



Photo credit: Stuart Chape

Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner

Next Steps

The Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner is already transforming the region's approach to ocean management – but there is much more work to be done.

In 2016 the Office will focus on the following high-impact strategic priorities:

- Jurisdictional rights and responsibilities
- Good ocean governance
- Sustainable development, management and conservation
- Listening, learning, liaising and leading
- Sustaining action
- Adapting to a rapidly changing environment

**Together we can build a
secure future for Pacific people**

How you can help

The Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner is seeking funding partnerships to support its work.

Please email opoc@forumsec.org to find out more.

<http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/strategic-partnerships-coordination/pacific-oceanscape/pacific-ocean-commissioner.html>

c/- Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat,
Private Mailbag, Suva, Fiji Islands



Our Ocean, Our Future

The Pacific Ocean covers almost one third of the globe.

It is bigger than all of the continents put together.

For the people of the Pacific, the ocean is everything – life, culture, security, safety, prosperity, health and wellbeing.

But the Pacific Ocean is under threat from such things as overexploitation, habitat damage, pollution and climate change – requiring urgent action and innovative approaches.



Achievements

As a result of the commitment of Pacific Leaders, a great deal has already been achieved:

- Pacific Island Countries and Territories endorsed the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape – a guiding approach to ocean management that includes clear goals and activities, within a framework to track and measure progress and enhance accountability.
- Established Pacific Ocean Alliance – A network of private, public and civil sector representatives acting together to advance approaches to integrated ocean management.
- High profile international ocean advocacy – Pacific Ocean Commissioner has pushed ocean management onto the international agenda at forums across the globe.



“For the people of the Pacific, the ocean is everything”

Dame Meg Taylor
Pacific Ocean Commissioner



Credit: Andrew Tkach

Pacific Ocean Commissioner

The Pacific Islands region is rising to the challenge. Work is underway to implement a world-leading, shared approach to ocean management, led by the Pacific Ocean Commissioner.

The approach has the backing of 22 Pacific Island Countries and Territories and incorporates over 40 million square kilometres of ocean and islands – bigger than the land-mass of China, Canada, USA, India and Australia combined.

The Commissioner is working to unite Pacific Countries and Territories through sustainable ocean management and use across this vast area – with a focus on coordination, collaboration and integration.

The initiative has the potential to be transformative for the region, with positive ramifications right across the globe.

The Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner

A small, dedicated, team of ocean experts supports the Commissioner. The Office's role includes:

- Enhancing coordination, collaboration and integration - with a focus on development effectiveness and improving return on investment.
- Assisting the Commissioner to undertake high level-advocacy and awareness activities.
- Providing expertise and support to Pacific Island Countries and Territories on cross-sectoral ocean issues, such as biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- Developing coordinated approaches to measurement and reporting - lifting accountability.
- Promoting the work of Pacific Island Countries and Territories to establish maritime boundaries and extended continental shelves.
- Analysis of linkages between oceans and climate change, ensuring the Pacific is well placed to meet the challenges ahead.

