

The Pacific Community

*Sustainable Pacific Development
through Science, Knowledge
and Innovation*



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS)



**'We are the sea, we are the ocean'
*Epeli Hau'ofa, 'Our Sea of Islands'***

What is PCCOS?

In commemorating the Pacific Community's (SPC's) 70th anniversary in 2017, the Tenth Conference of the Pacific Community agreed to task SPC to establish a **Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS)**, to be hosted by SPC. The Centre is now providing information and data for ocean science, management and governance. PCCOS facilitates excellence in ocean knowledge and innovation by drawing on cutting-edge scientific research within SPC and its regional science partners. PCCOS promotes innovative technologies and other collaborative action involving agencies of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific, which support and strengthen regional ocean governance and management, through evidence based science and traditional practices.

Why do we need a Centre for Ocean Science?

A full understanding of ocean health requires contributions from current science as well as traditional knowledge systems. The conservation and sustainable use of the oceans contributes to sustainable development, including poverty eradication, food security, sustainable livelihoods and employment. Protecting biodiversity and the marine environment can also help mitigate the impacts of climate change. Inputs from marine scientific research are essential to inform and support decision-making and policy development, from local councils to international bodies. It is therefore critical to channel disconnected oceans-related scientific initiatives and stakeholders into a strong, coordinated approach for communicating ocean science.



PCCOS, the Blue Pacific Continent, Sustainable Development Goal 14, and the UN Decade for Ocean Science

The PCCOS concept is intimately connected to the 'Blue Pacific', which deepens Pacific regionalism by harnessing the ocean as a driver of transformative change in the Pacific's socio- cultural, political and economic development. Blue Pacific captures the collective potential of our shared stewardship of the Pacific Ocean, based on an explicit recognition of our shared ocean identity, ocean geography and ocean resources. It aims to strengthen collective action as one 'Blue Pacific Continent' by placing the Blue Pacific at the centre of regional policymaking and activities.

PCCOS will provide the framework for SPC to focus its scientific and technical assistance on providing solutions that will build, sustain, and drive blue economies in Pacific Island countries and territories, as well as supporting the

achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 – Life below water. PCCOS aims to deliver coordinated scientific services that support ocean management, ocean governance and ocean observing, which are directly linked to Blue Pacific.



Figure 1. Technical and scientific expertise and services supporting the 'Blue Pacific Continent'

Sustainable Pacific development through science, Pacific knowledge, innovation and research (Pacific Community Strategic Plan 2022-2031)

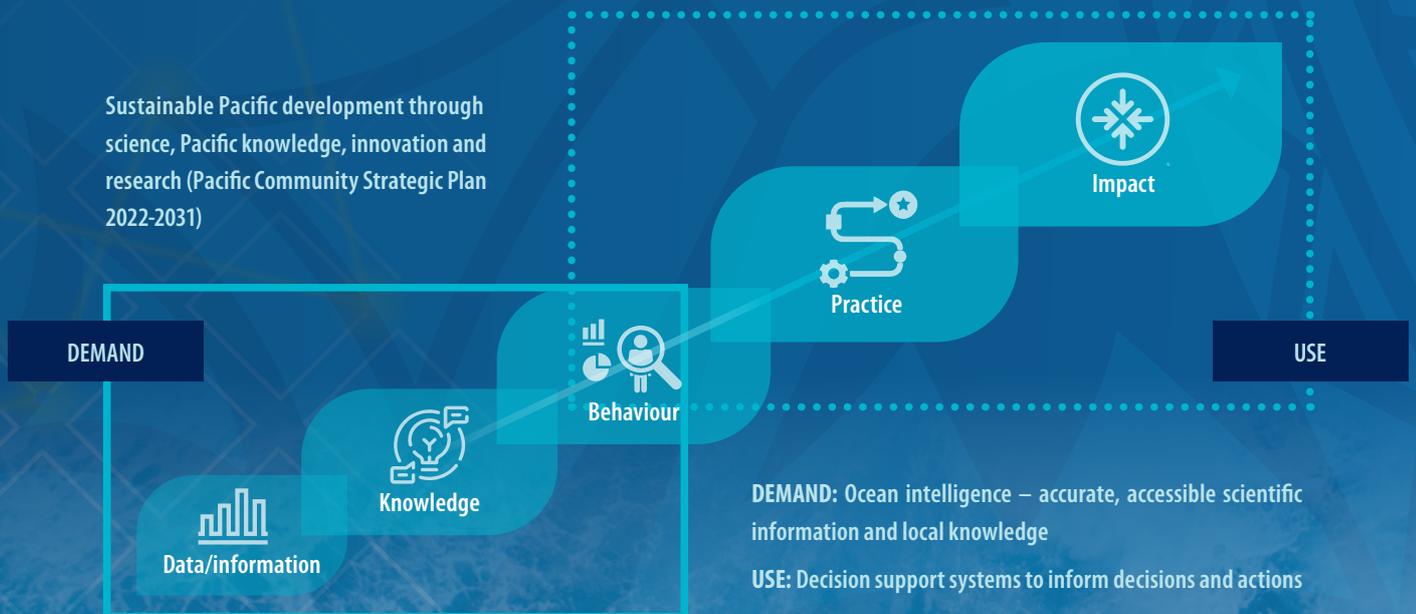


Figure 2. Transforming science to service

How does PCCOS work?

