

The coral barriers and their emblematic beauty represent a transition between the offshore and lagoon environment. They are invaluable shelters, habitat for fish resources, hold cultural significance, and provide many ecosystem services. Their resistance to storms contrasts with their vulnerability to increasing temperatures and pollution.

PACPATH

Pacific Ocean Pathways in support of sustainable development

PACPATH is a Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Action (CRA) on Transdisciplinary Research for Pathways to Sustainability. The project is funded for its Phase 1 (2021-2023) for collaborative research networking activities that focus on integrated approaches to prepare future integrated research projects (Phases 2 & 3).



Context

Ocean and global challenges

Billions of people depend on the Ocean for their livelihood and food supply, and increased efforts and interventions are needed to conserve and sustainably use ocean resources at all levels, building the foundation for implementing and achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) devoted to the Ocean : SDG 14. The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) has been established with the purpose of fostering “participative and transformative processes so that scientists, policy makers, managers, and service users can work together to ensure that ocean science delivers greater benefits for both the Ocean ecosystem and for society”. Ocean stewardship is central to the health of the planet and the well-being of Pacific peoples, is critical to achieving SDG 14 and the other 16 SDGs, as stated at the COP26 during the Ocean Action Day, and in the upcoming United Nations (UN) Ocean Conference 2022 objectives.

The need for a common understanding and coconstruction

With their close geographical and cultural relation to the Ocean, Pacific Island Countries are experts on their oceanic environment. Pacific Island societal, academic and other stakeholders need sound science, targeted expertise, and reliable data-based information to make informed decisions at the right time and for the right scale and timespan. Co-equal partnership bringing together the expertise, knowledge, experiences and expectations of each party are needed for policy design and implementation to move towards a sustainable future. The current scientific knowledge in support of the SDGs needs to be better shared and the research questions coconstructed with local communities to fully capture the diversity of the knowledge-holders and decision-makers.

Objectives

PACPATH aims to co-design a robust strategy, projects and services to develop coastal and offshore ocean sciences, ocean stewardship and prototype innovative sustainability pathways.

Building on existing networks, organisations and people, from the South Pacific regional scale, to coastal community scale, PACPATH will host transdisciplinary workshops during its first phase (2022-2023) starting with pilot regions, in Fiji and New Caledonia, to engage local actors, civil society organizations, customary authorities and policy makers.

Expected results

- Reinforce a common understanding of the state, variability, and change of the Ocean at local to regional scales;
- Reinforce networks, institutions and organizations for sustainability;
- Coconstruct ocean research projects and services that have the best chance to turn into effective actions;
- Coconstruct adapted socio-environmental indicators with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Support governance and policy making for the ocean-climate nexus for improved policy effectiveness;
- Combine traditional and local knowledge with scientific knowledge to promote ocean literacy.

This umbrella forum intends to create new relationships at different organisational levels to address specific questions :

1. How does the global SDG14 links to achieving a sustainable living for local communities?
2. How do coastal communities perceive uncertainties and threats to their future?
3. What are the organizations and institutions that have an interested responsibility of SDG achievements?



