



United Nations
Office for South-South Cooperation



Pacific Islands
Development Forum

South-South in Action

South-South and Triangular Cooperation In Action

**PACIFIC ISLANDS
DEVELOPMENT FORUM**

Copyright© the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
The Pacific Islands Development Forum
All rights reserved

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

United Nations Development Programme
304 East 45th Street, FF 12-th Floor
New York City, NY, 10017

Pacific Islands Development Forum Secretariat

56 Domain Road, Suva, Fiji

Input and guidance were provided by JP Cayol, Martin Krause, Dazhu Yang and IAEA staff.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations, UNDP, UNOSSC or United Nations Member States. The designations employed and the presentation of material on maps do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretary General of the United Nations or UNDP, UNOSSC concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Designed by Rec Design

Table of Contents

03 Foreword

05 Introduction



09 Chapter I :

The Pacific Islands Development Forum's origins, principles, policy framework and structure for delivering South-South cooperation

The origins of the PIFD	11
The PIFD's values	11
The PIFD's membership	12
The Principles of the PIFD	13
The structure of the PIFD	15
The PIFD's financing model	16
The PIFD's functions as a forum	
The PIFD's Strategic direction and Programme	16
The One Pasifika Programme	18
Reflecting on the past and planning for the future	19



21 Chapter II :

Applying South-South Cooperation in the Pacific

Promoting renewable energy	27
Leadership in Solar Energy supported by the Government of India	28
Informal partnerships	30
Working with projects operating in the Pacific	31
Capacity building and research support by Indonesia	31
Facilitating tripartite arrangements: The Pacific Blue Economy Conference	32



35 Chapter III :

Links to regional initiatives and the international development agenda

Climate Action	36
The Suva Declaration on Climate Change	37
The PIDF's participation in UNFCCC COPs	39
Ocean Action	39
Delivering the SDGs	40
Sustainable use of natural resources	40
The Micronesia Challenge	40
Parties to the Nauru Agreement	40
Bamboo – the new “green gold”.	43
Seaweed – the Ocean's gift	44
The Pacific Green Business Centre	44
Addressing Small Island Developing States issues	46
Partnership for South-South Cooperation	46
PIDF and the Belt and Road Initiative	46
Regional reach and international influence	47
Conclusion: Key takeaways and lessons learned	47
South-South Space in the Pacific	48



Foreword

From the time that the Pacific Islands Development Forum was introduced to the Global South at the South-South Development Expo in 2016, it has been one of the most active and visible regional cooperation institutions. It has taken great strides in expressing its understanding of the aspirations of the Small Island Developing States of the Pacific. As one of the newest regional cooperation institutions, the PIDF came into being during the upsurge of South-South and triangular cooperation. Its foundation, strategy and initiatives have reflected a loud South-South voice. Furthermore, I have been impressed at its application of knowledge and how it draws on South-South and triangular partnerships to accelerate its programme of work.

Through the South-South in Action series, the UN Office for South-South Cooperation intended to provide a Forum where partners can relay their ideas to benefit others through a better understanding of what they do and how they do it. The PIDF has been one of the Chief beneficiaries of this approach. The South-South in Action by the Bamboo Technology Institute has led to a Bamboo initiative in the Pacific. We therefore welcome the candid approach that the PIDF have taken to how it sees its place, relevance and impact in the Pacific. We do hope that this publication will help development cooperation in the Pacific through an understanding of the role of the PIDF and the mutual benefits to be gained by optimizing its strengths and comparative advantages.



Jorge Chediek

Envoy of the Secretary-General
on South-South Cooperation
and Director, United Nations Office
for South-South Cooperation

The Pacific Islands Development Forum is the youngest regional organization in the Pacific. It is a unique Pacific voice in the regional architecture, challenging the geopolitical status quo established by the former colonial powers following the independence of the Pacific Islands around 40 to 50 years ago. The new organization was born out of the post-RIO+20 reflections and the green growth concept. It was initiated by the Government of Fiji in 2013, a small island state from the Global South highly committed to its own regional cooperation with other Pacific Islands.

Now with 14 members, the PIDF is a multilateral and multi-stakeholder organization focusing on a distinctive Pacific model of green growth in blue economies and aligned to sustainable development principles. The PIDF has been a permanent observer to the United Nations General Assembly since December 2016. It is an active member of the Inter-agency Consultative Group on SIDS.

The PIDF Charter mandates the organization to serve as the Pacific regional counterpart and platform for South-South cooperation with a focus on sustainable development and poverty eradication. It is a responsibility we take seriously.

The Pacific enjoys considerable support from countries in the North, and for that we are grateful. However, it should not be taken for granted that our Pacific people want to follow the same development path as that followed by our Northern neighbours. We are very much aware of the side effects of choices made and the difficulties of reversing trends when a country has gone far down a certain path. We need to find our own path, our solutions will be unique to the Pacific. We can see how some recent technological advances in the West, particularly those related to clean energy or green materials, fit our model of development and we will continue to seek support in the transfer of some of these technologies. Furthermore, we also recognise that other similar technologies are being developed in other Southern nations – in most cases more easily replicable and transferable, and at less cost.

We also need to keep reminding ourselves that a nation is made up of more than just its government and to encourage South-South interaction between the many sections of society in the South-South nations and possibly create modalities that they can use to support such efforts. South-South cooperation between nations is important, but so is South-South cooperation between organizations, institutions, universities and individuals. The PIDF wants to be in a position to support these efforts.



François Martel

Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Development Forum.



Introduction

The Pacific Region is truly different from any other region in the world. There is no other region, for example, that is composed of 98% ocean. This offers some interesting challenges to development as well as opportunities.

The challenges are rather obvious and have been the subject of discussion for many years. Pacific islands have relatively small populations scattered over a vast ocean space which makes mobility and provision of services a difficult and expensive exercise. The small markets, small production capacity and the enormous distance from global markets make imports highly expensive and exports economically unviable.

This has not tempered the islands' dependence on imports or encouraged local production to any great extent. Sustainable marine transport has not been developed to an extent that it could fill this great gap. Thus any development on these islands, particularly the smaller and less populated outlying ones, is slow and expensive per capita.

This is compounded by frequent natural disasters, which can, depending on the severity of the events, set back any hard-earned development gains by several years, even decades.

These are difficult issues and many of them are even considered intractable in the region. In addition, the ability of national governments to address and solve these problems is limited in an environment that is short on expertise and financial resources.

For this reason regionalism has been a very important development tool for many decades in the Pacific with the oldest regional organization, the Pacific Community, over 70 years old. Regionalism arises from a notion that by aggregating resources at the regional level one can more cost-effectively deliver development services to the Pacific island countries. This has worked up to a point.

Progress has been made in a number of areas, including health, education, agriculture, fisheries and other development sectors. However there are still big gains to be made.

“South-South Cooperation is a process whereby two or more developing countries pursue their individual and/or shared national capacity development objectives through exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how, and through regional and interregional collective actions, including partnerships involving governments, regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, for their individual and/or mutual benefit within and across regions. South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation”. **Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation SSC/17/3 (2012).**

Can South-South cooperation help address some of these challenges and harness the opportunities?

The Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) aims to do just that. Its Charter directs it, as one of its functions, to “serve as the Pacific regional counterpart for the South-South groupings and other regional and international arrangements that focus on sustainable development and especially poverty eradication in Pacific Islands to ensure policy coherence at all levels.”

Triangular cooperation is “Southern-driven partnerships between two or more developing countries, supported by (a) developed country(ies) or multilateral organization(s), to implement development cooperation programmes and projects.” **Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation SSC/17/3 (2012).**

In order to do so, the PIDF has built partnerships with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and is a member of the inter-agency Collaborative Group for the Global Partnership of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) coordinated by the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)'s office for Small Island Developing States. It has also, in its short life, implemented activities with, and accessed funding from, Global South partners. The region has been, and still is very dependent on funding from traditional partner countries, notably Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the European Union and its member countries (particularly France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom). South Korea also has a growing programme in the Pacific with its development agency, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) operating an office in the region. In fact KOICA, the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the PIDF have developed a project to deliver green/blue economy and renewable energy education to communities and resource owners in Fiji, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

There are many definitions of the green economy. The PIDF considers that a green economy should follow certain basic principles. It should deliver sustainable development, equity, genuine wellbeing for all; it should be inclusive and participatory, accountable and deliver sustainable consumption and production, build resilience, respect the natural environment, invest for the future and respect culture and spirituality. The PIDF also promotes a blue economy that is sustainable and which follows the same principles of a green economy for economic activities taking place on the ocean.

