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PACIFIC ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Talanoa Dialogues and Entrepreneurship Catalyst on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)

From 'What' to 'How' through improved knowledge, dialogues and partnerships for targeted and enabled actions

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List of Abbreviations

10YFP	10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production
ABAS	Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States
Ag-NBS	Agriculture Nature-Based Solutions
CE	Circular Economy
CoI	Community of Interest
CoP	Community of Practice
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GPP	Green Public Procurement
GST	Paris Agreement Global Stocktake
IGOs	International Governmental Organisations
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
J-PRISM II	Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for the Promotion of Regional Initiatives on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries Phase II
MSCs	Multi-Stakeholder Consultations
MSMEs	Micro-, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
NCDs	Non-Communicable Diseases
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
PacWastePlus	The Pacific – European Union (EU) Waste Management Programme
PAWES	Pacific Adoption of Waste-to-Energy Solutions
PFO	Pacific Farmers Organisation
PIANGO	Pacific Islands Association of Non-governmental Association
PICs	Pacific Island Countries
PIF	Pacific Island Forum
PIFs	Pacific Island Forum Secretariat
PIPSO	Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation
PISC	Pacific Islands Standards and Conformance Infrastructure Initiative
PQI	Pacific Quality Infrastructure
PSC	Policy Support Component
SAMOA Pathway	Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production

SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SMEs	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
SPC	The Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SPTO	Pacific Tourism Organisation
TA	Technical Advisory
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WHO	World Health Organization

1. Executive Summary

The countries in the Pacific are on the front lines of climate-change impact, loss of biodiversity, and ecosystem destruction. Addressing these challenges to ensure a healthier future for both the environment and the people in the Pacific will require both global and local solutions. Mainstreaming sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in policies and practices, tailored to the unique context of the Pacific region, will be essential for addressing the issues of responsible resource management and waste minimisation, and for creating opportunities in fostering green business, innovation and community engagement. Promoting SCP can become an effective mechanism for transformative actions and solutions using a systems approach in managing natural resources, supporting economic development and contributing to the long-term sustainability and prosperity of communities in the Pacific countries. SCP will therefore be a game changer supporting the transition to circularity, climate resilience and sustainability in the Pacific.

The present Pacific Engagement Strategy has been developed to identify the priority issues pertaining to SCP, the relevant key stakeholders involved (local, national, regional and international, as well as public and private), and the possible pathways and actions to address SCP needs and actions tailored to the Pacific countries. There is a need for dialogue with and among all the stakeholders involved to discuss SCP policies and opportunities for action in the Pacific in the transition to resilient low-carbon economies. This strategy also looks at how dialogue and partnerships could be developed for joint actions with collective synergy for moving both circular economy (CE) and sustainable development forward.

As a means for transformation, the strategy examines how SCP policies and strategic actions would catalyse innovations supporting micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), thereby potentially accelerating the delivery of the circular economy to attain climate change objectives and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets. Considering their pivotal role in the supply chain ecosystem, it is important for all stakeholders, private and public, to duly incentivise and support the MSMEs in the region towards attaining these objectives.

To further promote and deliver SCP in the Pacific, the strategy will focus on the following priority sectors for effective transformative change: food systems, waste particularly plastics, tourism, building and construction. Resource and energy efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, digitalisation, lifestyles, and procurement are analysed as cross-cutting issues. Recommended actions in these priority sectors include awareness raising and education, building knowledge and enabling capacity, forming strategic partnerships, and accessing green financing.

Both initial stocktaking and policy analysis focusing on the priority sectors are needed to see how SCP is being mainstreamed in the Pacific countries at the local, national and regional levels in relevant policies and practices. Then it will be possible to evaluate how the value-chain functions in relation to products and services, and how it is contributing to waste build-up and environmental impact from resource use. Throughout this process, transformative innovative SCP and CE practices and techniques in the priority sectors will be identified, providing recommendations for acceleration and scaling up.

With regard to food systems, policies that support local green and blue production for healthier products will be essential, and these policies must be furthered by collective actions among the stakeholders, so as to place value on local knowledge and on incentivising and building the capacity of small entrepreneurs. It is essential to reduce the importation of unhealthy processed food through a strong communication strategy that will also include schools.

Together with food system management, the responsible management of waste will be a critical issue for the Pacific countries. Local innovations for circular processes and the identification of alternative products should be supported, backed up by a pro-active information and an awareness raising campaign to influence, change, and subsequently drive consumer choices.

As for tourism, responsibility and accountability should be better mainstreamed. Sustainable tourism should become a driver for local development and resilience, with the active participation of local communities in promoting local entrepreneurship and an adequate platform for communication.

Considered as a major 'low-hanging fruit' in the fight against climate change, the building and construction sector will be called upon to identify opportunities for more innovative energy-efficient practices, alternative energy sources, more climate-friendly construction material and assuming overall responsible and efficient strategy in the management of the built sector in communities and cities. The cross-cutting issues in this sector include digitalisation and green-sustainable public procurement as key enablers and main drivers. In construction, building and strengthening infrastructure to enhance climate resilience and energy/resource efficiency are crucial for ensuring long-term sustainability. It is also necessary to enhance resilience by 'climate-proofing' infrastructure and fostering the development of more sustainable communities. Embracing Green Public Procurement (GPP) should be a central focus in this endeavour.

Additionally, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are the building blocks of the Paris Agreement efforts to address climate change vulnerabilities, enhance resilience, increase the renewable energy share, and enhance energy efficiency with a view to reducing dependency on imported fossil fuels. Integrating SCP and CE policy approaches in the Pacific countries is an opportunity to enhance the region's climate policy ambitions and create effective climate actions via their NDCs by creating a higher level of synergies among their policies and strategies for materials use, the climate, and resilient economic growth.

To support local and regional engagement for collective actions, a series of Multi-Stakeholders Consultations will be organised by means of the recognised platform of the Talanoa Dialogues in the Pacific,[1] which ensure inclusive participatory exchange for the collective good, platforms for storytelling, stories of innovations, and stories of failures and successes. Storytelling makes it possible to exchange and learn the WHYs and HOWs that are appropriate to SCP, with its multiple facets, productions processes, consumption choices, behaviours, and lifestyles.

Considering the diversity and distance between the countries, it will be essential to 'organise' the region into clusters of countries according to common priorities and interests, their respective policies and thematic stakeholders, public and private, and meet together with selected regional and international partners.

Unlike other regions throughout the world, the Pacific region and the Pacific countries have not been as involved since 2002 in the global SCP process and the Marrakech Process with its subsequent 10 Year Framework for SCP. It is therefore important to consider building up and establishing a Community of Interest (CoI) for SCP as well as a Community of Practice (CoP) in the Pacific, learning from what has been done in other regions, while giving due attention to the specific Pacific context. Through a series of multi-stakeholder consultations (MSCs) with regional partners, the CoI will inform and advocate for SCP, looking at appropriate policy frameworks and regulations and raising awareness. The CoP, meanwhile, will consider specific activities on priority thematic sectors through a series of Technical Advisories.

With a systems approach as the framework to enable SCP strategies and actions, the structure of the SWITCH-Asia engagement in the Pacific will be to carry out the following actions.

- Advocate for, inform, and mobilise the Pacific community, including all of the regional organisations, public institutions and the private sector along with the MSMEs and the civil society groups, to communicate the importance of SCP for coping with many of their development challenges, all with the aim of building a Pacific CoI for SCP.
- Provide technical assistance for the development of SCP policies, strategies and action plans, focusing on efficiency and responsibility in resource use in the priority sectors.
- Curate public-private collaboration to include SCP innovations in relevant priority sectors.
- Generate insights and action roadmaps for priority sectors, products and services.
- Catalyse resource efficient, low-carbon, circular and nature-positive innovations , through entrepreneurship programmes, including awards, trainings and cross-pollination.

1 'Talanoa is a traditional word used in Fiji and across the Pacific to reflect a process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue.' Source: https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement/2018-talanoa-dialogue-platform
See Section (5) below for more details.

- Identify ways to develop and promote MSME access to alternative finance for high-potential SCP innovations.
- Inform and mobilise partners, national and regional, on the importance of of SCP in priority sectors through targeted Technical Advisories covering selected countries, resulting in establishment of an active CoP for SCP in the Pacific.
- Through the technical advisories in priority sectors, delve deeply into understanding how to mainstream related SCP and CE in policies and practices, particularly as regards addressing the challenges facing food systems and enhancement of climate-policy ambitions and genuinely effective actions in the Pacific countries.
- Establish a 'Pacific Entrepreneurship Innovations Beacon' to reward inspiring and scalable locally-led efforts that address the impact of climate change through SCP and circular economy actions.

2. Introduction

In 2023, SWITCH-Asia extended its coverage to the Pacific region marking a significant step in its mission to promote sustainable consumption and production. This initiative not only broadens the geographical scope of SWITCH-Asia's impact but also deepens its commitment to facilitating significant environmental and economic transformations across a more diverse array of communities and ecosystems. This expansion requires understanding of the potential for collaboration with national and regional partners working towards similar goals. By engaging closely with these partners, SWITCH-Asia seeks to enhance sustainable practices concerning resource use and to foster the development of a circular economy. This paper reflects conversations with SCP stakeholders, as well as studies of policy documents and commitments of the region and the countries involved, providing an overview of the collaborative efforts and strategic directions being pursued and defining potential areas of SWITCH-Asia engagements.

The Pacific Countries face significant challenges due to their vulnerability to climate change, biodiversity and habitat loss, ecosystem degradation, pollution, waste, and other threats.[2] These countries require strong regional and global commitments to address these challenges through transformative actions and solutions for the transition to sustainable development. Pacific Developing Countries are considered 'ocean-based economies' as they rely heavily on fisheries, maritime transport, extractive industries, and tourism for their economic activities and development.[3]

The key priorities for the Pacific Region and its constituent countries, particularly in Switch Asia's focal area comprising of the 14 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Timor Leste, are intricately linked with the imperative of proficient resource management and resilient economic growth.[4] Across numerous Pacific countries, the pressing challenges stem from inadequate infrastructure, including deficient transportation networks, water systems, energy grids, and communication systems. This lack of essential infrastructure serves as a hindrance both to the efficient utilisation of resources and to the progress of critical economic sectors, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive development initiatives to address these interconnected issues.[5]

The geographic isolation of Pacific countries presents significant challenges for trade, economic integration, and market access, all of which are complicated by factors such as remoteness, limited landmass, and resource availability constraints.[6] SIDS in particular struggle with chronic underfinancing for sustainable development, stemming from structural vulnerabilities and high levels of debt, which restrict their capacity to invest in long-lasting and resilient development.[7] Additionally, inadequate access to quality education and modern technology acts as a barrier to human capital development in the Pacific, impeding the cultivation of a skilled and knowledgeable workforce essential for unlocking the full potential of sectors ranging from agriculture to technology. Addressing these multifaceted challenges requires comprehensive and tailored development strategies that prioritise sustainable economic growth, infrastructure development, and human capital investment.

