OFFICE OF THE PACIFIC OCEA COMMISIONER

Review and Sharing of Best Practice and Lessons Learned on Access and Collection of Ocean Data

From Lisbon to Nice: Implementing SDG14 with the Communities of Ocean Action
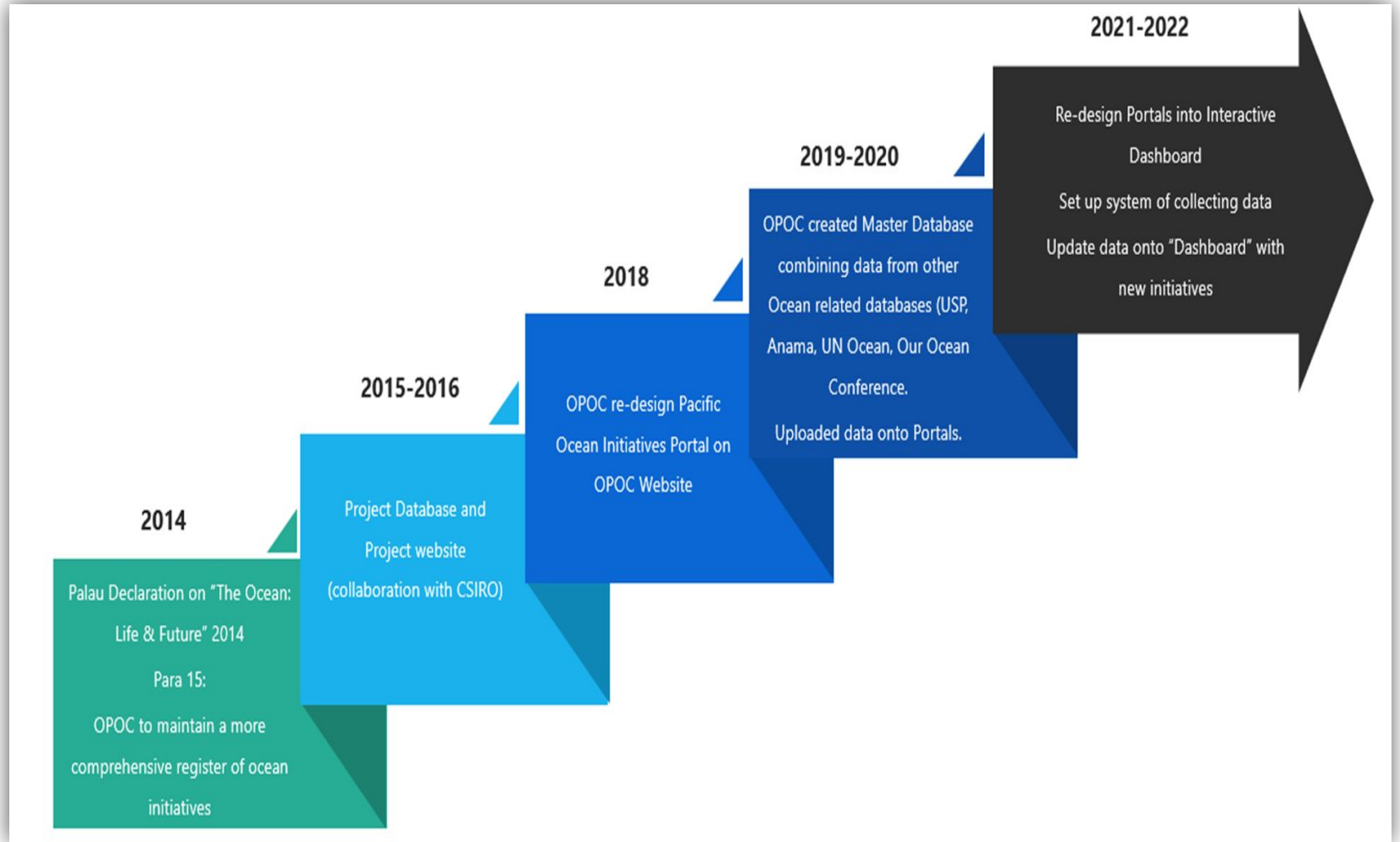**November 14-15, 2023**