Southern partners such as the People's Republic of China and India are becoming increasingly important in the Pacific. The visits to Fiji by both Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime

Minister Narendra Modi in 2014 marked an increase of interest in the Pacific region by the two countries.

China and India are important partners of the PIDF. China is a foundational¹ development partner, in accordance with the PIDF Charter, as are Turkey, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. In addition to these, the PIDF has over the years built partnerships with a number of other Global South countries including Kazakhstan, Indonesia and Pakistan.

Triangular cooperation is a partnership modality that the PIDF has also used. The form of triangular cooperation practised by the PIDF involves funding provided by both South and North countries for the PIDF to implement activities such as the High Level Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, details of which are given in Chapter 2.



PIDF staff in action – coastal clean-up.



PLASTIC

LET'S JUST **K**
COAL
GAS

LESS TALK
MORE ACTION
TO SAVE
OUR OCEAN

Climate Change Advocacy and action is a key element of our work



Chapter I

The Pacific Islands Development Forum's origins, principles, policy framework and structure for delivering South-South cooperation

The PIDF wants to continue developing into an efficient and effective South-South Cooperation platform for the Pacific region. All the elements are there for it to do so.

The Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) is the youngest regional organization to be established in the Pacific. Its establishment followed, and was influenced by, three important international events and their outcomes, namely, the UN Rio+20 Summit which took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 13 to 22 June 2012, the 3rd Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Conference that took place in Apia, Samoa, from 1 to 4 September 2014, and the 2030 Agenda agreed by the UN Member States in New York in September 2015.

The Rio+20 meeting outcome (Resolution 66/288) entitled “The future we want” recognised the important role of non-state

actors in achieving the Rio guiding principles for sustainable development. It was clear that efforts of governments alone could not bring about the changes needed to shift the world economy to a greener model. The efforts of all sectors of civil society and the private sector were imperative. This had a profound influence on both the PIDF’s mission and its governance structure.

The SAMOA Pathway that emerged from the 3rd Small Island Developing States Conference identified eighteen priority areas, most of which are important for the PIDF’s mission. Working towards the 2030 Development Agenda and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals on priorities that have synergies with those found in the SAMOA Pathway, the PIDF would contribute to national achievement of these international commitments.

The Samoa Pathway

The SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, was endorsed by Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives in Apia, Samoa, in September 2014 at the 3rd International Conference on Small Island Developing States. It recognises a number of priority areas for SIDS and proposed the Pathway as a basis of action. The priority areas are:

- Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all;
- Climate Change;
- Disaster Risk Reduction;
- Oceans and Seas;
- Food Security and Nutrition;
- Water and Sanitation;
- Sustainable Transport;
- Sustainable Consumption and Production;
- Management of Chemicals and Waste, including Hazardous Waste;
- Health and Non-Communicable Diseases;
- Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment;
- Social Development; and
- Biodiversity.

Most of these priorities have also been reflected in the SDGs. However, the SAMOA Pathway offers a SIDS perspective to these issues that resonates better with Pacific circumstances. However, it is generally recognised that any achievements towards the SDGs also contributes towards the commitments in the SAMOA Pathway.

Some unique features of PIDF include a truly multi-stakeholder structure with the regional private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) represented on an equal

basis on its governance structures. This ensures an inclusive process more in line with modern development thinking.



Engaging with youth and students for a more sustainable Pacific

The origins of the PIDF

The PIDF came into existence at a time when it was felt that the Pacific regional space was already crowded. Some development partners felt that the Pacific already had too many regional organizations and there was a push for consolidation. The creation of a new organization went against the dominant thinking at the time and donors, particularly those that for years had invested heavily in the established regional organizations, were opposed to the creation of a new regional organization.

The creation of the PIDF was from its beginnings supported by a number of Pacific island countries that felt the need for a regional voice that was genuinely of the Pacific island countries.

The PIDF's values

The Secretariat adopted six organizational values that guide its work in the Pacific. These are:

Pasifika - The essence of being from the Pacific Islands. PIDF shares a common attachment to Pacific ways of life recognizing history, culture, traditions and the impact of climate on our islands. The Pacific should be governed by and for Pacific Islanders;

Dedication - The feeling of strong support and loyalty, being dedicated to island resilience. PIDF values a shared and enduring commitment to green\blue Pacific economies, sustainable development and

especially poverty eradication in Pacific Islands;

Solidarity - Unity and agreement in action, in the face of Pacific Islands' common interest and challenges. The PIDF ensures mutual support within Pacific societies for the most vulnerable island communities in a spirit of cooperation, cohesion and esprit de corps;

Universal - Inclusivity and representation, participation and engagement available equitably to all members of our Pacific societies. The PIDF operates under multi-stakeholder governance at all levels including the public sector, civil society and the private sector;

Fortitude - Spiritual and emotional strength in facing difficulty and adversity caused by climate change impacts and globalization. The PIDF affirms Pacific spirituality as a foundation of nurturing and building resilience in Pacific communities;

Synergy - The power of interaction and cooperation among partner organizations, to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate efforts. The PIDF promotes durable and genuine partnerships with development partners driven by Pacific interests.

These values guide the work of the Secretariat and ensure that the PIDF mission is fulfilled through means befitting its principles and its Pacific essence.

The PIDF's membership

There are twenty-three island nations and territories that are recognised as Pacific islands under the PIDF Charter (Schedule 1). These are:

American Samoa, Cook Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna.

The current membership of the PIDF consists of 12 of these states, namely, Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Kiribati, the Marshall Islands (RMI), Nauru, Palau, The Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu. It also benefits from the membership of two regional umbrella organizations, the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Government Organisations (PIANGO) and the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO).

Nine of these members (Fiji, Kiribati, FSM, RMI, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and PIANGO) signed the instrument of signature on the day that the Charter was adopted, 4 September 2015. PIPSO became the second organization to become a member of the PIDF on 8 February 2016. Ten days later, on 18 February, Tuvalu became a member with Prime Minister **Enele Sopoaga signing the accession document at the PIDF Secretariat's HQ.** Tokelau became a member on 27 April making it the first territory to do so. Timor-Leste joined during the PIDF Leaders' Summit in Honiara, Solomon Islands on 14 July 2016, while Palau signed the instrument of signature to become a member on 15 November 2017 at a side event at the 23rd Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP23) in Bonn, Germany.

With new members joining the organization, the PIDF is optimistic that it will eventually include all countries and territories in the Pacific region.



Engaging with gender and other social groups on climate justice

The Principles of the PIDF

The PIDF Charter lists seven membership principles to which members have to adhere. These are:

1. A common commitment to Pacific ways of life recognizing history, culture, identity and the impacts of climate change. The Pacific should be governed by and for Pacific Islanders;
2. A shared and enduring commitment to Green/Blue Pacific economies, sustainable development and especially poverty eradication;
3. Inclusivity, belonging and ownership by the Pacific;
4. Broad representation, participation and engagement;
5. Multi-stakeholder governance at all

levels such as public sector, civil society and private sector;

6. Affirming Pacific spirituality as a foundation of nurturing and building resilience in Pacific communities;
7. Durable partnerships with development partners driven by Pacific interests.

These principles reflect the desire of Pacific islanders to be in control of their destiny, and for Pacific development priorities to be determined by the needs of their people and a desire to live and prosper in harmony with their environment. These principles reflect the desire of a region still struggling to break free from its history of colonization and still rediscovering those elements that made Pacific societies different. The links to culture and spirituality are still strong and are still important components of the identity of Pacific islanders.

