

MFAT management response to mid-term review of the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science¹

¹ Titled "Improve decision making through ocean knowledge" in Enquire

Evaluation Report Recommendation	MFAT Response and Action (Agree, Partially Agree, Reject)
<p>1. SPC should continue to work with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) in developing the 2050 Implementation Plan, ensuring that PCCOS workplans are clearly defined and aligned.</p>	<p>Agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCCOS works in close collaboration with PIFS and the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner and will continue to do so. • PCCOS staff in participating to the 2050 Strategy Multi-Sectoral Expert groups.
<p>2. PCCOS should continue to liaise with national government counterparts to ensure workplans are aligned with national priorities.</p>	<p>Agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current work is underway in Vanuatu, Kiribati, Palau, and Papua New Guinea, but this could be deepened with each of these countries and extended in other countries and territories. • PCCOS also faces lack of resources / availability of the national governments, impacting its ability to implement activities in some countries. • PCCOS will continue its country engagement and is looking at providing support to more national government in 2023 as new resources are now available (Pacific Solution Integrated Ocean Management, Climate Resilient Marine Spatial Planning)
<p>3. SPC should clarify PCCOS' role and mandate and implement a communication campaign to unify stakeholder understanding about PCCOS vis-à-vis SPC, the Ocean Flagship Program, Decade for Ocean Science and Centre for Excellence for Ocean Science.</p>	<p>Agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New concepts such as the Ocean flagship or the Decade Collaborative Centre have increased confusion around PCCOS' role and mandate lately. • A communication campaign on PCCOS' role in relation with the Ocean flagship and Ocean Decade Collaborative Centre is planned for the second half of 2023. • PCCOS will continue to engage with SPC teams to explain its role and mandate.

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<p>4. PCCOS should commission a review of the Theory of Change (ToC), with particular reference to the plausible influence that the project might have in member countries.</p>	<p>Agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PCCOS team and key collaborators will review of the PCCOS ToC in line with the ToC critique and findings from the evaluation report. This will feed into the design of PCCOS Phase II, including the Ocean flagship, Data Collection Committee and potentially the Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System.
<p>5. PCCOS should prioritise effort against KRAs 1, 2 and 3 during the remainder of the current funding, especially in relation to building capacity of member states.</p>	<p>Partially agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCCOS generally agrees with the need to focus on KRA 1, 2 and 3 and the importance of building capacity of member states. This recommendation is based in part on an analysis of PCCOS spending by KRA from January through June 2022, which provides a distorted view of the situation. Analyzing spending on longer timeframes (from 2019 to 2022, or even from January to December 2022) provides a much more balanced repartition of expenses over the 4 KRAs. As specified in response to recommendation 2, PCCOS is planning on increasing its support to more national governments in 2023.
<p>6. PCCOS should develop a detailed implementation and expenditure plan for remainder of project to optimise achievement of outcomes and address findings of this evaluation.</p>	<p>Agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed implementation and expenditure plan is available and will be reviewed quarterly.

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<p>7. PCCOS should develop/refine internal processes and systems in support of key activities such as an on-boarding plan for interns and early career ocean professionals (ECOPs).</p>	<p>Agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCCOS is progressing on structuring the Pacific ECOP Network using a youth-led approach in 2023, with partnerships being a key strategy. • PCCOS will develop guiding documents for ECOP interns and strengthen its accompaniment to interns in the future. • This is also linked to the SPC HR policy and human resources processes. PCCOS is currently working with HR to suggest some changes to facilitate the hiring of young Pacific Islanders in various countries.
<p>8. PCCOS should consider developing a more sophisticated approach to strengthening counterpart capacity for science-based ocean governance and management.</p>	<p>Agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCCOS already has some mechanisms in place, but they will be further developed. • PCCOS will partner with other existing initiatives with similar objectives to strengthen counterpart capacity for science-based ocean governance and management.
<p>9. PCCOS should develop a coherent plan to guide ECOP, identifying synergies with similar initiatives such as the PCCC's capacity building program and the Pacific Climate Alumni Network.</p>	<p>Agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCCOS is progressing on structuring the Pacific ECOP Network using a youth-led approach in 2023, with partnerships being a key strategy. • PCCOS will develop guiding documents for ECOP interns and strengthen its accompaniment to interns in the future. • Youth is a SPC-wide focus as part of the people-centered approach. Several scattered initiatives are taking place without coordination or shared theory of change. PCCOS is willing to play a role in improving coordination for youth empowerment, while carefully noting that this is the core mandate of the Social and Environmental Responsibility team.