



# Invitation to the 1<sup>st</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Ocean Science and Ocean Management

Kiribati coastline. ©Karianako James

The Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS)<sup>1</sup> is pleased to invite Pacific stakeholders to the first Pacific Islands Conference on Ocean Science and Ocean Management (PICOSOM)<sup>2</sup> in Nadi, Fiji, from 11 to 15 September 2023. This regional conference on ocean science and ocean management is part of the Ocean Decade<sup>3</sup> implementation in the region.

## The conference aims to:

- identify, discuss and prioritise ocean science and management priorities in the Pacific with all relevant country stakeholders and partners;
- provide a platform for Pacific scientists to showcase their work and prioritise key scientific focuses and scientific questions;
- take stock of the current situation of integrated ocean management in Pacific Island countries and territories, and develop a shared understanding and way forward;
- share practical implications and examples of integrating traditional knowledge into scientific projects and ocean management; and
- discuss the implementation of the Ocean Decade in the Pacific and what it should look like.

**The agenda** will be based on responses to the registration form and a call for abstracts: <https://forms.office.com/r/zWnpwi0fiD>

The Conference will focus on the following themes:

### *Ocean science*

- Advances in ocean observing, monitoring, forecasting systems and remote sensing
- Early warning systems and hazards
- Fisheries science and research to support sustainable resources management
- Marine plastic pollution
- Aquaculture and mariculture
- Migratory species ecology and conservation
- Ocean health, marine ecosystem services and human well-being
- Ocean acidification, rising temperatures, marine heatwaves and deoxygenation
- Traditional ecological knowledge and conservation practices
- Coral reef ecology, resilience and restoration
- Coastal communities, conservation and marine ecosystem management
- Data and information management

1 <https://pccos.spc.int/>

2 <https://pccos.spc.int/work-areas/projects/pacific-islands-conference-ocean-science-and-ocean-management>

3 <https://oceandecade.org/>

### ***Ocean governance and policy for integrated ocean management***

- Integrated ocean management and marine spatial planning
- Ocean governance and policy frameworks
- Best practices in strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment for ocean management
- Ecosystem-based management – practical examples
- Conservation and management of threatened migratory species

### ***Integrating traditional knowledge and science in ocean management***

- Case studies of successful integration of traditional knowledge and science to inform marine management
- Community-based management of marine resources
- Traditional ecological knowledge, fishing practices and marine conservation
- Marine cultural heritage and archaeology
- Cultural values, indigenous rights and ocean conservation
- Collaborative management between indigenous communities and scientific experts

### ***Cross cutting themes***

- The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science in the Pacific
- Early Career Ocean Professional: Ocean leadership and capacity building
- People-centred approach to ocean science and management
- Ocean literacy and communications
- Indigenous knowledge
- Sustainable financing and resource mobilisation for the Ocean Decade and beyond

## **Inclusive participation**

Financial support is available for the attendance of young Pacific Island professionals.

To ensure success, the Pacific Community has also invited governments to nominate participants who are members of their national ministries or authorities related to ocean science, ocean policy, maritime affairs, meteorology, and/or fisheries. This ensures that participants can engage effectively for the session period.

The Pacific Community is committed to common principles and goals such as social inclusion and gender equality. We also acknowledge various Pacific Leaders' commitments towards gender equality. In this regard, the promotion of more Pacific Island women accessing capacity building opportunities and participating in decision-making processes remain important priorities, nationally and regionally. Thus, we would like to support and encourage our country partners in pursuing a fair, inclusive and gender balanced selection of participants.

## **Registration**



**All potential participants must complete the online registration form no later than 3 July 2023:**  
(<https://forms.office.com/r/nZMzxE7AnW>)



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