



COMISIÓN PERMANENTE DEL PACÍFICO SUR
Secretaría General

Nota CPPS/SG/065/2022

Guayaquil, 14th June 2022

Excellency,

I acknowledge receipt of your note dated on 14 April 2022, on the contributions of this organization to the Secretary General's report on developments and issues relating to the ocean affairs and the law of the sea, from September 1st, 2021 to August 31st, 2022. In this regard, I kindly inform the main activities that have been undertaken in that period, under the cooperation framework in order to strengthen the capacity building.

1. Ocean monitoring, tsunami warning systems and scientific cruises under the CPPS umbrella.

On topics associated with ocean monitoring, CPPS as the technical secretary of the GRASP alliance committee developing activities of oceanography and operational meteorology in the Southeast Pacific region, using a regional network of systematic observations in the ocean, generating analyses, forecasts and other useful products for governments, industry, science, and public. The sea level monitoring systems is online since 2020 with more than 60 stations available (Colombia through- Chile). Its implementation got the recognition of United Nations and is officially using the ocean decade logo. Strengthening regional capabilities has been done by 6 workshops on operational models, standardizing data of sea level processing methodologies to obtain regional products, meteorological observation systems from volunteer ships, Oceanographic Data Visualization using R Analysis Tools during the 2021-2022 period.

2. Tsunami warning systems is another relevant issue for CPPS countries. Being the technical secretary of the working group on tsunami, we have continued with the process of strengthen capacities in the detection, evaluation, monitoring, and dissemination of tsunami events, based on lessons learned and the 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 are done on a regular basis 4 times a year since 2018.

Mr.
Miguel de Serpa Soares
Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs
and United Nations Legal Counsel
New York.-



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3. Finally, under the Protocol for the Regional Study of the El Niño Phenomenon (ERFEN) studying ENSO variability, 2022 celebrates the 25th consecutive scientific cruise characterizing the oceanographic and meteorological conditions in the Southeast Pacific (PSE) in order 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 countries of the Region for the adequate management of ocean-atmospheric data collected in the Regional Cruises.
4. On the topic of 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 Southeast Pacific. In this framework, a new Regional Plan for Conservation of Mangroves in the Southeast Pacific was adopted in 2021, to promote and consolidate cooperation among countries in the region and with other regions, for the conservation of mangroves, considering its environmental services and its contribution for long-term socioeconomic development.
5. Under the umbrella of the Lima Convention and the Southeast Pacific Regional Plan, there are regional plans for the conservation of 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 has been developed during this period.
6. Regarding marine protected areas in the region, under the Protocol for the Conservation and Administration of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Southeast Pacific, in the framework of the Lima Convention, the Regional Network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas of the Southeast Pacific has been reactivated and there is an ongoing preparation of a regional publication, to be ready by August 2022, to update the information on this important matter, that will have a short description, photos, and maps of each marine protected area in the region.
7. Considering the major threat of aquatic invasive species to marine biodiversity, a Regional Strategy to Prevent and Reduce risks and effects of the introduction of invasive marine species in the Southeast Pacific was also adopted in 2021. Through this regional strategy, the countries of the Southeast Pacific will ensure compliance with international commitments to preserve and protect marine ecosystems, minimizing the risk of the introduction of invasive marine species.
8. On the matter of plastic pollution, more recently, in April 2022, a new Regional Plan for Integrated Management of Marine Litter in the Southeast Pacific has been adopted, to prevent the discharge of solid waste from land and marine sources for the reduction of marine litter in the Southeast Pacific, which include six specific objectives and more than 60 actions, at regional and national levels.



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Please accept, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Solangel Ortiz Mejía

Minister

Director of Oceanic Affairs and Legal Advice
Secretary General *a.i.*
Permanent Commission for the South Pacific

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