Strategic Action
Plan of CPPS for the XXI Century
STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN
OF CPPS FOR THE XXI CENTURY
PERMANENT COMMISSION OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC
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The starting point

The need to strengthen the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific as an organization has historical roots, and was widely recognized in resolutions 2/2009 (VII Assembly), 2/2010 (VIII Assembly) and 1/2010 (IX Assembly). This guiding principle is the raison d’etre of our organization, with the ultimate aim of reaffirming the founding principles that sustain the nature and responsibilities of the CPPS expressed in its mission, vision and values, via progressive adaptation to the advances and international agreements related to our oceans, seas and coastal areas.

The CPPS has achieved much within the first decades of its existence and has demonstrated its capacity to dynamically adapt to the new developments that are constantly redefining the global governance scenario of the ocean, seas and coastal areas. It has long term transversal attributes, which are considered by its member nations as well as the global community, as key supporting elements for the region within a global context. These elements are set out in this document, as the Strategic Plan of the CPPS, which is the long term road map for the CPPS. This document will generate relevant discussions in forums and domains in order to promote the transformation of CPPS into a dynamic, flexible, efficient, solid and appropriate organization.

Within this framework, a strengthened CPPS will serve all member states as an international organization with expertise in the environmental, political, legal and socioeconomic aspects of the South Pacific. Looking to the future, the aim is to understand and internalize the international cooperation articulated by the CPPS in order to better regulate the suite of activities carried out in the South Pacific. There has already been clear recognition by the international community that the CPPS lies among the organizations that will play a key role in the Regular Process of the United Nations. This global initiative is of great current and future relevance.
One of the most relevant aspects that guide future long term development is the need for understanding the specific areas of action required of our organization, particularly in light of our special areas of interest. It is thus fundamental to answer the following questions:

**Why does this region require a Permanent Commission?**

The Southeast Pacific makes a significant contribution to the GDP of its member states in this region. It is the basis of high-impact multi-sector production, which generates jobs and catalyzes broad scale investments. Within this context, the biodiversity, resources and quality of its ecosystems should be preserved, protected and managed in a sustainable way under the guiding principles of joint responsibility, while respecting the sovereign rights of its member states. The task of CPPS is to propose strategic long term lines of action, which preserve ecosystem services for the benefit of the population of its member states. This should be carried out in a coordinated and efficient manner via the joint responsibility of member states and under the supervision of the serving Secretary General, using current capacities for global coordination and the expertise of Specialized Institutions that make up National Sections.

**What is the challenge?**

The region covered by the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific is exposed to great natural and anthropogenic issues exerted on its ecosystems. Pollution, coastal zone development, overexploitation of certain fisheries, high environmental variability (ENSO), effects of climate change, expansion of harmful algal blooms, illegal, unreported and non-regulated fishing. These and the lack of knowledge of resources in marine areas outside national jurisdictions, accompanied by the growing demand for the exploitation of non-living resources, all lead to impacts that must be put into context and their consequences dealt with via a systematic and common regional approach.
The Southeast Pacific has geographic, biological, oceanographic and ecological characteristics which makes it a unique ocean area. This region is affected by warm currents from the equator (Panama Current) and cold currents (Humboldt Current System) which force high primary productivity and diverse species of high commercial and ecological value. This region also contains submarine canyons, coral reefs and other vulnerable ecosystems, which are of global importance.

The Humboldt Current System (HCS) sustains one of the most productive Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) in the world, accounting for approximately 18-20% of world fisheries and hosting globally important biodiversity. This system has been nominated as one of the 200 priority Ecoregions for Global Conservation by the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF). The high natural environmental variability of the LME-HCS (Large Marine Ecosystem of the Humboldt Current System) has important impacts on ecosystem productivity and its trophic structure. Additionally, given the wildlife corridors and critical habitats for marine mammals present in the Eastern Tropical Pacific, there is a need to apply an Ecosystem Based Management approach to the highly migratory marine mammal populations.

Under this scenario, our need of joint responsibility becomes all the more significant. Understanding and valuing the unique attributes of our ecosystems requires a coordinated response by the CPPS, based on the principles of cooperation between Member States and the synergic inclusion of the three pillars of Sustainable Development: economics, environment, and society.
WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED?