These principles have resonance with those developed for South-South cooperation¹:

- Common endeavour of peoples and countries of the South, based on shared experiences, common objectives, and solidarity;
- Guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, ownership and priorities as defined on national development plans and strategies;
- Partnership among equals and free from conditionality;
- Continuing to increase mutual accountability and transparency, while

coordinating with other development projects and programmes on the ground;

- Embracing a multi-stakeholder approach, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, academia and others that contribute to meeting development challenges and objectives in line with national development strategies and plans.

There are many synergies between the principles of the PIDF and those of South-South Cooperation.



Promoting a Sustainable Blue Economy

¹ Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation 64/222 and the Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation SSC/17/3.

The structure of the PIDF

The overall governance structure of the PIDF is determined by its Charter: it is composed of four levels of governance with the National Sustainable Development Boards at the national level and the Regional Conference at its apex.

Each PIDF member country needs to establish a National Sustainable Development Board

(NSDB) in accordance with the Charter. In the Pacific region there is growing appreciation that the regional approach is only meaningful if there are clear national links. These NSDBs are meant to offer that national link with the intention that they should influence regional policy in accordance with national needs as well as implement regional policy in ways appropriate to each nation’s circumstances.



Figure 1: Governance structure of the Pacific Islands Development Forum.

The PIDF governance structure ensures a “whole-of-society” and multi-stakeholder approach to development, with government, civil society and private sector representation. The NSDBs are structured in the same way for the same reasons. Thus they are multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral committees involved in the planning and coordination of the implementation of PIDF

activities at national level. Representatives of each country’s NSDB will also be present in the Members’ Representative Council (MRC) and the PIDF Conference. This is meant to ensure continuity between decisions taken at regional level and their implementation at national level. At the same time it is to also ensure that national needs are reflected at regional level.



The PIDF's financing model

The PIDF Charter instructs the Secretariat to “secure the support of development partners through formal agreements for technical assistance and financial resources to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication outcomes.” In its attempt to reduce potential competition for resources with other organizations in the Pacific, the PIDF does not actively pursue traditional development partners for funding. Instead it focuses on attracting funds from sources that are not traditionally active in the Pacific. A number of partners from the Global South, as well as others from the Global North, are not among the major development partners of the Pacific Region. The PIDF wants to support the diversification of development cooperation in the region.

The PIDF is a relatively small organization with a complement of less than 20 staff. It does not require much in the way of financial resources to run its secretariat and it aims to cover these costs through its members' contributions, which are voluntary in nature. The implementation of its programme, however, requires additional resources which come from Southern and Northern partners and other funding sources.

To better facilitate this, the PIDF is establishing a Regional Development Trust Fund with the aim that the trust fund will eventually grow enough to support the implementation of the PIDF's entire programme.

The PIDF's functions as a forum

As a forum, the PIDF sees scope for supporting dialogue between the different sections of society. Alongside its biennial regional multi-stakeholder Conference and the quarterly meetings of the National Sustainable Development Boards, the PIDF also encourages closer public-private partnerships, public-civic partnerships and also private-civic partnerships through specific initiatives. The work that the PIDF is doing in support of the Pacific Environment and Climate Exchange (PECX) aims to channel the private sector's corporate social responsibilities in support of work being done by CSOs in Pacific communities.

Two of the PIDF's members, PIANGO and PIPSO, already provide civic-to-civic partnerships and private-to-private partnerships respectively among their members from around the Pacific region. Additionally PIANGO members facilitate public-civic partnerships at national level and PIPSO members do likewise for the private sector, with varying levels of success, depending on the country.

The PIDF's Strategic direction and Programme

In 2013 PIDF Leaders identified ten priorities for the Pacific. The Leaders' ten priorities are as relevant today as they were in 2013 and the Secretariat felt that, together with the 17 SDGs, they still provide a good guide for the PIDF programme.

The PIDF's ten priorities were:

- 1. Leadership:** supporting inclusive and stewardship leadership is a critical requirement for transforming our brown economies into green/blue economies with thriving societies.
- 2. Healthy people:** supporting healthy and happy Pacific people as the first requirement for sustainable development implementing a “whole of society” approach to the many predominant health issues in the region.
- 3. The Pacific Common and Collective:** supporting the valuation of critical ecological, social, spiritual/cultural assets.
- 4. Support to communities through long-term financing:** supporting the establishment of long-term financing mechanisms that support communities in the management of their natural resources, and finance critical sustainable development initiatives.
- 5. Rigour in the implementation of key national and regional commitments:** supporting reform of regulatory, accountability and incentive systems to ensure that green economy initiatives and commitments are effective and sustained at national and regional levels.
- 6. Reform of financial system:** supporting reform of national, regional and global fiscal and financial systems as well as resource allocation and budgetary processes to direct resources into ensuring ecological sustainability, social inclusion, and spiritual/cultural wellness.
- 7. Education and capacity building:** supporting the integration of sustainability at all levels, starting with up-skilling teachers and a roll out to primary, secondary and tertiary institutions and curricula.
- 8. Sustainable transport:** supporting alternatives to existing petroleum driven transportation that significantly reduce fuel imports.
- 9. Food security:** supporting food and nutrition security by prioritizing inclusive and sustainable agricultural and fisheries development.
- 10. Re-energizing the Pacific:** supporting the economic transformation of Pacific economies with renewable energy alternatives and energy efficiency.



The One Pasifika Programme

The One Pasifika Programme seeks “to create and support an enabling environment in PIDF Member Countries for sustainable development that empowers people and safeguards their environment and social fibre and pursues a green/blue economy model with full and active participation of their government institutions, civil society and the private sector.” The objectives of the One Pasifika Programme were divided into four clusters aiming at (i) mainstreaming the green/blue economy, (ii) finding adaptive solutions for island resilience, (iii) climate action, and (iv) institutional arrangements.

The first cluster of objectives aim to mainstream the green/blue economy through policy intervention, education and support to the private sector. For anything to be mainstreamed, it is important that necessary changes are made at policy level. This strategic plan’s policy interventions include the formulation of “green growth frameworks” and introduction of green audits in PIDF member countries as well as the need for recognition of ecosystem services in decision making. Education is also an important component of mainstreaming the green/blue economy and this needs to be done at both formal and informal levels, through integration of the green/blue economy and SDGs in school curriculums and through interventions at community level supported by community-based organizations. The PIDF aims to support the mainstreaming of the green/blue economy in the private sector through the Pacific Green Business Centre and the incorporation of the Pacific Environment and Climate Exchange (PECX) into this.

The PECX will be a match-making instrument that matches a private company’s social responsibility efforts to grassroots working on development issues in communities located on various islands of the Pacific. The PECX would ensure that these

groups operate in an accountable manner and would monitor progress, giving the private company assurance that its funding is being utilized effectively.

The second cluster of objectives aims to find adaptive solutions for island resilience in areas that are of special relevance to Pacific island countries. The PIDF’s activities in this area are meant to provide “proofs of concept” of the green/blue economy. There is no better way to convince policy makers and communities of the feasibility of the green/blue economy than to demonstrate successful implementation of such transitions in different sectors. The ocean ecosystem, forests, soil and water are all important aspects of resilience, as food security is dependent on these fundamental ecosystems. To approach resilience in an integrated manner, the PIDF will attempt to support the creation of green cities/towns/villages/islands that will integrate all aspects of the green/blue economy in these microcosms. It is envisaged that these will demonstrate to countries what is possible and what can be achieved and influence the transition on a larger national scale.

The third cluster, on climate action, arises from the need to emphasize the importance of tackling climate change for the Pacific. This is also in recognition of the 2015 Suva Declaration on Climate Change produced on the PIDF platform prior to the Paris Agreement. Many of the clauses of the Suva Declaration were championed in Paris by Pacific Leaders and found their way into the Paris Agreement, including mention of the need to limit the temperature rise to 1.5°C, the need to review nationally determined contributions every five years and a clause on loss and damage. However a number of other issues did not make it into the Paris Agreement and the PIDF needs to keep working on these important elements of climate change. These include the need to have a moratorium on new development and expansion of fossil fuel extraction sites, the need



to deal with climate-induced human mobility and the need for a greater push to address emissions produced by the transport sector. The PIDF will also support countries to achieve the commitments and targets set in their nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

The fourth cluster on institutional arrangements is meant to put the PIDF, as an organization, on a firm footing by addressing issues related to its governance structure, financial sustainability and growing its membership and partnership engagement. It also aims to ensure that the organization's management and headquarters strive to achieve the highest standards, to serve as a good model for others.

