



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique

# Building a regional monitoring & evaluation system for coastal fisheries in the Pacific

September 2017

# The story

For the first time the Pacific region has a harmonised regional monitoring and reporting framework for coastal fisheries. The Coastal Fishery Report Card is being delivered to heads of state from the 18 Pacific Island Forum countries this week in Apia

How did we get here when 2 years ago there was almost no regional level dialogue on coastal fisheries?



# FUTURE OF FISHERIES



## COASTAL FISHERY REPORT CARD 2017



### Introduction

The *Coastal fishery report card* provides annual regional reporting on the current status of Pacific coastal fisheries in relation to the goals, indicators and strategies adopted by Pacific leaders in both the *Regional roadmap for sustainable Pacific fisheries* and *A new song for coastal fisheries – pathways to change: The Naumea strategy*. The Report Card, initiated in 2015, provides a snapshot to enable fisheries stakeholders and political leaders to monitor progress on implementing regional commitments relating to coastal fisheries.

### Context

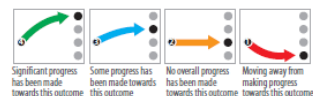
There are over 30,000 islands scattered across the Pacific Ocean, inhabited by over 10 million people. These islands are divided among 22 Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) characterised by vast areas of ocean much greater than their land area. Coastal fisheries are fundamental to food security and livelihoods across the region, representing significant economic, social and cultural benefits for communities. The region has extensive coral reefs, consisting of 70 coral genera, over 4,000 fish/invertebrate species and 30 mangrove species. These coastal resources are under increasing threat and in many places are being over exploited.

### Method used to compile card information

The intentional alignment between the Regional Roadmap and the New Song has enabled one single monitoring mechanism for both commitments. The 2017 Report Card is the first time a single reporting mechanism has been adopted for coastal fisheries in the region.

The indicators utilised in the Report Card were identified in consultation with representatives from SPC, OPOC, WorldFish and the LMMA Network, with feedback from the 10th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting and the 102nd FFC Officials Meeting. Data sources for each indicator are noted in the accompanying 2017 *Coastal Fishery Background Report*.

Given the nature of coastal fisheries, reporting on progress itself remains a key challenge in implementing regional commitments. Limitations in data availability, resources constraints, data variability and validation mean there is a lack of available data for most outcome areas. Information gaps are noted in the Report Card. For outcomes where progress has been noted, the following ranges have been used:



Abbreviations: CEAFF – Community-based ecosystem approach to fisheries management; FFC – Fisheries Forum Committee; FPO – Framework for a Pacific Ocean; HIES – Household income & expenditure survey; LMMA – Locally Marine Managed Area Network; OPOC – Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner; PICTs – Pacific Island countries & territories; SPC – Pacific Community.

## Goal 1 – Empowerment

### Informed, empowered coastal communities with clearly defined user-rights



User rights defined in 14 PICTs  
User rights and tenure systems in PICTs are most commonly recognised through constitutional arrangements, or national or sub-national legislation such as Island/Village Councils Acts, Provincial Acts or Island State Acts.

Ability to access rights and levels of empowerment  
The ability of rights holders to claim/control the use of their rights is unknown at the regional level. Level of community awareness and community action to manage coastal fisheries resources is also a key information gap at the present time.



Given data gaps it is difficult to make an overall assessment of progress towards this outcome

### Adequate and relevant information to inform management and policy

Ratio of extension officers to fishing households  
The role of fisheries extension officers varies, but commonly includes dissemination of information, development activities and providing advice to communities. Data from five PICTs showed a ratio of one extension officer to 1167 households participating in fisheries.

Adequacy and extent to which information informs management and policy is unknown  
The extent to which coastal fisheries management measures are informed by evidence across the region is unknown at this time, as is the adequacy and accessibility of information being provided to communities.



Given data gaps it is difficult to make an overall assessment of progress towards this outcome

### Recognition of, and strong political commitment and support for, coastal fisheries management at a national and sub-national scale

#### National resource allocation

The median level of governments' financial commitment to coastal fisheries as a proportion of the total national budget was 0.2% (range 0.01%–0.4%, n = 5). The median proportion of fisheries budgets allocated to coastal fisheries was 32% (range 3%–80%, n = 8). The median proportion of fisheries staff working in coastal fisheries is 47% (range 31%–95%, n = 8). Data from five PICTs showed a ratio of one coastal fisheries staff member to 483 households participating in fisheries.

#### Increasing regional commitment

In 2015 regional commitments were made on coastal fisheries management, including the New Song, the Regional Roadmap and SDG14. In 2016 Pacific Leaders agreed to expand 'fisheries' to include coastal fisheries.



Available data indicates that some progress has been made towards this outcome

### Re-focused fisheries agencies that are transparent, accountable, and adequately resourced, supporting coastal fisheries management and sustainable development, underpinned by CEAFF



Seven PICTs annually publish financial statements for their national fisheries budget.



Governments' budget dedicated to coastal fisheries is equivalent to USD 24 per household participating in fisheries (median, n = 5 PICTs).



Eleven PICTs have a current national coastal fisheries roadmap or strategy in place.



Available data indicates that there has been no overall significant progress towards this outcome

## Goal 2 – Resilience

### Strong and up-to-date management policy, legislation and planning



**15 PICTs**

have gaps in their coastal fisheries management legislation or have legislation requiring updating.



**9 PICTs**

have current coastal fisheries management policies.



**?**

Evidence of monitoring, control, and enforcement of coastal fisheries management measures is a data gap at the regional level.



Given data gaps it is difficult to make an overall assessment of progress towards this outcome.