Strategy & Activities

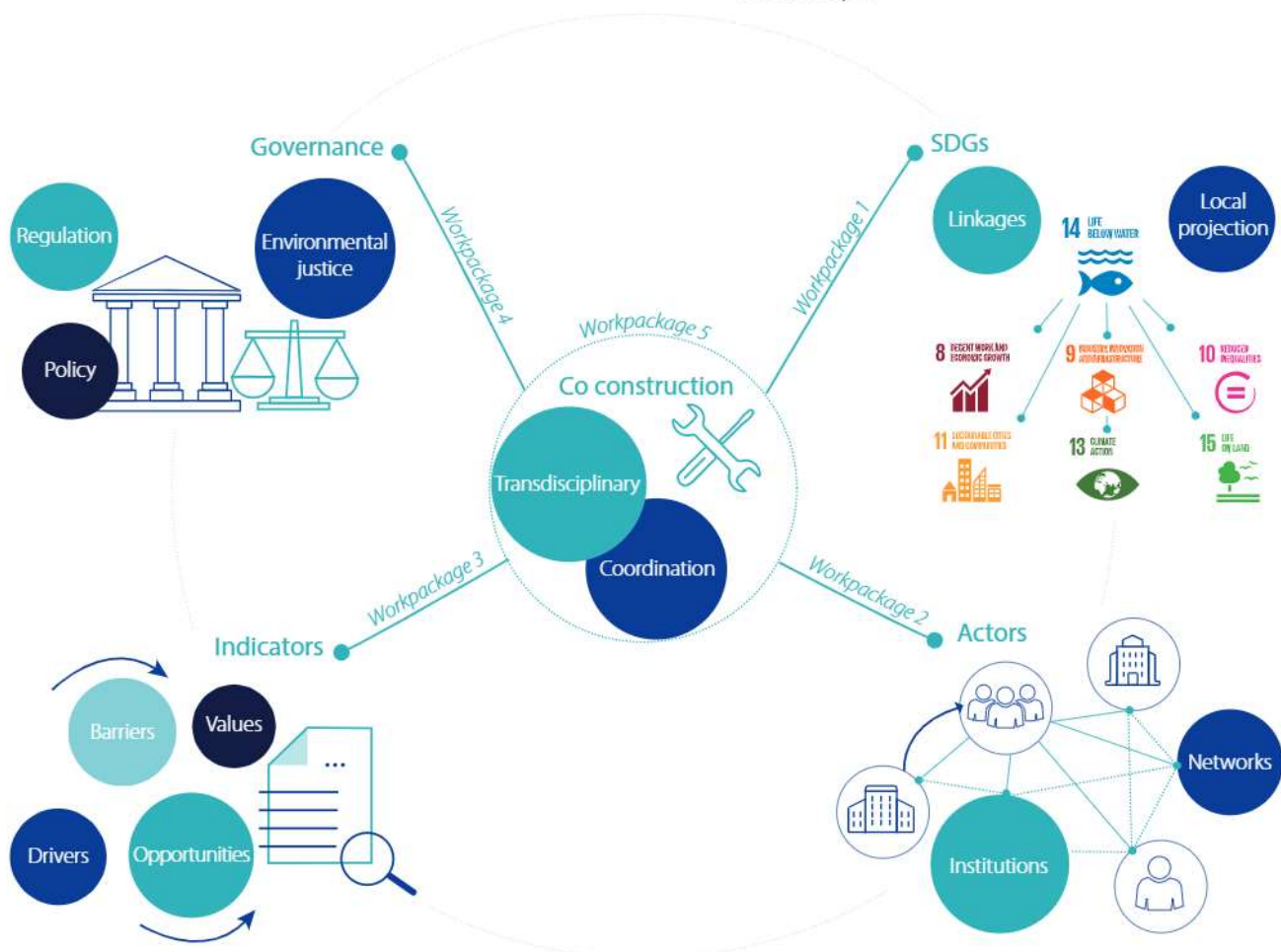
A 3-phase project

PACPATH has 3 phases :

1. 2021-2023: Topical workshops and networks
2. 2023-2025: Establishment of a roadmap
3. Implementation : responding to Belmont's call for tenders.

5 interlinked workpackages (WP)

- **WP1** will identify how data, science and information can best support sustainable development goals at regional to local scale, including research capacity building and ocean literacy ("the ocean's influence on you and your influence on the ocean").
- **WP2**, through institutional and governance assessments tools, will develop a structured understanding of the present networks, the actors within them and their relationships.
- **WP3** will identify key values, drivers, barriers, and opportunities around the translation of SDGs into local understanding to synthesize information and pertinent indicators.
- **WP4** will focus on policy-making and governance referring to SDGs at the regional and national levels with a strong focus of the (non)scalability issue between political and spatial levels.
- **WP5** will provide methods to all WPs for enabling effective participation of all stakeholders in co-developing, testing and evaluating the development pathways, with the key issues such as social inclusiveness, equity and gender balance.
- **WP0** will provide overall coordination, involve further local stakeholders on specific issues/locations, and pace the regular consortium meetings and foci workshops.