Reflecting on the past and planning for the future.

A look back at the PIDF's past three years since the adoption of its Charter shows that it has made good progress in establishing itself as an influential regional organization. It has built an impressive

network of partners in most of the areas in which it is involved, at national, regional and international level.

The general acknowledgement of the PIDF's place in the regional architecture has improved, and both member and non-member governments recognise the role that the PIDF plays in the region. Regional organizations are more than willing to include the PIDF in their activities, particularly with the recognition of the important role that the public-civic-private partnership plays in sustainable development. The PIDF's partnership with regional organizations is well reflected in the climate change area where the CROP² agencies and the PIDF form what has been termed CROP+.

² The Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) is composed of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Pacific Islands Development Programme (PIDP), the Pacific Community (SPC), the University of the South Pacific (USP), the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) and the Pacific Power Association (PPA).





Chapter II

Applying South-South Cooperation
in the Pacific

The Pacific Islands Development Forum is an arrangement with a belief in the following aspects of South-South cooperation. South-South cooperation makes use of experience and capacity that already exists and supports the development of new capacities in developing countries. It opens additional channels of communication among developing countries and promotes and strengthens economic integration among them on as wide a geographical basis as possible. South-South cooperation modalities enhance the multiplier effect of technical cooperation and foster economic, scientific and technological self-reliance. South-South cooperation approaches increase knowledge of and confidence in the capacities available in developing countries

and promote the development of indigenous technology and the introduction of techniques better adapted to local needs, particularly in traditional subsistence sectors such as agriculture.

South-South cooperation promotes national science and technology plans, economic and social planning; the linkage of research and development with economic growth; project planning and evaluation; use of human and natural resource potential; modern management and administration; technical, scientific and administrative manpower; and accelerated professional training at different levels. South-South cooperation can therefore be seen as a win-win arrangement for the developing



Raising awareness on the need to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C

countries that adopt it as a development modality.

South-South cooperation has in the past been found useful in strengthening the voice and bargaining power of developing countries in multilateral negotiations. The Pacific island countries, conscious of their small size and limited influence, have frequently pulled together to arrive at a common position in international negotiations. A good example of this was the development of the Suva Declaration on Climate Change on the PIDF platform of the 2015 PIDF Conference. There have been many other examples from the Pacific before and since.

The PIDF considers South-South cooperation as an approach to development that is complementary to the more predominant North-South cooperation. It brings with it a number of advantages, including provision of solutions from countries that are closer to their level of development.

First and foremost, the PIDF promotes cooperation among its members. There are a number of ways that Pacific island countries cooperate with each other. An interesting example of such cooperation is the provision of volunteers by Fiji to other Pacific island countries such as Nauru, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Marshall Islands, with a focus on experienced and retired teachers. The scheme benefits retired teachers who still have many years of service to offer and countries that struggle to recruit enough teachers for their young populations. The PIDF sees scope for expanding this scheme to other sectors and younger people with exchanges across its member countries.

Another example was the project supported by the Tuvalu Green Climate Fund, the “Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project” which includes a component involving reclamation of the foreshore on one side of the island. To implement this reclamation, Tuvalu needed

material in the form of rock and topsoil. The PIDF facilitated discussions between Tuvalu and Nauru on the sale of 5,000 metric tonnes of boulders by Nauru that would form the foundation of the outer seaward border of the reclamation project. This was a win-win situation for both Tuvalu and Nauru. Nauru has an abundance of boulders left as a result of the phosphate mining activities that took place in the small island nation over several decades. To restore that land, the boulders that make up that landscape need to be removed to level the land for other purposes, including housing and horticulture. The income from the sale of these boulders could provide the funding needed to carry out this land restoration work. In a similar vein, the PIDF facilitated discussions between Tuvalu and Fiji for the sale of surface rock and topsoil for use in the same project.

Another area of intra-Pacific cooperation is climate-induced migration. Fiji has on a number of occasions generously offered refuge to the people of Tuvalu and Kiribati, both low-lying atoll nations, if or when their countries are inundated by rising sea levels and their people would need to migrate to other countries. This creates a plethora of still unresolved issues related to nationality, sovereignty, land tenure, etc. But most importantly, the issue of climate displacement and migration needs to be tackled through a human rights-based approach to ensure the Pacific does not repeat the horrendous experiences of refugees in other parts of the world.

In its short life, the Pacific Islands Development Forum has had a number of interesting experiences of South-South and Triangular cooperation. The PIDF has already benefited from both these modalities and is still learning how to optimize these cooperation arrangements and enter new South-South and Triangular cooperation arrangements for the benefit of Pacific people.



The PIDF's partnerships can be either formal or informal. Partnerships with organizations from the South are preferably formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The PIDF has a number of MOUs with important international and regional technical organizations that have common interests and could support Pacific development.

Membership of international organizations offers the PIDF another formal mode of partnership. Currently PIDF is a member of the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) and the Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT). It is also an official Supporter of the International Windship Association (IWSA) that facilitates and promotes wind propulsion for commercial shipping worldwide.

SLoCaT is a multi-stakeholder partnership of over 90 organizations representing UN organizations, multilateral and bilateral development organizations, NGOs and foundations, academia and the business sector. The thematic scope of the Partnership is mainly motorized and non-motorized land transport in developing countries, including freight and passenger transport. The Partnership's focus is currently on Asia, Latin America and Africa, but the PIDF

involves SLoCaT, whenever possible, in events that it organizes in the Pacific.

GLISPA's mission is to promote action to build resilient and sustainable island communities by inspiring leadership, catalysing commitments and facilitating collaboration for all islands. They achieve this by mobilizing high-level political will for island action, building and strengthening partnerships for implementation on islands, especially the Sustainable Development Goals and by helping to bring island solutions to global attention.

The PIDF has teamed up with GLISPA to implement an Island Resilience Initiative which works with Pacific island countries and a small number of island champions in other regions, to build capacity for public-private partnerships and local implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other internationally agreed agendas. It will do so by leveraging proven island models to identify, support and strengthen local collaborative public-private partnerships that can serve as a backbone organization focused on system-level change. It is also working to set up a framework to localize the SDGs, which includes a longer-term process to set high-level goals, develop shared

measures to be tracked on an online platform, and develop a project pipeline to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The initiative also plans to launch a peer-learning network coordinated by the Global Island Partnership and Hawai'i Green Growth partnership to support island backbone organizations, high-level goal development and commitments as well as public-private partnerships.

The PIDF has formal MOUs with regional and subregional organizations and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as the Pacific Community (SPC), the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the University of the

South Pacific (USP) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The SPC is the principal scientific and technical organization in the Pacific region with 26 member countries and territories. It delivers project-based development support in areas such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and health. Many of these areas are of interest to the PIDF's mission that seeks a green/blue economy transformation for the region. The Melanesian Spearhead Group is an international organization, composed of five members in the Melanesian group of the Pacific Islands countries and territories. Of significance to the PIDF's mission, in March 2012, the MSG Leaders signed a Declaration on Environment and Climate Change and endorsed the adoption of a "Framework for Green Growth" as the basis for all development.

Partnering with the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS)

COMSATS is an intergovernmental organization established in 1994 with a permanent Secretariat in Pakistan. The organization, which comprises 26 Member States, strives to promote South-South cooperation in those areas of science and technology most relevant to socio-economic development. It has a network with 21 affiliated Centres of Excellence in four continents that provide it with a pool of human resources and scientific infrastructure for undertaking a variety of capacity-building programmes, bilateral and multilateral cooperative research and consultancy/advocacy for the promotion of science and technology.

The PIDF signed an MOU with COMSATS on 12 March 2018. The agreement aims to promote science, technology and innovation through South-South cooperation among their respective member states, by means of comprehensive regional and cross-regional cooperation initiatives geared towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The agreement includes the fields of education and science with a focus on research and collaborative events including capacity-building and training workshops, joint publications and exchange of information on issues of mutual interest.

