**Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme Workshop for the Pacific Ocean Region**

**Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva, Fiji, 22-24 November 2016**

**Executive Summary**

The Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme (CME Programme) is an initiative announced by the United Kingdom Government at the 2015 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting to provide technical support, services and expertise to Commonwealth Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The aim of this support is to promote safe and sustainable economic growth and alleviate poverty by harnessing maritime resources, preserving marine environments and facilitating trade.

The British High Commission in Suva, Fiji, hosted the CME Programme marine workshop for the Pacific Ocean region from the 22nd to 24th November 2016. The workshop was formally opened by Fiji’s acting Prime Minister and Attorney General, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, and brought together key stakeholders representing the interests of 12 Commonwealth governments as well as regional technical agencies, external science agencies and key donors. Please see Annex 1 for Attendees List and link to workshop presentations below.

The primary purpose of the workshop was to work with the assembled delegates to determine what collaboration and expertise was most needed throughout the region, and how the Programme can link to existing regional projects and partners to help Pacific SIDS achieve more sustainable use of marine resources, balancing the requirements of environment, society and economy. The workshop was also an opportunity to showcase the capability of the three delivery partners in the CME Programme – the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), the National Oceanography Centre (NOC) and the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) – and demonstrate the UK Government’s commitment to the region.

The workshop took care to respect existing regional frameworks such as the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway[[1]](#footnote-1), the Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries[[2]](#footnote-2), A New Song for Coastal Fisheries[[3]](#footnote-3), the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region[[4]](#footnote-4), Framework for the Pacific Oceanscape, and the Pacific Islands Meteorology Strategy[[5]](#footnote-5), which all call for capacity building and technology transfer to enhance the ability of Pacific island countries to more effectively assess and monitor their marine resources. Representatives from regional organisations and donor agencies.

Discussions focused on identifying the socio-economic and environmental drivers that continue to challenge the sustainable development of marine economies in the Pacific region. Delegates highlighted specific marine resource management, and conservation-related challenges that are increasingly exacerbated by climate change, ocean acidification, and pollution. Development challenges facing the shipping and marine transport sector and marine infrastructure were also identified. Potential areas in which to engage to improve the overall effectiveness of marine resource management included, but were not limited to: data deficits, access, and management, hydrography, practical and academic education, cultural relevance and community ownership. The final workshop summary document will provide greater detail on these recommendations.

By cross referencing some of the broad requirements identified by Pacific stakeholders with the specific capabilities of the UK CME partners, potential areas for collaboration were identified and will be used to direct further scoping work carried out by the technical agencies. The overriding themes of the workshop will help CME partners to develop these leads in consultation with Commonwealth SIDS and regional organisations and help shape project proposals and the use of CME Programme resources. Relevant regional bodies will be consulted when developing these projects to ensure the CME partnership avoids duplication and provides value-added expertise in keeping with regional priorities. The mechanisms for resourcing these projects, and an implementation strategy that will ensure they have a lasting legacy in the Pacific, will be published by the end of the first phase of the programme (March 2017).

List of attachments

1. [Link to copies of the presentations](https://www.dropbox.com/s/g8mb66tqopwbquf/All%20CME%20Pacific%20Workshop%20Presentations.pdf?dl=0pdf.pdf).

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| **NAME** | **ORGANISATION** | **COUNTRY** |
| Emily Artack | Geoscience Division, SPC | Fiji |
| Craig Bohm | Advisor, GIZ | Fiji |
| Kate Davey | IUCN Oceania | Fiji |
| Michelle Devlin | Cefas | Programme Partner, UK |
| Michael Donoghue | Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme | Regional |
| Leo Dutra | University of South Pacific | Regional |
| Peter Emberson | Fiji, Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Fiji |
| Marta Ferreira | University of South Pacific | Regional |
| Stephen Fevrier | Commonwealth Secretariat | Regional |
| Malakai Finau | Permanent Secretary, Fiji Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources | Fiji |
| Moeo Finaunga | Tuvalu, Fisheries Department | Tuvalu |
| Philipp Gassner | GIZ | Fiji |
| Sam Harper | UKHO | Programme Partner, UK |
| Angela Hibbert | NOC | Programme Partner, UK |
| Jeremy Hills | University of South Pacific | Regional |
| Melanie Hopkins | British High Commissioner for Fiji and Head of South Pacific Network | Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga & Tuvalu |
| Philip James | SPC - FAME | Regional |
| David Jones | British High Commission Suva | Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga & Tuvalu |
| Tamuera Karibanag | Acting Director, Kiribati Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development | Kiribati |
| Mark Kirby | Cefas | Programme Partner, UK |

Annex 1 – Pacific Workshop Attendees List

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| **NAME** | **ORGNAISATION** | **COUNTRY** |
| Jens Kruger | SPC | Regional |
| Daniel Lund | British High Commission Suva | Fiji |
| Mary Maita | Kiribati High Commission Suva | Kiribati |
| Ed McManus | Cefas | Programme Partner, UK |
| Mark Mineo | U.S. Embassy Suva | Regional |
| Hywel Morgan | University of Southampton | Regional / Programme Partner, UK |
| Lui Naisara | Fiji, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport | Fiji |
| Thierry Nervale | SPC | Regional |
| Hazel Newman | UKHO | Programme Partner, UK |
| Christopher Pearce | NOC | Programme Partner, UK |
| Michael Petterson | SPC, Director Geosciences Division | Fiji |
| Joe Pokana | Papa New Guinea, Department of Climate Change and Development | Papua New Guinea |
| Molly Powers | Oceans Information and Knowledge Unit (SPC) | Regional |
| Cristelle E Pratt | Deputy Secretary General of the Pacific Islands | Regional |
| Doug Ramsay | NIWA (NZ) | New Zealand |
| David Righton | Cefas | Programme Partner, UK |
| H.E Reteta Rimon | Kiribati High Commissioner | Kiribati |
| Moninya Roughan | University of NSW Australia | Regional |
| Nicholas Schofield | University of NSW, Australia | Australia |

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| **NAME** | **ORGNAISATION** | **COUNTRY** |
| Tiffany Straza | SPREP | Regional |
| Kesaia Tabunakawai | WWF Pacific | Regional |
| Semisi Tauelangi Fakahau | Minister of Agriculture, Food, Forests and Fisheries, Government of Tonga | Tonga |
| Salome Taufa | USP University of the South Pacific | Regional |
| Akuila Tawake | SPC | Fiji |
| Bryony Townhill | Cefas | Programme Partner, UK |
| Margaret Tubunakawai Vakalalabure | FLMMA, Coordinator | Fiji |
| Lia Tuivuya | Senior Foreshore Officer, Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources | Fiji |
| Ingrid Van Putten | CISIRO / USP | Australia |
| Joeli Veitayaki | University of the South Pacific | Fiji |

1. 2014 UN SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway (SAMOA Pathway). The SAMOA Pathway [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.ffa.int/system/files/Roadmap_web_0.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. A new song for coastal fisheries – pathways to change: The Noumea strategy / compiled by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2014-2020. – Apia, Samoa. SPREP 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape: a catalyst for implementation of ocean policy. November 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)