministers have considered the outcome of the review and have provided advice to the IAWG on recommendations to be presented in the cover paper to Forum Leaders for consideration in 2022. Follow-up on the 2nd Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (RFMM), held in August 2021, (SPC, SPREP, PIFS and USP) with a focus on COVID-19; coastal fisheries and aquaculture; climate change and fisheries; and marine pollution and ecosystems. Key issues from the RFMM then addressed at the Heads of Fisheries meeting. Convened Forum Fisheries Ministers in 2021 to discuss key issues in regard to fisheries management including monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), impact of COVIDs, zone based management, fisheries development and the tuna report card as well as collective priority setting for WCPFC (FFA). Supported Member engagement at the 2020 and 2021 WCPFC (FFA, SPC). Supporting Member engagement on the WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies (PIFS, FFA, SPC). Through COVID-19 Economic Recovery Taskforce, support Members to address high air freight costs, with a focus on longline fishery. A Freight Subsidy Programme has been set up in collaboration with PTI New Zealand to support Pacific MSMEs address high freight costs with fisheries businesses a priority (PIFS). <p>For further information: Outcomes of 1st and 2nd Regional Fisheries Meeting; Information paper to FEMM and FFMM on the outcome of the independent review; CERT paper to 2021 FEMM; 2022 FOC paper on Independent Review of Increased Returns from Fisheries</p>	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations from the independent review to be considered by FOC, and Forum Leaders with implementation then to be undertaken. Support the decision by FEMM to study the COVID-19 disruptions on the supply chain and its impact on the Pacific businesses. Implementation of RFMM and FFCMIN decisions.

Regional health			
<p>Leaders (2019):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Called for more consolidated and concerted efforts at national, regional and global levels to raise our ambition and to better support those working to improve the health of our people. Agreed that health remain on the agenda of future Pacific Islands Forums. 	<p>CROP role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy advice and coordination to raise regional outcomes including advice to Forum Leaders, Pacific Health Ministers and regional health meetings and through CROP mechanisms such as the Sustainable Development Working Group and Gender Working Group. 	<p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing implementation of Pacific NCD Roadmap with annual monitoring through Pacific Monitoring Alliance for NCD Action (MANA) (SPC). On-going consultations on the draft of the Pacific Legislative Framework (PLF) for NCDs (SPC). Pacific Ending Childhood Obesity Network continue to implement strategies addressing child obesity in the region (SPC). On-going consultations responding to cervical cancer (SPC, PIFS). Re-convening of the Cervical Cancer Taskforce chaired by WHO and membership of PIFS, SPC, UNFPA, UNICEF. <p>For further information: Pacific NCD Roadmap, draft Pacific Legislative Framework for NCDs, Pacific Ending Childhood Obesity Network Inaugural Forum Report 2019.</p>	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise PLF for NCDs (SPC). Drafting of regional roadmap in response to cervical cancer.

Regional aviation

Leaders (2019):	CROP role:	Progress:	Next steps:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Leaders agreed to convene a Regional Aviation Ministers Meeting (RAMM) in 2020 to consider and discuss aviation-specific matters of importance to the region, in particular aviation safety and security, compliance with International Civil Aviation Organisation standards and opportunities for increased connectivity, and for the subsequent consideration of Leaders at their meeting in 2020, as appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PASO is the RAMM Secretariat, under the RAMM Charter, providing secretariat role and technical advice.PASO to ensure coordinated and technical advice on aviation safety and security systems to assist States meet their international obligations. SPTO providing information on impacts on tourism due to non- travel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Aviation Officials met three times in 2021 and four times in 2022. Aviation Ministers met in June 2021.Progress on the RAMM Work Plan as of April 2022 include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Revision of the Pacific Islands Civil Aviation Safety and Security Treaty based on Member feedback and workshops;Development of the 10-year Regional Aviation Strategy supported by the World Bank Consultancy IOS Consultants and including Member consultations and feedback;Development of an Enhanced Regional Aviation Organisation, with Member consultations and development of a presentation for Aviation Officials;Assessment of COVID-19 Impacts on aviation in the Pacific presented to the 6th AOM, with PASO working closely with Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) to progress this work.Aviation Officials to consider discussions on Upper Airspace at their next meeting. Kiribati to revert with further advise and direction.Aviation Officials to consider discussions on Air Services Agreement at their next meeting. PASO is waiting on Solomon Islands to provide further advice.SPTO developed the 2021 COVID-19 Impact Snapshot Update (as at 30 September 2021) and will continue to monitor and provide information on the impacts on the Pacific tourism industry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Implementation of the RAMM Outcomes for consideration by Ministers at their next meeting in June 2022.Convene various Regional Workshops to collaborate and consolidate States positions for each of the RAMM outcomes deliverables accordingly.PASO to draft and coordinate a Pacific Regional Paper conveying a Pacific Voice at the next ICAO General Assembly in 2022.

