

Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS)



What is PCCOS?

In commemorating the Pacific Community's (SPC's) 70th anniversary this year, 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 will be a science information and data platform for ocean science, management and governance (both living and non-living), and maritime governance. PCCOS will facilitate excellence in ocean knowledge and innovation by drawing on cutting-edge scientific research, 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, and traditional marine resource management practices.



Why do we need a Centre for Ocean Science?

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. A full understanding of ocean health requires contributions from current science as well as traditional knowledge systems. Support and input for marine scientific research is essential to inform and support decision-making and policy development, from local councils to international bodies. Improvements to the governance and management of ocean resources and marine ecosystems require significant collaborative commitment of shared resources. It is therefore critical to channel disconnected oceans-related scientific initiatives and stakeholders into a strong, coordinated approach for communicating ocean science.





Figure 1: Technical and scientific expertise and services supporting a 'Blue Pacific'

PCCOS, Blue Pacific and Sustainable Development Goal 14



as one 'Blue Pacific Continent' by placing the *Blue Pacific* at the centre of regional policymaking and activities.

The PCCOS concept is intimately connected to '*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

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. PCCOS aims to deliver coordinated scientific services that support ocean management (OM), ocean governance (OG) and ocean observing (OO), which are directly linked to *Blue Pacific*.

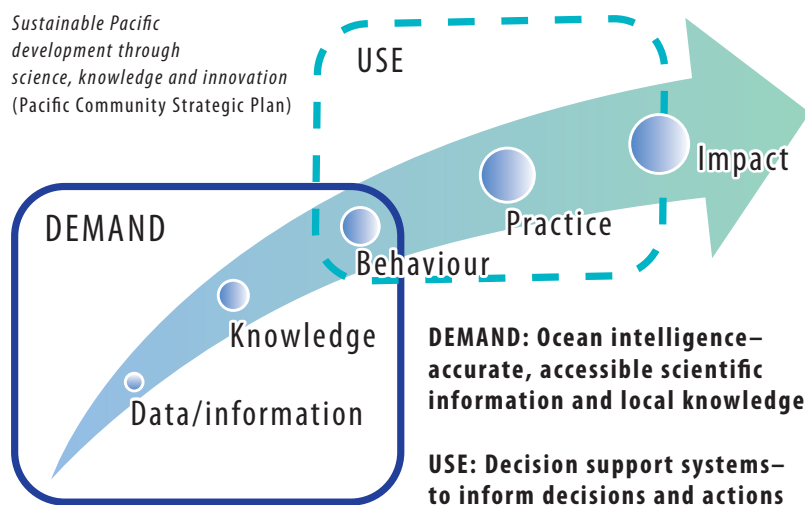


Figure 2: Transforming science to service

How will PCCOS work?

Transforming ocean science to service

The PCCOS initiative 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

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.