Overview

1. OPOC and Leaders Mandate
2. OPOC Ocean Initiatives Registry
3. Challenges facing the region in ocean data collection and informing policy making
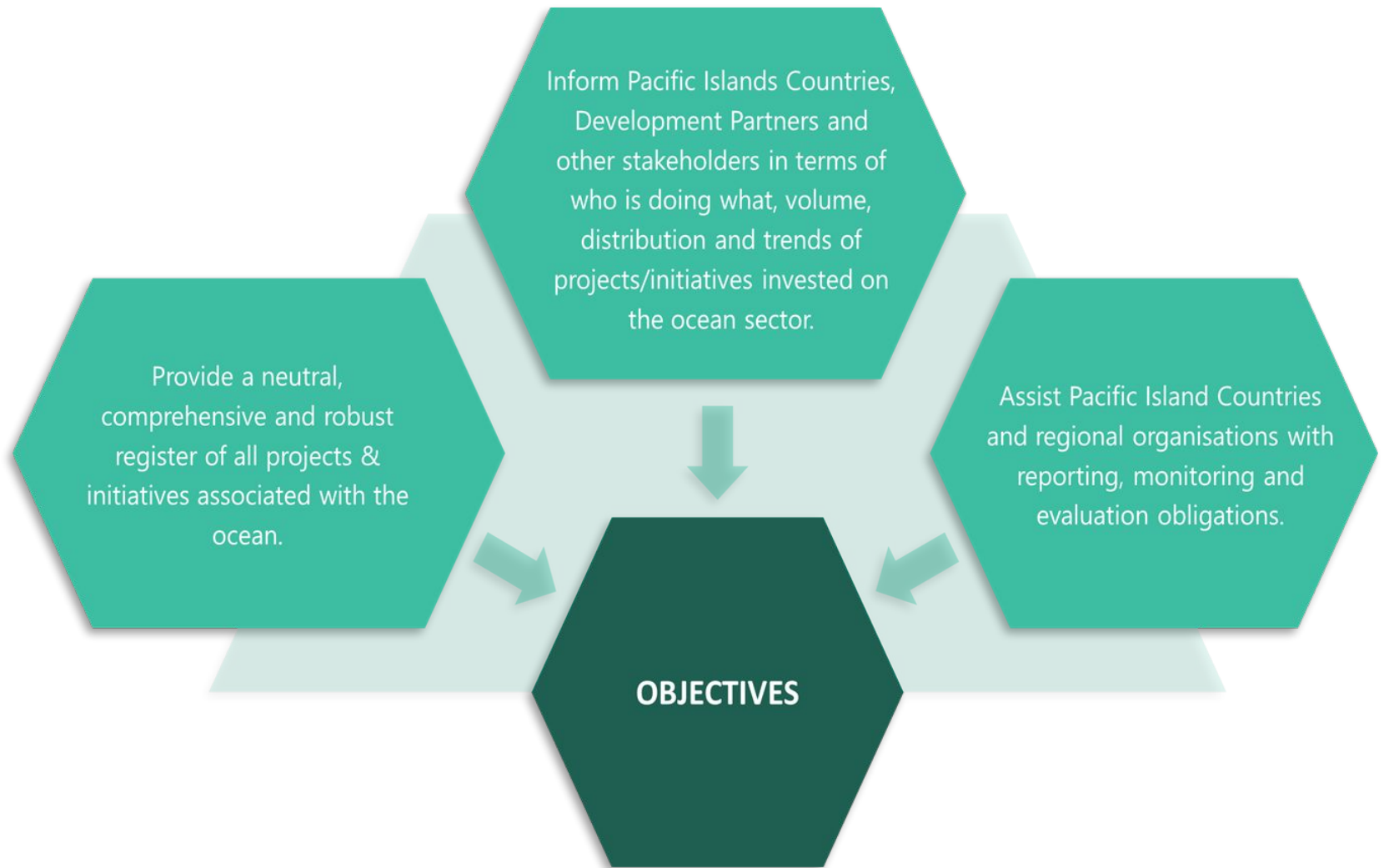4. Hope for the future