CROP's ongoing delivery on existing Forum Leaders' decisions

Gender equality and Social Inclusion

Objective	CROP role	Progress	Next steps
<p>Advancing implementation of Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration and other regional commitments on gender equality and inclusion.</p>	<p>Through the Gender Working Group, provide advice on gender equality issues and emerging trends; CROP coordination to support the implementation, advocacy, monitoring and reporting of Pacific Leaders' gender equality commitments; and mainstreaming gender equality within CROP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED) undertaken in 2021 with the final report submitted to PIFS in October 2021 (PIFS, SPC, All CROP). Revitalisation process based on the PLGED review findings in 2022. Supported the convening of the Pacific Women's Triennial and Ministers for Women Meeting (SPC, Gender Working Group). Supported Members' advocacy and engagement at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65) in March 2021 and CSW 66 from 14-25 March 2022 (PIFS, Gender Working Group). Supporting the convening of the inaugural PIF Women Leaders Meeting to be held in 2022. Establishment of the CROP Women of the Wave Network (PIFS, SPC, PIDP, All CROP). <p><u>Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPC and PIFS partnership on Gender Webinar series. SPC support to PIFS for finalisation of Gender Equality Policy Toolkit. <p><u>Disability</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported establishment of Pacific Group on Disability Statistics (PGDS) set up by National Statistics Offices and currently led by Samoan Bureau of Statistics (SPC, PIFS). Developing Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) compliant legislative and policy guidelines in partnership with UNESCAP and the Pacific Disability Forum. Endorsement of Pacific Regional Inclusive Education Framework (PRIEF) by Forum Education Ministers Meeting (FEEdMM) as part of the Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF). PRIEF recognises that inclusive education is broader than just disability inclusion. PIFS partnered with the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF), DFAT and MFAT to convene a Pacific Satellite Summit on 16 February 2022 ahead of Global Disability Summit (16 – 17 February 2022) ensuring the Pacific had visibility at Global Disability Summit. <p><u>Early Childhood Development (ECD)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing work on Early Childhood Development (ECD) with UNICEF on the implementation of the Pasifika Call to Action on ECD including development of ECD Communications Plan for ministerial level Pacific Regional Council for ECD. <p>For further information: Pacific NCD Roadmap, Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration, Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration Review, Pacific Platform for Action and Women's Human Rights, 2020 Biennial Report; Pacific Framework on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Report of the Review of the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the PLGED review findings based on Leaders' direction. Convening of inaugural PIF Women Leaders Meeting in 2022. Contribute towards the 2022 Pacific Quadrennial Sustainable Development Report. Develop the CROP WOW Network plan for 2022. <p><u>Disability:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PGDS: continue supporting the Group under the Pacific Framework on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PFRPD) Coordination – training of NSOs on the Washington Group Short Set of Questions as part of national surveys. Finalisation of the legislative and policy guidelines. Development of capacity development interventions for disability focal points (government) and DPOs.