- Drivers of UNCLOS.
- Coordinators and facilitators of the ERFEN protocol.
- Drivers and coordinators of the first Regional Action Plan for Sharks at a global level.
- Drivers of the issues associated with the exploitation of non-living resources.
- Facilitators of associated actions of Port Authorities.
- Facilitators and coordinators of projects for the control and mitigation of pollution through the Action Plan.
Providing a common forum for organizations that share a common vision is a differentiating factor in itself. It is necessary to define the road map for institutional projections and interactions, which will ultimately enable the efficient synchronization of stakeholders. Our organization has internalized this need, thereby maximizing its capacity for projecting its vision into the future. CPPS has laid out a clear direction and defined crucial areas of actions to incorporate into its philosophy and new strategic orientation, which includes the capacity to understand the present context and the opportunities that will arise from it.

**Ecosystem Approach - EA**

Adopting an Ecosystem Approach (EA) has been a cornerstone for our organization, undoubtedly becoming one of our priority areas of discussion in the international stage. For CPPS, an Ecosystem Approach should be adopted for the marine environment and natural resource management, including socioeconomic aspects, without ignoring multidimensional variables and the inclusion of other interrelated sectors, which is all part of our holistic analytical view.

Within this forum, where the new strategic orientation of our organization includes an Ecosystem Approach, the precautionary principle and other international instruments, should focus on natural resource management and promote the sustainable use of ecosystems and the equitable distribution of their benefits. Thus, an EA is successful if it preserves and increases the capacity of an ecosystem to provide desired benefits in the future, and if it increases the capacity of a society to equally distribute the associated benefits and costs.

Several international organizations have adopted EA as a general framework for management. Among others, UNESCO (2000) includes this approach in the management of Reserves of the Biosphere. In the same way, the Committee on Fisheries of the FAO has adopted this approach, as has the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of FAO, in 2007.
One of the strengths of CPPS management is its flexibility, which has allowed it to adapt to short term scenarios, and thus increase its value as a regional coordination institution. Within this context, our rapid involvement in the Regular Process of the United Nations has been without a doubt a clear starting point for our future courses of action.

In effect, the Regular Process was conceived as a “global process for systematically and continuously examine the status of the marine environment, with periodic assessments at global and regional levels, along with an integrated vision of environmental, economic and social aspects. These assessments support the adoption of decisions and contribute to the sustainable management of human activities that affect the oceans and seas, in line with international law and in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other relevant international initiatives”; this is in line with the future activities of our organization and will enable the synergic participation of our organization with the Regular Process.

Moreover, the Regular Process is a long term initiative, intimately linked to CPPS activities and especially our Action Plan. For this reason, we will maintain the leadership within the region with active participation as an essential part of the Process, coordinating member states and promoting expert participation in periodic assessments, adding value to the work of regional experts, decision makers and society as a whole.
PRINCIPLES OF THE REGULAR PROCESS

- The inclusion of oceans as an integral part of the terrestrial system;
- The periodic assessment by Member States of the results of the Regular Process to support the adaptive process;
- The rational use of scientific knowledge and the promotion of scientific excellence;
- The execution of periodic analyses to detect incipient problems, significant changes and knowledge gaps;
- The constant improvement of scientific capacity and assessment, in particular the promotion and development of capacity building and technological transfer activities;
- The establishment of effective links to provide useful information for public decision makers and other users.
Indisputably, this has been the most significant event of the past few years, anchored in Agenda 21, as the basis for future guidance with the aim of providing a model for sustainable development in the XXI century, through environmental, economic, social policies with a view for long term development.

In a broad sense, Rio+20 has set out a substantial path for sustainability and has helped define the vision of the CPPS. Its central chapter on Oceans and Seas expressed in the closing declaration of the Conference reflects our commitments for the future.

The decision to establish a series of Objectives for Sustainable Development (OSD) must include the definition of an objective for oceans. Within this framework, CPPS is committed to help in the development of this objective. As stated in the document, “The future we want”, the OSD is based on Agenda 21, while respecting different national circumstances, capacities and priorities, and remaining consistent with international law.