In addition to economic and infrastructure challenges, some Pacific countries also grapple with healthcare obstacles, including limited access to medical facilities and resources, as well as the emergence of increasingly wasteful and unhealthy lifestyles. Furthermore, the instability of agriculture and food production stems from inefficiencies along the food chain, highlighting the critical importance of promoting sustainable

2 Pacific Islands Climate Change Monitor: 2021.
3 Advancing Pacific Priorities by UNESCAP Pacific Office.
4 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent - Pacific Small Island Developing States (PIDS) consisting of Cook Islands, Federated State of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.
5 Pacific Possible: long-term economic opportunities and challenges for Pacific Island Countries.
6 Infrastructure for Small Island Developing State.
7 Sustainable development report for SIDs 2023: Chapter 3 Why do SIDS struggle to finance the SDGs?

practices and dietary habits.[8] Climate change is posing a significant threat to the Pacific region's food system, leading to an increase in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease among Pacific Islanders. These health challenges are often linked to dietary choices that favour imported processed products over locally grown products, because the former are perceived as more affordable and convenient even though these are less nutritious.[9]

Nature-based solutions play a critical role in helping landscapes and communities adapt to climate change and become more resilient. These solutions involve protecting, managing, or restoring natural ecosystems to address challenges such as climate change, human health, food and water security, and disaster risk reduction. The promotion and development of nature-based solutions are increasingly seen as effective strategies for mitigating and adapting to climate change. This is especially important in the Pacific, where the region's unique and diverse ecosystems are a valuable asset for sustainable development if managed responsibly and with long-term sustainability in mind. It is crucial to integrate the development of green and blue economies by implementing income-generating activities related to sustainable food systems, coastal and deep-sea fisheries, tourism and improvement of infrastructure.[10]

Key enablers for the change pathway include climate resilience and adaptation, which will be crucial due to the exacerbation of pressures in sectors such as economic activity, migration, food security, human development, governance, regional stability, and ecosystems.[11] Effective financing instrument management, including climate finance and green investment like agriculture insurance, is essential.[12] Additionally, technology and innovation are vital for a just transition to low-carbon, resource-efficient, resilient infrastructure, sustainable production systems, and digitalisation for managing natural resources and promoting rural agricultural products and inputs.[13] Education and awareness initiatives, such as behaviour-change programmes and training for solid waste management, are also critical.[14] Furthermore, improving connectivity, trade facilitation, and quality infrastructure are critical components of this transformation.[15]

The current consumption and production patterns in the Pacific region countries are predominantly inefficient and risky in both the short and long run. However, progressively mainstreaming sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns can result in better management of natural resources, improved access to water, food and energy, improved health and local-national resilience, reduced ecosystems destruction, reduced waste and mitigation of the consequences of climate change. It is crucial to acknowledge that sustainable development hinges on the health of ecosystems, with consumption and production practices exerting direct and indirect influence – not to say pressure – on Pacific environments and species.

In a region dramatically affected by climate change and amid serious development constraints and environmental problems, a systemic and prospective analysis capable of guiding and directing anticipatory actions will be essential for identifying the appropriate behavioural and development policies and actions to be implemented. It will be not only useful but also necessary to understand and discuss SCP approaches, policies, needs and actions, and to identify key stakeholders, to deliver short-term goals while transitioning towards a circular economy (CE) and sustainable development. Additionally, regional and global commitments are essential, considering that waste and pollution originating from other regions significantly contribute to the challenges confronting the Pacific region. This underscores the imperative for collaborative efforts for the common good in promoting sustainable consumption and production practices on both the regional and the global scale.

As defined by the global community, SCP refers to 'the use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimising the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardise the needs of future generations.'[16]

8 Determinants of overweight and obesity and preventive strategies in Pacific countries: a systematic review.
9 The role of trade in pacific food security and nutrition.
10 What You Need to Know About Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Change.
11 Pacific Regional Four-Year Plan.
12 The Pacific Insurance and Climate Adaptation Programme (PICAP).
13 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan 2023–2030.
14 PACWaste Plus Project.
15 Pacific Aid for Trade Strategy 2020–2025.
16 UNEP, ABC of SCP: Clarifying concepts on Sustainable Consumption and Production, 2010.

Therefore, considering the specific geographic context and related constraints for the Pacific Region, promoting and delivering SCP can become an effective supportive mechanism for transformative actions and a solution-provider to other major issues jeopardising the future of development for the countries and people involved. SCP is integral to climate change mitigation, as its practices can enhance the resilience of both environments and human communities. SCP will then be conceived as an enabler and a catalyst as:

- a strategy contributing to resilience of the countries in terms of access to critical resources including water, food, and energy
- a gamechanger in the transition to circularity, climate resilience and sustainability
- a driver of resource and energy efficiency, notably in the sectors of food, water, construction, tourism, waste and energy
- an innovations platform, namely an incubator of innovative solutions by local communities and MSMEs, youth and women
- a beacon for eco-inclusive MSMEs that will be leading by example, inducing replication and acceleration for transformative change and results
- a collective action framework for multi-stakeholder dialogues (bringing together relevant international and regional actors, as well as countries and major groups, including business, for mutually supportive knowledge-sharing and consultations)
- an enabler for effective transformative actions in support of climate impact alleviation, improvement of ecosystems and human health, local resilience, and empowerment of MSMEs, women and youth in more responsible projects
- a solutions provider through locally implemented projects together with regional, national, and local actors
- a catalyst to preserve Pacific marine ecosystems and safeguard vital resources on small, land-limited islands
- a tool for economic resilience, minimising environmental damage costs, and fostering local livelihoods through value-added products and sustainable tourism practices
- a commitment to preserve Pacific environments, address transboundary waste issues, and ensure the holistic life-cycle management of products
- a solution to encourage the adoption of renewable and biodegradable alternatives for effective waste management
- a change of lifestyle in favour of sustainability, prioritising waste reduction and sustainable sourcing
- an approach that addresses waste repercussions, species preservation, and the environmental impact of plastics, to align with the Cleaner Pacific 2025 strategy for research-driven waste and pollution management.[17]

In summary, SCP will assist in translating the 'what is needed' for Sustainable Development in the Pacific into 'how we deliver transformative change' for a more secure and resilient future for the Pacific, countries, ecosystems, and people.

17 Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Pacific.

3. Pacific regional priorities related to SCP

In 2014, the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) gathered in Apia, Samoa, to discuss and define the needs for sustainable development relevant to their specific contexts and conditions. According to the outcome document, namely the **SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action** (**SAMOA**) **Pathway,**[18] there is a need to:

- strengthen cooperation and enable strong, genuine and durable **partnerships** at the subnational, national, subregional, regional and international levels to enhance international cooperation and action to address the **unique vulnerabilities** of small island developing States so as to ensure their sustainable development
- recognise that the **private sector** plays an increasingly important role in achieving sustainable economic development, including through **public-private partnerships**
- foster **entrepreneurship and innovation**, build capacity and increase the competitiveness and social entrepreneurship of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (**MSMEs**) and state-owned enterprises in small island developing States, as well as encourage inclusive and sustainable industrial development with the participation of all people, including the economically disadvantaged, women, youth, and persons with disabilities
- engage in national and regional efforts to sustainably develop the **ocean resources** of small island developing States and generate increasing returns for their peoples; support the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries, improved mechanisms for resource assessment and management and enhanced facilities for fisheries workers, as well as initiatives that add value to outputs from small-scale fisheries, and enhance **access to markets** for the products of sustainable small-scale fisheries of small island developing States
- find suitable solutions to the exceptional vulnerability resulting from the fluctuating availability and excessive price volatility of **food** imports; the danger caused by an **unhealthy diet** and the need to promote healthy food production and consumption; the problem of how to increase rural income and jobs, with a focus on the **empowerment of smallholders and small-scale food producers, especially women**; promoting the crucial role of **healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable agriculture, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for enhancing food security** and **access to adequate, safe and nutritious food** and in providing for the livelihoods of the people of the small island developing States
- Regarding waste: implement **reduction, reuse, recycling, recovery and return** approaches in accordance with national capacities and priorities, *inter alia*, through capacity-building and environmentally appropriate technologies, for **environmentally sound waste management**, crucial for human health and environmental protection, with the additional challenges for the sound disposal of waste in a large number of small, remote land areas
- Develop and implement policies that promote responsive, **responsible, resilient and sustainable tourism, inclusive** of all peoples; diversify sustainable tourism through products and services, including large-scale tourism projects with positive economic, social and environmental effects, and encourage the development of **ecotourism, agritourism and cultural tourism**; provide **platforms for the exchange of best practices** and direct focused support to their national efforts.

Regarding **SCP**, the SAMOA Pathway reiterates that promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production is an overarching objective of and essential requirement for sustainable development, recalling the 10-year Framework of Programmes on SCP and its vision, and recognising that all countries should promote SCP patterns, with developed countries taking the lead and all countries benefiting from the process. This should be done in accordance with national objectives, needs and priorities, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries with the aim of minimising the possible

18 SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

adverse consequences on their development, and in a manner that protects the least affluent communities. In this regard, **SIDS will look for adequate support to develop and implement programmes** under the 10-year framework of programmes **to advance SCP, with an emphasis on micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises**, sustainable tourism, waste management, food and nutrition, lifestyles, education for sustainable development and linkages in the supply chain to promote rural development.

In the midterm review of the SAMOA Pathway High-Level Political Declaration,[19] the call for action insisted on the urgent need for:

- fostering, creation and expansion of MSMEs in small island developing States, while considering national development priorities, circumstances and legislation
- promoting investments in science and technology in SIDS as a means of **incentivising innovation and entrepreneurship**
- scaling-up and developing genuine and durable **partnerships** with all stakeholders at national, regional and international levels
- continuing to promote **sustainable food systems**, with a view to ensuring food security, improving nutrition and fostering healthy diets and lifestyles
- providing support to small island developing States to **mitigate and adapt to the adverse impact of climate change** through diverse approaches such as ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions
- **addressing different types of waste through innovative approaches**, including *inter alia* mismanaged plastic waste, chemical waste and marine litter, including plastic litter and microplastics.

The SIDS4 conference held on 27–30 May 2024 in Antigua and Barbuda discussed ways to revitalise economies, enhance financing, strengthen partnerships, make climate finance work for SIDS, leverage digital technologies and invest in human capital.

The following issues under the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States (ABAS) were highlighted in the event as essential to effectively provide necessary support to the SIDS:

- use natural resources efficiently, particularly ocean resources, to advance the economic transformation of SIDS, harnessing the potential of the blue economy while preserving and regenerating marine ecosystems and promoting sustainable ocean-based economies
- promote the diversification of local economies, including sustainable fisheries
- support SIDS' transition from fossil-based to renewables-based energy systems
- build multi-stakeholder partnerships and leverage the private sector
- increase synergies and coordination at national, regional, and international levels
- invest in digitalisation and digital infrastructure
- expand the productive capacities of SIDS and reduce brain drain
- champion sustainable actions.

The SWITCH-Asia Pacific programme could contribute by addressing the issues raised, while promoting and enabling the delivery of SCP and circular economies in the Pacific region and its various countries, in close consultation with the national, regional and international stakeholders concerned.

On achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Pacific leaders endorsed the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development 2017[20] which outlines **regional priorities for collective actions** within the context of national plans and priorities, the SAMOA Pathway and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

As part of the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development, 132 Indicators of the SDGs were selected by

19 Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway High Level Political Declaration, 2019.
20 The Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development 2017.

the Pacific SDG Taskforce.[21] For SDG 12, Responsible Consumption and Production, the following Pacific indicators subset included only the following:

12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement

12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment

12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled

12.b.1 Number of sustainable tourism strategies or policies and implemented action plans with agreed monitoring and evaluation tools

As indicated in the SDG 12 Pacific indicators, it did not include other SDG 12 Targets. Other Indicators that are SCP related targets are included in SDG 2 (Food and Hunger), 6 (Clean Water Sanitation), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life below Water), and 15 (Life on Land).

At the time of the halfway assessment, the implementation of most of the targets of the SDGs are far from satisfactory for most Asia and Pacific countries, mainly with regard to SDG 12 and other SCP related targets in other SDGs. In the Pacific region, there was slow development in terms of implementation of SDG 12 as indicated in their dataset results.[22]

The infosheet *SCP in the Pacific*,[23] developed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) through its Pacific sub-regional office, highlighted the importance of promoting SCP practices, which is a key component of climate change mitigation and increased resilience within environments and communities. It also highlighted that consumption and production practices directly affect environments and species, and that local action as well as global commitments to SCP will be required. The opportunity for the Pacific to lead in practice and research regarding SCP approaches and waste impacts among other related issues is emphasised.

The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent endorsed by Pacific Island Forum (PIF) leaders in 2019 shows high-level commitment with respect to shared action on climate change, sustainable development, ocean management and security. Built on the concept of a blue economy, it identified strategic priorities based on the challenges, risks, and opportunities posed by a sustainable ocean economy. The various strategy goals pertaining to the sustainable use and management of the ocean and its resources, and enhancing climate action through mitigation and adaptation, highlight the importance of promoting SCP in the priority sectors. In particular, SCP aligns with the Strategy's Resource and Economic Development, Climate Change and Disasters, Ocean and Environment thematic areas, each containing various strategic pathways with focus on governance, inclusion and equity, education and partnerships.

The **Theory of Change** and objective of the SWITCH-Asia Pacific Engagement Strategy will focus on SCP Policy development and implementation, by advocating for, promoting, and implementing SCP as a critical and essential supportive mechanism and gamechanger to better cope with climate, environmental, social and economic challenges, and to deliver results on circularity, climate and sustainability targets more firmly.

21 SDG in the Pacific: The132 indicators in this booklet represent the subset of SDGs selected by the Pacific SDG Taskforce, as part of the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development.

22 https://pacificdata.org/dashboard/sdg-12-responsible-consumption-and-production

23 SCP in the Pacific, SPREP and UNEP.

4. SCP Needs assessments

As specified in the **2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent**,[24] it will be essential to strengthen the resilience of Pacific economies, including through the sustainable management and development of the region's resources, reflecting the value of its ecosystem goods and services. To that end, creating employment and entrepreneurial activity in the MSMEs is vital for improving and expanding opportunities for Pacific peoples and their well-being. While not explicit in this major 2050 Pacific Strategy, dealing seriously with the currently unsustainable consumption and production patterns will be pivotal for needed transformative change in the path to sustainability.

There already exist various policies and activities, already tested in other regions, that contribute to managing and changing current unsustainable consumption and production patterns at different stages of supply chains and related to food systems, agri-food, building and construction, urbanisation, tourism and related to waste (solid, water, organic, plastics, electronics, etc.), tourism, procurement, education, and lifestyle changes. Lessons and adaptation to Pacific regional and local contexts will help in better identifying specific Pacific actions for quick and effective delivery.

Where necessary, national SCP frameworks and policies could be prepared, to serve as a platform and supportive mechanism for other important economic, social and environment policies, through the implementing or development of green, circular and low-carbon economies. Various Pacific countries are looking forward to developing national SCP frameworks based on such models, in line with the global commitment of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP (10YFP), not only to effectively promote SCP patterns but also to assist in the transition to circular and a low-carbon economy.

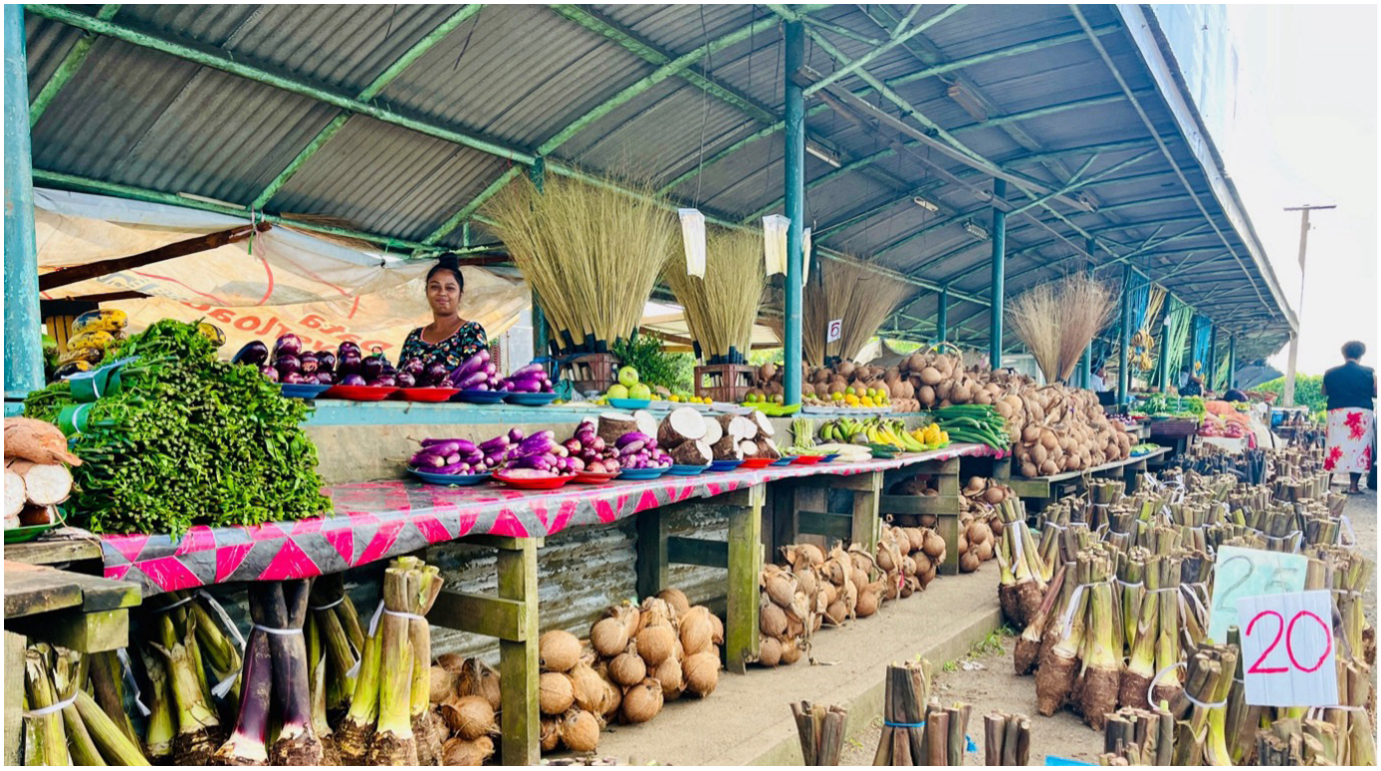
More importantly, related discussions on policies and strategies for actions could be used as dialogue opportunities among the stakeholders involved, within the context of multi-stakeholder consultations (MSC) and Talanoa Dialogues, for awareness raising and identification of pathways for collective actions.

When the economic, environmental and social context in the region and the States involved; the unhealthy nutrition lifestyles, publicly recognised by various leaders of the Pacific Countries; the risk of cumulated wastes in small islands; and the reliance on external tourism for additional income, all confirmed by various national and international assessments are all taken into consideration, it becomes obvious that food systems, plastic waste, tourism, and building and construction deserve particular attention, as the priority issues most relevant to SCP, resource efficiency and the circular economy. And indeed from the systemic approach point of view of SCP, these sectors not only closely interrelate, but they also connect to other important sectors such as agriculture, industry, trade, water and energy resources, and above all to ecosystem management and climate change.

In the sections that follow, snapshots on major issues related to these consumption and production priority sectors, with relevant challenges, needs and opportunities, are presented as an introduction to possible follow-up actions, including through specific Technical Advisory programmes. If necessary, these issues could be expanded to other sectors, specifically in the event that they emerge during SCP MSC and Talanoa Dialogues in the region, where possible, or be targeted for a sub-group of countries clustered according to thematic priorities. In any case, from a systems perspective, these four sectors are very much interrelated and inter-connected, while other sectors will also be considered as needed in related policies and actions, keeping in mind that education, awareness raising, lifestyles and procurement issues will be considered as cross-cutting themes throughout.

24 https://forumsec.org/2050

4.1. Sustainable Food systems: boosting local green and blue production for healthier products for All



Context

Pacific Island countries encounter unique challenges in establishing sustainable food systems, stemming from their vulnerabilities and development concerns. These countries possess fragile land and marine environments that are increasingly threatened by climate change, population growth, urbanisation, over-exploitation, environmental degradation, and natural disasters. Traditional Pacific diets consist mainly of root crops, coconuts, leafy greens, fruits, fish, and seafood, with fish and their by-products serving as vital protein sources. However, the increasing consumption of imported and processed foods significantly contributes to daily caloric intake. This shift, along with limited dietary diversity and low fruit and vegetable consumption, hinders the efforts to promote healthy diets. Despite their lower nutritional value, imported foods are often more affordable and easier to prepare, exacerbating the challenge. Ensuring year-round access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food is becoming progressively difficult across the region, necessitating urgent action.[25]

The Pacific food system faces significant challenges in meeting the population's nutritional needs. A worrying trend of declining per capita agricultural and coastal fisheries production is being worsened by an increase in the importation of unhealthy foods.[26] These imported foods, often high in sugars, unhealthy fats, and processed ingredients, are becoming more convenient, cheaper, more heavily marketed, and more readily available than healthier traditional foods. This shift towards imported unhealthy foods, coupled with the dwindling production of local, nutritious foods, poses a dual threat to the region's health and food security.[27] It contributes to the rise in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases, all of which are closely linked to poor dietary habits. Additionally, these foods undermine domestic food security by reducing the self-sufficiency of Pacific nations in providing their populations with adequate, nutritious food.[28]

Pacific Leaders recognise the critical role of sustainably managing and developing fisheries resources to support the livelihoods, food security, and economies of Pacific Island communities, in particular by providing needed support to 'Unlocking the Blue Pacific Prosperity Plan'. This plan seeks to protect 30% of the Blue Pacific Continent, establish robust food systems supported by resilient ecosystems, and create

25 Multi-country Programming Framework for the Pacific Islands.
26 Agriculture and fisheries for improved nutrition: integrated agri-food system analyses for the Pacific region.
27 Continuity and change in the contemporary Pacific food system.
28 The role of trade in pacific food security and nutrition.

sustainable financing mechanisms to implement the 2050 Strategy tailored to the specific contexts, priorities, and capacities of Pacific Island countries.[29]

Way forward

Mainstreaming SCP and Circular Economy (CE) in food systems holds promise for providing multipronged benefits to society and the environment, by reconnecting communities with local food production and changings the way food is grown, food products are designed and produced, and by-products and waste are recovered and utilised. The result is a re-diversification of foods and products, as well as localised production and consumption, which will increase the resilience of agri-food systems and their regeneration capacities. The uptake of SCP and CE strategies will however require enablers, such as appropriate food policies, development of markets, and education and capacity building.