### Effective collaboration and coordination between stakeholders and key sectors of influence

#### Integrated projects across the region

The number of coastal fisheries management-related projects that integrate more than one government ministry is unknown at this time. The number of coastal fisheries management projects including multiple non-government stakeholders is also unknown. A methodology will be developed with partners to assist in measuring these indicators.

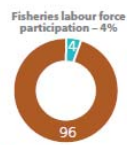
#### Level of effectiveness of partnerships

The level of effectiveness of partnerships, collaboration and coordination is unknown. A partnership assessment tool will be developed to assist with addressing this indicator.



Given data gaps it is difficult to make an overall assessment of progress towards this outcome.

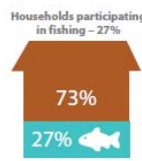
### More equitable access to benefits and decision-making within communities, including women, youth and marginalised groups



Data from 7 PICTs showed the median household income from capture fisheries is 2% (range <0.5%–6%).



The labour force employed in the formal fisheries sector is predominantly male, with men comprising a median of 92% of the fisheries labour force (range 83%–96%).



27% of households participate in fishing. This is the median, with wide variation across countries (range 12%–80%). More rural than urban households participate in fishing.

Data source: The above data is based on current HIES data available for 7 PICTs (2012–15), using the median value across PICTs.



It is difficult to make an overall assessment of progress towards this outcome. As future HIES data becomes available the above information will act as a baseline to measure change.

## Goal 3 – Livelihoods & food security

### Keep harvests within sustainable limits and ensure coastal developments do not damage fish habitats

**Giant clams:** Generally considered overfished region-wide.

**Sea cucumbers:** Most PICT sea cucumber fisheries are now closed due to overfishing.

**Finfish indicator species:** Regional monitoring of five indicator species – *Chenophaetus striatus*, *Lethrinus obsoletus*, *Lutjanus gibbus*, *Naso lituratus* and *N. unicornis* – indicate mixed results across the seven regional sites, where some locations show overexploitation and others appropriate exploitation. Data is lacking for most species, and two or more sites have not been assessed.

#### Reefs and ecosystems

In 2011, 48% of reefs in the Pacific were considered threatened – PICT average 57% range 16%–100% (Source: Chin et al. 2011). Since then, reefs in multiple PICTs have been severely affected by coral bleaching and tropical cyclones. Information on the total proportion of PICT coastal areas under management is not currently available. As at last calculation, 8.2% of coastal villages/communities practiced CEAFM – regional total, n = 11,422 (Source: Govan et al. 2015).



Given data gaps it is difficult to make an overall assessment of progress towards this outcome.

### Enhanced food security from sustainable fisheries, including the supply of tuna for domestic consumption

**Per capita fresh fish consumption**

Using HIES data from 15 PICTs mainly between 2001 and 2006, the regional population weighted average consumption of fresh fish was 37 kg per person per annum (range 20 kg–110 kg). Updated data to be available in the 2018 Report Card. According to current HIES data from 7 PICTs (2012–2015), **94%** of households consume fish or seafood weekly (median, range 76%–100%).

#### Food quality/safety

Reported incidences of fish poisoning is not currently available at a regional level.



Given data gaps it is difficult to make an overall assessment of progress towards this outcome.

### Diversify the supply of fish, primarily through nearshore fish aggregating devices (FADs) and sustainable aquaculture



Using HIES data, the locations used by fishing households were: inshore (66% of households), nearshore (65%), and offshore (40%). Fifteen per cent of households indicated they used FADs (median values from four PICTs).



**8%**

of households sell fish – median, range 4%–30%, n = 7 PICTs (Source: HIES).

**8%**

of household consumption expenditure is on fisheries – median, range 3%–8%, n = 7 PICTs (Source: HIES).



Given data gaps it is difficult to make an overall assessment of progress towards this outcome.

## Data notes

Further information on the regional coastal fisheries indicators utilised in this Report Card, including data sources and how figures were calculated, can be found in the Background Report.

Data from HIES were available for seven PICTs (Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tokelau). Figures presented are the median across these PICTs unless otherwise stated.

Data from national fisheries offices on staff numbers and budget information were received from twelve PICTs (Cook Islands, French Polynesia, FSM, Nauru, New Caledonia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna), with some missing data.

It is expected that in future report cards data coverage across PICTs and data quality will continue to improve.



# OVERVIEW SPC & FISHERIES IN THE PACIFIC



## Pacific Community (SPC)

*Sustainable development  
through science, knowledge  
& innovation*

- International development organisation
- Principal scientific and technical organisation in the Pacific across many sectors
- Member owned
- 70 years old (est. 1947)



