



COMISIÓN PERMANENTE DEL PACÍFICO SUR

Secretaría General

Nota CPPS/SG/025/2023

Guayaquil, 10th April, 2023

Excellency,

I acknowledge receipt of your note dated 21 March 2023 regarding the contributions of this organization to the Secretary General's report on developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea since 21 August 2022. In this regard, I kindly inform the main activities undertaken in that period under the cooperation framework to strengthen the capacity building.

1. Ocean monitoring, tsunami warning systems, and scientific cruises under the CPPS system.
 - On topics associated with ocean monitoring, CPPS as the technical secretary of the GRASP committee (GOOS Regional Alliance for the South-East Pacific region), developing activities of oceanography and operational meteorology in the South-East Pacific region, using a regional network of systematic observations in the ocean, generating analyses, forecasts and other valuable products for governments, industry, science, and public. The sea level monitoring system has been online since 2020, with more than 60 stations available (from Colombia through Chile). Its implementation got the recognition of the United Nations and is officially using the Ocean Decade logo. Strengthening regional capabilities has been done through six workshops on operational models, standardizing data of sea level processing methodologies to obtain regional products, meteorological observation systems from volunteer ships, and Oceanographic Data Visualization using R Analysis Tools during the 2022-2023 period.
 - The Tsunami warning system is another relevant issue for CPPS countries. Being the technical secretary of the working group on tsunamis, we have continued with the process of strengthening capacities in the detection, evaluation, monitoring, and dissemination of tsunami events based on lessons learned and state-of-the-art worldwide, generating opportunities for improvement among the Tsunami Warning Centers (CAT) of the member countries of the GT-ATPS, taking as a reference the priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Tsunami exercises have been done twice yearly since 2018; the last one was conducted on September 2022.
 - Under the Protocol for the Regional Study of the El Niño Event (ERFEN), the 25th consecutive regional scientific cruise was done between September and October 2022, with the collaboration of the oceanographic vessels of Colombia, Ecuador, Perú, and Chile, characterizing almost simultaneously the oceanographic and meteorological conditions in the South-East Pacific (PSE) to know its behavior and anticipate its evolution. The study region includes 7° N to 35° and between 70°W to 95°W. Also, the Database Specialized Working Group (GTE-BD) articulates the efforts and capacities of the region's countries for the adequate management of ocean-atmospheric data collected in the Regional Cruises. The 26th consecutive regional scientific cruise will be conducted during the last semester of 2023.

His Excellency

Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares

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2. Regarding marine biodiversity, the CPPS is the Executive Secretariat of the Lima Convention and Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Zones of the South-East Pacific. In this framework, a new Regional Plan for Conservation of Mangroves in the South-East Pacific was adopted in 2021 to promote and consolidate cooperation among countries in the region and with other regions to conserve mangroves, considering its environmental services and its contribution to long-term socioeconomic development.
3. Under the umbrella of the Lima Convention and the South-East Pacific Regional Plan, there are regional plans for conserving marine migratory species. In the case of sea turtles, there is an ongoing capacity-building process to harmonize minimum data sets for the region on stranding and bycatch. For marine mammals, capacity-strengthening events for bycatch estimation and mitigation have been developed during this period.
4. Regarding marine protected areas in the region, under the Protocol for the Conservation and Administration of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the South-East Pacific, in the framework of the Lima Convention, the Regional Network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas of the South-East Pacific has been reactivated. A regional publication was released in August 2022, updating the information on this important matter with a short description, photos, and maps of each marine protected area in the region.
5. Considering the significant threat of aquatic invasive species to marine biodiversity, a Regional Strategy to Prevent and Reduce the risks and effects of introducing invasive marine species in the South-East Pacific was also adopted in 2021. Through this regional strategy, the countries of the South-East Pacific will ensure compliance with international commitments to preserve and protect marine ecosystems, minimizing the risk of introducing invasive marine species.
6. On the matter of plastic pollution, the Regional Plan for Integrated Management of Marine Litter in the South-East Pacific has been implemented to prevent the discharge of solid waste from land and marine sources for the reduction of marine litter in the South-East Pacific, which includes six specific objectives and more than 60 actions, at regional and national levels.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Ambassador José Luis Pérez Sánchez Cerro
Secretary General
Permanent Commission for the South Pacific