The thematic workshops will bring together scientists in oceanography, climate, socio-ecology, sustainability, governance and resource economics, with local socio-economic actors, civil society organizations, customary authorities and policy makers.

Participating institutions

The success of PACPATH will come with local actors and policy makers early in the project. For that purpose, we have built a project where end-users are at the center of the organization. A specific governance including indigenous and local representatives at all stages, including the Scientific & Societal Council and Executive Team, will orient research and resource allocation. Four local workshops in Fiji and New Caledonia are planned to include a large panel of local end-users, with specific resources to support local travel fees and the implication of students as ambassadors of the project.

Organizational background

An interdisciplinary consortium

The initial PACPATH consortium is composed of 17 organizations:

- 14 universities and laboratories from France/New Caledonia, Germany, USA and the Pacific (USP: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu);

- The international organization Pacific Community (SPC);
- The ocean prediction company Mercator Ocean international;
- The Mining and Environment service of the government of New Caledonia (DIMENC/OBLIC).

The PACPATH academic expertise includes level rise, marine ecology, adaptation and resilience, socio-ecology, social and environmental anthropology, social and economic impacts of climate change, governance of resources and infrastructure for sustainable development. The consortium includes two Lead Authors of IPCC Special Report on Oceans.

The present consortium also benefits from a deep knowledge of the local issues and stakeholders with USP (including its educational programs in climate change, adaptation and Pacific Islands and Ocean Stewardship), SPC (including decades of experience in Pacific fisheries & ecosystem science, monitoring and co-constructed governance) and OBLIC (for integrated coastal management in New Caledonia). Besides, the consortium includes proficiency in strategic and organizational management of research at the Ocean-climate nexus, with several department, laboratories or group leaders.






Present partners



Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique

SPC: Pacific Community



Industrie, mines et énergie
GOUVERNEMENT DE LA NOUVELLE CALÉDONIE

DIMENC / OBLIC: Department of Industry, Mines and Energy in New Caledonia / Geology Department



MERCATOR OCEAN
INTERNATIONAL

MOi: Mercator Ocean international



USP
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Shaping Pacific Futures
University of the South Pacific



ZMT
LEIBNIZ CENTRE
for Tropical Marine Research

ZMT: Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research GmbH



GERICS
Climate Service Center
Germany



hereon
Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht

HZG: Helmholtz Zentrum Geesthacht



CAU
Kiel University
Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel

CAU: Kiel University



University of Maryland
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science