Addressing food system challenges in the Pacific Islands needs a collaborative effort involving governments, civil society, the private sector, and local communities. This entails investing in research, infrastructure, and capacity building, alongside implementing policies that support local food systems and sustainable practices. It will also be crucial to integrate traditional knowledge and prioritise blue food and ocean management for resilience.[30] There is a commitment to advancing regional economic governance and leveraging digitalisation for green and blue growth.[31] The emphasis is to identify and capitalise on the needs and opportunities within the green and circular economy.[32]

The food sector can significantly contribute to Pacific Island economies, providing employment and income. Supporting local food systems can boost economic growth and livelihoods, requiring efforts to increase agricultural production, improve market access[33], and strengthen national institutions through capacity building. [34] Integrated solutions are needed to address challenges to sustainable agriculture production. [35] Initiatives like composting food waste[36] contribute to this sector, as well as fostering inclusive food systems, enhancing agriculture value chains, and expanding agribusiness options,[37] all improving sustainable and community-based production systems for crops and livestock.[38]

Tourism in the region presents significant opportunities for agritourism, which can be a powerful tool for promoting sustainable natural resource management and investing in resilient agri-food systems. By incorporating organic management solutions and promoting sustainable agriculture,[39] the health of the environment can be enhanced, while also supporting rural development and the livelihoods of local communities.[40] One key aspect of this approach is the incorporation and promotion of traditional knowledge systems and indigenous cultural practices. Valuing and consolidating these systems can create a strong foundation for a value-based economy that benefits both local communities and visitors alike. Additionally, leveraging agri-food-tourism linkages can create income opportunities for farmers and small-scale agricultural businesses, inducing and supporting local healthy culinary practices, boosting employment, and stimulating economic growth in many destinations across the region.[41]

Agriculture Nature-Based Solutions (Ag-NBS) offer a cost-effective approach for sustainable land and water management and combatting climate change. These practices enhance water quality and availability, restore ecosystems and soils, improve global food security, and provide health benefits. When implemented effectively, Ag-NBS benefit farmers enhance agriculture resilience, mitigate climate change through carbon sequestration, and promote biodiversity. To ensure the future of food systems, global agricultural producers are transitioning to practices that regenerate nature and enhance sustainable food systems.[42]

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29 Fifty-second Pacific Island Forum. Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 6-10 November 2023. Forum Communique.
30 Food Systems in the Pacific: Addressing Challenges in Cooperation with Europe.
31 [AAP] Pacific Solutions: Integrated Ocean Management.
32 [AAP] Skills Development for Employment and Resilience.
33 Solomon Islands Agriculture and Rural Transformation Project.
34 Samoa Agriculture & Fisheries Productivity and Marketing Project (SAFPROM).
35 Land Resources Division.
36 Samoa Sustainable Tourism Charter and Foundation.
37 [AAP] Forestry-Climate Change Biodiversity (FCCB) nexus: 'Our Forest, Our Future'.
38 Sustainable transformation of domestic agrifood systems in Fiji, Samoa, and Solomon Islands.
39 PACWaste Plus Project.
40 Promoting Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Blue Economies.
41 Linking agriculture and tourism to strengthen agrifood systems in Asia and the Pacific.
42 Agriculture nature-based solutions.

Furthermore, innovations, including entrepreneurial innovations, can play a critical role in developing local solutions. For example, mechanisation, carefully contextualised so as to avoid negative consequences, and a better use of information technology can also make agricultural production more resilient and productive, improving product quality and increasing resource-use efficiency. Digital tools can improve access to needed information and knowledge to review/upgrade current practices, management and business models, resource-use efficiency, environmental protection, and ecosystems resilience.

To that end, local innovation should be encouraged and enabled. Encouraging, harnessing, and enabling innovations in all of the following: local agricultural production and artisanal and commercial fishing and aquaculture, food processing and supply to families, communities, markets, and hotels-restaurants, can provide alternative solutions to reducing the imports of processed foods while at the same time improving the quality and safety of local food to local populations as well as tourists. Such practices also contribute to reducing pollution, saving resources including financial, by introducing efficiency measures and assuring the input of materials (safety of supply). Overall, innovation increases the resilience of local and national economies and ecosystems.

Stakeholders and enabling factors

Food system transformation requires co-creation and the continuous cooperation of food system actors, including governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The important role of innovations in response to simple and complex challenges is key: through a continuous learning and adjusting process among all stakeholders to collectively define how to best address their food challenges specific to Pacific context, the stakeholders, national governments and private/SMEs, among others, can improve the abilities they need to transition to sustainable food systems.

Improved assessment, identification of innovations and their replicability, together with actionable steps to contribute to needed food transformative change, could be collectively defined through dedicated multistakeholder consultations (MSCs), involving selected relevant stakeholders from both the public and private sectors, and including international governmental organisations (IGOs), civil society organisations (CSOs) and MSME associations.

Governments and the development community can facilitate collective action among enterprises to synergise their interests, scale up their actions and reinforce their role as key stakeholders in the local and national development process. To that end, it would be important to support institutional strengthening of farmers and fishermen, and both men and women, along with the related associations to ensure better and stronger advocacy and representation.

Regional cooperation among diverse actors is crucial to improving and building a sustainable food system. Addressing the challenges facing food systems in the Pacific countries will require a multi-faceted and collaborative approach involving governments, civil society organisations, the private sector, and local communities. Efforts to improve food security and sustainability will also require investment in research and development, infrastructure, and capacity building, as well as the implementation of policies and programmes that support the development of local food systems and promote the use of sustainable and resilient food production practices.

For example, FAO and the EU recently launched a new project aimed at transforming agri-food systems in Fiji, Samoa, and the Solomon Islands. The initiative focuses on strengthening the policy and institutional environment, enhancing sustainable and community-based production systems, and building individual and institutional capacities. The project underscores the importance of promoting radical change and genuine transformation to address the pressing challenges of food security and nutrition in these countries and in the Pacific SIDS region. The goal is to achieve safe and healthy food production and consumption, resilient agriculture, fisheries, and forestry production systems, and efficient agri-food value chains providing safe, nutritious, and affordable food.[43]

43 FAO and European Union launch a new project to transform agrifood systems in Fiji, Samoa, and Solomon Islands.

4.2. *Integrated waste management, including plastics:* a circular approach to waste management and promoting behaviour change

Context

Due to their small size, limited land space, and fragile ecosystems, Pacific Countries, in particular SIDS, face significant challenges in managing wastes of all kinds, which pose high risks to human and land-marine natural resources. The marine environment often exceeds the land mass in these countries, increasing its vulnerability to plastic pollution. Geographic isolation, coupled with natural disaster exposure, further complicates waste management efforts. Additionally, urbanisation, globalised markets, and lifestyle changes due to growing affluence have led to a diverse range of waste materials, adding to the complexity of waste management in these countries.[44]

Waste and pollution pose significant threats to sustainable development in the Pacific countries. Inadequate waste management and insufficient control over polluting activities can harm the health of these communities, damage natural ecosystems, reduce their ability to withstand the impact of climate change, and ultimately hinder the social and economic progress of Pacific Island countries and territories. The reliance of many Pacific nations on tourism, fishing, and agriculture, which depend on clean environments, makes them particularly vulnerable to the effects of poor waste and pollution management. Additionally, since many waste and pollution problems extend across borders, issues in one country or region can have negative effects on neighbouring countries.[45]

Among the multiple and cumulating wastes, plastic pollution, now a well recognised world problem, deserves particular attention in the Pacific and its small states, clearly visible and threatening on both on land and in waterways; and it is largely demonstrated that unsustainable production and consumption patterns, worldwide and in small states, have resulted in an exponential growth in plastic pollution, which affects both human health and the health of terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

To significantly improve waste governance in the region, there's an urgent call for a comprehensive regional legislative framework. This framework should include technical guidance, model laws, and training on compliance and enforcement to bolster skills and capacity in waste management across the Pacific.

44 IUCN Plastic Waste National Level Quantification and Sectoral Material Flow Analysis: Pacific Regional Report.
45 CLEANER PACIFIC 2025 Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016–2025.

Potential strategies could involve supporting the export of recyclables to international markets, establishing regional waste management facilities, and exploring collaborative operation of modular waste-to-energy systems among multiple countries. In essence, concerted efforts at the local, national, and regional levels are essential to address the complex challenges of waste management in Pacific Island Countries. By fostering innovation, collaboration, and sustainable practices, these nations can pave the way toward a cleaner, healthier future for generations to come.[46]

Way Forward

Although local contexts are different, all Pacific countries are faced with global challenges requiring local responses. More ambitious policies and actions are needed to act effectively and to form regional coalitions to raise awareness on waste management issues and change mindsets, to find political and technical solutions to this environmental crisis. A strong political will to identify and manage problem waste streams exists, which enables ministries to build robust sustainable finance systems embedded in legislation. The private sector, a critical partner in waste management, is key to making things happen on the ground, with innovation, resourcefulness and ingenuity, including within MSMEs, for which an essential driver is local innovation, in response to local problems and needs.

In the realm of waste management, prioritising well-informed policy decisions backed by thorough research and analysis is imperative. To address waste and plastic pollution, it is essential that the root causes and drivers of unsustainable consumption and production patterns be well understood and documented. Governments and organisations can effectively address waste issues by fostering partnerships among stakeholders, including governments, industries, and communities. These collaborations are crucial for developing comprehensive strategies and implementing effective solutions.[47] Strategic investments in waste management infrastructure and technologies are essential for achieving sustainable waste management practices.[48] Such investments should focus on modernising waste-treatment facilities, improving recycling processes, and promoting the adoption of eco-friendly technologies tailored to the specific needs and challenges of each country or region.[49]

One promising avenue for addressing waste management challenges is the utilisation of waste-to-energy technologies. By harnessing the energy potential of waste materials, countries can simultaneously address their waste management issues and contribute to their energy needs. Waste-to-energy initiatives offer a sustainable solution to the dual challenges of waste management and energy security, aligning with regional priorities related to climate change mitigation and socioeconomic development.[50] Besides the necessity of improving the management of waste to reduce adverse impacts on the fragile ecosystems of Pacific regions, including through reuse, recycling, repairing, upcycling, and recovering material for other purposes, it is critical to reduce local waste production, encourage local innovations for products as alternative substitutions for important imported products, and if necessary to import better designed products, for less waste, reuse and recycling.

Efforts to minimise pollution in all its forms should be central to waste management policies, addressing air, water, and land pollution.[51] This requires effective mitigation measures and innovative approaches to reduce waste generation and promote sustainable consumption.[52] Supporting the transition to a circular economy is crucial, emphasising waste prevention, resource efficiency, and recycling initiatives.[53] Aligning waste management with national socioeconomic goals fosters green growth and creates job opportunities in sectors like renewable energy and waste management, aiming to diminish human impact on the environment[54] while identifying growth sectors generating new jobs.[55]

46 PacWastePlus Waste Legislative Review: Regional Solutions Assessment.
47 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.
48 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan 2023–2030.
49 Samoa Pathway.
50 Pacific Adoption of Waste-to-Energy Solutions (PAWES).
51 Pacific 2030 Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework.
52 The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023–2027.
53 MIPs Pacific Multi-Country.
54 Green Blue Alliance for the Pacific.
55 United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018–2022.