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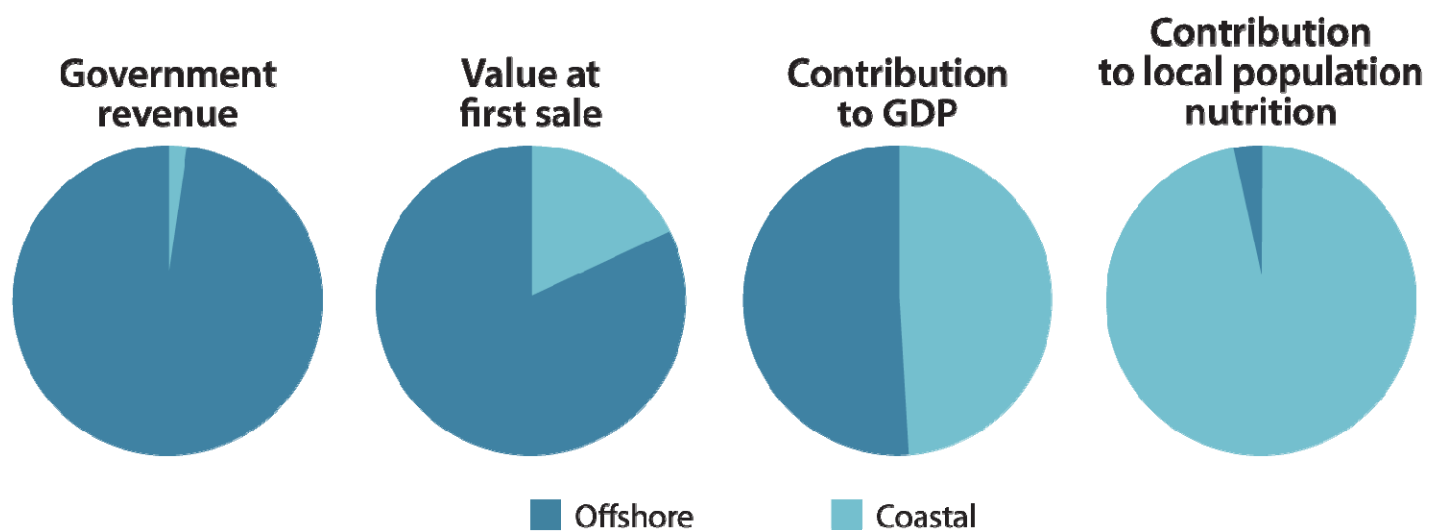




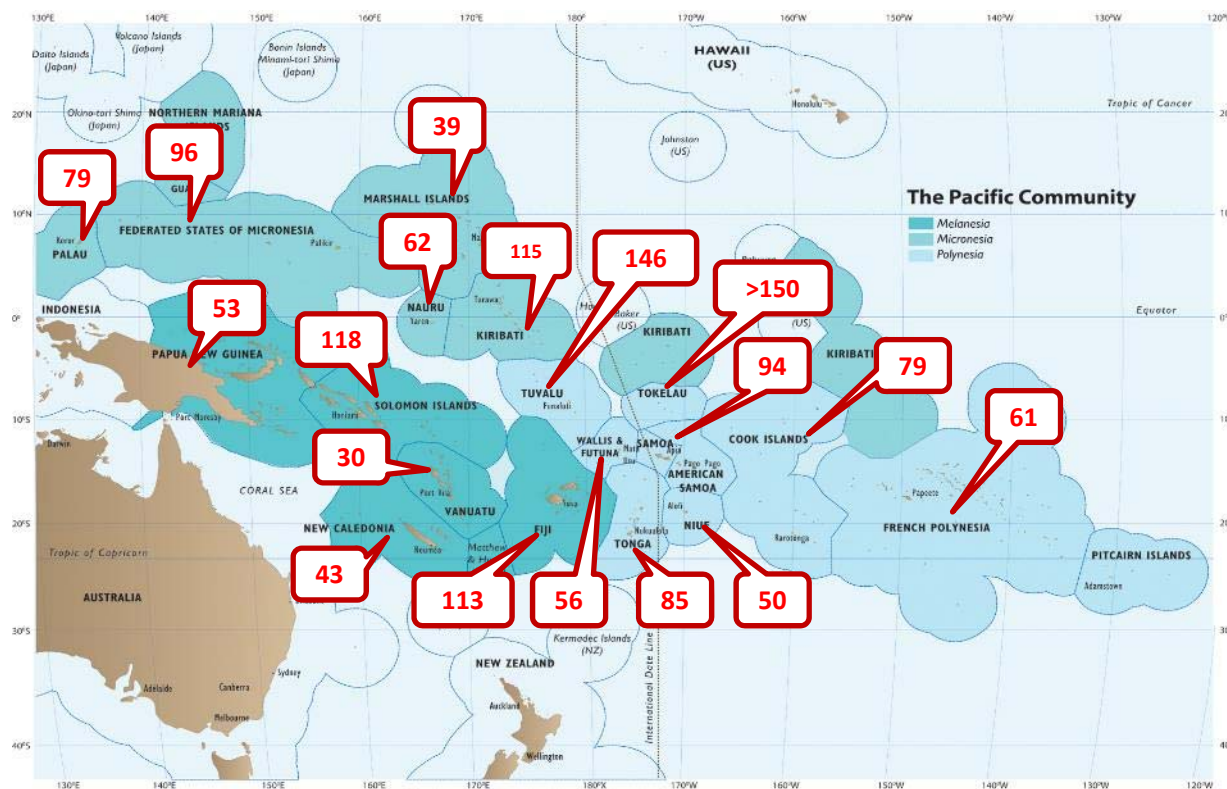
# Fisheries in the Pacific

- Important for national revenue, livelihoods, food security
- Pacific tuna fisheries
  - 2016 WCPO tuna catch of 2.6 million tonnes, 60% in PICT EEZs
  - About USD 450 million in foreign access revenue in 2015
  - Employment 16,000 jobs
- Coastal fisheries
  - Provides 50-90% of dietary protein for coastal communities
  - 49% of total fisheries contribution to GDP is from coastal fisheries
  - Over 50% of coastal communities derive 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> source of income from coastal fisheries