The PIDF and COMSATS aim to work together in promoting sustainable social and economic development and coordinating South-South cooperation in science and technology with the objective of achieving sustainable socio-economic progress in their respective member states.

This partnership is still in its early days, but looks promising for greater academic and research engagement between other Global South academic institutions and those from the Pacific island countries.



Mushroom farming projects in Fiji is supported by South-South Cooperation activities.

Promoting renewable energy

The PIDF and the University of Fiji (UniFiji) jointly manage a Centre on Renewable Energy (CORE) based in Lautoka, Fiji. PIDF and UniFiji have had a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) since May 2017. In March 2018, the PIDF and UniFiji added an annex to this MOU specifically on CORE.

CORE was established by UniFiji to serve as a leading centre of excellence, a knowledge hub for renewable energy, and a meeting point for experts by encouraging cooperation and collaboration in the renewable energy research, innovation and technologies development between higher education institutions and relevant stakeholders. It also envisages facilitating university-industry links at national, regional and international level.

It acts as a think tank for strategic issues pertaining to renewable energy, stemming from priorities set by Pacific island country leaders. It collaborates with national, regional and international organizations and institutions to conduct research/analysis of emerging issues in renewable energy, such as use of solar, biomass, biofuels, energy efficiency, and sustainable energy supply technologies in Fiji and other Pacific island countries.

While UniFiji's major focus in CORE is research and academic training, the PIDF will focus on matters related to formulation and implementation of projects that also involve research and training outcomes.





PIDF Secretary General participates regularly at UNFCCC COP side events - this one at the India Pavilion during COP23

Leadership in Solar Energy supported by the Government of India

The Government of India is supporting the Pacific island countries, through the PIDF, in installing solar panels on their leaders' official residences. The funding was made available to the PIDF through the India-United Nations Partnership Fund managed by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation.

The project enjoys the technical support of the Solar Head of State, a non-governmental organization involved in the installation of solar energy infrastructure to power residences of heads of state to promote renewable energy. Each system installed becomes a demonstration

project to inspire the mass adoption of solar energy and other renewable energy technologies by the citizens of the country. Each country project engages the general public in discussions about the benefits of renewable energy through an effective media campaign and community outreach. The installations are also meant to build trust in the technology for those who may not yet be convinced of the efficacy of renewable energy technology.

The Government of India has also, in the past, supported a number of Pacific island countries through direct bilateral assistance and this project extends the development cooperation between India and the Pacific.

Partnering with the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and Pacific (CIRDAP)

CIRDAP was established in 1979 and is based in Bangladesh. It is a membership organization and Fiji is currently the only member from the Pacific. With members such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, CIRDAP is an ideal platform for South-South Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

CIRDAP provides technical support and promotes innovative best practices on sustainable integrated rural development among its member countries to improve the lives of rural people. It does this by conducting research with emphasis on alternative approaches leading to more effective field action programmes, holds consultative meetings enabling national decision-makers, research workers, planners and executives to exchange ideas and experiences and identify areas in which collaborative efforts should be promoted for the mutual benefit of member states, organizes training courses on planning, implementation and evaluation of programmes, provides technical support to national integrated rural development centres. It serves as a clearing house and data bank for information on integrated rural development in the region and promotes the dissemination of information through publications and the preparation of documentation.

The PIDF-CIRDAP partnership focuses primarily on joint implementation of programmes and projects to improve access to technical training for citizens of the Pacific Islands. To facilitate this objective, the PIDF will act as the Pacific Coordinator for training facilitated by CIRDAP.

PIDF participates in South-South Cooperation activities such as the Global South-South Development Expo



Informal partnerships

The PIDF also works with a number of other partners outside of a formal MOU structure. One such partnership is with the Micronesian Centre for Sustainable Transport (MCST). MCST is a joint effort of the University of the South Pacific and the Marshall Islands Government. The PIDF runs joint activities with the MCST to promote the need for the transport sector to play its part in reducing emissions as well as in preparing Pacific country delegations for negotiations on shipping emissions at the International Maritime Organization (IMO). In the area of greening the shipping industry, the PIDF also sits on the Steering Committee of the Pacific Maritime

Technology Cooperation Centre (MTCC) based at and run by the Pacific Community in Fiji and supported by the IMO and the European Union.

For the benefit of its members and in support of its mission, the PIDF also forms partnerships with a number of organizations that work in those areas identified in its strategic plan. It has partnerships with such entities as the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pacific Island Climate Action Network (PICAN), Climate Works Australia and others. These partnerships contribute towards building a support system for Pacific island countries in their efforts towards greening their economies.

India-Pacific Sustainable Development Summit

The PIDF and the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) of India organized an India-Pacific Sustainable Development Summit in Suva, Fiji on 25-26 May 2017. The Summit was regional, involving 14 Pacific island countries, namely; Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

TERI is an independent, multi-dimensional organization, with capabilities in research, policy, consultancy and implementation. It is an innovator and an agent of change in the energy, environment, climate change and sustainability sphere, having pioneered conversations and action in these areas for over four decades.

The relationship between the PIDF and TERI was facilitated by the Government of India through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

India used this opportunity to sign several Memorandums of Understanding with Pacific Island Nations to deepen cooperation across a variety of fields. These include MoUs for setting up of Centres of Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) with Fiji, Cook Islands, Nauru, Samoa and Niue. India and Fiji also signed three MOUs for 'Cooperation in Youth Development', 'Cooperation between Broadcasting Agencies', and 'Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy'.

Following this regional conference, the PIDF was represented by the Secretary General in the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) held in New Delhi, India, on 15-17 February 2018. The Secretary General addressed the Summit on "Effective South-South Cooperation under the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIIC)".

FIPIIC is a grouping developed in 2014 for cooperation between India and Pacific island nations with the intention of meeting regularly to plan Indian support to Pacific development efforts. The PIDF is exploring ways to engage meaningfully with the FIPIIC process for the benefit of the Pacific island countries.



Another effective relationship is that developing between the PIDF and the International Solar Alliance (ISA). The ISA is an initiative of the Governments of India and France to support solar development in the world by providing a dedicated platform for cooperation among solar resource-rich countries. ISA is currently engaged with the PIDF in developing courses for solar practitioners that will be delivered through CORE. Though informal in nature, these partnerships and others are still very important for the PIDF and its mission.

Working with projects operating in the Pacific

The PIDF also works closely with projects operating in areas of mutual interest. In 2018, the PIDF started cooperation with the Pacific Agribusiness Research for Development Initiative (PARDI – Phase 2) managed by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). The project aims to better understand how to identify and support priority agribusiness

development opportunities contributing to improved economic growth and livelihoods for Pacific people. François Martel, Secretary General of the PIDF (himself a forester) is a collaborating scientist to the project and the PIDF is the project's key partner in developing green growth agribusiness compendiums and offers the project a high level conduit for information to Pacific island governments. PARDI2 is also a strategic research partner in the PIDF's Bamboo Centre project and will jointly develop a compendium on bamboo for the Pacific islands.

Capacity building and research support by Indonesia

The Government of Indonesia, through its embassy in Fiji, has had an interest in supporting research and capacity building in the region through the PIDF platform. With the support of the PIDF, the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Fisheries and Forests of Fiji organized a training workshop on seaweed and fisheries

products development for Pacific countries. The workshop, which focused on community-based seaweed production and processing, had 22 participants from Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The PIDF has requested the Government of Indonesia to consider research in areas that support the PIDF's draft strategic plan. A number of Indonesian universities (Padjadaran University, Pattimura University, Khairun University and the University of Indonesia) have offered research support in areas such as propagation and application of Pacific bamboo species, microplastic levels in coastal waters, rate of soil degradation in Pacific island countries, the value of dominant Pacific habitat types as ecosystem services, the status of water tables in the Pacific, indigenous plants and their traditional healing properties and the use of ICT for health services. Some of this research is expected to start in 2019 and the Government of Indonesia and the PIDF are working on a research framework for these activities which would include partnership with other academic institutions from the Pacific.