Additionally, implementing SCP entails reducing plastic production and use, efficiently managing waste, promoting innovative alternatives, and raising public awareness, including local and indigenous knowledge systems. Behaviour change plays a crucial role in waste management by altering attitudes and actions, from simple steps like reducing, reusing, and recycling to more complex shifts towards sustainable production and consumption. Embracing a sustainable lifestyle not only reduces waste production but also alleviates pressure on waste management systems.[56] Initiatives to simplify behaviours, ensure convenient infrastructure, and offer material rewards with monetary incentives can promote positive solid-waste management behaviours.[57]

Stakeholders and enabling factors

Aware of the high risks that result from cumulative wastes in island ecosystems, the Pacific countries have prepared various policies and action plans for a cleaner future in which Pacific people benefit from improved waste management and pollution control by minimising the adverse impacts of chemicals and all wastes, strengthening national, regional, and international mechanisms for waste management, recovering resources from waste and pollutants, and improving waste and pollution monitoring (e.g. The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, or SPREP).

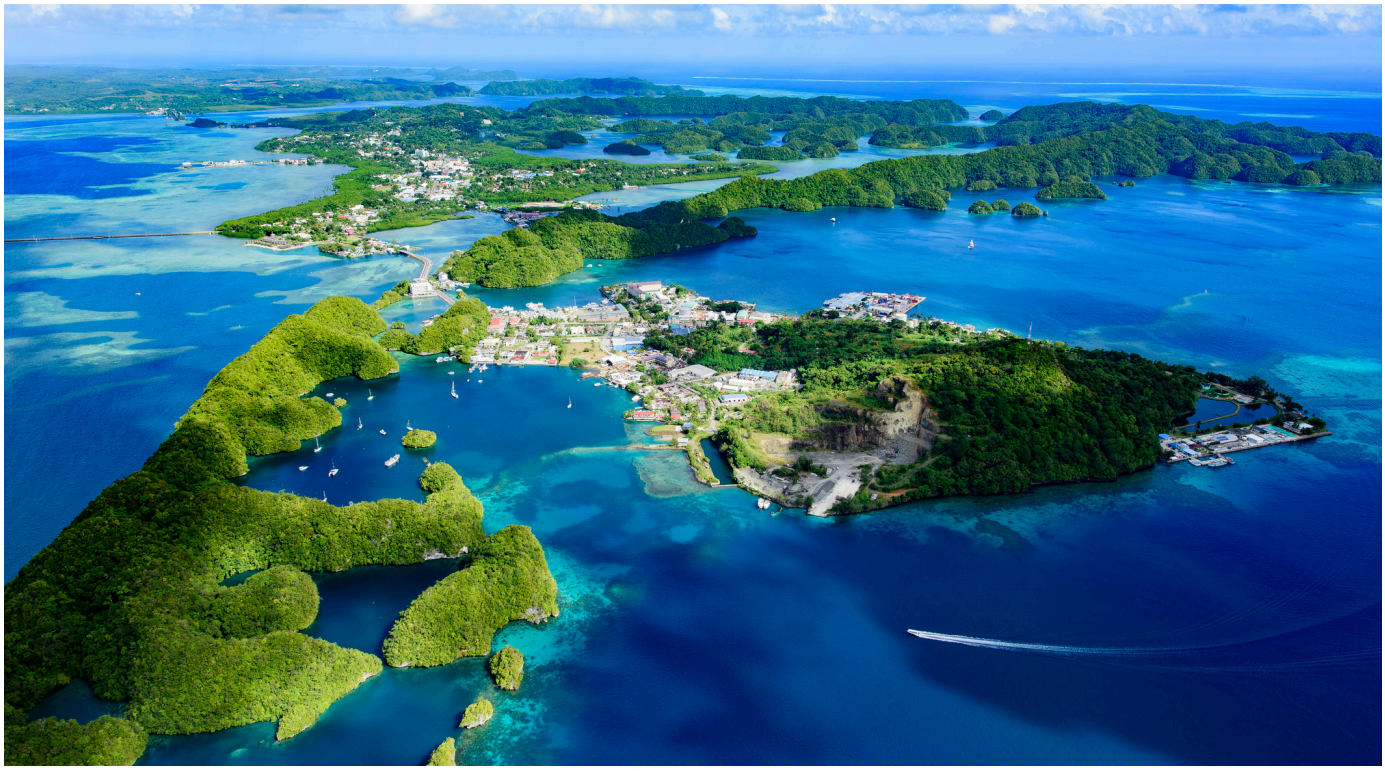
Key initiatives include the Pacific-European Union (EU) Waste Management Programme (PacWastePlus),[58] which aims to improve regional waste and pollution management sustainably and cost effectively. The Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for the Promotion of Regional Initiatives on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries Phase II (J-PRISM II)[59] focuses on increasing capacity in recipient countries through strategic actions outlined in the Cleaner Pacific 2025 plan to enhance solid waste management. Additionally, the Pacific Adoption of Waste-to-Energy Solutions (PAWES)[60] aims to improve solid waste management and energy security in the region.

There are also numerous voluntary initiatives on marine litter, several public-private partnerships to address land-based sources of marine pollution, and other dialogues considering plastic pollution. However, gaps remain in regulatory frameworks addressing plastic and plastic pollution, including marine plastic. There is an urgent need to look for local and national solutions and alternative products, in particular by inducing, enabling and supporting eco-innovations for new value chains for sorting, reusing, and recycling plastic, and establishing an incentive mechanism for the private sector to move from linearity to circularity, including in the informal sector.

As in the Talanoa dialogues, the issues must be clearly presented, challenges and opportunities openly discussed, and realistic future scenarios developed, all in a respectful spirit of dialogue, to enrich the knowledge of local and non-local people in order to reach a well-informed decision. The cumulative waste problem, which is cross-cutting by nature and results from almost all human activities, also presents many challenges in the food, buildings and tourism sectors, demonstrating once more the necessity to approach each of these three development and SCP priorities from a lifecycle perspective and with a systemic approach.

56 Behaviour Change: The Elephant in the Room we need to address.
57 Behaviour Change in Solid Waste Management.
58 PACWaste Plus Project.
59 J-PRISM II.
60 The Pacific Adoption of Waste to Energy Solutions (PAWES) Project.

4.3. Responsible and Efficient Tourism: searching for responsible tourism in support of local resilience



Context

The Pacific region has many natural, historical and cultural tourism resources. There is potential for these resources to be developed and packaged as marketable tourism products. Investing in responsible tourism is fundamental for ensuring that the sector will continue to be a tool for sustainable development, particularly in the fragile ecosystems of most the Pacific Countries. To grow forward better and foster sustainable growth, focusing on increased visitor value and developing new tourism products, while preserving ecosystems and building local resilience, will be essential to help destinations further improve their returns, as well as provide the best possible experience for visitors.

Many of the SAMOA Pathway recommendations remain necessary today, such as promoting policies that allow local communities to gain optimum benefits from tourism while allowing them to determine the extent and nature of their participation, as well as designing and implementing participatory measures to enhance employment opportunities, in particular for women, youth and persons with disabilities, including through partnerships and capacity development, while conserving their natural, built and cultural heritage, and especially their ecosystems and biodiversity.[61]

There are important activities in the region supporting the promotion of sustainable tourism by developing, implementing and monitoring national sustainable tourism strategies and policies, as promoted under SDG target and indicator 12.b.1. Some of these efforts include the Green Tourism Project (SPTO-UNDP); the Tourism and Health Partnerships (SPTO and WHO); the SPTO UN Partnership Project Proposal on Climate Resilience, zero emissions tourism sector; and the SPTO-UNDP partnership with Fiji private sector on marine ecotourism. Moreover, the Pacific Tourism Strategy 2020–2024[62] coordinated by the SPTO promotes more sustainable tourism which includes low-volume, high yielding and green eco-tourism to protect and preserve the Pacific's highly sensitive ecology and biodiversity. However, despite these various policies and strategies, the tourism sector still faces important challenges, such as limited awareness and appreciation of responsible tourism in the Pacific, lack of incentives for enterprises to invest in sustainability initiatives, and limited resources to support MSMEs to expand their best practices and engage in new innovations.

61 Samoa Pathway.
62 Pacific Tourism Organisation Strategic Plan 2020–2024.

The sector plays an important role as it contributes to three high-priority goals of developing countries: the generation of income, employment, and foreign exchange earnings. The share of international tourism in total exports can reach more than 50% in Vanuatu, Samoa or Fiji, and almost 90% in Palau.[63] Tourism, by its cross-cutting nature, has a great potential to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Community engagement

While Pacific countries offer outstanding tourism resources, mostly related to the Ocean ecosystems (the SIDS being themselves individual and specific ocean ecosystems) with their marine and coastal resources, much work is still required to fully develop them into tourism products that will sustainably support local development. Moreover, responsibly managed tourism can strengthen the resilience of Pacific countries to natural disasters and other events affecting their safety, security and competitiveness through effective risk management, mitigation and communications. It will be crucial to identify opportunities for product and service development that promote local entrepreneurship initiatives and community engagement in Pacific states, with relevant government policies and private-public partnerships. These will be strengthened by intraregional collaboration and benchmarking among Pacific Countries destinations.

For many, tourism is the most important socio-economic pillar. In fact, the major driving forces behind the growth of blue economy activities in most of the Pacific Island States are mainly tourism and fisheries, and hence of structural importance to design the major areas for policy and strategic actions. Coastal and maritime tourism are two of SIDS's main assets. There is a major opportunity to promote an ocean economy that uses oceans sustainably, invests in green technologies to reduce energy and water consumption, and contributes to biodiversity conservation. Tourism is key for employment in SIDS, particularly for women – their participation in the hotel and restaurant sector in the Caribbean ranges between 43% and 63%.[64]

If managed in a responsible manner by efficiently using local resources and creating local jobs, tourism in the Pacific Countries can positively contribute to a transition towards more inclusive and resilient economies. Possible negative impacts can be minimised through regulations, incentives, voluntary codes and certification programmes and the promotion of good practices. Opportunities exist to further grow direct and indirect jobs through capacity building, the promotion of value chains between agriculture and tourism or handicrafts and tourism, and a conducive investment framework and participatory actions.

Green Passports

The Ocean and its marine and coastal resources being the epicentre of Pacific development, the Pacific Community could consider reviving and revisiting the Green Passports[65] previously developed in the context of the SCP Marrakech Process, with appropriate adaptation as needed. A Pacific Green Passport Strategy could be developed, through relevant MSC, general guidelines for the development and implementation of States, sub-regions, and sector-tailored Green Passports, including:

- Green Passport for information on destinations known for their responsible actions, management of coastal zones, resource efficiency, 'green' hotels, serving food prepared with local products, employing local communities, waste minimisation and aiming at zero-waste for a country or a sub-region
- Green Passport on Green Hotels, services, responsibility, with a set of criteria for the client experience evaluations, even though not a label
- Green Passport on selected restaurants serving local quality food, using land and sea resources, and employing local women, youth and disabled people
- Green Passport with a set of specific information for the people before traveling and when visiting, indicating special actions and measures in certain destinations, such as tips/recommendations for local responsible behaviour, 'collect and take back your waste' (a bag is provided to visitors upon arrival on certain islands in Greece to collect their own waste), local cultural values and habits, local ecosystems, main characteristics of local food, etc.