Sustainable development			
Objective	CROP role	Progress	Next steps
Implementation and monitoring of the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development and quadrennial and biennial sustainable development reports	CROP technical support to implement and monitor sustainable development progress directly and indirectly as part of the Pacific Sustainable Development Roadmap, Pacific Steering Committee for Sustainable Development (PSCSD) and Pacific Sustainable Development working group (PSDWG).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support to assist the Pacific Sustainable Development Steering Committee deliver on actions required under the Pacific Sustainable Development Roadmap, including commencing work for the production of the 2022 2nd Pacific Regional Quadrennial Sustainable Development Report. (All CROP). • Provided Member support with national, regional, and overall sustainable development strategies and actions aligned to the 2030 Agenda. For example, the team provided support to the Tuvalu Voluntary National Review 2021 report. The team also coordinated virtual consultations for the Global Partnerships for Development Effectiveness on monitoring and the SIDS Inter-Agency Core Group on Sustainable Development (SPC, SPREP, PIFS). • Provided member support for UN engagements in the following meetings: UN High-Level Political Forum, UNESCAP Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, and the Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (SPC, SPREP, PIFS, FFA, USP). <p>For further information: Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development; 2018 First Quadrennial Pacific Sustainable Development Report; 2020 Pacific Biennial Sustainable Development Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate the production of the 2nd 2022 Pacific Regional Quadrennial Sustainable Development Report. • Continued support provided to Members' implementation, planning, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs. • Provide technical support to the Government of Tuvalu in finalising their First Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report for the 2022 High Level Political Forum.
Human resource development			
Objective	CROP role	Progress	Next steps
Supporting implementation of the Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF)	Through the Human Resources Development Working Group, providing technical advice and coordination support on the PacREF and related issues; and support convening of Forum Education Ministers and Pacific Heads of Education Systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum Education Ministers Meeting (FEEdMM) was convened virtually on 13-14 April 2021, hosted by USP through the PacREF Facilitating Unit (PFU). • PFU participated in the meeting of Pacific Heads of Education Systems (PHES) which was held on 27-30 July 2021, hosted by Papua New Guinea and UNESCO. • High-level indicators developed and approved by FEEdMM to monitor progress of implementation of PacREF activities towards its targets. • PacREF Research Framework endorsed at FEEdMM. • PacREF communication strategy and branding completed and approved by PacREF Steering Committee. • Funding from GPE totalling USD 15 million has been approved and release of funding being negotiated between ADB and the Implementing Agencies. • The annual implementation review (AIR) of the Phase 1 Implementation Rolling Plan (IRP) was completed in November and the draft report completed in December 2021. • An interim direct funding facility was approved by MFAT in April 2021 to kick start activities by the implementing agencies. USP, SPC-EQAP and UNICEF obtained funding from this direct grant facility while UNESCO awaited the GPE funding. <p>For further information: Outcomes from 2021 Forum Education Ministers Meeting; Pacific Regional Education Framework 2018-2030; PacREF Research Framework can be obtained from the PacREF website: www.pacref.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing FEEdMM decisions. • Advocating for greater research activities under PacREF. • Preparing for the first Conference of Pacific Education Ministers (CPEM), to be hosted by New Zealand in 2023. • Greater advocacy for regional education through the PacREF Communication Strategy. • Completion of Annual Implementation Review Report and conduct Joint Oversight Mission in March 2023.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