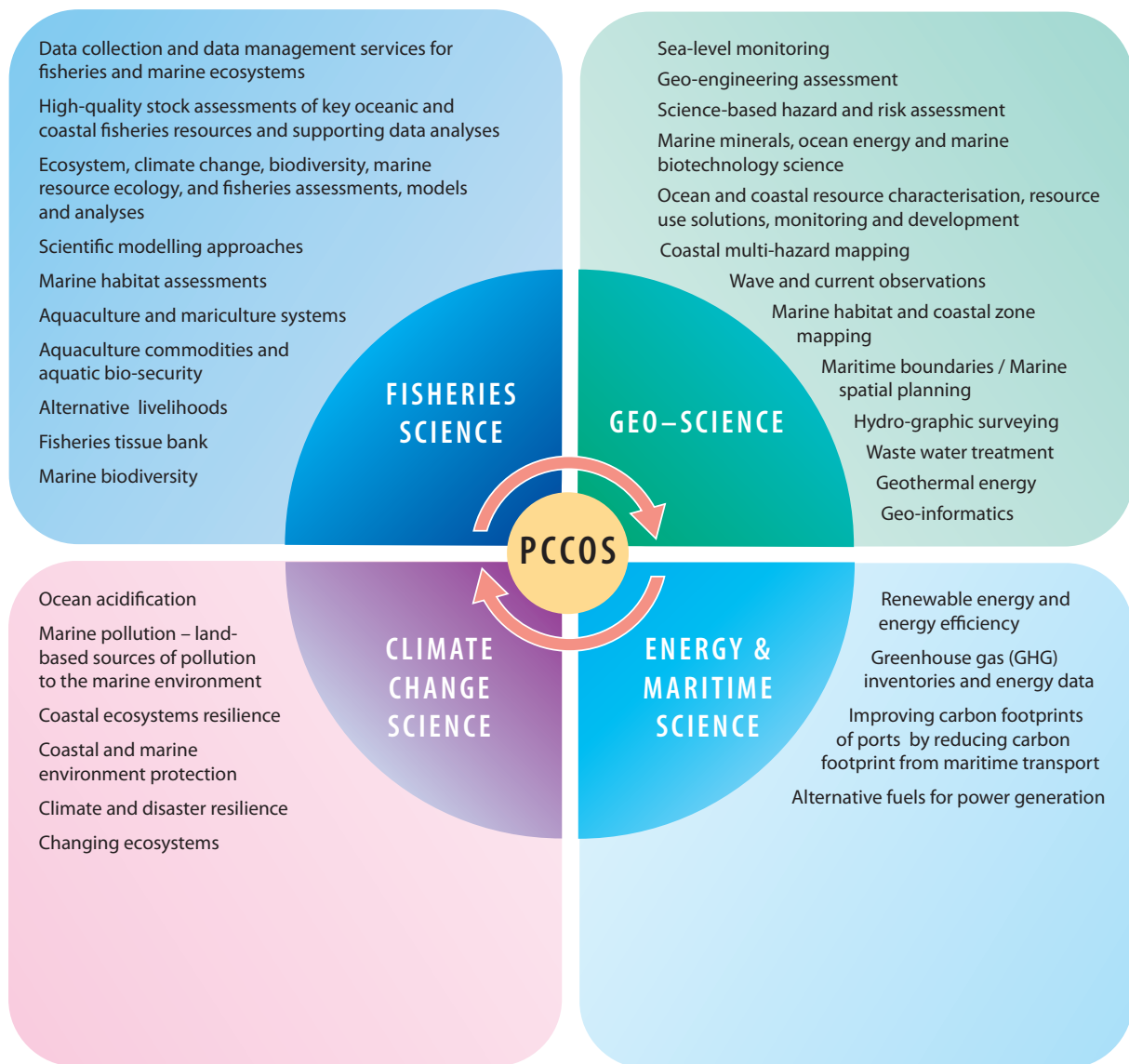


Figure 3: Ocean science activities carried out by SPC

How will PCCOS be established?

PCCOS will be created in two stages:

Stage 1: Development of the e-PCCOS portal – oceanportal@spc.int

An e-PCCOS portal – the *Pacific Ocean Portal* – providing easily accessible scientific data across six information areas (Figure 4) will be developed by SPC's Geo-Science, Energy and Maritime (GEM) Division.

Stage 2: Structural establishment

PCCOS will be established with relevant and appropriate human resource and funding support.

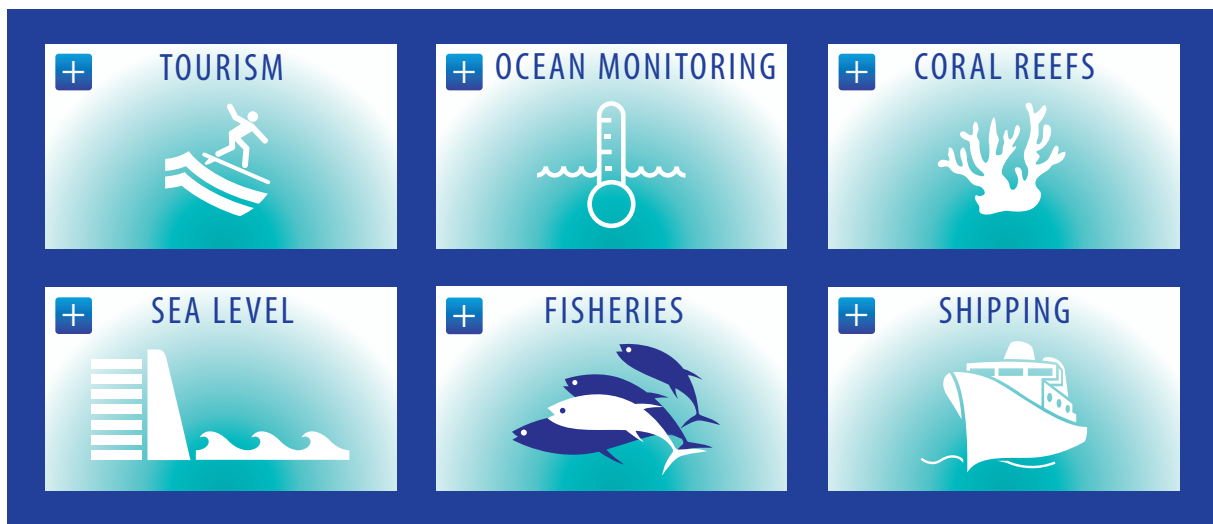


Figure 4: Proposed Pacific Ocean Portal across six information areas

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 26 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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