63 Sustainable Tourism Product Development Opportunities in the Pacific Islands.
64 Tourism in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Building a more sustainable future for the people of Islands.
65 UNEP Launches Green Passport Initiative to Reduce Environmental Impacts of 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

- These Green Passports could be developed in collaboration with the national and regional institutions involved, and with organisations from countries providing large numbers of tourists (NZ, Australia, Japan, EU, etc).

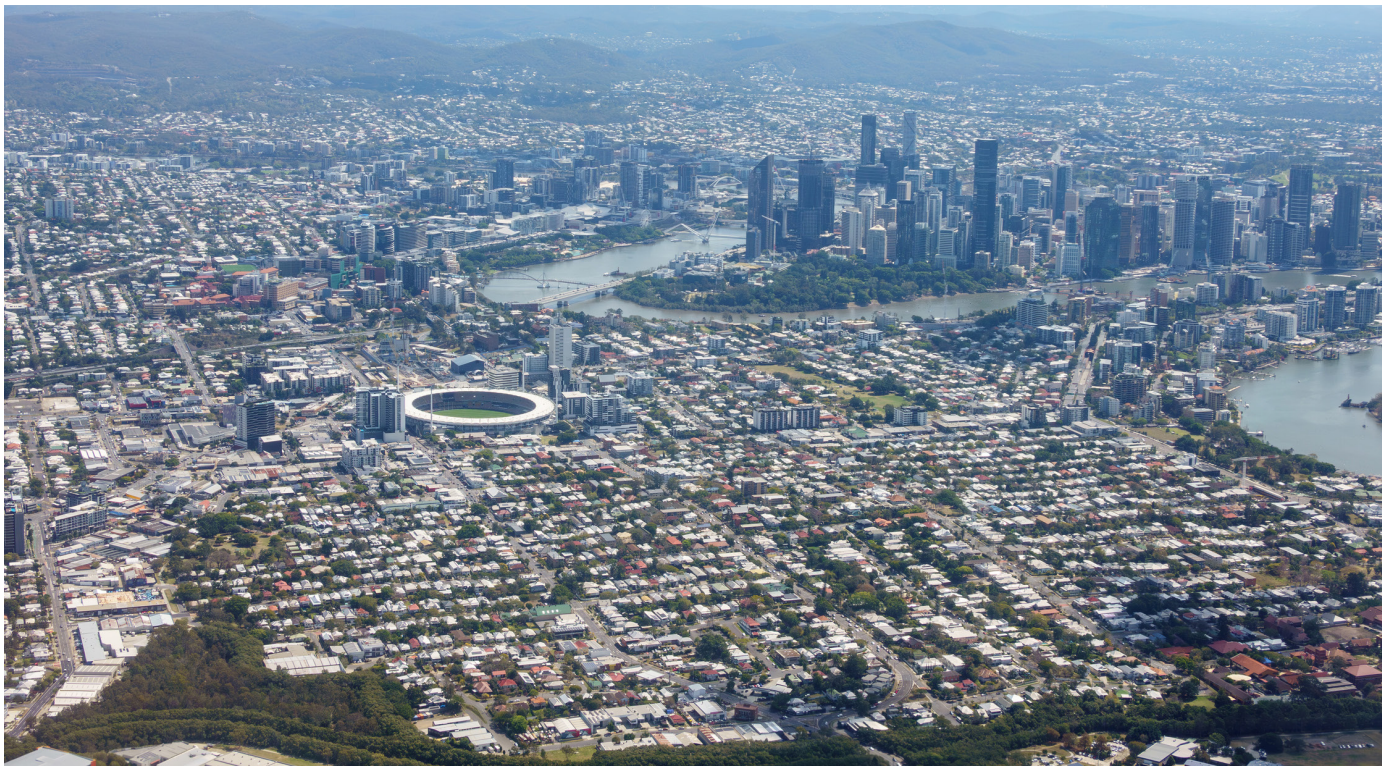
Alternative products, way forward

Considering the region's diversity, with common challenges, it would be important to identify alternative tourism opportunities and local innovative approaches, while improving current practices from social and environmental perspectives and promoting local entrepreneurship initiatives and community engagement. With the huge distances between Pacific countries, it would be essential to develop an adequate, well-documented, easily accessible information platform with good practices, replicable innovations, lessons learnt and opportunities for training and partnerships in support of resource efficient, waste responsible and environmentally friendly tourism activities, while ensuring a decent living for local communities and other stakeholders. Considering the wealth of the ocean, local culinary traditions mainly with marine resources could be 'revisited' through innovation, efficiency and quality, to become an important characteristic of the tourism programmes, while improving the diet of local people and creating jobs for local communities.

Considering the specificity of local green land products and the wealth of marine resources, the Pacific Countries, their local communities and SMEs, including hotels and restaurants, could consider organising local cooking and culinary tours, using products only from responsible fishing and agricultural bio-local products.

Improved assessment, identification of innovative responsible tourism approaches and their replicability, together with actionable steps to contribute to needed tourism transformative change, could be collectively defined through a dedicated MSC, involving selected relevant stakeholders from public and private, including IGOs, CSOs and MSME associations. There could be one general regional Pacific MSC on tourism, to discuss main challenges and opportunities for actions and partnerships, that could be followed by a selected group of countries on specific tourism-related themes, to discuss innovations and opportunities for joint actions, including capacity building and communication.

4.4. Built Environment: local content, circularity and resilience



Context

The building and construction sector accounts for almost 40% of global energy and carbon emissions.[66] According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), buildings and construction represent a major 'low-hanging fruit' for climate mitigation, and in its special report on global warming of 1.5 °C, it was highlighted that restricting climate change to 1.5 °C would need 'rapid and far-reaching' changes in energy use, industry, and buildings design, as well as in the planning of cities and infrastructure in general.[67] For the Marrakech Partnership Climate Action Pathway,[68] the stakeholder actions for the built environment are categorised into two areas of effectiveness: 'Whole-life carbon mitigation' (addressing the emissions released at all life cycle stages), and 'Adaptation and resilience' (making communities, buildings and infrastructure resilient to future climate shocks).

In the Pacific region, there is an urgent need to improve the built environment – buildings and construction – as well as the physical, digital and service infrastructure to enhance resilience against climate change and natural disasters. The foundations for a transition to a circular economy and sustainable development must be consolidated.[69] Globally, Pacific Island countries are among the most vulnerable on the planet to climate change impact. However, many of these countries lack the resources and capacity to effectively respond, due largely to aging or inadequate infrastructure such as roads, seawalls, ports, or power networks. The Pacific region also faces energy challenges with a limited supply of fossil fuels, which has led to a historical dependence on imported diesel for power generation, making the countries vulnerable to fluctuating energy prices. Additionally, outdated power infrastructure, geographical dispersion, small economies of scale, and limited generation capacity have resulted in high power costs, transmission and distribution losses, and low electrification rates.[70]

Built environment plays a vital role in enhancing resilience to economic shocks and disasters, acting as an economic catalyst for both immediate 'shovel-ready' projects and long-term sustainable initiatives. Maintaining and rehabilitating infrastructure are equally crucial, offering high returns and underpinning

66 2020 Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction: Towards a Zero-emission, Efficient and Resilient Buildings and Construction Sector.
67 Climate Action Pathway: Human Settlements (Action Table).
68 Climate Action Pathway: Human Settlements (Executive Summary).
69 Building Resilience in the Pacific: How ADB is Addressing Climate Change and Disaster Risks.
70 Building resilient infrastructure in the Pacific Islands.

sustained growth. Strategic infrastructure investments can also help protect the ocean and environment of the Blue Pacific Continent. Ensuring effective planning, investment, and management of the built environment and infrastructure will be essential for realising the goals of the 2050 Strategy.[71]

Similarly, promoting green and sustainable buildings and construction with adequate architecture and design that are resource and energy efficient and use local and recycled materials, could support local economies, providing local jobs and improving lifestyles. The built environment system is characterised by four major components: a facilitator of local sustainable urban development, use of natural resources (water, land, wood), raw materials, waste generation and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In the Pacific, local climate action through necessary transformative change of local patterns of production and consumption is essential in accelerating towards net-zero emissions and resilience in all sectors, including revalorising traditional lifestyle and settlement patterns developed over centuries of slow co-evolution of human communities and their environment.

Addressing the built environment and infrastructure needs of the Pacific region demands innovative solutions, improved planning, and concerted efforts from the global development community. These efforts are crucial to elevate the region's infrastructure to a level that can sustain higher levels of growth. Urgent action is needed to enhance household access to electricity sources such as solar and wind, along with implementing energy efficiency measures.[72] Despite the overall negative impact of climate change and natural disasters on the Pacific Island Countries (PICs), implementing climate adaptation measures would not only help protect existing jobs, but also create new opportunities, especially in the construction sector.[73]

To that end, integrating a life-cycle assessment in the buildings and construction process will be essential, keeping in mind the limited space for waste landfills and how they deteriorate fragile natural ecosystems, the dependency of energy imports, resource scarcity, and the need for more resilient construction and buildings. However, circular economy in the built environment remains on the 'lower order' of the R strategies of 'reduce, reuse, and recycle', which hinders a wider application of the circular economy[74] and SCP through the various phases of material flow and product life cycle, a necessary framework for selection of more adequate construction materials, improved design and alternative innovative solutions.

In terms of maritime connectivity, countries are actively striving to tackle transportation challenges, encompassing both inter- and intra-island connectivity. Sustainable maritime connectivity prioritises environmental sustainability, safety, affordability, and effective maintenance, aligning closely with regional and international transportation agreements. Moreover, the development and management of transport infrastructure are increasingly crucial for enhancing energy efficiency across the region.[75] Initiatives promoting low-carbon development, like reducing energy consumption in buildings, are pivotal. By implementing measures to curb energy usage during construction and operation, the region can significantly reduce its carbon footprint and advance sustainability objectives.[76] Applying building codes are newly emerging policies and activities in most of the Pacific Countries, mostly inspired by Australian and New Zealand Building Codes, and there are few qualified persons to apply them and monitor/supervise their application.

