

# The Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan (2021-2030)

**Fostering the Regional  
Cooperation We Need to Protect  
Our Coral Reefs**



**SPREP**  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme

Solomon Islands children playing in one of the world's most diverse coral reef ecosystems



## Combining Science, Traditional Knowledge & Community Action to Increase the Resilience of Coral Reef Ecosystems

Coral reefs are integral to the lives of 8 million Pacific Islanders, but they are severely threatened by climate change and other human impacts.

The Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan is working to urgently mobilize the regional local and international action needed to preserve 27% of the world's coral reefs.

The Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan is

- Mobilizing international support
- So we can combine science with traditional knowledge
- And support community action to preserve coral reef ecosystems for future generations

### 1. WHY DO WE NEED THE PACIFIC CORAL REEF ACTION PLAN?

- Coral reef ecosystems provide Pacific communities with food, protection, tourism revenue and cultural significance.
- Many Pacific Island nations lack access to the scientific expertise and resources needed to manage these vital resources.
- Pacific Island countries endorsed this plan in September 2021, to help foster greater regional collaboration and to increase access to global expertise, resources, and funding.

## A Key Action for the UN Decade of Ocean Science

The scientific and indigenous knowledge components of the Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan have been endorsed as a key Action of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030). This international endorsement will help to foster and combine scientific and traditional ecological knowledge in monitoring and sustainably managing coral reefs throughout the region. SPREP is a member of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), and it is working with many scientific partners in the region such as the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS).



2021 United Nations Decade  
2030 of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

***“For most Pacific nations, it is the community level where the conservation effort will either work or fail. The Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan is encouraging funders to invest in building capacity in marine science, especially at the community level.”***

**NAOMI LONGA, MARINE BIOLOGIST,  
SEA WOMEN OF MELANESIA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA**



## The Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan is working to:



Foster regional cooperation and build on what is already working



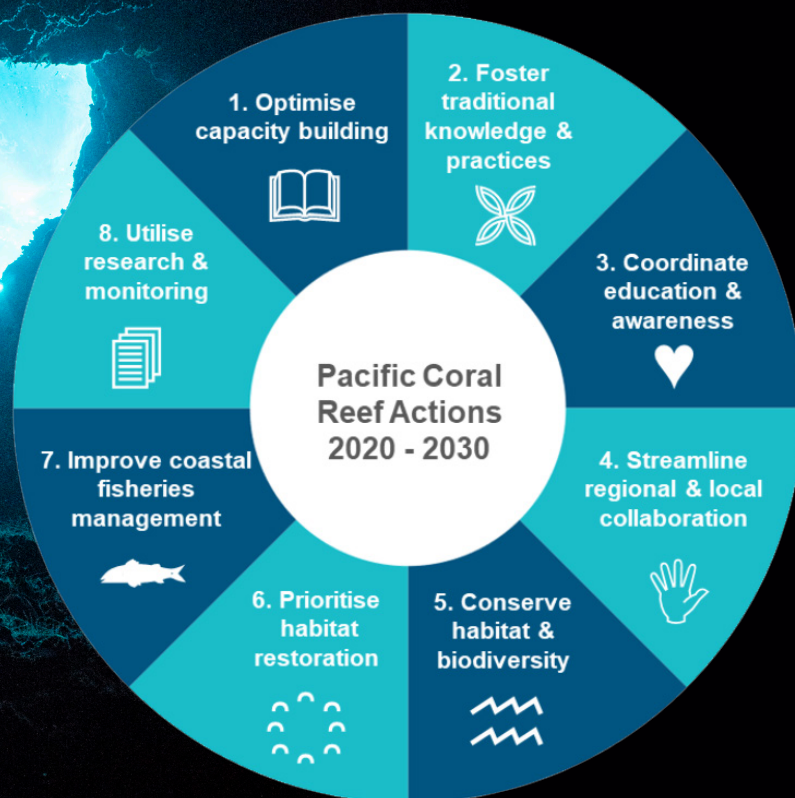
Integrate science and traditional knowledge



Support community action



Mobilize resources and support



***“The Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan offers a way for regional cooperation that can strengthen capacity and sharing of knowledge to help protect and manage our vital coral reef ecosystems.”***

**STEVEN VICTOR, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES & ENVIRONMENT, REPUBLIC OF PALAU**



## 2: WHAT ARE THE EIGHT KEY ACTIONS?

The Plan outlines eight key areas where greater regional cooperation can help Pacific Island countries and communities to build more resilient reefs:

ACTIONS	OBJECTIVES
<b>1. Optimize capacity building</b>	Increase capacity of local and regional organizations to monitor, protect, and improve the health of coral reefs.
<b>2. Foster traditional knowledge and practices</b>	Foster the traditional knowledge needed to manage coral reefs.
<b>3. Coordinate education and awareness</b>	Increase awareness of the significance of coral reefs for food, livelihoods, and coastal protection.
<b>4. Streamline regional and local collaboration</b>	Support agencies and initiatives to work together and share information.
<b>5. Conserve reef habitat and biodiversity</b>	Make coral-reef ecosystems more resilient to climate change and local threats.
<b>6. Prioritize habitat restoration</b>	Restore critical reef habitats
<b>7. Improve coastal fisheries management</b>	Manage reef fisheries sustainably.
<b>8. Utilize research and monitoring</b>	Use research to measure impacts and inform decisions.