Objective	CROP role	Progress	Next steps
<p>Supporting ICT enhancements across the region based on prioritisation of this under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism in 2015.</p>	<p>Through the ICT Working Group, support developments in accessibility and connectivity, ICT infrastructure, cybersecurity, digital transformation and ICT monitoring and evaluation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the 2021 Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting Tuvalu tabled a paper stressing the significance of ICT in the face of COVID-19, and the importance of a well-coordinated CROP effort to respond to Members' needs. In response, Forum Foreign Ministers recommended that Members call on the CROP ICT Working Group to provide development updates including on progress of the Pacific Regional ICT Strategic Action Plan (PRISAP). The matter was discussed by CROP Heads at their meeting on 13 October 2021, whereby they agreed to support and revitalise the CROP ICT Working Group including elevating the representation from CROP to add a high-level perspective, to explore digital ideas such as Elon Musk's Starlink satellites, and to consider issues of digital equity and inclusion. They also agreed on opportunities to strengthen regional coordination and action on ICT and digital transformation in the context of recent Forum decisions on ICT, COVID-19 recovery, and the upcoming 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SPC with CROP input, developed a TOR for a comprehensive assessment of digital transformation capability in the region which will include a review of the Pacific Regional Strategic ICT Action Plan. To be commenced in the coming months, the findings of this assessment will provide a basis to strengthen collective effort on regional digital transformation. ○ Supporting the region's 'e-gov' and digital transformation initiatives with partners such as the World Bank (ICT Working Group). ○ Convening of the Pacific ICT <i>Talanoa</i> Session (ICT Working Group). ○ Supporting the FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security (FSRS) relating to Cybersecurity and Cyber-Enabled Crime Strategic Focus Area (ICT Working Group). ○ Leading the implementation of a Pacific regional Internet Exchange Point (IXP) for three targeted countries with UNESCAP and ISOC (ICT Working Group). ○ Development of a regional education platform in partnership with UNESCO, IOE - Pacific Secondary School Learning Platform, which has been rolled out across six Pacific Island Countries (ICT Working Group). ○ E-commerce is one of the five priorities of the Pacific Aid-for-Trade Strategy (PAfTS). National E-commerce Assessments have been undertaken in eleven FICs. A Pacific Regional E-commerce Strategy and Roadmap has also been developed and endorsed by Forum members in August 2021 (PIFS). ○ PIFS has recently re-engaged with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, Governmental Advisory Committee (ICANN GAC) to better support Forum Members on internet governance issues. <p>For further information: Pacific Regional E-commerce Strategy and Roadmap; Forum Secretariat's Circular No. 239/21</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressing regional initiatives that are focused on addressing challenges and priority actions related to digital developments during COVID-19. • Progress comprehensive assessment of digital transformation capability. • Development of an implementation framework of the Pacific Regional E-commerce Strategy and Roadmap to support implementation. • Establishment of a proposed Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (CoE). • Continued dialogue and collaboration with regional partners in the ICT space towards impactful ICT developments. • Finalisation of the Pacific Regional Private Sector Strategy.

A Regional Mechanism to Address Oil Spills

Objective	CROP role	Progress	Next steps
<p>Leaders (2019):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed that the Forum Officials' Committee and the Secretariat, in collaboration with other CROP agencies, work on a Regional Mechanism and Action Plan, and that the Action Plan be presented to Leaders for consideration in 2020, taking into account the review of the Pacific Island Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN) being undertaken by SPREP. 	To develop a Regional Mechanism and Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PACPLAN 2019 was endorsed by the SPREP Environment Ministers Meeting in 2019 as well as the Ministers for Transport and Energy in 2019. A membership agreement for all Pacific Island Countries and Territories was established in November 2020 with funding support from NZMFAT (SPREP). A PACPLAN Project commenced late 2021 to address and implement PACPLAN 2019 for PICs with funding support from Australia following the commitment by Australia in 2019 (SPREP). A series of Regional Workshops were held in October 2021 – February 2022 to address oil spill prevention, preparedness, response and recovery capabilities for PICTs with funding assistance from the International Maritime Organization (IOM), jointly organised by SPC, IMO and SPREP in collaboration with Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), Maritime New Zealand (MNZ), United States Coast Guard (USCG). The workshop commenced the development of a Regional Action Plan as well as National Action Plans (SPREP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of the PACPLAN project to assist countries finalise the regional action plan as well as national action plans to address oil spills.

Plastic Pollution

Objective	CROP role	Progress	Next steps
<p>Leaders (2019):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Called on Pacific Rim countries to join and commit to action on addressing marine pollution and marine debris 	To work with Pacific Rim countries to join and commit to action on addressing marine pollution and marine debris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commencement of the Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) of AUD 16 million with funding support from Australia to implement the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter 2018-2025 (SPREP). Uptake by many PICTs of polices to ban and address single-use plastics including polystyrene. Adoption of the Pacific Regional Declaration on the Prevention of Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution and its Impacts, at the SPREP Ministers High Level Talanoa in September 2021 (SPREP). Participation by Members for the adoption of the UNEA5.2 resolution "<i>End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument</i>" and the formation of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) (SPREP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full participation of Pacific states in the INC process to negotiate a global legally binding instrument leading up to UNEA6 in 2025.

2021

CROP Annual Report
to Pacific Islands Forum Leaders