To deliver this research, the PIDF and the Government of Indonesia have agreed to establish a two level mechanism – the first, high level oversight through a Joint Committee and the second at operational level, a Research Management Unit and a Technical Advisory Group. The Joint Committee includes representatives of the PIDF and the Government of Indonesia and is chaired by a representative of the PIDF. It will make the necessary decisions with respect to the implementation of the joint research projects. The Research Management Unit consists of the PIDF Team Leader and Coordinator responsible for Policy Research and Evaluation and a Technical Advisor from each of the respective Indonesian Universities. The Technical Advisory Group consists of nominated experts from the respective Indonesian Universities and PIDF member countries as may be determined by the Joint Committee.

Facilitating tripartite arrangements: The Pacific Blue Economy Conference

The PIDF organized the First High Level Pacific Blue Economy Conference (PBEC) on 23-24 August 2017 in Suva, Fiji. This Conference was supported by countries from the Global South, including the People's Republic of China, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Pakistan, Indonesia and a contribution from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP).

The theme of the Conference was "Sustainable Oceans in a Changing Climate" and was seen as a step between the UN Ocean Conference held at the UN headquarters in New York on 5-9 June 2017 (with Fiji and Sweden sharing hosting responsibilities) and the 23rd Conference of the Parties (COP23) of the UNFCCC held in Bonn in 6-17 November 2017 under Fiji's Presidency, aiming to bring an ocean agenda into the climate change discussions and vice versa. The launch of the Ocean Pathway at COP23 by the Fiji Presidency would continue the discussion between ocean and climate change at the climate talks.

Additionally the conference had other objectives:

- to inform Pacific senior officials and stakeholders about emerging ocean resources management issues and opportunities;
- to assist the Pacific in defining the blue economy concept and ways to implement it;
- to support the Pacific by debating the complex issues surrounding the blue economy; and,
- to facilitate exchange of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in the region and other parts of the globe on the concept of blue growth and the blue economy that are adapted to and aligned with Pacific islands perspectives, priorities and solutions.

The PIDF is now working on the many outcomes and recommendations of the conference and developing initiatives towards a strategic framework for the Blue Economy in the Pacific and to spearhead some of the most promising areas in this sector.

Through all the above partnerships, and others discussed in the next chapter, the PIDF is able to extend its influence and outreach well beyond its size. Building and fostering these partnerships will remain a major thrust for the organization, and one of its greatest strengths.





One of the many entries to My Ocean Matters campaign aligned to the 2017 Pacific Year of the Ocean Celebrations



Chapter III

Links to regional initiatives and the international development agenda



PIDF joins Bank of South Pacific staff in a clean-up campaign – the private sector can play its part.

For the PIDF, the three most important international agenda items are those relating to Agenda 2030, the Paris Agreement and the SAMOA Pathway. This chapter explores some of the efforts in the region towards the international sustainable development efforts.

The purpose of the PIDF, under its Charter, is to drive transformative changes by focusing on the sustainable and inclusive development of Pacific island countries by implementing policies for sustainable development and poverty eradication. At international level, this is also the goal of the UN Agenda 2030 and thus resonates with the PIDF's efforts to support countries to achieve their SDGs.

The PIDF considers South-South cooperation as an important element in the support available

for the Pacific island countries to assist them in achieving their development goals. However, South-South cooperation does not have as high a profile as it deserves in the Pacific. Academics and scholars have dedicated little research to this area, certainly in comparison to research dedicated to development assistance from the traditional partners.

Climate Action

For the PIDF, climate action is of extreme importance as it supports Pacific island countries in their transformation to blue/green economies. Climate change is already impacting its members in their food and water security efforts, their ecosystems and biodiversity, their infrastructure,

as well as employment and livelihoods. The increasing severity of storms and cyclones and the increasing impacts of floods and droughts due to climate change also make this a crucial area of development for the Pacific. The PIDF's work has been guided from the very beginning by the key clauses of the Suva Declaration on Climate Change.

The Suva Declaration on Climate Change

The Suva Declaration was the first PIDF outcome of international importance. The Declaration was the result of open, transparent and inclusive discussions with stakeholders during the Pacific Islands Development Forum Third Annual Summit held in Suva, Fiji between 2-4 September 2015, the same summit that endorsed the PIDF Charter.

The Declaration guided the position of the delegations of Pacific island countries in the negotiations at COP21 that gave rise to the Paris Agreement. The declaration was a statement of the highly ambitious position that the Pacific took in the negotiations. It proposed the need to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels, not the almost generally accepted target of 2°C which would have devastating consequences for the planet and for the Pacific. The 1.5°C limit found its way into the Paris Agreement and the IPCC was instructed to prepare a special report on what keeping the temperature rise to 1.5°C means for the planet.

The Suva Declaration has a number of other highly ambitious clauses including the need for the Paris Agreement to be legally binding; to transition transport (especially maritime transport) to a low-carbon future; establishment of mechanisms for the payment of ocean and ecosystem services; loss and damage to

be anchored as a standalone element that is separate and distinct from adaptation in the Paris Agreement; and review of mitigation efforts every five years with opportunities to recommit to stronger action as informed by science. Probably the most controversial call was for the "implementation of an international moratorium on the development and expansion of fossil fuel extracting industries, particularly the construction of new coal mines, as an urgent step towards decarbonizing the global economy."

The Pacific delegates were successful in having some of these aspirations incorporated in the Paris Agreement, such as the loss and damage clause, the five-yearly review and the need to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C. Additionally, international maritime transport and aviation were passed on to their respective international organizations (IMO and ICAO), to resolve how these sectors will cut their emissions in line with the Paris Agreement. However a number of other aspirations were left out and the PIDF has been working with partners to realise them in other ways, and this has become the backbone of PIDF's climate action.

Since the Suva Declaration, there have been a number of efforts to raise climate ambitions. The PIDF supports all of these. Among these are the 2050 Pathways Initiative, the Powering Past Coal Alliance, and the Tony de Brum Declaration – all critical partnerships at a global level. The PIDF has actively participated in Fiji's Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS) consultations and is working with Climate Works (Australia) on developing similar initiatives for other Pacific island countries to support their 2050 pathways. The PIDF also sees a role in promoting declarations (such as the Tony de Brum Declaration), initiatives and organizations with a wish to work in the Pacific, with its members for their support.

@PIDF01



**I SUPPORT THE CALL TO LIMIT GLOBAL
TEMPERATURE RISE TO 1.5°C**

SayNo2Coal #1.5toStayAlive #ClimateAction



Pacific Islands
Development Forum



COP23 FIJI
IN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
BONN 2017

The PIDF's participation in UNFCCC COPs

The PIDF's UNFCCC COP 23 participation was supported by a mix of countries from the Global South and the North with financial contributions from Belgium, China and Kosovo. This support enabled the PIDF to participate fully in this important COP, where Fiji took up the presidency, the first time for a Pacific island country and a SIDS to do so.

At COP23 PIDF announced a number of initiatives for climate action and participated in twenty-four side events to bring the urgency of ensuring higher ambition to the forefront. This enabled the PIDF to build partnerships with many other organizations and individuals working to raise ambitions on climate change.

The Pacific has recognised the need to contribute to international climate change efforts, but it needs to do so while addressing the impacts of climate change within the region itself. The Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) was adopted in September 2016. The FRDP has three goals: (i) strengthened integrated adaptation and risk reduction to enhance resilience to climate change and disasters; (ii) low-carbon development; and (iii) strengthened disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

The FRDP recognises the contributions of all sectors towards building resilience and proposes ways that the governments, private sector, civil society and development partners can contribute towards the implementation of the Framework.

The implementation and monitoring of the Framework is coordinated by the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP). The PRP was meant to bring together different stakeholder groups and communities working on climate change, disaster risk management and sustainable development. Although the PIDF is not currently

part of the PRP, through the implementation of its programme it contributes fully towards the goals of the FRDP.

Ocean Action

The Pacific is an ocean continent. The ocean is an integral part of every Pacific Islander's life, an important element of their culture and their identity. A healthy ocean is also crucial for a healthy economy and truly sustainable development in the Pacific.