# Fish consumption per person / kg / year

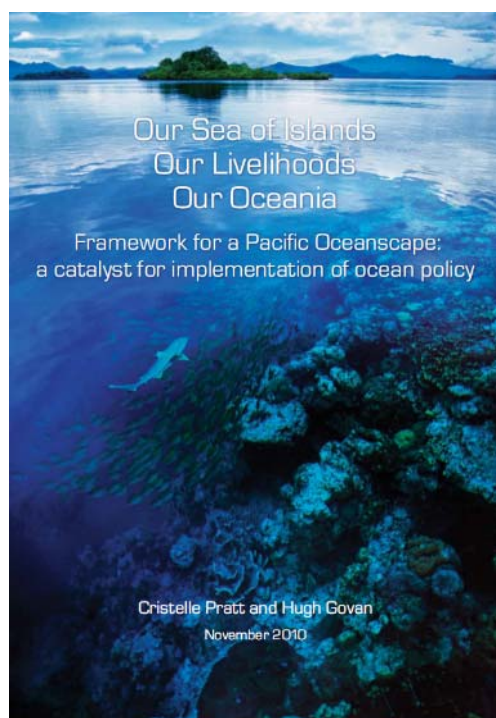


# Where to for the future of coastal fisheries?

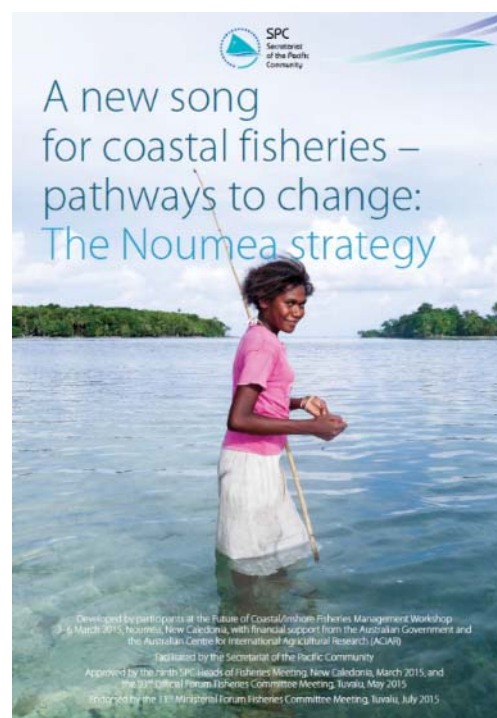
**A new approach was urgently needed to deal with decline in coastal fisheries resources**



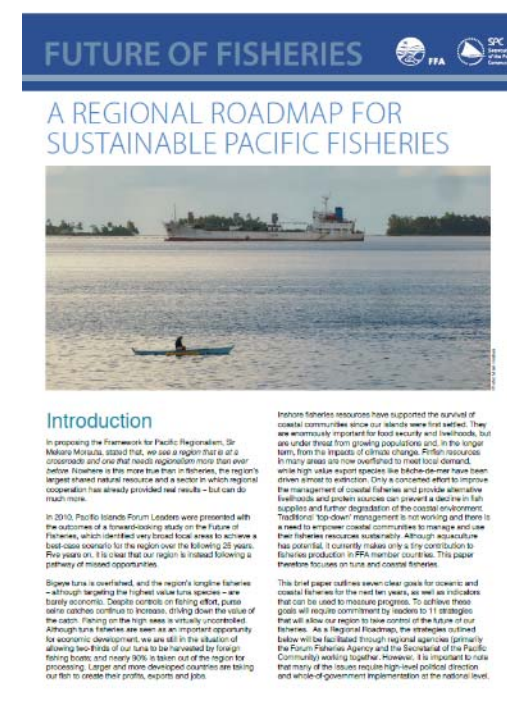
# Regional strategies were born



2010



2015



2015

# Fisheries related strategies

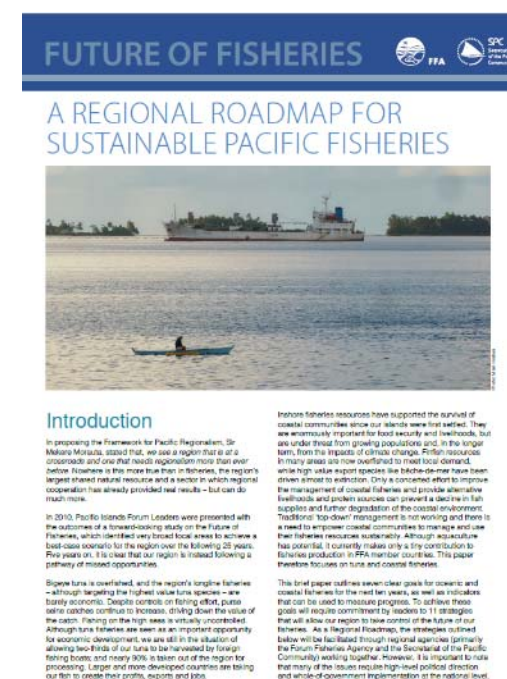
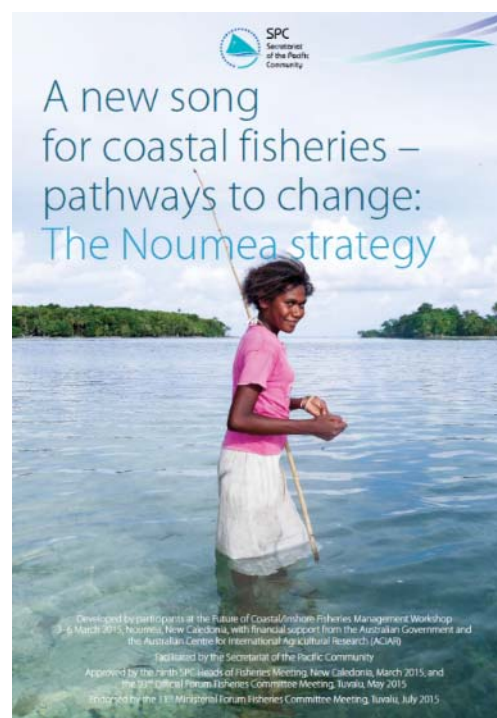
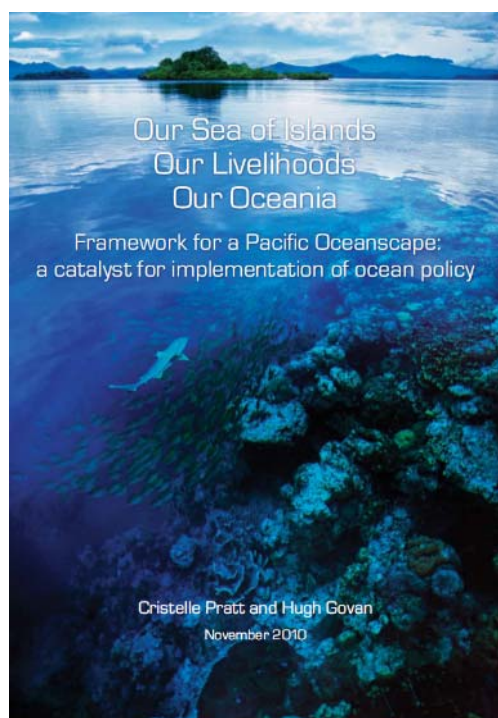
Scale	Policy instruments
Global	<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>
Global	<b>SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway</b>
Global	<b>Aichi targets</b>
Global	<b>Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries</b>
Regional	<b>Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape (FPO)</b>
Regional	<b>Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries</b>
Regional	<b>A New Song for Coastal Fisheries</b>
Sub-regional	<b>Melanesian Spearhead Group roadmap for inshore fisheries</b>
Sub-regional	<b>Micronesia Challenge</b>

