

Ocean governance in Samoa: A case study of ocean governance in the South Pacific

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Outline:

- I. Ocean governance in the South Pacific
- II. Implementing regional ocean governance measures at the national level in Samoa

The Pacific Region and its diversity...



Common ocean, shared problems

- ▶ Over-exploitation of marine resources
- ▶ Resource management vs economic development
- ▶ Environment protection/conservation
- ▶ Marine transport management and development
- ▶ Fragmented ocean governance regimes

Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy (PIROP)

- ▶ Endorsed by Pacific Island Leaders in 2002
 - Strategic action framework adopted in 2004
- ▶ 5 Guiding principles:
 1. Improving understanding of the ocean
 2. Sustainably developing and managing the use of ocean resources
 3. Maintaining the health of the ocean
 4. Promoting peaceful use of the ocean
 5. Creating partnerships and promoting cooperation

The Pacific Plan

- ▶ Endorsed by Forum Leaders in 2005
- ▶ Promotes prosperity through 'regionalism'
- ▶ 4 strategic objectives:
 1. Economic growth
 2. Sustainable development
 3. Good governance
 4. Security

Other selected regional instruments:

- ▶ Vava'u declaration on fisheries (2007)
 - ▶ Agreed upon by Forum leaders
- ▶ Pacific island regional coastal fisheries management policy and strategic actions (2008)
 - ▶ SPC-led initiative
- ▶ Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Program (2008-2012)
 - ▶ SPREP program

Aspects of ocean governance implemented by regional organisations in the South Pacific

Key: Political: — Legal: — Operational: —		Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)			Secretariat to the Pacific Community (SPC)			Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)			Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)			Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)			Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)		
Living Resources	Fisheries Management																		
	Fisheries Development																		
	Aquaculture																		
Non-living Resources	Maritime Boundary Delimitation																		
	Energy																		
	Natural Resources																		
Environment Protection	Ecosystem Protection																		
	Biosecurity																		
Science and Technology	Ocean Processes																		
Shipping	Maritime Transport																		
	Marine Pollution																		
	Maritime Safety and Security																		

Challenges

▶ Rationalisation of regional organisations' mandates and responsibilities

- Devolution of SOPAC responsibilities
- Realigning regional organisations under PIFS
- Self-absorbed regional organisations

▶ Translating regional commitments into actions at the national level

- Building political will to follow through on commitments
- Resolving the influence of international donors and organisations on national policy development

Challenges

▶ Regional diversity resulting in ambiguous policies

- No “one size fits all” solution
- Weakened strategies garner less commitment



Aspects of ocean governance implemented at the national level in Samoa

Key: Political: █ Legal: █ Operational: █		Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE)			Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF)			Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure (MWTI)			Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT)			Ministry of Finance (MOF)			Samoa Port Authority (SPA)		
Living Resources	Fisheries Management																		
	Fisheries Development																		
	Aquaculture																		
Non-living Resources	Maritime Boundary Delimitation																		
	Energy																		
	Natural Resources																		
Environment Protection	Ecosystem Protection																		
	Biosecurity																		
Science and Technology	Ocean Processes																		
Shipping	Maritime Transport																		
	Marine Pollution																		
	Maritime Safety and Security																		

Challenges for implementation

▶ Coordinating actions between and amongst national agencies

- Establishing intra-government ocean committees
- Fragmented/sectoral approach is inefficient

▶ Limited resources

- Technical expertise
- Financial resources

▶ Lack of awareness

Conclusions:

- ▶ Not a complete loss

- ▶ Fragmented governance is better than no governance ... or is it?

- ▶ No “new” solutions:

- ▶ Re-visit PIROP, its goals, principles, and initiatives.
 - Call for PIROP +6
 - IUCN-Oceania Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge
 - ▶ Lobby for stronger commitments from Leaders
 - ▶ Improve cooperation and coordination between national, regional, and international players

Conclusions:

- ▶ Improve awareness
 - Seeing the “bigger picture”
- ▶ Boost expertise through technical training opportunities
- ▶ Employ an integrated approach to decision-making

Faafetai lava!