OPOC and Leaders Mandate

- In 2010, under the Framework of the Pacific Oceanscape (FPO) the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (POC) was commissioned and the Pacific Ocean Alliance (POA) and OPOC was established.
- In 2014, the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Palau Declaration on "The Ocean:Life and Future" (para 15) mandated OPOC to maintain a comprehensive register of Pacific Ocean Initiatives and projects across the spectrum of the ocean sectors.
- FSM 2016- (para 9) the leaders reaffirmed the leadership, advocacy and facilitative role of the Commissioner to coordinate and support efforts towards the UN Ocean Conference
- Virtual 2021- (para 7) leaders noted the important role of the Commissioner on advocacy and attention to ocean priorities, including to monitor and report progress of implementation of ocean commitments.

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OPOC Ocean Initiatives Registry

The objectives of the Pacific Ocean Initiatives Register

Inform Pacific Islands Countries, Development Partners and other stakeholders in terms of who is doing what, volume, distribution and trends of projects/initiatives invested on the ocean sector.

Provide a neutral, comprehensive and robust register of all projects & initiatives associated with the ocean.

Assist Pacific Island Countries and regional organisations with reporting, monitoring and evaluation obligations.

OBJECTIVES

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The features and outputs of the dashboard interface

Features:

- **Aggregate number** (count) of ocean related projects and initiatives for:
  i. Pacific Island Country and Territory
  ii. Pacific region – Melanesia, Micronesia & Polynesia
  iii. Implementing agency
  iv. Finance agency
  v. Distribution over ocean themes
  vi. SDG 14 targets
  vii. FPO strategic actions

- **Total budgets/finance** of ocean related projects and initiatives for:
  i. Pacific Island Country and Territory
  ii. Pacific region
  iii. Implementing agency
  iv. Finance agency
  v. Distribution over ocean themes
  vi. SDG 14 targets
  vii. FPO strategic actions

Contd:

Main outputs:

- **Map** of the Blue Pacific with info: initiatives, budgets, value of ocean, size of EEZ
- **Interactive charts** that can display combination of features e.g., *number of initiative for countries*. The charts can range from: Grid, Table, Pie, Doughnut, Column, Bar, Line, Area, Polar.
- **Widget space** to view charts and lock in favorites
- **Filters function** to focus the outputs
- **Advanced setting function** for other analysis
- **Tour function**

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Challenges facing the region in ocean data collection and informing policy making

- Since the integrity and credibility of this dashboard is symmetrically dependent on the ocean projects/initiatives data, there is a need to ensure effective cooperation from potential data holders such as Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific, Financing Partners, Civil Society Organizations, and other Pacific Ocean Alliance stakeholders in terms of contributing data to this project (ocean-related) tracking platform.

- Identifying contacts from data holders and members to form an expert group to oversee the quality of data and the structure of the dashboard and ensure that it is easy to understand and user-friendly; and also to identify missing elements to be integrated onto the dashboard.

- Lack of dedicated human resource in the region dedicated to compiling ocean data.

- Streamlining collation of data from contact persons in either local ministry levels, statistics bureau and from regional organizations.

Hope for the future

- Consultation and discussion with members, regional organizations, civil societies, NGO's on access and collection of data on ocean initiatives for the OPOC Pacific Ocean Initiatives Registry Dashboard.

- To avoid duplication of work on ocean data collection, it is imperative to work together.

- Vision for the coming 2024 and 2025 is to have maximum of 6 members ocean data properly collated and shown on the POI dashboard.

- Have data transparent as much as possible in terms of funding utilization etc.

- Have SDG14 monitoring and evaluation for the region also set up on the dashboard.

- Have dedicated focal points/expert group from the members as well as from the Pacific Ocean Alliance that are willing to conduct quality checks on received data that will be robust, accurate and verified.

Thank you
and
Vinaka Vakalevu.

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