Way Forward

Enhancing the quality of infrastructure and prioritising investments in key sectors contribute significantly to sustainable development by diminishing inequalities and enhancing access to healthcare, education, public services, and income-generating opportunities, while consolidating a solid structural basis for a transition to circularity and sustainability. When considering the construction sector, it is paramount to meticulously prioritise an array of critical components, among which asbestos management stands out as a crucial concern, necessitating rigorous protocols to safeguard public health and environmental integrity.[77] Concurrently, the development and maintenance of urban infrastructure and urban communities emerge as pivotal endeavours, essential for facilitating social functionality and economic prosperity. Addressing

71 Infrastructure for Building Pacific Resilience.
72 7 Priorities for Infrastructure Investment in the Pacific.
73 Long-term Economic Opportunities and Challenges for Pacific Island Countries.
74 Circular Economy in the Built Environment.
75 Pacific perspectives 2023: advocating the aspirations of Small Islands Developing States.
76 Promoting Energy Efficiency in the Pacific.
77 PACWaste Plus Project.

energy and water-related services is also crucial to ensure efficiency, circularity and sustainability.[78]

Moreover, enhancing value chains through strong public infrastructure initiatives as well as private and voluntary building codes for green and sustainable buildings is essential in delivering needed transformative change. These efforts, enhanced by awareness-raising and capacity-building, for policy makers and technical experts as well as for users/consumers, not only boost economic activity but also enhance social cohesion and promote equitable development by improving connectivity and accessibility.[79] Building standards, adapted to the local climate and ecosystem conditions, are important to ensure the quality and efficiency of materials and resources used in the construction and rehabilitation, following regular climate events, particularly those with negative effects on the built sector. Together with the right procurement policies and adequate incentives, building standards will be pivotal drivers to 'Build-Forward-Better', in the transition path to resilience and sustainability.[80]

Another important aspect to consider is the need to strengthen resilience by 'climate-proofing'[81] infrastructure, and building more sustainable communities. This involves integrating climate change considerations into the design, construction, and maintenance of infrastructure to ensure it can withstand and adapt to climate change events, such as extreme weather like hurricanes, and sea-level rise. Additionally, creating sustainable communities involves planning and designing neighbourhoods and cities in a way that promotes environmental sustainability, social inclusivity, and economic prosperity, while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions and minimising resource consumption.[82]

For cities and municipalities wishing to reduce their impact on the environment and climate by transitioning to a more circular economy, 'regenerate, rethink, reuse, reduce and recover strategies'[83] can form the basis of a climate change mitigation plan in the built environment at the local level, addressing the roles of the different actors and collaboration processes for collective actions. These five 'R' complementary strategies can be applied to all production, consumption and waste management processes influenced by the city or its residents and are most effective when implemented in parallel. Using them in multistakeholder consultations, they will illustrate the process and system thinking of SCP and the circular economy of the built environment at local, national and regional levels, and they will jointly identify relevant interventions.

Moreover, enhancing Green Public Procurement (GPP) can serve as a valuable strategy for involving MSMEs in government procurement, thereby providing them with opportunities for business growth. GPP can incorporate measures to build resilience and support disaster management by enabling the procurement of goods and services that are disaster-resilient and responsive. E-procurement stands poised as a crucial tool in streamlining the acquisition process of sustainable goods and services. It not only enhances transparency and accessibility in tendering, particularly benefiting SMEs and women-owned businesses, but also plays a pivotal role in quantifying the sustainability impact of public procurement.[84]

Stakeholders and enabling factors

Several global and regional agreements, such as the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan 2023–2030 highlight the importance of quality infrastructure and investments in sustainable development. These agreements prioritise policies and legislation to attract such investments, crucial for fostering resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economic development in the Pacific region. Infrastructure is central to Pacific economic development, particularly post-COVID-19, where resilience is paramount.[85]

The Pacific Quality Infrastructure (PQI) Initiative[86] target is to foster economic development, enhance public safety, and improve the overall quality of life in the Pacific region.[87] It aims to empower the Pacific by

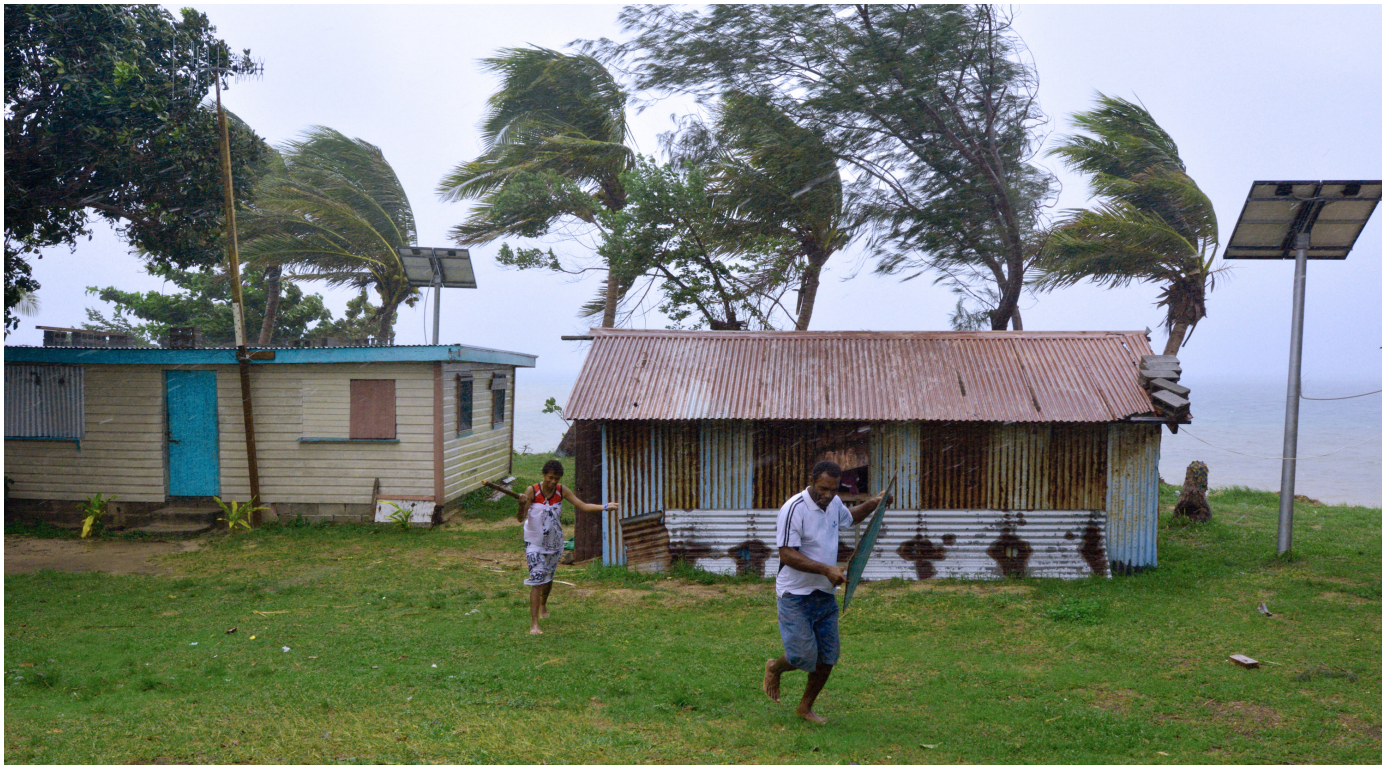
78 Ebeye Solid Waste Management Project.
79 Samoa Agriculture & Fisheries Productivity and Marketing Project (SAFPROM).
80 Improving National Building Codes and Standards in the Pacific: Coordination and Harmonisation Report.
81 12 Ways ADB is Climate-Proofing Transport in the Pacific.
82 Building Resilience in the Pacific: How ADB is Addressing Climate Change and Disaster Risks.
83 Circular City Actions Framework: Bringing the circular economy to every city.
84 Sustainable Public Procurement in the Pacific Islands: Current Policies and Intervention Options in World Bank Projects.
85 How to effectively plan for quality infrastructure and investments in the Pacific SIDS?
86 Pacific Quality Infrastructure (PQI) Initiative.
87 Improving National Building Codes and Standards in the Pacific.

building regional capacity. The Pacific Islands Standards and Conformance Infrastructure Initiative (PISC) launched its first technical standards committees in construction and food, marking an important initial step in developing and adopting regional standards in key sectors. This initiative also addresses the impacts of climate change and promotes regional economic development. Quality infrastructure is a key priority of the Pacific Aid-for-Trade Strategy 2020–2025, aiming to facilitate trade and promote economic recovery from COVID-19.[88]

Considering the regional context with regards to status of and need for sustainable built environment, it will be essential to, among other things:

- Develop a regional and coordinated approach for a 'minimum common denominator', identifying common needs for policy development as well as actions for implementation, facilitating common assessments and understanding, inducing exchange of experiences and lessons learnt
- Induce and facilitate a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the status and needs for green and sustainable buildings standards and codes, needs for capacity buildings for the stakeholders involved
- Establish and facilitate a platform for collaboration, at regional and at national levels, among the main stakeholders in the built environment, including policymakers, businesses/SMEs, investors, innovators and citizens/consumers, and identify respective roles for a common goal, namely reduced CO_2 emissions until net-zero
- Encourage local communities and SMEs to innovate, further enabling them to replicate, accelerate and scale their activities
- Identify needs to mainstream SCP and circular economy in the built environment curriculum in universities, targeting civil engineers and architects, as well as inducing innovations and eco-design.

4.5. Climate change



Context

The Pacific Islands face unique and heightened vulnerabilities exacerbated by the impacts of climate change. Human-induced climate change is significantly affecting the region, manifesting itself in more frequent and severe tropical cyclones, altered patterns of floods and droughts, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and increasing water temperatures. These changes have led to the destruction of coral reefs, shifts in

88 World-first Pacific Island technical standards committees to address economic challenges.

marine species distributions, and the contamination of freshwater supplies with encroaching saltwater, rendering some islands unsuitable for traditional agriculture.[89] With the majority of human settlements and infrastructure situated along the coastlines, the region faces substantial risks from coastal flooding, erosion, and sea-level rise, potentially affecting between 60,000 and 90,000 people by 2050, and carrying significant human and economic costs.[90]

The Pacific Islands, with their vast and diverse geography, comprising thousands of islands spanning millions of square miles of ocean, face profound challenges due to their isolation and varied landscapes. From high volcanic islands reaching elevations of over 4000 m to low-lying atolls barely above sea level, the region exhibits remarkable geological diversity. This diversity extends to its ecosystems, with the Pacific Islands boasting some of the highest levels of species endemism globally, including marine biodiversity hotspots. However, these unique environments are under threat from climate change, with warming air and ocean temperatures, more intense tropical cyclones, rising sea levels, and ocean acidification altering ocean and island ecosystems. These changes jeopardise freshwater supplies, food security, and the built environment, particularly affecting communities on low-lying atolls and posing a significant threat to the region's biodiversity.[91]

Pacific countries have demonstrated significant leadership in the global policy sphere in tackling climate change challenges long before adopting the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These countries have also played a leading role in adopting the Paris Agreement, which is the current major driver of global collective efforts to address climate change. All the countries in the Pacific Region have ratified the Paris Agreement and are parties to it. All the Pacific Countries have submitted their NDCs mainly with the view to reducing their climate change vulnerabilities, enhancing resilience, and increasing their renewable energy share with the view of reducing dependency on imported fossil fuels. Eight Pacific countries[92] have submitted their enhanced second NDCs with higher mitigation and adaptation ambitions, demonstrating their commitment of meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement. Tourism, waste reduction and management, building and infrastructure, livelihood improvement targeting MSMEs are also mentioned in the Pacific NDCs.[93] Pacific countries played a leading role during the UNFCCC COP28 to make the historical decision of 'moving away from fossil fuels' to address the global climate change climate changes.