# THE JOURNEY BUILDING A REGIONAL APPROACH





# The opportunity in 2015 ...



# Our approach & enablers

## 1. Embrace the entry point

- Internally at SPC, MEL capacity within fisheries
- Use the opportunity – even though we were not ready
- Leverage the political interest in tuna
- Timing



## 2. Gather a small group of key people

- Small group of 8 from SPC (fisheries & statistics), NGO, CSO, regional org.
- All invested in implementing A New Song & key players at a range of levels
- Drafted indicators

# Our approach & enablers

## 3. Utilise opportunity for harmonisation

- Multiple strategies with no current reporting
- Mapped Roadmap / New Song to outcomes from other strategies
- Aim to reduce reporting burden

## 4. Utilise formal mechanisms for political buy-in

- Regional meetings of senior officials
- Workshopped draft indicators with HoF (March 2017) – 25 countries' input
- Endorsed at FFC Officials (May 2017) and FFC Fisheries Ministers (July 2017)
- Coastal Fishery Report Card delivered to Leaders right now! 4-8 September



Sounds straight forward?



# Key characteristics

The M&E system for coastal fisheries is:

- Pragmatic to be sustainable – PICT data gaps & capacity limitations
- Uses existing household collection systems where possible (e.g. HIES)
- Identifies where indicators could address multiple strategies
- Clearly identifies gaps and limitations – no pretending
- Visually appealing and accessible – icons to indicate progress
- Attempts to provide a regional picture for a sector that is complex, changing & highly localised

# Priority gaps and next steps

The Coastal Fisheries Report Card is still far from perfect.  
Key priorities include:

- Further refinement of indicators, including a data dictionary
- New methods to address gaps
- Streamlining data flow from countries to the Report Card
- Adding evaluative components for future years – rubrics
- Mapping regional outcomes & indicators to national plans
- Further engagement with UN commitments (SDGs, SSF Guidelines)



# Thank-you for your time



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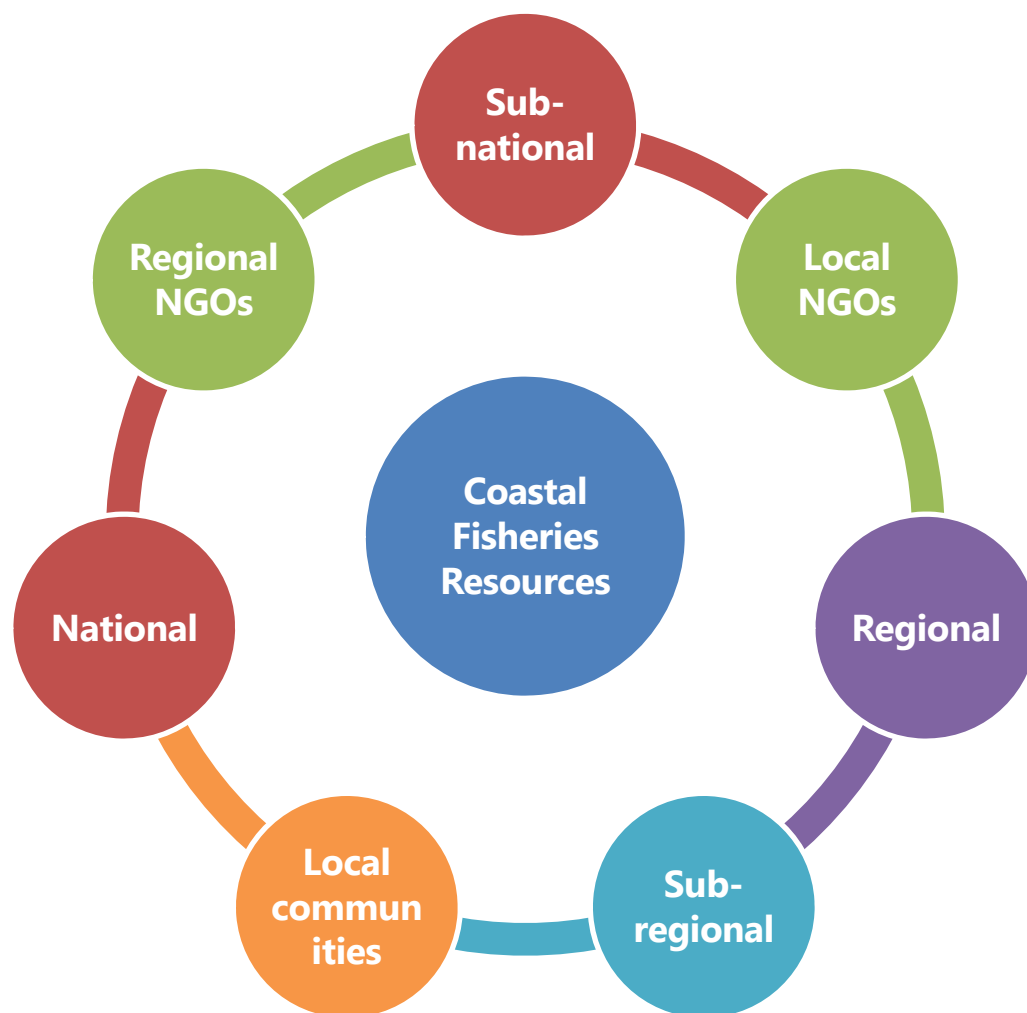
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# Fisheries in the Pacific

