

PACIFIC OCEANSCAPE

15 MILLION SQUARE MILES OF OPPORTUNITY



Equal in size to the surface of the moon, the Pacific Oceanscape is the planet's last great marine wilderness, harboring more than half of the global tuna catch and more than 10,000 species found nowhere else on earth.

The entire region is under intense pressure. Deforestation and mineral extraction, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and changing weather patterns pose significant dangers for these pristine, coral-rich waters and the people that depend upon them. Unsustainable takes by large-scale commercial tuna fleets threaten food security not only for this area, but globally. Essential food resources, medicines, and jobs are at stake.

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

PACIFIC OCEANSCAPE VISION

Pacific Island Leaders envision a secure future for the Pacific Islands based on the sustainable development, management and conservation of the ocean.

A FRAMEWORK FOR OCEAN CONSERVATION

The leaders of 23 Pacific Island states and territories have made a determined stand to protect their natural wealth through the creation and implementation of the Pacific Oceanscape Framework. Together they have made great strides, received international attention, and celebrated many world firsts in ecosystem management and conservation, but they need key support to maintain this momentum.

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL'S STRATEGY

Conservation International stands with the people of the Pacific Islands to realize their vision through cutting-edge conservation, science and management strategies. CI's goal is to enable a broad paradigm shift in the Pacific towards whole-of-domain natural resource management that maximizes the sustainable benefits to Pacific Island countries and communities and increases their resilience to climate change.

Conservation International will:

- Ensure effective protection and management of critical natural capital from ridge-to-reef and reef-to-ocean
- Advance pathways to sustainable production and development
- Facilitate regional collaboration, governance and amplification of successes

PARTNERS

Pacific Islanders have a long history of collaboration. The Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner was created with Conservation International's support to strengthen policy frameworks, provide effective coordination and act as a catalyst for the "united ocean voice." Together with the regional intergovernmental agencies that make up the Forum's Marine Sector Working Group, they are the facilitators and regional implementers of the Pacific Oceanscape Framework.

Conservation International partners with these regional agencies, national governments and other non-profit organizations to build in-region capacity, foster regional leadership and coalesce global partnerships.

The regional agencies that comprise the Marine Sector Working Group are:

- Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat**
- Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency**
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community**
- The University of the South Pacific**
- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme**

FISHERIES

58% of the world's tuna catch comes from the Pacific Islands, which is valued at **US\$2.4 BILLION**.

80% Foreign fishing vessels take more than **80%** of the fish caught in Pacific Island waters.

The tuna industry alone provides more than **15,000** jobs to Pacific Islanders and contributes more than **US\$260 MILLION** to the region's economy.

As much as **US\$3.4 BILLION OF ECONOMIC LOSSES** in the region's tuna fisheries may be expected over the next 50 years if the current management practices continue.

HUMAN WELLBEING

For many Pacific Islanders, the ocean represents their main renewable resource and their best opportunity for economic development.

Coastal waters are home to a wide range of reef fish, seaweed and shellfish that are vital sources of food for island communities.

75% of Pacific Island current coastal fisheries are projected to be unable to meet local food needs by 2030.

The Pacific Ocean boasts recreational activities ranging from fishing and diving to whale watching, boating and more. Tourism is a strong option for sustainable development in the region.

CLIMATE + ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

CLIMATE CHANGE is already affecting the Pacific Islanders through degraded infrastructure, water supply, coastal and forest ecosystems, fisheries, agriculture and human health.

The consequences of sea level rise, sea temperature increases, ocean acidification, altered rainfall patterns and overall temperature rise will be increasingly felt.

100%* of the Pacific Islands population lives within 100km of the coast compared to 39% globally. * Except Papua New Guinea

The region is estimated to be responsible for only **0.006%** of global greenhouse gas emissions.

BIODIVERSITY

Marine life in the Pacific Islands is amongst the most intact, robust, and pristine remaining in the world.

Nearly **HALF** of the world's hard coral reefs exist in the region.

TWO THIRDS of all bird extinctions in the past two centuries have occurred in the Pacific Islands.

10,000 On land, this region is home to more than **10,000** species found nowhere else on earth.

Approximately **THREE QUARTERS** of 476 globally threatened species in the Polynesia/Micronesia hotspot are threatened by invasive species.

ENDORSEMENTS

These countries and territories have endorsed the Pacific Oceanscape framework:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| American Samoa | Northern Marianas Islands |
| Australia | Niue |
| Cook Islands | Palau |
| Federated States of Micronesia | Papua New Guinea |
| French Polynesia | Republic of Marshall Islands |
| Fiji | Samoa |
| Guam | Solomon Islands |
| Kiribati | Tonga |
| Nauru | Tuvalu |
| New Zealand | Vanuatu |
| Tokelau | Wallis and Futuna |
| New Caledonia | |

"The ocean unites and divides, connects and separates, sustains and threatens our very survival."

- President Anote Tong of Kiribati

CONTACT US HERE
✉ pacificoceanscape@conservation.org
🌐 Conservation.org