Here, we outline the various areas for developing international collaborations for the preservation of the marine environment and coastal areas, taking into account associated socio-economic aspects, and identifying opportunities for strategic partnerships that add value and provide funding opportunities that will allow us to increase our capacity for action in these areas.
RIO+20 OCEANS AND SEAS

- Recognizes the importance of cooperation in scientific research within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and the need to ensure technological transfer according to the IOC directives.

- Specifically highlights and supports the Regular Process with reports and assessments of the marine environment at a global level, including socioeconomic aspects, and encourages states to complete the first integrated assessment for 2014.

- Expresses concerns for the health of oceanic biodiversity, affected by marine debris, especially plastic material from marine and terrestrial sources. There is a commitment to put in place measures to reduce pollution, among others, and for the effective application of agreements, such as the Program of World Action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based anthropogenic activities.

- Recognizes the threat of invasive species and is committed to preventive measures within the framework of the IMO.

- Recognizes the effects of climate change, the problem of ocean acidification, and the impact on ecosystems and marine resources, and calls for international cooperation to tackle these problems.

- Commits to developing and applying fisheries management plans to reduce the impact of overfishing and restore depleted fish stocks. Appeals to nations to apply the FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing and associated actions plans.

- Recognizes the detrimental effects that many states suffer due to illegal, undeclared and non-regulated fishing, and the risk that this threat represents to sustainable development, and is committed to eliminate these practices.

- Commits to securing Access to fisheries and markets for subsistence fishers, small scale and artisanal fishers, as well as women fishers and indigenous communities.

- Reaffirms the importance of Marine Protected Areas as tools for biodiversity Conservation and the sustainable use of ecosystem components.
Upon observation of the value chain, in terms of production within multi-dimensional context, and in light of the associated benefits that environmental services provide, a critical issue for our society emerges: the weak and fragile line between food access-use, supply and consistency for a significant proportion of the population. The natural resources that our marine and terrestrial ecosystems provide including fisheries and the bodies of water available for aquaculture are a starting point for ensuring a sustainable value chain.

Undoubtedly, small scale fisheries must be considered relevant for ecosystem management to achieve a balance between economic activities and the environment. The CPPS foresees actions in these areas with a view to the long term and with strategic partnerships with key agencies.

The current dominant global dynamics should be seen as an opportunity and not as a threat and should be perceived as a real and concrete guide in the face of growing challenges. From the standpoint of the sustainable use of ecosystems, there is a need for joint responsibility in the face of the growing importance of the global food supply agenda.

**WORLD FOOD SUMMIT, 1996**

“There is food security when all people at all times have physical and economic Access to sufficient, innocuous and nutritious food to satisfy their food requirements and preferences in order to carry out an active and healthy life.”
New partners

The CPPS has planned to transform its knowledge, capacity for responding to the needs of the region, and its international links in order to become a relevant partner to other institutions. In this sense, we visualize a strategy that allows establishing, in the long term, a suite of important partnerships that will ensure technical and financial support.

The advance in building capital knowledge and its administration is deeply rooted within CPPS, thus converting our organization in a first rate meeting area. This asset strengthens our position as an attractive, trusty and internationally recognized partner. These characteristics will be felt at a national level, guaranteeing the support to knowledge necessary for incremental financial leverage in a win-win situation.

NEW PARTNERS

- Universities.
- Centers of Advances Studies.
- Institution or Ministry of Planning.
- Institution of Risk Management/Prevention.
- Ministry of Education.
- National Science and Technology Councils.
- Representatives of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, including small scale artisan fishers and their organizations.
- Global Environment Facility - GEF.
- Food and Agriculture Organization – FAO.
- World Bank – WB.
- Inter-American Development Bank – BID.
- International Center for El Niño Research - CIIFEN.
The Permanent Commission of the South Pacific is of great value to the member states of the region. Its capacity to articulate and bring together solid knowledge of the structural elements that determine the regional and international agenda in maritime affairs, in applied science, as well as in the development of policies, makes it a key entity at an organizational level.