- Fisheries is not just big - it is **huge** for the region
- Effort and pressure on resources are increasing





To be successful, 'new song' initiatives will require a coordinated and integrated approach by all stakeholders – with one core objective – *sustainable management of coastal fisheries resources.*

# The “New Song”

## VISION

Sustainable well managed inshore fisheries, underpinned by community based approaches that provide food security, long-term economic, social, and ecological benefits to our communities



## The “New Song”

2

**A NEW SONG**



# A new song for coastal fisheries – pathways to change: The Noumea strategy



<http://tinyurl.com/gvww8pk>

Developed by participants at the Future of Coastal/Inshore Fisheries Management Workshop  
3–6 March 2015, Noumea, New Caledonia, with financial support from the Australian Government and  
the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

Facilitated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Approved by the ninth SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting, New Caledonia, March 2015, and  
the 93<sup>rd</sup> Official Forum Fisheries Committee Meeting, Tuvalu, May 2015

Endorsed by the 11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Forum Fisheries Committee Meeting, Tuvalu, July 2015

## OVERARCHING OUTCOMES

1. Improved wellbeing of coastal communities
2. Productive and healthy ecosystems and fish stocks

## 8 intermediate outcomes

1. Informed, empowered coastal communities with clearly defined user rights
2. Adequate and relevant information to inform management and policy
3. Recognition of, and strong political commitment and support for, coastal fisheries management at a national and sub-national scale
4. Re-focused fisheries agencies that are transparent, accountable and adequately resourced, supporting coastal fisheries management and sustainable development underpinned by CEA FM



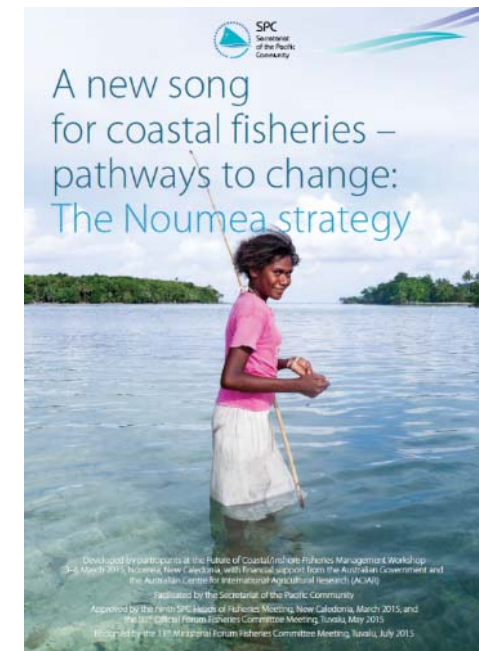
## 8 intermediate outcomes

5. Strong and up-to-date management policy, legislation and planning
6. Effective collaboration and coordination between stakeholders and key sectors of influence
7. More equitable access to benefits and decision making within communities, including women, youth and marginalised groups
8. Diverse livelihoods reducing pressure on fisheries resources, enhancing community incomes and contributing to improved fisheries management

# Development of 'A new song'

- Need identified for an overarching regional strategy that has widespread ownership & buy-in
- The Strategy was developed through a participatory workshop

Over 100 participants from departments of all 22 PICTs, **community members from 10 PICTs**, CROP agencies, donors, researchers and NGOs