UNIVERSITÄT TRIER

UT: Trier University



HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN

HU: Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin



LEUPHANA
UNIVERSITÄT LÜNEBURG

LEU: Leuphana Universität Lüneburg



IRD
Institut de Recherche pour le Développement
FRANCE

French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development

IRD: French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development



UNC
UNIVERSITÉ
NOUVELLE CALÉDONIE

UNC: University of New Caledonia

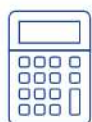
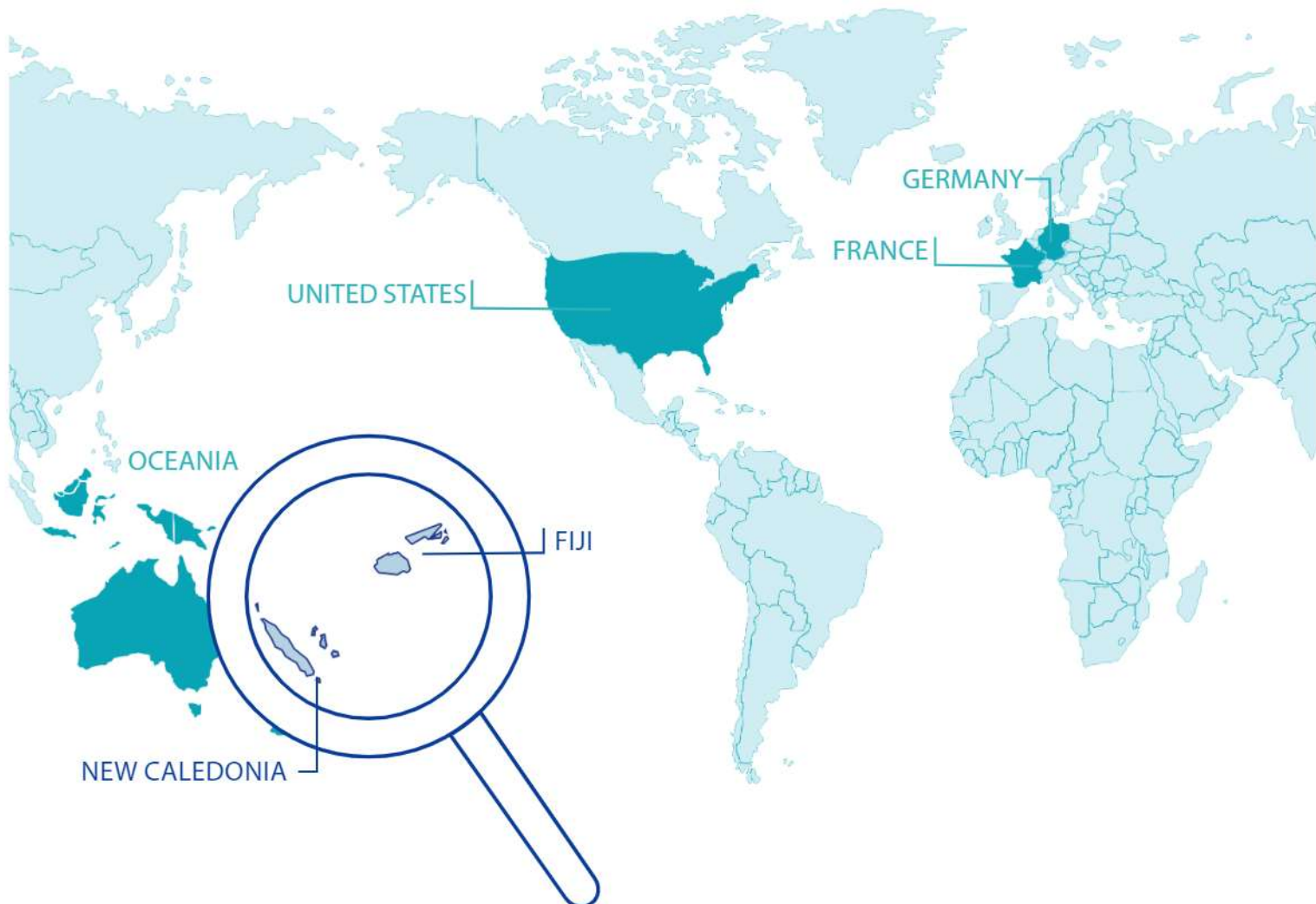


CRI
Centre de recherches interdisciplinaires

CRI: Centre de recherches interdisciplinaires

Other regional and local partners will be confirmed

- MSG: Melanesian Spearhead Group
- OPOC: Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (Pacific Island Forum)
- PRP: Pacific Resilience Partnership
- Government of New Caledonia, Energetic transition and Coral Sea MPA
- Congress of New Caledonia
- Customary Senate of New Caledonia
- Northern Province of New Caledonia
- Southern Province of New Caledonia
- Loyalty Islands Province of New Caledonia



Budget

- PACPATH is funded for its phase 1 by the Belmont Forum:
170 000 € for networking activities and workshop organization.
- Phases 2 et 3 will be submitted to Belmont Forum.



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For more information:

<http://pacpath.org>

www.belmontforum.org