The current dynamism and its response to constant challenges support the pillars of sustainable development: environment, economy and society which are all central elements to the systemic mission of our organization. This is expressed in the strategic orientation of our response to the challenges of the XXI Century, to help member states achieve, from an integrated perspective, sustainable development as defined in the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. This considers, amongst others, the Ecosystem Approach, the Precautionary Principle, and international instruments for the protection of seas and oceans, while respecting the national policies and mechanisms applicable to each country. This approach will be applied within the jurisdictional areas of CPPS Member States and will guide the projection of our organization beyond these areas, including the Pacific Basin.

Without a doubt, the permanent concern of our organization for the state of the marine environment and its support of key productive factors of the economies of the region, will contribute to safeguarding ecosystem services. This by permanently monitoring climatic variability, coastal zone management, the advances in small scale fishing, the strength and capacity of their institutions and the commitment of society as a whole to the responsible conservation of natural resources and the environment.
The region that the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific oversees is exposed to great natural and anthropogenic issues exerted upon the ecosystem. Aspects such as pollution, pressure on coastal zone usage, the overexploitation of certain fisheries, the high environmental variability (ENSO), the effects of climate change, the extent of harmful algal blooms, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and the lack of full knowledge of maritime spaces under national jurisdiction and resources outside national jurisdiction accompanied by the growing demand of the viability of exploitation of non-living resources, all have relevant impacts that should be tackled in context and consequences should be faced with a systematic, regional and common vision.

Through our mission, the CPPS looks to coordinate and promote maritime policies for the conservation and responsible use of natural resources and their environment in order to benefit integrated and sustainable development of their nations. This common task projects us into the future with an integrated vision that defines lines of action in the long term. Our society bases its development on the use of natural resources in an environment with highly variable climate and in zones exposed to various issues. The challenges to maintain the environmental services have thus become structural elements in the actions undertaken by CPPS.

These challenges reveal the synergy that exists between our nations and the environment where anthropogenic activities are sustained by ecosystems and their services. In this sense, resilient ecosystems have the capacity of absorbing impacts without significant changes in their structure and function. This is in line with commitments regarding our capacity to manage them. Resilient systems therefore will provide the basis of sustainable development, coupling the environment, the economy and society. This is the long term commitment of our organization.

“To be a maritime system and an efficient strategic ally in the coordination of maritime policies of member States, to ensure that the Southeast Pacific is a healthy and resilient maritime environment for present and future generations”.

F. FÉLIX
LONG TERM OBJECTIVES

- COMPETITIVE STATES IN THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE
  Coordinate, where necessary, maritime policies of CPPS member states, with a view of promoting the adoption of regional maritime policies, in light of the progressive development of the Law of the Sea and International Environmental Law, for the conservation and sustainable use of living and non-living marine resources.

- SCIENCE AS A BASIS FOR FORMULATING POLICIES
  Promote and develop scientific and operational research in oceanic, biological, climatic and socioeconomic issues.

- STATES AND SOCIETY AS VECTORS OF CHANGE
  Impulse mechanisms of political coordination and activities to prevent reduce and control pollution of the marine environment, ensuring adequate environmental management of natural resources.

- AN INFORMED AND ENVIRONMENTALLY AWARE SOCIETY
  Establish the necessary mechanisms to preserve and guarantee access to knowledge generated by the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific to society as a whole.

These objectives are aligned in a vision that seeks to ensure that the Southeast Pacific is and will stay as a healthy and resilient maritime space for present and future generations. They are interlinked and share a structure that makes them strong pillars for building the future of the Commission and how it will support member states in reaching, from an integrated perspective, the sustainable development as defined in the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

The region that is covered by the CPPS is exposed to strong natural and anthropogenic issues exerted upon their ecosystems. Pollution, coastal zone planning, overexploitation of certain fish stocks, high environmental variability (ENSO), the effects of climate change, the expansion of harmful algal blooms, illegal, unreported and non-regulated fishing, the lack of full knowledge of maritime spaces and their resources outside the national
resources outside the national jurisdiction of member states, and the growing demand for the exploitation of non-living resources, all produce effects whose impacts must be put into context and tackled by means of a systematic, regional and common vision. In this sense, an organization that is based on science-policy as an undividable team provides a competitive edge to effectively and integrally support sustainable development policies of their member states. At the same time, it is necessary to create awareness in society regarding the unavoidable necessity for protecting ecosystems and taking informed decisions as part of our social corporate responsibility.