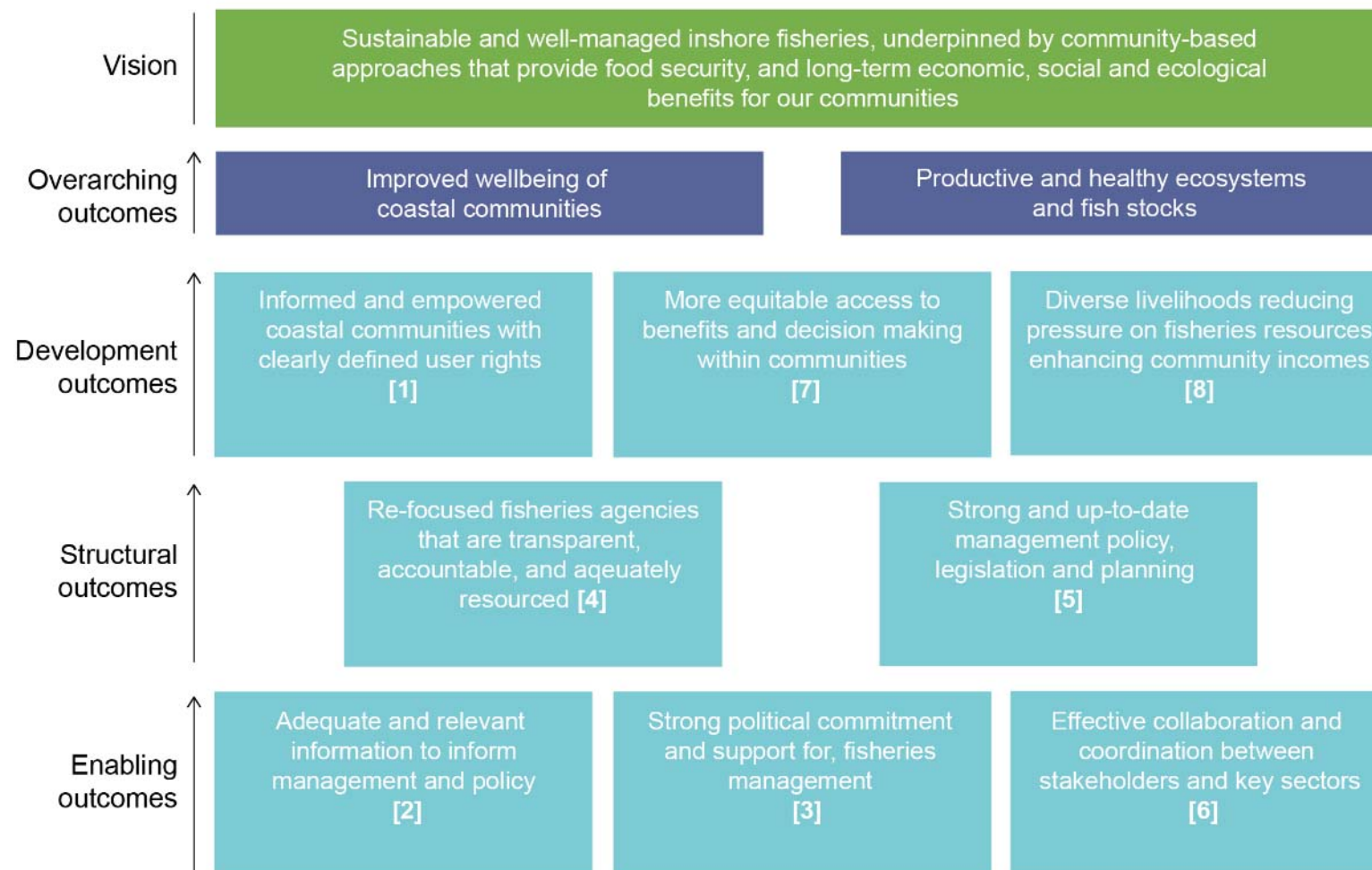
# A new song for coastal fisheries

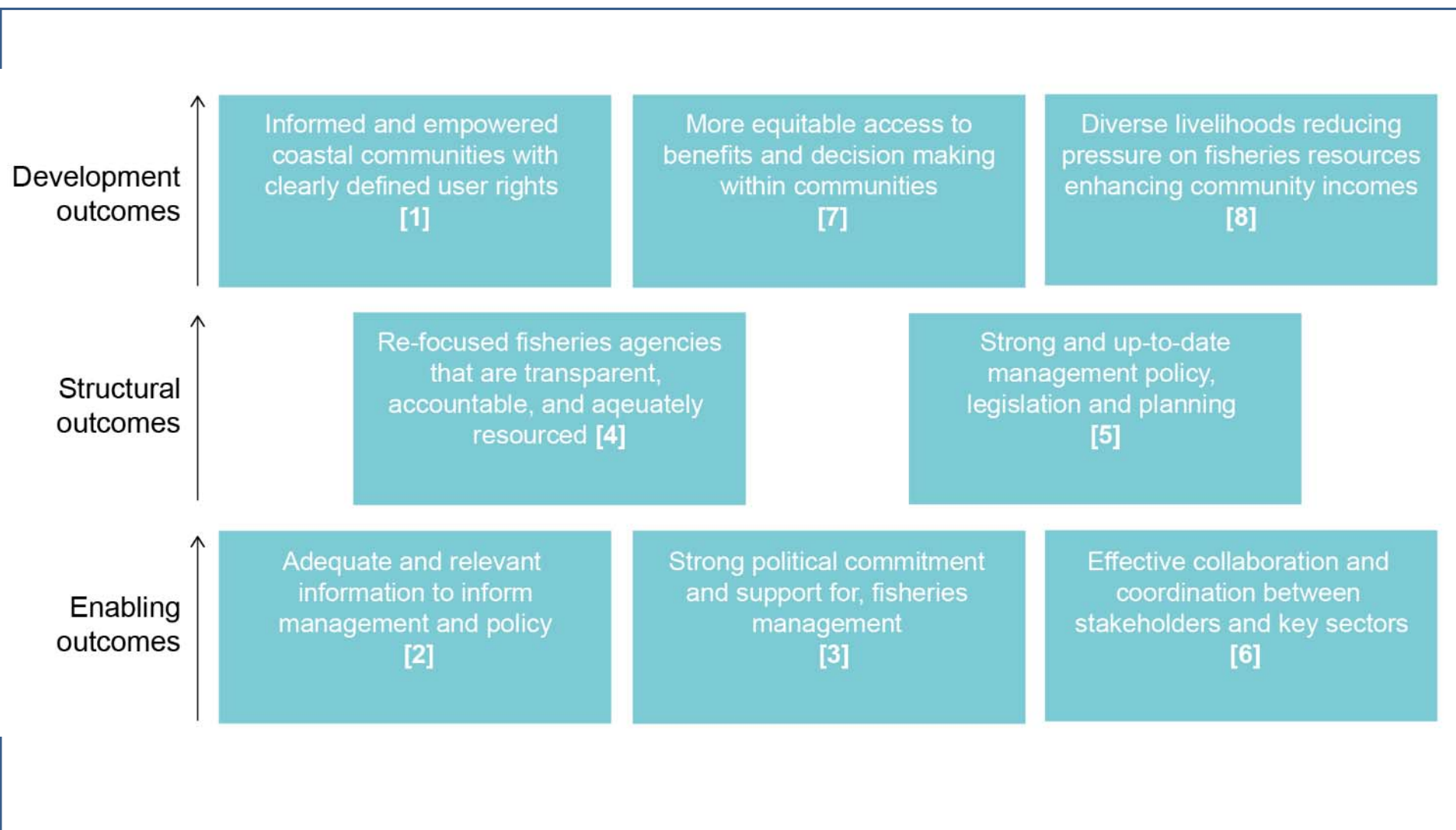
- An agreed-upon set of actions needed from member governments and other stakeholders to provide substantial support for this community-driven approach
- The active involvement from members mean the regional strategy reflects their development priorities.