Improving Ocean Knowledge and Transforming ocean science to service

PCCOS will focus on facilitating, coordinating and transforming ocean science (Figure 2) so that our understanding of the ocean is accurate and accessible, and incorporates local knowledge and traditions.

Regional cooperation, collaboration, and integration on ocean science

There is a huge range of regional stakeholders and a vast array of complex interactions around ocean science, and it is vital to ensure that PCCOS is effectively advocating and delivering scientific ocean services and engaging with all stakeholders. PCCOS will create a platform that enables the coordination and integration of ocean science activities carried out by SPC (see Figure 3) with the work of other stakeholders, including other CROP agencies.



Figure 3. Ocean science activities carried out by SPC

How was PCCOS established?

PCCOS was established in two stages:

STAGE 1:

From 2019 to 2021 - virtual Centre

STAGE 2:

From 2021 to 2023 – four full-time staff and ongoing activities with funding support from the New Zealand Government

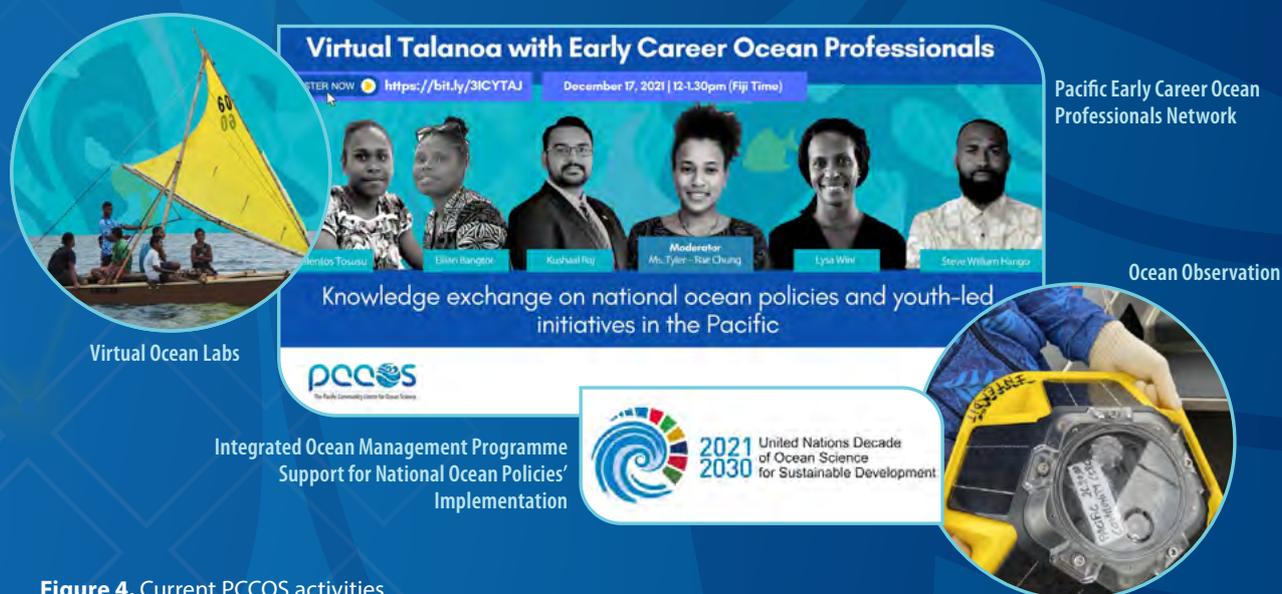


Figure 4. Current PCCOS activities

Contact

Dr. Jerome Aucan, Head of PCCOS, Pacific Community
B.P.D5, 98848 Noumea Cedex, NewCaledonia
Tel: +687 26.20.00
Email: jeromea@spc.int
www.spc.int/pccos

The Pacific Community is the principal scientific and technical organisation in the Pacific region, supporting development since 1947. We are an international development organisation owned and governed by our 27 country and territory members, including all 22 Pacific Island countries and territories. In pursuit of sustainable development to benefit Pacific people, our organisation works across more than 20 sectors, and we are known for our knowledge and innovation in such areas as fisheries science, public health surveillance, geoscience, and conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

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www.spc.int/pccos | spc@spc.int