Coordinate, where necessary, CPPS member states, with a view of promoting the adoption of regional maritime policies, in light of the progressive development of the Law of the Sea and International Environmental Law, for the conservation and sustainable use of living and non-living marine resources.

Competitive Nations in the International Stage

The spirit that gave rise to the creation of the CPPS (Declaration of Santiago) was to state, within its International Maritime Policy, “the protection of the 200 miles as an exclusive zone of jurisdiction of the states of the Southeast Pacific.” The protection of marine resources for the benefit of their respective states is intimately interlinked to the Maritime Law, also set out in the Law of the Sea Convention and other related International instruments. From a broad legal standpoint, it is also necessary to understand the basic processes that support political decision-making within our member states.

In the long term, CPPS has committed to include in its core work, elements that will be part of the political agenda over the next 10 years. The capacity for prospective is an intrinsic value of this organization, which requires by definition a long term role in the international stage to support relevant issues and the efficient use of scarce resources.
The path to the future:

- Advance in the incorporation of Ecosystem Based Management in decision making.
- National capacities strengthened by the implementation of the Agreement on Port State Measures.
- Promote research, technology transfer and legal aspects in marine genetic resources.
- Consolidate common standpoints at a regional level to strengthen negotiating power with third parties.
- Establish the state of the art in legal aspects of pertinent defined topics.
- Consolidate regional positions in the face of international institutions related to oceans and fisheries, including aquaculture.
- Improve conservation and management of fisheries resources.
- The role of women in the value chain of fisheries and value chain of fisheries and aquaculture in the Southeast Pacific.
- Fight against illegal, undeclared and unregulated fishing - IUU.

Promote and develop scientific and operational research on oceanic, biological, climatic and socioeconomic issues.
Science as a Basis for Formulating Policies

Oceanic ecosystems provide multiple benefits to society: food, recreation, economic development, transport. However, these spaces are exposed to great natural and anthropogenic issues. Pollution, coastal zone development, overexploitation of certain fish stocks, high environmental variability (ENSO), the effects of climate change, the expansion of harmful algal blooms, illegal, unreported and non-regulated fishing, the lack of full knowledge of maritime spaces and their resources outside the national jurisdiction of member states, and the growing demand for the exploitation of non-living resources, all produce effects whose impacts must be put into context and tackled by means of a systematic, regional and common vision.

For the suitable management of the extensive maritime areas of the Southeast Pacific, it is necessary to understand the nature, behavior and functioning of their ecosystems and resources. Knowledge of these characteristics is achieved by scientific research. The CPPS has been a pioneer in the coordination of multidisciplinary scientific research throughout the economic sectors of the region, and has an important heritage in terms of its experience and knowledge accumulated over the years.

This aspect has been fundamental in the evolution of the organization over time. The CPPS has progressively broadened its area of responsibility, mainly in scientific research and environmental impact assessment, with programs such as the Regional Study of the “El Niño” Phenomenon, studies on marine pollution, threatened marine species, climate change and more recently the impacts of tsunamis on our region.

Operational research has started with “El Niño” predictions within the framework of the ERFEN Protocol, but its products have rapidly evolved into Regional Alliances (GRASP) of the Ocean Observation program (GOOS). This has proven to be of great use to a wide range of users of marine information, such as small scale fishers, the fishing and aquaculture industries and government institutions that oversee productive sectors and deal with risk management of natural disasters. In order to achieve this objective, which is central to the actions undertaken by CPPS, we propose that the Secretary General strengthen its capacity for coordination and support of scientific and fisheries technical issues, with the necessary personnel and an agenda that prioritizes the areas of interest of member states.
In the long term, the CPPS has committed to include in its core work, elements that are in the political agenda over the next 10 years. The prospective capacity of our organization requires by definition the abilities to monitor climatic, environmental and economic changes that are taking place at a global scale and undoubtedly will define the risks map that will have to be taken into account by society as a whole.