# A new song for coastal fisheries

- Calls for an enhanced focus on coastal fisheries management
- Designed to provide direction, encourage cooperation and effective use of regional and other support services
- At the regional level, it brings together disconnected initiatives into a strong, coordinated approach
- At national and sub-national levels, it seeks political recognition of the value of coastal fisheries.



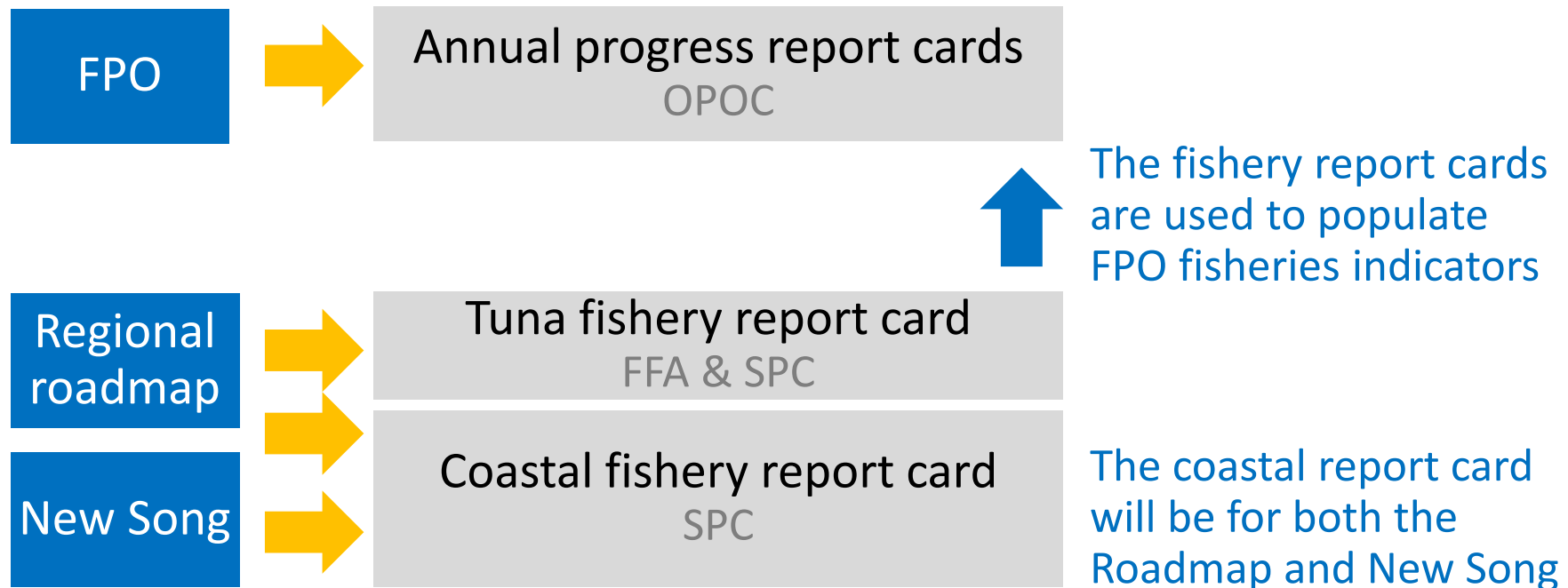






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Regional	<b>A New Song for Coastal Fisheries (New Song)</b>
Sub-regional	<b>Melanesian Spearhead Group roadmap for inshore fisheries</b>
Sub-regional	<b>Micronesia Challenge</b>

# Regional reporting





# Regional alignment

Regional policy mapping underway

- Various partners undertaking mapping exercises to identify synergies

Regional set of fisheries indicators

- Aligned as much as possible with global, regional & subregional policies

Ongoing process

- HOF10, Oceans Conference Prep & Working Groups, SDG Taskforce, etc.

# Process for selecting the draft indicators

- Initial draft set identified in consultation with SPC, OPOC, WorldFish and others
- Mapping of international & regional instruments
- Consultation with HoF10 delegates

*WARNING: Complicated and messy*