The PIDF Leaders declared 2017 as the Pacific Year for the Ocean at the PIDF Leaders' Summit held in Honiara, Solomon Islands in June 2016. This was done in acknowledgment of the United Nations Conference on Oceans and Seas which was co-hosted by Fiji and Sweden in New York on 5-9 June 2017. In so doing, they encouraged PIDF members and all other organizations active in the Pacific to encourage focused activities for the observance of the Pacific Year for the Ocean at the local, national and regional levels, with the participation of all groups and citizens, to increase awareness of the contribution of the oceans to their livelihoods, the threats that they face and the steps that need to be taken to protect them.

To commemorate this year, which the PIDF continued into 2018, the PIDF organized a number of important events and activities, including the Pacific Blue Economy Conference, the first of its kind in the region. It also developed a campaign toolkit to help countries develop their own campaigns to commemorate the year and help advance ocean advocacy. Many countries took strong initiatives with Vanuatu and Marshall Islands initiating plastic bans. In Fiji, the PIDF and a number of partners initiated a plastic phase-out process with the intention that this would be replicable in other Pacific island countries. This involved setting up a Green Packaging

Steering Committee with the participation of representatives from government, private sector and civil society to plan a way forward to phase out plastic.

The PIDF is also supporting the efforts of the Global Ghost Gear Initiative which works to reduce the impact of fishing gear lost at sea from fishing boats. It is estimated that 10% of all plastic waste at sea is composed of such fishing gear, constituting an estimated 640,000 tonnes per year, trapping and killing marine life throughout its 600-year lifespan. In the Pacific, the initiative has been joined by Palau, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, and, considering the importance of ridding our oceans of this detrimental ghost gear, the PIDF is encouraging other Pacific island countries to join the initiative.

Delivering the SDGs

In December 2017, the PIDF organized a “Symposium on the SDG14 Pacific commitments - 2018 Action Agenda” under the patronage of Ambassador Peter Thomson, the UN Special Envoy for the Ocean. The Symposium discussed efforts carried out thus far towards implementing the voluntary commitments made in New York at the Oceans Conference, noting that many of these commitments have either been fulfilled already or in the process of being fulfilled. The Pacific has done extremely well in fulfilling its commitments and many actions are in progress that would once again put the Pacific in a leadership role in Ocean action, as it is in Climate action.

On the social aspects of its programme, the PIDF focuses on health matters and the integration of human rights in sustainable development. The PIDF and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (through its Regional Office in the Pacific) signed an MOU in August 2018. The MOU revolves

around the integration of human rights in the implementation of SDGs with a focus on climate induced displacement and migration, the needs of persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with albinism, human rights education and support to States and the private sector in upholding human rights standards.

Sustainable use of natural resources

The PIDF Pacific island countries are quite fortunate in having a natural resource base that allows their people food security and wellbeing. However these resources need to be sustainably used if future generations are to continue enjoying them.

The Micronesia Challenge

The Micronesia Challenge is a commitment by the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands to preserve the natural resources that are crucial to the survival of Pacific traditions, cultures and livelihoods. The overall goal of the Challenge is to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020. The approach is based on a voluntary coalition of governments, regional and global public institutions, businesses and civil society organizations, working together and implementing their own commitments with the help of partners. It is a South-South cooperation arrangement, but in partnership with partners from the North.

Parties to the Nauru Agreement

The Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) is an innovative Pacific agreement that gave control

back to Pacific island countries over the world's largest sustainable tuna purse seine fishery. The PNA members are the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu – all members of the PIDF with the exception of Papua New Guinea. PNA countries control around 50% of the global supply of skipjack tuna, the most commonly canned tuna. Many PNA conservation measures are world firsts – such as high seas closures to fishing, controls on fish aggregating devices (FADs), protection for whale sharks and 100% coverage of purse seine fishing vessels with observers. No dolphins are caught in PNA waters and the PNA is actively involved in limiting by catch of other species. In 2011, the PNA skipjack tuna caught without using FADs was certified by the Marine Stewardship Council as sustainable, creating the world's largest sustainable tuna purse seine fishery. The focus

of PNA efforts to sustainably manage tuna is the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS). PNA members agree on a limited number of fishing days for the year, based on scientific advice about the status of the tuna stocks. Fishing days are then allocated by country and sold to the highest bidder. In this way, Pacific Islanders reap economic benefits from their sustainable management of tuna.

The success of the PNA, an innovative approach to resource management that emerged from the Pacific itself, opens up possibilities of using the same management approach to other important natural resources in the Pacific such as *Beche-de-mer* or sea cucumber, another marine resource under threat because of over-exploitation and thus in urgent need of sustainable management measures. The PNA model is also exportable to other regions of the world likewise struggling to manage important natural resources sustainably.

COP24 side event on the Pacific Solar Heads of State Project supported by the Government of India





Bamboo – the new “green gold”.

The PIDF Secretary General, in a side event organized by the International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) at COP23 in November 2017 in Bonn, called bamboo the new green gold and suggested that the Pacific is underutilising this important natural resource. He proposed the establishment of a Bamboo Centre in Fiji, which would be a focus of all activities related to the development of the bamboo industry in Fiji and the Pacific. Its presence in a number of Pacific island countries and its versatility could offer Pacific people sustainable solutions to their needs. It could also become an important source of employment and income for communities that are currently underemployed. With a three to five year growth period it is certainly one of the most sustainable non-timber groups of plants growing on the islands.

The PIDF feels the need to raise the profile of this important resource in the Pacific which is

now worth USD 60 billion globally, with the Pacific having practically no part of this market. There have been a few attempts in the Pacific in bamboo related activities but many have not been followed through. Some training has been provided in relation to bamboo in both propagation and application. However, even though this kind of skills training is important, it is not sufficient on its own. These skills need to be coupled with a support system that would guide people in their attempts to establish businesses in this area and provide assistance when they are faced with difficulties. The establishment of a Bamboo Centre proposes to fill this gap.

Crucial to these efforts is the partnership with the *International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation* (INBAR). Based in Beijing, China, INBAR is a unique multilateral international organization focusing on bamboo and rattan development. It is also a network representing mostly countries from the Global South, that is, the tropics where bamboo and rattan grow.



Seaweed – the Ocean’s gift.

In the blue economy sector, the PIDF will first focus on seaweed production and processing for economic growth of the Pacific. Like bamboo, seaweed grows quickly, sequesters huge amounts of carbon and has multiple uses. It is truly the Ocean’s gift to humanity. The seaweed industry has had mixed success in the Pacific. There are ongoing efforts to cultivate and harvest seaweed for the food and cosmetics industries, as well as community projects in the use of seaweed as fertilizer and as animal feed, particularly for chickens. All these efforts are important and in need of scaling up. The scaling up of the use of seaweed as both fertilizer and animal feed shows great promise and the PIDF is keen to build interventions towards those goals. In addition, the PIDF sees promise in the use of seaweed for production of both biogas and biofuel and is working with partners to develop concepts for implementation of programmes involving the private sector and communities towards these goals.

The Pacific Green Business Centre

In order to ensure sustainable use of natural resources and to promote the development of industries that support the Green/Blue Economy, such as bamboo and seaweed, the PIDF and PIPSO joined forces to establish a Pacific Green Business Centre (PGBC). This was made possible thanks to seed funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The PGBC aims to provide support to the Pacific private sector in designing and implementing strategies to make businesses more sustainable while remaining profitable. It also aims to promote industries that support the green/blue economy such as sustainable tourism, sustainable agriculture and sustainable forestry and fisheries.

Currently the PGBC is a virtual centre available online at URL www.greenbusiness.solutions. However, there is interest in establishing a physical centre that would house expertise that would assist businesses to implement plans to become greener operations.



Through South-South Cooperation seaweed farming capacity strengthening trainings were conducted for Pacific countries.



The PGBC's online portal currently focusses on six thematic areas – blue economy, renewable energy, green packaging, sustainable agriculture, sustainable tourism and sustainable transport.

