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PCCOS: The Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Sciences

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Summary

The creation of PCCOS was decided by the 2017 SPC Conference. It was formally created in 2019 in virtual form with funding from MFAT. The PCCOS implementation started in earnest in early 2021 with the hiring of the management team.

PCCOS actions will be mainly divided along 1) internal SPC coordination actions, 2) external actions with partners, stakeholder and 3) provision of actionable ocean science products to SPC members for their ocean policy implementation and achievement of SDG 14 targets:

- PCCOS aims at facilitating and promoting cross-divisional engagement and cooperation internally at SPC for a better-integrated service to its members and continued building of ocean science excellence at SPC.
- PCCOS will actively contribute to strategic partnerships in ocean science with a large number of institutions and initiatives at the national level, regionally (particularly with other CROP agencies) and internationally.
- PCCOS will coordinate the approach with government agencies responsible for implementing ocean policies and tracking progress against SDG 14

PCCOS : The Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Sciences

PCCOS Creation

1. Ocean science and knowledge is paramount for the sustainable management of ocean resources and marine ecosystems. The delivery of scientific data and product for improved ocean management requires significant support, collaboration, and commitment of shared resources at the regional level.
2. The Pacific Community (SPC) is the principal scientific and technical organisation supporting development in the Pacific region. In commemorating the SPC's 70th Anniversary, the 10th Pacific Community Conference in 2017 agreed to establish the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS) to be hosted at SPC and become a true flagship for scientific excellence and a dedicated regional science information and knowledge hub. The Center was formally established in 2019, for an inception phase and started its implementation phase in 2021 with the hiring of its coordination team.
3. In their ministerial statement, Pacific Leaders encouraged the expansion of the PCCOS as a convener of partnerships, knowledge exchange and action, and as a key initiative to strengthen the collaborative contribution of ocean science to sustainable development in the Pacific region.
4. The quality of scientific and technical services available at SPC is highly regarded regionally and internationally. SPC's divisions and programmes actively contributes to strategic partnerships in ocean science with a large number of institutions and initiatives at the national level, regionally (particularly with other CROP agencies) and internationally. While the established services of SPC provide a sound foundation for building the ocean science facility envisaged under PCCOS, a significant constraint to achieving this is the fact that inter-divisional collaboration and engagement across SPC has not matured and, in effect, remains siloed. In this context, PCCOS aims at facilitating and promoting cross-sectoral engagement and cooperation internally at SPC for a better-integrated service to its members. In doing so, it will promote institutional efficiency and add value to existing SPC ocean science services.

5. The beneficiaries from PCCOS are SPC's country members' governments that will directly benefit from accessing SPC's ocean science, services and knowledge that can provide an integrated response to ocean policy implementation and achievement of SDG 14 targets. While SPC's divisions and programmes continue to interact with national counterparts in meteorology, geoscience, natural resources, national disaster management, fisheries and maritime administrations, PCCOS will coordinate the approach with government agencies responsible for implementing ocean policies and tracking progress against SDG 14.
6. Academic and Scientific institutions, as well as Non-governmental organisations, play a major role in collaborating with SPC through PCCOS to develop the science responding to Pacific issues. Some of those institutions are the *Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer* (IFREMER), the *Institut de Recherche pour le Développement* (IRD), *Collecte Localisation Satellites* (CLS), Geoscience Australia and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Ltd (NIWA), and universities and academia globally.
7. PCCOS will benefit from the SPC's traditional partners through its divisions and programmes. This includes the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), the European Union (EU) and the UN agencies supporting SPC in sectoral areas (IOC, WMO, IMO, and FAO).

Examples of PCCOS actions internal to SPC

- FAD/Wave buoys: PCCOS will coordinate the collaboration between GEM and FAME division to implement the installation of wave buoys on select FADs. These wave buoys will provide sea state information to fisherman and serve as a locating beacon for FADs managers.
- Coordination between FAME and GEM for the implementation of a circulation model for coastal fisheries management around Kiritimati.
- Building the scientific rationale behind the SPC Research Vessel project.

Examples of PCCOS actions with partners

- Opportunistic Scientific Research Cruises for Oceanic Fisheries ecosystem studies, aboard the RV *Tangaroa*, in collaboration with NIWA and IMOS.
- Implementation of a Regional training centre for Ocean Acidification monitoring in collaboration with USP.
- PCCOS acts as the SPC focal point for the UN Decade of Ocean Science:
 - PCCOS is envisioned as the Regional Collaborative Centre for the UN decade.
 - The Integrated Ocean Management (Legal-Science-Culture) led by PCCOS is a programme endorsed by the UN Decade