Way Forward

SCP and the circular economy represent a significant opportunity for the Pacific countries to meet their challenges due to resource constraints and remoteness, keeping in mind that SCP and CE induce innovations, create new opportunities, save resources and enhance responsible actions. Regional and country strategies and policies on sustainable tourism, waste management, agri-food systems, buildings and construction, among others, have already been built on the principles of SCP and CE. SCP is important for protecting the terrestrial and marine ecosystem while promoting and consolidating local economies.

The Third Clean Pacific Roundtable organised by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in 2021 was dedicated to Circular Economy, where the member states recognised CE as an imperative strategy for the region. The climate vulnerabilities of the Pacific countries are amplified by their sensitive and fragile economies. Circularity and resource efficiency can have a significant positive impact on how the Pacific country economies contribute to reducing their overall vulnerabilities and enhancing resilience. The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are the building block of the Paris Agreement, which are the voluntary climate action targets of the Parties, updated progressively every five years. They are a policy instrument through which the countries have the opportunity to align their national development priorities with global climate actions. The Parties to the Paris Agreement are expected to submit their updated NDCs by the UNFCCC COP30 in 2025, and the Pacific countries have already called for ambitious NDC targets from all the Parties. The new NDC enhancement will be an opportunity for the Pacific countries to streamline their national priorities.

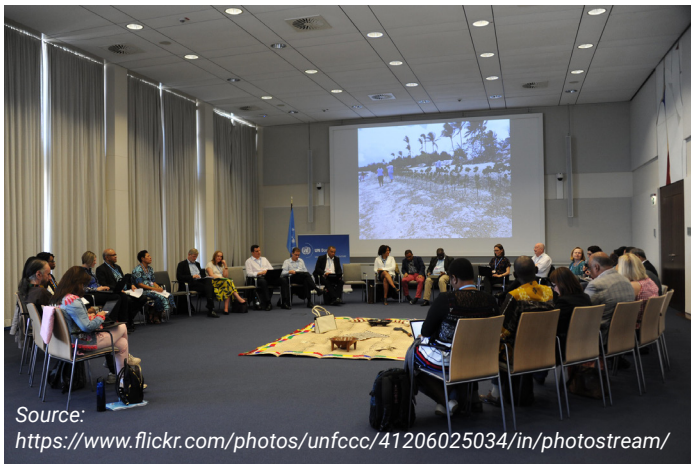
89 Climate Change and Pacific Islander Life.
90 Pacific Risks, Vulnerabilities, and Key Impacts of Climate Change and Natural Disasters.
91 Pacific Islands Climate Change Monitor: 2021.
92 Fiji, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Samoa.
93 Pacific NDCs.

Stakeholders and enabling factors

Organisations and stakeholders are actively engaged in the process of enhancing policies and actions for climate ambitions, including the NDCs in the Pacific Region: the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), UNFCCC Regional Coordination Centre, The Pacific NDC Hub, The NDC Partnership, The Pacific Community (SPC[94]), The Commonwealth Secretariat, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and others. The interventions of these organisations will strengthen climate actions with SCP/CE, and SWITCH-Asia Pacific will collaborate to create synergies in line with country and regional requirements.

94 Formerly known as the South-Pacific Commission.

5. Pacific Engagement Strategy, pathways for collective actions: the SCP Talanoa Dialogues and Entrepreneurship Catalyst



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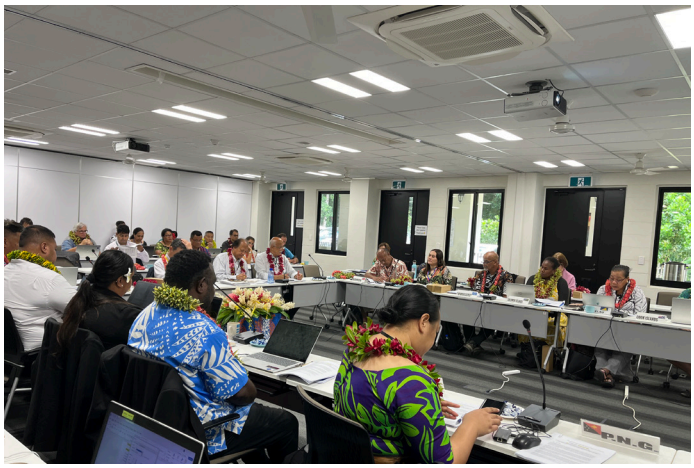

Degradation of fragile ecosystems, exacerbation of climate change impact, increasingly wasteful and unhealthy lifestyles – these trends in the Pacific region need to be seriously reversed, if not at least attenuated. To that end, multiple policies have been prepared, numerous projects and activities implemented, in the priority sectors mention above and in others, but so far not enough has been done to cope effectively with the need for transformative change. Communicating and enabling, multiplying and scaling, collaborating and engaging all stakeholders, at all levels, will pave the way for the engagement of the stakeholders through collective action. To that end, these needs must be addressed:

- Strive for coherence in policy-making, focusing on SCP frameworks and their system approach, in support of the effective transition to circular and low carbon economies
- Map all stakeholders, public and private, for overall SCP policy frameworks as well as for priority sectors
- Engage with the key change-makers in the SCP areas, namely the private sector, MSMEs, and the policy-makers
- Incentivise and enable the innovative capacity of the region to aim for diversification in products and solutions
- Manage collaboration with regional and international stakeholders and their programmes for an improved connection between the various relevant initiatives, to augment the multiplier effect in scaling up.

Proposed by the Fijian presidency of the 2017 UN COP24 climate talks to pave the way for the first Global Stocktake (GST) of the Paris Agreement, the Pacific concept of Talanoa aims to energise country ambition to face the challenges of climate change, bringing together governments and civil society through the unconventional platform of the Talanoa Dialogue. In Fiji, Talanoa provides space to induce the development of possible futures, in a consensus-building spirit.

'Talanoa is a traditional word used in Fiji and across the Pacific to reflect a process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue. The purpose of Talanoa is to share stories, build empathy and to make wise decisions for the collective good. The process of Talanoa involves the sharing of ideas, skills and experience through storytelling.

During the process, participants build trust and advance knowledge through empathy and understanding. Blaming others and making critical observations are inconsistent with building mutual trust and respect, and therefore inconsistent with the Talanoa concept. Talanoa fosters stability and inclusiveness in dialogue, by creating a safe space that embraces mutual respect for a platform for decision making for a greater good.'

Therefore, with the aim of valuing local cultures and creating trust with local people, the SCP MSC will become the SCP Talanoa Dialogues, with platforms for storytelling: stories of innovations, stories of failures and of successes. Storytelling to exchange and learn from the WHYs and HOWs. And this is all very appropriate with respect to SCP with its multiple facets, productions processes, consumption choices, behaviours and lifestyles.

This dialogue approach is aligned with the main values of the Pacific region as reiterated in the '2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent', encouraging innovation and creativity along with respect for local cultural values and traditional knowledge, resolving challenges or disputes in the unique Pacific Way, involving consensus-based decision-making.

6. Indicative Roadmap for SWITCH-Asia Pacific engagement

This roadmap builds on the Sustainable Consumption and Production, Circular Economy and Climate Change assessments in the Pacific, as well as the discussions with relevant international and regional institutions as well as experts.

- Considering the diversity in and distance between the Pacific countries, it will be essential, after a quick but realistic overview of the regional context, to 'organise' the region into groups of countries clustered according to common priorities and interests, along with their respective policy and thematic stakeholders, public and private.
- Considering the specific context of the Pacific region, it will be essential to closely consult and work with identified regional organisations that are active in the region and at the forefront of support and cooperation, such as: The Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFs), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO), Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), Pacific Islands Association of Non-governmental Association (PIANGO), and Pacific Farmers Organisation (PFO) among others. It is also important to consult with the UN organisations and their regional offices as well as other international organisations, with programmes relevant to SWITCH-Asia Pacific's objectives and priorities.[95] ;
- Mutually supportive collaboration agreements/partnerships could be developed with identified regional and international organisations for specific activities, joint knowledge products, joint events/ webinars, joint advocacy and even joint missions.
- Regional organisations, Intergovernmental Organisations (IGOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), with programmes relevant to SWITCH-Asia Pacific's objectives and priorities, will be approached to define mutually supportive joint actions.

Proposed strategic engagement of SWITCH-Asia Pacific Policy Support Component (PSC)

Food systems, plastic waste, buildings/construction and tourism, observed through the lens of SWITCH-Asia Pacific priorities for the region, will structure the Pacific programme. Other emerging issues will be taken into consideration as necessary, such e-wastes, while considering digitalisation, energy/resource efficiency, climate mitigation and adaptation, procurement, innovation, and entrepreneurship, as cross-cutting issues and will include supportive mechanisms to enhance awareness raising, communication, capacity building or enabling, partnerships and networking. With this system mindset driving the strategy, the theory of change for EU SWITCH-Asia Pacific's engagement in the region will be structured around:

- Establishing and curating a Pacific Community of Interest for SCP with all concerned stakeholders, aimed at mainstreaming SCP in relevant policy frameworks and programmes of action.
- Providing technical advisory (TA) support on mainstreaming SCP in policies and practices in the identified priority sectors (initial TAs focusing on NDC Enhancement through SCP and sustainable food systems).
- Curating public-private collaboration around SCP innovations in relevant priority sectors.
- Generating insights and action roadmaps for priority sectors, products and services.

95 International organisations to be consulted: UN Resident Coordinator's Office, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) particularly the Small Island Development States (SIDS) unit, UN Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), UN Economic and Social Commission in Asia Pacific (ESCAP) and the Regional Pacific Office, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and others, with their regional offices or programmes.

- Catalysing resource efficient, low-carbon, circular and nature-positive innovations through entrepreneurship programmes, including awards, trainings and cross-.
- Establishing and curating a Pacific Community of Practice to support the delivery of SCP and CE in the region and in the Pacific countries.
- Enabling accelerators for entrepreneurs' innovations and actions, indicating ways and means to access markets and finance sources.
- Identifying ways to develop and promote access to alternative finance for high-potential SCP innovations from MSMEs.
- Offering opportunities for developing SCP or CE frameworks.

Suggested engagement actions

The actions identified above will include the following activities:

1. Meetings with international and regional organisations to discuss synergies, added value and relevance of SWITCH-Asia Pacific in the region, and explore opportunities for collaboration and partnerships (***throughout the project period***)
2. ***Talanoa Dialogues, for clusters of countries, in selected thematic priorities, in two or more phases; on-line and, when possible, in-person***, through back-to-back events with prospective partners
3. MSC attended by representatives from the Pacific Countries, invited partners from international and regional organisations, Grant projects from the Pacific if initiated, and a few invited from other parts of Asia to share experiences and lessons learnt, ***ideally back-to-back with SWITCH-Asia annual meetings***
4. MSC on the need for and power of innovations, further mainstreaming them in research and higher education programmes, with selected entrepreneurs and concerned public and regional institutions
5. The ***Pacific Entrepreneurship Innovations Beacon***:
    - Identify and document innovative actions by local MSMEs with the focus on alternative replicable and scalable actions for SCP in the region/countries and showcasing these best practices in events and on communication platforms.
    - If possible, launch an awards programme on SCP innovative actions, with the awards presented at the Pacific Innovation Forum to be organised by SWITCH-Asia PSC with prospective partners.

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