It supports tools such as the Pacific Environment and Climate Exchange (PECX), corporate social responsibility, green initiatives, 'How to' guides, resources (publications, videos and links) and financial support.

The PGBC is exploring ways on how to work more effectively with its private sector constituency. It carries out regular interviews with company executives from around the Pacific to discuss changes they may have implemented to become more environmentally and socially responsible, as well as their plans for the future. It also produces regular newsletters to update its followers with the most recent activities. PGBC also has very active Twitter and Facebook accounts and uses these to disseminate information from PGBC and other organizations with similar interests and promote the greening of businesses everywhere.

The PGBC has also teamed up with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the Pacific

Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) on a "Greenpreneurs" initiative to support budding green entrepreneurs through capacity building and a mentoring programme.

In an attempt to promote South-South cooperation among the private sector, the PIDF entered into an MOU arrangement with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), to strengthen India's engagement with the Pacific Island countries and to promote South-South cooperation, cultural ties and strategic relationships between India and Pacific Island countries.

Through the MOU, the PIDF and FICCI aim to promote and develop cooperation and investment, thereby enhancing relations between India and Pacific Island countries for sustainable development, particularly on green and blue economy and ocean-related industries and innovations. This cooperation includes exchange of information, joint implementation of programmes and projects, implementation of promotional activities, training and capacity-building programmes and exchange of experts,

and cooperation on sustainable private sector related activities.

The PIDF seeks other such arrangements involving the private sector as it moves towards promoting private sector exchanges between Pacific islands countries and other Global South private sector organizations.

Addressing Small Island Developing States issues

The PIDF has formal partnerships with the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)'s Office for Small Island Developing States and UNDP's Centre of Excellence for Small Island Developing States, specifically to advance SIDS issues.

Through formal and other arrangements, the PIDF contributes to their efforts by compiling best practices and lessons, as well as contributions to their newsletters. In return, the PIDF is kept informed of efforts in other SIDS and can assess whether these are adaptable and replicable in its own member countries in the Pacific. The MOUs also encourage the PIDF and these organizations to carry out joint activities for the benefit of SIDS.



Partnership for South-South Cooperation

In November 2017, the PIDF and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation signed an MOU in which, among other things, they agreed to jointly identify programmes that work towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the SAMOA pathway. They also agreed to share experiences of South-South cooperation such as best practices, development solutions and innovative projects towards achieving sustainable development, including through joint publications, events, workshops and other forums. The PIDF will also contribute to the Southern Climate Partnership Incubator (SCPI) initiative. The SCPI was established to initiate, facilitate, and support partnerships that will help developing countries address climate change. The initiative facilitates network and partnership building and assists with policy exchange, technical assistance, and capacity building between countries of the Global South. It is also meant to accelerate access to green technologies to Southern countries on favourable terms and advocates for and promotes successful policies, programmes, and case studies through reports and other knowledge products. The PIDF's involvement will bring the Pacific voice and perspective to the SCPI.

PIDF and the Belt and Road Initiative

The PIDF has participated in discussions around the Belt and Road initiative (BRI) since its inception and the Secretary General participated in the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation High-Level Dialogue held in Beijing in May 2017, where he made an intervention at the parallel group on "Connectivity of development policies and strategies".



As a South-South cooperation platform, the PIDF sees an important role for itself in the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative in the Pacific. It sees the Initiative as the rationalization of Chinese support to the Pacific, considering China's importance at the global stage, and especially in the Asia-Pacific, as an emerging economic power.

For this reason, the PIDF wants to build a serious dialogue around the Initiative in the Pacific and ensure that it is implemented sustainably and would contribute to the transformation of the Pacific to a green/blue economy.

Regional reach and international influence.

The PIDF's work is of strategic importance in the region in delivering the vision of its leaders for a Pacific economy based on green growth and sustainable blue economy principles. Through

its work with international partners and through the United Nations System, it is also contributing to influencing the international agenda by bringing Pacific aspirations and best practices to a global forum for reflection and potential replication in other parts of the world. In return, the PIDF brings lessons and best practices from other parts of the world to the Region with the possibility of implementation in the Pacific.

Conclusion: Key takeaways and lessons learned

As Pacific Island countries assert themselves at international level, there is now a greater global recognition of the Pacific's contributions, particularly in the areas of climate change and oceans, and the potential for further future contribution to finding solutions to pressing global issues.

There is a realisation in the world today that the Pacific sees the world and global events from a

different perspective, and this perspective may be the answer to finding lasting solutions to our global problems.

Fiji co-hosted the Ocean Conference in 2017 and presided over the UNFCCC's 23rd Conference of Parties (COP23). Despite its size, with the help of Sweden and Germany it was able to carry out these responsibilities successfully. Fiji has taken its international responsibilities seriously - it has done so in peacekeeping duties and now in diplomacy as well. Fiji is not alone in the Pacific, as other Pacific island countries feel the need to contribute to and influence the international agenda; Marshall Islands on shipping emissions, Kiribati on climate ambition, Tuvalu on climate insurance, Nauru on loss and damage, Federated States of Micronesia on Hydrofluorocarbons are examples of a Pacific focus related to climate change and ocean health. These Pacific countries are proof that size is no barrier to countries making important contributions to the international community.

South-South Space in the Pacific

The PIDF is designed as a SIDS and Global South organization, but is also a unique Pacific partnership in itself, as it has multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches from decision-making to implementation. The PIDF aims to capitalize on the leadership shown by its members to promote values of cooperation in the South where the Pacific island countries, despite their size and limited resources, are seen as equal partners.

The PIDF's strategic approach to partnership is three-fold: (i) to foster multi-stakeholder engagement, (ii) to leverage the comparative advantages of South-South cooperation, and (iii) to develop interregional and intra-regional SIDS partnerships to benefit the implementation of SDGs and climate resilience in the Pacific Islands.

The PIDF's focus on partnership for building resilient and sustainable societies for SIDS focuses on island community resilience. Local communities and civil society groups from local, regional and global entities need to be the main stakehold-

Pacific Consultation on South-South Cooperation held in Fiji, a partnership between PIDF and UNOSSC





ers in partnership arrangements for SIDS. Partnership with the private sector is also important for our climate mitigation efforts, for example expanding the use of renewable energy. However we also need to be fully inclusive of community groups. We need better integration of community associations and NGOs which have the local capacity and experience in delivering projects on the ground and the grass-roots connections and delivery mechanisms essential for SDG implementation at scale. A shift is needed to a holistic approach where the private sector can support and engage in building resilience through community and civil society initiatives and grass-roots projects, thus the PIDF's emphasis on multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSP).

There are many examples of best practice and lessons for resilience building that come directly from the islands and these are readily replicable, whether they are initiatives from the largest island archipelagos on the planet like Indonesia or the Philippines, or those in the Indian Ocean or the Caribbean.

There is certainly scope for furthering South-South cooperation in the Pacific. Although the Pacific has traditional development partners that have supported the region's development for decades, there is scope for trying to diversify both the source of development assistance (to reduce dependence) and the way of doing development (seeing that conventional means are not always having the desired outcomes).

The PIDF is developing the elements necessary to realise its mission to become the regional

South-South platform for the Pacific. Among these it will initiate work on developing a regional framework for South-South cooperation. This framework will need to reflect both regional initiatives (like the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific and the Suva Declaration) and international instruments such as the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework and the SAMOA pathway. It also needs to reflect bilateral South-South cooperation as well as agreements made under multilateral modalities through regional organizations or the UN System.

An important element of the SSC platform would be the development of an SSC Hub, an online tool that, among other things, would contribute to the Southern Climate Partnership Incubator. The Hub would capture information from the Global South that is relevant to the Pacific's development needs and, vice versa; and capture Pacific experiences and best practices that can be replicable in other countries of the Global South.

The opportunities seem to be infinite and the Pacific Islands Development Forum has been working hard to be in a position to harness them for the benefit of its members and the Pacific people.

Endnotes

1 Foundational partners are development partners that were supporting the Pacific Islands Development Forum prior to the endorsement of its Charter.



United Nations
Office for South-South Cooperation



**Pacific Islands
Development Forum**