### 3. WHAT KIND OF INITIATIVES WILL BE SUPPORTED BY THE PACIFIC CORAL REEF ACTION PLAN?

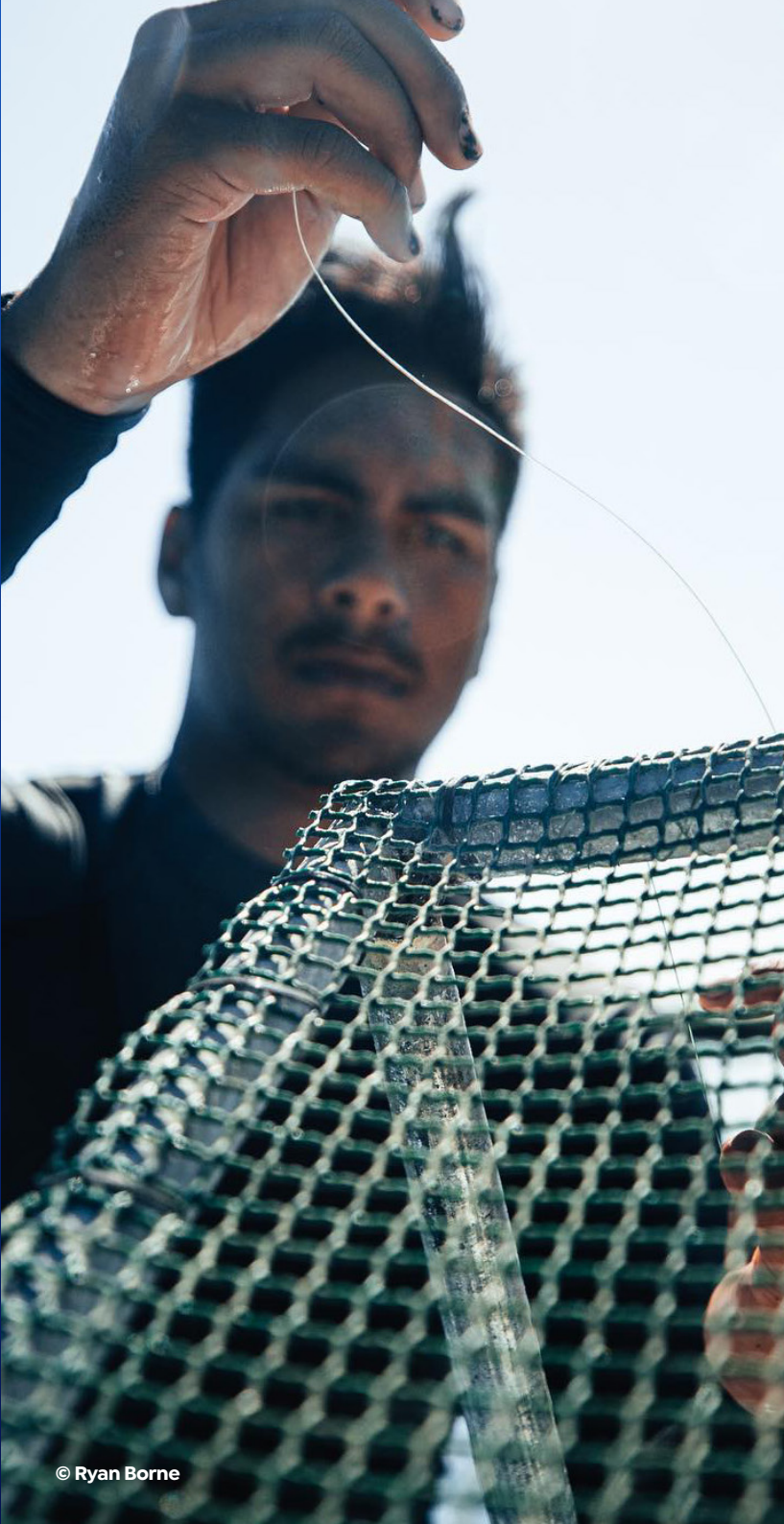
The **Pacific Coral Reef Monitoring project** is a good example of how the plan is helping to foster greater collaboration between scientists, governments and coastal communities. With support from Australia's Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade, this project is employing the innovative ReefCloud technology to collect and analyze coral reef data and improve decision-making and increase the long-term resilience of Pacific coral reefs.

The use of the ReefCloud platform is helping to bring together science and traditional ecological knowledge. For example, in Samoa, this work is helping to develop a fit for purpose coral reef monitoring framework that can inform national and local conservation measures in line with the Samoa Ocean Strategy 2020-2030. This partnership between Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), is also supporting cultural exchanges between Samoan communities and indigenous traditional owners from Australia with previous experience of using this platform. These exchanges will help to develop more inclusive and efficient management practices while also ensuring adequate mechanisms for protecting traditional knowledge.

This project could also be extended to other Pacific Island countries and help to build a regional community of practice to support capabilities in coral reef monitoring via existing initiatives such as the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network and the Northern Australian Marine Monitoring Alliance (NAMMA).







Pacific Island nations are custodians of almost one third of the world's coral reefs, but they lack the resources needed to preserve and restore these global treasures.

#### 4. WHAT ARE THE KEY PRIORITIES FOR 2023-2024?

- Identifying and securing resources and financing
- Building key partnerships and a community of practice on coral reef conservation and restoration in the Pacific region.
- Developing implementation plans and priority projects that align with the Plan but target local priorities.
- Developing the monitoring, evaluation and reporting frameworks that are needed to measure progress.

To find out more visit: <https://www.sprep.org/corals>



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