The path to the future:

- Advance in the use of Ecosystem Based Management in the decision making process.
- Advance in the formulation of market incentives for the implementation of public policies.
- Incorporate in the decision making process the concept of economy of ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Improve the conservation and administration of fisheries resources.
- Advance the understanding of the value chain in fisheries and aquaculture in the Southeast Pacific, from a gender perspective.
- Advance the sustainable management of fisheries resources (food security).
- Consolidate the regional study of the El Niño phenomenon -ERFEN- and the application of its Protocol.
- Advance the implementation of global ocean observation systems in the Southeast Pacific –GOOS –GRASP.
- Establish a regional base line on the effects on climate change in living marine resources and their environment.

Impulse mechanisms of political coordination and activities to prevent reduce and control pollution of the marine environment, ensuring adequate environmental management of natural resources.
The degradation that ecosystems are currently experiencing, in particular marine and coastal areas, due to uncontrolled and poorly planned development, has led to the need of creating appropriate mechanisms and measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment and coastal areas of the Pacific Southeast, and to ensure adequate environmental management of natural resources.

Within this context, CPPS has met this challenge through its Plan of Action for the protection of the marine environment and coastal zones of the Southeast Pacific, carrying out activities focused on assessing the quality of marine and coastal environments, studying management methods for conservation and assessing the condition of marine and coastal resources and management strategies for its preservation. The particular long term needs of the region must be met, in order to promote the health of present and future generations, as well as to implementing a framework for the application of suitable and integral policies.

The CPPS has included in its long term plan elements that allow the observation of anthropogenic effects on the environment, on global, regional and local scales, which undoubtedly include the outline of risks that should be understood by society as a whole, by identifying and prioritizing areas where actions must be taken.

The path to the future:

- Advance in the incorporation of Ecosystem Based Management in decision making.
- Promote the management and conservation of Marine Coastal Biodiversity.
- Consolidation and strengthening of the Regional Network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Pacific Southeast.
- Prevent the introduction of exotic species and pathogens in the Southeast Pacific.
Integrated Coastal Management.

Marine and Coastal Pollution Management in the Southeast Pacific.


Establish the necessary mechanisms to preserve and guarantee access to knowledge generated by the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific to society as a whole.

An Informed and Environmentally Aware Society

There is a need to increase the level of awareness and understanding of the implications and benefits of sustainable development and build the capacity of institutions and individuals related to fisheries and aquaculture to recognize the value of environmental services and promote the conservation of marine resources and environments.

The CPPS will take on these challenges with a longterm view that will involve the development and implementation of a comprehensive Awareness Program designed to raise the level of awareness regarding basic concepts in Ecosystem Based Management, Climate Change, Tsunamis, IUU fishing, pollution, and marine debris among others, and will provide functional tools for specific audiences, such as decision makers, relevant economic sectors, marine resource stakeholders and local communities.
The use of dynamic and interactive elements in activities carried out by the CPPS will be communicated through the website in an accessible and user-friendly way (www.cpps-int.org). The website will also have publically available relevant documents and links to our partner organizations, in an interactive and integrated way. The site will be a point of encounter for feedback, recommendations or concerns. The exchange of experiences, including lessons learnt, will be promoted, for the improvement of regional capacity-building.

In the long term, the CPPS has committed to include in its core work, elements that are included in the political agenda over the next 10 years. Capacity for prediction is intrinsic to the organization and requires, by definition, the monitoring of technological changes and the need to improve regional competence. Education is a central element in the process of dissemination and transfer of knowledge generated by the CPPS and its strategic partners, including the Specialized Institutions of each member state.

**A path to the future:**

- Develop Information Systems for integrated Management.
- Strengthen the Information System for Marine Biodiversity and Marine and Coastal Protected Areas of the Southeast Pacific.
- Establish a platform for the Exchange of information and experiences - lessons learned.
- Develop electronic forums to promote the visibility of the CPPS.
- Portfolio of projects related to marine resources and their environment.
- Advance towards the standardization of information programs on natural resources and their environment.
- Develop programs to promote maritime awareness at a Regional level.
- Promote the construction of Aquariums as tools for environmental education and outreach in member states.