

Stakeholder Dialogue on Ocean Acidification Utilizing Policy Tools to Address Regional Challenges



Host institute: The Ocean Foundation

Dates: 1 November – 3 November

Organizers: The Ocean Foundation
The Swedish International Development Agency
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Language: English

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Purpose:

This workshop is part of a broad effort by The Ocean Foundation, through its International Ocean Acidification Initiative, to expand the capacity of policy makers, scientists, and resource managers around the world to monitor, understand, and respond to ocean acidification in their region

This workshop will provide an opportunity for policymakers from multiple regions to come together to discuss the potential ecological, social, and economic impacts of ocean acidification on their own countries; explore the policy solutions that have been successfully implemented elsewhere and develop a specific policy action plan tailored to the needs of their own communities.

In order to help policymakers develop persuasive messaging to promote and encourage action, top science experts will provide a concise explanation of the threat that ocean acidification poses to food resources and food security and the direct impact this threat can have on both economic and human health within the communities they represent.

Leading policymakers will share their experiences in developing, promoting and, ultimately, implementing ocean acidification policies that help their constituents, are supported by critical stakeholder groups and have successfully averted devastating economic impacts to their communities.

With this foundational framework, participants will develop a specific policy action plan tailored to their own nation. Each plan will be specific to the regional natural resources at risk and take into account the unique local challenges and circumstances that policymakers are facing. Additional resources and support will be available to participants after the training, including individual follow-up contact to assist policymakers in successfully implementing their own policies specific to their regions.

Additionally, this workshop will coincide with a science workshop focused on teaching the fundamentals of ocean chemistry monitoring. There will be opportunities for policymakers at this workshop to interact with the science workshop

Expected outcomes: Development of individualized action plans for how to successfully implement policies that will help regions and countries adapt and respond to ocean acidification. Action plans will not only address the policies to be implemented but also provide a roadmap for how to build constituent support and positively engage stakeholders with a goal of enabling policymakers to become the leaders in addressing ocean acidification within their own communities and regions.

Scope and nature: The training will include plenary style lectures with smaller group breakout sessions for developing individualized action plans. Additional opportunities for one-on-one work with presenters will be available the last day of the training to further assist with developing the individual action plans.

***Participation:** The course is open to delegates from **Fiji, Indonesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, The Marshall Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. If you are based in a Pacific Islands country not listed, please contact Alexis Valauri-Orton (avalauriorton@oceanfdn.org) to inquire about eligibility.**

Qualifications: Without regard to political affiliation, gender, or race we are seeking regional, national or sub-national level elected legislators or lawmakers, senior legal or policy staff from environmental, ocean or fisheries ministries who are committed to protecting their marine resources and the jobs that depend upon them

Application Procedure: All interested applicants must complete the application form found by following [this link](#). Applicants are welcome to submit an optional CV and cover letter in support of their application. All CVs and cover letters should be sent to Alexis Valauri-Orton at avalauriorton@oceanfdn.org. **Applications are due by September 21st, 2017.**

Financial Support: All participants will receive grants to support travel, accommodation, and food for the duration of the course. Participants must make their own arrangements for passports, visas, and vaccinations needed to enter Fiji.